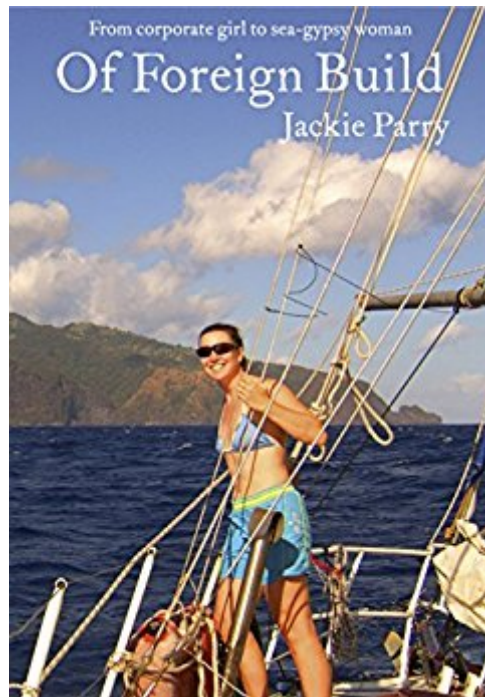




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Of Foreign Build: From Corporate Girl To Sea-Gypsy Woman



Synopsis

After suffering an emotionally-brutal bereavement and against her counsellor's advice, Jackie ran away. Suddenly within a new culture, with a new husband, and no friends, she was living in the obscure world of cruising with zero knowledge of boats. Crashing within the first twenty-four hours, Jackie realised life would never be the same again; a floating home with no fridge or hot water, and with a dinghy instead of a car. Suffering self doubts, she became fearful of her new world. The first off-shore voyage took Jackie into a ferocious storm, which battered her physically and mentally. Amid the raging seas, Jackie shed the fear she'd been harbouring. Soon she was blissfully voyaging around the world, but she still carried the mixed emotions of losing one man, while falling head over heels in love with another. Not only did Jackie deal successfully with the challenges of her new existence, she also battled with the testosterone fuelled nautical world to become both a professional captain and a qualified maritime teacher. Most importantly, Jackie found herself.

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Customer Reviews

I've read a number of nonfiction books and memoirs about sailing, most very good reads. "Of Foreign Build..." was an exceptional story in many ways. First, the writing was fabulous; the author has a gift for making the reader feel present for the events, and it was never boring. I thought there was a perfect mix of detail about the boat, day-to-day sailing, difficulties encountered (some very unusual), adventures on sea and on land, scary or challenging encounters, and relationships with family (back home, but occasionally present for parts of the trip), and friendships developed along the way. Lots of cultural information made for a very interesting and educational read. The thing that stood out most about this particular "sailing around the world" story was the route taken. This couple was not just sailing around the world in order to accomplish the feat. Although, of course, they had to plan and take into consideration the season and the local weather, they sailed to some very unlikely places. I was shocked that they were willing to venture into waters and countries with aggressive policies toward people (their own and visitors), and even into waters where pirates were a risk. Beyond that, they sailed routes I've never read about in other accounts of long-distance sailing. I was very glad I didn't know where they would head next, and enjoyed the surprises. So, no spoilers from me. What a pleasure to read a great book, so well-written and so perfectly edited.

I'm a sailor and own a 36' sailboat, so I read the book. While I appreciate the author's experience, I think many of her "recommendations" result from not trying other options. I think many tense moments when nerves take over could have been avoided had she ignored her recommendations and tried to outfit her boat differently. For example, it is very easy to rig hot shower, at least a sun shower you can get on. My boat has both in cabin shower and deck shower. The author keeps complaining about heat and humidity, yet advises against getting an AC. Yes marine AC is expensive, which is why I rigged a window AC which drains (if needed - new ones don't really drain) to the bilge. So my advise to you, read all these books but don't take the recommendations as gospel- do what you think is good for you.

I like this book! There's a saying something like, "Either write a book about a life lived well, or live your life well enough to have a book written about it." Well, Jackie Parry is one of those rare souls who has done both. She opens up and candidly tells her life story, metaphorical warts and all. Right from the first few pages you sense her genuine self, and that is a great thing because surely many readers - sailors or not - can relate to her self-doubts and fears. But don't worry: she doesn't go on and on about heartaches and ruminations. No, she mentions these things because they are part of the story and then she moves on, often with soft humor. All in all, she tells her story well, not with

overly-wrought phrasing and a self-conscious tone but in a way that feels natural and totally genuine. The book is not about her, or her writing, but her story, and it shows between the lines. I recommend this book for everyone, especially young women who have not yet found their niche in life. Jackie Parry's life story is a great example of possibility and personal courage. This book is great fodder for important mother-daughter talks . . . On the surface it's about building a life aboard a sailboat, but it's also very much about voyaging through life.

This is a splendid memoir of more than just a voyage around the world. Although sailing around the world is a huge achievement, what stands out in Jackie Parry's book is her brave honest words which delve into her emotions and thoughts. I was connected on a deeper level throughout her book riding the highs and lows of Mariah's voyage interwoven with captivating descriptions of both the watery world and fascinating ports. It was an honour for me to be part of Jackie's life in this book - her personal relationships and how she coped with the brand new challenges of sailing a small boat. Reading Jackie's words, I drifted and sailed through the chapters just like the waves enjoying each port along the way. Beautifully written with honesty, humour and love for all living creatures on this planet. She is an example to women that anything is possible. Now a master captain with so much experience I take my hat off to her. I highly recommend this book.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the author's account of circumnavigating the world with her husband in a small sailboat. I have read books by other authors who have sailed around the world, some single-handed, some non-stop, but Parry's rich descriptions of the places visited along the way allows the reader to come along for the ride, so to speak. The reader is able to share the author's experiences, both good and bad, with the many different people, places, and customs they encountered on their voyage around the world. The author also offers her perspective of how choosing to shed the trappings of life on land began a seven year transformation of her life while at sea. The journey was not always easy, but the sum of her experiences changed her life in a profound and positive way. The author avoided an abundance of esoteric sailing language, so the reader who may not be fully versed in nautical terms can follow along smoothly without flipping to the glossary often in order to understand what is going on. This book is simply a good read! :)

Incredible depth of adventures and experiences. Enough material for 5 books! The writing is extremely uneven. Jumps around too much, too fast, not enough time and detail for sections that warrant more depth. She attemptst to compensate in her writing with excessive, flowery adjectives

and phrases, where just giving more information would have sufficed!

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