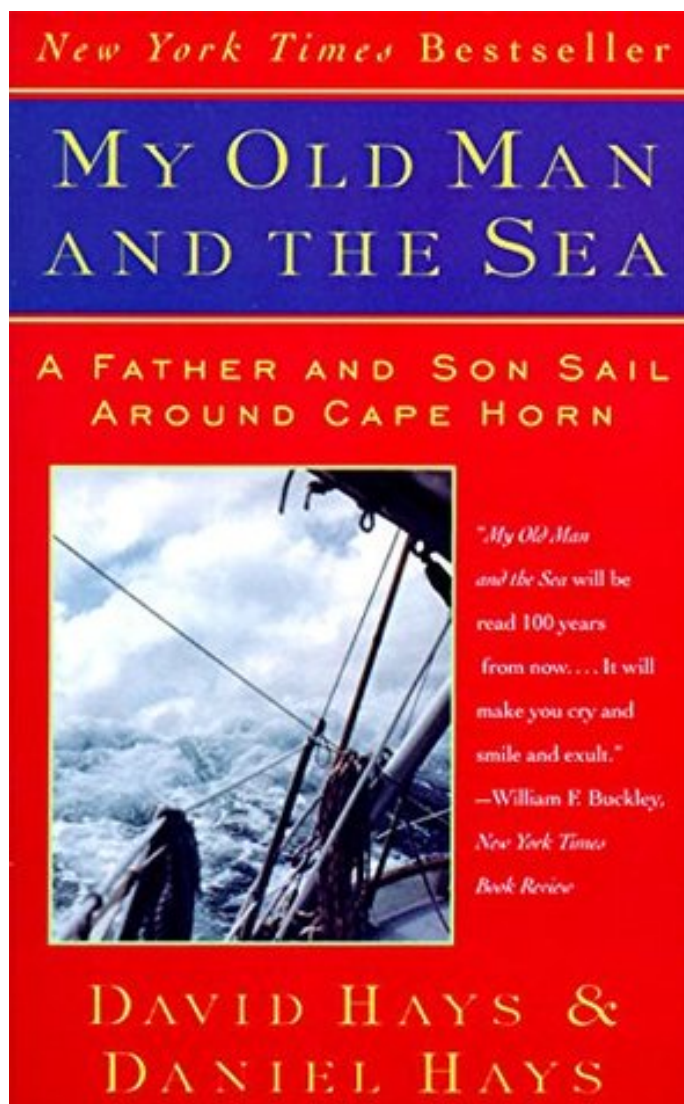


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**David Hays**

**My Old Man and the Sea**



Title: My Old Man and the Sea

Author: David Hays

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## Description

Some fathers and sons go fishing together. Some play ball. David Hays and Daniel Hays sailed 17,000 miles through the world's most feared and fabled waters in a little boat they built together. This is their story. Alone with nothing but the mammoth waves of the Southern Ocean, the unceasing wind, a compass, a sextant and a pet cat, they voyage down the Caribbean, through the Panama Canal, past the Galapagos Islands, beyond Easter Island and around their destination -- Cape Horn. Father and son narrate in alternating fashion, their voices weaving together an engrossing story of travel, exploration and difficult, dangerous sailing.

But more than a tale of adventure, this is a touching account of a father and son's rite of passage as they assess their complex and evolving relationship. Daniel, out of college and unsure of what he wants in his life, sees his father getting older, more forgetful. David deals with unresolved issues he had with his own father, fearful that he'll make the same mistakes with his son, yet frustrated that Daniel treats him like an old man.

Moving, often hilarious, often poignant, "My Old Man and the Sea" is a rich and profound chronicle of their voyage of discovery. Every reader will identify with this uplifting story of a father and son who go down to the sea and find each other.

## Insightful reviews

^: This is a book written by two authors. Subtitled '*A father and son sail round Cape Horn*' – as the voyage progresses, each contributes sometimes a paragraph, sometimes several pages. The maps are clear and helpful; though I'd have preferred all maps to have been grouped to fold-out from the front-inside. I temporarily solved *that* problem by keeping a pad of multi-coloured adhesive page markers to hand.

