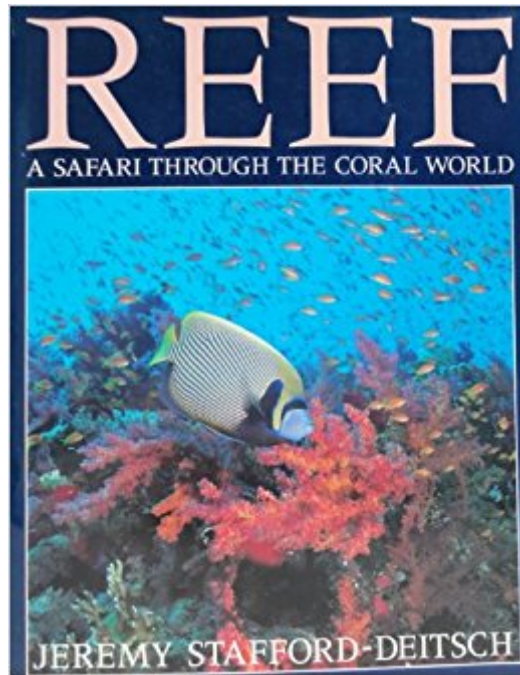




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Reef: A Safari Through The Coral World



Synopsis

A definitive introduction to coral ecosystems that is an enthralling photojournal of sublime undersea landscapes. The entire array of marine life among the reefs is presented in the author's dazzling photographs, shot in exotic locales from New Guinea and Australia to the Sudanese and Egyptian Red Seas. 116 color photographs. 5 line drawings. Maps. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

YA-- An interesting, informative text highlighted with spectacular full-color photographs. Written from the points of view of a diver, a photographer, and a naturalist, the book addresses all three areas of concern. Stafford-Deitsch discusses the process by which a reef is formed and many of the photographs are accompanied by diagrams that identify specific types of coral. In addition, there is a helpful guide to reef fish that simplifies the bewildering array one might encounter. There are pointers on how to get better camera shots underwater and stories of personal diving experiences all over the world. Science, photography, and nature students will gain useful information from this attractive title. --Sandi Hammonds, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VACopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Book beautifully done. Gave me everything I was looking for.

As with other books by this man, there are photographs in this work to make even the most seasoned underwater photographer go "Wow!" Furthermore, not only does this particular author know his subject, he also has that rare ability to make any point - no matter how technical that point may be, easy for the layman to understand. "Reef - A Safari through the Coral World " is a hard back book in which the author describes every aspect of the Coral Reef. Commencing with a "Natural History of the Reef," we are skilfully taken on "A Journey through the Coral World during which time we will have sampled just about everything a coral reef has to offer. Add to this the author's own outstanding photography and some diagrams of the highest standard and we have - in this one book, as complete a picture of the Coral Reef as I have ever seen. I particularly liked the way in which they have approached one of the Appendices at the end which is entitled "A Diver's Guide to Coral Reef Fish." No they have not tried to include a picture of every single species. Instead they have provided the reader with an outline of each family of fishes. In this way, any diver who has seen some species with which he is not familiar will be able to look up the general outline of that fish - thus narrowing the search for formal identification. Altogether another excellent book from Jeremy Stafford-Deitsch. NM

Coral reefs are among nature's most complex creations. Couple this with the inevitable disorientation (some call it euphoria) scuba divers encounter when underwater, and it is easy to understand why reefs are so hard to comprehend. This book helps bring the reef world into sharper focus. What I found especially useful is a system of extended, highly instructive captions. For example, on pages 112-3, cleaner fish are illustrated on the reef, and are compared and contrasted with false cleaners (mimic blennies). Or, on pages 140-1, the hunting methods of the trumpetfish are described and there is a nice photograph of a Caribbean trumpetfish hovering near a tiger grouper. "Reef" is about 200 pages long, with two main parts: The Natural History of the Reef and A Journey Through the Coral World. The author's writing can be descriptive and precise when required, or poetic, as in this passage from page 7: "The coral reef is an outpost for the imagination and here nature is at her most baroque. The coral is her stucco, her palette is the iridescent splendour of the reef fish. But occasional glimpses of bulky shadows in the blue background are more ominous to the diver." The concluding section of the book includes a diver's guide to coral reef fish and a bibliography.

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