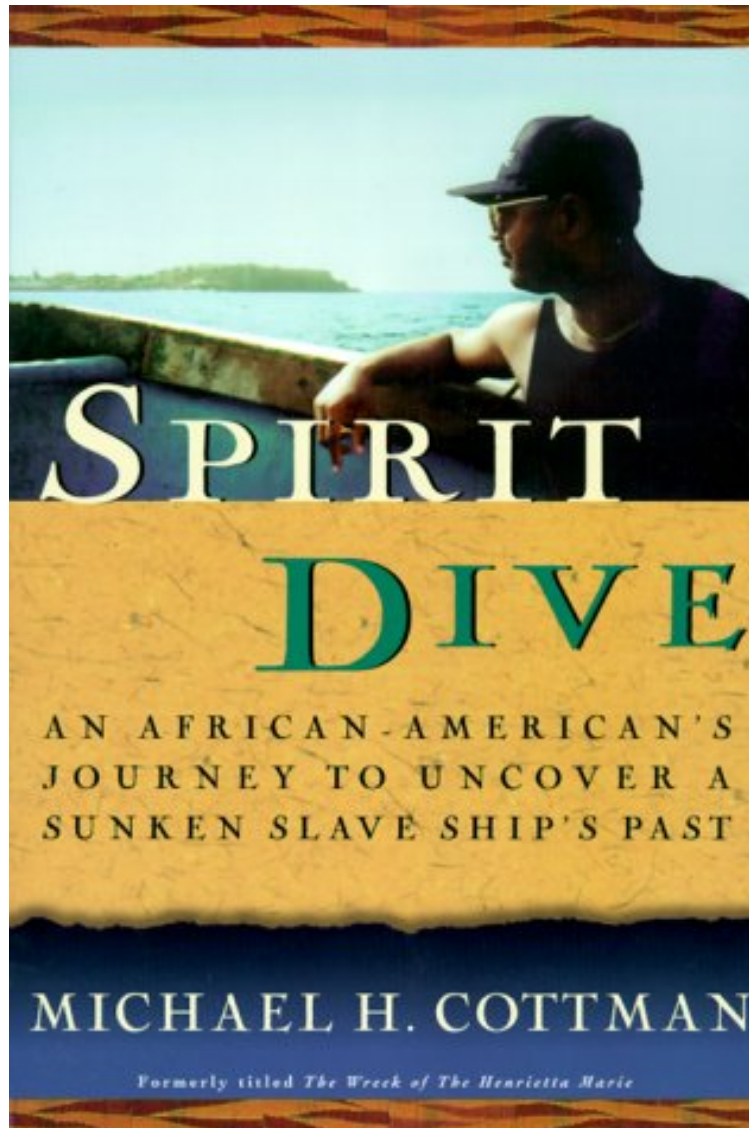


[Ebook pdf] Spirit Dive: An African American's Journey to Uncover a Sunken Slave Ship's Past

Spirit Dive: An African American's Journey to Uncover a Sunken Slave Ship's Past

Michael Cottman

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#1304129 in Books Three Rivers Press 1999-12-28 1999-12-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 .75 x 6.02 x 9.011, #File Name: 0609805525272 pages | File size: 48.Mb

Michael Cottman : Spirit Dive: An African American's Journey to Uncover a Sunken Slave Ship's Past before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spirit Dive: An African American's Journey to Uncover a Sunken Slave Ship's Past:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Mary Jo Sexton-Tosh As described! 8 of 13 people found the following review helpful. I wish Cottman didn't take himself quite so seriously. By H. Cross I was interested

