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This Is It: 2 Hemispheres, 2 People, And 1 Boat



Synopsis

They knew this moment would shape the rest of their cruising lives. With their incurable curiosity and desire for adventure, they sold all their belongings and flew to America in search of a boat. The pull of the ocean was too strong to ignore any longer. Four years prior, they circumnavigated the globe on their thirty-three foot boat, Mariah. Now they wanted a new challenge. From the perils at Pitcairn to the grand statues of Easter Island, Jackie and Noel set sail south to the remotest inhabited island in the world. Along the way, they lose a friend and come nail-bitingly close to losing their new boat, but they gained so much more: a voyage that left them breathless from fear and a journey of not only travel but of two truly nomadic gypsies. This is a story of storms of emotions and oceans, travel, love and relationships, and two people figuring out life and fulfilling their need to move and be challenged.

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Customer Reviews

Here's the thing: Jackie Parry tells you about a time in her unusual, adventurous, enviable life in such a humble way that you wish she were a friend of yours. She artfully balances the

description of her and her husband's story of sailing a boat from California to Australia with a few observations and thoughts about life, and she does it in an unobtrusive, pleasant, conversational way. For example, on their way westward from California to Australia, they naturally (naturally, that is, IF you are Jackie and Noel) found themselves in the mountains of Peru hired to teach English to a group of salsa dancers. She notices the differences between the young adult students' hands and hers, and she mentions how she is beginning to realize that she is no longer as young as she feels. It is just a glancing mention, but the image of the younger / older hands carries the weight of those first feelings of realization that many of your days have indeed flowed behind you like water under a bridge. You can tell, too, when she's remembering good, joyous times "the emotion swells up between her words . . . Yes, yes, yes, if you have the spirit of someone who feels that his or her life is an adventure on whatever scale or level of success, yes, yes, yes, you will enjoy getting to know Jackie Parry.

I have just finished reading Jackie Parry's book "This is it." Having read her previous stories, "Of Foreign Build" and "A Standard Journey," I was not convinced the latest offering would be able to maintain the same entertainment value as I had previously enjoyed. I need not have worried. Following on from her adventures on Mariah, Jackie swept me up on another fabulous journey of escapism. Together with Noel, her husband, they negotiated and purchased Pyewacket, (as with most things in their lives this was not such an easy feat!) a fifty-one-foot vessel and embarked on another nail biting adventure. I am not as a rule, a huge fan of non-fiction/memoire genres. However, I do make an exception when I come across a book by this author. Jackie Parry has a way of entertaining while passing on practical information. She draws pictures with her words of exotic locations, colourful people and the harsh, often life threatening conditions they encounter while sailing offshore. I look forward to seeing where this adventurous lady takes us to next.

I have just finished reading this book and would like to say how much I enjoyed it. It also taught me a good deal as I plan to buy a catamaran and go sailing for an extended period. There is a huge amount to get done prior to that happening, not having a boat and not having sailed offshore since I was a teenager. Jackie's book helped me to understand some of the nuts and bolts of what MUST be done and what may just be nice to have done. Plus it's a first hand account of some of the knowledge required to attempt a venture such as this. So, whether you plan to sail in reality or from an armchair, this book is a very entertaining read. Buy it and enjoy it, as I did.

A fantastic story of an amazing adventure. Jackie has a way of describing the situation to make you feel you are along for the trip with them. This story highlights all the ups and downs of long term cruising and just makes me wish I was already out there doing it full time myself!

I've had to pleasure to read Parry's Of Foreign Build (also her book, A Standard Journey), and had been looking forward to this addition to their ocean adventures. Parry never disappoints as she and her husband, Noel, continue their quest for personal freedom. From her excellent writing style, her brutal honesty, her ability to allow me the tang of salty air, the need to grab onto something solid as Pyewacket bashes through another thunderous wave, the joy of a relieved breath when finally reaching a safe anchorage I felt like a stowaway on a wondrous journey. Whether a sailor, or not, this book is an adventure not to be missed. I can't wait for their next one.

An absolutely wonderful book, I highly recommend it to anyone who plans or dreams of ocean travel, or anyone who has a boat and dreams of going offshore.

While I enjoyed her first book, Of Foreign Build, more, I still had to give this book four stars for no other reason than I found it difficult to put down. I finished the book in six days between my busy work schedule. I especially enjoyed three parts of the book. The sections in Ecuador, Easter Island and the atoll of Suvarrow. Her detail thru these sections made me want to visit these locations and I am guessing for her, they were the favorite sections of the passage back to Australia.

A good read but doesn't tempt me to go sailing. A recommended read.]

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