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Sharks: and Other Dangers of the Deep

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Mugford, Simon. *Sharks: and Other Dangers of the Deep*. Design by Matt Denny. St. Martin's Press, 2005. ISBN 0312495331. \$9.95. Unpaginated.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informational;

Subject: Sharks--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Readers find themselves closer to dangerous, deep-sea creatures than is comfortable as they read *Sharks: and Other Dangers of the Deep*. The note on the inside cover--"We would like to reassure you that no designers, editors or photographers were eaten during the making of this book!"--sets the stage for an interesting read. The clever design of the book is by Matt Denny. Each page turn reveals a close-up color photograph of a shark or other dangerous sea creature. Important body parts or body features are identified on each photograph.

Twenty-one different sharks and nine other dangerous sea creatures are included (rays, eels, lionfish, jelly fish, porcupine fish, blue-ringed octopus). Each animal is given a "danger rating" from harmless (no jaws) to deadly (five jaws). A small illustration compares each animal's size to that of an adult human. The reader's eyes are drawn to the interesting text which is formatted in a variety of font types and sizes. Important verbs and nouns are highlighted with different colored rectangles. Even the edges of the pages have a colored checkerboard pattern. The thick, glossy, sturdy pages will survive heavy use in the hands of a young reader. The glossary inside the back cover is helpful. This selection will capture the attention of children interested in the sea and the wonders it offers for discovery. This affordable book would be a useful addition for school and home libraries.