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## SISTERS AGAINST THE SEA **REPRINT**

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE VILLAGE OF  
HALLSANDS, DEVON AND THE REMARKABLE  
STORY OF A FAMILY WHO SURVIVED

*Ruth and Frank Milton*

This is a fascinating story based around the lives of four Devon women. It is also the true account of a man-made environmental disaster that caused the destruction of an entire fishing village on the Devon coast. It tells through the words of family members and personal photographs how these remarkable women, and the community of Hallsands, witnessed the complete destruction of their homes in the face of indifference from local authorities and government. Ultimately it is a compelling saga of bravery, fortitude and determination: the story of *Sisters Against the Sea*.

Prior to 1897 the fishing village of Hallsands, nestling beneath the cliffs in Start Bay on the South Devon coast, was little known to the wider world. Then the peaceful and idyllic lives of the fishermen and their families were changed overnight when tons of shingle were removed from their foreshore by huge steam-powered dredgers providing concrete for an extension to the Royal Naval Dockyard at Plymouth. Immediately the fishermen protested that this shortsighted interference with nature would result in the encroachment of the sea, loss of their fishing grounds, and damage to their homes during storms. Alas, their protests went unheeded until it was too late, resulting in the eventual destruction of the village during a fierce easterly gale in 1917. Overnight the villagers became homeless and their plight became headline news.

With the death her husband, who had fought the authorities to maintain his traditional way of life, Eliza Anne Trout and her four daughters Patience, Ella, Clara and Edith faced a bleak and uncertain future. Despite great hardship these extraordinary women started rebuilding their lives. This is their story.

Much has been written about the Trout sisters, yet sadly many accounts have contained inaccuracies. As close relatives – Frank Milton is the son of Clara – the authors **Ruth and Frank Milton** wanted to set the record straight once and for all. The purpose of this book is to tell the real and remarkable story of the four daughters of Eliza Anne Trout.



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- Chapter 3 ***William and Eliza Anne***
- Chapter 4 ***The Coming of the Dredger***
- Chapter 5 ***Storms and Destruction***
- Chapter 6 ***Hard Times***
- Chapter 7 ***The End of an Era***
- Chapter 8 ***Ella's Gallant Rescue***
- Chapter 9 ***A New Beginning***
- Chapter 10 ***Their Home on the Cliff Top***
- Chapter 11 ***The Sweet Pleasures of Success***
- Chapter 12 ***Consolidation***
- Chapter 13 ***The Glorious Thirties***
- Chapter 14 ***A Chronicle of Rescues***
- Chapter 15 ***The Second World War***
- Chapter 16 ***The Great Venture***
- Chapter 17 ***Fight the Good Fight***
- Chapter 18 ***Full Circle***



*The ruined village after the 1917 storm.*



*Ella, standing beside their ruined home, 1917.*



*Fishermen in the centre of the village, c.1900.*



*Ella and Patience during the 1920s. Behind them is the hut which was their temporary home.*



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