

## MEMOIRS TO MOVE YOU

**Lifesaving Lessons:  
Notes from an  
Accidental Mother**by Linda Greenlaw  
(Viking, \$26.95)

She's the only female swordfish boat captain in the United States, and her survival skills became legend after she was portrayed in the movie *The Perfect Storm*. But the never-married Greenlaw met her match when she took on guardianship of a troubled teenage girl. Here, she chronicles their relationship with candor, wit, and rugged tenderness.

**With or Without You**by Domenica Ruta  
(Spiegel & Grau, \$25)

"My mother grabbed the iron poker from the fireplace and said, 'Get

in the car.'" That's the opening line of Ruta's fierce, smart account of a devastating childhood, in a memoir drawing comparisons to *The Glass Castle*. Not surprisingly, Ruta, whose mother was an addict, struggled with her own demons; her memoir is a testament to her own redemption.

**Still Points North:  
Surviving the World's  
Greatest Alaskan  
Childhood**by Leigh Newman  
(The Dial Press, \$26)

Newman's childhood was split between her father's home in Alaska, where she developed a thirst for adventure, and Baltimore, where her hardworking mother ("a flannel war-

**Vampires in the  
Lemon Grove** by Karen  
Russell (Knopf, \$24.95)

The wildly inventive author of the novel *Swamplandia!* is back with a collection of wondrously strange and moving short stories.

rior in a lace-necked nightgown," up at 5 a.m.) lived. Newman's adult search for her own true home is riveting, as are her worldwide adventures; it's a joy to be in on the ride.

