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Sailing Alone Around The World, 1895-1898



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read a lot of sailing-adventure books. I started with Melville's books about sailing (Moby Dick and White Jacket are my favorites), then found books like Kon Tiki and The Seed Buried Deep. There are a lot of good sailing books out there, but I think this one is the best. The narrator is unassuming, stalwart, and an amazing sailer. I'm talking late 19th century sailing, when people navigated by the stars, didn't have GPS or sat-phones, and even did all their own repairs. Perhaps what I love most about this adventure is how it starts, and I'll mention that since it won't give much away: The captain of the book starts out by being given an old wreck of a ship, and he spends several months repairing it, rebuilding it, and reinventing the vessel. It's a great story overall about a guy who can literally do it all. Of all the sailing books I've read, I like this one the most. Reading it, you truly feel like (with the proper experience and know-how), you could sail the globe and have a good time doing it.

It's no wonder this excellent piece of literature is public domain, what Joshua Slocum set to accomplish later in life is awe inspiring, as is the actual journey, made both personal and entertaining by his perspective, humor, and self effacing eloquence. Enlightened world view not without it's occasional prejudices, but impressive nonetheless given that it is over 100 years back in time. Joshua Slocum did something no human had ever done before, sail alone around the world, but throughout the journey his focus and detail in his storytelling is rich with experiences and encounters, particularly when it came to other humans. He was far from alone. Please read this book.

This is the modest and humorous tale of the circumnavigation of the great Capt Slocum, and idol and beacon to all that followed him circling the globe. I must say that he brings back to my personal memory my Capt Gryce of South Africa, my Master for a year. These are the sea dogs of old, that are attuned to the sea, respect it as the power it is, the livelihood that it has brought them. And a lesson of seamanship this is without any jargon and tiring detail, just about the sailing and adventure for the sake of it and no more. Great read !!!

This was a book that I enjoyed, because I love the ocean and I have a thirst to explore it. This book provides the next best thing, which is a first-person account of one man's circumnavigation of the globe. There are some truly hilarious moments in this book, especially when Slocum, our narrator, tries to scientifically explain that the world is round, not flat, to scholars who argue otherwise. Also, his accounts of his adventures provide fun insight into exotic cultures in other parts of the world. I'm giving the book four out of five stars for two reasons: one, because I feel the book starts slowly and then builds into a more exciting narrative. Two, because I don't know nautical terminology all that well and I felt confused by some of his descriptions of the ship and why he has to fix the ship.. I think if I had a stronger handle on nautical life and terms, I would have enjoyed it even more.

I read this book while deployed in Afghanistan last year. It was my friend and constant companion. I teased a chapter a day out of it, just to make the reading experience last a bit longer. Capn Slocum was the original American solo adventurer, and what a story it is. Written in his own hand, as a non-professional writer, it is amazingly well done. This book was required reading for many elementary+ age American school children in the early part of the 20th century, but reads well for all ages. One can only be amazed by his fortitude, adventure spirit, and his very calm, down-to-earth observations on the places and peoples he visited and interacted with. Very few writings like this exist, and because it is written by a lay-person writer, it presents a very candid and revealing perspective of how a true adventurer experienced global travel and carried on without the benefit of electronic navigation and communication

This is essentially a great book and is truly a sailing "classic". I would give Slocum's book 4.5 stars if I could. The strength of the book lies in the adventure itself; a somewhat aging mariner sailing around the world alone, in a small re-built sailboat in the late 1800's. What's not to like? The story by itself makes for a remarkable and unique read. The only caveat I found with this book was the frequent use of technical sailing jargon which may make it more difficult for non-sailors to read. Also,

Slocum tends to downplay the harshness or any "close calls" he must have had along the way. Slocum largely portrays his journey in a "smooth sailing" and a "whats-the-problem?" style. Though I'm sure he usually had things well in hand and whining was not part of his nature, I would have enjoyed reading more about his uncertainties and the myriad challenges he was presented with. All in all though, this is a superb book. Highly recommended to sailors and any devotee of historical adventure travel.

Joshua Slocum was the first person to sail completely around the world alone! The voyage lasted three years and approximately 46,000 miles; and was accomplished on a 36' ordinary wooden sloop (The 'Spray'), typical of the 1890's. He kept a journal of the experience and that was pretty much the sole basis of his book. His fortitude (months spent totally alone), skill, resourcefulness, and above all - courage are simply astounding. He encountered hostile natives, pirates, terrific storms, uncharted hazards, and more. Although he gained some considerable fame for the accomplishment, his story is now pretty obscure. The book is not a towering feat of literature. Slocum was a skilled sailor and handyman, not an accomplished writer. But his simple, straightforward style is easy and enjoyable to read. And the events of his journey, told in a matter-of-fact style, are nothing short of amazing. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in sailing, history, or simply the sea and seafaring.

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