



A Voyage for Madmen

By Peter Nichols

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In 1968, nine sailors set off on the most daring race ever held: to single-handedly circumnavigate the globe nonstop. It was a feat that had never been accomplished and one that would forever change the face of sailing. Ten months later, only one of the nine men would cross the finish line and earn fame, wealth, and glory. For the others, the reward was madness, failure, and death.

In this extraordinary book, Peter Nichols chronicles a contest of the individual against the sea, waged at a time before cell phones, satellite dishes, and electronic positioning systems. *A Voyage for Madmen* is a tale of sailors driven by their own dreams and demons, of horrific storms in the Southern Ocean, and of those riveting moments when a split-second decision means the difference between life and death.

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A Voyage for Madmen By Peter Nichols Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In the psychedelic summer of 1968, as Apollo 8 soared toward the moon and the Democratic Convention crashed in Chicago, nine men tried finally to accomplish the sailor's age-old ultimate goal: a solo, nonstop circumnavigation of the world. Nichols (*Sea Change*) deftly introduces myriad aspects of a voyage that promised "dubious, unquantifiable" rewards. He insightfully contextualizes the endeavor as an offshoot of Sir Francis Chichester's famous 1967 solo circumnavigation (with one stop), which represented to England a "longed-for" heroism. Detailing the British media's successful exploitation of the so-called race, he approaches the voyage as the remarkable result of nine men wishing to outdo Chichester. Nichols painstakingly describes the enormous difficulty of solo navigation in the pre-global positioning system of the 1960s. These "hardcase egomaniacs driven by complex desires and vainglory to attempt an extreme, life-threatening endeavor" used only rudimentary equipment and their wits. Nichols is at his liveliest when describing the only two participants who "were really happy aboard their boats": the French-Asian Bernard Moitessier, the most skilled sailor, whose mystical seamanship brings surprises, and the British Robin Knox-Johnson, who was energized during his journey by the memory of "the Elizabethan sea heroes of his youth." Nichols also delivers a compelling portrait of English Donald Crowhurst, an electronics engineer whose "supercharged personality" wreaked havoc on the entire race. While Nichols's pace is neither breakneck nor suspenseful, his careful details and psychological insight make for a riveting account of the triumphant human spirit. 16-page photo insert, 8 maps.

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From [Booklist](#)

In 1968 there remained one major nautical challenge yet to be accomplished: sailing single-handedly nonstop around the world. Nine men set out to achieve it in one of the most widely publicized yacht races. What could possess nine otherwise sane and responsible men to risk their lives, careers, and the well-being of their families by undertaking such a reckless endeavor? Nichols introduces the reader to the contestants, giving a vivid portrayal of the men attempting the feat. He expertly tells their individual stories in great detail: why they entered the race, what they had staked on winning, and their struggles at sea. He weaves their story together to form a comprehensive account of the race that reads like a suspense novel. Readers will eagerly turn the pages to discover how some were defeated by the ocean or the race's harsh rules and the lengths to which one contestant went to be declared the winner. An interesting slice of history that makes for a worthy seagoing adventure story. *Gavin Quinn*

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Review

"Spellbinding." (Wall Street Journal)

"A riveting account of the triumphant human spirit." (Publishers Weekly)

"A haunting story...[that] succeeds on the grandest scale." (The Oregonian)

"Reads like a suspense novel." (Booklist)

"Fascinating...A great story...an excellent examination of the world's first nonstop, solo race around the

world.” (San Diego Union Tribune)

“Extraordinary ...One of the most gripping sea stories I have ever read.” (Sebastian Junger, author of The Perfect Storm)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Wayne Hause:

What do you think of book? It is just for students since they are still students or that for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that query above. Every person has various personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great and important the book A Voyage for Madmen. All type of book would you see on many sources. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Andrew Wilson:

A Voyage for Madmen can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to place every word into joy arrangement in writing A Voyage for Madmen yet doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource details that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information could drawn you into fresh stage of crucial thinking.

Gale Kizer:

The book untitled A Voyage for Madmen contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains the woman idea with easy means. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was authored by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of time of literary works. You can read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice learn.

Jennifer Chambers:

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