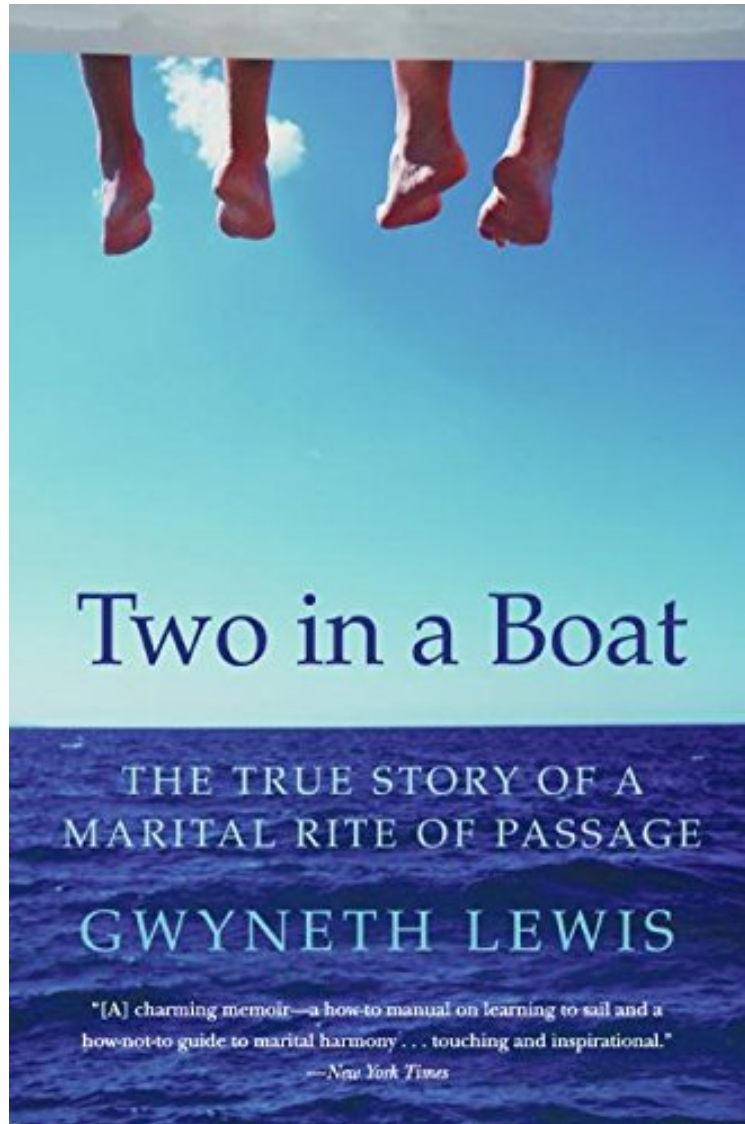


[Download pdf] Two in a Boat: The True Story of a Marital Rite of Passage

Two in a Boat: The True Story of a Marital Rite of Passage

Gwyneth Lewis

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review helpful. A must for sailing couplesBy J. WilliamsEvery sailing couple will benefit from Gwyneth Lewis's *Two in a Boat*. The joys, sorrows, ecstasy, and anger that inevitably emerge and are shared by sailing couples are traced in elegant prose and with deep sensitivity. And, in the process, you've got one superb account of sailing from the U.K. to Gibraltar. A book not to miss.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great story, well-writtenBy evk0109There is as much research and nautical information as there is narrative in this story. For someone who knows nothing about sailing, it made for a fun and easy read. Made me wish I was along for the journey. I would love to know what happened next; perhaps a sequel is in the making...?

When she was in her forties, recovering from depression and alcoholism, Gwyneth Lewis, the National Poet of Wales, decided to trade in her landlubber existence—a house in Cardiff and a responsible job at the BBC—for life at sea with her husband, Leighton, a former bosun with the Merchant Navy. After buying a small yacht (called *Jameeleh*) and teaching themselves to sail it (a process not without its fair share of disasters), they set out to cross the Atlantic. But Gwyneth's seasickness and Leighton's astonishing transformation into Captain Bligh were just the beginning in a series of outrageous catastrophes, both maritime and marital. A truly unique memoir, both witty and wise, *Two in a Boat* is Gwyneth Lewis's strange, stirring, and often hilarious account of their voyage—at once a wholly original, relentlessly entertaining beginner's guide to the art of sailing and an unforgettable portrait of a marriage under pressure.

From Publishers WeeklyIn a charming memoir with as much turmoil as a rough sea, Lewis recounts her attempt to morph from a "messy depressive, often overwhelmed by my own emotions" to someone "unbowed by internal or external storms." After emerging from a year of clinical depression, Lewis, a Welsh poet, visited a tarot card reader, who told her she wasn't living life "to the full," and advised her, "you should buy a boat." In less than a month, Lewis, in her 40s, and her husband, 23 years her senior and formerly in the merchant navy, bought a boat and prepared to leave their home and jobs in Cardiff (a port on the Bristol Channel) to embark on a lengthy voyage. Excited by the idea of a change in scenery, the two set off for Brazil. The trip, naturally, wasn't easy: debilitating seasickness, engine problems, unscrupulous mechanics, a resurgence of Lewis's depression, not-so-scenic ports of call and extreme weather conditions were all exacerbated by their deteriorating relationship. Lewis leans on allegory, which can wear thin, but her poetic talent shines through with lines like "Cold air French kisses the warm, which loses its identity for it." Photos., illus. (Apr. 1) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Gwyneth Lewis is a writer first and last, and her boating book is a surpassing exception." (—Peter Nichols, author of *A Voyage for Madmen* and *Evolution's Captain*)About the AuthorGwyneth Lewis is the National Poet of Wales whose work has drawn widespread acclaim. She was named one of the Next Generation British Poets in 2004. She is the author of six collections of poetry and a prose book, *Sunbathing in the Rain: A Cheerful Book on Depression*. She lives in Cardiff, Wales.