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 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE PR Contact: Shari Stauch**

#  PHOTOS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST sharistauch@gmail.com

#  843.834.1872

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**Debut Novelist Delivers Heart to A Mariner’s Tale**

***A Mariner’s Tale by Joe Palmer Sets Course Towards A Sea of Readers***

FERNANDINA BEACH, FL – October 1, 2020: Debut author Joe Palmer has already gleaned the praise of best-selling authors for his debut novel, **A Mariner’s Tale**, releasing from Koehler Books on October 25, 2020 (ISBN 9781646631452, 300 pgs):

“*A stunning debut: a seafaring novel rich with lush imagery and colorful* characters from an exciting new voice in Southern fiction. With deft narrative skill, the author takes the protagonist, a cynical middle-aged mariner, and his protege, a troubled young man, on a voyage of self-discovery.”– [***Cassandra King, bestselling author of*Tell Me a Story: My Life with Pat Conroy**](https://cassandrakingconroy.com/)

“Hard-edged and gripping.  An intriguing mix of hope and fear.  Fans of Pat Conroy’s evocative novels are going to love this stirring debut.” [***– Steve Berry, New York Times bestselling author of The Warsaw Protocol***](https://steveberry.org/)

*“A richly rendered story scented with sea spray and filled with salty characters seeking grace, mercy and second chances. Palmer writes with heart and authenticity, bringing to life an unforgettable crew worthy of the love and redemption we each hope to find in this life.”* ***–***[***Nicole Seitz, author of The Cage-Maker***](https://nicoleseitz.com/)

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

Joe Palmer’s book tour, growing with both live and virtual stops scheduled across the southeast, launches October 25, 2020, at the Amelia Musical Playhouse in Joe’s hometown of Fernandina Beach, Florida. He will also make a special guest appearance as a panelist at this year’s Pat Conroy Literary Festival in Beaufort, SC November 7th.

Visit <https://joepalmerauthor.com/> for details.

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**About Joe Palmer**

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 parlayed his investigative experience into a twenty-year career as an investigator for the Federal Public Defender's Office. An avid sailor, Joe got the idea for his debut novel while working on an antique sailboat that he and his wife painstakingly restored.

210 60th Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 • 800-435-4811 • [www.koehlerbooks.com](http://www.koehlerbooks.com)