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The Perfect Storm: A True Story Of Men Against The Sea



Synopsis

"There is nothing imaginary about Junger's book; it is all terrifyingly, awesomely real." —Los Angeles Times
It was the storm of the century, boasting waves over one hundred feet high—a tempest created by so rare a combination of factors that meteorologists deemed it "the perfect storm." In a book that has become a classic, Sebastian Junger explores the history of the fishing industry, the science of storms, and the candid accounts of the people whose lives the storm touched. *The Perfect Storm* is a real-life thriller that makes us feel like we've been caught, helpless, in the grip of a force of nature beyond our understanding or control. Winner of the American Library Association's 1998 Alex Award. 8 pages of illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The unabridged audio version of Sebastian Junger's *The Perfect Storm*, read by Richard M. Davidson, moves in the same haunting fashion as the deadly storm referenced in the title. Opening slowly, the story lulls you with a false sense of calm, behind which looms an inexorable power. Almost imperceptibly the drama begins to build and before you know what's hit you, the sheer force of the cumulative events has swept you into a maelstrom of tragic human consequence. Junger's carefully researched and sympathetic book is a mesmerizing chronicle of man's struggle against nature. Davidson's unassuming, slightly nasal tone subtly captures the drollery of the salty New England attitude. "People often get premonitions when they do jobs that could get them killed ... the trick is knowing when to listen to them." He makes listening to *The Perfect Storm* seem like you're

bearing witness to a natural disaster. You're powerless to help, but the awesome spectacle has such an emotional hold that it's nearly impossible to turn away. Start this tape too late in the evening and you may be in for a dark and stormy night. (Running time: nine hours, six cassettes) --George Laney --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The powerfully destructive forces of nature that created the Halloween Gale of 1991 are made vivid through interviews with survivors, families, and Coast Guard rescue crews. True adventure at its best Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I normally like the books better than the movie, but not this time. I had hoped to read more of the ones left behind but only got a few pages devoted to the families. It was more technical than I'd like and there were few photos of reality. I gave it four stars as I had no idea there was such danger in this chosen field nor that they were gone for such long periods of time. I'd still buy it again just to learn what I did as we all expect movies to be exaggerated.

The Perfect Storm was made into a movie that only told the sad story of the crew of the Andrea Gail. The book is so much more! The book describes the challenging life of generations of fishermen and their families in New England. It reports the stories of people caught in the storm and efforts to save them with varying success, but beyond admirable commitment to the task. Finally, the book explains how the perfect storm was a mega-weather event and an excellent title for the book. The story is sad, of course, but keeps the reader enthralled. Sebastian Junger rights about diverse topics, but his books are well-worth reading.

Good book. Great story. It came as expected.

A very moving book. How anyone can go on a boat and lose the sight of land is beyond me. A wall of water 100 feet high is unimaginable. Sitting in the relative comfort of my living room I know a storm could sweep me to my death in a heartbeat. The wind has enough force to alter anything on the surface of the planet, anything!!

I had already seen the movie and had thought some of the movie scenes were Hollywood Exaggeration . This true story made me a believer of giant waves at sea. The technical details of

wind and weather at sea was fascinating .Junger did a superb job capturing a true & terrifying story of men against the sea.

This well written book is not only a harrowing true story of men against the sea, but also taught me many interesting things about the dangers of commercial fishing which I found fascinating. I was not only gripped by the main events of the storm itself, but I was also interested in the human side of the relationships between wives, parents, girlfriends and the fisherman who would go to sea, maybe never to return. I was amazed at the risks that the rescue teams took, the National Guardsmen Swimmers, and Pararescue Jumpers are truly heroes. As you read you understand the construction of the boat, the elements of the storm, decisions made, and how all of these may have contributed to the final outcome. The book goes much farther than the movie, and is a learning experience, as well as a story that will keep you on the edge of your seat. The movie, which showed unknown events as fact, and left out much of fascinating information found in the book, does not do justice to *The Perfect Storm*.

First of all, I feel for each and every individual affected by the events that are described in the book. Putting that aside, and talking strictly about the book, I would say that it is sitting around 3.5 to 4 stars. Especially until we get half way through it, is probably a two star book. It takes some considerable effort to go through the first half of the book.(spoiler alert)As far as the story of the Andrea Gail is concerned, it was a little bit frustrating that it was supposed to be factual, but then you realize that we have no idea about what happened, and that everything is pretty much a guess. Accidents can be really interesting and complicated, but they can also be simple and, unfortunately, stupid. Sometimes, when we have rigid data, we are able to tell, and sometimes, as in the case of Andrea Gail, we will never be able to know. We can lay down four million different scenarios, and we will still probably not get close to what really happened. Things drastically change when we get on the other stories. The book picks up speed there, and it gets compelling, and hard to put down. All in all, an interesting book to read, but it wouldn't be one of my top priorities. I did like the simple language of it, and the fact that most of the time I didn't feel that pressure of "let me mesmerize you, my dear reader, with the awesomeness of my vocabulary, and how I can lay down sentences that will give you no clue about what I am describing." I do feel that 4 stars are a little higher than what I would like to rate it, but 3 stars wouldn't do it a lot of justice either,... So 4 stars it is.

Better than the movie and the movie was really good. I've been fishing for the better part of 50 years (including deep sea off Long Island) but I didn't realize that some of those swordfish lines went out 40 miles- incredible.

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