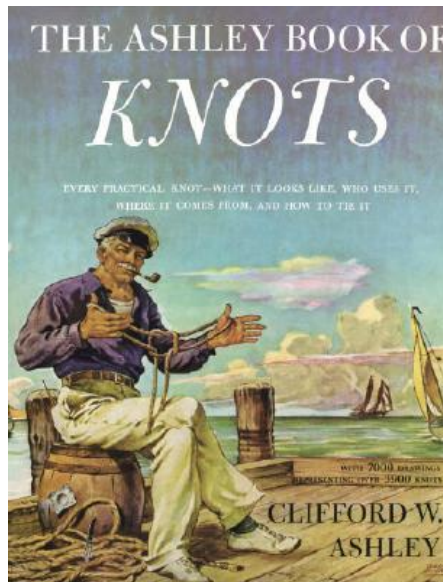




The Ashley Book of Knots

Clifford W. Ashley

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The Ashley Book of Knots

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The Ashley Book of Knots Clifford W. Ashley

This is the definitive book on knots. Here are approximately 3900 different kinds, from simple hitches to "Marlingspike Seamanship." Mr. Ashley has included almost everything there is to know about them. Precisely named and classified (some new ones for the first time officially), they can be easily found in the big index. He tells when they appeared, something about their history, and what they are good for. Above all, Mr. Ashley gives explicit directions on how to tie them. He describes each step simply and clearly in the text and has penned right alongside some 7000 drawings to make it still more graphic. This book and a piece of cord will open a new and challenging world of practical adventure to readers of all ages. There are many distinctive features to this informal encyclopedia. Outstanding are the delightful sketches and illustrations by the author that enliven every page. Mr. Ashley, a prominent marine artist, is at his best here. Sailors have been the greatest experimenters with rope, but since they have no monopoly on the art, the author describes knots used in over ninety other occupations. These range alphabetically from Archer to Yachtsman, and aesthetically from Florist to Hangman. The forty-one chapters include knots classed under such general types as "Hooks, Beckets, and Toggles," "The Noose," and "Tricks and Puzzles." Mr. Ashley has devoted eleven years to writing this book, and it is based on forty years of looking for, trying out, and thinking up new knots. His drawings abound in humor and the text is full of colorful anecdotes. THE ASHLEY BOOK OF KNOTS will make a unique and permanent addition to any library.

The Ashley Book of Knots Details

Date : Published June 21st 1944 by Doubleday (first published January 1st 1944)

ISBN : 9780385040259

Author : Clifford W. Ashley

Format : Hardcover 640 pages

Genre : Reference, Nonfiction, Art, Crafts, History, Design, Computer Science, Technical, How To

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From Reader Review The Ashley Book of Knots for online ebook

Robert says

More knots then the internet, honestly in a decision between referencing the internet or this book, I would look in the book first! The internet has lots of knots and knowledge but it's fragmented and incomplete, you can search for days Or pick up a copy of this book if you have any interest in knot work!

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Duncan says

It would get five stars for the illustrations alone. It adds interest that it identifies dangerous variations of well known knots with a skull and crossbones! I wish more books would do that.

Knot tying is probably in no danger of disappearing, but certainly fewer people are learning to tie them. This book is an ode to mastery; that it is a mastery of an older form doesn't hurt it at all.

It's a book I have kept with me for almost thirty years, one of a handful like it.

It is no longer the last word in knots, now that slippery, brittle materials with incredible tensile strength such as spectra (made of kevlar) exist. With a few exceptions, though, it is encyclopedic.

It also provides a sort of sociological insight into how people worked not so long ago, too, with knots specific to stevedores, teamsters, movers, bakers, fishermen and others who once depended on knots but to a great extent no longer do so.

It's a great book in an old fashioned sense of the word.

John Croall says

This is the best book on knots there is. The illustrations are wonderful, the instructions clear. Nothing beats

this. Knots for every purpose under the sun. Loads of sailing one of course. Near the back is the recipe for how to knot a hammock - one day if I have the time and enough rope...

