Do you hear the siren song of the sea? Prepare for your dream voyage--by finding your perfect sailboat. Its not as hard as you think . . . when you have a master naval architect at your side. In this one-of-a-kind book, leading boat designer Roger Marshall walks you through the process of choosing the perfect boat for your sailing lifestyle. Along the way, you will acquire a deep understanding of the many factors that go into a boat's performance, comfort, and seaworthiness, and learn how to choose among them to meet your requirements and preferences. Marshall takes you step-by-step as he conceives and develops five prototype sailboats with widely varying design objectives: a Weekender, a Cruiser, a Voyager, a Single-Hander, and a Cruiser/Racer. The 200 illustrations take you aboard, showing you clearly how the choices and compromises of boat design are made and what they mean to performance. You'll learn about the features that make for a good cruising sailboat, from the basic choices (inshore or offshore), weekend or long-term cruising, occasional racing or nonracing) all the way to the finer points of hull shape and sail plan. And you'll gain a solid understanding of your sailboat-to-be: what it will do . . . what it won't do . . . and why. Seakindliness, performance, handling characteristics of different rigs, comfort on passages or weekends--its all here, in clear language. Beyond the basics, you will learn how to judge any sailboat, new or used, including  How to pick the best keel shape for your sailing area  What the subtle and not-so-subtle signs of comfort are  What makes a cockpit pleasant and functional  When a pilothouse makes sense, and when it doesn't  How to estimate the total cost of buying a boat (not the cost the salesperson gives you)  Why some boats sail better under almost all conditions than other boats, and why that may not be important  Plus, you'll learn how to determine in advance how much blood, toil, tears, and sweat your dream boat will cost you in maintenance (so small thing). Best of all, you'll find Marshalls 12-page comparison table of production sailboats from all over the world, packed with information about 130 boats- length, beam, draft, displacement, ballast, sail area, fuel and water capacities, performance ratios, capsize and comfort ratios, and more, all
tabulated for convenient and revealing comparisons. With this book's help, you will board your own ideal vessel, satisfied that you're familiar with your boat from the masthead down and certain that it will bring you years of sailing pleasure.

My Personal Review:
Naval architect Roger Marshall provides a substantive guide for the cruising sailor who chooses his boats based on their suitability to his purposes. In plain language and with clear supporting diagrams, Marshall explains the fundamental principles of seaworthiness, the elements of good design, and the ever challenging balancing act between speed, comfort and cost. I disagree with the reviews that say this book is only for cruising sailors with a large budget. I think this book is for sailors of any budget who take sailing seriously and who want to own boats that fit their exact needs. Considering how many boats are left to sit idle by their owners, it makes sense to realistically think though how one intends to use their boat and just what features are worth paying for. Frankly, most sailors will find they do not need the boat to end all boats if they only intend to putter close to shore on sunny weekends. At the same time, considering there is always the potential for a sailor to face the elements at their harshest, and considering some cruisers will want to push the envelope to its fullest, it makes sense to understand what exactly makes a sound, seaworthy boat and a worthwhile investment. I found that Marshall covers all these bases and more and I heartily recommend this book to readers.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price: