



Beyond the Deep: The Deadly Descent into the World's Most Treacherous Cave

By William Stone, Barbara am Ende, Monte Paulsen

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The Huautla in Mexico is the deepest cave in the Western Hemisphere, possibly the world. Shafts reach skyscraper-depths, caverns are stadium-sized, and sudden floods can drown divers in an instant. With a two-decade obsession, William Stone and his 44-member team entered the sinkhole at Sotano de San Augustin. The first camp settled 2,328 feet below ground in a cavern where headlamps couldn't even illuminate the walls and ceiling. The second camp teetered precariously above an underground canyon where two subterranean rivers collided. But beyond that lay the unknown territory -- a flooded corridor that had blocked all previous comers, claimed a diver's life, and drove the rest of the team back. Except for William Stone and Barbara am Ende, who forged on for 18 more days, with no hope of rescue, to set the record for the deepest cave dive in the Western Hemisphere.

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Editorial Review

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Set in stygian gloom, this account of a 1994 caving expedition in southern Mexico produces what adventure readers crave: danger, dissension, death, and ultimate success. Led by author Stone, the spelunkers sought the furthest reaches of a cave system, the Sistema Huautla, which plunged a kilometer and a half down and stretched out for tens of kilometers. To go the deepest, the coveted "booty" in the caving community, Stone developed a special "rebreathing" apparatus for swimming through submerged passages called sumps. As the saga unfolds (dramatically assisted by admittedly reconstructed dialogue), the riskiness of the enterprise becomes apparent as the cavers survive various snafus, which rattle some group members who come to resent Stone's hard-charging style. A cheerful wisecracker named Ian Rolland is not daunted--but soon pays the final price for this adventure. After much acrimony about whether to continue, Stone and his then-girlfriend press on, their course marked by helpful diagrams of their progress. The technicalities of this death-defying recreation, and the raw honesty with which this episode is depicted, will win over extreme-sport fans. *Gilbert Taylor*

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Review

" BEYOND THE DEEP is an extraordinary and heroic account. I shuddered as I read it." -- *Wade Davis, Explorer-in-Residence, National Geographic Society, author of THE SERPENT AND THE RAINBOW*

"... describes one of the most significant achievements of modern exploration, with personal stories that make this an exciting, page-turning read." -- *Hazel A. Barton, Ph.D., co-star of the IMAX film, "Journey into Amazing Caves"*

"For anyone wanting to vicariously experience the hardship and dangers of expedition life underground, this is the book to read." -- *Bernie Chowdhury, author of THE LAST DIVE and publisher of Immersed: the international technical diving magazine.*

"From the opening page...BEYOND THE DEEP plunges you into a tubular heart of darkness. -- *Jeff Long, author of THE DESCENT*

About the Author

BILL STONE is the world's most accomplished caver invented the Cis-Lunar rebreather enabling cave divers to stay underwater for up to 24 hrs. BARBARA AM ENDE has a Ph.D in geology and is a member of the National Speleological Society.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donald Shelby:

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whatever they acquire because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Think about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book after they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will need this Beyond the Deep: The Deadly Descent into the World's Most Treacherous Cave.

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