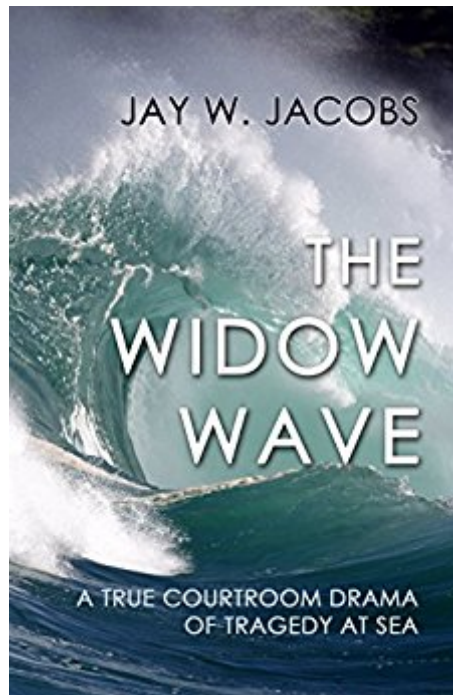




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The Widow Wave: A True Courtroom Drama Of Tragedy At Sea



Synopsis

Will anyone ever know what happened to the Aloha, a sport fishing boat that vanished with all onboard in the Pacific off San Francisco's coast? Knowing is a complex, inexact business. There's real truth and then there's courtroom truth; a jury's verdict may or may not approach what actually happened. Nor can someone reading about such an event be sure where the truth lies. But trials, judges, and juries are what we use in our legal system to find truth. *The Widow Wave* explores this alternate reality. It is a fascinating true-life mystery and lawyer procedural rolled into one. Jay Jacobs offers no facile answers and he's not the flawless protagonist typically starring in such dramas. He lets us see how such a big wrongful death case really unfolds, in a true story that reads like a novel. Will the jury find the truth? Will the reader?" Jay Jacobs's vivid prose pulls you into a compelling drama, deftly transporting you from the courtroom to the storm-tossed Pacific and back to the courtroom again. The book reads like a well-wrought detective novel."

— Daniel James Brown, New York Times Bestselling Author of 'The Boys in the Boat' "An intelligently told true story of honor, integrity and justice. The *Widow Wave* reminded me of *The Perfect Storm*, played out in a taut courtroom thriller. Jay Jacobs masterfully weaves the harrowing tale of the last voyage of the Aloha, and courtroom battle that followed. A great read."

— Robert Dugoni, New York Times Bestselling Author of 'My Sister's Grave' "A compelling story of a modern day maritime tragedy that beautifully discusses the vital importance of advances in observational technologies, forecasts and communications in avoiding future loss of life at sea. Jacobs skillfully weaves together the legal, scientific and maritime narratives to enthrall and educate the reader."

— Julie Thomas, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Manager of the Institute of Geo and Planetary Physics "Trial lawyer Jay Jacobs, in a unique, personally revealing memoir, defends a widow and her deceased husband's honor in an intimate first person account of how the civil trial process unfolds.... The reader will learn about the strategies, shoals, and embroilments of a real life, vigorously contested trial with its many emotional upheavals."

— Justice James Marchiano (ret.), formerly Presiding Justice, California Court of Appeals, First Appellate District

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Customer Reviews

This book kept me on the edge of my seat from the first page to the last. Gripping tale of the loss of a 34 foot fishing boat with 5 men on board outside the Golden Gate Bridge at the mouth of San Francisco Bay, and the law suit that resulted from the men's presumed deaths. Courtroom drama with great insight into how attorneys prepare and try a complex case. I learned a great deal of how waves are formed in the ocean and the dangerous waters caused by the waves pounding on the shoal that built up at the entrance to the bay by thousands of years of silt being deposited from the Sacramento River and the ebbing tides. As a life long surfer and long time boater I wish I had learned these lessons many years earlier.

