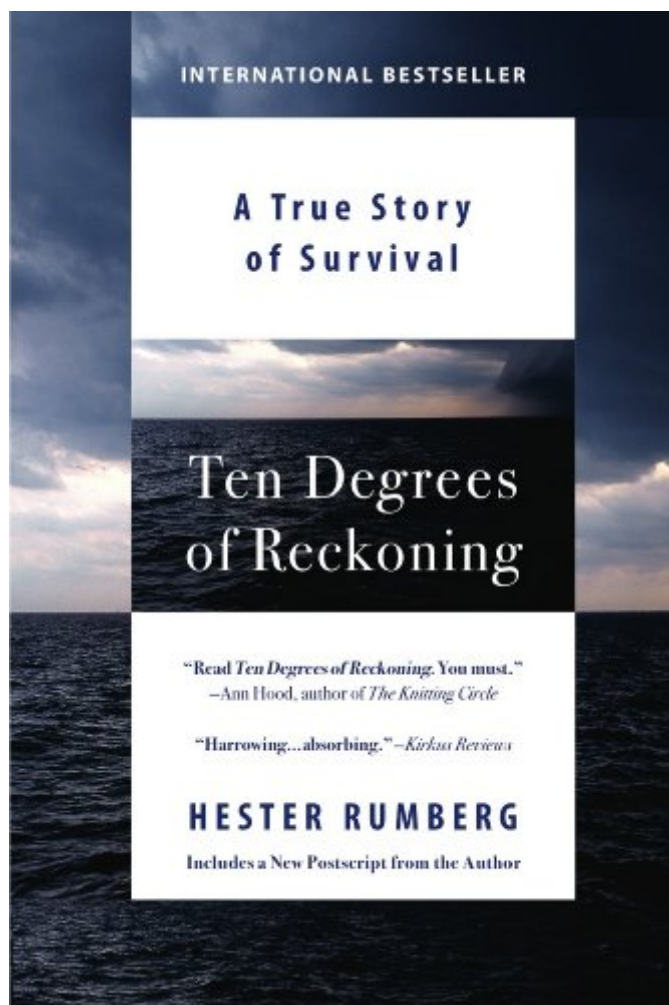


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Ten Degrees Of Reckoning: A True Story Of Survival



Synopsis

An international bestseller. A remarkable true story of one woman's courage. In 1993, Judith and Michael Sleavin and their two children set out to sail around the world. Three years into their incredible journey, a nearby freighter altered its course by a mere ten degrees-and everything changed... After forty-four hours in the icy water clinging to an overturned dinghy, her back broken and paralyzed below the waist, Judith miraculously survived, winding up in a small community on the New Zealand coast. Gripping, unbelievable yet true, Judith's story of courage, survival, and retribution is alternately heartrending and uplifting. It's also a story of unbreakable bonds, of shattering loss, and of one woman reborn through the strength of friendship and the profound love of strangers who became family.

Book Information

File Size: 1647 KB

Print Length: 284 pages

Publisher: Berkley (January 25, 2009)

Publication Date: February 19, 2009

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B001QNVPDG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #564,430 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #7 inÂ Kindle

Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Water Sports > Sailing > Narratives #31 inÂ Kindle

Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Australia & South Pacific > New Zealand #38

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Customer Reviews

This book had so many issues that were discussed in depth in our book club. The issue of passion, resilience and tragedy.

I purchased this book for a second time read, I read it when it was first released. I heard Hester Rumberg talk about this book on a radio show before it's release and thought it sounded like a great story. It is a fantastic story of love, courage, hope and family. I enjoy true stories with lots of detail and this fits the bill. I highly recommend it.

