

Voyages Of The Damn Foole



Synopsis

Tom McGrath's accounts of the cruising life aboard the tiny sailboats *Damn Foole* and *Damn Foole II* have achieved cult status in the magazine *Messing About Boats*. With humor and a touch of irony, McGrath makes observations that resonate with cruising sailors, shoestring boaters, and others who take their boats more seriously than themselves. McGrath sprinkles his sailing anecdotes with biting social commentary; he casts a satirical eye at everything from waterfront development to the Civil War, from foreign fishing boats to the arrival of the *Mayflower*. Never totally dogmatic, he's frequently interrupted by members of his "spirit crew," who argue various points of view and brew trouble in every port. Even the boat chimes in occasionally to settle debates or rescue the author from his mistakes. McGrath's ability to laugh at himself and his seamanship follies give these tales universal appeal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"... the works of sailor Tom McGrath-thinly fictionalized, profusely illustrated, darkly satirical-are great favorites." -- The Boston Globe Magazine

Voyages of the *Damn Foole* We jibed away and made for the Misery Islands off the shores of Pride's Crossing. When we arrived I drove the boat up on the beach of Great Misery on the run. The sails held it on shore as I ran the anchor line up the beach to a stout piece of driftwood. The boat banged around a while on the rocky beach until the tide receded and left it alone. The island was mine! I took off my shoes and perched them on a prominent rock, officially taking possession. "I'm

going to explore the island," I told the boat. "To find plunder and slaves," the boat added. Of course I'll Christianize the poor devils, and the plunder will be used to advance civilization." I marched inland over the rocks and rolling hills, through the groves of trees and past the dense underbrush. "Everything here is mine," I kept reminding myself greedily. The birds sang cheerfully. The flowers breathed their fragrances. The vegetation reflected the sun's heat. I was ignored and left to ponder why it was called Misery Island. I returned to the boat and was immediately asked "Where's the plunder? Where are the slaves?" "There aren't any," I told the boat. "All the slaves have gone ashore long ago into the towns to sell the plunder in the stores and specialty shops." "You're a fine example of humanity, can't even pillage and plunder properly," the boat said. "Let's get afloat, it's too fine a day to spend on land." --From "The Townie and the Damn Foole"

I have read this book several times and given it as a gift several times. It is an excellent sailing book and his adventures and observations are great. You can't go wrong.

Tom is a cranky man with a leaky boat that talks to him. He sometimes carries with him a crew of mocking ghosts as well as he travels. Doesn't sound too promising, and yet this book, first published as a series of mimeographed pages tacked to the wall of a marina, gets closer to the spirit of sailing than anything you'll ever read.

I purchased this book when it was first published because it was recommended as very worthy in a review in Wooden Boat magazine. They listed it among such masterpieces as *Sailing Around the World Alone* and *N by E*. I was not disappointed. Since I first purchased the book, I have done a lot of sailing. This summer I sailed my sloop solo north from NJ. Upon returning home, I reread McGrath's book and was absolutely delighted to see that my voyage overlapped much of his. The book is a marvel and worth reading. His opinions about the damage inflicted on creation by human beings are very much a word in season. His pacifism is fierce and right on. His cranky and grumpy ways are a hoot, and we can thank his sweet, leaky, wayward boat for calling him to task from time to time. The illustrations are unique and creative, and the way he depicts himself in them - a dark hulking spectre, makes you ask, is that really how he is shaped? I will pay the book what could be highest compliment that can be paid to a sailing yarn - it made we want to get back aboard, slip free of the mooring and let my own dreamboat take me out for adventure.

It was a great read written by someone who truly loves his boat and the chance to escape the

bonds of everyday life. There is no exaggeration of the personality presented, he really is the person he portrays himself to be. I loved sailing with him, racing against him and reading of his exploits.

Voyages... are refreshing, hilarious, cynical short stories opposing the Boy Scout motto "Be Prepared". If you like the writing of Kurt Vonnegut or Toole's "A Confederacy of Dunces" you will love this book. While some of the stories are a bit repetitive, they are wonderful. If you are a sailor, no doubt you will recognize some of the characters in the book - including the boat's. The black and white illustrations in the book are charming and add a lot.

the damn foole by tom mcgrath is a good book becuse i think it is it is exilirating and exciteing but it gets boring after a while because it is very repitive and somewhat boring. its the same thing over and over again with nothing new ever happening. this makes the story boring and unfun that is also why i gave this book only 1 star its not good book with some funny parts its the samething over and over;he goes somewhere meets some people then he leaves and does it all over again. very repitive and very boring. I did not like the book at all.on the story tome does the same thing over and over again makiong the story boring and all that.

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