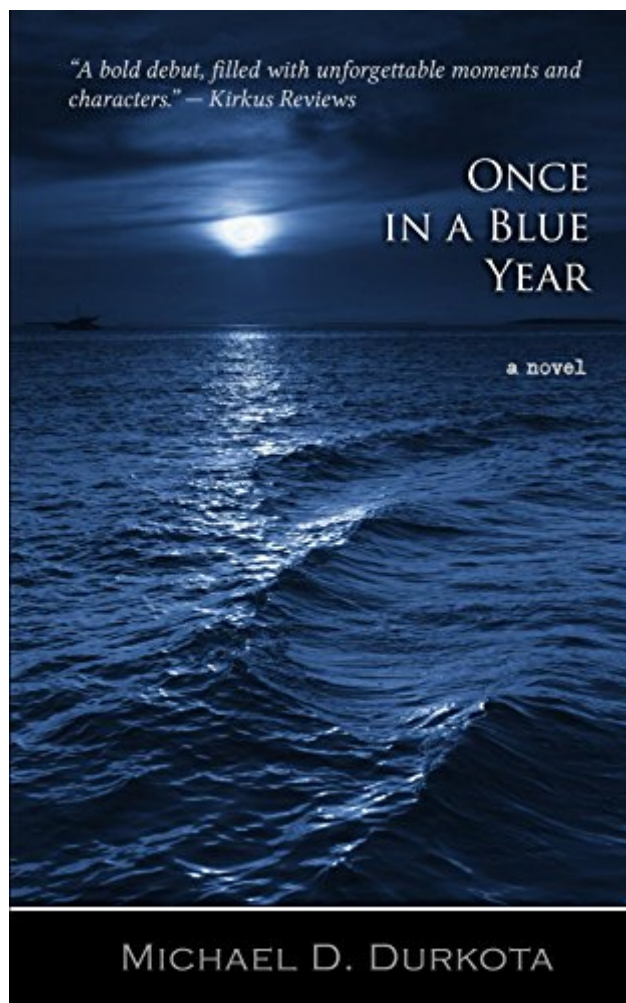


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Once In A Blue Year



Synopsis

"A bold debut, filled with unforgettable moments and characters." — Kirkus Reviews
Top Medalist - Psychological Suspense - New Apple e-Book Awards
Finalist - IAN Book of the Year Awards
Once in a Blue Year begins during the first days of the Gulf War, with two navy barracks roommates remaining onshore as their submarine leaves without them. Unraveling through different points of view in both present action and flashbacks, the story follows Dan, who is conflicted about receiving a medical discharge, and Trevor, who is seething with anger over the incident that forced him to miss his deployment. With nowhere else to go, Dan moves into the home of his friends Nathan and Heather and their young son, James. Meanwhile, Trevor is furious with Nathan, who has managed to volunteer to go to battle in Trevor's place. But Trevor's hotheaded temperament has finally caught up to him, and regardless of his skill as a true naval warrior, he's suddenly been ordered to stay in. In Nathan's absence, Dan is charged with looking after Heather and James as he rebuilds his life, while Trevor struggles with his anger and intimacy issues in his relationship with girlfriend Tara. But before they can move forward, they must both come to terms with the fateful event at sea that changed their lives forever. In this lyrical debut novel, the lives of two U.S. Navy men take dramatic turns after they're cut from a submarine mission during the Gulf War. Debut author Durkota writes a remarkable narrative centered on the afflicted mindsets of his Navy men. And while Durkota's work often feels like a thriller, it's more of a psychological study in which the characters, like flashes of lightning, are wonderfully alive for a very short time." — Kirkus Reviews

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like complex, dynamic characters? How about dramatic tension? A little mystery in the workings of love? Me, too! Hence the need to review and the need to praise. Once in a Blue Year sticks close to three submariners who are friends but often times unfriendly toward one another. Nathan, checked out from his wife and infant son, loves going under that big drink where he can find solace in his own little world. Dan is tormented by a desire to love someone off limits, but tormented more by his inability to move away from a life that no longer suits him. Trevor, all muscle and stunted emotion, balances his morals against the outside world's insistent battering at his limitations. These guys dance around one another, on submarine and on dry land, influencing life paths, choices in love and choices in violence. Durkota takes these men through a literary swell of befuddled relationships, sprinkling in a moody, mysterious ambiance throughout the pages. The sentences making up Once in a Blue Year are crisp and tight, punctuated by evocative metaphors and punchy dialogue. One of my favorite images in the book was this one, where Dan reminisces about his time in his father's basement: "Sawdust would stick to his arms and legs, and he would wipe it away with a swipe of his hand, as if he were wiping away the stars in the sky." In a lovemaking scene in the book, a moment of guilt-laced passion, he writes, "In mathematics, the product of two negatives is positive. He wasn't sure if that applied." I've never read a more apt description of an adulterous act than this one. One of my favorite characters is Jags, a off-kilter submariner looking for ways to get discharged from the Navy.

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