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Stephen Harrigan

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#4837290 in Books Sierra Club Books 1994-03-15 1994-03-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x 5.50 x .75l, #File Name: 087156453X277 pages | File size: 24.Mb

Stephen Harrigan : SC-Water and Light before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised SC-Water and Light:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read for Divers By C. Anderson This is the best book about scuba diving I've ever read and should be read by anyone and everyone that is interested in scuba diving. It does a fabulous job of describing the great things about scuba diving without telling you what you already know. That said, it is also a great story and would probably be enjoyed by non-scuba divers. This is a great gift idea for a diving inclined loved one. One warning... one of the reviewers recommended reading this to get your diving fix when you aren't going to be able to get underwater for a while; NOT TRUE. I found the exact opposite, this book only heightened my desire to go diving to near pathological levels! If you've read this, I'd also recommend reading Neutral Buoyancy by Tim Ecott which is another good book about diving. It has more history and straight information than this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great book, great writer. By G. Wilson harrigan is one of the best naturalist writers around. all of his essays are outstanding reads (not to diminish in any way his novels as well). 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Well worth your time By A Customer Great book, but I just couldn't give it 5 stars like many others did. I reserve 5 stars for truly monumental works. In this rating system, if you rate The Lord of the Rings, Les Misérables, Great Expectations, and The Grapes of Wrath 5 stars, can you honestly count this work with them?

This evocative account of the months Stephen Harrigan spent diving on the coral reefs off Grand Turk Island in the

Caribbean was originally published by Houghton Mifflin in 1992.

From Publishers Weekly A sparkling account of the underwater world off the coast of Grand Turk Island in the Caribbean. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sA leisurely tour of the coral reefs of Grand Turk Island, where novelist Harrigan (Jacob's Well, 1984) learns about nature and himself. Diving has always meant a great deal to Harrigan, but now, living far from the sea and worried that the activity is becoming nothing more than a hobby, he decides to spend an extensive period diving in the Caribbean. There, he will "study the natural history of the coral reef, but the motivation was not as clear or, perhaps, as worthy. I wanted to be, at least for a time, my underwater self." He checks into a local motel on the island--a desolate and relatively unspoiled place where salt was once collected from inland pans--and begins his diving explorations. As he explores the reefs, dives down part of the great wall that edges the nearby 7,000-foot-deep channel, and chats to locals, Harrigan relates old diving adventures as far apart as Australia and Mexico. He observes the variety of fish and plant life, explains that coral is actually an animal, not a plant, and includes such diving lore as the story of the development of the aqualung--an invention that, as Jacques Cousteau wrote, meant that "From this day forward we would swim across miles of country no man had known." Catching conches for his dinner, Harrigan laments the decline of the sea-turtle, "a great being, venerable, unknowable," and admits to being angry with dolphins because he fails to interest them. Hoping to be transformed by the reef, his underwater destiny acknowledged, he ruefully realizes how indifferent the teeming underwater world is to his presence. He is ready to go home. A graceful and low-keyed celebration of diving and the dazzling underwater world it reveals, as much for the underwater enthusiast as for the armchair traveler. -- Copyright 1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. "Moving, intelligent and, in the best sense, literary.... Stephen Harrigan is anchored in reality; he knows that the environment he's describing is in serious jeopardy. At the same time, he has made this book sparkle with his remarkable ability to discuss the metaphysical and spiritual aspects of underwater exploration without ever sounding saccharine or murky." (New York Times Book) "[Harrigan] tells us about the people who live on Grand Turk, or come there on business, and he is given to reflecting on the subtleties of the underwater experience, but his real virtue as a writer is his ability to convey, in precise, lucid, prose, the marvels of the sea bottom." (New Yorker) "Harrigan ...captures the peacefulness of being rocked by salty currents, the massive beauty of the reefs, the exhilaration of the sport, and the mental scramble to retain fast-fading memories of sights almost unimaginable on land. Fellow divers will relish his camaraderie, while those who prefer staying topside will feel as though they've taken the plunge themselves." (Booklist)