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Caught By The Sea: My Life On Boats (Turtleback School & Library Binding Edition)



Synopsis

FOR USE IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ONLY. Falling in love with the ocean set Gary Paulsen on a lifelong learning curve, and readers will understand why his passion has lasted to this day.

Book Information

School & Library Binding: 112 pages

Publisher: Turtleback Books (September 9, 2003)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Celebrated outdoorsman-turned-author Gary Paulsen relates his lifelong romance with open water to teen readers with this short and salty memoir, *Caught by the Sea: My Life on Boats*. Paulsen packs adventure into every sentence of this 100-page book. He grabs our attention within the first few pages with a shocking childhood memory of watching from the safety of a troopship as sharks attacked plane-wreck victims. Strangely, this doesn't scare Paulsen off as much as it challenges him to conquer the ocean's power. He remembers disastrous first sailing attempts, unsteady vessels, and frightening tropical storms that reminded him of his frail mortality. Still, he fondly recalls that every boat he ever knew had valuable lessons to impart: "To show me the sea. To show me myself. And never, ever look back." Though some of the stories are told out of context, and he often takes for granted that his audience has some background knowledge of shipboard vocabulary, fans of Paulsen's wildly popular survivor tales will no doubt be caught by this one as well. (Ages 12 and older) --Jennifer Hubert --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Gr 7 Up-On the coattails of *Guts* (Delacorte, 2001) comes another collection of Paulsen's

autobiographical vignettes, this time about sailing. His love for the sea began at age seven, aboard a troopship headed to the Philippine Islands. A plane crashed into the water and Paulsen watched as sharks attacked the women and children. Though gruesome, the account is typical of the author's unaffected, matter-of-fact writing style. The rest of the stories are dull in comparison, however, as Paulsen chronicles his experiences with various sailboats over the years. He tries to define the sailing terminology as he uses it, but it is complicated stuff for landlubbers. His writing is adult in tone and he often looks back and reflects on his adventures. The passages about food, reminiscent of those in *Father Water*, *Mother Woods* (Doubleday, 1995), are better. When he describes the taste of double-stuffed Oreo cookies, readers taste them, too. It is quintessential Paulsen to describe the number one law of the sea: "If given a chance a container of oatmeal will open, mix with a container of coffee grounds, further combine itself with eight or ten gallons of sea water and then find its way into your sleeping bag." At book's end, Paulsen refers to his age and current heart condition but dangles a carrot in front of readers about a sailing trip around Cape Horn. Stay tuned. Vicki Reutter, Cazenovia High School, NY Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

I bought this book for my daughter to read, on her request. She had read another book by this same author and really enjoyed it. That book was called *Hatchet*. She didn't get into this book like she did the other. We ended up donating it to the school library.

Paulsen's non-fiction rivals his outstanding fiction! All his books range from good to outstanding. I can't stop reading his work!

Wonderful but not as much depth as the *Hatchet* Series or *Winter Dance*. To me, it seemed like a filler book without much meat. Still it was an enjoyable read from an author that has a true gift for writing. His words move like butter over warm toast.

A lively memoir for all ages/levels, and one of the most successful books I've found for ESL with adults, especially those who know something about sailing. What I didn't expect, though probably should have, was that because Paulsen's prose is so direct, and lyrical at just the right moments, it inspired enthusiastic writing from students who'd otherwise been reluctant to pen anything.

As a sailor, I found it be an easy fun read. Some laugh out loud segments.

Very short book by a great author about his own experience learning to sail. A copy should come with every sailboat.

What's not to like about a Gary Paulsen story, unless you wanted more length to the book! He is a fantastic writer that makes you feel like you're right there with him as he shares his extraordinary adventures.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this novel.

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