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Harry Pidgeon

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Harry Pidgeon : Around the world single-handed;: The cruise of the "Islander", (Mariners library) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Around the world single-handed;: The cruise of the "Islander", (Mariners library):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Short but sweet!By John the ReaderHarry Pidgeon, a farm boy from Iowa did not even see the sea until he was eighteen but by then he had "mucked about" a bit in boats as do most lads and after a spell in Alaska, he decided to build one of the famous Rudder Magazines 'Islander' sloops. Having completed his thirty four foot wooden sailing boat, single-handed, without "too much trouble" he said, he launched and sailed it - single-handed - to Hawaii.He accepted a crew for the return, who joined with a brand new guitar. He was, he said, going to learn how to play it, during his "spare time" on the voyage. Harry concluded that this crew-hand somewhat lacked experience of sailing a sloop across an ocean. "However, we got on well enough". Reading this book it is difficult to imagine anyone not being able to `get along; with the calm, competent harry Pigeon.Joshua Slocomb had only completed the first single-handed some thirty years before in his famous sloop `Spray'who was just three feet longer that the "Islander", but Slocomb had more thirty years sea-going experience behind him. With boundless confidence and, perhaps wisely, single-handed again, harry decided to sail across the Pacific (and never was an Ocean more misnamed) to see `the islands' and, like Slocomb, "kinda, sorta" forgot to stop.Written in a rather dry, straightforward and chronological manner Pidgeon's tale lacks that marvelous prose that the relatively unlettered Slocomb astoundingly produced in his account. But arm-chair sailors and old reminiscers like me will still enjoy

reading these travels and the marvelous islands, peoples, trails and the ultimate success of Harry Pidgeon's circumnavigation around the world. And, unlike Josh Slocumb he did not get corrected by President Kruger who had insisted that Slocumb had misspoke - he meant, Kruger insisted, across the world - it was, after all, said the President of the South African Boer Nation, flat. Harry would have agreed with Slocumb. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A bit out of date, but.....By Old Slow Guy Since this book is about a cruise that took place back in the 1920's it is a bit out of date, and so also quite a bit out of compliance with today's political correctness. That said, it is a very entertaining view of an extraordinary single handed voyage around the world. Because of age, and and the style of the author, it doesn't add to anyone planning a similar trip today, but it is an interesting glimpse of a world that few if any can remember. Harry Pidgeon seemingly was most impressed with the Pacific portion of his circumnavigation, and so most of the book deals with that. A true life adventure, I rate this a page turner, and I finished it quite quickly. And enjoyed the read. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Around the world single minded By Luca57 No fantastic adventure, no , no fight with aggressive natives: just a plain yet fascinating description of a great adventure. A very enterprising man decides to explore that (large) part of the globe he does not yet know: ninety years ago it was still possible. Through his simple and rugged vessel the author can reach persons and human groups who often are minorities and sometimes disappearing. I was touched from the attitude of this unassuming man, who likes to really get in touch with human beings so different from his neighbors; he is not an ambassador of western culture, but a curious man who want to explore clean waters and unspoiled lands as well as to communicate as far as possible with persons who have a different perspective of life. I like this book a lot.

"The Islander was my first attempt at building a sailboat, but I don't suppose there ever was an amateur built craft that so nearly fulfilled the dream of her owner, or that a landsman ever came so near to weaving a magic carpet of the sea." So begins this fascinating first-person narrative by a man who did what many dream of but few accomplish. Between 1921 and 1925 Harry Pidgeon circumnavigated the globe in a sailboat of his own construction, experienced many thrilling adventures in the far corners of the world, and relied mainly on his own strength, skill, and resourcefulness to survive. After building his 34-foot yawl (at a cost of \$1,000 for materials and a year and a half of hard work), the author sailed from California west across the Pacific to Hawaii in a test voyage. Then, from Los Angeles he cruised to lush and fabled islands the Marquesas, Tahiti, Samoa, Fiji, New Hebrides, and New Guinea. With grace and economy, Mr. Pidgeon describes memorable encounters with native peoples (including suspected cannibals), tribal rites and rituals, the warm hospitality afforded him at many a remote harbor, good times with new friends and, of course, the delights of sailing. But there was danger and hardship as well, as he navigated his small craft through raging gales and giant seas, and a near-catastrophe when the Islander ran aground off the coast of South Africa. Over 60 photographs enhance the text (Pidgeon was also an expert photographer) depicting the Islander under construction, under sail and at anchor in various locales; native peoples, houses, and ceremonies; penguins and other wildlife; pearl divers, a canoe race at Port Moresby; a tattooed girl of New Guinea; and many other vivid vignettes. Well written, exciting, and true-to-life, *Around the World Single-Handed: The Cruise of the "Islander"* will delight armchair adventurers, sailing enthusiasts, or anyone who ever dreamed of hoisting sail and setting out for distant ports of call.