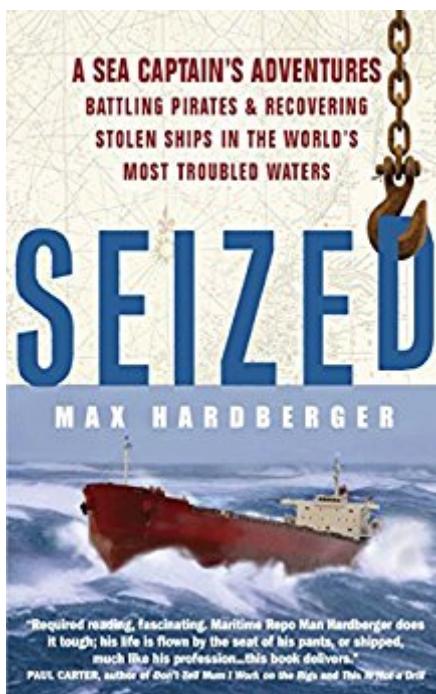


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# Seized!: A Sea Captain's Adventures Battling Pirates And Recovering Stolen Ships In The World's Most Troubled Waters



## **Synopsis**

Capt. Max Hardberger uses every trick, tool and tactic at his disposal to right wrongs and out-pirate pirates in this action-packed exposÃ© of the seedy underworld of international shipping. As a professional ship extractor, he risks death and imprisonment in dangerous third-world ports to steal ships from modern buccaneers and corrupt governments and deliver them back to their rightful owners. In the course of his adventures, he's had to outwit resourceful crime families, subdue armed soldiers, and turn the tables on clever con artists. He's escaped imprisonment in Venezuela and avoided death at the hands of the Russian mafia. Because Max shuns the use of force, the ingenious methods he must use to accomplish his missions are the stuff of legend he's employed a witch doctor in Haiti, tricked armed guards off a ship in Honduras, and rented a brothel in Mexico, all to thwart the designs of ship-thieves. *Seized!* is an intense, fast-paced window on the underbelly of ocean shipping, where all power comes from the barrel of a gun, and the only law is the law of survival.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I read Hardberger's *Freighter Captain* a while back and thought it was excellent, so I was looking forward to *Seized*. Unlike *Freighter Captain*, this book doesn't really seem to have a storyline. Each

chapter follows the same basic plan: A ship is unfairly seized in a third world port. Hardberger agrees to get it out. He travels to the country where the ship is located, he comes up with a clever plan to extract it, spends a night worrying about getting caught and spending the next 20 years in a backwater jail, then the extraction comes off without a hitch, and everyone is happy. There are a couple of variations on this, but not enough to make it worthwhile. When I was about 2/3 of the way through I was just waiting for the end. I respect Hardberger because he's a guy who can actually do something -- captain a freighter -- and he can write pretty well. That's rare combination. But this book ceased to be interesting about half way through. I guess there's something to be said for having a "plot" after all.

This book deals with a subject matter I am very unfamiliar with (ships/shipping, the high seas, etc.). It had the potential to get very confusing with the jargon (I couldn't tell the difference between aft and stern) but the author wrote simply and created suspenseful scenes, especially for the first half of the book. Overall, I learned a lot about a topic which I now find interesting but previously knew nothing about. The only con I would say (and the reason I say good and not great) is that despite there being several different methods of seizing ships, getting through customs, etc., the book is fairly episodic, moving from story to story with little to tie them together. As this is a memoir of sorts, I guess that could be expected, but toward the end I certainly wasn't feeling the irrepressible urge to continue turning the pages. As I said, good book, interesting, a few times had me at the edge of my seat, but towards the end was just a little "meh."

Great condition, shipped quickly. Fantastic read. If you have any interest in modern tales of pirates and corrupt governments and officials and the gray area of life on the open sea you wont do better than this book. I am ordering my next Max Hardberger book now.

My vote for "Most Interesting Man" goes to Max Hardberger. His memoir proves the aphorism that "when it gets dark bad things happen". Max is a self-educated man who became an experienced sea captain, a skilled crop-dusting pilot, and a successful correspondence-schooled lawyer (passing the California Bar in his first attempt) while also earning a world-wide reputation for successfully retrieving vessels stolen or corruptly seized from their rightful owners. His tales of using ruses and stealth to retrieve the vessels are legendary. He loves good beer, but never drinks too much. He remains faithful to his wife by skillfully avoiding the seductive traps of beautiful women. He is an honorable man who performs deeds to do good and not for the reward. He is indeed "The Most

Interesting Man". A fun read, my friend. Recommended.

I met Max in 1976 or 77 while in college; my roommate at the time, Chuck, and Max had been good friends for a number of years. After college, I saw him infrequently for the next few years and probably have not seen him "face to face" since the mid-1990s. I did see our mutual friend fairly regularly until he passed away last year and he always had some kind of story about what Max was up to. Aside from being what I'd call a good, entertaining read, "Seized" filled in a lot of chronological gaps in our friendship for me and put into perspective some of the comments Chuck had made over the years. The stories in "Seized" read exactly the way I would expect based what I personally know about Max's life and on Chuck's recounting of what Max was up during those years when Max and I were out of touch. I can assure you that these stores are based in fact and it is a good account of Max's life. I've seen some comments to the effect that some reviewers might be interested in hearing these stories in person. I can promise you that it would be one of the most interesting and entertaining evenings you could have. I think he is available for those kinds of engagements. You can contact him via maxhardberger dot com.

Composed of a series of informative and exciting port-side tales, this autobiographical report gets a bit redundant at times, yet each subplot is still unique in its own way. The author discloses little of his personal life during the time of his ship extraction exploits, but it gradually comes out bit by bit and ends on a dramatic note. I wasn't rivited by the book, but I still found myself missing it once I'd finished reading it. I am glad I'd bought and read it, and I still reflect on it often.

Loved it. Good read.

Not your normal Merchant Marine story-see cargo, load cargo, sail ship, discharge, rinse and repeat until retirement or your liver needs replacement. Plenty of interest around vessel extractions and the bidness end of da bidness. Max is the first guy to ever make stories including survey work even mildly interesting. Took me a little time to figure out if this was a novel or an autobiographical, but a fun run through a different life/lifestyle.

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