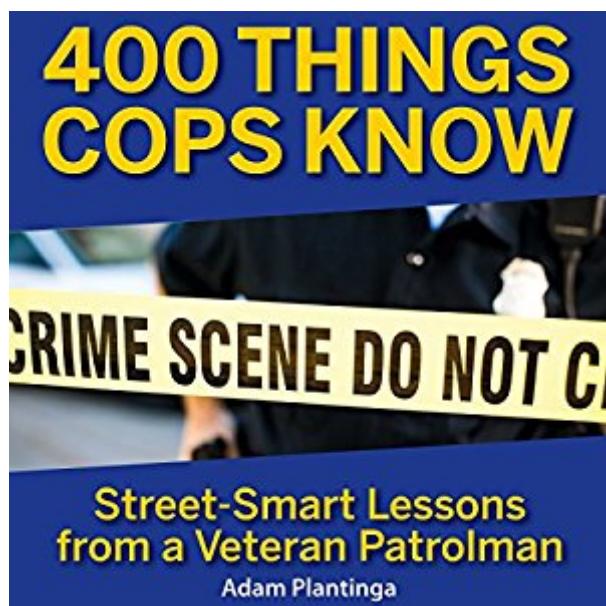


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400 Things Cops Know: Street-Smart Lessons From A Veteran Patrolman



Synopsis

How does it feel to be in a high-speed car chase? What is it like to shoot someone? What do cops really think about the citizens they serve? Nearly everyone has wondered what it's like to be a police officer, but no civilian really understands what happens on the job. 400 Things Cops Know shows police work on the inside, from the viewpoint of the regular cop on the beat - a profession that can range from rewarding to bizarre to terrifying, all within the course of an eight-hour shift. Written by veteran police sergeant Adam Plantinga, 400 Things Cops Know brings the listener into life the way cops experience it - a life of danger, frustration, occasional triumph, and plenty of grindingly hard routine work. In a laconic, no-nonsense, dryly humorous style, Plantinga tells what he's learned from 13 years as a patrolman, from the everyday to the exotic - how to know at a glance when a suspect is carrying a weapon or is going to attack, how to kick a door down, how to drive in a car chase without recklessly endangering the public, why you should always carry cigarettes, even if you don't smoke (offering a smoke is the best way to lure a suicide to safety), and what to do if you find a severed limb (don't put it on ice - you need to keep it dry.) 400 Things Cops Know deglamorizes police work, showing the gritty, stressful, sometimes disgusting reality of life on patrol, from the possibility of infection - criminals don't always practice good hygiene - to the physical, psychological, and emotional toll of police work. Plantinga shows what cops experience of death, the legal system, violence, prostitution, drug use, the social causes and consequences of crime, alcoholism, and more. Sometimes heartbreakingly sad and often hilarious, 400 Things Cops Know is an eye-opening revelation of what life on the beat is really all about.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I picked up "400 Things" after reading a Wall Street Journal article which mentioned that Lee Child and other crime writers were fans. Child called it "...a mix of hard-boiled autobiography and street-wise poetry." I don't know that I would go that far but I did enjoy the book. Written by a thirteen year veteran patrol officer, the book is a collection of stories, observations, little known facts and personal musings told in an affable, straight forward style. I think the author is fairly representative of police officers, if more articulate than most. It may seem controversial in light of current events (This review is written on 11-29-14) but no attempt is made to whitewash police or vilify the citizenry. It merely provides perspective. Divided into nineteen chapters with 11 to 31 "things cops know", this is a very easy read, with no section or tale running more than a few of pages. People frequently ask if a book contains foul language. Uh, of course this does- generally in the form of quotes not the author throwing it in randomly. I doubt that anyone really expects inner city police work to involve a lot of "Gee Whiz" and "Gosh Darn". While there are stories and situations that are grim, depressing and even shocking, I did have several "laugh out loud" moments. For example: "I once heard a coworker observe that my partner Ramon, a fine man but not especially fleet of foot, 'runs like Jed Clampett'." This is a difficult review to write simply because there is so much to say about this book. It would definitely be a great book club selection. From Plantiga's thoughts on societal issues to the role of the media, I guarantee you will want to discuss it.

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