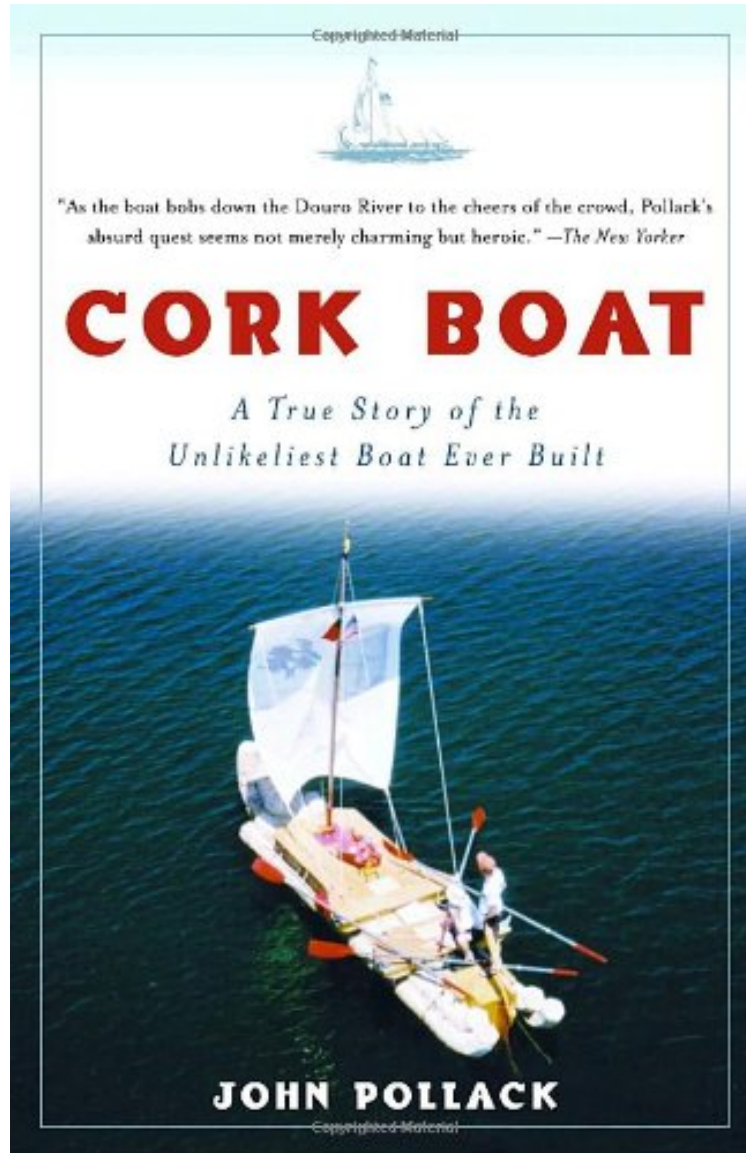


(Free) Cork Boat: A True Story of the Unlikeliest Boat Ever Built

Cork Boat: A True Story of the Unlikeliest Boat Ever Built

John Pollack

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#290439 in Books John Pollack 2005-04-12 2005-04-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .64 x 5.20l, .50 #File Name: 1400034906304 pagesCork Boat A True Story of the Unlikeliest Boat Ever Built | File size: 53.Mb

John Pollack : Cork Boat: A True Story of the Unlikeliest Boat Ever Built before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cork Boat: A True Story of the Unlikeliest Boat Ever Built:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. WELL-TIMED READBy bookloverThis book was recommended in 's book travel section of PORTUGAL, so I purchased itin view of my upcoming river cruise on the Douro. I timed reading it such that I finished whileon the river....which turned out to be meaningful , as I had hoped.The book is really

interesting and spends a lot of time on the planning and execution of building the boat, more than the actual cruise itself....nevertheless I found it delightfully helpful in appreciating the goal that had been reached by Mr. Pollack. The river is wider than I'd expected such that I gained a new appreciation for the difficulties he found in beginning the journey and navigating those challenging waters. I recommend it especially for travelers to this country or those who like to cruise. It also contains thoughtful human interest discoveries about relationships. Interestingly, despite the proximity of the event (as well as Wikipedia's claim that the cork boat is now situated in Portugal), the cruise and on-site tour directors knew absolutely nothing about it, but later affirmed it having googled it online. I noted in my trip evaluation that mention of it on future cruises might be an item of interest to travelers. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful Boat Story By donyskiw I loved this book. I read it right after returning from my own trip up and down the Douro River in Portugal (on a commercial river boat not built of corks). John Pollack is an entertaining writer and this story of his dream and then his culmination of that dream decades later is as gripping as a novel. It makes me want to go back to Portugal to see the Cork Boat and revisit the Douro River with new eyes. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great read for Douro River cruise By Joyce Just off a Viking River of Gold cruise where on last meeting, the program director mentioned this book. I wish I'd known about it sooner as the last half of the book covers towns and villages on our route. This is a feel good read about dreams and perseverance. Live the "Lock" with these cork boat dreamers while going through one of the river's five locks.

