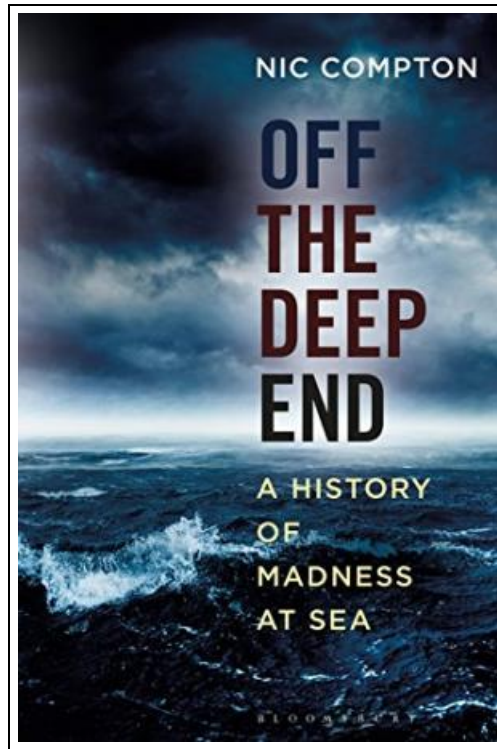


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OFF THE DEEP END: A HISTORY OF MADNESS AT SEA (HARDBACK)



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Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, United Kingdom, 2017. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. `This horrifying and engrossing book could scarcely be improved upon. A lightly-worn but gripping contribution to the field, well researched and full of anecdote and comparison. The Spectator `Marvellous, engrossing and horrifying. Off the Deep End is immensely informative and readable, and hugely provocative. The Big Issue Confined in a small space for months on end, subject to ship s discipline and living on limited food supplies, many sailors of old lost their minds - and no wonder. Many still do. The result in some instances was bloodthirsty mutinies, such as the whaleboat Sharon whose captain was butchered and fed to the ship s pigs in a crazed attack in the Pacific. Or mob violence, such as the 147 survivors on the raft of the Medusa, who slaughtered each other in a two-week orgy of violence. So serious was the problem that the Royal Navy s own physician claimed sailors were seven times more likely to go mad than the rest of the population. Historic figures such as Christopher Columbus, George Vancouver, Fletcher Christian (leader of the munity of the Bounty) and Robert FitzRoy (founder of the Met Office) have all had their sanity questioned. More recently, sailors in today s round-the-world races often experience disturbing hallucinations, including seeing elephants floating in the sea and strangers taking the helm, or suffer complete psychological breakdown, like Donald Crowhurst. Others become hypnotised by the sea and jump to their deaths. Off the Deep End looks at the sea s physical character, how it confuses our senses and makes rational thought difficult. It explores the long history of madness at sea and how that is echoed in many of today s yacht races. It looks at the often-marginal...



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