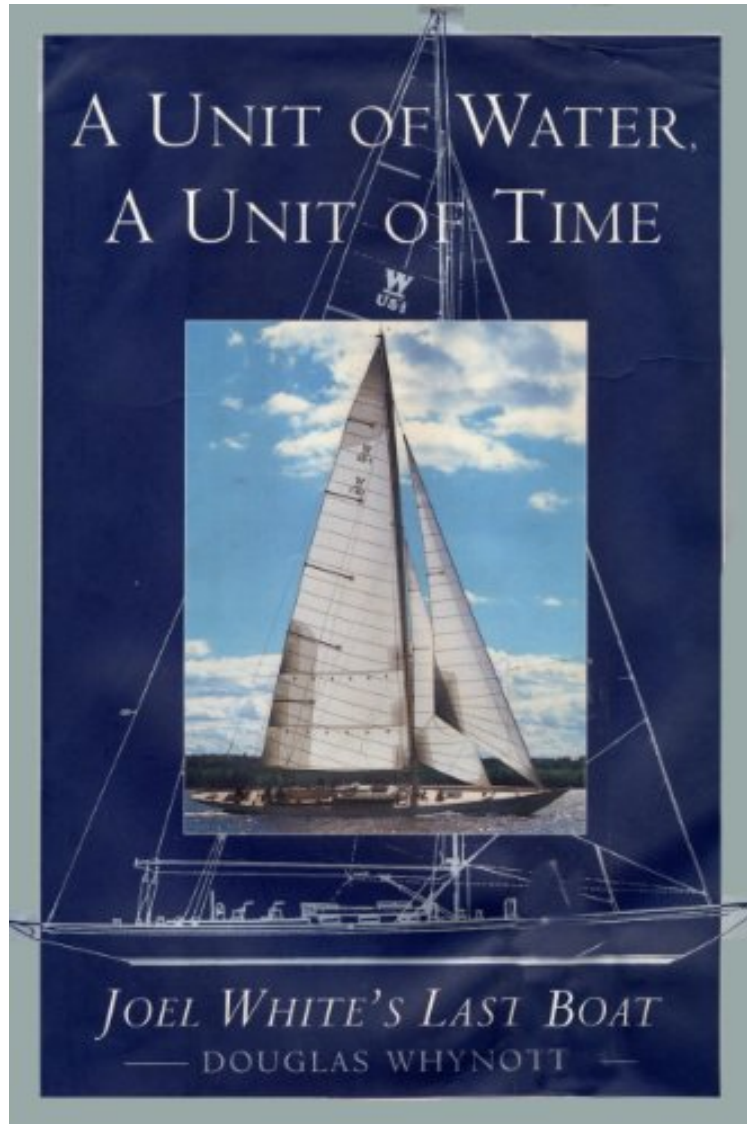


[Download] A Unit of Water, a Unit of Time: Joel White's Last Boat

## A Unit of Water, a Unit of Time: Joel White's Last Boat

*Von Douglas Whynott*

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**Von Douglas Whynott : A Unit of Water, a Unit of Time: Joel White's Last Boat** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Unit of Water, a Unit of Time: Joel White's Last Boat:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Wrong Title, Lost StoryVon Ein KundeDon't buy this book if you want to learn more about Joel White and his "last" boat - the W-Class (W-76 specifically) yachts. At most there is probably less than 7 pages of text devoted to the creation of the W-Class boats.The W-Class racing yacht is not even mentioned in the book until page around page 100. The whole

