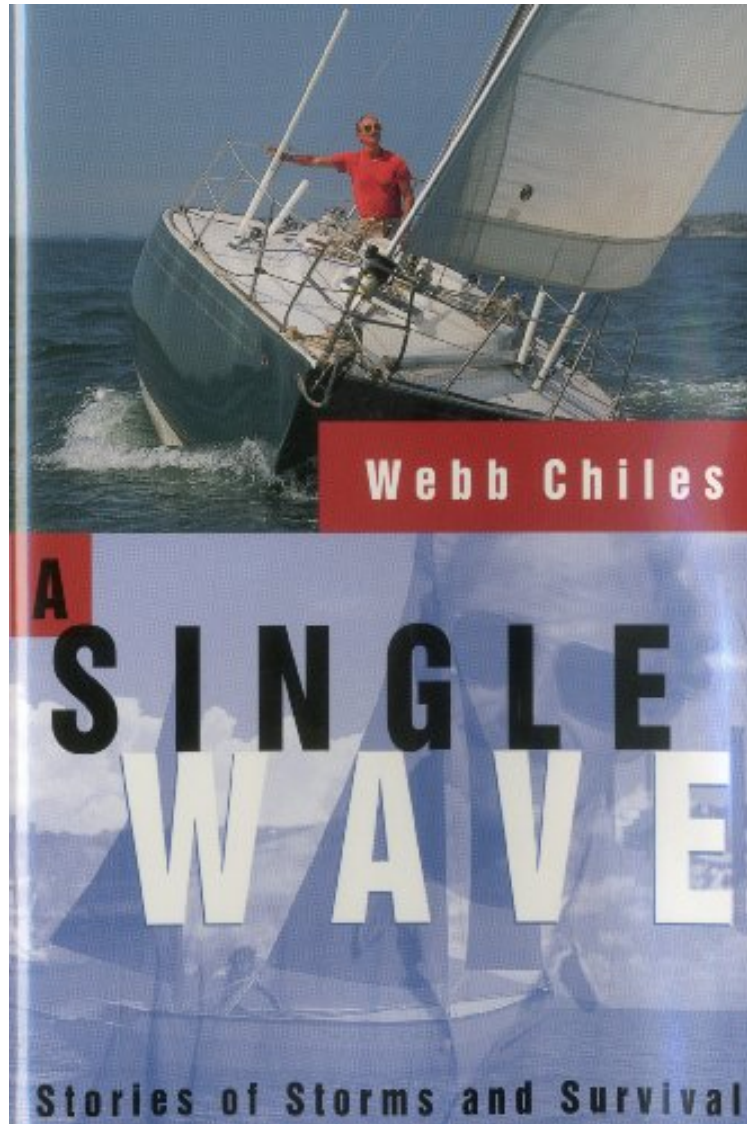


(Pdf free) A Single Wave: Stories of Storms and Survival

A Single Wave: Stories of Storms and Survival

Webb Chiles

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Webb Chiles : A Single Wave: Stories of Storms and Survival before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Single Wave: Stories of Storms and Survival:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Webb RulesBy coo-chi-chooAn immodest and revisionistic recollection of a true extremist at the top of his game. Chiles points out that we humans never exist in that rare zone of our exploring our ultimate potential, and his stated aim was to do so. So, yes indeed, he set and has retained all or many of these records, and aside from what he focuses on as the inward journey, he is very conscious of his firsts. He

claims to exaggerate not at all about conditions at sea--and so on--while claiming that others do so--but his modesty stops abruptly at his interest in letting us all know how great his achievements are. I don't disagree. The book has the feeling of having been written years later, almost as an afterthought, with none of the immediacy and introspection of material that's topical, or at least written in situ or somewhat nearer to the events. The writing is philosophical and clever, but somehow seems stale. The style is choppy. It's ok. A second-rate accounting of a first-rate adventurer.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Truly Long-Distance CruisingBy California RetireeWebb Chiles, as always, conveys the gamut of emotions he experiences in challenging himself and his boats in the world's roughest seas. His fortitude, stamina, and perseverance in the most dire situations will inspire any sailor. His self reliance is a reminder of what a cushy, entitled environment we indulge in the Western World.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Webb's best bookBy Christopher C CochranI've read Of his books, and known Webb for a few years. This anthology, or "best of" as he described it to me, is also the best composed, most readable, most interesting, and I'd argue - most illuminating.

