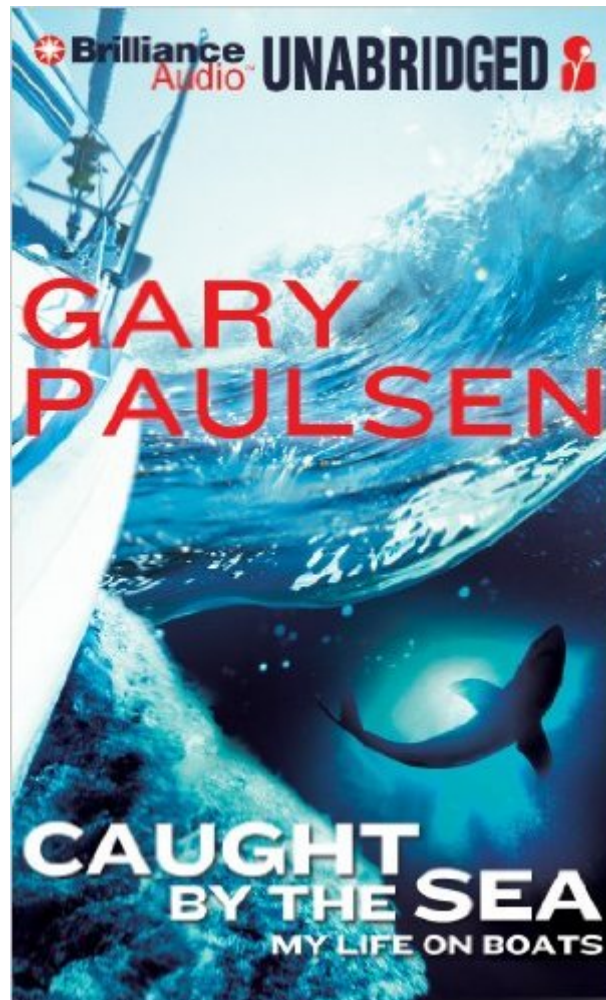


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# Caught By The Sea: My Life On Boats



## Synopsis

Another such wave could easily be the end of us. I had to do something, fix something, save the boat, save myself. But what? Gary Paulsen takes listeners along on his maiden voyage, proving that ignorance can be bliss. Also really stupid and incredibly dangerous. He tells of boats that owned him, good, bad, and beloved, and how they got him through terrifying storms that he survived by sheer luck. His spare prose conjures up shark surprises and killer waves as well as moonlight on the sea, and makes listeners feel what it's like to sail under the stars or to lie at anchor in a tropical lagoon where dolphins leap, bathed in silver. Falling in love with the ocean set Gary Paulsen on a lifelong learning curve, and listeners will understand why his passion has lasted to this day. Slashes of humor help weather the rough seas in this memoir that will appeal to reluctant readers and boaters of all ages. "Voice of Youth Advocates, starred

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Caught by the Sea written by Shahd El-Khatib Gary Paulsen In Gary Paulsen's book he learns to keep trying and never give up on your dream. I choose this book for many reasons for the first reason I love to read books about journeys on sea and of all the tough obstacle courses they have to go through. I have read another book by Gary Paulsen, Hatchet, I really enjoyed this book and I love how Gary adds great detail that makes you feel you are right there with the character. He also uses great descriptive words that help you see the pictures in your head. Gary has always wanted to own a boat and by wanting this he has to learn about the sea and how to sail. Though Gary has never sailed a boat before he decides to buy his own boat and go on an adventure. By

experimenting and trying everything on the boat he learns what many things on the boat do. When having a boat, the boat is not the most important thing to know about, you have to learn about the sea and winds. When sailing Gary notices the water gets very still but without knowledge he just thinks the water has calmed down but he was wrong, it was a big sign that a huge storm was coming. Gary is faced with a huge storm and has to try his best to survive it. Every experience or accident on the boat really helped Gary out. He gets to learn from his mistakes and never does them again. When he got in the storm he notices that next time he should pull up on his sails and stay calm. Gary also should be equipped with all the materials he needs during a storm, and also to learn how to sail a boat. When buying his boat Gary knows that a lot of people try to trick you into buying a very bad boat for a high price, Gary figures out he has to check the boats very carefully. "Another such wave could easily be the end of us. I had to do something, fix something, save the boat, save myself. But what"?. This statement shows you how Gary felt during the storm he didn't feel confident that he would make it alive. "That if you take a plank of wood from the ship it would sink". When shopping for boats Gary is faced with thieves trying to steal his money. "I met several people who wanted to help me sail a boat" many people were willing to spend their time and make sure Gary was okay sailing the boat by himself. "Calm winds, their must be a storm coming". Gary knows more about the sea so now he can predict when storms are coming. Confident is a great word to describe Gary. He believes he knows a lot and is willing to perform any task. One of the biggest things that Gary learns is to always try his best and never give up. He has to be willing try his best even if he is in the worse situation in the world (sea storm). Gary also figures that you have to always be prepared for anything that might come across you. Gary knows he should have first learned how to sail the boat before he went on his first voyage. He also believes that it is possible for him to accomplish anything he wants to.

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.

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.

Talk about an opening! Gary Paulsen certainly understands that to keep someone reading, you have to hook them first. On the very first page I had to STOP----just to verify that this was indeed nonfiction. It begins with the author as a seven-year-old being smuggled (because of infectious-stage chicken pox) onto a troopship heading for the Philippines. The next thing you know, his mother is leading him to the deck to watch a "plane full of people" about to crash near the ship. I won't tell you what happens next (this enticement delivered without schadenfreude), except that it made me wonder why his mother summoned him to witness such horror. (Perhaps she couldn't have imagined.) As Paulsen is an amazingly prolific writer of (mostly) children's/YA fiction (and many reviews for this book are written by kids), this may have been intended for tween/teens. The first quarter of the book did give me that impression, until he commenced with one heart-stopping experience after another. (Funny, though---after one seemingly life-or-death situation he writes, "Had I done nothing but crawled down inside the boat and sucked my thumb---which had occurred to me---I would probably have survived just fine." As much as I enjoyed this (his humble ignorance is so endearing) I would have to recommend his "Winterdance" to anyone unfamiliar with the author. ("Caught by the Sea..." is for AFTER you've fallen in love with Paulsen, and want to know more about him.) "Winterdance" is his account of running the Iditarod (and please believe me, you will love it even if you have no interest in the Iditarod). It's a half-day's read that is fascinating, terrifying, and hilarious. (One part had me laughing almost as much as when Jill Clayburgh tried to hack off her strap-on in "Never Again.") If you only read one book by Paulsen, let it be "Winterdance." Unfortunately, it is unavailable on kindle. There IS a "Summary and Study Guide" available----which begs the question----whatever for? (What's next---CliffsNotes for comic books?)

What a neat book!!'d almost given up on Gary Paulsen autobiographical books after reading his motorcycle-themed book. But yes, Gary shows here he can write an engaging book about his past. With a wry, understated sense of humor, he takes us through his experiences with boats -- from the first time he was entranced with the sea, to his future plans. He tells stories of events that most authors would rather forget -- from his initial brash overconfidence, almost getting "taken" by a fast-talking boat salesperson, and how he came close to death several times through lack of knowledge and clues about sea conditions that would be obvious to experienced sailors. This book is even interesting reading for adults who want to know more about Gary Paulsen. The title has a nice twist to it -- Paulsen writes how the sea "caught" him in the sense of being his captivated by the sea, and how the sea several times "caught" him in the sense of almost killing him.

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.

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