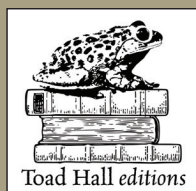
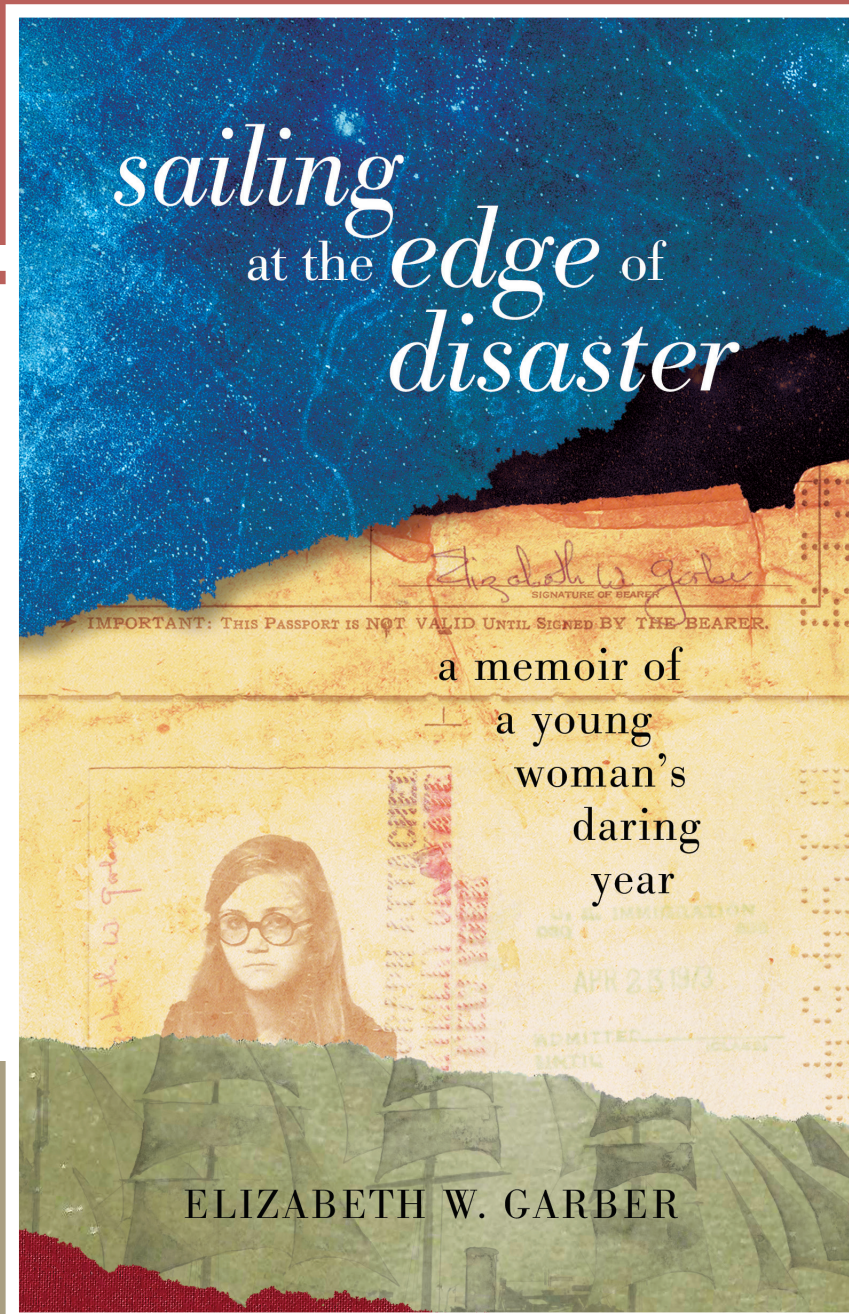


Sailing at the Edge of Disaster

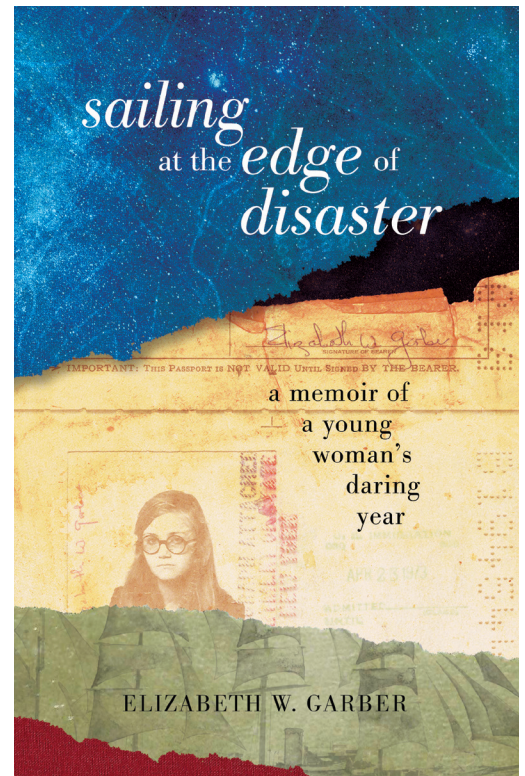
Media Kit



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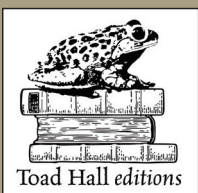
ABOUT THE BOOK

