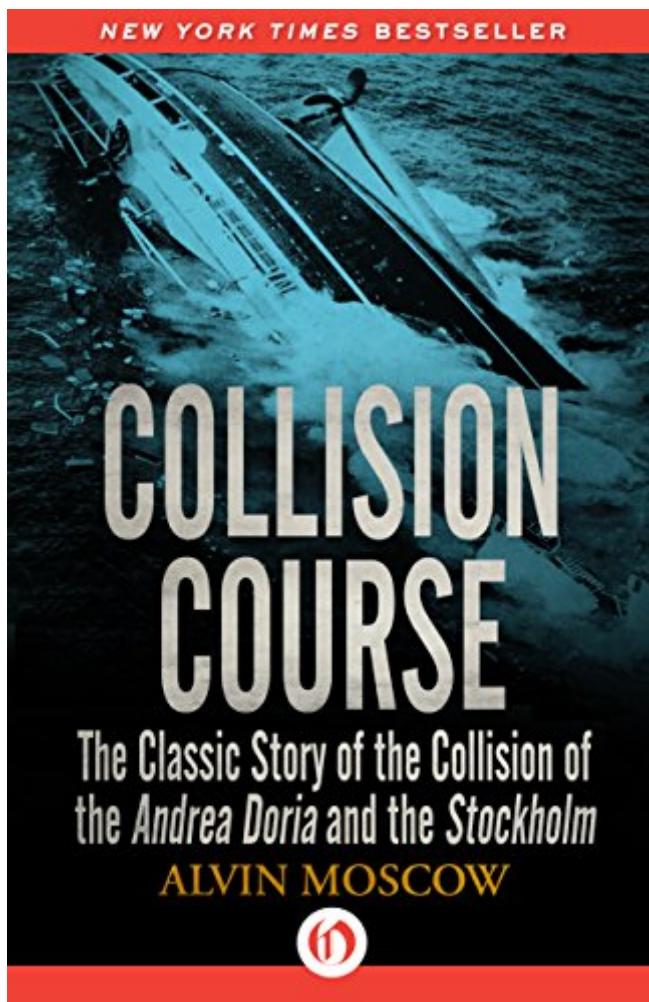


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Collision Course: The Classic Story Of The Collision Of The Andrea Doria And The Stockholm



Synopsis

Hailed by Walter Lord, author of *A Night to Remember*, as a "splendid book," this is the definitive account of the worst maritime disaster of modern times: the improbable collision of two luxury passenger liners in the North Atlantic. One of the largest, fastest, and most beautiful ships in the world, the *Andrea Doria* was on her way to New York from her home port in Genoa. Departing from the United States was the much smaller Stockholm. On the foggy night of July 25, 1956, fifty-three miles southeast of Nantucket, the Stockholm sliced through the *Doria*'s steel hull. Within minutes, the sea was pouring into the Italian liner. Eleven hours later, she capsized and sank into the ocean. Associated Press journalist Alvin Moscow, who covered the court hearings that sought to explain the causes of the tragedy and interviewed all the principals, re-creates with compelling accuracy the actions of the ship's officers and crews, and the terrifying experiences of the *Doria*'s passengers as they struggled to evacuate a craft listing so severely that only half of its lifeboats could be launched. Recounting the heroic, rapid response of other ships which averted a catastrophe of the same scale as that of the *Titanic* and the official inquest, Moscow delivers a fact-filled, fascinating drama of how a supposedly unsinkable ship ended up at the bottom of the sea.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The appeal of disaster stories lies in the details of the how and why but also in learning about the people who are affected. Who was at fault? What steps could have been taken to avert tragedy? What were the consequences? Alvin Moscow attempts to answer these questions in the book Collision Course, which tells the story of the Andrea Doria and the Stockholm, two passenger ships that collided off the coast of Nantucket on July 25, 1956. The Stockholm was outbound from the United States and the Andrea Doria was inbound after a long journey across the Atlantic. As with any good disaster story, the author introduces us to select passengers and crew aboard both ships. The reader also learns about the history of the two ships. Once the author completes those essential tasks, the story is set in motion. There was fog in the area at the time of the collision, but the fog is not the primary factor that led to the disaster. Instead, it was a series of unfortunate decisions by the two captains and their crews. Both ships had radar, which should have rendered fog as nothing more than an inconvenience. But the radars were only as good as the men interpreting the radar returns. The author goes into great detail about who turned in what direction and when, but trying to follow it on the page, without a corresponding map, was difficult. The best I could determine was that both ships were sailing head on, or fairly close to head on, when first detected by radar. The collision was the result of the crews of both ships not fully understanding the intentions and movements of the other. Regardless of who was at fault, once the two ships collide, the story of rescue and survival is as riveting as any of the best disaster stories.

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