



Sea Trials: Around the World with Duct Tape and Bailing Wire

Wendy Hinman

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A shipwreck might end a dream of circumnavigating the globe. Not for the Wilcox family. To triumph, they must rebuild their boat on a remote Pacific island. Damage sustained on the reef and a lack of resources haunt them the rest of the way around the world as they face daunting obstacles, including wild weather, pirates, gun boats, mines and thieves, plus pesky bureaucrats and cockroaches as stubborn as the family. Without a working engine and no way to communicate with the outside world, they struggle to reach home before their broken rig comes crashing down and they run out of food in a trial that tests them to their limits.

Sea Trials: Around the World with Duct Tape and Bailing Wire Details

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Author : Wendy Hinman

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From Reader Review Sea Trials: Around the World with Duct Tape and Bailing Wire for online ebook

Kerry Pickens says

From the title of the book, I thought this tale was going to be humorous but it was more like one bad experience after another. Its about of four decide to spend four years sailing around the world with unrealistic and two whining teenagers. The sailboat they are on is not made to handle the trip, and they are inexperienced sailers to be traveling these distances. All I can say is, what were you thinking?

Christine says

What an amazing read! I enjoyed this book from cover to cover and was truly amazed by this family's adventurous around the world sailing tour. Wendy Hinman weaves this tale into a wonderful book that you will enthrall you and keep you eagerly reading until the end, from the safety of your land-based home. Even with a known outcome, the wonder about what would happen to them next and the fascination of how they would deal with it keeps you reading and reading. Wendy brings out the characters personalities and gives you pause in the realism of how a family lives on a boat, for that long, under such a vast array of circumstances. This book should be made into a movie!

Joel says

It was a fascinating tale... although perhaps not one to convince you that sailing around the world is in any way a good idea, however much an adventure it very much would be. In parts its a story of sheer survival and basic luck as much as its a story of adventure. And that is what makes it an interesting read and worth the time--its not the saccharine of some other round the world tales; its grittier than that and all the better for that reason.

Heidi says

I received this book from NetGalley for my honest review.

This book was 300 pages too long. My goodness you have a family of 4 to include 2 teenagers and the parents thought it would be a good idea to sail around the world with really not having a clue on what to do. This book is all about how horrible things were and what happend and it was never ending. They wanted the trip to take 4 years and it took 5 years. Garth the teenage son was never able to complete his high school degree while the daughter Linda was able to get 2 grades ahead. The responsibility of holding this family together was nobodies from what it felt like. Dawn and her husband got divorced after this and no one is remotely interested in ever sailing again.

Linda Zagon says

I would like to thank Netgalley, the publisher and Wendy Hinman for the ARC of "Sea Trials" by Wendy Hinman.

The genres of this book are Nonfiction and Travel

Wendy Hinman writes about the Wilcox family which is her husband's family . They planned to sail around the world in four years on a large Sailboat, "Vela". Due to unforeseen circumstances it took five years. This was around 1973.

Chuck and Dawn Wilcox and their two children made preparation to sail, gathered their passports , money,important papers, schoolwork, and whatever would be needed to start and complete their journey. Dawn . a Nurse, tried to have medications on hand, if needed. She arranged for her children to be sent school work at various ports. They were able to cook, and use electricity when they first started the voyage. The author uses notes, transcripts photos, and media to describe the journey. Each time the Vela sailed to another port, or country, their passports and papers were checked. The family would have to get to land to go to a Post Office. Of course this was a wonderful experience for the family, especially the children to see various people, cultures and traditions,as well as the scenic countries.

Of course, this journey could be dangerous. Medical issues , such as food poisoning, Scurvy, broken bones, fevers, and more had to be handled. The sea and Mother Nature could be problematic with hurricanes, storms, winds,heat and cold. The biggest upset is when the sailboat hit some reefers and was shipwrecked. The family was lucky to find a house to rent, and tried to get to repair the sailboat.

In the close proximity to each other, there were arguments. At times getting food was difficult. Also everything cost money, and as much as the Wilcox family planned, many additional expenses came up.

In the 1970's the political condition of the world was changing. Egypt and Israel didn't get along, Leadership of countries changed. In some waters there was the threat of pirates.

I found this book fascinating and intriguing. I know I get seasick on the ferry, so I can appreciate how this family wanted to live their dream, even though there were dangers. It is hard to believe that this is a nonfiction book, and I would recommend this to read about a great adventure.

