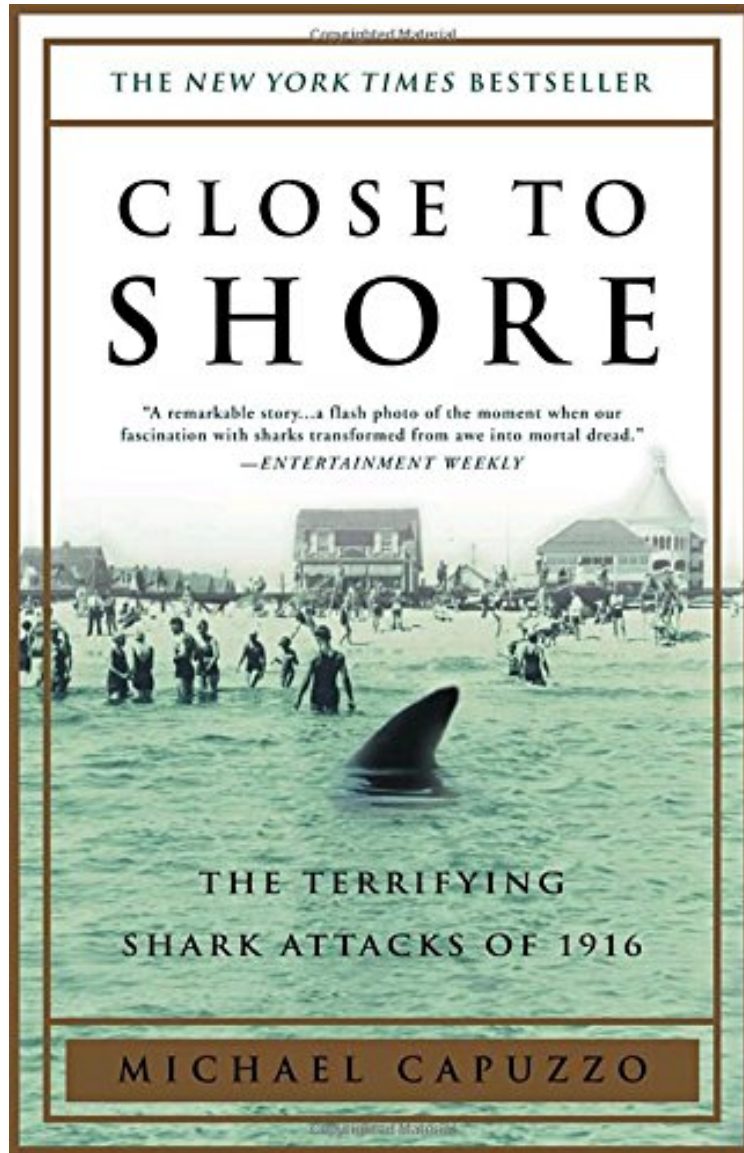


(Library ebook) Close to Shore: The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916

Close to Shore: The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916

Michael Capuzzo

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Michael Capuzzo : Close to Shore: The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Close to Shore: The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The real 'Jaws' By Glen Well written account of the 1916 shark attacks along the New Jersey shore which resulted in a number of deaths, no small degree of panic and a frantic bunch of inept amateur shark hunters. The Peter Benchley book 'Jaws' and later the movie with the same title were loosely based on this series of incidents. The movie script even referenced the 1916 attacks. While the real life shark was not

nearly so large as the 25 footer in the movie, the true life events were, in a number of ways, even more incredible than those depicted in the movie including "we're gonna need a bigger boat" but possibly excepting the eating of Robert Shaw. The book gives excellent insight into the incredible lack of knowledge in that time period regarding sharks and their behaviors. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Jersey Jaws By Miami Girl Absolutely amazing tale of one of the fiercest creatures of the sea. Expertly written and historically accurate. I found it especially fascinating being a former New Jersey resident, and a lover of early 20th century history. New Jersey holds a lot of interesting tales for those who wish to reach back in time. Peter Benchley took much of his Jaws theme from this true account. Loved it! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What we knew about sharks in 1916. By Randy I enjoyed Close to Shore by Michael Capuzzo. I liked the information M Capuzzo gave about sharks, water currents, thoughts ideas about sharks and the individuals. I would recommend this book to readers who like non-fiction, sharks and information about life in 1916.

