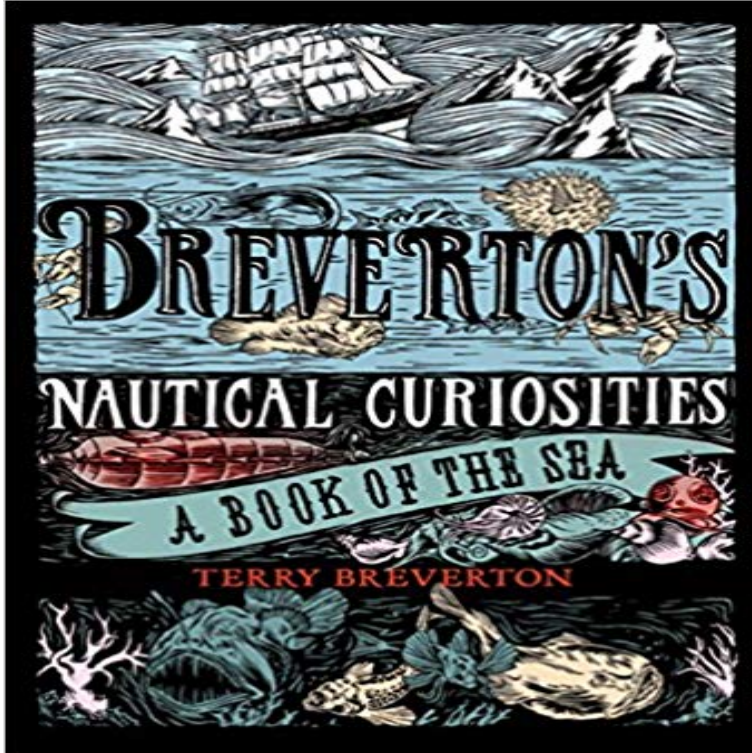


Brevertons Nautical Curiosities: A Book of the Sea



Brevertons Nautical Curiosities is about ships, people and the sea. However, unlike many other nautical compendiums, the focus of this book is on the unusual, the overlooked or the downright extraordinary. Thus, someone most of us do not know, Admiral William Brown, is given equal coverage to Admiral Nelson. Without Admiral Brown releasing Garibaldi, modern Italy might not exist. And without the barely known genius John Ericsson designing the Monitor, the Confederacy might have won the American Civil War. Readers will be stimulated to read more about the remarkable men - explorers, admirals and trawlermen - who have shaped our world. The sea has had a remarkable effect upon our language. We hear the terms steer clear of, hit the deck, dont rock the boat, to harbour a grudge and the like, and give little thought to them. In the pages of this book, the reader will find the origin of bumpkin, a brace of shakes, born with a silver spoon, booby prize, to take on board, above board, bombed (in the sense of being drunk), the blues, blind-side, blind drunk, the pot calling the kettle black, reach the bitter end, wasters, ahoy, all at sea, to keep aloof, piss-artist, taken aback, barbecue and bamboozle. Other colourful terms, which have passed out of common usage, such as bring ones arse to anchor (sit down), belly timber (food) and bog orange (potato) are also included, as well as important pirate haunts, technical terms, famous battles, maritime inventors and ship speed records.

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