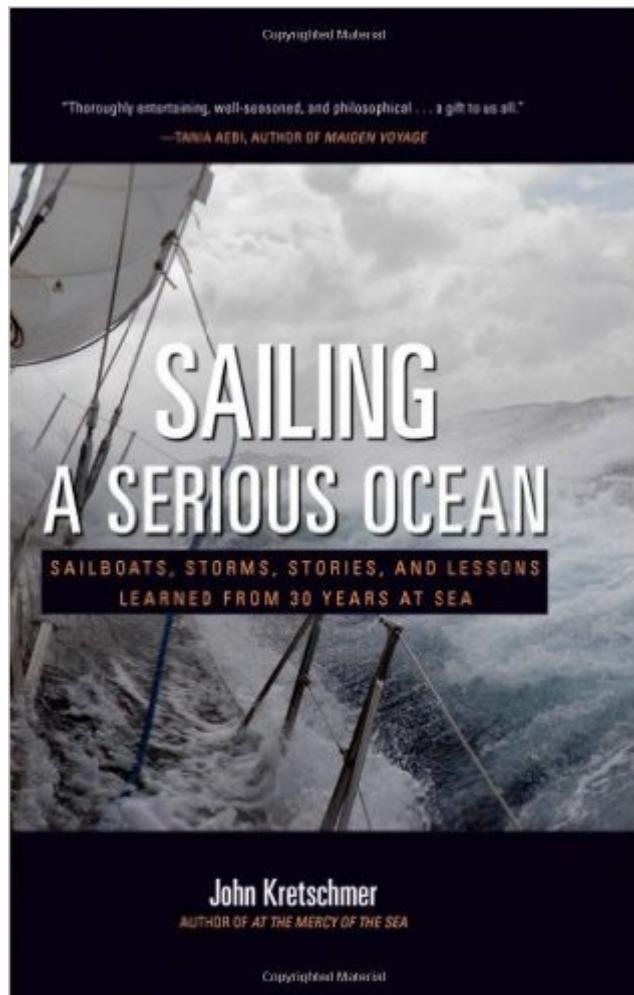


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Sailing A Serious Ocean: Sailboats, Storms, Stories And Lessons Learned From 30 Years At Sea



Synopsis

"I know you'll want to read more after you finish Sailing a Serious Ocean. And be warned, you'll very likely want to sail with John, perhaps across an ocean." -- DALLAS MURPHY, AUTHOR OF ROUNDING THE HORN After sailing 300,000 miles and weathering dozens of storms in all the world's oceans, John Kretschmer has plenty of stories and advice to share. John's offshore training passages sell out a year in advance and his entertaining presentations are popular at boat shows and yacht clubs all over the English speaking world. John's talent for storytelling enchants his audience as it soaks up the lessons he learned during his oftenchallenging voyages. Now you can take a seat next to John--at a lesser cost--and get the knowledge you need to fulfill your own dream of blue-water adventure. In Sailing a Serious Ocean, John tells you what to expect when sailing the oceans and shows how to sail safely across them. His tales of storm encounters and other examples of extreme seamanship will help you prepare for your journey and give you confidence to handle any situationâ•even heavy weather. Through his personal stories, John will guide you through the whole process of choosing the right boat, outfitting with the right gear, planning your route, navigating the ocean, and understanding the nuances of life at sea. Our oceans are beautiful yet unpredictableâ•water that is at one moment a natural mirror for the glowing sun can turn into a foamy, raging wall of fury. John knows our oceans, and he is one of the best teachers of taming and enjoying them. Before you set off across the big blue, turn to John for his inspirational stories and hard-learned advice and discover the serious sailor in you.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sailing a Serious Ocean is John Kretschmer's memoir about 30 years of sailing as a delivery boat captain and off-shore passage instructor. Along the way, Kretschmer tries to teach about not just passage making, but also how to evaluate and buy a boat for such an adventure, what to do when the ocean becomes "serious", and recommends other books for deeper reading about storm tactics and so forth. But the real reason to buy and read this book is the stories, because while Kretschmer's an experienced sailor and probably a good instructor, he's a lousy technical writer. Every chapter of the book's anchored by one or several anecdotes or stories. These are really exciting and impressive. When you set out specifically to teach off-shore passage making, your intention is to expose your crew mates (and yourself) to heavy weather sailing. The net result is that you're intentionally making poor sailing decisions like leaving port as a storm is starting. While Krestchmer doesn't go out of the way to tell you how harrowing the passage is, the events that happen tell the story. In every case, there's at least one incident which causes a flooded cockpit. In some cases, the hatch into the cabin was left open so the living space gets a deluge of water as well. (Kretschmer provides good reason as to why this was the case, so he's not entirely an incompetent skipper) In one story, he tells of a daughter whose father is swept off the boat by a massive wave, and she can do nothing but watch as he drowns as she is unable to pull him back aboard. With reasonable humility, Kretschmer observes that he was more lucky than good: the other boat simply was at the wrong place at the wrong time.

This book chronicles John Kretschmer's adventures offering offshore training passages to all levels of recreational sailors. I've had the good fortune to sail with John on five separate adventures. You can't sail with John without becoming his friend. He embraces sailing and being on the water in the same way a virtuoso probably lives just to perform the next sold out concert. He is passionate about sailing the way an artist is completely consumed by her craft. If you like to sail, and you wouldn't be in a boat with Kretschmer if this weren't the case, then you can't help but be drawn in by the force of his personality and his passion for the sea. John is one of a kind. He can write as well as he sails. He's also the only person on earth who can welcome five to seven strangers onto his boat week after week and give each one the feeling that there's nothing he'd rather be doing than going sailing with them. Kretschmer's uniqueness comes across loud and clear in this wonderful book--part memoir, part advanced sailing guide, part homage to the sheer magnificence of a life lived on the water (and the joy that comes from being able to share this experience with other sailors). This book has stories for everyone, whether you're a sailor or not. Although it's hard to pick out just one favorite section, I enjoyed the chapter on Storm Stories immensely. Each chronicle is both an

entertaining nail-biter and a inventory of potentially lifesaving tips for the offshore sailor. It's amazing to see how detailed John's recollection of storm events are that occurred decades ago. Obviously he's preserved his logs from those many voyages and he's able to look back on earlier decisions and actions with the benefit of hindsight (and the wisdom and self-knowledge that comes with experience and age).

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