

ACTIVITY: Diving / modeling

CASE: [GSAF 2006.10.00.b](#)

DATE: October 2006

LOCATION: The incident took place off Nassau, New Providence Island, Bahamas.

NAME: Renata Foucre

DESCRIPTION: She is a 26-year-old female, a model from San Francisco. She was wearing a flowing nightgown covered in sequins that “sparkled like small silvery small fry,” according to Nassau shark specialist David Eads.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: For the past six years, Todd Essick has been publishing photos of women swimming with dolphins, moray eels, barracudas, stingrays and other marine species. Other than a hickey-like bite from a stingray, none of his models have ever been injured. On this occasion, he was working on a new coffee-table book of women interacting with marine life. The models may free-dive as deep as 50 feet, breathing from a nearby helper's tank. They do not use face masks; they open their eyes while underwater in order the images look natural.



Renata Foucre

NARRATIVE: Renata Foucre was one of the models on a photo shoot with Essick. Foucre was supposed to look like a ghostly but festive figure on the bow of a sunken freighter. “As soon as she got in, the sharks were coming much closer than on the previous days,” Essick said.

“I felt something clamp down on my foot, so I calmly headed for the surface,” said Foucre. “I knew it was a shark because I saw their shadows and one bumped my foot before the other one bit me.”

It was thought that the shark mistook the sequins on her gown for a school of small fish and inadvertently bit Foucre’s foot in the process; the shark made a single bite, then released her.

INJURY: Foucre sustained 22 puncture wounds on her left foot. “There are bruises around each puncture wound, lined up from my toes to the ankle,” she said.

TREATMENT: It is also not known if any sutures were required, but Foucre was given a prescription for antibiotics.

SPECIES: Not identified, but a six-foot shark became entangled in the fishnet costume wore by one of the other models on the shoot, Missy Kehoe from Boca Ratan. Ms. Kehoe was not injured by the shark.

SOURCE: Jose Lambiet, Palm Beach Post, Sunday 22 October 2006



Renata Foucre, just seconds before the shark bit her.



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A six-foot shark became entangled in the fishnet costume worn by Missy Kehoe.



Sea Siren by Todd Essick



Todd Essick



Goddess Wilks Among the Clouds © TODD ESSICK.com 2009

Jellyfish Lake Palau SAM'S TOURS.COM



TODD ESSICK
Photographs

American photographer **TODD ESSICK** worked as a professional freelance photojournalist out of Miami, Florida for the better part of a decade, he covered daily news, sports and special interest stories, including drug and refugee interdiction in the Caribbean, riots in Miami, civil war in Central America and the Olympics. He has tackled some of the most intense and challenging assignments possible, primarily while freelancing for the Associated Press.



A diving career spanning 30 years and making thousands of dives, Todd Essick nurtured his love of the sea and the connection we all have with it. His vision, to share this with everyone, has become his continuing underwater fine art photographic project; **Goddesses, Sirens and Mermaids**.

His award winning underwater fine art photography has been published around the world and collected in his book *Beginnings; Goddesses, Sirens and Mermaids*. Many collectors prize his limited edition photographs. In 2005 **Unterwasser Magazine** in Germany named Mr. Essick one of the top ten underwater photographers in the world.

In 2009 Mr. Essick was invited as a guest photographer for **Germany's Next Top Model** with Heidi Klum, one of the highest rated TV shows in Germany. His on going study of women interacting with animals underwater continues with works that have included sharks in the Bahamas, and Jellyfish in Palau.

TODD ESSICK
Photographs

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