



The Proving Ground

G. Bruce Knecht

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In this 10th Anniversary edition, with a new afterword from the author, G. Bruce Knecht tells the harrowing story of a world-renowned sailing race gone fatally bad.

On December 26, 1998, 115 sailboats crossed the starting line of the famous Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. The 630-nautical-mile contest is among the most difficult races in the world, a test of strength and endurance like few others. But no one could have foreseen the tragedy that would befall the competitors, who sailed into a massive storm that tore apart the fleet with hurricane-force winds and eighty-foot waves. What began as a race for glory rapidly became a fight for survival. In this gripping insider's account, award-winning writer G. Bruce Knecht focuses on three yachts and their crews, weaving together an extraordinary story with vivid detail, outsized personalities, and high drama. Most importantly, he offers a glimpse into how people with very different backgrounds responded to something bigger than they were—and how it changed them forever. Hailed as “harrowing” by the *New York Times*, “pulse-pounding” by *People* magazine, and “the Perfect Storm of blue-water sailboat racing” by Walter Cronkite, *The Proving Ground* is a true-to-life adventure tale as thrilling as any work of fiction.

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