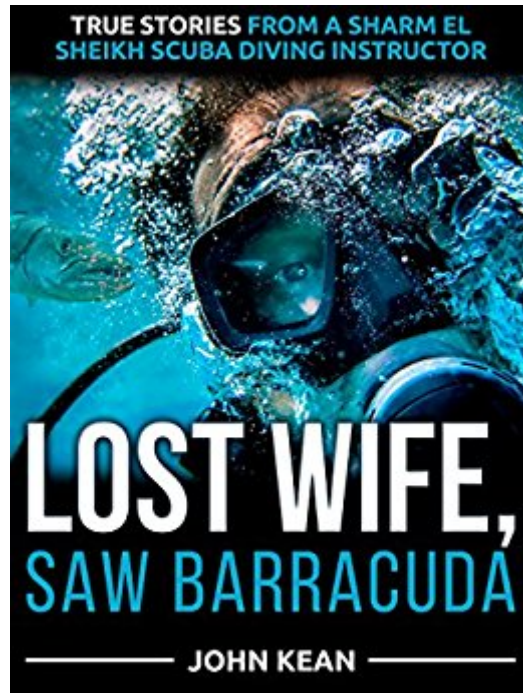


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# Lost Wife, Saw Barracuda - True Stories From A Sharm El Sheikh Scuba Diving Instructor



## Synopsis

The Funniest Comedy Travel Book in Years What the readers say | An Excellent Read. ... Brilliant Book!! | Hilarious! ... A Must Read. ... Great Read. | Very funny and thoroughly enjoyable. ... Fantastic. ... I Read it Twice.... Loved it! ... A super special book, fun to read and enjoyed every page. ... Funny, informative and very well written. ... An Exceptional and Captivating Book. Ever wanted to jack it all in and start a new life overseas? The scuba diving resort of Sharm el Sheikh has been one of the world's best kept secrets. It only hits the news in times of mishap but behind the scenes of this hugely popular and vibrant city are hundreds of ex-pats living the dream of a life in the sun. John Kean's hilarious book, "Lost Wife, Saw Barracuda" True Stories from a Sharm el Sheikh Scuba Diving Instructor is an inside fly-on-the-wall look at the ups and downs of swapping the rat race for a life in Sharm el Sheikh. It is frank, honest and gripping in sometimes epic proportions, but the humor and magnetic appeal of Sharm el Sheikh and Egypt shines through every time in this beautifully written true story. Over a decade, this mild-mannered, ex-stockbroker has been chased by aggressive sharks, had a 737 airliner drop from the sky into the sea, broken four bones, been arrested three times and finally, blown up by terrorists. On the plus side, Sharm el Sheikh's outstanding natural appeal, year round sun and amazingly talented and friendly community of Egyptian and ex-pat residents has made it a home from home, free of the stresses of everyday life in Europe. Unlike other fly on the wall or "inside" books, John actually takes you along with him for the ride. His accounts are genuine, highly informative and very funny. Turning tragedy and mishap into humor is the book's strength and you'll find a laugh on nearly every page. The story is heavily upstaged by the comical antics of five, highly entertaining characters coming to terms with neutral buoyancy, hangovers and Egyptian taxi drivers. The legendary exploits of the latter are awarded an entire chapter where we're introduced to, Airbag, Sharm el Sheikh's worst driver and in contrast, Joseph, who takes up the offer of a job swap, gives John his taxi and becomes a scuba diver for the day! The most dramatic chapter of Lost Wife, Saw Barracuda is the vivid, minute-by-minute account of dive staff involvement during the Sharm bombings in July 2005. This rare civilian insight of a grand scale terrorist attack shows the human cost of those caught up and the tremendous resolve of unlikely rescuers in preventing further loss of life. Despite occasional tragedy, Lost Wife, Saw Barracuda is a positive book that will thrill and entertain, portray scuba diving as an engaging and enjoyable sport and show readers the brighter side of Sharm el Sheikh and Egyptian life. Anyone can read and enjoy this wonderfully funny story. It's a must read if you've ever been even remotely near water!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this book about diving - a sport that my terror of water would never allow me to try! It's written in a very accessible style, by an author with a likeable voice and a great attitude to both himself and the people with whom he comes in contact. I found the descriptions of what a diving course entails very interesting - I hadn't realized how much effort and care goes into the teaching of this skill. I also now have a vivid picture of Sharm el Sheik and its many natural wonders, seen from the perspective of a long-term, although not jaded, resident. The mystery of the odd title provides an understated view of what was undoubtedly a dreadful day for the author! I would recommend this book as a light and entertaining read, well worth the time.

