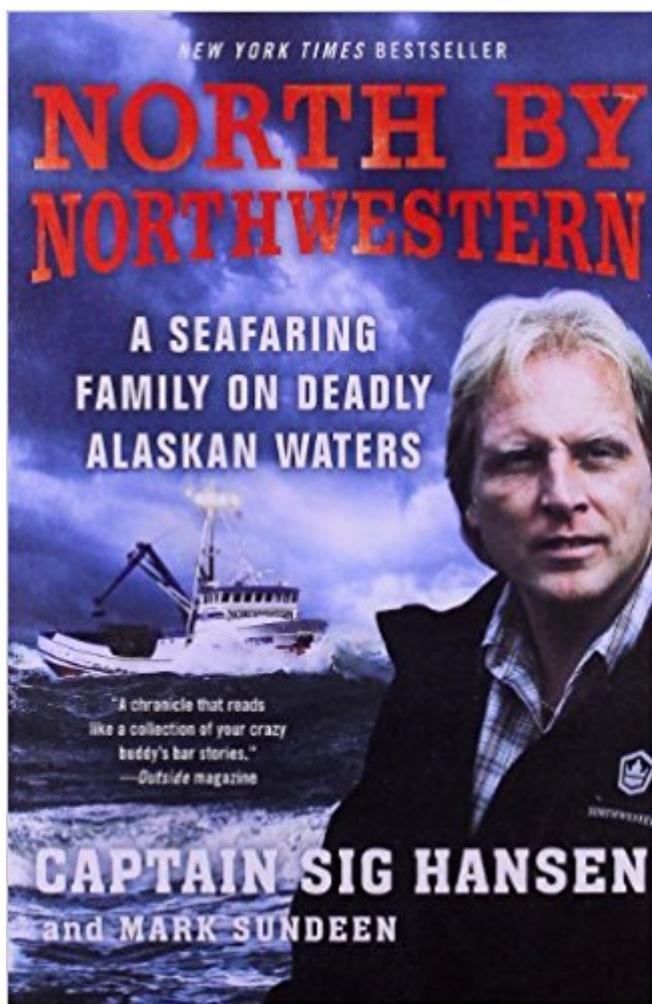


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# North By Northwestern: A Seafaring Family On Deadly Alaskan Waters



## Synopsis

New York Times bestseller "A chronicle that reads like a collection of your crazy buddy's bar stories about his crazier old man." — *Outside Magazine* The action of the hit Discovery Channel series *DEADLIEST CATCH* combines with the personal saga of a Norwegian family in this memoir adventure tale of commercial fishermen on the Bering Seal in the tradition of Sebastian Junger and Linda Greenlaw comes Captain Sig Hansen's rags-to-riches epic of his immigrant family's struggle against deadly Alaskan seas, freezing shipwrecks, and dangerously brutal conditions to achieve the American Dream. For Captain Sig Hansen and his brothers, Norman and Edgar, commercial fishing is as much a part of their Norwegian heritage as their names. Descendants of the Vikings who ruled the northern seas for centuries, Sig and his brothers learned to fish from their father when they were boys, just as their father had learned from his father. And after twenty years as a skipper on the commercial fishing vessel the Northwestern Sig has lived to tell the tales. This is the story of a family of survivors; part memoir and part adventure tale, *North by Northwestern* brings readers on deck, into the dockside bars and into the history of a family with a common destiny. Built around the gripping tale of a deadly shipwreck like *The Perfect Storm*, *North By Northwestern* tells the multigenerational history of the Hansen family, a clan of tough Norwegian-American fishermen who have become modern day folk-heroes.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The fishing vessel captain prominently featured in all three seasons of Discovery

Channel's Deadliest Catch tells his family's story and that of the Norwegian American role in Pacific Northwest fishing—and not only in the now-declining crab industry. If this family saga has a hero, it is Sig's father, Sverre, who survived immigration from Norway, service in the cold-war army, several shipwrecks, and raising three civilized, if somewhat original, sons to become one of the deans of the crab-fishing fleet in its golden era and still die peacefully at home. Captain Sig still takes his father's boat into the Bering Sea, one of the harshest environments fishermen have ever faced, and is proud in a gentlemanly way of his Norwegian heritage and celebrity status. Nothing more nor less than a cracking good sea story.

--Roland Green --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“A chronicle that reads like a collection of your crazy buddy's bar stories about his crazier old man.” Outside Magazine “Captain Hansen's passionate love for his work, for the ocean, and for his fellow fishermen is undeniable and admirable.”