165,321 corks 1 boat Most people have childhood dreams; few ever pursue them. At the age of 34, John Pollack quit a prestigious speechwriting job on Capitol Hill to pursue an idea he had harbored since the age of six: to build a boat out of wine corks and take it on an epic journey. In *Cork Boat*, Pollack tells the charming and uplifting story of this unlikely adventure. Overcoming one obstacle after another, he convinces skeptical bartenders to save corks, corrals a brilliant but disorganized partner, and cajoles more than a hundred volunteers to help build the boat, many until their fingers bleed. Hired as a speechwriter for President Clinton midway through construction, Pollack soon has the White House saving corks, too. Ultimately, he and his crew set sail down the Douro River in Portugal, where the boat becomes a national sensation. Written with unusual grace and disarming humor, *Cork Boat* is a buoyant tale of camaraderie, determination, and the power of imagination.

From Publishers Weekly After a three-year stint as a freelance foreign correspondent in Spain, Pollack returned to the U.S. to win the 1995 O. Henry World Championship Pun-Offs and work as a speechwriter for House Democratic Whip David Bonior. Disillusioned by Capitol Hill hypocrisy, hyperbole and political rhetoric, he yearned for a "creative sabbatical." "Deep down, I knew I had to get out before the rising bile of my cynicism poisoned the last of my idealism." The "antithesis of everything Washington," he decided, would be to build a boat from wine corks, a dream project since his childhood. Teaming with architect Garth Goldstein and collecting corks during visits to D.C. restaurants, Pollack also received some hefty donations: 15,000 corks from California's Cork Supply USA and an equal number of rubber bands from Arkansas's Alliance Rubber. Despite such inroads, Pollack's boat building endeavors went on the back burner when he was invited to join Bill Clinton's speechwriting team. He shares a brief glimpse of White House life, then gets back to boat-building. After several months (and with the help of dozens of volunteers), the boat was finally assembled with 165,321 corks and 15,000 rubber bands. Sailing on a cresting wave of media attention, Pollack landed a sponsorship from Cork Supply and navigated his 22-foot boat down the Douro River in Portugal (the birthplace of cork); the concluding chapters detail that operation's loony logistics. Although a cork boat drawing (not seen by PW) is included, it's not always easy to visualize the boat's construction from the text description. Nevertheless, Pollack offers an amusing tale, with entertaining anecdotes constantly bobbing to the surface. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal Adult/High School-Pollack tells how he realized his lifelong dream of building a boat from wine-bottle corks. The project involved calling on restaurants (an agonizingly slow process that he grew to loathe); boat design (and redesign) with his architect partner; asking for 60,000 free corks from a supplier; construction (with numerous setbacks) in a Washington, DC, garage by dozens of volunteers who came and went; and the stressful completion of the vessel just barely in time to meet his third self-imposed deadline. The boat was shipped to Portugal (the home of cork) for a trip down the dam-filled Douro from the Spanish border to the Atlantic, with his codesigner and a few family members and friends along to help row. The journey took much longer than planned. This wonderfully inspiring story, told in an amusing and suspenseful way, shows how hard work and perseverance can make improbable dreams happen. Pollack gives credit to his project partner, who remains a friend even though they had serious differences along the way. His tone is so can-do and engaged with life that it cannot fail to affect readers positively. - Judy McAloon, Potomac Library, Prince William County, VA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From The New Yorker In the summer of 2002, a strange vision appeared on the Douro River, in Portugal: a Viking ship constructed from more than a hundred and sixty-five thousand wine corks, and held together entirely by rubber bands. Its skipper, the author of this quirky adventure, had become disillusioned three years earlier by his job in Washington, D.C., and had decided to fulfill a childhood dream of building a cork boat. He

teamed up with an architect, recruited a hundred volunteers to do hard manual labor, and ultimately won sponsorship for a launch in Portugal. The author's experience as a White House speechwriter shows in the way he shapes his odyssey into the tale of an underdog, dismissed as an idealist, who succeeds against all odds. It's corny, but it works: as the boat bobs down the Douro to the cheers of the crowd, Pollack's absurd quest seems not merely charming but heroic. Copyright 2005 The New Yorker