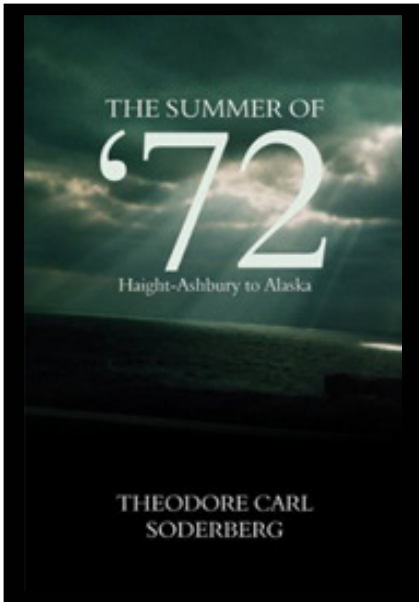


Books In Sync Author Theodore Carl Soderberg's Books In Review

'Reader Reviews' For 'The Summer Of '72- Haight Ashbury To Alaska' – by Theodore Carl Soderberg

Reviewed by Ginger Harman (Reader) 9/2/2011



“Haight and Ashbury meet Rolling Stones and the Alaska Fisherman! I have to admit this is my favorite book written by the Ted Soderberg and I highly recommend this book! Mr. Soderberg provides a plethora of characters with a capriciousness of personalities. The author narrates the story of his experiences during the hippie Revolution of 1972 as he takes a hiatus from college. From the beginning humor is ever present when the storyteller recalls his driving across the United States. For example, he slams his burgundy Corvair into a large brass propeller. After all, who else can manage to be in a boating accident and later get pulled over on the Pennsylvania Turnpike for going three miles over the speed limit, and next thing you know is that he is having a conversation with an actor portraying W.C.Fields while picking up women at a San Francisco bar?

One of my favorite scenes was Ted driving his red VW to a Rolling Stone magazine party with Sunshine and Earth girl. I was completely captivated with images of Hors d'œuvre of Iranian caviar with orange wedge and secret ingredients. In addition to the “one per customer” rule and listening to a private concert by guitar legend Steve Miller, Ted writes in detail what Allan Cohen describes as celebrating “transcendental consciousness, the beauty of the universe, the beauty of being.” This is followed with Ted the next morning beating on the wrong red Volkswagen while suffering from “existential vertigo.”

The author has an amazing talent for his descriptions of his fellow crew members and his job as a commercial purse seiner in Southern Alaska. Fires, bears, and near death experiences are all encompassed while on board the Ranger with Captain Jim at the helm. Moreover, I enjoyed the story of Brother Tobias and the religious tale of why you don't hitch hike and accept a ride from just anybody. Ted returns to landlady Hazel who just cannot figure out why those lovely plants don't seem to grow any tomatoes.

The growth and experience that Mr. Soderberg gained during the Summer of 1972 was more than a lesson of confidence and self-reliance, but the remarkable journey of cultures and relationships that are formed between those around us including our environments. Much like Ted, we all get burned out with career, frustrated with media, and dream of a little bit of adventure in life. Perhaps we should all embark on an existential adventure of our own.”

'Reader's Choice Book Reviews' For 'The Summer of 72: Haight Ashbury to Alaska' – by Theodore Carl Soderberg

Reviewed by Alexandra Grunberg

“[Theodore Carl Soderberg](#) tells the tale of his journey on an Alaskan fishing boat during the summer of 1972. A Navy veteran on his summer vacation from college, he is looking to find his way in the world.

Soderberg starts off his summer in true 1970’s fashion: a midnight trip on LSD. After describing this in detail, he proclaims that he is going to be a commercial Alaskan fisherman. In his quest to get a crew together, he finds that no one shares his dream of getting on a fishing boat heading up north. He does, however, find a couple of girls to drive him up to Seattle.

Once in Seattle, it takes him a couple weeks to find a boat to take him, but he does. The boat is called the Ranger and Captain Jim is in charge. Ted’s first days of being a fisherman consist of just him and Captain Jim preparing the small, 30-foot boat. Eventually Ted finds out that two others will be joining him: Lenny and Frank. As soon as young Lenny, fresh out of juvenile hall, arrives it is time for the small fishing boat to head up to Alaska. Captain Jim has given Ted the job of keeping Lenny in his place, but in the meantime, Ted also quickly learns his place on the small fishing rig.

Soon Frank arrives and proves to be nothing like Lenny and Ted and here the true adventure begins. Friendships are made, experiences are had, and Ted makes a little bit of money to end his summer.

The author’s interesting personality and ability to vividly describe his experiences and the people he met caught and kept my attention throughout the book, leaving me wanting more. I highly recommend [The Summer Of 72](#) to those who enjoy reading memoirs.”

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[Amazon Purchase Link](#)

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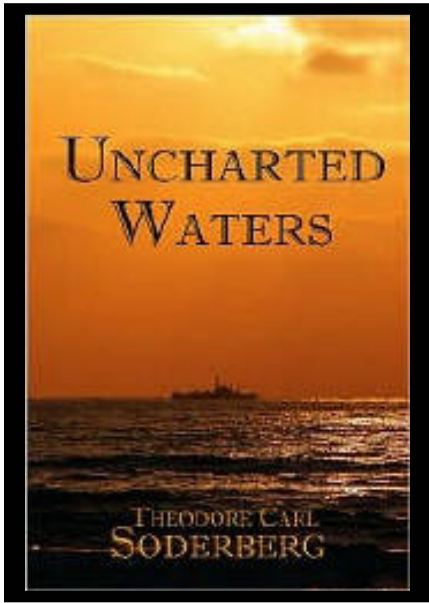
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Uncharted Waters Book Reviews



“Hysterical Fun!

