



## **Deadliest Sea: The Untold Story Behind the Greatest Rescue in Coast Guard History**

*Kalee Thompson*

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**Deadliest Sea: The Untold Story Behind the Greatest Rescue in Coast Guard History** Kalee Thompson  
*Deadliest Sea* by Kalee Thompson is the spellbinding true story of the greatest rescue in U.S. Coast Guard history. Recounting the tragic sinking of the fishing trawler, *Alaska Ranger*, in the Bering Sea and its remarkable aftermath in March 2008, *Deadliest Sea* is real life action and adventure at its finest. The full story of an amazing rescue—where extraordinary courage, ingenuity, will, and technology combined in one of the most remarkable maritime feats ever recorded—has never been told before now. It's *The Perfect Storm* meets *Deadliest Catch*.

## Deadliest Sea: The Untold Story Behind the Greatest Rescue in Coast Guard History Details

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Author : Kalee Thompson

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## **From Reader Review Deadliest Sea: The Untold Story Behind the Greatest Rescue in Coast Guard History for online ebook**

### **Stacia says**

How could this book not be riveting? It's the story of a fishing vessel that sank in the Bering Sea with 47 men aboard, and the Coast Guard rescue mission that saved 42 of them. From a pure story perspective, this book gets five stars.

That being said, a third of the way through, the book was still almost all backstory. That's when I flipped back to the acknowledgments and verified that the book has its basis in the author's 2008 *Popular Mechanics* article about the rescue mission. To me, that's how the book reads: like a very good long form story that was expanded just a little too much to reach book length. This is a purely subjective opinion, though. The details about the people involved were interesting, and they didn't bog down the narrative. If you want the full story of all of the people involved, read this book. If you want the streamlined version of the actual rescue, the original article can give you that.

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### **Lisa Manke says**

I loved this vivid tale of a terrifying sea disaster and subsequent rescue scenario, also terrifying.

Super read - don't want to EVER work on a fishing vessel in the Bering sea

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### **Gary Detrick says**

A well researched story placing you in the dangerous waters of the Bering Sea. You can feel the swells of the rising and lowering of 20' waves as this amazing rescue is being attempted. Obviously, safety issues exist that help lead to cause of this deadly event. Unfortunately, they don't just exist on sea vessels but also our own local manufacturing industries and businesses as safety rules are "ignored". I'm sure many of us have worked in places where safety standards are "posted" and "spoken about", but the reality is when suggestions are made, they seem to many times go ignored.

The rescue attempts are amazing and take you on a caotic journey as last minute decisions are made as these "hero" rescuers surmize the situations, communicate and dedicated their lives to saving others.

At times the lives of the personnel on board the sinking Alaska Ranger drags on just a little, but is kept interesting. My thought is that it personally aquaints you with some of the members as if you were working with them personally.

An easy read and worthy read for those interested in these types of stories, and especially fans of the "Deadliest Catch" series.

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### **Melanie says**

Fantastic non-fiction account of the "greatest rescue in Coast Guard History." Granted you know from the

start that there will be some type of rescue, you have no idea how many, how long it will take or how it is possible to sit on the edge of your seat while reading the entire book. Well researched and assembled! I HIGHLY recommend this book! Well done!!

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### **Walter Underwood says**

So far, so good, though a bit slow. It took nearly 100 pages to get one chopper in the air.

I decided to read this because the supernatural woo-woo at the end of *The Guardian* was so awful. I'd like to have more positive mental association with the Coast Guard.

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Once the rescue gets moving, it picks up. At one point a rescue chopper throws out their own life raft and leaves their rescue swimmer behind so they can transport more people back to the cutter. The rescue swimmer pulls another three people into the raft and alternates caring for them and looking for more survivors.

Well worth a read, and I was sufficiently involved the whole story (safety as well as rescue) to hunt down the final USCG Marine Board Report on the accident, finished after the book went to press. I recommend reading the summary of that report after you finish this book.

So skip "*The Guardian*" and read this instead. Available from the Palo Alto Library.

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### **LibraryCin says**

In 2008, a fishing trawler sunk in the Bearing Sea in Alaskan waters. There were 47 people on board. They were hours away from any help, but Coast Guard helicopters made their way there, along with a ship to help rescue as many people as possible.

The book started off a little "slower" (though still good), with cutting back and forth between the sinking of the boat and background information. At times, I found it a bit hard to follow... but only at first. As the book continued on, I got to know the people better (though there were a lot of people, so it was still easy to get some of them mixed up), so it helped me "place" where we were in the story (whether "current" timeline or background info on the people, or the history of the area, or the fishing industry, or whatever). In the end, I thought it was really good. The book was primarily put together based on interviews with the people involved.

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### **Polly Krize says**

Having had first-hand experience with the Coast Guard, I cannot express adequately my admiration for their dedication. As they were on the other end of our radio a few years ago, so were they there for the fishermen of the Alaska Ranger. A good read about the inside workings of the Coast Guard and their work out on our

seas.

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### **Alice M. Williams says**

#### **Excellent read**

This book portrays a real life story in a gripping manner. As Kalee introduces us to the fishermen, officers and Coast Guard rescue crews we feel as if we know them. We feel the tension as the situation goes from bad to worse, we anxiously wait to see who will survive, we cheer for those that do and we mourn those that don't. I highly recommend this book to anyone who thinks that there are no real heroes left today. The bravery and determination of the Coast Guard will prove them wrong.