Webb Chiles set several records while bailing his way through cyclones, capsizes, cold and wet terror. Whether rounding Cape Horn or circumnavigating in an 18-foot yawl, he frequently sailed at the edge of deathbut lived to write about it in this unique book.

From Kirkus sBad days sailing, told with aristocratic though strangely appealing understatement, by Chiles (The Ocean Waits, 1984). ``Most people most of the time seek the safety and stability necessary to perpetuate the species, but the species also needs a few originals," says Chiles, casting his lot with the latter. For him that meant sailing around the globe a few times and running into some particularly rude situations that he subsequently wrote about for various sailing publications. ``I am best known for those tales of survival," and so as not to disappoint his readers, he musters here a good handful of scary encounters while single-handedly sailing Egregious, Chidioc Tichborne, and Resurgam. Not one for melodrama (readers will more likely sense that he is downplaying the terrifying qualities of his adventures), Chiles offers a low-key account of being pitchpoled in the Southern Ocean, swamping his open-decked yawl, and drifting for two weeks to the New Hebrides. Then there was that nasty bit of wind, so outrageous it actually erased the waves and flattened the sea. And that near-mincing upon a group of sea rocks called the Noises, and those irritating spells of madness, ``if by madness one means the acceptance as normal of conditions that are far from acceptable," like being gale-slammed in a small boat, which is as common for Chiles as paring his fingernails. How about being dropped in the Gulf Stream after the sinking of Resurgam, swimming and floating for 26 hours and 125 miles, the salt water eating his throat and eyes, before rescue? ``The day should have been as hard as it was," he points out. Of course. Chiles is such a winsome and sincere antique, when he says something like ``sail on, Egregious, sail on," it comes across as endearing rather than embarrassing. Only the most cynical wouldn't wish Chiles the best and take pleasure in his capers: sail on, sailor, sail on. (maps, not seen) -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. Bad days sailing, told with aristocratic though strangely appealing understatement, by Chiles (The Ocean Waits, 1984). "Most people most of the time seek the safety and stability necessary to perpetuate the species, but the species also needs a few originals," says Chiles, casting his lot with the latter. For him that meant sailing around the globe a few times and running into some particularly rude situations that he subsequently wrote about for various sailing publications. "I am best known for those tales of survival," and so as not to disappoint his readers, he musters here a good handful of scary encounters while single-handedly sailing Egregious, Chidioc Tichborne, and Resurgam. Not one for melodrama (readers will more likely sense that he is downplaying the terrifying qualities of his adventures), Chiles offers a low-key account of being pitchpoled in the Southern Ocean, swamping his open-decked yawl, and drifting for two weeks to the New Hebrides. Then there was that nasty bit of wind, so outrageous it actually erased the waves and flattened the sea. And that near-mincing upon a group of sea rocks called the Noises, and those irritating spells of madness, "if by madness one means the acceptance as normal of conditions that are far from acceptable," like being gale-slammed in a small boat, which is as common for Chiles as paring his fingernails. How about being dropped in the Gulf Stream after the sinking of Resurgam, swimming and floating for 26 hours and 125 miles, the salt water eating his throat and eyes, before rescue? "The day should have been as hard as it was," he points out. Of course. Chiles is such a winsome and sincere antique, when he says something like "sail on, Egregious, sail on," it comes across as endearing rather than embarrassing. Only the most cynical wouldn't wish Chiles the best and take pleasure in his capers: sail on, sailor, sail on. (maps, not seen) (Kirkus s)A very good read for those who've been there, and for those who are going. (Latitudes Attitudes)If you have followed Webb Chiles' adventures over the years this book will come as a bit of a surprise: Is this guy still alive? you might well ask. He is older now, but no more wise, apparently, since he still puts himself in ridiculously dangerous situations. Every one of his stories is laced with fatalistic humor that borders on a death wish. But he is an inspiration, since he pushes the envelope for the rest of us. Chiles has crossed countless oceans in all manner of improbable craft, including an 18-foot open Drascombe Lugger, which he sailed within 3000 miles of a circumnavigation, before giving up on the idea in the Canaries. In A Single Wave, Chiles does not disappoint those expecting more madness. As he points out in the foreword, "A peculiarity of

