Nicholas Latimer Vice President, Director of Publicity (212) 572-2106

For author interview, contact: Michelle Somers (212) 572-2082 msomers@randomhouse.com



1745 Broadway New York City 10019 phone: (212) 572-2104 knopfpublicity@randomhouse.com

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A major reconsideration of a key period in the life of Ernest Hemingway—from his pinnacle as the reigning monarch of American letters until his suicide fifty years ago—tracing the writer's exultations and despair around the one constant in his life, his beloved boat, *Pilar*.

HEMINGWAY'S BOAT

Everything He Loved in Life, and Lost, 1934-1961

BY PAUL HENDRICKSON

Author of Sons of Mississippi, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award

"An absorbing and important interpretation of Ernest Hemingway's ambitions, passions, and tragedies during the last years of his life,"

says Publishers Weekly in a starred and featured review.

"Moving, highly evocative, and beautifully written,"

says Kirkus in a starred review.

"In 1934, Ernest Hemingway bought a 38-foot motorized fishing vessel at a Brooklyn boatyard and set out for the Caribbean. An integral part of his final 27 years, *Pilar* offered afternoons of solace on waters between Key West and Cuba, during which Hemingway fished, drank, wrote, bickered with wives and sons and entertained visitors. Hendrickson offers a moving, highly evocative account of Hemingway's turbulent later years, when he lost the favor of critics, the love of wives and friends and, ultimately, his ability to write.

"Drawing on interviews, documents (including 34 *Pilar* logs) and secondary sources, the author succeeds in restoring a sense of Hemingway the man, seen as a flawed, self-sabotag-

ing individual whose kindness and gentleness have been overlooked in accounts of his cruel and boorish side. Even as he attacked critics and fired his shotgun angrily at sea birds, the tortured author proved remarkably sweet and friendly to many, including Arnold Samuelson, an admiring young writer who became Hemingway's assistant on *Pilar*; and Walter Houk, now in his 80s, who remembers the author fondly as 'a great man with great faults.'

"Seven years in the making, this vivid portrait allows us to see Hemingway on the *Pilar* once again, standing on the flying bridge and guiding her out of the harbor at sunrise."

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says STEVE PAUL in a starred review for Booklist.

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