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Unlike many other books about celebrities, this one feels genuine. I don't sense a ghost writer here. Instead, I hear the exact syntax which Sig Hansen often uses when talking on Deadliest Catch. I enjoyed hearing about the family, its fishing history and traditions, and what things were like in the old days and the old country. Pacing is good and the book doesn't dwell upon any particular subject for too long. Sig also does a good job explaining the business and procedures of fishing and the differences between species & such. You can tell Sig dictated/wrote this book without a ghost writer, and you can almost hear him reading it in your mind, but alas they used a "professional" reader. Darn shame, but still very enjoyable.

I wasn't expecting so much history. This book mostly talks about the old days (all the way back to the Vikings). I was hoping to learn more about this generation of Hansen's. Let it be said though that the family has quite an interesting history, I was just hoping for more of the, "now."

It will take a minute for Deadliest Catch fans to adjust to Rick Adamson vs. Sig Hansen reading this story--but not much more. Adamson, who capably handles both nonfiction and fiction narration, strikes a perfect balance between the conversational and the sensational, driving the narrative forward without overplaying his hand before the main story in particular comes to a head.

Very good book, especially if you are a Deadliest Catch fan. Gave me a greater understanding of the show and the people. It also introduced me to a group of immigrants whose culture I had never thought about before: The Norwegians.

I would have liked a little less family history and more personal incidents with Sid and his sons, etc. There were funny stories that I enjoyed, and overall it was a very interesting book that I finished in two days. It did get a bit slow at times, but didn't last for long. I also read the Phil Harris book that was written by his sons, and it was easier reading for me and more interesting and entertaining too. But I would recommend North by Northwestern to anyone who is interested in Sig and/or Deadliest Catch.

As someone from Scandinavian descent but not a fisherman I appreciated the detail of the immigrants that came from that part of the world and how they are part of American history and how we relate to the fisheries in the Northwest like the detail and the stories that Captain Hanson included in this book I think anyone that watches deadliest catch or is interested in the history of the industry or likes to hear the stories of how immigrants came here and worked hard and did well that they will like this book I give it four stars

I read both Time Bandit and North by Northwestern, books co-written by captains of crab fishing vessels featured on TV's Deadliest Catch. Time Bandit was published first and is basically a rambling adventure story. It jumps back and forth in time and between brothers telling the story. Andy's chapters are more philosophical and purposeful than Johnathan's, and also more reserved. The book begins and ends with a story of Johnathan Hillstrand in trouble while salmon fishing and this story is broken up by various tales, facts and details about the Hillstrand family and their jobs, personalities, families, and various adventures. I think the purpose of Johnathan's salmon fishing story was to provide a first-hand quick grab to bring in the reader and provide excitement and tie various pieces of the book together, but I don't think that gimmick totally succeeds here. When that story ends the book, the entire work still feels unfinished to me. However, Time Bandit is still a very interesting, fun, fast read. North by Northwestern came out a year later than the Time Bandit book, and in many ways seems to copy the Time Bandit. It follows a similar story structure, it uses photos in the same way, and provides similar information, albeit from a different perspective. The "grabber" in North by Northwestern is a story about Sig's father and is more dramatic than Johnathan's, although revealed in less of an in-your-face fashion. A few parts, such as a description of what

crabs are and how they live and move around on the ocean floor, is so similar in both books that it seems almost plagiarized. I personally found North by Northwestern to be much better written than Time Bandit and a more satisfying story over all. Perhaps it succeeds because it is all in the voice of one person instead of two, but I also speculate that Mark Sundein is a better writer than MacPherson or made a direct attempt to follow MacPherson's model and improve on it. North by Northwestern really seemed to have more of a story to tell, and provided a multi-generational seafaring family saga much more coherently and completely than is found in the somewhat jumbled feel of Time Bandit. Even the pictures in the book were better than Time Bandit's. The end of the book about marketing and branding was one of the weaker parts of the book and read a bit defensively or apologetically, but it did serve to complete the timeline. I think Time Bandit deserves the credit for doing it first and creating the template that North by Northwestern followed and improved upon. I related more to the Hansen clan than the Hillstrands on many levels, but both books are enjoyable and both families worthy of respect for their hard work. Time Bandit does read more like a pirate's work in typical Hillstrand fashion while North by Northwestern's Norwegian sensibilities are strong. I have some Norwegian ancestry and I came away from North by Northwestern with a better understanding and appreciation of certain family stories from that line of my family tree. The voice of each work is true to the captains. I read both through interlibrary loan and ended up deciding I wanted to purchase North by Northwestern for my collection.

If you are looking for gossipy dirt about the Hansen brothers, this isn't the book for you. This book is first and foremost a book about an immigrant achieving his American Dream. Instead this is a fascinating book about fishing and crabbing. It follows mostly the story of Sig's dad Sverre and his success story. This book is first and foremost a book about an immigrant achieving his American Dream. It also takes you through the intricacies of how a boat operates. Through the book, there are little stories about Edgar, Sig, and Norman but this book is not going to give you much more than that. Given that, I think it is the BEST Deadliest Catch book out there.

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