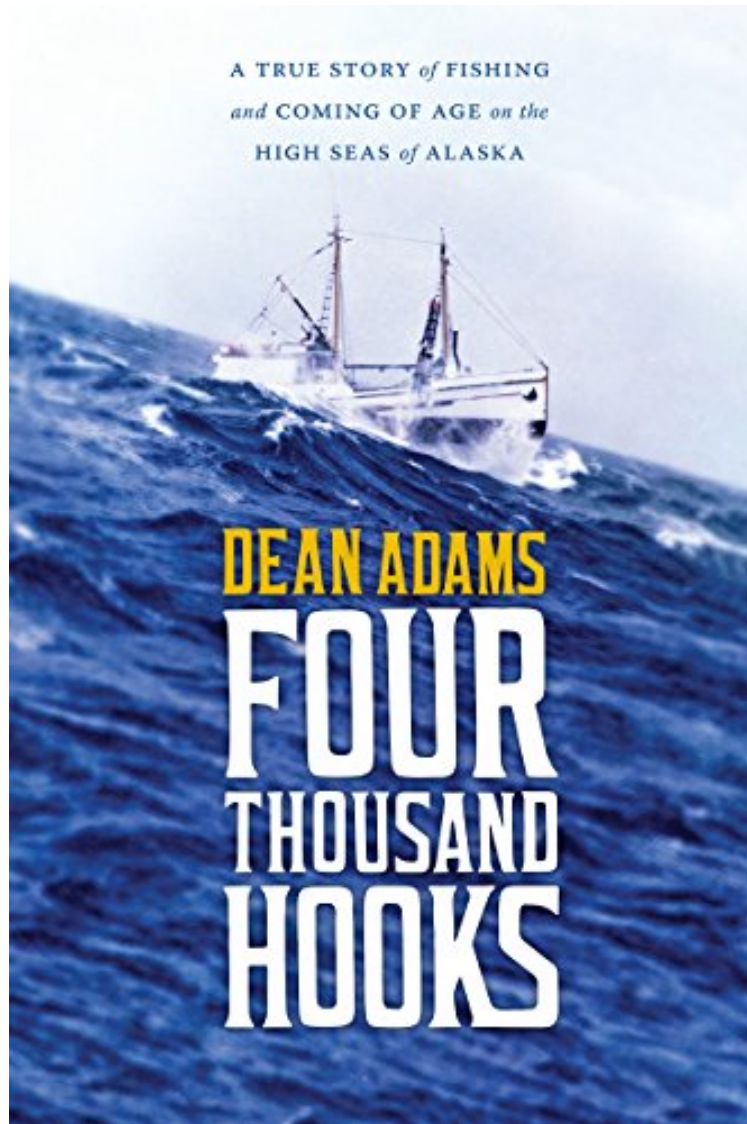


(Read now) Four Thousand Hooks: A True Story of Fishing and Coming of Age on the High Seas of Alaska

Four Thousand Hooks: A True Story of Fishing and Coming of Age on the High Seas of Alaska

Dean J. Adams

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Dean J. Adams : Four Thousand Hooks: A True Story of Fishing and Coming of Age on the High Seas of Alaska before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Four Thousand Hooks: A True Story of Fishing and Coming of Age on the High Seas of Alaska:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. coming of age sea adventure By Max M. Stalnaker Fifteen years old and crewing on an alaskan halibut schooner for the first time away from home. This is in the 70's. Things change and much of this is just not there anymore. This may be the only author who will ever write truly of this life. And it is his

true story. And he captures the voice of his fifteen year old self and tells that story grandly. Oh. They have to abandon ship. I believe people call this sort of a book a page-turner. I claim this book will appeal to many different people. And I suspect it will never become unread and forgotten. Give it to your kids and read it yourself. I wrote the above about 70% into the book. I was reading about the young Adams reflecting on the adult insights he had found. His remarks made me wish to hang up my clothes! I was reminded of Gretchen Rubin's "Secrets of Adulthood". Anything that might get me to consider growing up is impressive. :-) I have now finished the book. There is a spiritual component towards the end and I thought of Melville and Homer and others. Note the author got a "D" in eighth grade English and was given to understand he could not write. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I got caught up in Four Thousand Hooks By Whittnee LaChapelle I live in Seattle and know families who live in Ballard and work in Fisherman's Terminal. I have seen their sons go off and work on the boats for weeks at a time and been lucky enough to see all of the return safe and sound each time too. But I never really got it, not even after watching Deadliest Catch, what it is really like to live and fish on one of those boats. Especially to fish for halibut (those things are huge and backbreakers to fish). The book starts with a dramatic event and then goes back and leads up the event, then finally brings it all together in the final chapters. As a mother of boy this age, it is heartbreaking to know what happens in the beginning and imagine what must have been going through Dean's mind as he tried to grapple with it all. But it is also heartwarming to go back before it all happens and watch Dean as he leaves home for the first big fishing trip, has to learn to fit in with an adult crew, learn the business of being on a fishing boat, grow and mature in ways that make you proud. Just as all is going great and Dean has his feet under him it all gets switched up. I won't spoil the book by letting you know how it all turns out but will say it is a great and fun ride along the way. Dean writes in a straight forward style that lets the reader get caught up in the story and carried along up until the final sentence. He brings a nice balance to all the fishing knowledge we must learn about to appreciate his time on the boat by letting us in on the lives of the crew around him and their adventures when they dock and are allowed into town to relax from the fishing. I am looking forward to a second book of his continued adventures fishing up in Alaska! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Knucklehead does well By call me bill Dean does a good job of describing his introduction into an adult world that most of us can only begin to imagine. The hard, dangerous work fisherman endure is well described. It's clear that, as Dean describes his adventure, it's colored by an adult filter that's been influenced by the experiences of his youth on the Grant. How many of us have experienced the things Dean describes, let alone at the uninitiated age of 15? Not many, I'd say. Dean took the serious lessons he learned that first fishing trip and went on to become a successful fishing boat owner and captain. I recommend this book to anyone who ever wondered about what life might have been like had he struck out at such an early age.

