

Bowen Press



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John Gifford's *The Sharks of Al Jubail* Published by Bowen Press *Stories from the Oklahoma Heartland Give Voice to Real Life Struggles*

Tyler, Texas: Bowen Press is delighted to announce the publication of *The Sharks of Al Jubail and Other Stories*, a collection of short stories by John Gifford, available on June 15, 2018. Gifford is an accomplished author, U.S. Marine Corps veteran, and Pushcart Prize nominee. He has published in such places as *The Atlantic* and *The Saturday Evening Post* and is the author of several books, including the angling guide, *Oklahoma Sportfishing* (2002), and another collection of short fiction, *Wish You Were Here* (2016).

Focused on freedom and identity, *The Sharks of Al Jubail* is dedicated to telling the stories of people who experience struggle, joy, and triumph in an area of the world not often written about. Gifford explains that his protagonists hail from Oklahoma because he wants to give voice to individuals who are “too often overlooked and ignored in contemporary American literature.” *The Sharks of Al Jubail* recounts the struggles of those whose “socioeconomic backgrounds, occupations, and under-education” influence their lives in “an area of the country often seen as irrelevant in a shinier, flashier America.”

Writer Jonathan Starke has high praise for Gifford's storytelling: “John Gifford's stories emanate from a voice like a current of strength, his electric characters ever battling the search of want and identity. His lines are as admirable as his stellar pacing; his narratives methodical and intense, capturing the heat of all we want or all we've ever intended to do.”

The Sharks of Al Jubail is now available for pre-order at Barnes and Noble. To find out more about John Gifford, please visit his site: john-gifford.net. John Gifford is available for talks on topics related to creative writing, narrative, and studying English. Please contact Bowen Press for more details.

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