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A Real Catch: Author's Fish Tale Hooks Coveted EVVY Award

June X, Denver, CO and San Pedro, CA – Talk about reeling in a big one. “Red Sky Morning,” a gripping account of high-seas fishing from author Andrew J. Rafkin, has received a 2009 EVVY Literary Award.

This prestigious honor recognizes the very best of self-published books, as bestowed by the Colorado Independent Publishers Association. In fact, less than 5 percent of its books even become finalists, according to Parker, Colo.-based Outskirts Press (www.outskirtspress.com), which published “Red Sky Morning.”

“I am so honored that CIPA has chosen ‘Red Sky Morning’ from among so many distinguished entries,” Rafkin said. “It’s also such an honor for the scores of fishermen out there who risk their life to make a living from the sea.”

The book’s vivid portrait of the dangers and allures of a life chasing fish on the high seas won over this year’s judges. Released in 2008, “Red Sky Morning” is a true-life coming-of-age tale set amidst California’s daring seafaring culture of the 1960’s. It relives the summer Rafkin turned 17, when he joins up with his father, the San Pedro-based captain of a large purse seiner, on a tuna run off the East Coast of the U.S. As Rafkin soon discovers, it’s a lifestyle filled with partying, girls, and back-breaking labor – along with the danger of being washed overboard at almost any time. All of which he takes to like a fish to water.

Two years later, Rafkin joins the crew of a ninety-foot fishing boat, the Diana, for a four-day trip off the Santa Barbara coast. But what’s supposed to be a run-of-the-mill expedition turns into the scariest day of Rafkin’s life as the crew encounters a freak hurricane-force storm. In the 24 hours that follow, they’ll fight with every force of their being to keep control of their ship – and one of them won’t survive.

But “Red Sky Morning” is more than action and adventure. Through it all, readers will meet a memorable cast of characters who populate and humanize this forbidding world, shedding light on one of the least-understood industries.

“Red Sky Morning” is now available through Ingram, Baker & Taylor, Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and the online bookstore of Outskirts Press, at outskirtspress.com/store.php.

Book Statistics

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Genre: Nonfiction

About the Author: San Pedro native Andrew Rafkin was born in 1946 and grew up in a commercial fishing family. Rafkin served in the Navy during the Vietnam War and later graduated from California State University/Dominguez Hills with degrees in economics and marketing. He is a successful entrepreneur and has served as president of a Southern Californian security company for over 30 years. Rafkin and his wife currently live in San Pedro on a bluff overlooking the Pacific. He spends his spare time reading, fishing, hunting, golfing, and making his own wine.

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