Catherine says

I was hoping to read about a family that decides to sail around the world with stories of their adventures and experiences, stories that might inspire and surprise me as I watched how the travels affect them as individuals and a family. Instead, the story portrayed two miserable, self-pitying and narcissistic parents that decide to take their children hostage as cheap labor to help them crew their ship over the course of several years. This book drones on, chapter after chapter, with the father focused almost exclusively on his own desire to complete his trip, consumed by the tasks of the ship, ignoring the physical and emotional needs of his wife and children. His wife, devoted to her husband at all costs, tries to make the best of the situation but continues to put her husband and his desires first. Fortunately their son is excited to be part of this adventure and is skilled, becoming the man that his father is not. Their daughter makes it clear she does not wish to spend (what will amount to) 5 years of imprisonment on this joyless journey. I was determined to finish this book because I was curious to know if at some point these parents would recognize how lucky they were to have the luxury of choosing to have the travel experience of their dreams while still young. No, instead they continue to complain about almost everything, although at least the wife seems to “wake up” occasionally along the way. To the credit of the author, she keeps this story moving along with short, snappy chapters and tries hard to educate the reader about about ships and sailing.

Schuyler Wallace says

It's probably best not to try to describe the Wilcox family. Simply put there's a father, Chuck, a mother, Dawn, a son, Garth, and a daughter, Linda. They put to sea in a 40-foot sailboat and spend from 1973 to 1978 sailing around the world. The kids were young, Garth was fourteen and Linda was eleven, not exactly the age when ugly sights and terrifying adventures would be suffered happily; Linda didn't want to go at all. But their story is fascinating and has been captured by an adventurer in her own right, Wendy Hinman.

Hinman, married to the adult son, Garth, has put together a biography of the trip in "Sea Trials," the details of which she harvested from many sources. The voyagers kept logs, took pictures, and wrote lengthy letters to relatives back home and, of course, were eager to share their undertaking through later interviews. Hinman, being part of the family, had the chance every writer yearns for; having the source material close at hand. Through the years the news outlets have pursued them for details of their ordeal and that information is also available to sift through.

The trick here is to gather all that stuff and put it into a form that's readable, interesting, thrill producing, and enthralling. Hinman does that with great skill.

Five years of nerve wracking exposure to hazardous conditions at sea, the abominable grit of poverty stricken lands, hunger and thirst that cannot always be satiated, the ever present specter of injury or death, and close confinement during stressful periods have all been captured here. The constant breaking down of necessary equipment, the unavailability of certain supplies, especially food and water, the lack of current technology at the time of their voyage, family friction and stress as things always seem to be threatening, and the hard physical labor of keeping an old boat working is truly eye-opening.

Chuck gets increasingly depressed and less industrious. Dawn is totally immersed with manual labor and has some health scares. Linda's moods are mercurial, keeping family relationships fractious. Garth, although totally occupied with his own urges, is probably the real hero here, capable and steady with great intuitions. The author is not shy about putting it all out there for the reader to study.

As a former sailor, I can tell you my desires to sail around the world, if I ever had any, no longer clutter my mind. My thanks and admiration go out to the Wilcox family for satisfying my curiosity about the adventure of world sailing and to Wendy Hinman for stepping on any ambitions I might have had. This is a must read.

Michelle says

This is not the sort of book that would appeal to everyone, but I happen to really enjoy true life adventure stories. I also really love books about sailing. This was just my sort of thing. As adventure stories go, this one was quite fascinating. The Wilcox family (Chuck, Dawn, and their two teenagers Garth and Linda) take

off on their sailboat *Vela* and attempt to circumnavigate the globe. In many ways, this account was very well done. I liked how the author included additional information throughout the book on sailing, navigation, geography, the history of the places the family visited, and current events. This gave the story depth and perspective. While the writing was straight forward and not particularly spectacular, I stayed engaged with the story--an impressive feat for a non-fiction narrative over 400 pages long. I do think that this story would have been better if it had been told by a more impassive third party. The author, Wendy Hinman, is married to Garth Wilcox and unfortunately her biases are evident in the way she depicts the members of the Wilcox family. But overall this was very interesting. If true life sailing adventure stories are your thing, give it a go.

