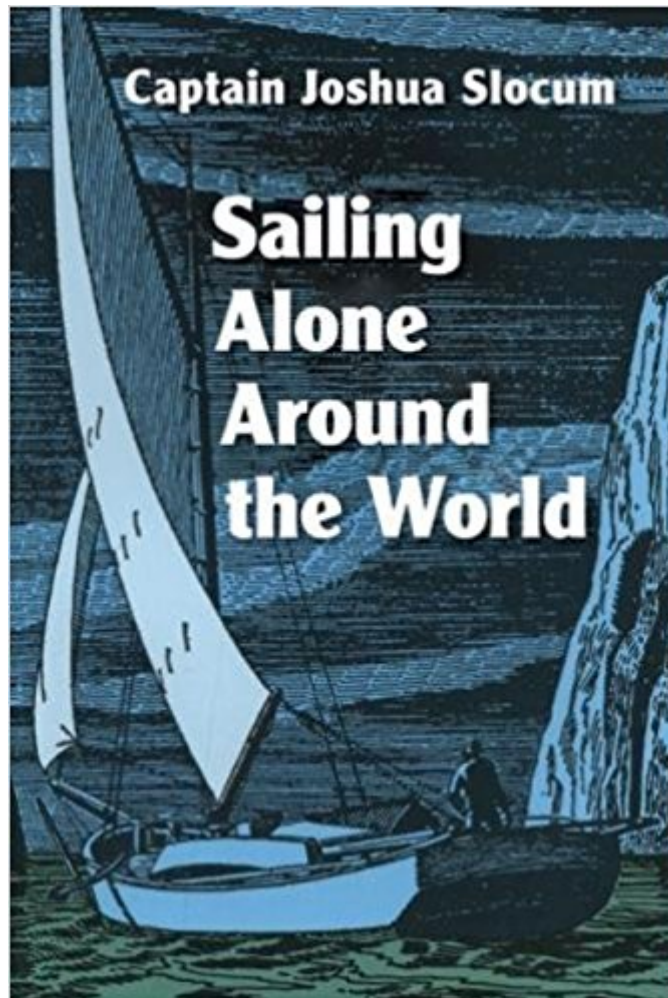




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Sailing Alone Around The World



Synopsis

"The classic of its kind." *Travel World* "One of the most readable books in the whole library of adventure." *Sports Illustrated* "The finest single-handed adventure story yet written." *Seafarer* Challenged by an expert who said it couldn't be done, Joshua Slocum, an indomitable New England sea captain, set out in April of 1895 to prove that a man could sail alone around the world. 46,000 miles and a little over 3 years later, the proof was complete: Captain Slocum had performed the epic "first" single-handedly in a trusty 34-foot sloop called the "Spray." This is Slocum's own account of his remarkable adventures during the historic voyage. Slocum writes in a fast-paced, exhilarating style. His almost matter-of-fact descriptions of hazardous episodes and his colorful, often witty observations make this book perhaps the most delightful and absorbing adventure tale in history. Across the Atlantic he sailed, but chased by Moorish pirates off Gibraltar, he decided to circle Cape Horn instead and go around the world the other way! He tells of perils on stormy seas and of numerous harrowing events: his escape from a fleet of hostile canoes; an encounter with Black Pedro, "the worst murderer in Tierra del Fuego"; foiling a nocturnal attack by savages by strewing carpet tacks on the "Spray's" deck; submerged by a great wave off the Patagonian coast; the "rain of blood" in Australia; dodging coral reefs in the South Seas. In Samoa, he was visited by Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson; in South Africa, he talked congenially with Stanley of "Stanley and Livingstone" fame, and met "Oom Paul" Kruger, President of the Transvaal republic. Kruger was incensed when one of his officials described Slocum's voyage as "around the world," since his religious beliefs convinced him that the world was flat! This robust classic of the sea has been widely read ever since its first publication in 1900. It has been reprinted several times and has even been required reading in many schools. This edition (complete with all of the original Thomas Fogarty illustrations) of Captain Slocum's story will prove as enjoyable and thrilling to the present generation of Americans as it was to our fathers and grandfathers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"There is so much to this book that it is not surprising that it has been continually in print since 1889 . . . this book has literary merit, thoughtful and beautifully written and packed with incident." --Nautical Magazine "An inspiration to many would-be adventurers." --Lloyd's List "[A] literate and absorbing yarn . . . A convincing tale of the intelligence, skill, and fortitude that drove a master navigator." --New York Times "Surely one of the all-time classic sailing narratives, this is more than just an account of a fascinating and often arduous journey, it has also given rise to a mythology all its own." --Classic Boat "Sailing Alone around the World could have been written yesterday. It flows free and easy and is filled with amusing anecdotes . . . Any sailor who loves the sea will be brought up short from time to time by the quiet eloquence of Slocum's writing." --Small Boat Journal "This audio presentation sparkles with the author's wit and the reader's calm, light English accent . . . Mayes' voice is perfect for a man in his sixties, spinning the adventures of his sailing around the world." --Kliatt "No better voice than that of Bernard Mayes could have been picked for this voyage filled with adventures ranging from the total loneliness of the solo voyage to the tense fear of attack by Tierra del Fuego pirates . . . Bernard makes [the adventures] as exciting as they must have been to Slocum; his voice is the voice of a sailing gentleman." --AudioFile "[A] literate and absorbing yarn . . . A convincing tale of the intelligence, skill, and fortitude that drove a master navigator." --New York Times "Surely one of the all-time classic sailing narratives, this is more than just an account of a fascinating and often arduous journey, it has also given rise to a mythology all its own." --Classic Boat "Sailing Alone around the World could have been written yesterday. It flows free and easy and is filled with amusing anecdotes . . . Any sailor who loves the sea will be brought up short from time to time by the quiet eloquence of Slocum's writing." --Small Boat Journal "This audio presentation sparkles with the author's wit and the reader's calm, light English accent . . . Mayes' voice is perfect for a man in his sixties, spinning the adventures of his sailing around the world." --Kliatt "No better voice than that of Bernard Mayes could have been picked for this voyage filled with adventures ranging from the total loneliness of the solo voyage to the tense fear of attack by Tierra del Fuego pirates . . . Bernard makes [the adventures] as exciting as they must have been to Slocum; his voice is the voice of a sailing gentleman." --AudioFile --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

7 1-hour cassettes --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

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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