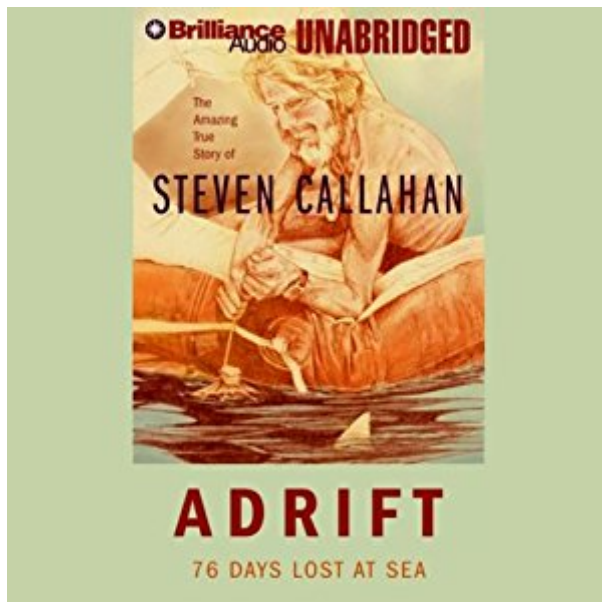


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# Adrift: 76 Days Lost At Sea



## Synopsis

On the night of January 29, 1982, Steven Callahan set sail in his small sloop from the Canary Islands bound for the Caribbean. Thus began one of the most remarkable sea adventures of all time. Six days out, the sloop sank, and Callahan found himself adrift in the Atlantic in a five-and-a-half-foot inflatable raft with only three pounds of food and eight pints of water. He would drift for seventy-six days over eighteen hundred miles of ocean before he reached land and rescue. Introduction by Edward E. Leslie, Epilogue by Steven Callahan, drawings and photos --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Being an avid reader of ship wreck stories and Polar expeditions I was unsure whether I would like this book. Most of these types of books that involve disaster are usually followed with a few good times had by all before the worst occurs. This concerned me because it was a solo disaster and on a rubber survival raft at that. I was fairly certain he would be miserable the entire time and this create a very sad read indeed without the occasional comic relief found in group settings. Well, I was very pleasantly surprised, it turned out to be a great book! Yes, there were many horrific days for the poor soul during his 76 day survival story, but more than once he recalls feeling rich when blessed with fish to eat, water to drink, and the sun to dry his body and surroundings. Other times, he describes stroking the backs of the fish that follow him and his attitude remains strong during the majority of his voyage. I like this about him and respect his fortitude. There are definitely some dark days for him, as would be expected. Overall, this book delivered more than I had imagined. Highly

recommended!

I really appreciated this book. After sailing and then building my own boat I decided not to cruise. Before finishing my boat I helped deliver a large catamaran from the eastern Caribbean to southern California. With that experience under my belt the thought of single handing scared the hell out of me. Being at sea sometimes you feel like there is no place you would rather be and other times your fear can be so great you do not think you will see another sunrise. Things can go wrong and multiply so quickly. I am sure that scouting, building experience, and a strong desire to live and not give up helped bring Steven Callahan through. I do not have that kind of skill or confidence in myself. I would recommend this book to anyone especially those who think nothing will go wrong or that they are invincible.

...Aaron Ralston's *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* and Joe Simpson's *Touching the Void*. I have devoured all the survival stories I could find on . Shackleton, Mawson, Everest 1996, K2 2008, WWII escapes, the whaleship Essex, Skeletons of the Zahara, Krakauer's stuff - you name it. These three books stand out from the rest in that each author goes in-depth into the psychology of survival, in addition to the amazing facts of the amazing stories themselves. Ralston's realization that he'll never see his son. Callahan's "view of heaven from a seat in hell". Simpson's "brown girl in the ring"... The humanity of these young men - alone and on the brink - makes these narratives so special! Read this book and I highly recommend the other two as well.

If you enjoy lifeboat tales then this true story is among the best. I finished it in three sittings. The author describes his desperate escape from his sinking boat and his long and painful journey in a life raft. Getting noticed by a passing freighter is not as likely as it seems! He includes drawings and descriptions of the various repairs and adaptations that enabled him to survive. I appreciate that the Kindle version included the drawings though they were a little hard to make out. He also describes how he navigated, as well as his physical condition which became very bad from starvation and the constant exposure to salt water. Glad to know that Steven Callahan continues to write about sailing, and that he was a consultant for the film version of *Life of Pi*.

*Adrift* is about one man's solitary journey, both internal and external, on the perilous ledge between life and death. Steven Callahan is attempting to cross the Atlantic Ocean from the Canary Islands to Antigua, but before he departs, an elderly fisherman points to his vessel, the 21' long Napoleon

Solo, and says, "In such a small boat? Tonto!" Fool. The rest of the journey is fraught with danger, starting from when the Napoleon Solo capsizes and sinks, forcing Callahan to abandon ship in a rubber lifeboat. Anyone battling demons of their own will find solace in Callahan's struggle to survive, which is a metaphor for all men's struggles to survive an often hostile world with often insurmountable odds. "I imagine two stone-faced poker players throwing chips into a pile. One player is named Rescue and the other is Death. The stakes keep getting bigger and bigger. The pile of chips now stands as tall as a man and as big around as a raft. Somebody is going to win soon." The ocean, the sharks, the weather, and hunger are all metaphors for the demons we all battle on a daily basis: joblessness, despair, jealousy, hatred, vengeance. Yet, despite the terrible privations he experiences on the sea, Callahan also experiences moments of profound solace: "As I look out of the raft, I see God's face in the smooth waves, His grace in the dorado's swim, feel His breath against my cheek as it sweeps down from the sky. I see that all creation is made in His image." A truly remarkable tale of survival against the odds, "Adrift" is a great gift for anyone going through a crisis. It will remind him that "...to be well fed, painless, and in the company of friends and loved ones are privileges too few enjoy in this often brutal world." Well said Callahan!

A great read, esp for the person who believes in the sacred aspects of all life in this world. I only hope the author doesn't let his impressions completely die over time.

One of the best books I've ever read - and I read a lot of "true adventure" tales. Steven Callahan built a boat and tried to sail across the ocean but capsized. His tale of survival will have you on the edge of your seat. There is a scene where he is hallucinating from sunstroke and believes he is communicating with the fish in the sea, and it's absolutely believable. I have never forgotten this book since reading it years ago and one of my life-long goals is to shake Steven Callahan's hand.

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