Sailing at the Edge of Disaster: A Memoir of a Young Woman's Daring Year is the story of how a bookish teen and her younger brother are sent by their dominating father to “shape up” on a sail training school ship, where they discover the rigors, joys, and triumphs of being at sea. As they scour the decks, learn to splice ratlines, and climb the rigging, they also survive an act of piracy, a near-sinking, and being held hostage by armed gun boats. The book chronicles a transformative year in the throes of late adolescence that leads to courage, grace, and a reclamation of selfhood.

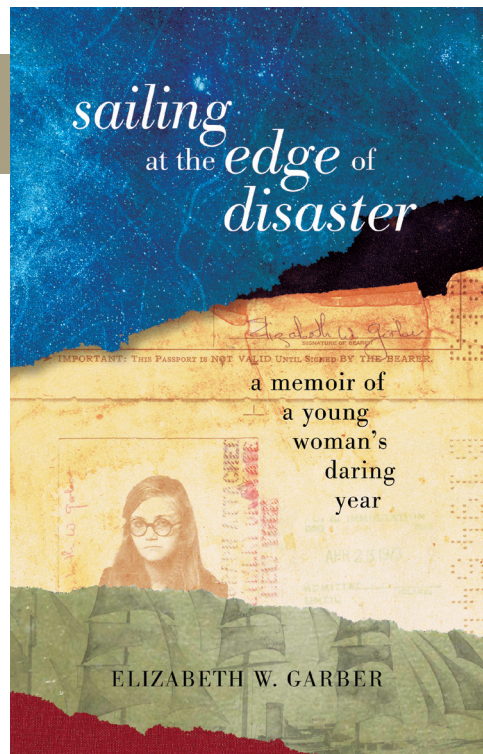


In 1971, Elizabeth Garber’s domineering father announced he was sending his “problem children”—seventeen-year-old bookish Elizabeth and her fourteen-year-old brother Woodie—to a school on a sailing ship, in order to “shape up and learn to work.” *Sailing at the Edge of Disaster: A Memoir of a Young Woman’s Daring Year* chronicles Garber’s adventures, along with the fifty teen misfits and their teacher chaperones aboard the sailing school housed on a once-magnificent yacht formerly owned by General Post heiress, socialite, and philanthropist Marjorie Merriweather Post. *Sailing at the Edge of Disaster* follows the journey of Oceanics School students and faculty as they motor the limping ship out of Miami to begin the grand itinerary their charismatic 25-year-old school director envisioned. Along the way, the ship survives a gale at sea, a hole in the hull at deep water, an act of piracy, a near-miss with a nuclear sub, and are held hostage by armed gun boats in Panama.

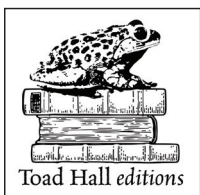
Read an excerpt of *Sailing at the Edge of Disaster: A Memoir of a Young Woman’s Daring Year*, published on Salon.com as the essay, [“Drug search in the Panama Canal: How my high school adventure at sea almost ended.”](#)



DETAILS



- Title:** *Sailing at the Edge of Disaster: A Memoir of a Young Woman's Daring Year*
- Author:** Elizabeth W. Garber
- Page count:** 300+
- Genre:** Memoir
- Publisher:** [Toad Hall Editions, Northport, ME](#)
- Pub Date:** September 2022
- ISBN:** 978-1-736992555
- Price:** \$24.95
- Format:** Perfect Bound
- Trim Size:** 5.5" x 8.5"
- Where to Buy:** [Toad Hall Editions website](#)
- PreOrders:** May 6, 2022



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KEYWORDS

- Coming-of-age memoir
- Sea Adventure
- Strong female lead
- Dysfunctional family
- Sailing ships
- Ocean survival

AUTHOR'S PREVIOUS TITLES

Implosion: Memoir of an Architect's Daughter, She Writes Press (June 12, 2018), 978-1631523519. Paperback, \$16.95.

Maine: Island Time by Michael Weymouth (Photographer/painter/designer/publisher), Elizabeth Garber (Author) (September 30, 2013), 978-0615797533. Hardcover, \$40.

True Affections: Poems from a Small Town, Illuminated Sea Press; (October 4, 2012) 978-0982668016. Paperback, \$15.

Listening Inside the Dance: A Life in Maine Infused with Tango by Elizabeth W. Garber (Author), Demian Gawianski (Translator of poems into Spanish), Illuminated Sea Press (October 7, 2005), 978-0976131120. \$20.

