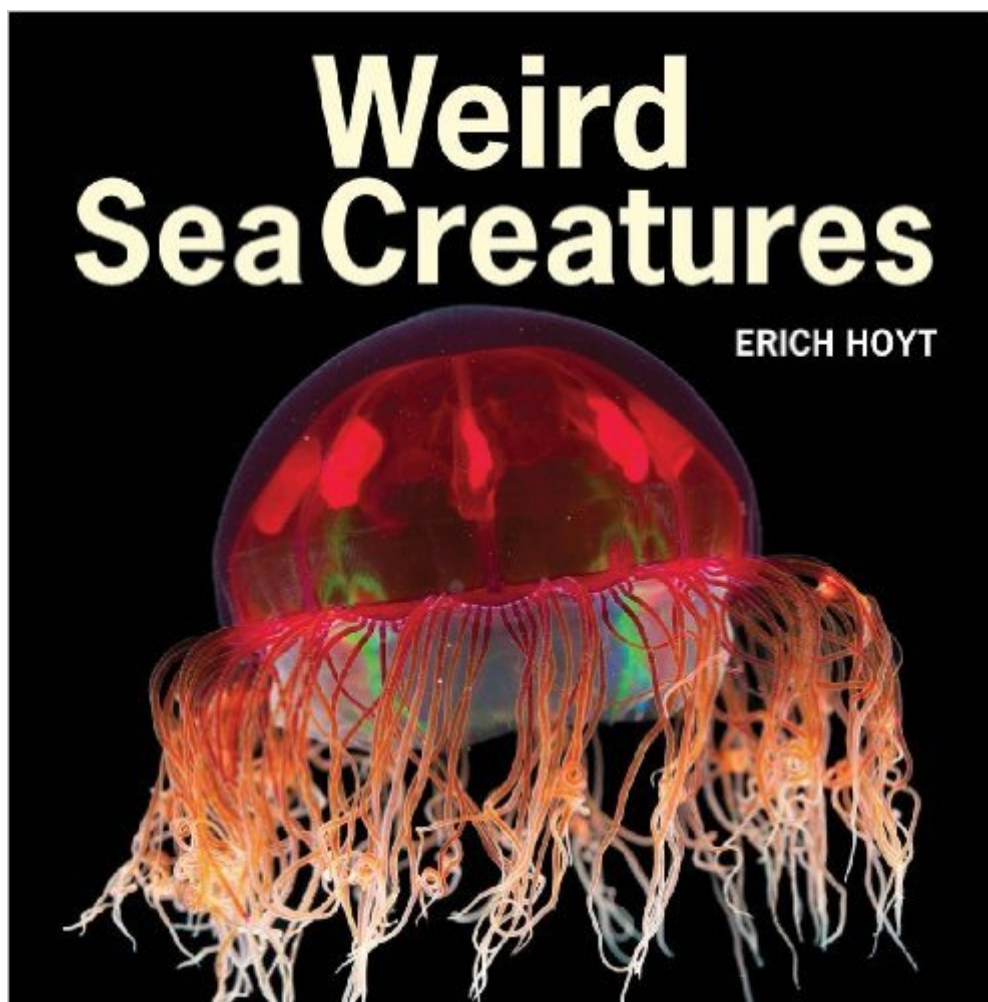


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## Weird Sea Creatures



## Synopsis

An illustrated look at the weird and wonderful creatures that live in the very deepest parts of the sea.

Humans have always wondered, with a mixture of fear and fascination, what lurks beneath the surface in the depths of the ocean. In this book, Erich Hoyt introduces 50 of the oddest creatures you will ever meet in the sea. From the carnivorous comb jelly to the lantern-carrying deep-sea dragonfish, from a vampire squid with giant eyes to dancing jellyfish, Hoyt explores these peculiar conditions and their equally peculiar environment. These creatures have adapted to lack of light and, using sound pulses (echolocation) or light-producing organs and pigment cells (emitting light via bioluminescence), they are able to communicate without giving their location away to predators. These stunning, captivating photographs weren't taken from the portholes of submarines.

Photographers David Shale, Solvin Zanki and Jeff Rotman worked with oceanography institutes, museums and the BBC Natural History Unit, taking long cruises across the ocean to record and try to understand these little-studied residents of the deep sea. To capture the creatures for observation, a net was lowered far beneath the surface. As soon as the trawl was hauled aboard, the photographers would race to transfer the most unusual animals to fresh seawater aquariums in a chilled laboratory on board. These pages let readers gaze into strange, wild eyes and study faces with toothless or crooked smiles that witness the fruits of deep-sea evolution. Informative captions explain what the patterns of lights on their bodies are "saying" to others in their absolutely dark world. The wonder and extraordinary weirdness of what lives in the deep seas, so far away from us and yet so close, will become more familiar with this book.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1270L (What's this?)

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Firefly Books (March 14, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1770851917

ISBN-13: 978-1770851917

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #429,672 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #146 in [Books > Children's Books](#)  
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Children's Books > Animals > Marine Life

Age Range: 10 - 18 years

Grade Level: 5 - 12

## Customer Reviews

This is a very short book not geared to adults, but as an adult reader I still found the photographs beautiful and interesting. For the price you pay, the author promises and delivers 50 deep sea animals, some belonging to species not yet named. The single paragraphs of text that accompany each image vary in their quality and informativeness with occasionally repetitive detail. There is no real consistency in what he has to say; sometimes size is mentioned, sometimes it is not.

Sometimes he describes the lifestyle of the creature, sometimes he does not. Sometimes he relates the animal to others of its kind and gives a larger biological/ecological context for it, sometimes not. You get the picture, I'm sure. But though I have to admit I would have liked more from the text, I still found the stunning color photographs of creatures living in a world of their own, indifferent to us and almost unknown to many oblivious surface dwellers like myself, to be worth perusing. One reviewer complained that the book is "like a folder" -- in its length of 64 pages this might be only a small exaggeration, but the page size is generous enough that such a comparison is misleading. The same reviewer also complained about the dark backgrounds that the author actually explained very clearly in his introductory text; these are meant to simulate the intense darkness of the depths at which his subjects live and were achieved in part with the use of black velvet. If you already know a lot about these creatures or have other books offering a look at them, you can probably skip this book or at least borrow a copy from a friend or local library before making a decision to purchase.

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