The older man is a highly respected theatre director, and a graduate of Harvard. The younger is a field supervisor at a therapeutic wilderness programme for troubled teenagers in Idaho. Very different – or are they? The relationship is spiced-up by the father's carefully weighed deliberate decision to appoint his son captain of the ship. Why? David's handing over that control is, entirely appropriately, never explicitly answered. The reader is left to engage with a fascinating puzzle, constructing his/her own theories from the evidence presented.

Accompanied by a last-minute furry gift, a spirited male kitten named 'Tiger', the good ship '*Sparrow*' makes her way from The Idea, ... to Panama, ... to the Galápagos, ... Easter Island, ... and thus round the Horn and back via the Falklands (British) and home to New London, Connecticut. It's a great voyage; and certainly no holiday cruise. In different ways the libido of both men; and Force 10 sailing conditions round Cape Horn, see to that!

The power relationship between the two men and their natural affection for Tiger (despite his developing a taste for chewing electrical wiring) is charmingly amusing. The sheer technical and practical competence needed to stack the odds in favour of survival includes a wonderfully humorous account of cooking (pp.113-114) six hundred miles away from the Galápagos.

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However, and probably irrationally, I do wish that I hadn't read the account of tourism on Easter Island. The necessity of a population trading in order to survive in moderate comfort is entirely understandable; yet is surely to be regretted when and where intangible spiritual qualities of Paradise are threatened?

By no means is this a wholly serious book; and it's all the better for that. However once round Cape Horn, I thought the narrative descended a purr flat, and a whisker sentimental. Relief? American nature? Lack of a clear follow-on goal? Lack of that cat? Hard to know, really.

Wistful?

Scott Bischke: I read this books moons ago but noticed it on my shelf the other day. I am not a sailor, but I found this book to be a page turner, start to end. Two men, father and son, taking a small sailboat around the tip of South America. Frightening storms and waves...man against the sea...a riveting adventure story.

David: I enjoyed this story written jointly by a father and son about their round trip sail from CT around Cape Horn and back. It is a story of adventure and of the evolving relationship between this father and son whose relationship prior to this trip was strained.

Kathy Carman: fascinating read, no longer as particular as i'd have like, yet a great learn none-the-less.

Stevie: in the event you like examining tales concerning the sea, sailing, and relationships, this can be great. Wm F Buckley's son prompt it in his memoir wasting Mum and Pop. informed from issues of view, father and son, function reversals interesting.

Eric\_W: My previous guy and the ocean by means of David and Daniel Hays is set a father and son (respectively) and the expansion in their love and appreciate for every other, and maybe no longer inconsistently, the flowering in their independence. that during itself isn't so unusual, yet so much fathers and sons do not construct 25 feet crusing yachts to sail round Cape Horn. the top of South the United States has most likely the worst climate for any type of sea vessel of anywhere on earth. it could possibly take months to overcome and tack from side to side opposed to the howling winds that sweep unhindered via any land mass round the backside of the globe. They weren't so silly as to sail from east to west, in order that they took a brief reduce throughout the Canal directly to Easter Island then again round from the west through the Horn. Their voyage lined 17,000 miles and lasted 317 days. they'd an attractive procedure of reefing the sails for varied different types of weather. It was once color-coded with a mnemonic method that on the topic of worry levels. "Red for the 1st reef stands for 'mere common fear.' [fifteen knot wind] If it blows over twenty, one turns eco-friendly with nauseating terror, and secures the golf green line, that's the second one reef. subsequent if it truly is blowing over thirty knots and surprise has set in (the blood has left your extremities), you pull the blue line for the 3rd reef. If the wind choices up greater than that, you are scared to death. White is appropriate. That makes the sail tiny." The voyage keeps as father and son discover their prior and previous relationship. David recalls Dan's consistent pranks at boarding college that necessitated a plea

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to the headmaster for reinstatement. Dan fears his father's age and different inadequacies - cooking is a together well-known incompetence of his, simply half-jokingly known as "time spent within the galley area, after which, the nutrients scraped out of the utensils and stale the partitions is served." David speculates why small boat voyages turned a British area of expertise after the war: "... the chilly and damp and undesirable nutrients on a tiny boat have been indistinguishable from home; they did not become aware of that they were not of their dwelling rooms."

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