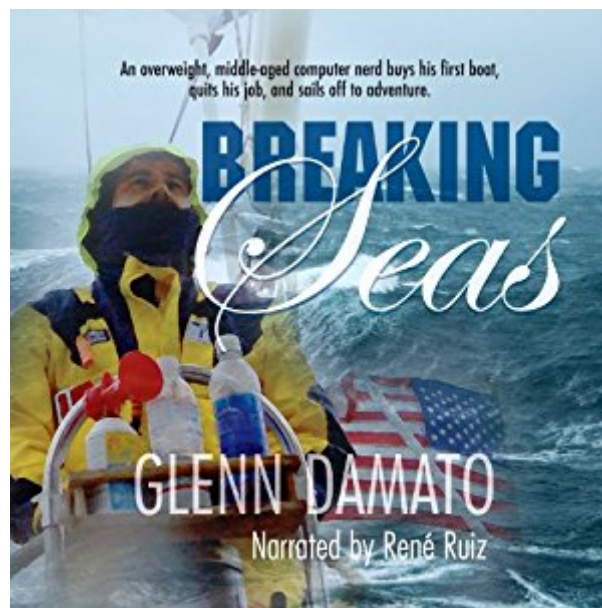


The book was found

Breaking Seas: An Overweight, Middle-Aged Computer Nerd Buys His First Boat, Quits His Job, And Sails Off To Adventure



Synopsis

Do you have a dream you must pursue, but everyone says it's unrealistic? Or that you're not qualified? Too old, too out of shape? Or you don't have the "right experience?" Glenn Damato was a 41-year-old software instructor who sought to exceed the bounds of his comfortable but humdrum existence. He embarked on an adventure for which he was miserably unprepared. Why did he do this? How did he answer the ancient human question: how do we jump-start growth in our lives? We become something we were not. The "something" Damato strived to become was neither easy nor simple: an ocean sailing skipper. Overweight and without boating experience of any kind, he decided to pursue his lifelong dream of sailing around the world on his own vessel. Reckless? Dangerous? Idiotic? Call it what you will, Damato was determined to make the voyage a reality despite the obstacles.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When a book includes the phrase "sails off to adventure" in the title, It seems reasonable to expect some damn adventure. You aren't going to find it here my friend. This guy spends chapter after chapter describing the time, effort, and expense he puts into his boat to outfit it for the adventure of a lifetime. Then he sails it down to Cabo with an armada of other rich bastards. He spends a while bumming around Cabo eating AMERICAN food and going through internet withdrawals. Oh! he also includes a bit where he takes a stroll into a real Mexican market and gets his yuppie panties in a bunch because the produce has bugs on it. Hey guess what Glenn?! You're not in Whole Foods!

Then he calls his boss, begs for his old nerd job back, and totally throws in the towel. He sails his boat back to California, sells it, and apparently returns to his old life. Worst. Adventure. Ever. The thing is, throughout the book he bills it as an around-the-world adventure. Not a group sail to Cabo. When he was contemplating selling the boat I fully expected him to NOT sell, put on his big boy pants, and finish what he set out to do. He does not. He doesn't fail, he just flat out gives up. Yes, he has a hard time finding crew, but he doesn't run out of time, he's not hurt, he's not sick, and doesn't even come close to running out of money. He just wants his old apartment with a flat screen and dry towels back. It's also hard to see what sort of personal growth he managed. He seems to be the same self centered, soft, whiny American by the time the book ends. Come on man! On a personal level I applaud anyone who tries big things. There's still room in this world for adventure, for people who forge ahead. If you follow your dream and you fail, you deserve a great deal of respect.

This book had me from the first chapter and I honestly couldn't put it down. It was the first, non-technical book I've read and finished - cover to cover - in years. I even loaded it on an old Kindle DX (the super large one) and turned the font size way up and read a couple chapters while running on the treadmill. I have never wanted to read while running on a treadmill. Ever. But I really couldn't put this book down. Two, (of the many things) that I really loved about this book was the reminder that "You and your actions determine what becomes real" and that Glenn Damato is the embodiment of what Steve Jobs was talking about in his 2005 commencement address to Stanford (google it, it's awesome). I live in Minnesota, and although we have a lot of lakes, I'm about as far from sailing around the world as I can get. But I also share that dream. I was in the Navy and went topside at night while in the Indian Ocean and saw the universe explode with stars. Glenn explains it so much better (than I can) in his book. He took me back to that night that I saw so many stars I couldn't believe what I was seeing. As he described it, you could "feel" the stars. Just amazing and I wanted to be there all over again. It's my dream to do what Glenn did and he reminded me that it's all about the actions you take. Never settle. That was something Steve talked about in his speech. Glenn was not born into a sailing family. He had no sailing experience. But he had a dream and he wasn't going to settle for quietly working away at a job and thinking about all the reasons why following that dream wasn't practical. Glenn didn't settle for letting the dream drift away on the tides and reading his story will inspire you to never settle.

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