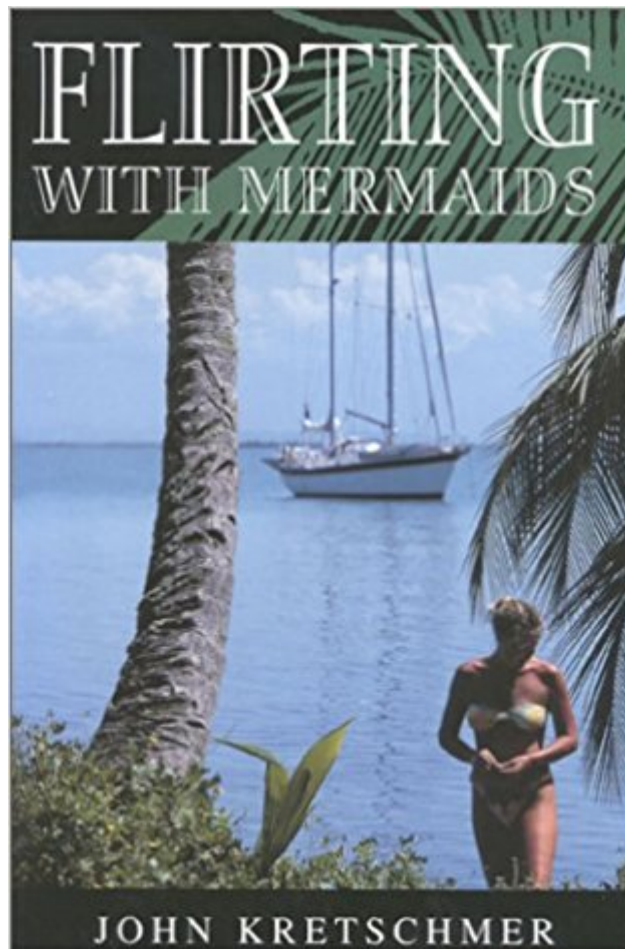




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# Flirting With Mermaids: The Unpredictable Life Of A Sailboat Delivery Skipper



## Synopsis

In fifteen years of making landfalls, the author has had numerous sailing adventures including a voyage around Cape Horn, a winter crossing of the North Atlantic with Force 13 winds, and an unusual research voyage in the Caribbean.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"I would highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys the idea of bluewater sailing." -- Good Old Boat, May/June 2000 "Kretschmer's breezy, self-deprecating and genuinely warm style is perfectly suited..." -- Living Aboard, February 2000 For anyone not smitten by long-distance sailing, the fascination with this grueling, sometimes dangerous labor is difficult to fathom. Yet reading about Kretschmer's extreme adventures from the safety of land is both exhilarating and absorbing. -- Sun-Sentinel, May 3, 1999 I have a very simple yardstick for determining the quality of a book. I ask myself, "Do I wish I'd written it?" Oftentimes the answer is, "No, thank heavens!" In this case, however, there's no question that I wish I'd authored this book. Kretschmer is far more than just an extremely experienced sailor--he's also a poet, a philosopher, a romantic, and like most sailors, an optimist. The book is filled with a myriad of sea stories--all eminently readable--as well as a salting of practical information about sailboats and the sea, all delivered with a wry and self-deprecating sense of humor. Kretschmer once doubled Cape Horn in a tiny boat, and the fame from that venture launched him on his career as a delivery skipper, which he tells with both humor and a sense of adventure. There were times when I couldn't put the book down, and times when I found myself laughing out loud. . . From a bizarre research expedition with a group of Swedes hunting for the

ancient Mayan navy to a rough mid-winter crossing of the North Atlantic, Kretschmer's tale unfolds like a comfortably worn chart. I'd be surprised if you don't enjoy *Flirting With Mermaids*, and like me, hope that John Kretschmer writes again soon. -- *Sailing Magazine*, September 1999

