

2024 NEW FALL FICTION



NIGHT RUNNERS OF THE WINTER SEAS

A New Novel by John Appleby

In the chaotic aftermath of the Great War the American adoption of Prohibition brought sudden changes to the North American economy. There was a ready supply of customers among returning soldiers who had been fighting the war and were not consulted. There were brewers, distillers and vintners together with their related retailers and wholesalers whose businesses had been vaporized. At the same time, work in Canada was in short supply. Much of the alcohol in demand was manufactured in Britain. London banks, with money spun out of the wreckage of empires and on deposit, were there to help. There was tacit support of the Government of Canada which collected tax on every case taken out of a warehouse and looked away before it was delivered. The trade was spread all along the border with the United States, but British Columbia's specialty was its maritime connections. Seafarers had a shortage of ships and boatbuilders needed work. The liquor trade ran from BC ports to supply ships stationed well offshore down the Pacific coast. It also ran to a very large market, Seattle, at the base of Puget Sound. Two Canadian naval officers home from the war; Dugald McPherson, a skilled ship handler and Peter Arundel, a link to the bankers, go after this market as the Night Runners of the Winter Seas.

John Appleby trained as a stockbroker in New York after growing up on both sides of the Atlantic. His early education was sandwiched between the Jesuits in England and the University of British Columbia, from which he earned a degree in American History. He spent over thirty years as an army reservist in Infantry, Intelligence, Military Police and Logistics units, and has also been heavily involved as a principal executive member on community business and cultural organizations. He is the fourth generation of his family to take up residence on Vancouver Island, where he has spent much of his life. He currently lives in the Cowichan Valley with his wife and Labradoodle. A member of the Canadian Authors Association, this is his first novel.

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