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### **David Forsyth says**

With 6,000 nautical miles of wake behind me, I may perceive this non-fiction narrative uniquely, but in my case at least, I found this book to be a thrilling window into the savage brutality of the Bering Sea and the factory-ship fishing industry. If you sail; if you have endured the chill of northern waters; if you have ever experienced an ocean's wrath, you will thoroughly enjoy Ms Thompson's objective description of the sinking of the Alaska Ranger and the incredible perseverance of her crew and their US Coast Guard rescuers. When your next watch is over, read this one!

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### **James Korsmo says**

The book starts off a bit slow (I'm not sure we need to know the background of every person we encounter), but it still proves to be an engaging narrative of the dangers of fishing in the Bering Sea and the valor of the Coast Guard. The book is filled with cold-water drama; have a warm beverage close at hand. Thompson is also well attuned to the larger issues of the story, such as the lack of meaningful regulation of the boats in the fishing fleet (there is far more regulation protecting the fisheries and regulating the boat's catch than protecting the fishermen plying the dangerous waters above).

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### **Nat says**

Other reviews were so good I can't say it anywhere near as well. However, here goes - Kalee gave such great details that it will give someone (like me) who knows nothing about arctic commercial fishing boats and the arctic Coast Guard a good picture of their daily life and working conditions (not a reality TV view, which is often faked for TV), and a bit of their life outside work. You almost feel you've met them.

Also a great picture of rescue operations from points of view of the rescued, USCG rescue boats, planes, helicopters, and those involved in rescue operations from a distance, at bases. It makes you feel the immense size of the area the rescuers have to cover, in the arctic's worst weather. You see what people in all these areas were doing during before, during & after the boat sinking & rescue.

I feel informed enough to have an opinion I never had before - that commercial arctic fishing is another area where big company greed encourages people working on production pay to cut corners while management turns a blind eye, so everyone makes more money (most of all the companies) but at the cost of some working joes losing their lives. Maybe consumers need to pay a little more for their seafood, and maybe big fishing companies need to accept decreased production for increased safety - whatever way, things need to be safer & cleaner. If everyone was a vegetarian like me, this particular problem wouldn't exist, but the world is what it is right now.

Overall, very well written, interesting, fair to all parties involved, doesn't take sides (though the reader may), and so informative in an easily readable format. I skimmed through the investigation part at the end but may read it later - a little dry for me - I'm usually a fiction reader - but even fiction readers who enjoy character development & details - & like learning something real from books - would mostly enjoy this book.

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### **Dave Hoff says**

An Excellent book on the Fishing industry and the Coast Guard that try to make the industry play by the safety rules and the effort to save their lives when things go wrong. The sinking of the Alaska Ranger, what survival suits and rafts kept most of the crew alive until the CG helos were able to pluck them out of the freezing sea. A CG C 130 was above to guide the Cutter and the helos to the spot of the sinking. Tho I've served in the waters of the Antarctica, Greenland and Iceland, I count my lucky stars I pulled no duty in Alaskan waters.

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### **Lwf says**

True story of the sinking of the Alaska Ranger and rescue and recovery of the fisherman in the Bering Sea. The book is very detailed, giving many backgrounds on not only crewmen, captains, fish masters but also those who did the rescuing from the US Coast Guard to other fishing boats that the survivors were dropped off on.

If you enjoy the series, "Deadliest Catch", you will enjoy this book a lot. You will gain a better understanding of other fishing which occurs in the bearing sea. The Alaska Ranger was a factory ship which caught, killed and packed the fish all on one boat.

The book also talks about previous disasters and how the US Coast Guard learns from each one and tried to investigate and implement new safety standards in order to save more lives in the future. I believe that the new safety standards of having blinking lights on survival suits for these type of fishing boats is what saved so many lives. The lights should be mandatory on ALL Gumby survival suits for all fishing boats!

I learned so much from this book, it gave me an even greater appreciation than I already had from watching Deadliest Catch, for all the men and women who risk their lives everyday so we can enjoy seafood as well as those in the Coast Guard who work 24/7 to protect them.

About a 5 hour read time.

I own the Kindle edition only.

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### **Stephanie says**

Don't let the appearance of disjointed rabbit trails early on make you stop reading this book! The vignettes all piece together to make a fascinating read, and with so many people, agencies and an unfamiliar industry, those vignettes are ultimately critical to build the foundation of the story. It is truly an unbelievable heroic event worth the time and admiration to read and ponder.

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### **Beth Delong says**

As a fisheries observer, we spent a lot of time in training discussing both the Alaska Ranger and the Galaxy sinkings. This book does have quite a bit of background info, so the book takes a while to get going. However, I also greatly appreciate the author sharing the background info and the tremendous amount of research she put into her writing. Despite the tragedy and mentioning the lives lost, I also appreciate her focus on the positive, both with those who survived and with new safety regulations that came about as a result of the incident. Overall I felt the book was thoroughly researched, beautifully written, and told in such a way as to show respect for all involved.

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