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“A compelling masterwork of the greatest shipwreck killer in maritime history. McMurray involves you in the life and death drama as if you are actually diving in the depths.”

—New York Times best-selling author Clive Cusler

DEEP DESCENT

Adventure and Death Diving the *Andrea Doria*

By

Kevin F. McMurray

“McMurray knows his stuff, and the portraits of the various (and often competing) personalities are clear and compelling... full of high drama in low places.”

—Kirkus Reviews)

It has been called the “Everest of scuba diving.” It, an extreme adventure into thin water, is the *Andrea Doria*; the Italian-flagged Ocean liner that on a densely fogged night in 1956 was struck broadside by another ship. Fifty-one out of the 1,706 passengers lost their lives aboard the *Doria*, and the collision sent the ship down to the murky depth of 235 feet. Today, the sea-shattered remains are silent, except for those who choose to disturb her ocean slumber, and venture down to her claustrophobic galley-ways. They are only the most skilled and intrepid of scuba divers. Award-winning journalist and veteran *Doria* diver Kevin F. McMurray takes readers inside the elite world of deep wreck diving with **DEEP DESCENT Adventure and Death Diving the *Andrea Doria*** (A Pocket Books Hardcover Original includes 70 Black & White Photographs; June 12, 2001; Price: \$26.95) to fifty miles southeast of Nantucket, where in the world of extreme diving, the *Andrea Doria* is the ultimate goal.

McMurray points out that while the *Titanic* lies over two miles below the surface and is unreachable by divers, the *Andrea Doria* is dangerously accessible to all divers,

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but only the most skilled will be able to navigate the necessary equipment: as many as five tanks, four separate breathing apparatuses and several different mixtures of gas to breath at various depths. Because of the *Doria's* siren call each summer, more divers will themselves to test their limits of human endurance and dive headlong into the wreck seeking out artifacts. Some return to the surface with a rare piece of china with the *Doria* insignia and a memory for life; others don't return at all. McMurray states that since 1981, twelve people have died diving the *Andrea Doria*, and five people were lost in just thirteen months during the 1998 and 1999 diving season.

McMurray offers a "you-are-there style" writing about the inner-circle club of men and women for whom going deeper, diving further, and getting closer to the edge of life is a matter of daily course. Like high-altitude mountaineering, deep-wreck diving has its share of disasters, and **DEEP DESCENT** recounts many of them as well as the *Doria's* magnificent history, its daunting statistics and her mysterious allure. With acute clarity, McMurray's **DEEP DESCENT** is a powerful story drawing readers inside the cold heart of the unforgiving sea.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kevin F. McMurray is an award-winning journalist and photographer, whose work has appeared in newspapers and magazines including The New York Times, New York, Outside, Yankee, Men's Journal, The Sunday Times of London and Cigar Aficionado. He is a highly respected and experienced diver and is also a former world record holder for swimming around Manhattan Island.



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