Combining rich historical detail and a harrowing, pulse-pounding narrative, *Close to Shore* brilliantly re-creates the summer of 1916, when a rogue Great White shark attacked swimmers along the New Jersey shore, triggering mass hysteria and launching the most extensive shark hunt in history. In July 1916 a lone Great White left its usual deep-ocean habitat and headed in the direction of the New Jersey shoreline. There, near the towns of Beach Haven and Spring Lake--and, incredibly, a farming community eleven miles inland--the most ferocious and unpredictable of predators began a deadly rampage: the first shark attacks on swimmers in U.S. history. Capuzzo interweaves a vivid portrait of the era and meticulously drawn characters with chilling accounts of the shark's five attacks and the frenzied hunt that ensued. From the unnerving inevitability of the first attack on the esteemed son of a prosperous Philadelphia physician to the spine-tingling moment when a farm boy swimming in Matawan Creek feels the sandpaper-like skin of the passing shark, *Close to Shore* is an undeniably gripping saga. Heightening the drama are stories of the resulting panic in the citizenry, press and politicians, and of colorful personalities such as Herman Oelrichs, a flamboyant millionaire who made a bet that a shark was no match for a man (and set out to prove it); Museum of Natural History ichthyologist John Treadwell Nichols, faced with the challenge of stopping a mythic sea creature about which little was known; and, most memorable, the rogue Great White itself moving through a world that couldn't conceive of either its destructive power or its moral right to destroy. Scrupulously researched and superbly written, *Close to Shore* brings to life a breathtaking, pivotal moment in American history. Masterfully written and suffused with fascinating period detail and insights into the science and behavior of sharks, *Close to Shore* recounts a breathtaking, pivotal moment in American history with startling immediacy.

From School Library Journal Grade 6-10--An adaptation of Capuzzo's adult book, *Close to Shore: A True Story of Terror in an Age of Innocence* (Broadway, 2001). During the summer of 1916, just as railroad travel enabled city dwellers to make day-trips to the seashore and swimming in the ocean became popular, bathers along the East Coast were frightened away by a series of vicious attacks in the water. During a one-month period, three men and one boy were killed. Initial opinions of the attacker ranged from sea turtles to killer whales or swordfish, before it was determined to be the work of a rogue white shark. Capuzzo describes the shark's quest to satiate his hunger with the flesh of humans, sometimes verging close to anthropomorphism as he builds an atmosphere of suspense about the creature, its wanderings and its means of attack. The menacing cover of a gaping shark's mouth, the addition of black-and-white photos and newspaper clippings, and the suspenseful writing add to the accessibility of this work for young people. There are no footnotes, but an explanation of the sources used to compile this account is offered along with a sampling of books consulted. Peter Benchley's *Shark Trouble* (Random, 2002) and Thomas B. Allen's *Shark Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidance* (Lyons, 2001) offer wider-ranging examples of shark attacks, along with ways to avoid them. Pam Spencer Holley, Young Adult Literature Specialist, Virginia Beach, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Gr. 7-12. The jacket photo, a gruesome close-up of an open-mouthed shark, sets the tone for this riveting adaptation of Capuzzo's similarly titled adult book about what occurred when, in 1916, a rogue shark traveled inland along a New Jersey creek, terrorizing residents of nearby towns. Extensive trimming has eliminated much about the individuals most involved in what happened, which occasionally makes for some confusion. But this book has a rich assortment of photos and news clippings not in the original, and the vividness and sheer physicality of Capuzzo's writing remains intact. In many ways this is a new book. Capuzzo reconstructs events with a novelist's flair and a scientist's attention to detail, and his pacing is relentless as the story moves from cultural history and shark physiology to close-ups of the crazed, disoriented beast slicing through the water. When the shark dies at the hands of two astounded fishermen, readers will experience relief as well as a sense of tragedy. As with the adult book, there are no notes--only a list of further readings that kids can use to find out more. Stephanie Zvirin Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved A remarkable read . . . a flash photo of the moment when our fascination with sharks transformed from awe into mortal dread. Entertainment Weekly The most perfect beach book ever. Better than *Jaws* an amazing story, terrific writing, and the Gilded Age setting is fascinating. I loved it. Linda Marotta, Shakespeare Company, New York City Popular history meets popular science in this thrilling shark

story. As in *Seabiscuit*, the author interweaves social history with a suspenseful story told from different characters points of view, including that most fascinating character of all: the shark itself. Arsen Kashkashian, Boulder Book Store, Boulder, Colorado This riveting book skillfully combines historical fact with shark science and lore. A first-rate thriller that's all the more spine-tingling because it really happened. Anne Edkins, Vromans Bookstore, Pasadena, California A riveting account of the terrorizing shark attacks [of 1916]. Meticulously researched, it provides fascinating information about the history of the great white shark as well as a social commentary of America during World War I. Informative, entertaining, enthralling. Tova Beiser, Brown University Bookstore, Providence, Rhode Island