human nature is that no one much cares to read about happy families or fine sailing. . . So here are the dramatic highlights of a quarter century in three boats." We almost lose our hero in this book. After his boat sinks in the Gulf Stream, the lights of Fort Lauderdale twinkling in the distance, he floats without life jacket and dressed only in a shirt and shorts for more than 24 hours until he is fished out by a passing boat. (Ocean Navigator) Webb Chiles first set out in 1973 in EGREGIOUS, a 37-foot cutter. His aim: a solo circumnavigation via Cape Horn. Despite frequent rigging damage and a hull cracked in a gale, he became the first American to round Cape Horn alone. He looked for new challenges, and set another record. He was the first person to cross the Pacific in an open boat, CHIDIOCK TICHBORNE, an 18-foot open undecked yawl. On the way from Fiji to Papua New Guinea, CHIDIOCK was pitch-poled and swamped. He was adrift for two weeks. Reaching Vanuatu he was swept over the reef and landed on the beach. He repaired his boat and sailed on to new adventures. He almost completed his second circumnavigation, but the boat capsized during a hurricane on the Canary Islands, but he walked away. He then bought a 36-foot sloop RESURGAM in 1983, and completed his third circumnavigation. He continued sailing, again around Cape Horn. In 1992, off Fort Lauderdale he "pulled the plug at midnight" and watched RESURGAM go down. For 26 hours he swam for his life, eventually being rescued by fishermen. He picked up the pieces of his life, bought a new boat, found a new love and was ready for new challenges again. This true adventurer writes poignantly about his experiences which make exceptionally good reading. (Sailing Inland Offshore) From the Back Cover "A Single Wave, Webb Chiles' philosophical and often humorous look back at a life spent largely at sea, is a testament to his extraordinary seamanship and survival instincts as well as his skill as a storyteller of the modern age. This anthology recounting his noteworthy voyages in three boats will keep readers turning the pages and leave them eagerly anticipating new tales of adventure that are sure to spring from his next circumnavigation in boat number four, The Hawke of Tuonela." --Linda Childress, Cruising World "Webb Chiles may be sailing's worst lunatic-and its best living writer." --John Riise, Latitude 38 "A Single Wave is a compelling account of a man obsessed with pitting himself against an impersonal ocean. In Chiles' words, 'The ocean waits to measure or to slay me... And I will sail.' So we sail with him around Cape Horn in a totally inadequate boat. We voyage 25,000 miles with him in an 18-foot open yawl. And finally we experience with him a despair that leads to attempted suicide, and after an unbelievable measure of human endurance, the triumph of life over death. "Long after Chiles first rounded Cape Horn, he looked back on it as 'the time when I had the most hope [that] my life would have meaning.' Two sentences later he writes, 'I felt an unexpected sense of loss. I needed new capes'-this even though, as he himself puts it, 'I had long since surpassed what other men had done.' It is this need to tilt at nautical windmills that drives Webb, and that makes A Single Wave a powerful memoir. I couldn't put it down." --Herb Payson "Webb Chiles has that rare combination of toughness and sensitivity that allows him to perform amazing feats and then capture them in words that reverberate. The result is writing that defies any narrow categorization and speaks to everyone." --Thomas Swick, Sun-Sentinel, Ft. Lauderdale "Webb Chiles is one of kind. Few others can describe the beauty and danger of the sea as well as he. If you don't love the sea, read Webb Chiles. He will convert you." --Charles Barthold, Yachting