This book is a riot!

A fun read full of colorful characters that become friends. His descriptions make you feel like you're right there on the ship with these burly, smell guys (and a few hot chicks.) Makes you want to sign up for the Merchant Marines just for the adventure of it!”

Reviewed by Shayna (Tampa, FL) April 28, 2008

“Uncharted and Unlimited Laughs!

This story reads like a fast, fun, tale with short, easy chapters and an a quick flow in the narrative.

The cast of characters are all individuals who remind me of someone I know, or should have known from my past. They cover the gambit: Sweethearts, to Sticklers, to Slobs to Saints and a cross section of misfits for good measure. All with a lot of hilarity and good humor as we follow their adventures across the Pacific and beyond.

This is a Sea Story with a lot of irony, and I learned a bit about what Merchant Marine Sea Life is like in reading it. There is the usual amount of Sailor's exaggerated telling and explaining of certain events which transpire, but it doesn't matter if you are reading first or second hand blarney...you will find a lot of humor and catch yourself chuckling as you read page after page. Some of the events which the characters encounter are too funny to attempt a description. I savored each chapter and read it during my stationery bike ride at the gym. It took my mind off that momentous task and entertained me, To Boot!

Overall, I highly recommend this fast and easy story.

To the author I ask, What happened to our Hero "Ted" and the Femme Fatale, "Blaze" in Brazil? Saving the answer for part two of an ongoing Seagoing Saga???...I hope so!”

Reviewed by Robert M. Clark - April 23, 2008

“Awesome Book!!

I sure would like to have an inside look at this guys brain. He must be full of stories that are both adventurous as well as exciting. I must say it almost makes me want to go out and work on the open sea. It makes for a different type of life than I have, but one I sure would like to explore. Thanks for writing the book and sharing one of your many (I am sure, you have more) amazing tales.”

Reviewed by Todd Krekos "toddok75" (Southern California) - April 22, 2008

“[Uncharted Waters](#) is very good!

There is no literary tradition stronger than the sea change. From "The Odyssey" to "Moby Dick," it's almost a genre of its own and certainly is not "uncharted waters." Perhaps that explains my initial disappointment with this book. There's a cocky narrator (who introduces himself to a woman waiting at an airport as "Bond. Jack Bond."), the requisite cast of wacky shipboard characters, description of foreign ports for horny sailors, etc., but what seems missing is any internal conflict that could lead to personal development and the obligatory epiphany.

Then I decided to loosen up a bit and just enjoy this cavorting tale for what it is. I love the short chapters and authenticating nautical protocol (such as, Navy ships having a breakaway song they play when separating from another ship, for example, "Load Up an' Truck'n," by Jerry Reed of Smokey and the Bandit fame). When I thought back on my own service days--the camaraderie and those "war stories" we tried to top each other with around the bar--I thanked Theodore Carl Soderberg. Life is "a journey" rather than a destination.

I would have given the cover a more human face. Blaze, the short-order cook who purportedly is a mob leader's mol--helping her means death for any guy, like the narrator, who tries--stretches credibility but does add an ongoing sense of peril. Here and there we get a guy perspective on the world: "The Middle East has conditions similar to a ship's engine room, and it isn't an exaggeration to say these people (the ones in the engine room) are volatile and exhibit bizarre behavior... The Mideast has sand storms, lack of water, no food and then just when it cools down and you think it's going to be okay in come the flies... I think we should all be grateful that there is no engine room noise and vibration and oily fumes in the Middle East, because (then) the world would certainly have detonated long ago..."

But what I really liked was Farley's chapter describing why he went into rehab and the ominous turn the book takes when their ship is sent to the war in Iraq. Then there is Murray the K, a cross dressing, loose cannon obsessed with cleaning supplies. Ishmael, you had it easy.

Reviewed by BookReview.com (Madison, WI United States) - December 4, 2007

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Author's Information:

[Theodore Carl Soderberg](#) was born in Brattleboro Vermont, raised in Westchester County New York and Fairfield County Connecticut. After high school he headed west, for two years and was stationed in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

Theodore attended the college of Marin in Kentfield, CA. and SF State. For thirteen years he sold 'High ticket' automobiles, and after a motorcycle accident returned to the Navy as a crew member in a Special Boat unit, and participated in the Iraq/Iran War in Bahrain.

For six months Theodore worked at KTIM in San Rafael, CA as an Account executive, and decided to go back to sea. Today he continues to sail as a merchant marine as an active member of the SUP, (Sailors Union of the Pacific). Theodore Carl Soderberg received two honorable discharges from the United States Navy.

He is a member of AFTRA, (American Federation of Radio and Television Artists, SAG, and a member of the Commonwealth Club since 1972.

For twenty years Theodore worked as a part time film and TV extra. For two years he worked in Hollywood, and can be seen in many films: Basic Instinct, The Dead Pool, The Rock...plus loads of TV shows: NYPD Blue, Coach, Mad About You, and Nash Bridges.

Theodore Carl Soderberg is an active VVA member and put many years of service in the U.S. Navy and Merchant Marine to good use in his engaging novel, 'Uncharted Waters' set during Operation Desert Shield, and Storm.

[Please Visit Theodore Carl Soderberg Author's Page At Books In Sync](http://www.booksinsync.com/theodorecarlsoderberg.html)
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