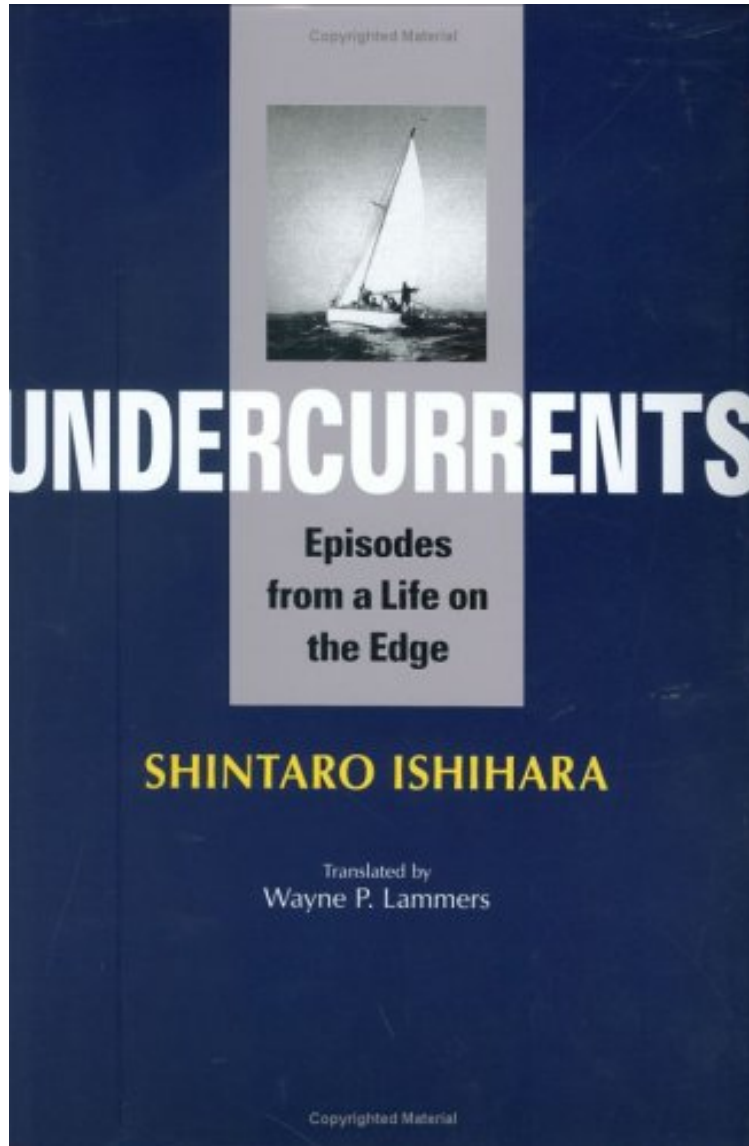


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Undercurrents: Episodes from a Life on the Edge

Shintaro Ishihara

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#6698270 in Books Kodansha USA 2006-02-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.20 x .90 x 9.00l, #File Name: 477003007X255 pages | File size: 29.Mb

Shintaro Ishihara : Undercurrents: Episodes from a Life on the Edge before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Undercurrents: Episodes from a Life on the Edge:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A different perspective on IshiharaBy R.L.D.The image of Ishihara is of a tough fighter in politics. But this collection of stories about his younger, pre-political days gives a more human perspective. Very readably translated

The author of this unforgettable, true-life adventure book is the outspoken Governor of Tokyo, whose efforts to rejuvenate and refinance the city have won over even those who thought him too unorthodox to support. What many Westerners may not know is that, before his political career, Ishihara was a prominent and successful novelist. *Undercurrents* now showcases his nonfiction writing with forty episodes from an active life that included pursuing two passions: sailing and scuba diving. Ishihara has raced oceangoing yachts all over the world. In the course of this pursuit he has known of crewmen being washed overboard and drowning; of boats being upended in monstrous seas; and of navigators-himself among them-being lost from start to finish of long voyages. Beneath the waves as well, Ishihara has had some equally exciting experiences. He recalls encounters with man-eating sharks both inside and outside a protective cage; indeed, he has seen a great white take a fisherman almost right under his own nose. Within the confines of an underwater tunnel he has come close to losing his life to a giant rock cod. And thanks to powerful currents, he has put his own and his sons' lives in jeopardy in remote Pacific seas. Linking all these episodes together is the awareness he has gained in extreme situations both at sea and on land: only a fine line separates life and death, and it is possible to cross that line yet still bear witness to the experience. It is the acceptance of this truth that led Ishihara to write of incidents that defy "normal" explanations, for example, the time his father was seen in the garden of close friends just moments after he had died elsewhere. With good humor, in a relaxed, personal style, Ishihara tells stories that will fascinate not only those who share his love of dangerous outdoor pursuits, but also readers who are intrigued by the prospect of knowing what lies just beyond the boundary of common reality.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Near the end of World War II, during American bombing campaigns over Japan, Ishihara found himself in a wheat field running from what he thought was a bomb. It wasn't, but the moment required him to acknowledge his own mortality at very young age. Ishihara, a novelist and former governor of Tokyo, has spent years as a diver, fisherman and all-around adventurer and here presents 40 of his adventure stories, from the pursuit of the Okinoerabu sea snake to swimming with (and from) sharks. The stories, which flow easily from one to another, each bear their own sense of wonder, fear and discovery. And while the locations may jump from a boyhood soccer field to the summit of Mt. Myoko, the thread that binds them is the author's gratitude for one more day of experiencing the world. Ishihara writes with the grace of a seasoned author who remains in awe of his subject: the taste of mountain trout becomes the affirmation of existence after a long journey, while a powerful electrical storm at sea has him once again wondering if he will escape death. In each tale, Ishihara impresses with his respect for nature, even though he barely survives its hazards. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From the Back Cover "With a pitiful whimper more like the cry of a small animal than of a human voice, a sound so weak it barely reached our ears, the swimmer disappeared beneath the waves. The power of the creature was shocking; the man was dragged under literally in the blink of an eye. Then, as if to make sure we knew what was what, the man-eater returned to the surface with the human prey still in its jaws. What we could see of the shark's head alone suggested a monster nearly as long as the fishing boat on which we stood." About the Author SHINTARO ISHIHARA is one of Japan's most successful writers. He was elected Governor of Tokyo in 1999, a post he still holds. The Japan That Can Say No, which he co-authored with Akio Morita, then head of Sony, brought Ishihara worldwide attention.