Pierced by the Seasons: Living a Life on the Coast of Maine, Illuminated Sea Press, (October 1, 2004), 978-0976131106. \$16.

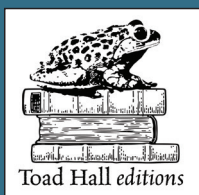
ABOUT THE AUTHOR



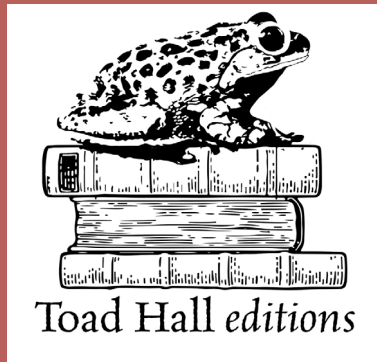
photo by Amy Wilton

Elizabeth W. Garber is the author of *Implosion: A Memoir of an Architect's Daughter* (2018). She has published three books of poetry: *True Affections* (2012), *Listening Inside the Dance* (2005), and *Pierced by the Seasons* (2004). *Maine (Island Time)* (2013) is a collaboration of her poetry with paintings and photographs of Michael Weymouth. Her essays and excerpts have appeared in *Salon, Maine Homes, Johns Hopkins Magazine*, and her poems have been included in several journals and anthologies. Three poems have been read on NPR's *The Writer's Almanac*.

She received an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast Program, was awarded writing fellowships at Virginia Center for Creative Arts and Jentel Artist Residency, and received a BA in Humanities from Johns Hopkins and a Masters in Acupuncture from the Traditional Acupuncture Institute. She has maintained a private practice as an acupuncturist for nearly forty years in mid-coast Maine, where she raised her family. Visit her at elizabethgarber.com.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 6, 2022
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Toad Hall Editions to publish Elizabeth Garber memoir *Sailing at the Edge of Disaster* marks 3rd title from mid-coast press

(Northport, ME, May 1, 2022) Toad Hall Editions announces a forthcoming publication of Belfast, Maine author Elizabeth Garber's latest book, *Sailing at the Edge of Disaster: A Memoir of a Young Woman's Daring Year*. The memoir is the story of Garber's time on board a once-majestic yacht-turned-sailing school along with her younger brother, Woodie, and 50 high school misfits. They have no idea what dangers await them. They learn to splice, climb the rigging, and survive an act of piracy, a storm at sea, a near-sinking, and being held hostage for two weeks by armed gun boats in Panama. The book chronicles a transformative year in the throes of late adolescence that leads to courage, grace, and a reclamation of selfhood.

"This book is a beautiful, high-stakes coming of age tale about survival on an old square-sailed rigger. It's also a vivid, stirring reminder that again and again the natural world will reduce us to our most elemental selves and allow us to finally see and know who we are." —Susan Conley, author of *Landslide*

Elizabeth W. Garber is the author of *Implosion: Memoir of an Architect's Daughter*, a 2018 Finalist for the Indie Next Generation Book Award for Memoir. She is also the author of three collections of poetry and a collaboration with painter/photographer Michael Weymouth—*Maine* (Island Time) combining her poetry and essays with his paintings and photographs focused on the Penobscot Bay area of the Maine coast. She has maintained a private practice of acupuncture for nearly forty years in mid-coast Maine, where she raised her family. For more information, please visit elizabethgarber.com

Located in mid-coast Maine, Toad Hall Editions is a women-owned and women-run small press whose mission is to publish potent and thought-provoking work by women and gender-diverse authors and create and deepen community by dedicating more space to voices and stories that for too long have lived in the margins. For more information visit toadhalleditions.ink

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Reviews for *Sailing at the Edge of Disaster*

“This book is a beautiful, high-stakes coming of age tale about survival on an old square-sailed rigger. It’s also a vivid, stirring reminder that again and again the natural world will reduce us to our most elemental selves and allow us to finally see and know who we are.”

—Susan Conley, author of *Landslide* and
The Foremost Good Fortune

“A stunning memoir of a young woman’s life-changing year. Loss of innocence and newfound strength and self-knowledge is gained against harrowing dangers amidst a vivid cast of characters whose lifeworld is a ship at sea. A coming-of-age initiation tale, a true page-turner, a mashup of *Outward Bound* type adventure with echoes of *Lord of the Flies* and *Ship of Fools*.”

—Patricia Reis, author of *Motherlines: Love, Longing and Liberation*

In *Sailing at the Edge of Disaster*, Elizabeth Garber has an extraordinary tale to tell, one in which she is tested again and again by circumstances that would be unbelievable if they were not true. The aplomb with which she relates this strange, exhilarating ordeal testifies to a very special perseverance. To face such an experience from the perspective of decades is to chance an uncertain reckoning. The candor and wisdom in this book speak to a hard-won grace.

—Baron Wormser, author of *The Road Washes Out in Spring*

