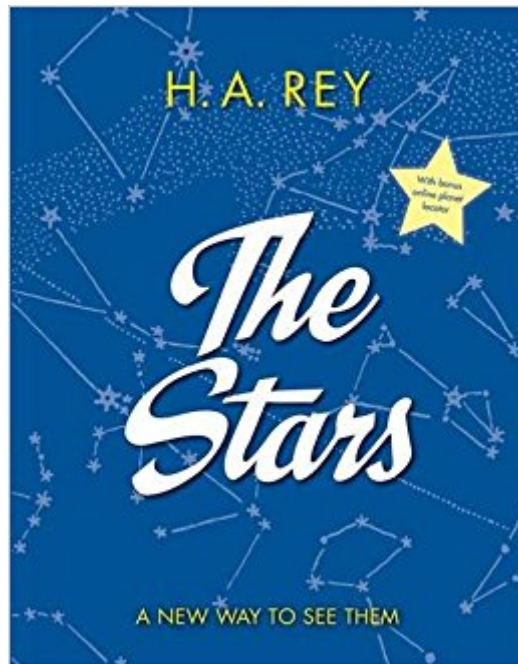




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The Stars: A New Way To See Them



Synopsis

This is a clear, vivid text with charts and maps showing the positions of the constellations the year round.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

"The Stars is the best book available for its purpose. It is also a brilliant example of the combined use of art and writing in bringing science to the layman." Saturday Review

Hans Augusto Rey was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1898. As a child, he spent much of his free time in that city's famous Hagenbeck Zoo drawing animals. After serving in the army during World War I, he studied philology and natural science at the University of Hamburg. He then married Margret Rey and they moved to Montmartre for four years. The manuscript for the first Curious George books was one of the few items the Reys carried with them on their bicycles when they escaped from Paris in 1940. Eventually, they made their way to the United States, and Curious George was published in 1941. Curious George has been published in many languages, including French, German, Japanese, Afrikaans, and Norwegian. Additional Curious George books followed, as well as such other favorites as CECILY G. AND THE NINE MONKEYS and FIND THE CONSTELLATIONS.

The best introductory guide to the stars and constellations, bar none! It has numerous features which makes learning the constellations much easier and more fun. Here are a few examples:(1) H.A. Rey has done a great service by redrawing the constellations (using the same stars) so that they *actually* look like the figure they represent. This is in contrast to so many other constellation drawings (by others) that bear no resemblance at all to the figure they supposedly represent. They come in two varieties: either they are lifelike representations with no correlation at all between the figure and the individual stars or they are stick figures that look more like abstract art!(2) Rather than deluging you with lots of irrelevant facts, H.A. Rey has chosen some very pertinent, interesting facts and anecdotes to share about the stars and the constellations. These are the kind of facts that are fun to share with others when you introduce them to the constellations!(3) H.A. Rey has very wisely left the more detailed and technical explanations for discussion later in the book. He starts off by telling you just the basics that you need to start stargazing right away!(4) On the Calendar Chart pages you will see two star charts on facing pages. On the left you'll see just the stars and on the right you'll see the stars with the connecting lines to show the constellations. Going back and forth between the pages is a great way to start to memorize the celestial patterns so that when you get outside it will be easier to pick them out!

Loving this book so far. I highly recommend it for kids and grown-ups alike. I think his simple yet easy to remember diagrams are very helpful for remembering star patterns. His explanations are simplified as well, and that goes down well even for an adult. Rey believed in the "KISS" principle (Keep It Super-Simple, nicely translated). I also got his Constellations book, and it's a fantastic companion if you aren't already familiar with the sky. I do have a question for those of you who have used this book for years, since there isn't a Q&A - is this the same book (but updated) as the old "Worldwide Edition"? There are SO many differently named versions of this book floating around, and I think it's really just one book and this is the most up-to-date version. Mine seems to include charts for almost everywhere in the world, so I believe this is the best and most updated version available, but would love to hear from anybody else.

I am very, very new to star gazing--as much as I love it, Chicago's light pollution makes it tough. Dark-sky areas within convenient driving distance from the city are also hard to find. Even though the mechanics of the universe fascinates me, most of that is way over my head....literally! I really just want to walk outside, look up into the sky, and identify constellations. I think if I can do that, little by

little I'll be able to learn about those constellations, their origins, etc. Fortunately, I do have reliable resources. One, the Chicago Astronomical Society very graciously runs free, public events from spring through autumn, where veteran astronomers help people like me learn about the Heavens. Two, my husband and I own a pretty good telescope that lets us see detail and keeps us motivated to search for more interesting objects. Three, I have a couple of good, basic astronomy books: NIGHT WATCH, and now this, THE STARS. THE STARS seems very simplistic, and it's written by the author of the "Curious George" series, but it is definitely not a kids' book. It never gets too technical, but Rey does go into a bit of depth in the later chapters. To start out with, though, he sketches out the major constellations and gives the observer some great landmarks. How is this "a new way to see the stars"? Well, a constellation, as a "picture in the sky", can seem pretty abstract to the average person. Sure, the Big Dipper looks like a big dipper. But does an image of a herdsman spring to mind when the components of Bootes are pointed out? Not for me....until I got this book. Now it's starting to make sense. It's like when you go outside and more and more stars become visible as your eyes adjust--suddenly you say, "NOW I see it!" Very fun. I like this book because it immediately gives you a foundation on which to continually improve your skills. The illustrations are great...there are no deep-space photos, but there are lots of engaging drawings that totally show that this book was published in the 1950's. This says a lot about the person Rey was. If you read about his life, and his narrow escape from the Nazis, it really speaks to his character that he would go on to give the world tools to keep learning, and that at heart he seemed to be a very optimistic person. "The Stars" is indispensable, for me, and I have used it on every clear night since I got it. Don't let its apparent simplicity fool you. There is an elegance in this little volume.

I love this book, I have bought at least a dozen copies over the years and have given them away as gifts. I went looking for my copy recently and couldn't find it; I probably gave it away so I needed to order a couple more, one for me and one to give away. This book is a great introduction to astronomy; I am not aware of anything better. The authors approach to illustrating constellations is brilliant. It is not very technical, but then no introduction to anything should be, however there are sections (with illustrations) which describe some of the jargon well enough to make you think you're actually learning something. Terms like: ecliptic, meridian, equinox, right ascension, azimuth, etc are described and illustrated in such a way that if you put in a little thought effort you will understand what they mean. Makes a great coffee table book.

This book makes me want to switch professions from CPA to astrology. I'm so amazed at God's

handiwork and the reflections of the stars to prove His marvel. The constellation charts and explanations make it so readable to the lay person, and it builds everything off the Big Dipper, small dipper and North Star. So it's not overwhelming, just very amazing.

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