

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Portland author sheds light on threats to the world's oceans in fast-paced eco-thriller

Portland, OR (January 27, 2020)— *Varuna*, a new adventure thriller from first-time author Phillip Vincent exposes the devastating exploitation of the planet's most precious and vulnerable resource, our oceans. Behind the beauty of the novel's exotic and enchanting landscapes is a paradise under siege. A battle of wills ensues with an unexpected plot twist, begging the question: Will morality prevail?



“The smell of the salt air and warm ocean breeze blowing across his face lifted his spirits and helped him forget, if only for a moment, how his life had veered off course. The bright turquoise of the shallows changed to cobalt as Varuna’s bow sliced through the swells into the deeper waters of the strait. Ahead was the open ocean—the only place his demons left him at peace. The one place he still felt he belonged.”

In addition to the ethical quandaries Vincent's characters face, the book's vivid descriptions are based on his life experiences and observations exploring and diving in remote destinations, like the seas of Southeast Indonesia where his first book is set. Consistent with every one of his over 1,000 dives in waters around the world, is the mark pollution, climate change, and illegal and unregulated fishing have left on the waterways and their ecosystems.

“In my forty years of diving, I’ve observed first-hand the effect humans have on reefs and marine life. I was inspired to write *Varuna* in response, to give readers a different context in which to consider the rapid degradation of our planet’s oceans and bring attention to the thousands of places threatened around the world,” says Vincent.

Varuna offers an escape to readers looking for a good adventure, but it also shares a very real and urgent message about the crisis our oceans face.

Varuna was released December 2019 by Wild Rose Press. The manuscript was selected as a finalist for best novel in the Thriller category in the 2018 Pacific Northwest Writers Association contest. An audiobook is set for release late winter 2020.

Order *Varuna*: [Powell’s](#), [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), [iBooks](#)

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About Phillip Vincent

An adventurer by nature, Phillip Vincent was fascinated by life under the water at an early age. Captivated by the expeditions of visionary explorer and conservationist Jacques Cousteau, Vincent taught himself to dive with nothing more than a used scuba tank and regulator. He cut his teeth as a commercial diver on offshore rigs in the gulf, but quickly realized the muddy depths were a far cry from the crystal clear waters he longed to descend. Vincent went back to school and transitioned into finance. Thereafter, diving became a much-needed escape. Working on behalf of governments and investors recovering the assets of failed financial institutions brought him face-to-face with corrupt and criminal individuals. His experiences from the dark side of international finance and passion for exploring the world's oceans inform and inspire his writing. Phillip Vincent lives in Portland, Oregon, and is currently working on his next adventure thriller.