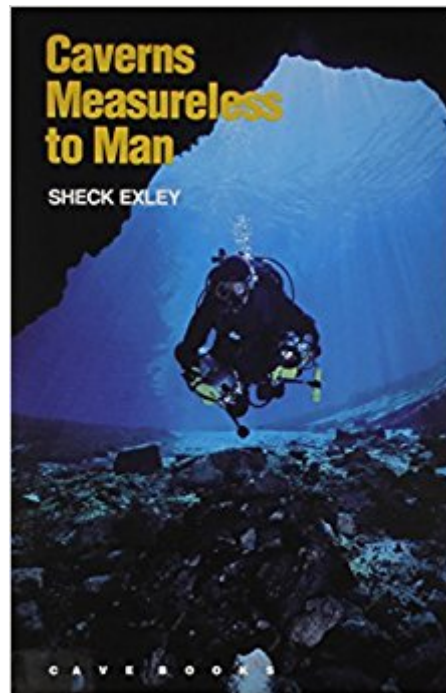




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# Caverns Measureless To Man



## Synopsis

Caverns Measureless to Man is the story of the passion of an extraordinary individual who spent his life exploring underwater caves. For nearly 30 years Sheck Exley was the leader. He set records, he developed the techniques, and he maintained the highest standards of excellence. Sheck lived a life of adventure, danger, and excitement of a degree that few people can ever dream of, or, if they do, those dreams are nightmares. If you participate on the highest level, you know that some of your best friends are going to die. If you continue to push yourself and your equipment to the limits--if you persist in being a world class diver as Sheck was--the chances are very high that you, too, will die. This book may terrify you, but it will unquestionably fascinate you, and in the end, Sheck Exley will convince you that his death came to him in the midst of the incredibly intense joy he took in diving into the depths of the earth.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Sheck Exley for almost thirty years developed the techniques and set the standards for cave divers today. Many times while reading this book I found myself holding my breath while someone was stuck in a tight spot, fighting with damaged or defective equipment, lost in a silted-up passage, or just plain running out of air . . . This book is as close as most will ever want to get to an underwater cave." -- Paul Steward, Central Jersey Caver

"Sheck Exley was at the forefront of international cave diving. He had a fascination for depth which led to his demise, at the age of 45, while attempting a new world depth record in a remote siphon in northern Mexico in 1994 . . . . "Caverns Measureless to Man is a very readable autobiography of this exceptional man . . . . enthralling, laced with danger and excitement, yet tinged with a touch of humor. "This is a gripping book equally appealing to the

diver and non-diver alike." --Tim Stratford, The International Caver

Okay first of all, Sheck was not a professional writer, and you must keep that in mind before you start this book, or any book written by somebody that doesn't write for a living. The only negative thing I can think of is at times I found myself having to flip back a page or two because his transitions can be a tad jumpy and I would forget what dive site he was at or who he was diving with. That being said, I was extremely impressed by his ability to lay his memories down on paper in ways that at times kept me very emotionally invested. Not to mention the index and appendix of this book are the most impressive I have seen in ANY book. They have his dive logs, maps, charts of scuba record progression, the location/page number of every cave mentioned in the book, and every single one of his dive partners EVER and how many dives he has done with them. Absolutely incredible. Unlike his Blueprint for Survival book which was written FOR divers, which I highly recommend for the aspiring cave diver (available on the NSSCDC website, this book can be enjoyed by someone with no prior knowledge of scuba or cave diving. He not only tells the most amazing scuba/cave diving stories I have ever heard, but continues to educate you on the equipment/training/progression of cave diving throughout the book. It is filled with maps of caves all over the US, Bahamas, and Mexico that he has discovered, laid line in, and mapped. It makes it easy to follow along when he is elaborately describing the intricate layouts of the caves. In all, Sheck Exley was the Michael Jo...the Tiger Wo...the Babe Rut...the Sheck Exley of Cave Diving. I do not think there has been or will be another human being that has risked so much to pioneer a sport while simultaneously making it safer for future participants. He was also extremely humble and selfless, at times risking his life to save others. Cave diving can be extremely dangerous, but Sheck pushed himself to the end of his life to hone the sport into what it is today. Read this book.

Fantastic read. I read this two years ago. I rarely want to read books again but this is one I would. If you love living vicariously through the lives of people who have pushed the boundaries of human endurance to obsessively pursue exploring virgin worlds and even buried treasure, this book delivers. I agree with the reviewer who said it will change your life. It certainly has stayed with me.

This is a fine, well-written book on cave diving by one of its pioneers. One gets a glimpse of the early history, tumultuous development of cave diving and how North Florida came to be a center of this eccentric endeavor. One of the chapters (Exley's cave diving in the rest of the world, i.e., excluding Florida and Mexico) is a tad too long (tries to cram too much into a single chapter) but

outside of that it's a good, interesting book. Exley has a knack for writing and the book should appeal even to some non-divers. The hunt for records eventually caught up with him, but he seems to have lived a full life, doing the things that he loved.

I love this book so much. I've read it multiple times and it never gets old. Even if you aren't a cave diver, or a diver at all, you'll still get a lot of enjoyment reading about the adventures Sheck had, and what he actually did for the sport of diving. The majority of the book, I spent literally on the edge of my seat. Seriously, get this book.

This was a great book.. I started my cave diving train last Nov. and it was suggested by me instructor that I read this book. Since then I have a few other book also suggest that I read this book. So finally last week I got the book. I am not a big read but was already reading a book so this one set on the shelf a few days. When I finally started reading it I was hook and finished it in 3 days. It is amazing the things these guys did with this early equipment. It is surprising that they didn't all die at a very young age. This is a must read for every cave diver and strong suggestion for all other divers. Or those that have any idea about becoming a cave diver.

While Sheck Exley was not a born writer, the amazing experiences he had shine through his humble, matter-of-fact prose. I am not a cave diver, I'm not even a diver, and I have no idea why exactly I purchased this book, but I'm glad I did. Exley describes a world I had never imagined before, and now I can't get it out of my head. The mystery, danger, and joy of the pursuit as related by this book are inspiring.

Amazing inspiring and a must read for anyone interested in cave diving. We owe most of the training currently available today to Shek Exleys pioneering.

I enjoyed this book. It's a facinating look at the early days of cave diving when the rules were being written with blood. I'm an avid diver but not a cave diver. It was startling to realize just how many of the early cave divers died in persuit of the sport. Many of Exley's friends and buddies and ultimately Exley himself died in caves. It's generally well written. At times it did seem to jump around a bit and I'd have to back track to clear up some confusion but it was a very worthwhile read none the less.

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