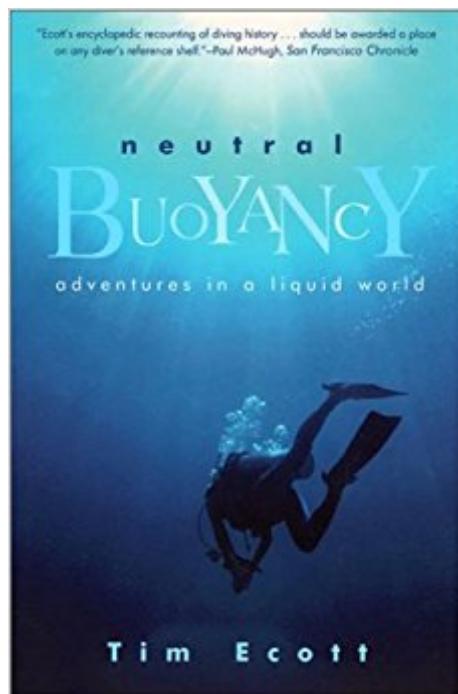


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# Neutral Buoyancy: Adventures In A Liquid World



## Synopsis

In *Neutral Buoyancy*, journalist and diver Tim Ecott takes you on a guided tour of the history of undersea exploration and the emergence of diving culture. He tells the extraordinary story of man's attempts to breathe underwater, from the sponge divers described by Aristotle, to the development of sixteenth-century diving bells, to the invention of modern scuba equipment. Along the way, Ecott intersperses the story with his own thrilling adventures, from the waters of the South Pacific to the remote islands of the Seychelles, from explorations in the clear, flowing tides of Sardinia to a near-death experience in the cold gray depths of the English Channel. Filled with engaging stories of humanity's conquest of the undersea world -- and heart-pounding action that will leave you breathless -- *Neutral Buoyancy* is a compelling blend of history and adventure, an exciting overview of the world of undersea diving. "As elemental, entertaining, and stimulating as the environment it traces." -- Kirkus Reviews "Engaging ... *Neutral Buoyancy* will certainly become cult reading for divers." -- Alexander Urquhart, *The Times* Literary Supplement "Ecott's encyclopedic recounting of diving history ... should be awarded a place on any diver's reference shelf." -- Paul McHugh, *San Francisco Chronicle*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In *Neutral Buoyancy*, BBC journalist Tim Ecott recounts his ongoing adventures in the "liquid world" of scuba diving, from battling rip tides off the Dorset coast in southwest England to exploring the shark-rich waters of the Caribbean, musing along the way on the history and meaning of humanity's fascination with diving and reflecting on how his underwater experience has reshaped his life. Four

days after my mother's funeral I went scuba diving for the first time.... Surfacing from a dive ... I often think it strange that this mind-cleansing, emotionally charged experience is one that my mother never knew I had. It is something akin to the sense of regret I feel that she never met my daughter, born a few years after her passing. How odd that something so wonderful was not part of our shared experience. Be warned: if you are already a diver, Neutral Buoyancy will heighten the sense that you are wasting far too much precious time on dry land. For the rest, even if your underwater ventures are largely confined to the bath, this book will have you contemplating a trip to your local swimming pool at the very least. Truly inspirational. --Alex Hankin, .co.uk --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Plunging off the shores of Florida, Australia, the Western Pacific islands and other coastal locales, BBC world service reporter and producer and certified dive-master Ecott provides a fascinating, albeit uncritical, look at the fast-growing world of undersea diving. Vivid descriptions of what's to be seen show skeptics what they're missing: coral as green as a "fine piece of carved jade," as scarlet as a "humming-bird feather" and as pink as the "petals of a carnation in a buttonhole." Along the way, he recounts the history of the sport, which has grown from a risky enterprise practiced by a brave few to a far more mainstream, increasingly high-tech recreational endeavor. In interviews, the sport's pioneers (crusty individualists, not surprisingly) express some resentment toward Jacques Cousteau; they believe he stole glory due others. Though Ecott at times suggests discomfort with the diving world's competitive ethos, he seems reluctant to criticize it outright or to question the sport's cult of extreme risk-taking. And while mindful of the sport's dangers (in one particularly terrifying incident, Ecott nearly dies in the English Channel), he emphasizes its spiritual appeal: the title refers to a state of equilibrium that scuba divers aspire to a feeling of weightlessness. Agent, Natasha Fairweather of A.P. Watt. (July)Forecast: Ecott's journalistic acumen his pieces have appeared in Esquire, the Economist, National Geographic and elsewhere makes this an above-average look into a microculture. Lifestyle magazine coverage, plus word-of-mouth recommendations or summer-oriented displays, will lead fans and curious readers alike to this title. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Even when I am preparing to be a divemaster, the encyclopedia that I read wasn't as informative as this book. It provided me an insight on the evolution and history of equipments and equipment inventions, the explanation of how narcosis and DCS came about - with introduction of terms that

are used to define them and was a revelation for me. Besides that, it also show me how different people in the past tried means and ways to break records in depth and equipment invention such that some of them were being sacrificed. A plus point is that the author described the various beautiful places he dived before and it was tempting to want to dive there myself. Although the book title stated neutral buoyancy, it wasn't entirely about neutral buoyancy. Yes, it did talk about buoyancy control but it was not a big part on that. The book contains the different aspects of diving, from equipments to physics to environments and even decompression theory. And it's really a fun book to read. The more you read, the more you will want to know what's the next content because every chapter is lined up with different stories that the author encountered. After finish reading this book, my knowledge towards diving has certainly increased, especially with historic equipment inventors like jacque cousteau.

What a great read!!! Tim does an outstanding job covering the history of the development of scuba diving. By the time you've read all our ancestors endured in the pursuit of the "sport" it makes you really appreciate living in these modern times... WOW!! Really nice reflections on the experiences encountered while in the blue (I'm not certified yet, but will be SOON) and the historical figures he interviewed were FASCINATING!! JOLLY GOOD WORK TIM! By the way, I'd love to dive with you one day, if you'll let me know where you're working... ScottHouston, Texas  
(USA)moogman2@houston.rr.com

No doubt Tim Ecott has a treasure trove of diving experience and subject matter knowledge and while reading his book I kept thinking these stories and historical anecdotes would be much more interesting confined to retelling in person or by the author via radio. The book itself is a meandering collection of stories without drama or other particularly compelling reasons to keep turning the pages. I'd love to tune in to the radio show where I'm sure Mr. Ecott does a better job at probing the depths of his passion than the shallow retelling in these pages.

Exactly as described.

When I start reading this book I realized that this wasn't just (another) diving story. It was THE diving story. From the first man breathing below the surface to our days. For those who like me, want to know the basics, where and how it all began, this is the book to read.

Great Deal!

This book has two types of narrative: history related to diving and personal experience. I enjoyed reading the latter and not the former. Also, I found his style rather wordy. It's not one of my favorite books related to scuba diving. Others I enjoyed more were: The Last Dive, Shadow Divers, and Deep Descent.

Great stories about diving and the exploits of divers. A few little tidbits of knowledge to learn. A nice book to read and relax to while enjoying SCUBA stories.

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