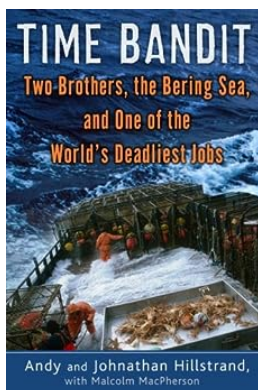


# Two Brothers, The Bering Sea, and One of the World's Deadliest Jobs

The Bering Sea is a vast, unforgiving expanse of water located between Alaska and Russia. It is home to some of the most treacherous conditions experienced by any fishermen in the world. In this article, we will delve into the daring lives of two brothers who brave the perils of the Bering Sea as they pursue one of the deadliest jobs known to man.

The Bering Sea is notorious for its extreme weather conditions, including frigid temperatures, hurricane-force winds, and towering waves. The risks involved in fishing these waters cannot be underestimated, as the slightest misjudgment or miscalculation can lead to disaster.

Meet Jack and Mike, two brothers who have spent the better part of their lives fishing in the Bering Sea. Their story is one of resilience, courage, and a deep love for the ocean. Growing up in a small coastal town, these brothers were introduced to the art of fishing at an early age by their father, a seasoned fisherman himself.



## Time Bandit: Two Brothers, the Bering Sea, and One of the World's Deadliest Jobs

by Andy Hillstrand (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 5480 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 258 pages



From the moment they set foot on their father's fishing boat, Jack and Mike were hooked. They saw firsthand the challenges faced by fishermen in the Bering Sea, but they also witnessed the rewards that come with a successful catch. The sense of camaraderie among the crew, the thrill of reeling in a massive haul, and the satisfaction of providing for their families - these are the aspects that drive them to continue their perilous journey year after year.

As they grew older, Jack and Mike decided to venture out on their own. Armed with their father's wisdom and a deep understanding of the ocean, they purchased their own boat and assembled a crew of like-minded individuals. The sea became their office, and they dedicated their lives to mastering the art of fishing in the Bering Sea.

Every day, Jack and Mike face the possibility of encountering massive waves that can capsize their boat in an instant. The freezing temperatures can quickly immobilize any exposed body part, making routine tasks a test of endurance. Despite the constant danger, the brothers find solace in each other's company and their shared passion for the sea.

During the fishing season, which typically lasts from January to April, Jack and Mike spend days and nights at sea. The fishing grounds can be hundreds of miles away from their port, necessitating long journeys across treacherous waters. They meticulously plan their route, taking into account weather patterns, potential fishing hotspots, and the condition of their equipment.

Once they reach their destination, the real battle begins. The brothers deploy their fishing gear, a process that requires strength, precision, and split-second

decision-making. As they drop their nets into the abyss below, they hope for a bountiful catch that will make the risks they take worthwhile.

The hours turn into days, and the days into weeks. Jack and Mike work tirelessly, sometimes forgoing sleep and rest to maximize their time at sea. They reel in their nets, inspect the catch, and repeat the process over and over again. The fruits of their labor are weighed, boxed, and transported back to the mainland, where they will be sold to distributors and eventually make their way to restaurants and markets all around the world.

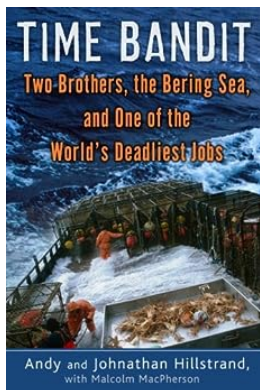
But it's not just the physical challenges that Jack and Mike face. The mental toll of their occupation cannot be understated. The constant worry for their safety, the financial risks associated with running a fishing operation, and the unpredictability of the sea can take a toll on even the strongest of men.

However, it is this relentless pursuit of their dreams that sets them apart. Jack and Mike have seen their fair share of setbacks, including damaged equipment, unforeseen weather events, and periods of meager catch. But they never let these obstacles deter them from their mission. They have learned to adapt, to weather the storms, and to find joy in the simple moments - a breathtaking sunset, a pod of dolphins swimming alongside their boat, or the laughter and songs shared with their crewmates.

There is something poetic about the lives of fishermen like Jack and Mike. In a world that is constantly changing, they hold onto their traditions, their connection to the sea, and their sense of purpose. They are the unsung heroes who provide us with the seafood that graces our tables and sustains our bodies.

