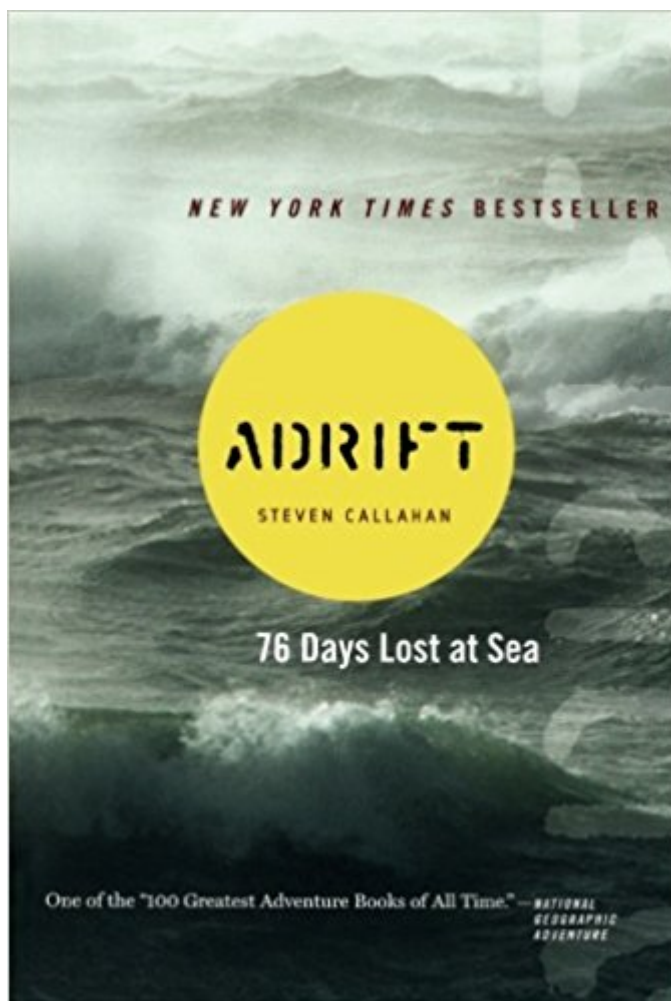


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Adrift: Seventy-six Days Lost At Sea



Synopsis

Before *The Perfect Storm*, before *In the Heart of the Sea*, Steven Callahan's dramatic tale of survival at sea was on the New York Times bestseller list for more than thirty-six weeks. In some ways the model for the new wave of adventure books, *Adrift* is an undeniable seafaring classic, a riveting firsthand account by the only man known to have survived more than a month alone at sea, fighting for his life in an inflatable raft after his small sloop capsized only six days out.

“Utterly absorbing” (Newsweek), *Adrift* is a must-have for any adventure library.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

YA Sailing Napoleon Solo in a single-handed Mini-Transat race from Spain to Antigua, Callahan was west of the Canary Islands when he realized that his sailboat was sinking. He managed to grab the life raft, a knife, his emergency duffel bag, a piece of mains'l, and a sleeping bag. These items became his home and sole possessions for 76 days. Loneliness, hunger, thirst, pain, and weakness dogged Callahan, yet his ingenuity and knowledge of the sea enabled him to survive. The illustrations and diagrams of life aboard Rubber Ducky III enable readers to visualize the hardshipsthe cramped living space of the raft, the hundreds of salt water sores that covered his body, the foreboding appearance of an approaching storm, or the primitive method used to collect fresh water. Harassed by sharks and dorados; at the mercy of storms; sore, cold, and miserable, Callahan shows fortitude and perseverance. An excellent book for all YAs, whether sailors or landlubbers. Pam Spencer, Mount Vernon High School Library, Fairfax, Va. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Callahan, a marine architect, lost his boat in a storm off the Canary Islands while engaged in a singlehanded race across the Atlantic in 1981. Luckily, he carried far more than the basic emergency equipment required, e.g., a six-person raft. Before sinking he was able to recover his emergency equipment bag and his life raft. Callahan admits to having read the survival accounts of Maurice and Maralyn Bailey (*Staying Alive* , 1974) and Dougal Robertson (*Survive the Savage Sea* , 1973) and even had the latter's manual *Sea Survival* (1975) with him in the raft. What makes his story different was his lack of a companion. Through his own ingenuity he learned how to spear fish, fix his solar still, and even repair his holed raft. This is a real human drama that delves deeply into a man's survival instincts. It should be read by anyone venturing offshore in a small boat. John Kenny, San Francisco P.L. Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Being an avid reader of ship wreck stories and Polar expeditions I was unsure whether I would like this book. Most of these types of books that involve disaster are usually followed with a few good times had by all before the worst occurs. This concerned me because it was a solo disaster and on a rubber survival raft at that. I was fairly certain he would be miserable the entire time and this create a very sad read indeed without the occasional comic relief found in group settings. Well, I was very pleasantly surprised, it turned out to be a great book! Yes, there were many horrific days for the poor soul during his 76 day survival story, but more than once he recalls feeling rich when blessed with fish to eat, water to drink, and the sun to dry his body and surroundings. Other times, he describes stroking the backs of the fish that follow him and his attitude remains strong during the majority of his voyage. I like this about him and respect his fortitude. There are definitely some dark days for him, as would be expected. Overall, this book delivered more than I had imagined. Highly recommended!

