

# Deep Waters

US : 1948 : dir. Henry King : 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox : 86 min  
 prod: Samuel G Engel : scr: Richard Murphy : dir.ph.: Joseph La Shelle  
[Dean Stockwell](#) .....  
 Dana Andrews; Jean Peters; Cesar Romero; Ann Revere; Ed Begley; Leona Powers;  
 Mae Marsh; Will Geer; Bruno Wick; Cliff Clark; Harry Tyler; Raymond Greenleaf

| Ref: | Pages | Sources | Stills | Words | Ω | □ | € | Z | ⚡ | Copy on VHS | Last Viewed |
|------|-------|---------|--------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|-------------|
| 5279 | 2½    | 5       | 2      | 734   | 3 | - | - | 3 | - | No          | Unseen      |



*Dean and Dana – lobsters and a social worker brought them together. (Andrews was a short actor, so judge for yourself how small Stockwell was at twelve years old)*  
 Source: *Those Endearing Young Charms*

**Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide**  
 2001 review:

"Slick, empty tale of fisherman Andrews and landlubber Peters brought together by cute little Stockwell. \*\* "

**Spelfilm Encyclopedie** review - identical to above

**Halliwell's Film Guide** review

"A problem orphan boy is content when adopted by a lobster fisherman. Forgettable family film, smoothly directed and photographed."

**Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89**  
 review:

"Maine fishing village girl wants man to work on shore. Man likes fishing. An orphan is

taken care of by girl but likes to fish with man.  
Pretty shallow. \*\* ”

**The Films of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox comment:**

“Set in Maine and dealing with the lives of lobster fishermen, the story concerns an orphan (Dean Stockwell) who is placed in the home of a woman (Anne Revere) and causes trouble by stealing. A state welfare worker (Jean Peters) makes herself responsible for him, which brings him into contact with her boyfriend, a lobsterman (Dana Andrews), who takes a liking to the boy. The friendship between the two gives the boy substance, and he in turn promotes the romance between the girl and the lobsterman. Light on story but well photographed on location in Maine and revealing facets of life among the seafaring people.”

**Those Endearing Young Charms note:**

“This movie, based on the novel "Spoon-handle", deals with a Maine lobster fisherman and a salty young orphan between which a deep friendship develops. Dean portrays the young orphan with Dana Andrews starring as the fisherman.”

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "A Pictorial History of the Talkies", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Stockwell at it again, and although on the one hand the script – based on the novel “Spoonhandle” by Ruth Moore – employs him as a light-fingered Eros bringing together hero and heroine, on the other hand it is she (Anne Revere) who is the unwitting mechanism bringing Stockwell and Andrews together. For although there was never any suggestion of hanky-panky, Dean Stockwell was cast time and again in these tales of masculine man/boy bonding, in which women were nodded at to reassure us of the proprieties, but all the emotional intensity was homosocial. See for further example “**DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS**” (John Barrymore-Stockwell-Richard Widmark), “**KIM**” (Paul Lukas-Stockwell-Errol Flynn) and “**CATTLE DRIVE**” (Leon Ames-Stockwell-Joel McCrea). Heterosexual audiences may feel free to ignore these undercurrents, naturally, but that’s a risky policy in deep waters, I believe.

From another angle, both “**DOWN TO THE SEA**” and “**CATTLE DRIVE**” were obvious attempts to repeat the successful formula of “**CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS**”, just as there were numerous attempts by various studios to repeat the formula of “**THE CHAMP**” under various thin disguises. “**DEEP WATERS**” merely continues the briny theme, but with Dana Andrews not the most plausible casting choice as a salty-knuckled lobster fisherman.

Stockwell was now a 12-year old Cupid, in the year he made “**THE BOY WITH GREEN HAIR**” and “**GENTLEMAN’S AGREEMENT**”, for which he won the Golden Globe award for “Outstanding Juvenile Performance of the Year”. His diminutive stature (if that’s not an oxymoron) worked greatly to his benefit in prolonging his bankability as a boy star. “**CATTLE DRIVE**” at 15 was his swansong, after which he took a long sabbatical to complete his education, returning to the screen at 21 a leaner, nervier type, and a very marked contrast to the sultry cherub he had been.

See subject index under **BOATS & FISHING, MATCHMAKERS / MATCHBREAKERS, ORPHANS / ADOPTION, POLICE / SOCIAL WORKERS** and **SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS**.