



## Island Boyz

By Graham Salisbury

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**Island Boyz** By Graham Salisbury

In this rich collection, Salisbury's love for Hawaii and its encircling sea shines through every story. Readers will share the rush a boy feels when he leaps off a cliff into a ravine or feasts his eyes on a beautiful woman. They'll find stories that show what it takes to survive prep school, or a hurricane, or the night shift at Taco Bell, or first love. Graham Salisbury knows better than anyone what makes an island boy take chances. Or how it feels to test the waters, to test the limits, and what it's like when a beloved older brother comes home from war, never to be the same.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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## **Island Boyz By Graham Salisbury Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

An island boy himself, Graham Salisbury has written many books for teens that draw on his understanding and appreciation of the rich culture of Hawaii. His finest novel to date, *Lord of the Deep*, shows his growing ability to portray the subtleties of relationships as well as the colorful flavor of Hawaiian life. In *Island Boyz* he makes good use of that skill in 10 stories and a poem set in this Pacific society. Some are poignant and tender, some are comical, others dark and suspenseful, and all are enriched with the delightful pidgin patois of Hawaiian common folk. The book opens with a richly evocative poem drawn from the author's own teen days of surfing, stolen papayas, and warm nights on the beach. The last piece is a strongly constructed story of a boy whose older brother regains his dream of owning a deep sea fishing charter boat after he returns from Vietnam missing a leg. Although five of these stories have been published elsewhere, they make a fine coherent collection with broad appeal for teens. (Ages 10 to 14) --*Patty Campbell*

#### From Publishers Weekly

Readers will soak up the 11 stories collected in *Island Boyz* by Graham Salisbury, five of which have been previously published. Set on the Hawaiian beaches of his youth, the fiction revisits the terrain of *Under the Blood-Red Sun* and other Salisbury novels.

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#### From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up-An outstanding collection of short stories set in Hawaii, five of which have appeared in other anthologies. *Boyz* is a mix of first-person narratives that are rich in local vernacular, drawing readers into a variety of island-life experiences. Two stories worth noting are "The Doi Store Monkey" and "Waiting for the War." The first is a psychologically arresting story that exposes the cruelty that darkens prep-school life. A physically handicapped boy and a caged monkey are the easy marks for a band of boys on a mean spree. Only when it's too late does the narrator take a measured look at the pain he's helped inflict. "Waiting for the War" is set two years after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. On the surface it is about two boys and an ornery horse. It is rife with humor as the protagonists are pitted against a wise and exasperatingly evasive animal. When the boys meet a serviceman from Texas who has the know-how to manage the animal, they indirectly gain a respect for the thousands of military men who inhabit their island. On a deeper level, the story speaks of the multitude of ways in which war touches people. The beauty of *Island Boyz* is that it covers a wide spectrum of situations and emotions, from the effects of war on small-town life to the irrepressible adventure of deep-sea fishing. Its power is in the creative and credible narrative voices. Salisbury has artfully crafted difficult situations into recognizable facts of life in this terrific contribution to short-story collections.

*Alison Follos, North Country School, Lake Placid, NY*

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#### Deborah Oneal:

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### **John Schreiber:**

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### **Harold Karr:**

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