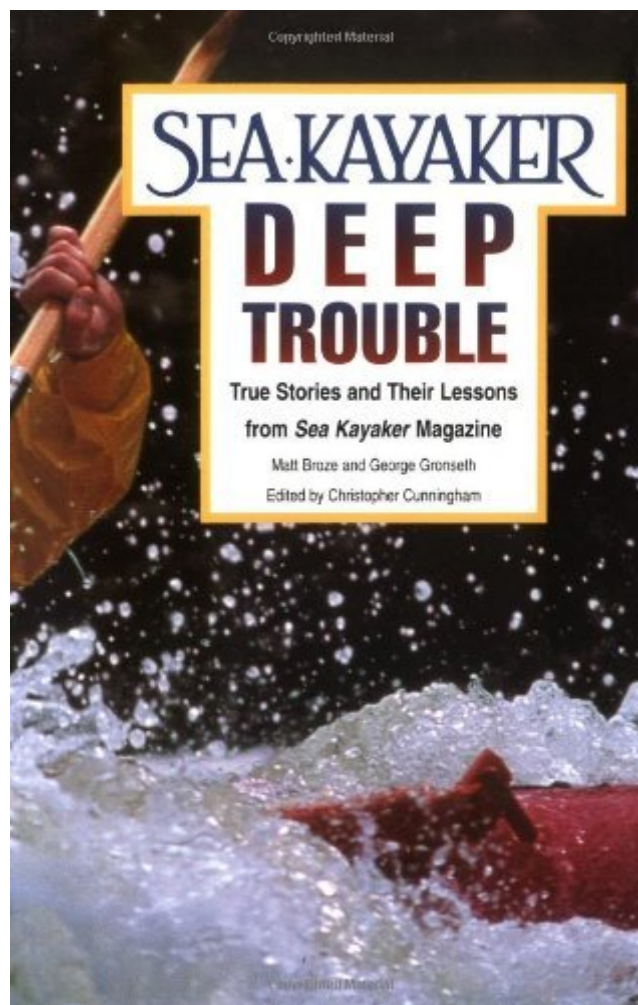




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Sea Kayaker's Deep Trouble: True Stories And Their Lessons From Sea Kayaker Magazine (Schaums' Business Economics)



Synopsis

This riveting book offers 20 harrowing, real-life tales of sea kayaking accidents that will not only keep readers on the edge of their seats, but also instruct them with potentially life-saving lessons.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book should be considered a must-read for any safety conscious kayaker. The way it's laid out is it takes real world kayaking incidents, tells the story of what happened, then outlines what went wrong and why, and what could have been done to avoid the incident. I find when I'm out kayaking, and a minor thing goes wrong, I think about what I've read in this book and realize that ignoring minor things can add up to "Deep Trouble!" I kayak mainly in the Pacific Ocean, with small groups of varying experience, on mild to moderate days; I don't kayak in severe weather conditions, but even on a calm day, unexpected things can go wrong and it's nice to have the additional knowledge to analyze the situation and make better decisions.

I am not sure the words "enjoyed this book" would be the correct way to phrase things, but I found

the information very interesting indeed. The reports have prompted some very constructive talks between our group of kayakers and some rethinking of usual routines and boat/equipment packing. The problems faced by some are easy to relate to, and very easy to see how even a "well organized trip' can go awry so very quickly. Personally I found the book layout annoying, whilst I think it works on the page size of a magazine I found that cramming in the sidebars on such a small page size distracting, and made the continuity of reading confusing, hard to relate to a sidebar when you have not read the full account. With this layout the book requires the reader to go back and forth over several pages to read everything, not the way I like to read a book. In a magazine layout you could easily read through the account and glance over to the appropriate sidebar without having to search or reread each sidebar, whereas the book required more page turning and searching, not a huge obstacle or task in itself but none the less annoying. The information in this book is extremely useful and is worthy of a second or third read more reference than story which I think makes the layout so much more important.

I recently took several ACA courses in kayaking in the Gulf of Mexico. My instructor (Hank Baltar in Gulfport, MS - I HIGHLY recommend him!) spoke about a handful of books, this being one of them. I bought it and once I started reading it, I found it hard to put down. The real life accounts of harrowing kayak rescues / disasters were very eye opening for me. This book does a great job showing how naive novices can be, as well as how a seasoned kayaker can underestimate their conditions. The general theme of the book is; BE PREPARED! Thanks to Hank, and in part to this book, I consider myself much more safety conscious when on the water.

I learned a lot from this book. Vignettes on sea kayaking mishaps that I was able to learn from. I was surprised at how many of the accidents involved kayakers not wearing a PFD or dry-suit. The discussions on currents, tides, and winds was useful to me, although even more in this area would be appreciated. Hindsight is always clearer, however reading through the accidents showed me how group dynamics in the outdoors comes into play in different ways, and how quickly things can go wrong. I started to highlight the words "did not wear a PFD", "had a PFD stored in the boat", "no flotation", "no wetsuit or drysuit", etc. quite a bit. That was a common theme. However, seeing how these unfortunate kayakers sometimes survived from that point on was useful to me.

I would consider myself a beginner-intermediate kayaker despite having kayaked for the last 25 years. While the majority of my kayaking experience does not overlap with the Pacific Northwest

case studies the book, I found the book both a captivating read and convicting. While I'm generally perceive myself (and probably perceived by many as) conservative with regards to kayaking locations, kayaking conditions and kayaking safety equipment, the book allowed me to recognize a much too cavalier attitude in my kayaking to small incremental safety measures I could take (more thorough understanding of waters and weather at any given time and incremental safety measures). Truth be told, I recall a number of situations in my limited sea kayaking where I got in over my head "suddenly" by paddling solo and only came through unscathed by the grace of God (if a tad unnerved). It always starts innocently enough and usually ends innocently enough, but it only makes sense to venture as far as one is able to extricate oneself from "bad" scenarios. Given the jolt this book has given me, I'm highly confident this book will save me from some grief in the future. I suspect other readers like me (maybe not the already super diligent and expert kayaker community) will also be saved from unnecessary pain and suffering by reading and acting on the lessons herein. Rather read about instead of being read about.

Lots of really good information and advice hidden in the stories about kayakers who either got into conditions beyond their capabilities or rescued someone who was in trouble. I would highly recommend that if your thinking about getting into Kayaking, especially long distance "sea" or touring style kayaking, and even for white water or river kayaking, you should read this first. A common theme will develop as you read the stories and it will make you a better paddler if you take the warning the common theme gives you as well as adapting proper safety and emergency mindset, this book will show that even experienced, and highly experienced kayakers could get in over their head or into "deep trouble!"

I learned many lessons from this book and the subsequent title ("More Deep Trouble"), but the one that absolutely sticks in my mind is: If you don't have it on you, you don't have it. Wonderful books, but frustrating in a way because I cannot understand why any paddler would NOT wear a PFD. Some paid with their lives for that error in judgment. I'll re-read the "Deep Trouble" books because the writing is excellent, as are the lessons - as sad as some make me.

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