in the detailed look Cottman took of a sunken British slave ship he researched. Interwoven with interviews of possible slaveship descendents in Jamaica and interviews with people who currently live in the house in England where the shackles were made are Cottman's experiences being part of a groundbreaking group of African American SCUBA divers. Still, Cottman tried my patience as he grew more and more absorbed by his personal journey - a journey which did not particularly draw the reader closer to his subject. For example, I would have liked more photographs of his subjects and fewer of him in his scuba gear. After a while, it felt like... Here I am diving in Africa, here I am in Jamaica, here I am... I didn't learn much new about slavery, but I was interested in African Americans trying to break into the world of scuba diving. I could have done without the deep-karmic-significance the project seemed to have for the author.³ 3 people found the following review helpful. ShacklesBy Mary E. SibleyThe author notes that as a ten year old in Detroit he loved the program SEA HUNT. Scuba diving led to a journey to uncover a slave ship's past. The book opens with a timeline of events significant to the operation of the HENRIETTA MARIE.Mel Fisher is probably the most well known treasure hunter in the world. Moe Molinar, a successful black treasure hunter, found the shackles. Additional diving in 1973 produced more rusted shackles. They were stored in a warehouse in Key West. The first artifact identifying the wreck was a bell inscribed HENRIETTA MARIE, 1699. This was discovered by David Moore, an archeologist, in the Gulf of Mexico.The author conducted research at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England. David Moore and the author were haunted by the one hundred shackles found in the wreck of the HENRIETTA MARIE. Their presence showed without a doubt the ship's purpose. The author had been taught by his mother to use the story of slavery for inspiration.On its second slave voyage, and what proved to be its last, two hundred fifty Africans began the trip. Landfall after the Middle Passage was a location in Jamaica, Port Royal, where the African people were sold for three thousand one hundred forty four pounds. In the Florida straits the HENRIETTA MARIE was blindsided by strong winds. The ship sank thirty seven miles west of Key West.In Jamaica Michael Cottman, the author, may have met descendants of the people transported on the HENRIETTA MARIE. They had the same surname as a family of Jamaican plantation owners and English manufacturers of the cannon installed on the HENRIETTA MARIE. The meeting in Jamaica occurred after four years of research.In 1992 Michael Cottman attended his first national conference of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers. It was the organization's second national meeting. Safe diving practice means sticking to a buddy system. The association of black divers grew out of the need to obtain partners to follow the sport of scuba diving.The dive to the HENRIETTA MARIE was undertaken in May, 1993. It was quite an accomplishment to find the wreck after an absence of nine years; sand shifts, currents move and displace objects. Visibility underwater is frequently poor. Having located the wreck of the slave ship the HENRIETTA MARIE on New Ground Reef, the divers paid tribute to those ancestors and others who lost their lives during the Middle Passage. The dive was a sort of pilgrimage.In 1996 Cottman went to Dakar, to Goree Island. Historians believe the HENRIETTA MARIE once sailed along the West Coast of Africa. In 1996 since there were severe problems in Nigeria, Cottman elected to travel to Senegal. Michael Cottman and his guide went to a structure named the House of Slaves. Goree Island was a place of mass suffering and tormented souls.The book is moving. The terrible wound inflicted, slavery, needs to be discussed in this country. There is a Holocaust Museum memorializing a European event. No museum memorializes the peculiar institution.

When prize-winning journalist and avid scuba diver Michael Cottman participated in an underwater expedition to survey the sunken wreck of a slave ship off the coast of Florida, he was overwhelmed by powerful feelings of kinship and oneness with his African ancestors. As he held in his hands the very shackles that had bound hundreds of men, women, and children in their tortured passage from their African homeland to America, Michael Cottman became determined to tell their stories and the story behind the ship that had carried them away from all they knew and loved. Spirit Dive takes readers back three centuries and to three continents in order to trace the complex and moving story of the slaves and the slavers. We travel to England on the trail of the shipbuilders and the captain and his crew; to Goree Island, located off the westernmost extension of the African continent near Dakar, where the ship almost certainly docked and from which its enslaved passengers would have gotten their last view of their homeland; and to the Caribbean, where the Henrietta Marie sank without a trace--until its recent rediscovery gave us a tangible key to one of history's most terrible episodes. Spirit Dive is a powerful and compelling testament of one man's attempt to make sense of the history of his ancestors, chronicling his journey while confronting questions with no answers and striving for reconciliation with his homeland's past and his own country's future.