



Three Ways to Capsize a Boat: An Optimist Afloat

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If you're wondering what Chris Stewart did before he and Ana moved to El Valero, their Spanish farm, here's one of the answers. He took to the sea, landing a job as skipper for the summer, sailing a Cornish Crabber around the Greek islands. It was his dream job - and there was just one tiny problem. He hadn't ever sailed before and had not the foggiest how to start.

In a series of madcap and hilarious adventures we follow Chris from a shaky start in Chichester harbour to his epic Odyssey to Spetses (a bucket would have been handy), and then on to the journey of a lifetime - battening down the hatches on a trip across the North Atlantic. It's a journey crackling with Chris's zest for life, irresistible humour, and unerring lack of foresight.

Dry land never looked more welcoming.

Three Ways to Capsize a Boat: An Optimist Afloat Details

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From Reader Review Three Ways to Capsize a Boat: An Optimist Afloat for online ebook

Erin Hendrian says

Puzzling. The book is marketed as funny, and the situations the author finds himself in are often comical, but he doesn't quite seem to take advantage of the material - I found myself always waiting for a laugh and never quite reaching any punchline. So, perhaps he isn't one for comic timing and it's more of a travel book. Once I adapted I found the descriptions of the places and the sailing quite enjoyable (the transatlantic journey was especially interesting). Unfortunately, the scattered language and crassness spoil the "lighthearted travel book" sort of tone as well, and what could potentially have been a really great book never quite delivers.

Maricruz says

Pues no, Chris Stewart no me ha fallado. Tal como esperaba me he reido mucho, y en los momentos en que no lo estaba haciendo, estaba disfrutando de una lectura amena y llena de detalles interesantes. Le pongo cinco estrellas de puro agradecimiento por el buen rato, y porque creo sinceramente que Chris Stewart es buen escritor, muy en la linea de Gerald Durrell.

Edith says

Very funny... I admire his spirit and utter disregard for his life, lol. I've never been on a sailboat, but this was very inspiring and made me want to go test out my sealegs. Even when he was describing the terrible storms they sailed through, instead of being deterred, I wanted to experience it myself even more. Either he has a gift for writing or I have an equal disregard for my life...

Cindypbarnard says

Three short, true stories about this guy learning to sail and his early experiences. The first two stories are light and sometimes silly. But the third and longest is about a trip he took with 6 others from England to Norway across the North Atlantic to Iceland on a small sailboat. It was a harrowing trip and written from the heart. That one was GOOD.

Anne Brown says

My husband has a yearning to learn to sail. The idea is for us to buy a boat for sailing around Britain and further afield to places like the Med now we've retired. I was feeling a little nervous at this suggestion and thought that reading an entertaining yarn of learning to sail would make me feel better. Not a bit of it! I was thoroughly entertained but Chris Stewart has made me feel more nervous, if anything, with his tales of growlers, rocks and engines on fire. Ah well. I plan to get my husband to read this next in the hope he'll

come to his senses. If not, hopefully I shall fall in love with sailing as Chris did.

Neelam Babul says

I was intrigued by the premise of this book and enjoyed reading the initial pages. However, as the story went on I kept on waiting for the moment when I would be able to make sense of the plot or catch the humorous part but the story kept on dragging and dragging until I lost interest in the book.

This was not such an intriguing story for me. It was not able to match up to my expectations.

Derek McKnight says

Excellent! Great tale from a natural story teller! The author goes from land lubber to seasoned seaman in a short space of time, deals with the trials and tribulations of maritime life and manages to fish the girl of his dreams too! Thoroughly recommended

John Haake says

Certainly not a deep meditative book, but instead a light memoir covering two significant events in the life of the author.

Well written, and certainly brings the reader to the scene. I envy the man's luck in falling into the sailing life. As pretty much a land-lover, I think I have a bit of a yearning for the sea (which is tough living in Ohio).

Read this book. I look forward to taking in some of his earlier works.

Ellen says

Chris Stewart was recommended by a friend to be the skipper of a sailboat in the Greek islands for a summer in the 1980's. The wealthy ship owners hired Chris without knowing much about him and the fact that he had never sailed might have been a good thing to know. Undaunted, Chris quickly took sailing lessons and declared himself ready to go. Setting the boat on fire several times in the Aegean Sea was probably not all his fault but it did not bode well. He actually came to love sailing during that summer and managed to please the boat owners and their friends.

Summer over, Chris returned to England, his long-time and long-suffering girlfriend Ana, and his job as a sheep shearer. When he was approached by his original sailing instructor to sign on for a trip retracing Lief Erickson's voyage across the Atlantic, Chris jumped at the chance. After all, what could be so different from the Aegean Sea? As Chris would come to learn, there is a whole ocean of differences. Storms, freezing temperatures, fog, ice -- but the adventure of a lifetime.

I enjoyed Chris' adventures, and misadventures, quite a bit. Unfortunately I know zilch about sailing so a lot of the terms meant absolutely nothing to me and it tended to bog down the tale a tad. He is definitely an interesting man with quite a story to tell.

Philip Whiteland says

Having read and enjoyed Chris Stewart's 'Driving Over Lemons' memoir, I grabbed this book when it came on offer. This is really two stories, one retelling how he came to learn to sail by the simple expedient of having volunteered to skipper an elderly American couple around the Greek Isles despite having no relevant experience. The second recounts a hazardous journey following the steps of the Vikings when they discovered North America. I'm no sailor, so I probably didn't get the full benefit of the stories but I did think that the second tale seemed like an exercise in masochism in which a number of people (including a child) were put at great risk for no apparent reason. But, as I said, I'm no sailor.

Douglas says

Avast matey...

Fun quick read. Boaters will recognize marina lies, engine headaches, foul weather, and port smells. Also, memories of peaceful coves, calm morning swims, shore lunches and amazing sunsets.

T says

A brief but entertaining read

Had a few laugh-out-loud moments. More or less like sitting around with someone over a long weekend and him/her telling you stories from their past. Found the long sailing trip most interesting and appreciated the detail.

Diane Ploussard says

Funny, true and wonderful.

He goes off on an adventure with little knowledge but a lot of enthusiasm. His sense of humor is keen and his writing kept me wanting to keep the pages turning. I cannot wait to read more of his works.

Marian says

Fun!

This was just a delightful book, which brought back vivid memories of messing about in a tiny sailboat in my youth. Mr. Stewart and company embarked on some ambitious voyages, particularly given his level of boating expertise. His love for the experience shines through, and his enthusiasm causes me to at least briefly consider sailing again.

Marc Thomas says

Just another excuse for Chris Stewart to reel off some tidbits about his early life without even getting out of bed. At first, the blurb looked promising, but I soon realised that the book was a series of flimsy tales woven together as a new Lemons adventure, but far from it.

This was as dull as ditchwater and I wish I'd never bought it now.