I loved John Kean's book *Lost Wife, Saw Barracuda*. I read the Kindle version and couldn't put it down for the day or so it took me to get through it. I have recently discovered scuba, later in life, and everything he writes about the scuba business seems so true to my own experiences, and gives great insight into what it's like from the dive guide/instructor perspective. I have more respect for them, having read this book. The book is humorous throughout (having read the book, even the re-reading the title makes me smile as it's such a great punch line). I haven't been to Sharm but got my start snorkeling in Nuweiba in the 70s (during Israeli occupation) and I know the diving and

snorkeling are spectacular on the red sea. I think the Open Water class John taught is much more thorough than the one I took in Hawaii (two days total to get certified) and it makes me wonder what I missed. It would be great to go to Sharm for some advanced classes. John shares his journey from IT professional in the UK to dive instructor in Egypt and gives a lot of insight into the issues and compromises one makes. I look forward to more books from him!

I've read a few other books written by "scuba professionals." They might have been great divers, but they were horrible writers. Kean is one of the rare ones that can do both. He does a great job giving you a fly-on-the-wall prospective of what it is like to be a scuba instructor at a resort area. I've never been to Sharm, but after reading his book, I feel like I have. As a scuba instructor for about 20 years, I appreciated his insights on the type of students you come across, teaching techniques, and life on a small foreign island. My only concern is there might be people who read this book and say, "That's it! I'm quitting my hectic city job and becoming a full-time divemaster/instructor!" As a scuba instructor for about 20 years, I can tell you scuba is a difficult way to make a living. The industry is rife with flagrant sexism, racism, and ageism. It is not uncommon for employment ads for divemasters/instructors to say things like "attractive people only", or "over 30 need not apply." Wages are very low, and the hours long. Many people who become instructors quit after a couple of years. Most of us who stick around do so only because it is a part-time job, or have been working at something else long enough to have money saved that they can afford to leave the rat-race (which seems to be the case with Kean.)

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. To me at least it's primarily a humorous book but it also gives the reader an idea of what it's like to live and work in a different culture. To someone who is interested in learning to dive, it gives some idea what the certification process is like though this is not the primary purpose of the book. It certainly will promote the pleasures of diving in the aspiring diver. As a scuba instructor myself, I can relate to many of the stories he recounts. And the source of the book title is a hoot in itself. Again, this is a book you read primarily for entertainment and it is a great light read. However you will also learn some things about Egypt, scuba diving, scuba instructing and people in general. The book is well written and edited.

Mr. Kean wrote this book with wit, insights, lessons to be learned for new and existing divers, inserting stories that make you laugh, draw a breath in anticipation, experience real life scenarios as seen from the instructors point of view. It is not a teaching manual though, but I wasn't looking for

that when I purchased it. I wanted a book about real life stories and it sure did deliver!!! I wish this book was in hardback form, I'd like to gift it to a few friends that don't have Kindles. This book should be found on the shelves of all dive shops, alongside the classics such as "Shadow Divers, Caverns Measureless to Man, Scuba Diving Safety, and quite a few more I could name. It's a great read on the beach, during winter when you might not be able to dive due to bad weather conditions (he didn't have that problem!!!) and also understand what it's like diving in a foreign country as your primary occupation and give up the white collar office. I've read it twice and will read it again. The title is very aptly named, and very very worthwhile listening to that story!! I'd say this book is a sneak peak into Mr. Keans dive log!!!! Thankyou Mr. Kean, and when may we ask is your next book out??? You have much more material I'm sure and I know I would love to read it!!! Thankyou!! (from a cold water dry suit diver in the USA)

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