

# **Don You Know It - 40 Below: The Timeless Appeal of a Classic Cocktail**

The Don You Know It 40 Below, a timeless classic in the world of cocktails, has captivated taste buds with its captivating blend of flavors and intriguing history. This iconic cocktail, also known as the 40 below or simply the 40, has stood the test of time, becoming a beloved mainstay on cocktail menus and a favorite among discerning drinkers.



## **DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S 40 BELOW?** by Hourly History

★★★★★ 5 out of 5  
Language : English  
File size : 4973 KB  
Print length : 192 pages  
Screen Reader: Supported  
Paperback : 440 pages  
Item Weight : 1.63 pounds  
Dimensions : 6 x 1.11 x 9 inches



## Origins of the Don You Know It 40 Below

The origins of the Don You Know It 40 Below remain shrouded in mystery, adding to its allure. One popular theory suggests its creation in the early 1900s by a bartender in New York City. The drink's name is believed to derive from the bartender's witty response to customers inquiring about the price: "Don't you know it's 40 below?"

Another theory traces the cocktail's roots to the Klondike Gold Rush of the late 1800s. Miners seeking their fortune in the frozen Yukon Territory required a drink that could withstand the frigid temperatures. The Don You Know It 40 Below, with its high alcohol content and warming spices, is said to have been a favorite among the prospectors.

## Ingredients and Preparation Method

The Don You Know It 40 Below is a simple yet perfectly balanced cocktail. Its ingredients, consisting of whiskey, brandy, sweet vermouth, and bitters, are combined in precise proportions to create a harmonious symphony of flavors.

### Ingredients:

- 2 ounces rye whiskey
- 1 ounce brandy
- 1 ounce sweet vermouth
- 2 dashes Angostura bitters

## Preparation Method:

1. Fill a mixing glass with ice.
2. Add the rye whiskey, brandy, sweet vermouth, and bitters to the mixing glass.
3. Stir for 30 seconds, or until the mixture is well chilled.
4. Strain into a chilled rocks glass over a large ice cube.
5. Garnish with a lemon twist.

## Flavor Profile and Variations

The Don You Know It 40 Below boasts a captivating flavor profile. The spicy rye whiskey provides a robust backbone, while the brandy adds a touch of sweetness and complexity. The sweet vermouth contributes a hint of fruitiness, and the Angostura bitters balance the flavors with their aromatic notes.

Over the years, bartenders have experimented with variations on the classic Don You Know It 40 Below. Some popular variations include:

- **Blood & Sand:** This variation uses scotch whiskey instead of rye whiskey, resulting in a more smoky and robust flavor.
- **Manhattan:** A close cousin to the 40 Below, the Manhattan uses sweet vermouth exclusively, omitting the brandy.
- **Rob Roy:** This Scottish iteration of the 40 Below swaps out the rye whiskey for blended scotch whisky, creating a smokier and more peaty flavor.

## Cultural Significance and Impact

The Don You Know It 40 Below has transcended its role as a mere cocktail and has become ingrained in popular culture. Its association with the Klondike Gold Rush and the frontier spirit has made it a symbol of adventure and resilience. The cocktail's timeless appeal has also made it a favorite among writers, artists, and musicians.

In literature, the 40 Below has been featured in numerous works, including Jack London's "White Fang" and Ernest Hemingway's "To Have and Have Not." Its presence in these literary masterpieces reflects the cocktail's deep connection to the American frontier and the human experience.

The cocktail's influence extends to the world of music as well. The Don You Know It 40 Below is mentioned in songs by Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, and Bruce Springsteen. These musical tributes further solidify the cocktail's iconic status and its enduring appeal across generations.

The Don You Know It 40 Below, an enduring classic in the cocktail realm, has captivated hearts and delighted palates for over a century. With its intriguing history, perfectly balanced flavors, and cultural significance, this timeless cocktail continues to enchant and inspire. Whether enjoyed as a toast to adventure or simply as a sophisticated libation, the Don You Know It 40 Below is a testament to the enduring power of a well-crafted drink.



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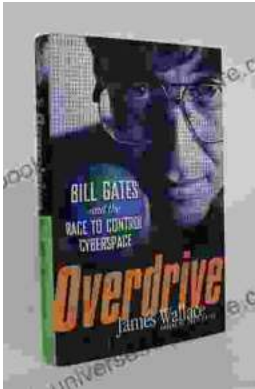
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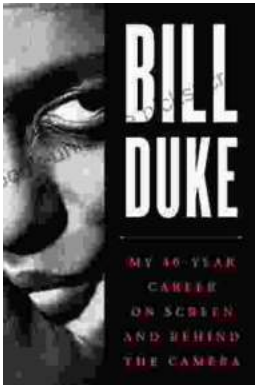
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