I really appreciated this book. After sailing and then building my own boat I decided not to cruise. Before finishing my boat I helped deliver a large catamaran from the eastern Carribean to southern California. With that experience under my belt the thought of single handing scared the he'll out of me. Being at sea sometimes you feel like there is no place you would rather be and other times your fear can be so great you do not think you will see another sunrise. Things can go wrong and multiply so quickly. I am sure that scouting, building experience, and a strong desire to live and not give up helped bring Steven Callahan through. I do not have that kind of skill or confidence in myself. I

would recommend this book to anyone especially those who think nothing will go wrong or that they are invincible.

...Aaron Ralston's *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* and Joe Simpson's *Touching the Void*. I have devoured all the survival stories I could find on . Shackleton, Mawson, Everest 1996, K2 2008, WWII escapes, the whaleship Essex, Skeletons of the Zahara, Krakauer's stuff - you name it. These three books stand out from the rest in that each author goes in-depth into the psychology of survival, in addition to the amazing facts of the amazing stories themselves. Ralston's realization that he'll never see his son. Callahan's "view of heaven from a seat in hell". Simpson's "brown girl in the ring"... The humanity of these young men - alone and on the brink - makes these narratives so special! Read this book and I highly recommend the other two as well.

If you enjoy lifeboat tales then this true story is among the best. I finished it in three sittings. The author describes his desperate escape from his sinking boat and his long and painful journey in a life raft. Getting noticed by a passing freighter is not as likely as it seems! He includes drawings and descriptions of the various repairs and adaptations that enabled him to survive. I appreciate that the Kindle version included the drawings though they were a little hard to make out. He also describes how he navigated, as well as his physical condition which became very bad from starvation and the constant exposure to salt water. Glad to know that Steven Callahan continues to write about sailing, and that he was a consultant for the film version of *Life of Pi*.

Adrift is about one man's solitary journey, both internal and external, on the perilous ledge between life and death. Steven Callahan is attempting to cross the Atlantic Ocean from the Canary Islands to Antigua, but before he departs, an elderly fisherman points to his vessel, the 21' long *Napoleon Solo*, and says, "In such a small boat? Tonto!" Fool. The rest of the journey is fraught with danger, starting from when the *Napoleon Solo* capsizes and sinks, forcing Callahan to abandon ship in a rubber lifeboat. Anyone battling demons of their own will find solace in Callahan's struggle to survive, which is a metaphor for all men's struggles to survive an often hostile world with often insurmountable odds. "I imagine two stone-faced poker players throwing chips into a pile. One player is named Rescue and the other is Death. The stakes keep getting bigger and bigger. The pile of chips now stands as tall as a man and as big around as a raft. Somebody is going to win soon." The ocean, the sharks, the weather, and hunger are all metaphors for the demons we all battle on a daily basis: joblessness, despair, jealousy, hatred, vengeance. Yet, despite the terrible privations he

experiences on the sea, Callahan also experiences moments of profound solace: "As I look out of the raft, I see God's face in the smooth waves, His grace in the dorado's swim, feel His breath against my cheek as it sweeps down from the sky. I see that all creation is made in His image." A truly remarkable tale of survival against the odds, "Adrift" is a great gift for anyone going through a crisis. It will remind him that "...to be well fed, painless, and in the company of friends and loved ones are privileges too few enjoy in this often brutal world." Well said Callahan!

A great read, esp for the person who believes in the sacred aspects of all life in this world. I only hope the author doesn't let his impressions completely die over time.

One of the best books I've ever read - and I read a lot of "true adventure" tales. Steven Callahan built a boat and tried to sail across the ocean but capsized. His tale of survival will have you on the edge of your seat. There is a scene where he is hallucinating from sunstroke and believes he is communicating with the fish in the sea, and it's absolutely believable. I have never forgotten this book since reading it years ago and one of my life-long goals is to shake Steven Callahan's hand.

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