W-76 story is a very small sideline to the whole. Probably five pages of text out of the whole book are dedicated to the W-76. What a missed story! I asked for the book specifically because I wanted to learn more about the W-76. There is more about the W-76 in the five page WoodenBoat issue #150, Sept/Oct '99 than in this entire book! There was so much not said here. The vision for the W-Class boats is never discussed. Donald Tofias who commissioned the design of the boat is only given one or two lines of text in the whole book. How did Joel envision the W-class boats, did he view the design as his final masterpiece? Did he want to design the other boats in the series? Etc, etc...In fact, if you want to know more about Joel White you will not find it in this book. The best way to summarize this book is that you are sitting at a table for dinner with some very interesting, nice but humble people while at the table beside you sits a very famous person that you have always wanted to meet. You try to listen to the conversation coming from the next table but unfortunately, you do not want to be rude, and the people at your table demand your attention so you only hear a few bits and pieces from the other table. That is how I felt about this book. The book follows the Brooklin Boat yard employees work lives during the last year of Joel White's life. (Nice people, nice story, but I wanted to learn about Joel) As far as boats are concerned, the book is really about the Center Harbor 31 series of boats. The book begins with the launching of the first two - Grace and Linda and follows the construction of the third and fourth Pudding and The Mantlepiece. One last grip. The Center Harbor 31 is discussed in detail in the book, but no pictures or drawings of the boat are provided. Ever read a book about architecture or art without a picture? Well that is what you get here! All in all, a frustrating and disappointing book. Joel White and the W-76 deserved better. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Much more than a sea story Von Joe Costello (costello@banclink.com) I picked up "A Unit of Water, A Unit of Time" hoping to find a great combination of literature and boating, and was not disappointed. Using a yard that builds wood boats as his setting, Whynott has produced real literature of his own. In doing so, he has woven a literary legend, E. B. White, father of the boat yard owner, into his story in a fashion that shows real respect for the elder White and avoids exploiting his work. The owners and the men who work in the Brooklin (Maine) Boat Yard develop gradually and consistently to become truly multidimensional, technicolor, and human. Meanwhile, the storyteller keeps himself skillfully in the background, well behind his subject. In addition to the inspiring humanity that is clearly evident (albeit with characteristically "down-home" understatement), the lessons for people who operate businesses are extensive and meaningful. Those authors who pedantically shout the lessons of organizational behavior from their unsubtle and all too shallow "how-to" books for business operators would do well to read "A Unit". They could find every one of their lessons demonstrated in ways that respect the reader's ability to draw his or her own generalities from a proper selection of real events honestly described. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not quite what I expected... Von Ein Kunde I agree with the reviewer who suggested that this book really needs some illustrations. Whynott's word-pictures just aren't sufficient for those whose knowledge of sailing boats is limited. As a non-reader of Wooden Boats magazine, the source of much of the info here, I'd love to have seen photos or sketches of the boats mentioned, as well as the boatyard crew. And for the ocean-loving landlubbers among us, a good glossary would be a godsend. For example, what's deadwood? or a spoon-shaped bow? It's also a bit of a stretch to say that Whynott wrote this book. Take out the extensive -- and wonderful -- citations from the writings of E.B. White and his son, Joel that Whynott lovingly included, and not much of the writing came from the pen/typewriter/PC of Whynott. What did is quite well written, sometimes really well written, however. What this book really did is send me searching for my copy of E.B. White's "One Man's Meat." I'm not surprised to see this title in the "others who bought this book" section here on .com. I'm also gonna check out "The Yard: Building a Destroyer at the Bath Iron Works," by Michael S. Sanders. The Boston Globe review of this book is what interested me in Whynott's book -- which the reviewer liked a lot.

**Kurzbeschreibung** In a time when racing boats are mass-produced from synthetic materials, a dying breed of craftsman continues to build wooden sailboats of astonishing beauty. Boatbuilding is an ancient art, and Joel White was a master. Son of the legendary writer E.B. White, he was raised around boats and his designs were as sublime and graceful as his father's prose. At a boatyard in Maine, White and his closely knit team of builders brought scores of his creations from blueprints into the ocean. In June 1996, six months after being diagnosed with cancer, Joel White began designing the W-76, an exquisite racing yacht. It was his final masterpiece. Douglas Whynott spent a year at Brooklin Boat Yard, observing as this design took shape, first in sketches and then during the painstaking building of the wooden craft. The result is the poignant tale of both a genius at work and the people devoted to his art. Evoking E.B. White's New England and its salty residents, *A Unit of Water, a Unit of Time* is a classic portrait of dignity, charm, and humble magnificence--and of a maritime community that keeps a vanishing world alive.. de E.B. White and his son Joel both had a respect for beauty, simplicity, and practicality when it came to their work. For E.B., it was writing. He talks about these qualities in *The Elements of Style*, the classic guide to English-language usage, and he demonstrates them in works like *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*. For Joel, it was building and designing boats that are "simple of line yet sound in engineering, traditional above water and modern below." *A Unit of Water, a Unit of Time* is a

touching, engaging look at the life, work, and influence of Joel White and the craft of boat making. Whynott spent a year (June 1996 to July 1997) at White's boat yard in Brooklin, Maine. At the time, White was battling cancer, nearing the end of his life, and designing what would be his last boat, the W-76, a wooden racing yacht with "sublime lines and exquisite rigging." A Unit of Water, the result of that experience, traces White's life from his birth in 1930 to his childhood spent in New York and Maine, his naval architecture studies at MIT, and his eventual move to Brooklin, where he began working at the small boat yard that eventually became his own. In the early '80s, White and his crew stopped making fiberglass boats in favor of wooden ones; Brooklin, headquarters for WoodenBoat magazine and the WoodenBoat School, became the center of the wooden-boat revival and White something of a boat-building guru. The book looks closely at the art of boat making--shaping deck beams, making bronze chocks, boring holes through sternposts--and the many characters in the Brooklin boat-building community. It's very interesting stuff, and Whynott tells the story simply and thoughtfully, emulating White's philosophies. He also describes White's health battles with respect and poignancy and without getting overly sentimental. Joel White was a man of few words who tended to downplay his accomplishments, but they shine through in A Unit of Water. One Brooklin boat builder, describing the "soul" of boats, could have been describing White: "Boats are live. They talk. The more poorly made boats talk more. The best-made boats don't talk as much. They're quiet--quiet soldiers, they call them." --Andy Boynton.com

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