My husband and I were at a sailboat show last weekend, and we met the author - Hester Rumberg. We casually discussed her book, and frankly, mostly because it was on the Kindle (which is how we read most of our books), and to support a sailboat show vendor, we bought the book. I'm a huge reader - and very picky. Shame on me, but the truth it, I didn't really expect to be impressed. I thought if there was a great sailing book out there, I would have read it. Boy was I wrong. Without giving away too much about the book or the author (because that relationship is a key piece of what makes this book work), the writing is good. The subject is engrossing. There are few 'stops' in the book - it flows easily from one element to the next. It is overwhelmingly sad at points, full of hope at others. I laughed, I cried, I was moved. I find myself replaying parts of this book over and over. I am drawn to the subject, and now I want to learn more about international maritime law. Isn't that the hallmark of a great book? I am so lucky to have stumbled upon this great author and book. Definitely a great read.

This is an incredible - and true - story!

There are many survival stories but few have the same flavor as Ten Degrees of Reckoning (TDR for short here). The basis of the story has been detailed elsewhere so I focus my review on how the story and writing affected me. Also, I will compare it to other adventure/survival stories so interested readers might get a sense of what this book offers.

1. How the story affected me: I am a father, adventurer, and sailor and could identify with so much of the story. There were times when I just simply had to put the book down because the events were so powerful. You might think this is hyperbole but I assure you that anyone who has children and knows the dangers of the sea will find the entire story - from beginning to end - disturbing. I say disturbing not from a judgmental standpoint but rather from a reader's perspective. You will live through the authors' story for both good and bad.
2. How the story compares with other adventure/survival stories: Here are a few that I found well worth reading and how Ten Degrees of Reckoning compares to each.
 - Deep Survival: Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why - I liked this book but TDR was better story. If you want to be immersed in a story, read TDR but don't overlook Deep Survival.
 - Adrift: Seventy-six Days Lost at

Sea - One of the best survival books I read. TDR compares favorably but I would recommend Adrift over TDR simply because Adrift focuses more on the survival whereas TDR spreads the focus from pre to post survival - often diluting the story with important but somewhat tangential details. - Left for Dead: Surviving the Deadliest Storm in Modern Sailing History - I race sailboats and could identify with the racing elements in this book but TDR had a far more deeper meaning for me than a recount of a personal tragedy amidst a sailboat race could ever offer. Both are good books but for general survival and its after effects, I recommend TDR over Left for Dead. - Crazy for the Storm: A Memoir of Survival (P.S.) - I loved this book and, in many ways, it paralleled the story told in TDR. Both protagonists struggled to find meaning after their struggles. I recommend both but if you have a taste for the sea more than the mountains, read TDR; otherwise, take your pick. I hope these comparisons and brief report help you make a decision about this fine book.

This is an odd book in-as-much as it really needs a good edit and probably a more organized narration. That being said, the story is compelling and disturbing, despite the constructional difficulties. I would absolutely recommend the read. Days after I read it, I found myself thinking about the contents and some particularly poignant lines. I even dreamed of a late family member whom I hadn't seen in my dreams in a while. Clearly it crept into my subconscious. For this, I am thankful and grateful. So worth the read, very good, could have been brilliant.

When telling a co-worker about this book and how it had affected me, she asked, "Why are you reading it--it sounds so depressing." "Because Judy Sleavin survived," I replied, and being totally in awe of how she did it. I found myself actually not breathing a few times while I was reading Ten Degrees of Reckoning. To say that it is a riveting story cheapens what is in fact a horrendous real-life event. Ms. Rumberg does an excellent job of laying out the facts. Yes, she is obviously a good friend of Ms. Sleavin, but this does not at all detract from the facts of the disaster, and the appalling lack of accountability from the Pan Ocean Shipping Company (and, as an aside, Senator Slade Gorton, page 217, who should also be ashamed of himself). Everyone should read this book to revel in the truly amazing depths the human spirit can go through in order to survive, the humanity that can be shown by caring individuals (Pan Ocean Shipping and Senator Gorton excluded), and also to become aware of how the Death on the High Seas Act can affect anyone who travels on a plane or ship in international waters. Five stars--no question.

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