

Chesapeake Bound

BY THOMAS GUAY

Serving as a surgeon's assistant in London in 1763, Michael Shea, an Irishman, faces a constant battle to conceal his disdain for the English. His talent and amiable nature towards a fellow Irish patient were overshadowed by his heritage and the subtle insults he endured, which hindered his chances of working as a respected surgeon.

This leads him to a grim reality of survival in the slums of London.

Nearly frozen from a snowstorm, Michael makes his way to the White Lyon Tavern, where his talent as a fiddle player serves as a source of merriment and joy among tavern patrons.

Michael's love, Emma, is a barmaid at the tavern, and she and Michael work together to distract high-spirited patrons from the explosive tensions created by talk of a Stamp Act. However, the topic stirs deep emotions between a colonial from the Americas and a local Englishman. Tension soon escalates into a desperate brawl.

With emotions boiling over, Michael is summoned to provide medical services to a young colonial struggling for his life following a continuation of the fight that began in the tavern. This moment proves to be life-altering for Michael as he soon finds himself accused of murder, divided between escaping with his life or remaining with his love, Emma.

Faced with the consequences of the allega-

tions and the realization that his love was unrequited, Michael and fellow musician Danny O'Mara sign indentures and take refuge aboard *The Delight*, a misnamed merchant ship bound for Maryland in search of new opportunities.

As conditions aboard the ship during the crossing are miserable and fraught with danger and peril, Michael's medical skill once

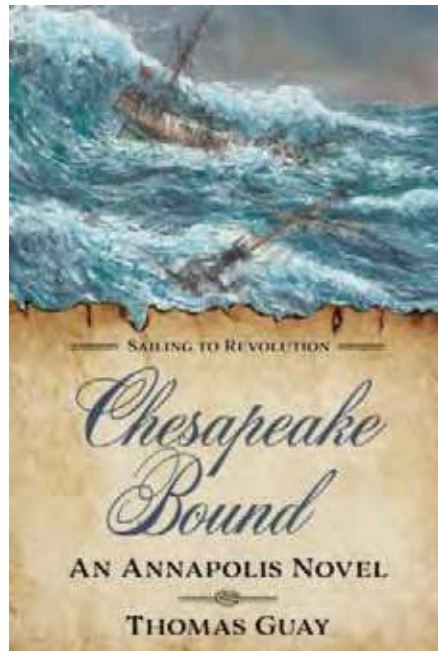
again serves him and several other passengers on the voyage well. However, despite better prospects, Michael must face the reality that he is still accused of murder, and he must remain on guard against an uncertain future and the real killer, desperate to remain unnamed.

Chesapeake Bound: An Annapolis Novel, Thomas Guay's debut novel, is a gripping tale of survival against many challenges set against the backdrop of impending political upheaval in pre-revolutionary America.

Guay delves into various themes and subjects, providing a captivating insight into the aspirations and struggles of impoverished immigrants seeking a fresh start in colonial America.

With its meticulously crafted characters and the turbulent historical context, *Chesapeake Bound* is compelling historical fiction that will captivate and entertain new and seasoned readers. ■

—Tom Hines



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