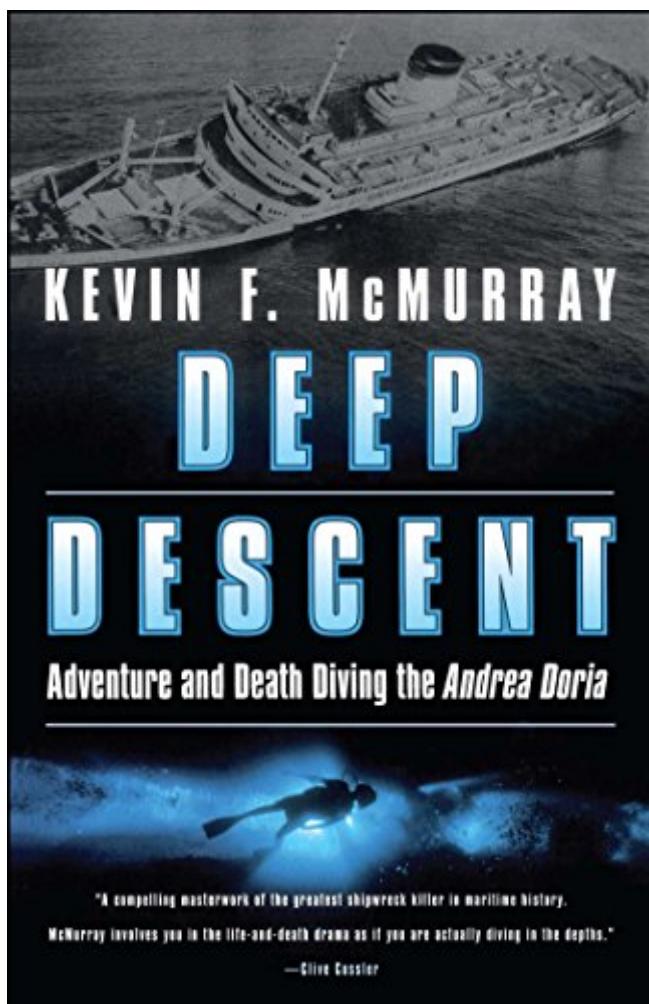


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Deep Descent: Adventure And Death Diving The Andrea Doria



Synopsis

On a foggy July evening in 1956, the Italian cruise liner Andrea Doria, bound for New York, was struck broadside by another vessel. In eleven hours, she would sink nearly 250 feet to the murky Atlantic Ocean floor. Thanks to a daring rescue operation, only 51 of more than 1,700 people died in the tragedy. But the Andrea Doria is still taking lives. Considered the Mt. Everest of diving, the Andrea Doria is the ultimate deepwater wreck challenge. Over the years, a small but fanatical group of extreme scuba divers have investigated the Andrea Doria, pushing themselves to the very limits of human endurance to explore her -- and not all have returned. Diver Kevin McMurray takes you inside this elite club with a hard, honest look at those who go deeper, farther, and closer to the edge than others would ever dream. Deep Descent is the riveting true story of the human spirit overcoming human frailty and of fearsome, mortal risks traded for a hard-core adrenaline rush. Chronicling these adventures in his page-turning narrative and in dozens of dramatic photos, McMurray draws us deeper into the cold heart of the unforgiving sea, giving us a powerful vision of a place to which few will ever have the skills -- or the courage -- to go.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Deep Descent is a book aimed squarely at divers eager to read more about the glory days of diving the liner Andrea Dorea, and as such it presents the reader with a mixed bag. This starts with the format of the book, which is half memoir and half journalistic. As Kevin McMurray himself admits in the book, while he likes diving he is not a devoted wreck diver. He only visited the Andrea Dorea a couple of times while on assignment and never penetrated the interior of the vessel. While he can claim to have been there and done that, he lacks the personal experience to write a full-length memoir about diving and exploring the Dorea on air. Instead, McMurry fills in the gaps between his own visits with the ably recounted tales of others who were major personalities in the "Golden Age" of diving the Dorea. The result is a book by a capable storyteller, but one that lacks direction. On the one hand, McMurray has the necessary experience to frame the underwater experiences of divers on the extremely hazardous undertaking of visiting a deep, dangerous wreck on air. Also, McMurray was not a major player in any of the New York-New Jersey diving factions that continue to bitterly argue over who-did-what to this very day. Deep Descent is therefore not poisoned by bad writing or partisan axe-grinding. However, the book lacks the cohesion that makes for a gripping narrative. Deep Descent reads like Simon and Schuster asked for a book about diving the Dorea on short order, and McMurray implies as much when he writes about being asked to create Deep Descent. It is both and neither the story of diving the Dorea on air nor the memoir of a Dorea diver, and reads more like an anthology of individual articles about the Golden Age of diving the Dorea than a proper narrative of the period. Deep Descent is better written than a lot of books out there about diving the Andrea Dorea, but at the end it leaves the reader thirsting for an even better book on the same subject.

This is a great book about diving the Andrea Doria dealing mostly with the deaths that have occurred and how they happened. If you have been around this type of diving for awhile you will recognize most of the people mentioned and quoted (Billy Deans, John Chatterton, Gary Gentile and so on). The deaths and the events leading up to them are described in graphic detail including several photos of the dead divers being recovered. Kevin McMurray goes into great detail in terms of analyzing the accidents including what boat they were diving on, who they were diving with, type of gas being used, type of equipment, the dive plan and such. No attempt was made to sugar coat the tragic events, just the hard details and facts with enough background information on each diver to help you better understand the complete picture. This book was definitely not written for or about recreational diving. No single tank air dives on pretty tropical reefs and 82 degree water. This book

is about hard core wreck divers pushing the limits in deep cold water with poor vis and strong currents. If you enjoyed 'Last Dive' then you will surely like this book. I know that I couldn't put the book down.

Thoroughly enjoyed this true chronicle of diving adventures on the historic Andrea Dorian. DEEP DESCENT is a book that complements several other books I've read featuring notable diving icons mentioned herein, giving me a rounded view of these respectable hero's and pioneers of the deep diving community. I appreciate the lessons and warnings it imparts to always have deep respect for the sea and never forget our mortality.

Takes you back to the sinking of the Andrea Dorian and moves you through the people diving on her wreck. How dangerous and dark the wreck is and how fast the Dorian and the Deep can take a life. The Dorian has taken many, from her initial sinking to the divers visiting her in the deep. The book covers the sinking, the divers, the china fever that kills, and the divers that are drawn to the Dorian and successfully dive her depths.

I am not a diver, or a mountain climber, but I love reading about them. I downloaded the kindle edition of this book based on the high rating. The different elements were interesting, the descriptions of the sinking of the Andrea Doria and the different dives, but the book as a whole jumped around which made the narrative hard to follow even though I was familiar with some of the divers and subject matter. It's a good book, but I was much more engaged when I read Shadow Divers so I was a little disappointed.

I HEARD ABOUT THIS WHEN I WAS A CHILD AND HAVE READ A COUPLE BOOKS ON IT. SHIP ACCIDENTS AND SINKINGS AND SUBSEQUENT WRECK DIVE HAVE ALWAYS FASCINATED ME. AND THIS BOOK DID NOT DISAPPOINT ME AT ALL! FULL OF PERSONAL ACCOUNTS FROM PASSENGERS AND CREW. I THOROUGHLY RECOMMEND IT FOR ANYONE THAT LIKES ADVENTUROUS, TRUE STORIES PACKED WITH EXCITEMENT, FACTS AND MANY PHOTOS. DESCRIPTIONS OF DIVES ARE ALSO FANTASTIC. AND FULL OF FACTS.

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