"As a professional delivery captain, John Kretschmer has done more offshore passagemaking in his first 40 years than most serious sailors do in a lifetime. Part romantic, part poet, part philosopher and 100% optimist, Kretschmer shows his uncanny ability to deliver the wrong yacht in the wrong direction across the wrong ocean at the wrong time of year time and time again, yet end every delivery with the boat safely in port, a smile on his face, good friends at his side, and a few dollars in his pocket. A great story of adventure well-told with warm humor and affection." - Milt Baker, *Bluewater Books & Charts* "John Kretschmer is a superb seaman, a master story teller, and a delivery skipper of vast experience. His tales of tropical passages and Atlantic gales, of near sinkings and quirky owners will appeal to anyone who dreams of far horizons and tropical beaches. He has written a book of rollicking humor and abundant common sense that any sailor will find hard to put down." - Brian Fagan, author, archaeologist, and sailor "Not only has John Kretschmer lived a life wildly festooned with adventure, romance and outrageous characters - his reality outstrapping our most Walter Mitty-esque sea fantasies - now he has gone and turned it all into a collection of yarns that incite yet more envy among those of us stuck behind landbound computers. "Not only can the sailor sail - through hurricanes and civil wars - but the sailor can write. It's a hell of a read. It's just not fair." - Fred Grimm, Miami Herald columnist "Flirting with Mermaids follows John as he delivers a variety of boats around the world, from aging hulks with a fondness for the bottom to luxury yachts owned by would-be circumnavigators. While he's doing this, with a conscripted crew of friends, relatives, his wife, and total strangers found holding empty glasses at beach bars, he's also learning about navigating the uncharted territory of his heart. "The glamorous life of a professional sailor? Here's the straight story, with humor, salty adventures, and a steep learning curve." - Gregory O. Jones, editor, *Sailing magazine*

This book was well written about one of my favorite subjects which is sailing. I experienced some of the same breakdown in storm conditions as described in the book. My favorite is lying on a hot engine, in a storm, while trying to fix the steering chain overhead.

This is a good book for someone wanting to dip their toes into sailing stories. I have never sailed or even been close to a sailboat, so a lot of the terms or "lingo" I didn't understand, but that didn't take

away from the story. All of the stories moved at a brisk pace and I never got bored with any of them. I only wish it had been a little longer. I especially liked the last chapter...

This is probably the most entertaining of all the books written by John Kretschmer. If you looking for a very enjoyable read, this is definitely the book for you.

Fun read for anyone interested in cross-oceanic sailing adventures. The author seems pretty well balanced, sometimes flaunting a pretty large ego and at times self-deprecating. Kretschmer acknowledges the "romantic" side of operating a sailboat delivery service along with the hassles, personal conflicts, monetary and time setbacks and all the other things that can go wrong with delivering sailboats across oceans. This is a fun & easy read for anyone interested in sailing and global adventure.....

John Kretschmer has cahones of steel and the mind of a Greek philosopher, he caters to his own whims while imbedding a long lasting relationship with everyone he meets. You will know within 1 page of his book If your on the same wavelength with John. And he will tempt you to quit the 9-5 tomorrow and sail into the eye of a male namedhurricane

Before starting this book, I wasn't sure if I was going to like it as some of these "My Life" books are testosterone charged ego trips for the author. However, I did enjoy this book and Kretschmer did well in tying multiple stories together to form one good story. As a delivery boat Capitan, I am sure the author has had plenty of uneventful "normal" trips that simply would not make for a good story. Karetschmer picked some of his more interesting deliveries and proceeds to tell the reader of the topsy-turvy life of a delivery boat Capitan.

Talented storyteller

Great book. Kretschmer has a nice way of weaving aspects of his personal/business life into the adventure of ocean sailing and is honest enough to admit when he makes mistakes and how he resolved problems. I just finished his "Cape Horn to Starboard" and expect to read his other books.PMW

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