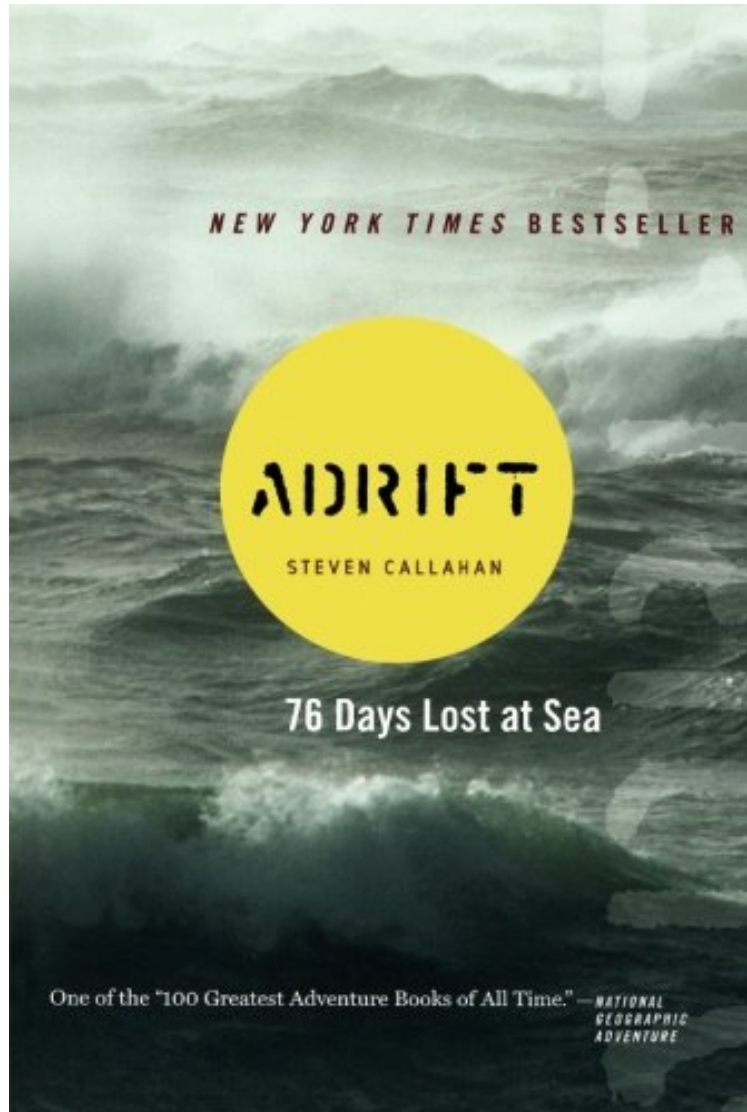


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## Adrift: Seventy-six Days Lost at Sea

*Steven Callahan*

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**Steven Callahan : Adrift: Seventy-six Days Lost at Sea** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Adrift: Seventy-six Days Lost at Sea:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Adrift, Not for me By DESERT BUD 71I 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 handed sailing 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. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. On par with the other two great survival stories...By Maksim Kalashnikov...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. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wow! By D. BookHugger 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*.

Before *The Perfect Storm*, before *In the Heart of the Sea*, Steven Callahan's dramatic tale of survival at sea was on the *New York Times* bestseller list for more than thirty-six weeks. In some ways the model for the new wave of adventure books, *Adrift* is an undeniable seafaring classic, a riveting firsthand account by the only man known to have survived more than a month alone at sea, fighting for his life in an inflatable raft after his small sloop capsized only six days out. Utterly absorbing (*Newsweek*), *Adrift* is a must-have for any adventure library.

From *School Library Journal* YA Sailing Napoleon Solo in a single-handed Mini-Transat race from Spain to Antigua, Callahan was west of the Canary Islands when he realized that his sailboat was sinking. He managed to grab the life raft, a knife, his emergency duffel bag, a piece of mains'l, and a sleeping bag. These items became his home and sole possessions for 76 days. Loneliness, hunger, thirst, pain, and weakness dogged Callahan, yet his ingenuity and knowledge of the sea enabled him to survive. The illustrations and diagrams of life aboard *Rubber Ducky III* enable readers to visualize the hardships: the cramped living space of the raft, the hundreds of salt water sores that covered his body, the foreboding appearance of an approaching storm, or the primitive method used to collect fresh water. Harassed by sharks and dorados; at the mercy of storms; sore, cold, and miserable, Callahan shows fortitude and perseverance. An excellent book for all YAs, whether sailors or landlubbers. Pam Spencer, Mount Vernon High School Library, Fairfax, Va. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* Callahan, a marine architect, lost his boat in a storm off the Canary Islands while engaged in a singlehanded race across the Atlantic in 1981. Luckily, he carried far more than the basic emergency equipment required, e.g., a six-person raft. Before sinking he was able to recover his emergency equipment bag and his life raft. Callahan admits to having read the survival accounts of Maurice and Maralyn Bailey (*Staying Alive*, 1974) and Dougal Robertson (*Survive the Savage Sea*, 1973) and even had the latter's manual *Sea Survival* (1975) with him in the raft. What makes his story different was his lack of a companion. Through his own ingenuity he learned how to spear fish, fix his solar still, and even repair his holed raft. This is a real human drama that delves deeply into a man's survival instincts. It should be read by anyone venturing offshore in a small boat. John Kenny, San Francisco P.L. Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. A tale of courage and determination in the face of almost insurmountable hardship. *The New York Times Book -- Publisher Comments*