As *Four Thousand Hooks* opens, an Alaskan fishing schooner is sinking. It is the summer of 1972, and the sixteen-year-old narrator is at the helm. Backtracking from the gripping prologue, Dean Adams describes how he came to be a crew member on the *Grant* and weaves a tale of adventure that reads like a novel--with drama, conflict, and resonant portrayals of halibut fishing, his ragtag shipmates, maritime Alaska, and the ambiguities of family life. At sea, the *Grant's* crew teach Dean the daily tasks of baiting thousands of longline hooks and handling the catch, and on shore they lead him through the seedy bars and guilty pleasures of Kodiak. Exhausted by twenty-hour workdays and awed by the ocean's raw power, he observes examples of human courage and vulnerability and emerges with a deeper knowledge of himself and the world. *Four Thousand Hooks* is both an absorbing adventure story and a rich ethnography of a way of life and work that has sustained Northwest families for generations. This coming-of-age story will appeal to readers including young adults and anyone interested in ocean adventures, commercial fishing, maritime life, and the Northwest coast. Visit the author's website: <http://www.fourthousandhooks.com/>

From Booklist Adams was 15 years old in 1972 when he signed on to the halibut schooner *Grant*. The boat used to be his grandfather's before he sold it to Adams' uncle Jack. It was a summer of firsts: first visit to a strip club, first coffee, first brush with an Irish lord (that's not what you might think it is). It was a summer of new terminology: skate, gangion, gurdy. A kid trying to fit into a man's world, Adams threw himself into the job the way a boy throws himself into anything new: eagerly, clumsily, and with a whole lot of good intentions but not much ability. But he learned: how to bait a string, how to clean a fish, and how to turn himself into a man like his uncle (his own father having taken a different path in life). Sort of a true-life version of William McCloskey's *Breakers* (2000), a novel about commercial fisherman in Alaska in the 1970s, the book is stylishly written and full of humor, drama, and, not incidentally, life lessons. A fine coming-of-age memoir. --David Pitt "'Hooks' has the feel of an honest memoir, valuable for its precision in describing fishing methods, crew interactions, and what Adams thought and felt. . . ." Scott Bowlen, *Ketchikan Daily News* "Four Thousand Hooks is a marvellous loss-of-innocence book, informative, enjoyable and well worth reading." Irene Wanner, *Seattle Times*, November 2012 "His first-hand accounts come alive on the pages, where the reader is swept into the story with the narrator. . . . The foreshadowing and timing of the story makes it difficult to stop. . . ." Christy Olsen Field, *Norwegian American Weekly*, October 2012 "Four Thousand Hooks says a lot about our ability to meet extraordinary challenges, and suggests that maybe we're all stronger and more

capable than we realize. [It's] filled with fascinating details of the fishing life, makes for awfully good reading."National Fisherman, October 15, 2013"Idquo;The well-honed prose tells a good story and one is encouraged to turn the pages to see what happens next. This is not only a very readable book but an important record of a particular type of fishing."Arthur G. Credland, Mariners Mirror"Four Thousand Hooks is one teenage boy's dramatic, yet humorous, coming-of-age story set against the backdrop of Alaskan maritime culture . . . a vivid picture of life and commercial fishing conditions in Alaska. . ."Jennifer Huffman, Independent Publisher, February 2013"This is pure adventure. Dean's story ishellip;sinewy and spare, understated and often gorgeously written."Ethan Gilsdorf, Boston Globe, October 2012"Four Thousand Hooks [is] one of the best books about commercial fishing in Alaska. The author began long-lining for halibut at age fifteen and went on to captain his own vessel: it is a great book for anyone interested in life on a commercial fishing vessel."Charlotte Glover, Southeast Sea Kayaks Blog "A reallife account of a young man's first season working as a crew member on his uncle's commercial fishing boat in the 1970s. Adams tells of the drunken shore leave, the surprising gentleness and understanding between crew members, and the rough but careful teaching of any new crew member to be part of a team upon which one sometimes had to depend for one's survival."Margaret Willson, author of Dance Lest We All Fall Down: Breaking the Cycles of Poverty in Brazil and Beyond