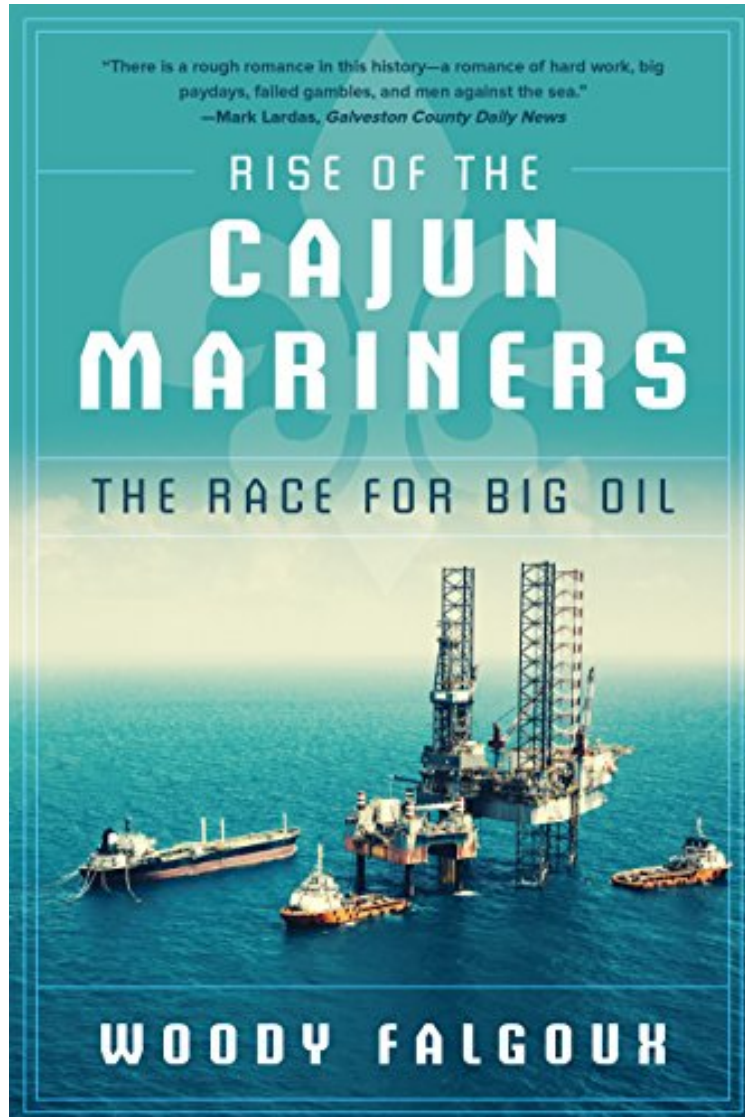


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Rise of the Cajun Mariners: The Race for Big Oil

Woody Falgoux

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The story of four families of Cajun boatmen and their rise from trappers and shrimpers to mega-millionaires.Rise of

the Cajun Mariners documents an untold piece of American history—the beginnings of what is now the global, multibillion-dollar marine oil and gas industry. In addition, it gives an insightful insider account of one of America's only truly distinctive cultures—the Cajuns. The book tells the story through the Cajun boatmen who drive the boats that supply and move the men who work the offshore platforms. The book follows four of these French-speaking trailblazers as they scrape to buy and build their first boats and struggle toward success. Their success stories will appeal to any believer in the American dream. But it is also a candid account of a wild time in a rough, vital business. Most of the characters are as flawed as they are dynamic. While they are master seamen, they lead a lifestyle that, for many of them, is as much about drinking and whoring as it is about seamanship and deal-making. The seedy side of their business adds complexity to their story and makes the tale especially human. *Rise of the Cajun Mariners* is a fast-paced tale about the rapid evolution of a worldwide industry, the modernization of a culture, and the deliverance of four fascinating families.

Cajun Mariners is not fiction, but reads as smoothly and colorfully as a fully conceived novel and with the same level of satisfaction... (Woody Falgoux) extracts a degree of candor that is both startling and refreshing... Good fiction requires that the reader inhabit the characters. It is a deft and intuitive writer who can pull this off in nonfiction... As a business primer, *Cajun Mariners* should be required reading. Drawing on ingenuity and determination, these four families created a worldwide industry. With nothing more than street smarts, or shall we say swamp smarts, these gutsy men repeatedly cleared obstacles. --Scott Naugle, *Biloxi Sun Herald* While Falgoux's book doesn't omit the darker side of dealing with big oil and doing politics in Louisiana, it contains enough sly Cajun stories to entertain anyone. --Reese Vaughn, *The Victoria Advocate* Falgoux unsentimentally reveals the seamy underside of the oil patch, yet you admire the resilience of the men who worked there. There is a rough romance in this history—a romance of hard work, big paydays, failed gambles and men against the sea. --Mark Lardas, *The Galveston County Daily News* While Falgoux's book doesn't omit the darker side of dealing with big oil and doing politics in Louisiana, it contains enough sly Cajun stories to entertain anyone. --Reese Vaughn, *The Victoria Advocate* Falgoux unsentimentally reveals the seamy underside of the oil patch, yet you admire the resilience of the men who worked there. There is a rough romance in this history—a romance of hard work, big paydays, failed gambles and men against the sea. --Mark Lardas, *The Galveston County Daily News* About the Author WOODY FALGOUX writes, practices law and is the co-owner of Cherry Books in Thibodaux, Louisiana. He is also the author of *One Dream: The NFL* (2001).