So the next time you enjoy a delicious seafood dish, take a moment to appreciate the sacrifices made by fishermen like Jack and Mike. Their bravery, resilience,

and commitment to their craft deserve our utmost respect. And remember, as you savor every bite, that it was made possible by two brothers who fearlessly navigate the treacherous waters of the Bering Sea.



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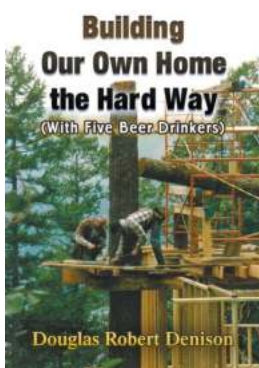
“Many brave hearts are asleep in the deep, so beware, beware,” goes the chorus of an old sailors’ sing-along that celebrates the allure and danger of the seafaring life. But make no mistake—there truly is much to beware for those who are drawn to risk their lives and seek their fortunes upon the waves. And perhaps none take more chances than the men and women who brave the tempestuous, bountiful waters of the Bering Sea. Season after season, they bond and battle with its icy depths, determined to reap yet one more rewarding harvest while eluding the ever-present threat of sudden, certain death. And among the rapidly diminishing ranks of these die-hard salts, brothers Andy and Johnathan Hillstrand have forged a reputation as fierce masters of their treacherous, enthralling trade. If you’ve watched their exploits on TV’s *Deadliest Catch*, you’ve only scratched the surface. To read *Time Bandit* is to step into their skins, smell the sea air, feel the

frigid wind, and know with all your senses the exhilarating, and terrifying life on the edge.

Natives of tiny, fishing hamlet, Homer, Alaska; sons of a hard-bitten, highly successful fisherman; and born with brine in their blood, the Hillstrand boys couldn't imagine a life without a swaying deck underfoot and a harvest of mighty Alaskan king crabs waiting to be pulled from the ocean floor. In pursuit of their daily catch, the brothers brave ice floes and heaving waves 60 feet high, the perils of 1000-lb steel traps thrown about by the punishing wind, and the constant menace of the open, hungry water.

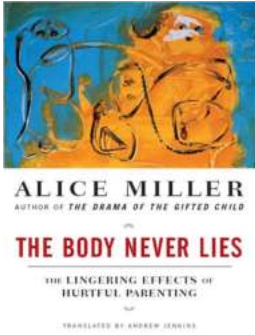
Even the brothers' downtime on land—where the deadly realities of the unforgiving sea are never far from their minds—is lived as if borrowed: fast and hard, haunted by the knowledge that the next season at sea could end asleep in the deep.

Here is the Hillstrands' own heartfelt hymn to the brutally hard, gloriously independent, and mysteriously soul-satisfying life that has earned them their daily bread and defined their existence. By turns raucous and reflective, exhilarating and anguished, enthralling, suspenseful, and wise, *Time Bandit* chronicles a larger-than-life love affair as old as civilization itself—a love affair between striving, willful man and inscrutable, enduring nature.



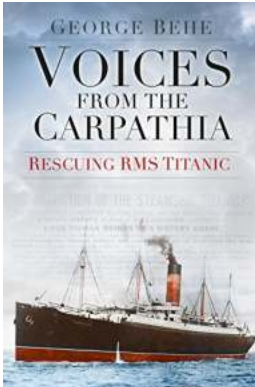
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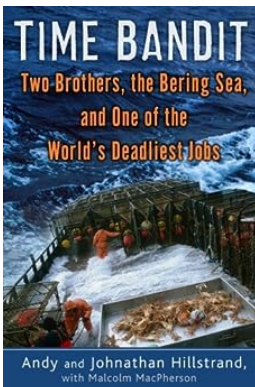
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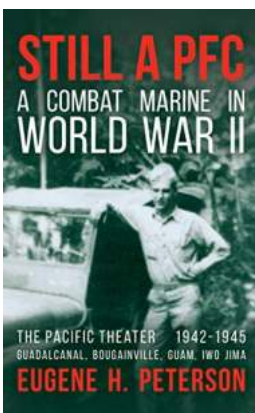
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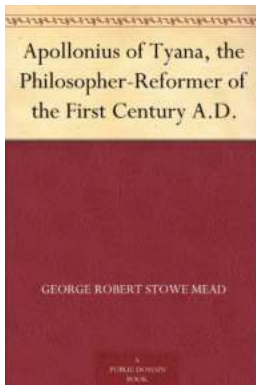
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