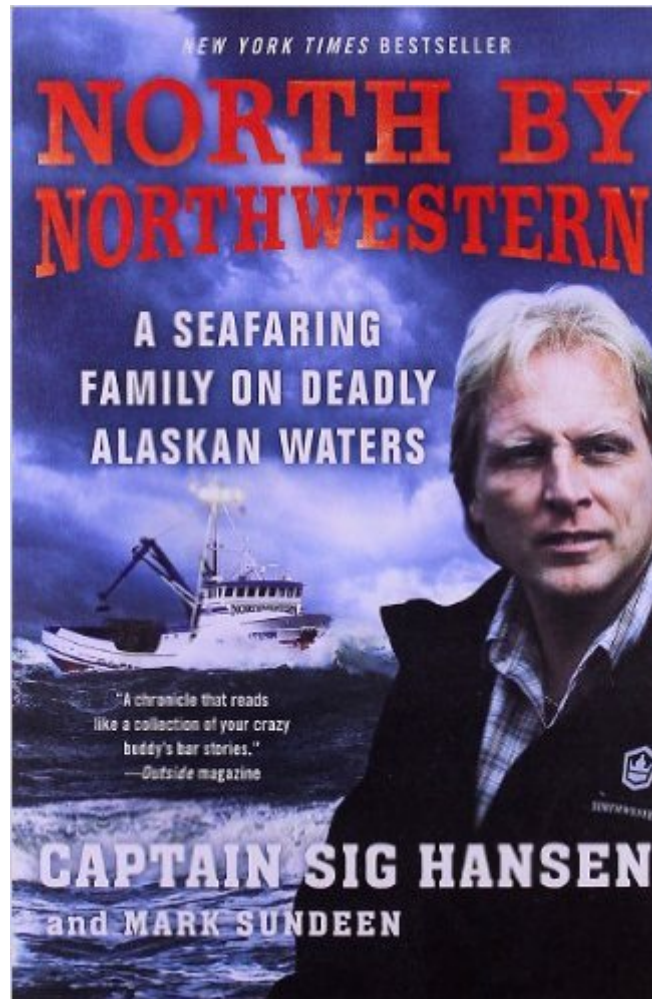


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North By Northwestern: A Seafaring Family On Deadly Alaskan Waters



Synopsis

New York Times bestseller "A chronicle that reads like a collection of your crazy buddy's bar stories about his crazier old man." — "Outside Magazine" The action of the hit Discovery Channel series DEADLIEST CATCH combines with the personal saga of a Norwegian family in this memoir adventure tale of commercial fishermen on the Bering Sea. In the tradition of Sebastian Junger and Linda Greenlaw comes Captain Sig Hansen's rags-to-riches epic of his immigrant family's struggle against deadly Alaskan seas, freezing shipwrecks, and dangerously brutal conditions to achieve the American Dream. For Captain Sig Hansen and his brothers, Norman and Edgar, commercial fishing is as much a part of their Norwegian heritage as their names. Descendants of the Vikings who ruled the northern seas for centuries, Sig and his brothers learned to fish from their father when they were boys, just as their father had learned from his father. And after twenty years as a skipper on the commercial fishing vessel the Northwestern Sig has lived to tell the tales. This is the story of a family of survivors; part memoir and part adventure tale, North by Northwestern brings readers on deck, into the dockside bars and into the history of a family with a common destiny. Built around the gripping tale of a deadly shipwreck like The Perfect Storm, North By Northwestern tells the multigenerational history of the Hansen family, a clan of tough Norwegian-American fishermen who have become modern day folk-heroes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I received this book today and read it in one sitting, could not put it down. If you enjoy watching

Deadliest Catch you will love this book. The book reads just like Sig talks, which is a plus. He takes us back to his roots and explains how he became a fisherman. I HIGHLY recommend this book. Even if you don't watch the show, you will enjoy this book!

Interesting book for fans of "Deadliest Catch". Provides good history of how the Northwestern began and how it has evolved into a state-of-the-art fishing boat. Great characters and insight into the family that has fished this boat for years. Easy to read but definitely not a literary masterpiece. Highly recommend this read to any fans of the show who want to know how it all came about.

This was an exceptional book in many ways. Obviously, Sig Hansen is an incredibly fascinating person. The co-author did an amazing job of putting his stories together in an interesting and easy to follow way. The book really provides great depth in to his personality. Most of us find Sig to be a bit of an enigma. We have great admiration for his power, work ethic, and bravery, but struggle with his lack of compassion. I think Sig largely communicates the same in this book. It is always pleasing to me when somebody can evaluate themselves with some objectivity. There is a very interesting technical description of the crabbing process and the science of crab as a species. It is just enough information to give the reader a much better grasp of the process without boring them with the details.

I purchased the eBook version for my reader, and was pleasantly surprised when I started to read. So surprised that I stayed up late to read it all in one sitting! This book is much, much more than just an accessory to the TV show. It is more than a must-read for fans of "Deadliest Catch." It also covers much, much more than that. There is an insider's view of the Norwegian immigration to the United States, in particular Washington state in the early 1900's. There is a detailed history of the evolution of crab fishing and the Marco crab boat's evolution to supremacy. I was fascinated by the attention to historical details, such as the use of surplus Army cots to build the first crab pots. The wisdom of a seasoned fisherman peppers the book - discussing why certain boat designs work better than others, why a tank full of solid ballast is better than tanks full of mobile crab, and why navigation at sea is not as simple as going in a straight line from Point A to Point B. Encircling all these historical details are the stories of the Hansen family in the USA. His father's boats. Moving up, moving down and out. The evolution of a skipper/captain. This book will satisfy the fans. It covers the ground that fans will want to know about - close calls out at sea, pranks between the crew members, embarrassing growing-up stories among the Hansen brothers, and how the Northwestern came to

be on TV. It also tells the story of how the first coveted F/V Northwestern jackets came to be! The digital version of this book had some minor issues. There are many, many words which had been spliced - there is a space in the middle of the word or a dash in the middle of the word inappropriately. The best feature of the digital version, however, was the click-able index. Next to the word in the index was a hyperlink that you could click, which would take you right to the reference.

Unlike many other books about celebrities, this one feels genuine. I don't sense a ghost writer here. Instead, I hear the exact syntax which Sig Hansen often uses when talking on Deadliest Catch. I enjoyed hearing about the family, its fishing history and traditions, and what things were like in the old days and the old country. Pacing is good and the book doesn't dwell upon any particular subject for too long. Sig also does a good job explaining the business and procedures of fishing and the differences between species & such. You can tell Sig dictated/wrote this book without a ghost writer, and you can almost hear him reading it in your mind, but alas they used a "professional" reader. Darn shame, but still very enjoyable.

I would have liked a little less family history and more personal incidents with Sid and his sons, etc. There were funny stories that I enjoyed, and overall it was a very interesting book that I finished in two days. It did get a bit slow at times, but didn't last for long. I also read the Phil Harris book that was written by his sons, and it was easier reading for me and more interesting and entertaining too. But I would recommend North by Northwestern to anyone who is interested in Sig and/or Deadliest Catch.

As someone from Scandinavian descent but not a fisherman I appreciated the detail of the immigrants that came from that part of the world and how they are part of American history and how we relate to the fisheries in the Northwest. I like the detail and the stories that Captain Hanson included in this book. I think anyone that watches Deadliest Catch or is interested in the history of the industry or likes to hear the stories of how immigrants came here and worked hard and did well that they will like this book. I give it four stars.

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