

# A Mariner's Tale

JOE PALMER

## DESCRIPTION

For ten years, the partially completed sailboat Jeff Merkel started building with his wife and son sits gathering dust, until his lingering sorrow drives him to finish it alone. Enter a young hoodlum who breaks into the marina and seriously damages the boat for no apparent reason but misplaced rage. When the county sheriff arrives with the boy, the aging mariner sees a lost soul, and begs the sheriff and judge to release the boy into his custody to work off his punishment. Margie Waller, a beautiful, fiercely independent and wealthy divorcee with a yacht in need of repairs, arrives soon after and finds herself attracted to the brooding Merkel. When a deadly hurricane takes aim at Morgan's Island, it threatens to destroy everything just as the relationships between the three dispirited characters begin to yield fruit.

Woven around the tranquility and bliss of sailing fair winds and gentle seas, *A Mariner's Tale* is a love story wrapped in the question that everyone, not just sailors, asks themselves: "This is where I am. There is where I yearn to be. How do I navigate my course to get there?"

## KEY SELLING POINTS

- An appeal to both men and women readers
- Crossover literary/commercial fiction
- Book club fiction
- Classic themes of the healing power of nature
- Themes of loss, hope, and redemption
- A love story that isn't treacly sweet or overcooked
- A coming of age story.
- A story about the necessity of forgiveness.
- A story about the necessity of letting go of a hurtful past and old ghosts.
- A story that will appeal to late teens and adults, races, colors, creeds and genders.

## MARKETING

- The author will have active accounts on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. They plan to advertise heavily on social media with an author branded website.
- The author has hired a marketing director and publicist.
- The author plans to attend book festivals to promote the book.

## AUTHOR BIO

Joe Palmer is an award-winning former newspaper reporter and longtime columnist, whose folksy column, Cup of Joe, ran for ten years in the *Fernandina Beach News-Leader* with a large and enthusiastic following. He's written investigative reporting and feature stories for the *Bradenton Herald*, *Macon Telegraph and News* and the *Florida Times-Union*. A Navy veteran and medical corpsman, he went on to work as a surgeon's assistant at St. Vincent's Medical in Jacksonville, while attending college for this BA from the University of North Florida. He parlayed his investigative experience into a twenty-year career as an investigator for the Federal Public Defender's Office. A sailor, he got the idea for his debut novel while working on an antique sailboat that he and his wife painstakingly restored.



**Publisher:** Koehler Books

**Distributor:** Ingram

**PUB DATE:** 10/25/2020

**SOFT COVER:** \$18.95, 978-1-64663-143-8

**HARD COVER:** \$27.95, 978-1-64663-145-2

**EBOOK:** \$7.99, 978-1-64663-144-5

**TRIM:** 6"x 9", 298 pages

**FICTION:** Literary/Commercial

## AUDIENCE

- Men and women.
- Those from broken homes, abusive relationships, failed marriages and a deep sense of grief or loss in their lives.
- Those who love and appreciate the beauty of the great outdoors, especially those in coastal regions.
- Anyone who loves the sea and estuarine environment, including fishing enthusiasts.
- Sailors, those who love sailboats and work on them
- People who live in, work in or have ever been around boatyards and marinas
- Hispanic readers
- Social workers, lawyers, judges and others familiar with the criminal justice system.
- Irish readers both here or in Ireland
- Anyone who's ever been endangered by hurricanes or other devastating storms.

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