Kitty Igaz says

I thought I had outgrown books with pictures... I was so completely wrong! I love the pics scattered throughout the book! It makes everything so much more real for someone who has never spent much time on a boat, I think a ferry is all I've been on actually... And at the back of the book is a nifty list of words and their meanings! How cool is that? I feel sea worthy already.

The book starts off with a shipwreck to really get your heart pounding then rewinds to the family preparing for the voyage. In the next four hundred odd pages you will sail around the world, learn quite a bit of history, geography, and about a ton of different cultures. The descriptions are beautiful, you can really imagine yourself in the crystal clear water snorkeling along or half drowned as something fails during a storm. You will rise up with the Wilcox's when things go well and despair with them when something goes wrong. It's some pretty epic writing.

My favorite part is all the descriptions of the different places the family visits; I've never been off the mainland of the US so even Hawaii sounded incredibly exotic! But it was also cool to learn that not everywhere is quite so picturesque yet still described in detail.

Another favorite is how incredibly smart the son (can't think of names...) is, he was able to make so many things to help the boat, or repairs, or even make little boats himself! It was also nice to learn that he went on to continue with boating life, that no matter how bad things got it didn't take away his passion for the water. The saddest part of the book was definitely the very end where we learn what happens to the family years after the boating affair. There were however, plenty of hardships (lol) all throughout the book so if you like a good struggle for your heroes you will not be disappointed.

Overall, a really great read! You will learn a ton and have your curiosity peaked! I seriously want to try boating now... Hmmm...

If you like boats, machine guns, history, new cultures, or shipwrecks this is the book for you. If you need the kraken to show up... There are sharks and giant mantas so it's kinda like the kraken!

Gina says

What a treat this book is! You'll pick it up and will not want to put it back down! The book revolves around the Wilcox family, who, in 1973, sets off to sail around the world. They plan to accomplish this aboard the "Vela", a 40-foot sailboat. Nothing can go wrong, right? Wrong. Among other near tragedies, 13 months into the trip, they find themselves stranded with no way to connect to anyone in the outside world - remember, it's 1973. The boat is in dire need of repairs. The engine is no longer working. Food is beginning to run thin. Somehow, somehow, they must nurse their "repaired" (and I use that term extremely loosely) home before weather, thieves - and yes, Pirates - sink their dream once and for all. Extremely well written, and a joy to

read.

Beth says

My 1st read, written by Wendy. I loved it. So creative and imaginative. I have often wondered what it would be like to take a boat around for traveling purposes? We are campers but never been on the seas for a long long time. Only for a short trip or journey to see a tour or what not. Of course I had to think of Gilligan's Island, the song and those silly tv shows. I can not imagine being shipwrecked and what you would do for food or water. Or what about "Castaway" with Tom Hanks. I can't wait to read more from Wendy very very soon. Well done, if you love ships, ship journey, sea travels, anything water related please check out this beauty. Great read!! (;

Merged review:

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E.C. Murray says

Thrilling true adventure. Live vicariously through the Wilcox family eventful trip around the world. Amazing!

E.C. Murray says

Fantastic, true adventure. As an armchair sailor, I'm amazed by the fortitude and courage of the Wilcox family. Wendy Hinman tells the tale in a manner that makes the reader feel like they're in the high seas, like they've been stranded on an island, like they're fighting for survival. With both humor and guts, all family members forge together on this exciting journey. As a mom, I found the little details of interest-like how the children kept up with their schoolwork and did the appropriate testing around the world, long before the days of computers. That's just a sidelight of a fun and thrilling read. A perfect story for any adventurous spirit (especially the one who wants to stay home and read about it!).

Merged review:

Fascinating true story of a family sailing around the world in the late seventies. From shipwreck to scurvy to near starvation. An incredible telling of a great adventure.

Neil says

I received a free copy via Netgalley in exchange for a honest review.

A real eye opener on how in sum ways things were easier when travelling years ago.

On the other hand how much harder sailing was years ago without modern technology.

A fascinating read.

Give it a go.

Kathryn says

The past few years have been devoted to educational books with little time for any book that was for pure pleasure. However, that is what Sea Trials is - pure pleasure! I was delighted to find this was a page-turner that would find me up in the night sneaking just a few more. Hinman writes for those of us who have had offshore dramas but also for avid sailors that might rarely make it off the couch. The characters were well developed and she even managed to pull a fast-one at the end. Truly a gripping tale not to be missed.
