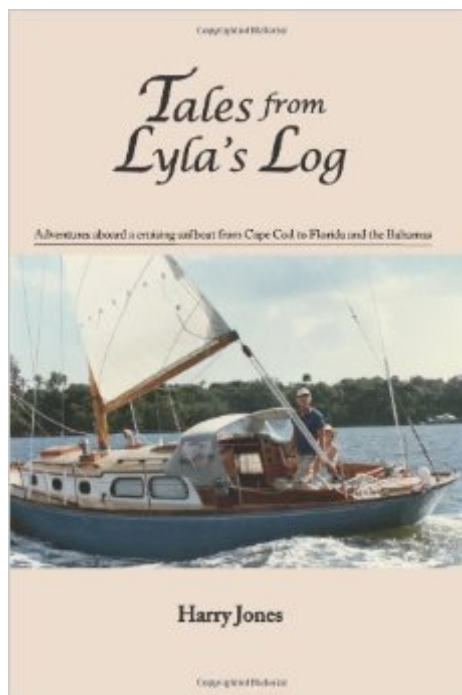


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Tales From Lyla's Log: Adventures Aboard A Cruising Sailboat From Cape Cod To Florida And The Bahamas



Synopsis

Tales from Lyla's Log is a sea story, not a how-to book. It is a fast moving, close-up narrative about cruising and living on a sailboat exploring most of the east coast, Florida and the Bahamas. What is it really like to live this life? What is it like on a day when the wind is fair and the sea is a deep blue with pure-white whitecaps-or when a night overtakes you that's "not a fit night out for man or beast"? If you love maps, or nautical charts, and wonder what those bays, rivers, islands and inlets each are like; If you wonder what experience is required, what sort of boat with what abilities is the kind you might need, or you'd just like to read how one couple prepared for this sort of adventuring and made it all work, you will find it all here in this book. You'll get just what its title implies, daily stories of two round trips from Martha's Vineyard to Florida's east and west coasts, and then to the southern tip of the Exuma chain of islands in the south-central Bahamas-more than 1500 miles each way.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My husband and I absolutely loved reading this book! The author has an ease of telling you what day-to-day life aboard really is like. In fact we are totally inspired to bare boat charter and see how living aboard for a few weeks is different from day sailing! For anyone who has a hankering for cruising, or even chartering a boat for a while, this book is perfect way to get a taste of salt air before you take the plunge to actually set sail for yourself. Jones has a gift for story telling, so you feel you are right there sharing the adventure! I highly recommend this book to all sailors and aspiring ones too! Great fun to read a chapter every night.

I'll have to admit that I've always dreamed of sailing "offshore". So I thought Harry Jones' book would just be a fun read. Well, its always fun to read about daily life on a sailboat and the adventures that come along but in this book you learn what its REALLY like. The author is honest. You'll enjoy the beauty and excitement of sailing but also learn of the arduous daily tasks and the myriad of problems that come up and have to be solved; sometimes post haste. Also, the weather is clearly omnipotent. Even sailing "semi-offshore" in the inner costal waterways and bays can be disastrous. I just never realized the physical risk involved. People die doing this! The relatively few times that the author actually ventures into the open ocean, he brings on board an experienced crew and makes serious preparations. I learned a fearful respect for the ocean. My romanticized dreams were shattered; but I'm happy to know the truth. We're all searching for that. In any good book, there is also philosophical truth. To quote from chapter four: "The trouble with shore-bound life is that its many comforts can breed boredom. In fact one might say comfort has a certain symmetry with boredom. In a safety-circumscribed life ashore many repetitive tasks are done in the name of 'comfort'. At sea, each of the many tasks is carried out without question because any omission spells trouble ahead and there is a satisfying sense of pride and well-being when all is in order."

I found this book full of good information and very interesting as well. I especially loved the personal notes. It must be very exciting to sail for days. All of my sailing has been an afternoon on the lake or ocean. I really enjoy being on the water but can't imagine going through bad weather and being on the water at night. I know the writer and his wife and I thoroughly enjoyed reading about their life on the boat. By the way, I loved reading about the kitty having his own adventure!

I enjoyed the book immensely, as a sailing adventure story, and then it occurred to me it is more than that. Although not written as a how-to manual it goes into so much factual and personal detail that one is able to realize that the needed information is there to allow you to begin to make plans for such an adventure yourself. Having read of other author's adventures, on many occasions, I usually finished the story awed and envious of those who do such things but without feeling that I had gained information and philosophies that could start me on a similar journey. Life is not long enough to take advantage of all the opportunities that would present themselves if this were always, or even often, the result of reading an adventure story so it is fortunate that this happens only rarely - as it does here.

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