Jarrold says

This is by far the most comprehensive book on knots I've ever seen. But it's so much more than just an encyclopedia of knots; it's also a glimpse into the history of their use and utility. I've referred to this beautifully illustrated book many times when looking for just the right way to rig something up in the yard, fastening cargo to the roof of the car, tying my kids to the flagpole... just kidding...

Mike Williams says

A classic knot book, especially for the sailing community. A knot for every situation, and many more left over. Fellow dockhands and I spent a full summer at the marina learning every type of bowline imaginable. Some of the illustrations are a bit hard to follow; updated diagrams would make this book the essential reference it deserves to be.

Fredsky says

This is the classic, most thorough book on knots to be had. It shows, explains, and comments on nearly 4,000 different knots, accompanied by charming drawings. There is a lot to be learned about cultural history and probably everything else in this book. Although the drawings are clean and simple, I am especially thick-headed when it comes to knots, which is why I am reading this book. I love it that Ashley says either a knot is right, or it's wrong. There is nothing in between. How great!

Autumn says

The front cover says that this book contains every practical knot - what it looks like, who uses it, where it comes from, and how to tie it. It also states that it contains 7000 drawings representing over 3,900 knots.

While this is not a book that most people can read cover to cover, it fastenates me. Somehow, as odd as it may seem, a fun book to flip through. I'll admit that I have not tried any knots in here yet, but I could, with some practice and this book eventually, master all but the very complicated ones.

Scuppers says

The "big mamma" of knot books. More a history of different knots and their uses than how to actually tie them. Most other books of knots are based on this.

Kathy Mulholland says

You don't really *read* this book; it's a reference work. If you appreciate resourcefulness, art, sailing, camping, flying, needlecraft, knitting, crochet, history, physics, tenacity, dedication, collecting, music, carpentry, or *anything* really....if you can appreciate a magnificent effort by one person to know, record and share everything there is to know about *one thing*, you'll appreciate this volume. It is simply *the* definitive work on knots. Even if you don't like knotcraft, you simply have to get ahold of this book for a few moments just to flip through. You'll be amazed.

KennyO says

If I had to dispose of my library this would one of the last dozen books on the last shelf to go. Little in life gets the deep study that Clifford Ashley put into this volume. He was an author and painter of consummate skill, well regarded for his paintings of ships and the sea and for his illustrations. Those skills are at the fore in this work, his illustrations of knots being among the clearest and most understandable in any work of the kind. On a gray day when I'm in no mood for much I can open ABoK to an arbitrary page and feel myself decompress as I browse. Essential!

Bruce Nordstrom says

I could not "read" this book. It is just too much. Guide to every type of knot--or should I say, "Every Way to use Rope and String known to Man,"? It is awesome both in it's undertaking, and in it's completion. It succeeds so well, it is staggering to read. Just let me say, I picked this one up out of curiosity at the library, started browsing through it, and kept browsing for the next two days. Could have gone on for two years, and still never finished the book. Before I was finished, I had a piece of parachute cord in my hand trying to learn the knots as I was going along. I did not succeed.

I think I've said enough. This book is outstanding, accurate, interesting, drawing are great....I'm going to buy a copy.

Shayne says

This is the oft-cited Bible of knot tying. Really a catalog of knots with interesting discussion at the beginning of each section. Good source for citations, and I found a few fun ones. A few errors in diagrams (e.g. #784 was nonsensical) but on the whole very useful and fun to see the variety. A knot bestiary!

Cleanfun says

There is no book or website on the subject that is more definitive. This book sets the standard and is referenced by nearly every website and other book on the subject, that I've ever read. There's over 10 knots for every task you can think of and then there's the best knot for the job. They're all illustrated in this book.

Plus, the history and lingo make for some very interesting reading. This is one of my most frequented books. Every household should have a copy of this book available.

Shane Simmons says

The original knot reference book, from the 1940s. This is probably the most important book on the subject, and has more knots listed than any other book.

It references some 3800 knots with over 7000 hand-drawn diagrams.

As this book was first published in 1944, there are some more recently discovered knots missing from this huge volume, such as the Versatackle knot and the Zeppelin bend.

This book is a must-have for any knot enthusiast.
