



Flirting with Mermaids: The Unpredictable Life of a Sailboat Delivery Skipper

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Over the course of twenty years of delivering sailboats to far-flung quaysides, John Kretschmer has had innumerable adventures, both humorous and terrifying. In *Flirting with Mermaids*, he recounts the most memorable of them. He crosses the Western Caribbean with a crew of eccentric Swedes researching ancient Mayan mariners, lands in Aden at the outbreak of civil war, and endures a North Atlantic crossing during which he discovers the existence of Force 13 winds. Approaching Japan at the end of a particularly trying delivery, he finds himself sailing in "a high impact debris zone," but his resolve is unshaken. "If a piece of rocketship jetsam fell out of the sky and sank [me] after encounters with Hurricane Floyd, General Noriega, a tsunami, an erupting volcano, and Typhoon Roy, then it was meant to be."

Flirting with Mermaids: The Unpredictable Life of a Sailboat Delivery Skipper Details

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Author : John Kretschmer

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Suzanne Pixley says

Flirting with Mermaids

Love all of John Kretschmers books. He makes you feel as though you're sitting across from him as he recounts one of his older stories or else on the boat as you're sailing somewhere across the world's oceans. Be prepared to learn sailing lingo, all about winds, navigation, course setting and secrets of the ocean--all from the comforts of your arm chair.

William Graney says

At times I felt like I was in the boat, which to me is the mark of excellent sailing narratives, and other times it seemed like a list of departures and destinations. The author comes off as a good guy and an excellent sailor.

Becca Guillote says

A quippy book about the life of a delivery captain. It is told in a conversational manner, which is certainly not everybody's cup of tea. It's a quick read, I started and finished it on a travel day. I enjoyed (and can relate to) some of John's accounts of the struggles involved with passages and boat deliveries, though by his 5th hurricane I was starting to think he was cursed by the weather gods... worth picking up if you've lived or contemplated a life at sea.

Alvana says

Well written. Enjoyable to read for even someone (like me) who doesn't understand all the sailing lingo. The author has been all over the world and it was a nice overview of a lot of foreign ports. I had to keep an atlas with me so I could keep track of where he was... the location changed with almost every chapter! I would recommend it to anyone who's looking for a non-fiction book that still manages to be fun.

Carol says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I felt like I was on the boat, sometimes thrilled, often petrified! Well written, humorously told, yet often had me shaking in my boots.

Tim says

As a captain myself, I enjoyed seeing that others experience similar issues. He did have a knack for things breaking for sure. He's a great story-teller. I've read "At the Mercy of the Sea" which shows his maturity as a writer many years on from this book. All-in-all, a fun read that left me wanting more.

Sherri Brown says

At first, I found the personality of the author of this autobiographical work a bit overbearing and arrogant and full of himself. As I read through the book, he became more likable. Somewhat of a maverick myself, and also a sailor who lives aboard and travels on a cutter-rigged sailboat part of the year, I can fully appreciate the stories. Because I do not make a living sailing, I have not put myself in the conditions that the author has, nor would I like to. I think it is more fun to read about the grueling and scary incidents woven into tales of adventure than to live them myself.

Cottero says

This was my second read of this book, having read it several years ago. This book has excitement, romance and sailing techniques. I enjoyed this book primarily because I would like to live Kretshmer's life for a year.

Mr. Wakiki says

Sometimes you read a book and think...blah... which is the case from this book... more so I woke up thinking --- who was this book written for? in this case not me. The premise was the author was telling his new girlfriend his past as they start a new relationship... in the course of the book the girlfriend becomes pregnant (there is no sex, but what is assumed), they get married and they have a baby girl at the end...which actually might be a better story..

For some others the adventures at sea that are the main part of the book might be the best part of the book if it was told as if it was for me, not the girlfriend, wife, mother of child.

Nadine says

That was a fun book. I love that it seems no matter where or who - the stories are so very relatable if you do water and boats.

Christine says

A love story disguise as a book on sailing.

You start out thinking you are reading the typical book of adventure on sailing by a delivery captain. But I guess saying you are a delivery captain is a pretty good pick up line.

It is very sweet story. I would it is a chick story but I sent it to a guy friend and he loved the book too... so not strictly for girls.

Carol says

While this author is not going to win any literary awards, his stories are enthralling and enjoyable. I almost gave this four stars--maybe it was the adventure subject matter, or that I could relate to some of his boating tales. Who knows? I just plain liked it.

John says

Enjoyable recount of several yacht deliveries gone... well just the way things go!

Susanna says

I really enjoyed this take on cruising. It's more than just another book by just another sailor telling his/her tales of traveling on a boat. The fact that this guy is a delivery captain adds a whole new dimension. Loved hearing how he MacGyvered his way through some pretty hairy situations. And relating stories to the reader as a sort of "conversation" to his mate was an original approach. Made for a fun, light read. That said, he could have used a better editor.

Kathy says

This is a fun read of true adventure stories by the author, a sailboat delivery captain for twenty years. I had no idea so many things could go wrong on a boat! Or on land, for that matter; check out the chapter describing Mr. Kretschmer's innocent blundering into a civil war upon arrival off Aden, a seaport city in Yemen. Throw in a few hurricanes, fascinating ports of call all over the world, sudden failure of important boat parts, and innumerable quirky characters who sign onto a trip for "bluewater experience" and you have a highly entertaining book. In the descriptions involving battles with severe weather, it would have helped if I'd been familiar with sailing terminology however.