I am a slow reader & I devoured this book in 3 sittings. It had me on the first page & would not let go. Growing up in the Bay Area, with a Dad who was a lawyer and avid sailor, & who kept our sailboat in Sausalito, helped a bit, I will admit. This book reeled me in quickly & gave me that almost disappointment feeling when I finished it. I wanted more! The drama was intense & precarious, the court room action mesmerizing. This is no Perry Mason story. This is real life -- vividly, truthfully & at times wrenchingly depicted. It's not clean & easy; it's messy & chaotic. I loved it, & highly recommend it.

I am not a boater or a follower of legal courtroom dramas, but I LOVED this book. This is a story of love and loyalty! Jacobs does a magnificent job of telling this story from his first person perspective as the attorney for the Dowds; however, he also conveys Janet's total commitment and belief in her husband throughout this book. His own emotions and cognition are so clear throughout this book that the reader will come to feel a personal connection to Jacobs. It is through this insight into the devotion of Jacobs as the attorney for the family that the reader also connects to Janet and her undying belief in her deceased husband. The Widow Wave reads like a novel and immediately draws the reader's full interest and attention. The story should be made into a movie!

A true page-turner, this book very successfully brought the humanity and heart of a tragic accident and wove it through the aftermath of the legal system. Mr. Jacobs guides the reader through the court system, keeping the reader by his side the whole time, sharing his hopes and fears, explaining every step and concept so well that the layperson becomes fascinated by intricacies of the 'chess game' being played out in trial. I enjoyed the story immensely, the author's writing style, and the 'who-dunnit' plot that kept me racing towards the conclusion.

As a member of the United States Power Squadrons and a retired public administrator my wife purchased this book for me knowing I would enjoy it. Well, that is an understatement. It was a compelling story which I found hard to put down. Being a true story with its courtroom drama, litigation strategies, and colorful parties made for interesting reading. However, the addition of the nautical phenomena discussed added interest as well as education. Who knew about "Coincident Waves"? This story is a cautionary tale of what mother nature is capable of dishing out especially in the ocean. It also speaks to liability issues for which we may not have ever pondered. In keeping with USPS primary mission of boater education, this book did a great job! Cdr Jerry Edwards, AP

Jay Jacobs has done an expert job of blending a courtroom drama with a tragic accident at sea, the cause of which most likely will never be known. The courtroom battle has a David and Goliath feel. Mr. Jacobs has taken on the biggest case of his career to date with a strong likelihood of losing. And in losing, he will damage his own career and the future of the defendant's wife, Mrs. Dowd. But Mrs. Dowd is adamant that she will not settle out of court and will see the trial through to the end, no matter what that may be. In understanding the cause of the accident, she hopes to absolve her husband of any negligence. And maybe ease the pain of not only her husband's death but her 19 year old

son's death too. The characters that come into play are vividly described by the author. The pondering judge, supremely confident plaintiff's lawyer, a reticent crusty skipper and overly-enthusiastic expert witness are all thrown into the mix where the jury must find a corroborating detail to absolve or convict Mr. Dowd of negligence.

Mr. Jay Jacobs, I'm sure you've been swamped with e-mails regarding your book. I teach the USPS's
"America's Boating Course" for the Tybee Light Sail and Power Squadron (Savannah, GA). I'm sure you are aware, ABC is the safe boating course primer offered by the USPS to the general public and is the stepping stone to more advanced boating classes. Having read your book almost non-stop (you're a fantastic writer and story teller as well as a talented litigator) I've incorporated the coincidence wave formation/phenomenon into the "adverse weather" portion of the class along with recommendations that the student's purchase and read your compelling book. I tried unsuccessfully to "Google search" coincidence waves, even tried your witness name thinking that he might have written a paper on the subject but no luck but I got lots of additional "wave formation" information which I've added to my memory stores and safe boating library. Thanks for the nautical education and thanks for driving home the seldom thought of responsibilities that we as boat owners/operators have to our passengers as we casually depart for a day of fun on the water. Most sincerely, David C. Sapp, P/C, AP-IN, Certified Instructor Tybee Light Sail and Power Squadron

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