



Gypsy Spirit: What My Boat Taught Me About Love And Life

Christine M. Bukruian

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Gypsy Spirit charts an inspiring two-year voyage set amidst the tumultuous world of singlehanded sailing. This captivating memoir recounts the true life adventures and harrowing encounters of author Christine Bukruian's initiation into the culture of boats, sailors, and the open sea. Motivated by her mother's passing, Christine purchases a used 36-foot sloop, renames it Gypsy Spirit and is soon "living the dream," along with Kia, her 50-pound lab/golden mix. Through trial and misadventure, Gypsy Spirit and her crew are made seaworthy with the assistance of Ed, a seasoned South African sailor on his way to the Bahamas. Ed invites Gypsy Spirit to sail in tandem with his boat, Nini, and his trial-by-fire sailing lesson propels their relationship and Christine's appreciation of life at sea. Christine becomes a competent, self-reliant sailor, which proves fortunate as Gypsy Spirit and her crew find themselves alone on a horrific, storm-swept night marked by a devastating collision with a 264-foot container ship. Tropical settings - from picture perfect islands with postcard images of sun, sea, and swaying palms, to pelicans flying overhead and dolphins trailing in the boat's wake- afford a vicarious journey for all to enjoy. But Gypsy Spirit's true reward is as a personal testament to overcoming fears, embracing new passions, and fulfilling improbable dreams.

Gypsy Spirit: What My Boat Taught Me About Love And Life Details

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From Reader Review Gypsy Spirit: What My Boat Taught Me About Love And Life for online ebook

Shelly-shawn Womack-gritton says

Loved this recent true story adventure of a woman and her dog and her sailboat :).

Patricia J says

Gypsy Spirit

Very enjoyable book on sailing and cruising and the problems of being a female captain of an aging sailboat. Anyone who has sailed knows that s*** happens and it is extremely important to be prepared.

Candice =^,,^= says

This is a wonderful book about the author following her heart by living and sailing the high seas on her 36 foot boat with just her and her dog . It tells of her adventures, her disappointments ,obstacles , and the people and fiends she meets along the way that help her with her complete her journey. It shows how her perseverance and passion fulfill her dream to sail the ocean in a engaging memoir.

Alison says

kindle travel stories

Susan says

Solo sailor

Wow, buy a boat and don't know how to sail. Live on the boat as you are fixing it up hoping to go sailing one day. Meet a guy who decides to train you as a sailor and then decides to have you follow his boat to the Bahamas. Everything going splendid, oops, what else can go wrong, until you decided to head back to the US by yourself—you find out what can happen. Very interesting story—started and didn't quit until finished.

Robert F. says

For the aspiring cruiser, there are some valuable lessons embedded in this book, but, I found the authors chatty writing style a bit annoying. But, that is just me. As a professional small boat licensed master for nearly 50 years, I was cringing as I began to read this account of someone who had a dream, had enough

money to start out pursuing it, but had not a clue about what was involved. I have seen this many times in my maritime career and it has three possible outcomes. One outcome is the dreamer never completes the dream, they never leave (Really common.), another is they get the boat and sail off with little to no foundational knowledge, hoping to "learn as they go." This approach is used here in this account and turns out well. It sometimes turns out to kill the dreamer (Rare, but it happens as it almost did here.). Finally, there are those who spend a lot of time preparing themselves and their boats, learning all they can through books, classes and an orderly series of progressively more complex voyages so they can put into practice what they have book learned. This last is not very romantic sounding, but if you read this book, you will find out what being ill prepared for what might await you is like.

Ms. Bukruian is pursuing an advanced degree to make her a better writer and based upon what is in this book, she should do well. In spite of what I found annoying in the writing, I was also struck by what she managed to get across, which is how fundamental knowledge is, before you go. Fear, danger, and mind blowing experiences (Good and bad.) are all part of long distance sailing no matter how long you do it, but how you approach those challenges is all about what this author is getting at in this, her first book.

I recommend you read this book if you are a budding cruiser or carry the dream in your heart. Read it with a present mind and the gist of what she is saying will leave a valuable impression.

Angie Brill says

This book is a pretty big departure from what I normally read but I I have to say that I found it very refreshing. I would have liked to have seen a little more time and attention paid to detail but I can take the book for what it is and enjoy it....which I certainly did.

Sandy says

The author and her dog go on a solo sailing trip. At first, she is inexperienced and depends upon fellow travelers for help in even the simplest things, but she increasingly becomes independent and capable, despite the obstacles. I felt that there were some parts that could have been fleshed out more, but it was interesting to read about her experience. Learned enough to NOT put this on my bucket list!

Larry says

This is a very interesting book about a woman and her dog who bought a used sailboat, got it running, and learned to sail well enough to make multiple round trips between Florida and the Caribbean, experiencing every adversity possible from break downs to collisions with huge ships. The part (majority) of the book that was about the sailing experience was very interesting. The part (minority) of the book that was about the "romance"/friendship between the author and Ed was exasperating. Ed was a loser. And then the author started another "romance" with an alcohol and drug abuser. What was she thinking? These relationships were so dysfunctional that I would have preferred to read about fictional relationships.

I've seen some reviews that said the flashbacks/forwards between the first round trip to the Caribbean and the restoration of the boat after the crash were confusing. Really? Flashbacks/forwards are a common literary device, and it was clear as day what period of time each chapter talked about.

Susan Clark says

Gypsy Spirit really resonated with me because my husband and I have a boat (though not a sailboat). Also there was a time when I, like the author, had to start over. I love stories about strong, independent women and this is definitely that. If you'd like to read an adventure from the comfort of your favorite reading chair, this is the book for you!

p.s. It's very well-written.

Michael says

While the images of time spent on deserted islands sounds great, all the trials and tribulations that the author went through makes me glad I never wanted to own a sailboat.

Robert Walker says

A difficult and disjointed read.

This may very well be a very interesting story, however, it's difficult to say for sure because it is so disjointed. At the start of every chapter the task of determining where we were on the timeline was needlessly complicated by what appeared to be entire paragraphs (if not even entire pages) missing.

Bambi Flanner says

Living the dream

The author has lived a dream I've always had, but am not capable of bringing it to life. I envy her, I'm proud of her, I lived my dream vicariously through her and this memoir. May the sun be always on your face and the wind at your back. Sail on Christine. And write more.
