



## Deep Descent: Adventure and Death Diving the Andrea Doria

By Kevin F. McMurray

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**Deep Descent: Adventure and Death Diving the Andrea Doria** By Kevin F. McMurray

On a dense, foggy, late July evening in 1956, the Italian-flagged cruise liner "Andrea Doria," bound for New York, was struck broadside by another cruise ship. After an agonizing eleven hours, the relentless sea would drag her down, settling the "Doria" uneasily into the murky Atlantic ocean floor nearly two hundred and fifty feet below. Amazingly, due to a daring and fevered rescue operation by her oceangoing brethren, only fifty-one of the more than 1,700 people on board both ships were killed in the collision. Years have passed since that tragedy, yet the "Andrea Doria" is still taking lives. Deep Descent Drawn by the sirens call of adventure, a small but fanatical group of extreme scuba divers has long challenged the "Andrea Doria," pushing themselves far beyond the limits of recreational divers, up to the very limits of human endurance. Not all of them have succeeded. In "Deep Descent," an author and frequent Doria diver Kevin McMurray takes you inside this elite club, offering an unsparing and unsentimental exploration of those men and women who dare to go deeper, farther, and closer to the edge than prudence or common sense might allow. Considered the Mt. Everest of diving, the "Andrea Doria" is the ultimate deepwater wreck challenge -- lying in an area long known as the Bermuda Triangle of the Northeast, some fifty miles south of Nantucket Island and two hundred miles east of Sandy Hook, New Jersey. This region, no stranger to disaster, is fog-shrouded and prone to sudden changes of wind, weather, and tide. In addition to many shipping disasters, it has borne mute witness to such recent tragedies as the fatal crash of John F. Kennedy Jr.'s small plane and the mysterious downing of EgyptAir Flight 990. It is an area that guards its secrets well, only surrendering its treasures to the bravest or most determined seekers. Told with a vivid and startling clarity, "Deep Descent" is a story of courage and bravado, of the human spirit overcoming human frailty, and of fearsome risks traded for a hardwired adrenaline rush. With each page, 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 daring to go.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

McMurray's is an earnest journal of deep-sea wreck diving, mostly over the Italian passenger liner Andrea Doria, which sank in a collision off Cape Cod in 1956. The Doria still draws extreme scuba divers 235 feet down to "the Everest of scuba," where, over the last 20 years, 12 divers have met their deaths. After a Night to Remember-style introduction to the ship's history, the author turns his talents as a journalist and diver (he has reached and explored the Doria hulk several times) to question why inverse mountaineers still come back to the wreck. McMurray renders a shared obsession, mostly through fuzzy sketches of expeditions to the wreck in the 1980s and '90s, and follows a dozen divers down to the Doria. Yet his descriptions are uninspiring; even the accounts of fatal dives are flat (despite a multiple-photo series of a body being hauled to the dive boat). His we-band-of-brother-divers tone can't substitute for description or character; indeed, it proves an obstacle to thoughtful storytelling. McMurray the scuba diver never quite admits to McMurray the journalist-observer that divers visit the Andrea Doria because of not in spite of the risks. 75 b&w photos. (June) Forecast: Despite the current public fascination with dangerous sport, this book won't appeal to the uninitiated. McMurray could become a sort of Sebastian Junger-esque celebrity he holds a world record for swimming around the island of Manhattan except that his book can't compare with *The Perfect Storm*. It is for fellow scuba samurai only.

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From Library Journal

In 1956, on her maiden voyage to New York, traveling at 21 knots in thick fog, the passenger liner Andrea Doria collided with the Swedish steamship Stockholm and sunk 160 miles off the coast of New York. McMurray, a skilled diver and adventure journalist who has written for *Outside*, *Yankee*, *Men's Journal*, *Rock & Ice*, and the *New York Times*, chronicles the underwater exploration of the wreck site by amateur divers in search of souvenirs. Because the Andrea Doria lies at a depth of 235', divers visiting the wreck exceed the maximum safe depth of 130' recommended for scuba diving and must use special dry suits and exotic breathing gear to avoid the "bends" when resurfacing. Two dive boats, the *Wahoo* and the *Seeker*, specialize in charter expeditions to the site, and though they are skippered by experienced and responsible crews with the latest equipment, there have been 12 deaths associated with the wreck. McMurray describes his own underwater experiences visiting the wreck and interviews crew and dive buddies so that he can vividly re-create each fatality. The result is a good history of noncommercial deep diving and a solid account of the sinking of the Andrea Doria. Exciting and powerful, this account is highly recommended for public libraries. John Kenny, San Francisco P.L.

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Review

*Kirkus Reviews* McMurray knows his stuff...Compelling...Full of high drama in low places. -- *Review*

Clive Cussler

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.

*Library Journal*

Exciting and powerful.

*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

This is a book you will have a hard time putting down. Page after page leads you through adventure, mystery, suspense, and acts of heroism.

*Kirkus Reviews*

McMurray knows his stuff...Compelling...Full of high drama in low places.

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Julio Rico:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? May be reading a book can be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the guide untitled Deep Descent: Adventure and Death Diving the Andrea Doria can be very good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

**Robert Spann:**

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Deep Descent: Adventure and Death Diving the Andrea Doria, you could enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

**Tiffaney Serna:**

Does one one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt when you find yourself in the book store? Aim to pick one book that you just dont know the inside because don't judge book by its cover may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not as fantastic as in the outside appear likes. Maybe you answer could be Deep Descent: Adventure and Death Diving the Andrea Doria why

because the great cover that make you consider in regards to the content will not disappoint you actually. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

**Daryl Pena:**

Many people said that they feel weary when they reading a book. They are directly felt this when they get a half areas of the book. You can choose the actual book Deep Descent: Adventure and Death Diving the Andrea Doria to make your current reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading skill is developing when you including reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the idea about book and reading through especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to wide open a book and go through it. Beside that the guide Deep Descent: Adventure and Death Diving the Andrea Doria can to be your new friend when you're feel alone and confuse using what must you're doing of the time.

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