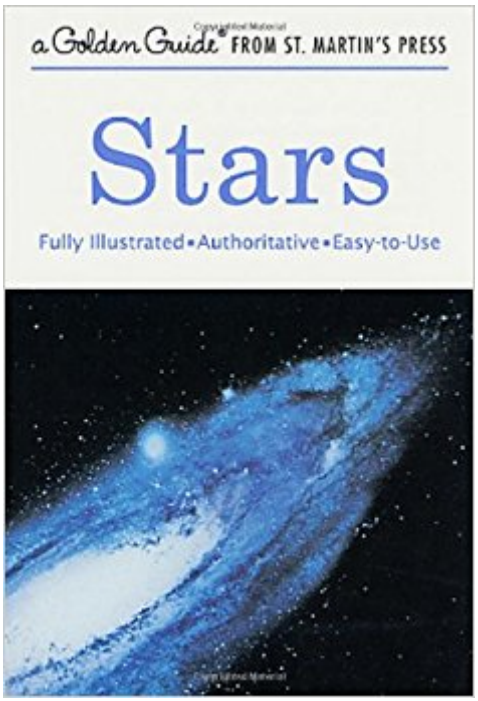
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Stars: A Fully Illustrated, Authoritative And Easy-to-Use Guide (A Golden Guide From St. Martin's Press)



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Synopsis

Enjoy the wonders of the heavens and understand more fully what you see. This Golden Guide shows you how with 150 full-color illustrations, including:Charts of the major constellationsTables to help locate the planetsUp-to-date explanations of meteors, comets, eclipses, and other celestial objectsIdeal for classroom use, to take along on vacations, and for use at home.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Golden Guides first appeared in 1949 and quickly established themselves as authorities on subjects from Natural History to Science. Relaunched in 2000, Golden Guides from St. Martin’s Press feature modern, new covers as part of a multi-year, million-dollar program to revise, update, and expand the complete line of guides for a new generation of students.

I have several of the Golden Guides, and usually quite enjoy them, but this one is a mess. Like most of these guides, the original was written sometime in the 1950’s, then updated a few times. Unfortunately, this one’s updates were badly done. One page describes how astronomy will be changed by "Space Telescope" to be launched "in the late 80’s", and another mentions that Mars will be close and easy to see in 1988. The planet viewing chart, however, has listings for 2001-2006, and a second chart is roughly the same. It’s as if there was a major update in the 80’s, and then nothing except to swap out those two charts.As a result, the science is very, very badly out of date. The guide talks about Jupiter’s "solid surface" (nope, nothin’ but gas & liquid), the nine planets

including Pluto, Voyager's someday in the future reaching Neptune, Saturn's three rings, and both Jupiter and Saturn seem to have lost a large number of moons. These are just the worst examples. Much of this is information that's been out of date for at least thirty years. Clearly Golden Guides isn't even trying with this one.The few bits of information that are timeless, like the constellations, are presented in dry and often confusing ways. For example, the pages explaining how to find the planets in the sky never once mentions what colors they'll appear -- the most basic fact that helps you to find them!I just can't recommend this guide. It's so out-of-date that it's absolutely useless.

Stars: A Guide To The ConstellationsMay 1, 2016My mother gave me this book by Herbert Zim and Robert H. Baker when I began learning the constellations. It is a great starting point. The Perseid meteor shower was of particular interest to me in the 1960s. Zim and Baker devote 4 pages to space debris including a picture of Arizona's Meteor Crater, which I saw in 1979. It was 1981 before I learned the moon's features using my telescope. Zim and Baker's moon chart is confusing, but their pages about solar eclipses remain relevant. There will be a total solar eclipse visible from the United States on August 21, 2017. The path of totality will enter the U.S. in Oregon and make its way to South Carolina, where it will go into the Atlantic Ocean. There will be an eclipse-mania as E-Day approaches. This book is most useful in teaching beginners the most famous contellations: Ursa Major (Big Dipper), Orion and Scorpius. There is an illustration depicting the southern constellations, which I saw in Australia in 2002 and again in Bolivia in 2012. It was the romance of the stars which initially captivated me, looking up on a summer night with my favorite songs running through my head.

This is one of the first books I read when I took up Astronomy as a hobby, 20+ years ago. It is full of practical, useful information for the amateur astronomer, covering different types of optics (newtonian, dobsonian, and schmidt-cassegrain reflectors, as well as refractors), including how to calculate magnification with different objectives and eyepieces. It contains a basic introduction to solar observing, with proper precautions to avoid blinding yourself, astro-photography techniques, some basic star charts, information on lunar viewing, deep-sky viewing, etc. This book is a classic on the subject of astronomy, and one that I hope never goes out of print. It was the single most useful astronomy book I had during my 5+ years of enjoying the hobby. I actually bought another copy as a gift for my nephew who was interested in astronomy. Buy it, if you want a superb introduction, covering a wide range of topics within this fascinating hobby. Cheers!

I believe I got my first Stars Golden Nature Guide at the age of 12-well over half a century ago. I learned the constellations and developed a lifelong interest in astronomy in no small part due to this guide, of which I have had several well worn copies over the decades. It is a perfect springboard to a fascinating world, clear and concise, a perfect celestial roadmap with relevant supporting text. My grandchildren were the recipients of the (updated) guides a year ago, and also have a budding interest in astronomy. Last week while visiting Yosemite National Park, I saw this guide at the Visitor's center...and, of course, bought another one.

Great! This is the original, republished in a slightly smaller format!

Love it! Gave it to my 9 yr old grandson!

Remember when Saturn had only 9 known satellites, and was the only planet known to have rings?Beginning in 2nd grade (in the late 1960s), I became interested in Science, especially Astronomy. This was the first book about Astronomy that I ever owned. It made me happy to see a copy available for a reasonable price, so I purchased the book and when I held it in my hand it was almost like meeting a old friend I hadn't seen in years.This edition of the book is out of date, of course, but I've purchased the latest edition for my children. Much of the artwork remains the same in the latest edition, while the technical information was last updated about a decade ago. But the most important part of the book, the drawings of the constellations and seasonal views of the sky, remain the same as in the classic edition.Other childhood friends of mine prefered some of the other Golden Nature Guides, but Stars was and still is my favorite book in this popular series.

I've had this book in paperback for many years and wanted a more permanent hardcover for my library. It's a great book for beginners and more advanced stargazers. I especially like the meteor shower calendar and star charts for each season. The descriptions of the constellations are very nice, too.

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