



# LESSONS FROM CRUISING

## MARTIN GOODMAN

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\$18.00 / £10.99 / CA\$23.99 | 9780956336439 | 5"x8"

Queer Short Stories

Also available in eBook format

### **"Powerful and affecting work"**

Paul Russell

*An assembly of tales, from Britain, the USA, and the seas in between, explore different expressions of the gay male experience.*

*The Lovely Life of Arnold* drops into the life of New York fashionista Arnold, in seven-year leaps from the age of seven to forty-two. From birth, Arnold's parents knew their family was perfect and complete, because nothing could be better than a gay son.

*Lessons from Cruising* sees an Asian schoolteacher link up with a multi-millionaire businessman one early morning, by the Thames. They head out on the rich man's yacht, in the company of the rich man's son and friend.

*Billy Budd: Captain Vere's Account* reprises Herman Melville's *Billy Budd*, but for the first time takes the reader inside the stateroom on the ship, where the captain confronts Billy with the verdict of the courtroom.

### **Some Early Reaction**

**"A ravishing collection, remarkably wide-ranging in subject, mood and tone, each story exquisitely crafted. A complicated young man embarked on a romantic adventure and diving into deeper water than he can safely navigate. A clergyman shedding his faith as he retraces the footsteps of St. Paul. Several linked tales chronicling lovely Arnold's wondrous, ultimately bittersweet wet dream of a life. A boldly imagined 'missing' scene from Melville's *Billy Budd*. These stories explore the cadences and crises of gay men's lives with fine, empathetic insight. Goodman's attention to detail often combines with verbal felicity to memorialize even the most ordinary moments."**

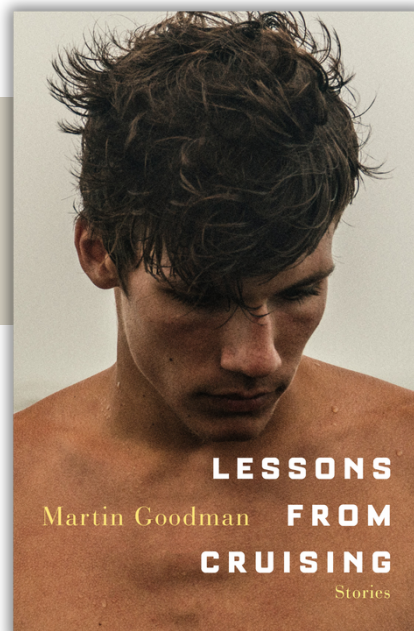
- Paul Russell, (Immaculate Blue)

**"Martin Goodman's wild, irreverent and fetching stories pulled me in. I was especially taken by his Melvillian outtake on *Billy Budd*, the fine last story in this collection, which is moving and weirdly plausible."**

- Jay Parini, (Borges and Me, The Passages of Herman Meville)

### **Key Points**

- A collection of stories published at various times in a range of publications, featuring two entirely new pieces.
- Short fiction from an award winning author and BBC New Generation Thinker.
- Unique voices provide different perspectives on being gay across the decades in the US and UK.
- Concludes with a powerful original addition to Herman Melville's *Billy Budd*.
- Strong appeal to LGBTQ+ readers and lovers of short fiction.



### **About the Author**

Martin Goodman sat down to be a writer at the age of twelve, and three months later decided the market wasn't ready for him yet. Work took him to Berlin, the Netherlands, Italy, Thailand, China, Qatar and Saudi Arabia as well as around the UK. He was buying time to write. His debut novel *On Bended Knees*, just re-released, was shortlisted for the Whitbread First Novel Award, and his most recent one, *The Cellist of Dachau*, takes music and the Holocaust as its themes. His nonfiction books, some award-winning, are about the sacred, fights to save the environment, and the history of medicine. Born in Leicester, he studied English at Leeds, took a PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Lancaster, and is Professor Emeritus of creative writing at the University of Hull. He shares homes in Los Angeles, London and Lowestoft with his husband, the environmental lawyer, writer and Zen priest James Thornton.

[martingoodman.com](http://martingoodman.com)

