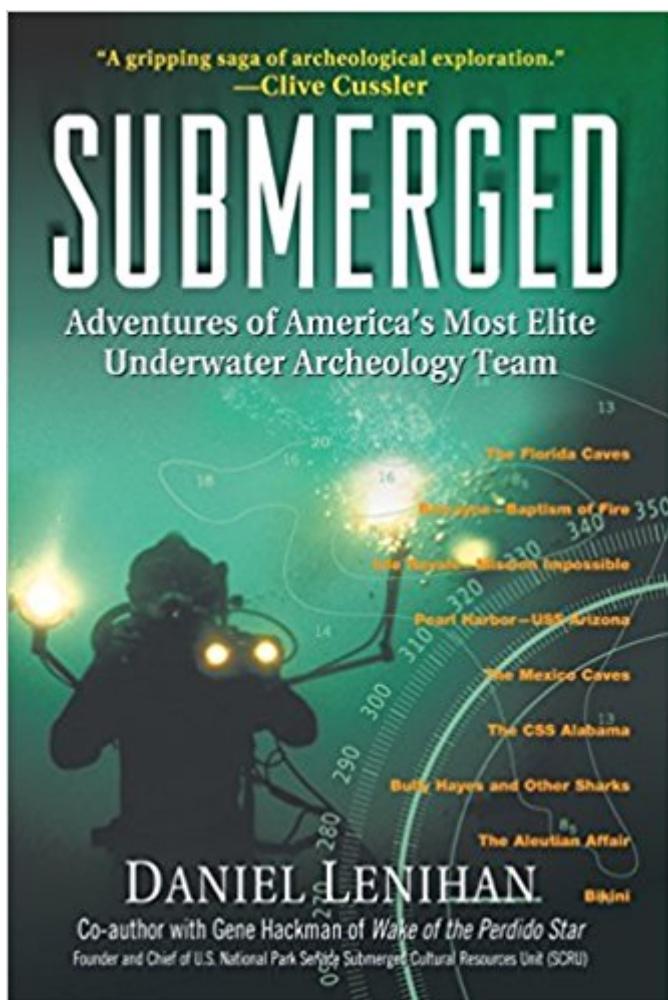


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# Submerged: Adventures Of America's Most Elite Underwater Archeology Team



## Synopsis

Experience a kaleidoscope of real-life underwater missions, ranging from ancient ruins covered by reservoirs in the desert Southwest to a World War II submarine off the Alaskan coast; from the Isle Royale shipwrecks in the frigid Lake Superior to the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor; from the HL Hunley, the first submarine in history to sink an enemy ship, in Charleston Harbor to the ships sunk by atomic bombs at Bikini Atoll, and much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Recounting his 25 years as founder and director of the Submerged Cultural Resources Unit the underwater archeological team of the National Park Service Lenihan (Wake of the Perdido Star, with Gene Hackman) offers an entertaining mix of maritime history, memoir and adventure tale. Started in 1975 to keep fortune hunters from looting national water parks for sunken treasure and damaging vital historical material, Lenihan's unit has explored the wondrous (and deadly) sinkholes in Florida and Mexico; studied shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, Micronesia and places in between; and investigated the remains of the USS Arizona and the ships sunk by nuclear bombs near Bikini atoll. While the author is an authority on sea archeology and naval history, he and his divers are also underwater cowboys and cowgirls, thrilling in the dangers of their extreme sport. A sharp, engaging writer, Lenihan describes the terrifying aspects of his work the bone-chilling cold, impenetrable clouds of silt and the notorious bends with a good dose of black humor. (A surreal trip through an old impoundment house submerged in the reservoir of Amistad Dam in Texas is especially

haunting.) Fast paced, full of amiable characters, the book will appeal to divers, maritime enthusiasts and anyone fond of nautical hijinks and swaggering seafarers. Photos and maps not seen by PW. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A gripping saga of archeological exploration of famous shipwrecks. An engaging read of true adventure in the depths." —Clive Cussler "A sharp, engaging writer, Lenihan describes the terrifying aspects of his work with a good dose of black humor." —Publishers Weekly "An edge-of-your-seat story that succinctly illustrates the danger of wreck exploration." —The Post and Courier, Charleston, SC "Every water-oriented reader will be enthralled by Lenihan's underwater world." —Maine Harbor

When Robert Kurson's *Shadow Divers* was published, it became hit even outside the dive community with its thrilling tale of death-defying adventure and obsession under the sea. A handful of books have been published since then, each attempting to cash in on the popular interest in divers risking their lives, Mount Everest-style. Most of them failed, mostly because the authors were bad storytellers. However, there was one book published before Kurson's *Shadow Divers* that has attracted little attention and is even better than the storied best-seller that launched Richie Kohler's and John Chatterton's careers as dive personalities, and the book is *Submerged*. *Submerged* is the memoir of Daniel Lenihan, the de facto founder and longtime leader of the National Park Service's underwater archaeological program. As recounted by Lenihan, he became part of the nascent Florida cave diving scene while attending graduate school in the 1970s, before finding his home with the National Park Service. Lenihan is an able storyteller, and in *Submerged* he has written a book that has a little something for everyone. If you want a book written by divers for divers, Lenihan knows his stuff and amply demonstrates it. His description of a cold water free-flow accident at Isle Royale National Park is the best I've ever seen. Readers in search of pulse-pounding, hair-raising chills will come away engrossed by his more terrifying experiences, such as when Lenihan recounts recovering a body from a flooded, silt-laden building in a dam reservoir. Shipwreck-lovers have the chance to enjoy the story of a man who dived two wrecks almost no one gets to dive, namely the USS Arizona and the Confederate submarine Hunley. Finally, the book has a solid dose of testosterone-driven, alpha male buddy movie material, with incidents like road-tripping south of the border to Mexican cenote territory in the days before those freshwater caves became a major tourist

attraction. Submerged is an excellent, well-written book that delivers on all levels. Frankly, it's both stunning and sad. Lenihan's memoir has not received more attention. If you are looking for a dive adventure to read on the plane for your trip to Belize or over the winter when you wish you were in your wetsuit, this is the book for you.

It is ok. I got bored of the authors ranting about treasure hunters and wandering off topic for pages expressing his negative views of treasure hunters (Whom are responsible for some of the greatest wreck finds ever known) and government greed. I wish he had stayed more on topic about diving adventures.

Stories from divers to divers. Keeps your attention and on the edge of your seat as you read through. The book itself is very good quality and the pages are easy to read and turn.

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I imagine the hardest thing about writing a memoir is deciding what to put in and what to leave out. This was a little uneven in that regard. (The Mexican matador? Totally irrelevant.) On the other hand, those slip-ups and random commentary really gave you a sense of the author as a person, like a friend telling you his life story. He was surprisingly good at using a fiction writer's tricks to write suspenseful, vivid and emotional scenes. Through his personal story, you learn about the history of American archaeological diving and cave diving and the National Park Service program from the 1970s to the turn of the millennium. More about the adventure of diving than about archaeology. The most compelling aspect was probably the friendships that form when trusting your life to each other.

Great book  
Not just a divers tail  
And divers will feel the realizum, and respect the mission  
Sorry  
Mel  
Cheers

As promised.

This series of stories about the NPS dive team are excellent! I found it enthralling as a technical diver interested in wrecks and underwater archeology! I highly recommend any serious wreck diver read it!

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