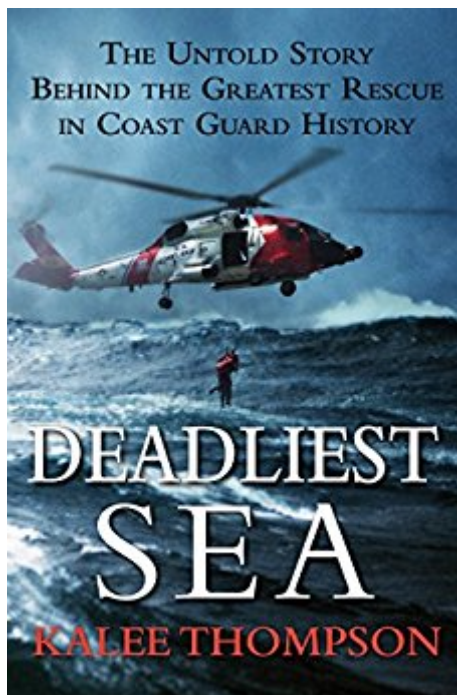




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# Deadliest Sea: The Untold Story Behind The Greatest Rescue In Coast Guard History



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a really good book. It opened my eyes on the dangers of commercial fishing in the bearing sea, boat owners, regulations, and safety of everyone on the boats. To think that the ole mightily dollar takes precedence over peoples lives is beyond me. I think that people who want to go fishing on these boats need to have their eyes open more, take some real safety classes, really practice getting in the survival suits in stressful situations, and getting in a life boat in some rough water. I don't know how long that takes, weeks worth of training, but I believe it is needed before getting on

a boat heading out to the sea, any sea or rough water. The Coast Guard is awesome in my opinion, risking their lives to save yours. They have families too. I think the owners of these boats should be held accountable for the employees on their boats, that they make it mandatory for the employees go thru extensive training for survival if some thing should happen. And have proof that their boat is safe, the employees have been thoroughly trained, and pass inspection. Or they can't go out!

Sometimes it is difficult to review historical books. One already knows the ending so there is not much suspense. There are no plot twists. There is no character development because the characters are who they are. Despite this, Kalee Thompson has manages to write a masterful book. She has done an exhaustive amount of research into the circumstances and personalities of this marine tragedy. Even though the ending of this true story is known, Kalee has created suspense and she has caused me to like and dislike characters based on their personalities and actions from the time the ship sank until the investigation was complete. Kalee jumps back to the history of these characters and why they were on this voyage of this ship, the Alaskan Ranger. She then moves forward to real-time on the ship as it is sinking. She tells us of the heroic actions of the US Coast Guard as they perform the jobs they have been trained to do. This book will appeal to those who like recent history, those who enjoy marine history, and those who are fans of the Coast Guard and its awesome record of marine rescue.

Having served in the USCG for 20 years, the author got the Coast Guard down perfect! Having served on a 378 much like Munro he has gotten shipboard life perfect. And the Bering Sea no picnic in the winter. Great story fast read, loved it!

I suspect the title, "Deadliest Sea," is intended to piggyback interest in the popular "Deadliest Catch" cable television program. Both the book and television series take place in the same part of the world and the book makes occasional references to the television series. The book recounts the real-life rescue of the crew from the Alaska Ranger, a 190 foot factory trawler that went down in a storm in 2008. The book begins with the Mayday call from the Alaska Ranger, then backs up and explores the lives and lifestyles of both the fishermen and the Coast Guard rescuers, leading up to the Alaska Rangers crews' awareness that their ship was sinking. Then, it becomes a race for the Coast Guard and nearby "Good Samaritan" ships to rescue the crew from giant waves and freezing temperatures. None of the rescue vessels is close enough for a quick rescue and ships and aircraft battle the elements to get to the scene in time. The book is illustrated with black and white

photographs of the ships and aircraft involved in both the sinking and the rescue. Also, photos of crew members and rescuers. I would have liked to have seen more illustrations, but I was able to satisfy my curiosity with trips to the Internet for more pictures and information. While Hollywood usually takes liberties with real-live events, I would like to see this book made into a movie...if they could keep to the facts enough that it doesn't become some other story...

Title: Deadliest Sea Author: Kalee Thompson Pages: 309 This is a great book for someone interested in gaining an insight into the world of the Coast and the fishing fleet of the Bering Sea. It is an awesome story that portrays the incredible rescue abilities of the Coast Guard as well as the dangers of fishing in the Bering Sea. This book is great for someone who does not just want a fact-by-fact nonfiction book. The author, Kalee Thompson, gives the reader the opportunity to become attached to the characters and their stories while learning about the Coast Guard and fishing on the Alaska Ranger. The in-depth analysis Thompson provides of a tragic and heroic event in the Bering Sea gives the reader a great understanding of life off the coast of Alaska. Kalee Thompson does not just give the reader a straight storyline. She breaks up the main story of the Alaska Ranger's sinking in the Bering Sea with side stories about the crew of the Alaska Ranger and the servicemen of the Coast Guard involved in the rescue. This style of writing gives the reader a fully-developed interpretation of the Alaska Ranger accident and attaches the reader to the characters. Thompson makes sure that the reader understands that this is not some fact book about the Coast Guard's rescue procedures: it is a life story with real people involved. I really liked these aspects of the book Thompson included. Overall I enjoyed this book a lot. I recently had the opportunity to read another book on the Coast Guard which gave me a broad overview of everything the Coast Guard does, but this book specifically details how the Coast Guard functions in an actual emergency. The book gives insight as to how individual Coast Guard servicemen do their specifically assigned jobs. This book goes into the thoughts of the people involved in the sinking and rescuing of the Alaska Ranger and I really appreciated that. The reading level of this book is relatively easy. I would recommend this book for readers in upper middle school and older. The jumping around of stories and some of the military terms will be best comprehended at the upper middle school reading level and above. This book makes you feel as if you are a part of the story. You may find yourself very sad at times as tragedy strikes and very excited as the Coast Guard jumps into action. Don't worry if you do not have any prior knowledge of the Coast Guard or the Bering Sea fishing industry (though it may help) because Kalee Thompson fills you in very well and makes sure you understand this great story.

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