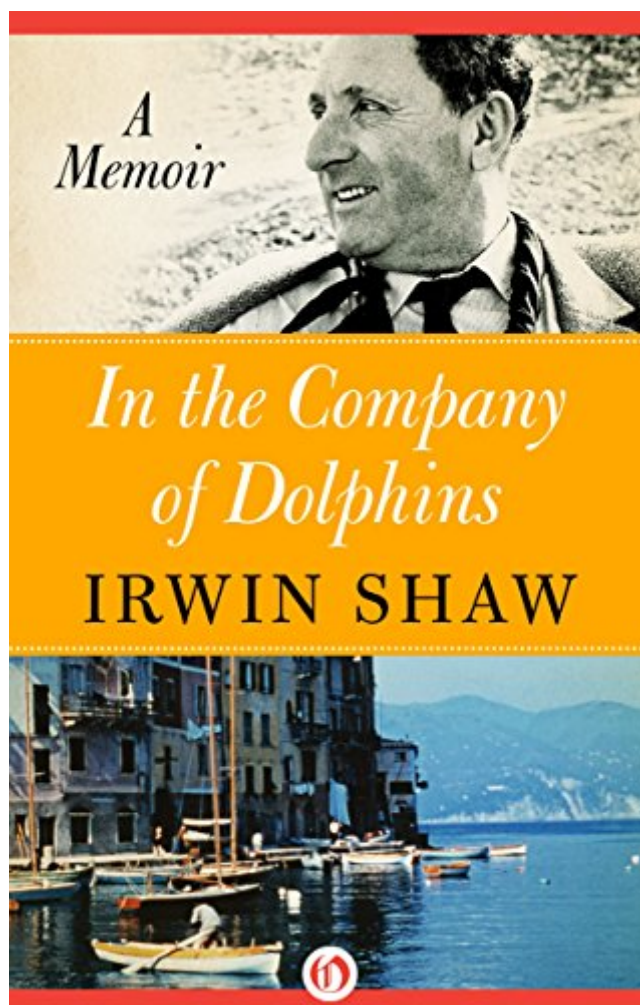


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In The Company Of Dolphins: A Memoir



Synopsis

Bestselling author Irwin Shaw's lighthearted travelogue follows his family's vacation sailing from St. Tropez to Venice in the 1960s. As a boy, Irwin Shaw stared out across Brooklyn's Sheepshead Bay and dreamed of owning a boat and sailing the oceans wide. Decades later, he determined that chartering a yacht was better than having no boat at all. With his wife and son, Shaw then set out to mosey about the Mediterranean, guided by a Scottish captain, his wife and daughter, and a Greek cabin boy. From St. Tropez to Naples, and across the Adriatic to Dubrovnik and up to Venice, it was the trip of a lifetime, its only fault being that, eventually, it would have to end. Written in 1964, this travel memoir is a portrait of a bygone age, when the sun-soaked Mediterranean was still emerging from the shadow of World War II and a vacation truly meant detaching oneself from the world. Featuring cameos by legendary authors such as Françoise Sagan and James Jones, this endearing memoir is the next best thing to a Mediterranean cruise.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In the Company of Dolphins" is a delightful, nostalgic sail through the European vacation capitals of early 1960s. Shaw and his family charter a boat to take them on a Mediterranean/Adriatic

cruise. Shaw's sharp-eyed observations (I particularly liked his comparison of St. Tropez to a superb detention home for delinquent girls) still ring fresh and true.

Originally published in 1964, this is author (among other talents) Irwin Shaw's sweetly inspiring memoir of chartering a yacht and sailing the Mediterranean with his wife and son and an amusingly difficult captain. As a boy in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, he watched the ships and dreamed of sailing one of his own, and after spending his adult years serving in World War II including at Normandy on D-Day and leaving the United States for Europe after accusations of Communist sympathies, he finally got his dream. This edition includes a great biography and photos of Shaw's fascinating life. His sense of humor makes this such a charming, light and lively account, as he ties his European experiences in with the events of the times and some Americanisms. It's short, fast-moving and readable, so it should appeal to both armchair travelers and anyone planning a trip or relaxing on one – it's exciting in that anticipation of traveling or living vicariously sort of way. I'm not crazy about the title – usually I don't let something like that bother me, but this title did make me think it'd be less thoughtful and a little cheesier than it was. Which was not at all. It was completely delightful and highly recommended. Also the dolphins weren't really such a factor, so it was a strange choice. But that's a non factor, I just wanted to dispel in case anyone else was feeling judgmental about the title like I did. There are so many interesting anecdotes here. The book is breezy, funny, and very smart despite its brevity and chatty tone – an ideal summer read and it feels surprisingly, refreshingly timeless. I received an advance ebook copy courtesy of the publisher via Netgalley for review.

This account of a yacht cruise through the Mediterranean was the perfect book to read after *The Red Wake*! Shaw describes an idyllic trip through the spectacular coastline in the nineteen-sixties with his wife and son. There were not as many tourists then and it really was a dreamlike world. It reminded me of visiting Alassio with my parents when I was 11! Shaw came from poverty but he certainly rose to live a jetset lifestyle. During his voyage, he catches up with friends, such as the famous French writer Françoise Sagan, who wrote *Bonjour Tristesse* as a teenager, and the Australian Alan Moorehead. This is a great book to dip into now and again to see how the wealthy and famous live, and to read about the beautiful Mediterranean! I received this free ebook from Net Galley in return for an honest review.

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