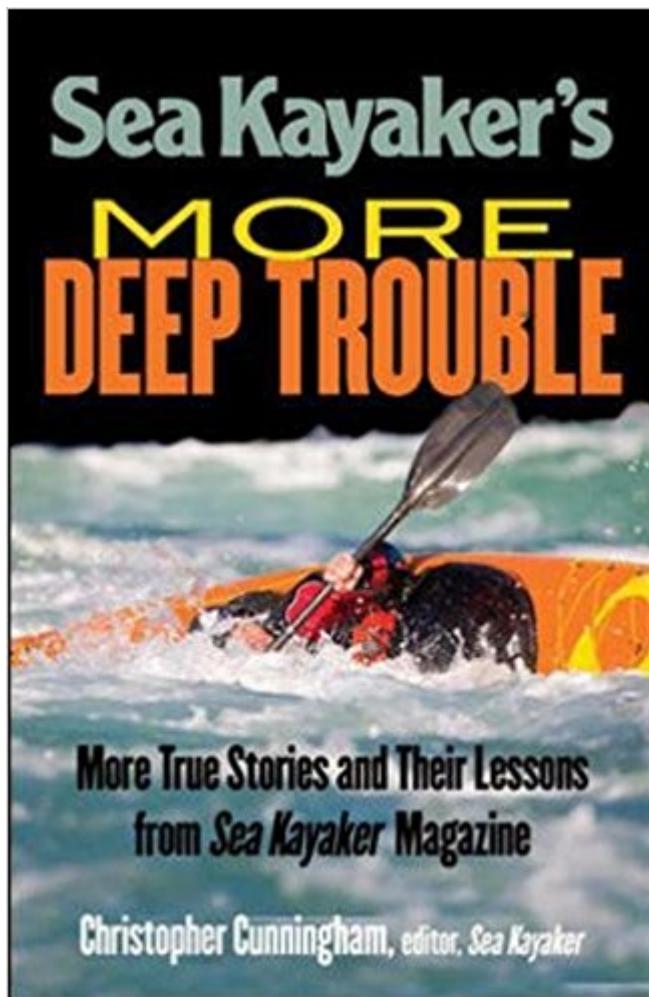


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# Sea Kayaker's More Deep Trouble



## Synopsis

29 STORIES THAT ILLUSTRATE WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN SAFETY IS LEFT ON SHORE Sea Kayaker's Deep Trouble was a bestselling warning to kayakers: Do not let ignorance or arrogance get you hurt or even killed. Thousands heeded Deep Trouble's tales of tragedy; but even with the benefits of evolving technology and more safety options, kayakers still fall prey to human error. To renew the cautious attitude of seasoned paddlers and to instill safe practices in kayaking newbies, Sea Kayaker's More Deep Trouble presents more stories of kayaking trials, rescues, and tragedy. In these 29 stories collected from Sea Kayaker magazine, survivors and witnesses tell of their experiences with the dangers and risks of kayaking. You will feel the cold rush of water when paddlers fall in, the panic they feel when they do not know how to rescue themselves, and the anxiousness of loved ones waiting to hear any news. You will learn how whale watching could cost you your life, how life-saving electronics are only as good as the batteries you have in them, and how a float plan can initiate a timely search and rescue. End-of-story Lessons Learned summaries suggest what to do if you find yourself in similar unfortunate situations. Read these tales, understand the lessons learned in these incidents, and respect the advice given as you take your next kayaking adventure. This tome of danger and survival may ultimately save your life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Christopher Cunningham has been the editor of Sea Kayaker magazine since 1989 and was the editor of the first volume of Deep Trouble. His accounts of his boat travels and articles on boatbuilding have been published in Sea Kayaker, WoodenBoat, Norâ™westing and Small Boat

Journal as well as two anthologies: Oyo and Seekers of the Horizon. He is the author of Building the Greenland Kayak: A Manual for Its Construction and Use.

