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DIRECTOR OF 'TITANIC'

## THE LONELY YVETTE SEA ALLUM

# *The Lonely Sea* by Yvette Allum

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*The Lonely Sea* is the extraordinary true adventure story of how Sue Dockar survived for two days and two nights lost alone at sea after being swept away during a spearfishing contest in the shark-infested waters off the Queensland coast.

Like the best books in this genre, including *The Perfect Storm* and *Into Thin Air*, it explores a largely unknown subculture, in this case that of the closed, intense community of spearfishers, and brings its eccentric and memorable characters vividly to life. It shows how a series of small and individually avoidable errors dominoed into inevitable disaster.

Yvette Allum has crafted a gripping story of passion, misadventure, tenacity, love, friendship and the will to survive. With first-person accounts from Sue Dockar and her husband Greg, their friends and acquaintances and those involved in the search, Yvette reveals the range of intense personal reactions to the events and how the effects are still felt today.

*I didn't want to give up my catch but I was in enough trouble as it was so I pulled my fish off the rig and threw them as far away from me as I could. The larger shark came to the surface briefly then both of them took off after my fish. I didn't watch them eat the fish – that's one thing you don't want to see when you're floating around the ocean on your own.*

Yvette Allum is an accomplished researcher and journalist, with articles published in *Australian Geographic* and *GEO Australasia*. She has worked as a deckhand, coxswain and inspection diver, and as an analyst for Australia's National Crime Authority.

In 1996 she won the Michael Daley Award for Excellence in Technical, Scientific and Engineering Journalism for her work describing a major oil spill. Yvette has been a friend and sporting rival of Sue Dockar's for 15 years.