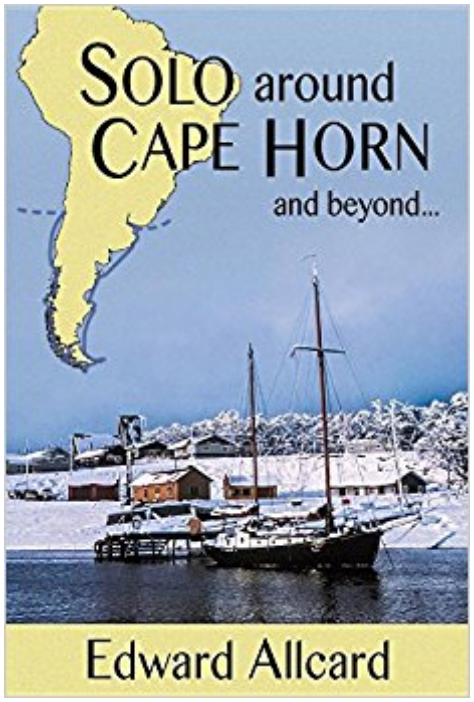
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Solo Around Cape Horn: And Beyond...



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Synopsis

Solo Around Cape Horn tells the story of a pioneering English yachtsmanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s adventures in Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego in his elderly wooden ketch. When Edward Allcard sailed south from the River Plate in 1966, he was heading into a territory which was almost entirely unknown to yachtsmen Ã¢â ¬â œ but that was part of the attraction. Such trail-blazing adventures were nothing new for Allcard. In 1948 he had sailed alone from Gibraltar directly to New York. And two years later, on crossing back again, he had become the first yachtsman to sail solo both ways across the Atlantic. Cruising in the high latitudes was a very much more challenging and dangerous business in the days before sailors had access to weather forecasts and modern electronics. Edward AllcardÃ¢â ¬â„¢s yacht also lacked an efficient self-steering system, and so, as a single-hander, he often had to spend an entire day or night at the helm. Heavy weather challenged not only his own endurance but also that of his 55-year-old wooden craft. There were times during the voyage to Cape Horn when the duo seemed to have met their match, and Allcard certainly came perilously close to losing his boat and his life. Having survived the Horn Ã¢â ¬â œ and having endured a winter in Tierra del Fuego Ã¢â ¬â œ Edward Allcard sailed north through the Chilean Channels to Valparaiso. The wild Patagonian scenery, his encounters with the fast-vanishing Yaghan indians, and his escapades foraging for food and firewood all lived up to Edward AllcardÃ¢â ¬â„¢s expectations for this cruise Ã¢â ¬â œ and thus it was that, some 40 years afterwards, he decided to share them with the world. Based on memory and his logbooks, Solo Around Cape Horn was finally finished in his 100th year, and it is expected to be ready for publication in this, the 50th anniversary of his voyage.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The world is finally able to share in what is perhaps Edward Allcard's greatest solo cruise... A natural singlehander, Allcard reads like a man who is at peace with himself. His remarks on the intensity of being alone, written long before universal two-way radio and internet, make those of us who have always sailed with crew wonder if we have not somehow sold ourselves a little short. Not one to complain, even he occasionally rails against the Clerk of the Weather who seems to apportion him more than any man's fair whack of foul wind and sea. It's the philosophical way he deals with it that sets him apart. Today, these wild waters are sailed by many adventurous yachts. This book tells a different story. Edward, once again, proves a true pioneer." --Tom Cunliffe

Born in 1914, Edward Allcard was crossing oceans - and writing books about it - before Eric and Susan Hiscock ever set out from the British Isles, and although they are rightly deserving of fame as the first world-girdling cruising couple, Edward Allcard's exploits certainly surpass theirs both for duration and drama. Seldom could he ever claim, as Eric Hiscock almost invariably did, to have made "another uneventful passage". Instead, his stories are replete with accounts of gales and other excitements. In 1948, Allcard sailed alone from Gibraltar straight to New York. Two years later, on crossing back again, he became the first yachtsman to sail both ways single-handed across the Atlantic. Or at any rate, his passage from New York to the Azores was completed solo; but on setting out from the islands he found that he had a young and beautiful stowaway aboard...! In the Canaries in 1957, Edward Allcard met Peter Tangvald - then a novice, but soon to become well-known in the cruising fraternity. Both anxious to get to the West Indies as quickly as possible, the men challenged each other to a single-handed duel; and thus the first ever east-to-west solo transatlantic race was created. From this first encounter a strong friendship was formed and, many years later, when Tangvald was lost during the wreck of his boat, it was Edward Allcard and his wife who took Tangvald's teenage son into their home and into their hearts. In the interim, Edward Allcard continued his lone voyage around the world via Cape Horn; and eventually, in 1973 - some 16 years after starting out - he completed the expedition. By now married and with a young child, Allcard subsequently bought an old wooden ketch, which the family restored and then sailed across the Atlantic and throughout the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. In 2006, at the age of 92, Edward Allcard finally sold his last boat and moved to the Pyrenees. Now in his 102nd year, he continues to live in this mountain eyrie.

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Solo around Cape HornÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is a record of 4000-mile-long voyage carried out over 50 years ago by one of the pioneers of single-handed cruising, Edward Allcard. In his 36-foot wooden ketch, Sea Wanderer, Allcard sailed in January 1966 from Buenos Aires, down the Argentine coast through the Roaring Forties, to Tierra del Fuego. Although he was pushed back several times by heavy gales, he finally succeeded in doubling Cape Horn in fine weather. His voyage continued west through the Beagle Channel, past Ushuaia, and then northwards along the coast of Chile through the Patagonian Channels. He supplemented his meagre rations with fish and crabs from local fishermen, sides of lamb from friendly ranchers, as well as mussels and geese he harvested himself. After 12 months and 26 days, beyond the reach of icebergs, he finally reached Valparaiso, Chile, at nearly the same latitude from where he started his voyage on the other side of South America.Not only is Allcard a competent sailor and navigator, he also writes well about his voyages. Despite the gap of several decades between the cruise and the publication of this book, he describes events with a directness and enthusiasm as if he had just experienced them. He has a keen eye both for the people he meets and for his natural surroundings. I have read many books on single-handed sailing cruises, starting from R. T. McMullenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Down channelÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (1869) to James BaldwinÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Bound for distant seasÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (2015). However, Edward AllcardÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s books are among my favourites, along with Bernard MoitessierÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The long wayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, Jacques-Yves Le ToumelinÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Kurun around the worldÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, and Vito DumasÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Alone through the roaring fortiesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•.Earlier books by Allcard are ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Single-handed passageÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Temptress returnsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, about voyages from England to New York and back in the 34-foot yawl Temptress. Later he wrote ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Voyage aloneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, about a single-handed cruise from Plymouth, England, to Montevideo, Uruguay, in his second boat, Sea Wanderer. In that book, Allcard wrote about his future plans: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“When I sailed from England my aim was to visit South America, starting with the region around the River Plate ... After a time there I would equip the boat for the main project of reaching the higher latitudes of the South Atlantic.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Now, 52 years later, Allcard finally tells us how his plans turned out, and what he experienced when sailing alone around the most notorious cape in the world.

Please see my review of this well written and engaging book about an amazing and challenging

voyage at .co.uk.

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