Seakayaker's More Deep Trouble, is a sequel to the first Sea Kayaker Deep Trouble book released in 1997, and it is probably the last. Sea Kayaker Magazine, the source of these stories in closing its doors. It will stop publishing the magazine this year. The new Deep Trouble contains some twenty-nine reports of sea kayaking accidents or emergencies that required rescue. Each one is a straight forward presentation of the facts leading to the incident, reported when possible from the victim's point of view. This is followed by an analysis of what was done right and what was done wrong by both the victims and an outside observer. Initially, I was kind of bored by the reports and annoyed that so many of them are focused on cold weather and cold water paddling in the great Northwest. I didn't see it as too relevant for a guy who does most of his paddling in warm weather and warm water. That changed about half way through the book. Incident ten (The Fifth Paddler: Kayaking Tragedy in Baja) hit me hard because Lisa and I have paddled this area in Costa Rica. It involved five well trained guides in a warm water, warm weather situation who got caught because (1) they lacked local knowledge and (2) the balmy weather and pleasant breezes made them sloppy with their safety preparations for the day trip they were making. How many of us go out paddling on a warm, balmy day not wearing a PFD, no spray deck, no bilge pump, no paddle float, no self or assisted rescue practice? These guys did all of that, and they are professionals. Several other incidents hit me hard as well. A couple of these involved the loss of a partner or a buddy, and the heart wrenching decision made by one to let the buddy go in order to save himself. But the most sobering incidents for me were those where the paddlers had done everything right. Their preparation was right. Their safety gear was appropriate. Their knowledge of the paddling area was adequate. They had practiced self and assisted rescues. Despite all this, Mother Nature just unexpectedly threw more at them than they or most any of us could cope with, and they found themselves in survival situations. As a result, I found myself reassessing my own safety planning. Over the past year I have purchased a floating, waterproof VHF radio. I have a dry bag in which I can operate my iPhone. I have purchased new pocket sized signal flares. And I now have an ACR ResQLink Plus Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) for life or death situations. All of these things can be carried in or on my PFD, not in a hatch that will flood if opened in the conditions that will cause a crisis, or attached to the boat that I could become separated from. Am I being an alarmist? Possibly. But when I reflect on some of the tight situations I've been in, I realize that things could have gone very differently. Suppose that the quick brace I through hadn't hit

worked in rough water on the Saguenay Fjord, and I had gone over in that fifty degree water? Suppose that the fifteen mile slog into twenty-five mile an hour winds in a rain storm on the Gulf of Mexico had ended miles off shore with a capsize, or if the mild hypothermia we experienced that day had progressed to a more severe level? Or what if I hadn't found a way to bail out and get myself and a bunch of other paddlers off of Ochlockonee Bay on a terribly windy day? What if multiple paddlers had started capsizing in those conditions? I reflect on these and other incidents and I know I've been lucky. Maybe I always will be. I've been paddling for twenty years now. But it seems to me that the odds are in favor of my luck running out sometime. If it happens, I want to be as well prepared as I can. Read the book. If you're a serious kayaker it may save your life.

I read Deep Trouble years ago as I developed my interest in and skills with sea kayaking. Although the book's intent was to be largely instructional, there's no getting around that it also made a great read. I don't think that I was so much enjoying someone else's misery as simply glued to the narrative of 1) what happened, 2) how was it dealt with 3) what was the result and, of course 4) lessons learned. And, it provided my whole paddling group with a common language for discussing how to deal with different paddling safety challenges. More Deep Trouble follows the same format, but with new stories that recognize new technology and different style boats. It also covers a broader array of issues, such as tips for instructors, how to self-rescue when you've been injured, and how to analyze and deal with the decision making process. I have mixed feelings about the future of this series. I truly hope there are not enough future incidents to provide the writer with grist for his books. But, if there are to be such incidents, I hope Chris Cunningham continues to provide us with his research, writing style and insights.

This book, like its predecessor, details roughly two dozen real-life stories of kayak accidents, many of which sadly resulted in either injury or loss of human life. Importantly, it also breaks down the reasons why these folks got into the trouble they did. You'll see that it's really not so hard to put yourself in peril out on the open ocean, or any large body of water really. Most of these folks weren't 'stupid', but rather inexperienced or unprepared, and sometimes in ways that wouldn't be obvious to the average kayaker. More Deep Trouble is a bracing set of true cautionary tales that will help you and yours avoid the same fate, knock on wood. Kudos to Sea Kayaker Magazine and Chris Cunningham for not pulling any punches here.

Let me first say I don't read much. Yea, sure I can read just fine, but I don't in general read many books. This however, kept my interest, a must read for sea kayakers. Having been rescued by the coast guard once, having had a near death incident, the real accounts in this book of how simple mistakes, small bad decisions can have a really bad outcome is important to help reinforce the right decisions. A highly recommended read for sea kayakers.

Very good book to update and follow up the first one "Deep Trouble" with more information on rescue and survival gear and techniques. I think anyone looking at getting into kayaking or whom currently recreationally kayaking be it surf, sea, or even flat water river and lake kayaking should be reading these books with an eye towards learning from the mistakes of others.

Sea Kayaker has once again published their 'worst case scenarios' and turned them into learning experiences. Any one who paddles the vast coast lines of this world must give this a read. Engaging, fast paced and full of things we alleither need to know or forget and leave on shore. Read this book!!

An absolutely MUST READ for sea kayakers. It is full of thought provoking stories, with good commentary and advice. Very well written and easy to read too. Get Deep Trouble as well.

More up to date accounts of sea kayaking accidents than the previous volume.

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