



The Race: The First Nonstop, Round-the-World, No-Holds-Barred Sailing Competition

By Tim Zimmermann

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The Race: The First Nonstop, Round-the-World, No-Holds-Barred Sailing Competition By Tim Zimmermann

Why saw the handle off your toothbrush? Why tackle the world's stormiest waters in a fragile craft that has never weathered such seas before?

The answer to both these questions is the same: to sail faster than anyone ever has before. In engrossing, suspenseful detail, **THE RACE** relates how and why participants in the first running of The Race risked millions of dollars and their lives to dash around the world in record time.

Other contests have pushed people and boats past their limits, but no race has ever left so little margin for error. For this very reason, The Race attracted the world's best sailors, among them a Chicago multimillionaire who has set more than twenty records in competitions ranging from ballooning to flying to sailing, a young Briton best known for risking his life to fish a competitor out of the Southern Ocean during a solo round-the-world race, and a hard-nosed New Zealander with virtually no experience skippering multihulls -- the huge, fast, notoriously unstable boats that ran The Race.

Zimmermann also chronicles the tumultuous history of extreme sailing, in craft from nineteenth-century clipper ships to today's dangerous, high-tech marvels with masts fifteen stories tall, which are capable of making up to fifty miles per hour. He spotlights the protean personalities that have driven the sport: Joshua Slocum, who completed the first solo voyage around the world, aided by hallucinations of an old salt beside him at the helm; "Blondie" Hasler, an iconoclastic World War II hero who outraged the risk-averse sailing establishment by organizing the first single-handed transatlantic race; and Francis Chichester, the sailor who won it, despite weighing his small craft down with such luxuries as bottles of claret and a smoking jacket.

Tim Zimmermann, an experienced blue-water sailor, graces this high-tension saga with rich atmosphere, historical depth, and singular emotional intensity.

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The Race: The First Nonstop, Round-the-World, No-Holds-Barred Sailing Competition By Tim Zimmermann **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #3332367 in Books
- Color: Multicolor
- Published on: 2002-06-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.14" h x 6.38" w x 9.24" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Experienced sailor and Outside correspondent Zimmermann brings readers to a maritime marathon that circumnavigates the globe in sailing ships that travel up to 50 mph. With winning skippers grabbing monthly purses in excess of \$20,000 and massive corporate sponsorship (PlayStation, Team Phillips and Club Med were some of the ships in the running), it should be no surprise that the event drew international recognition. Zimmermann elucidates the technical advancements of racing vessels from clipper ships to yachts to today's high-tech "maxi-catamarans." Armed with GPS systems, the personalities of multimillionaires and crews of 20, six such ships embarked from Barcelona on New Year's Eve 2000, racing past the equator and through the treacherous Southern Ocean to round Cape Horn and onward to port in Marseilles. Zimmermann keeps up the pace with a rapid play-by-play of the race as its contenders fight doldrums, stomach bland diets and dodge gigantic icebergs; he describes how the delicately balanced twin hulls of the maxi-catamarans faced easy damage in severe waves and poor weather. In the end, only two of the ships completed the voyage. Despite Zimmermann's technical moxie, the dramatic flair here is surprisingly lackluster and the story floods into an obligatory tale of man's embittered drive to conquer the elements. A sure bet for maritime racing fans and extreme sporting enthusiasts, the book might not have enough ballast to float the open waters of mainstream readers.

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From Library Journal

Practiced sailor Zimmerman here expands on his treatment of the Race, a challenging nonstop global circuit that he has already covered for Sports Illustrated and Outside.

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Review

"Zimmermann has turned a daring race of unthinkably fast, high-tech sailing machines into an electrifying page-turner." --Bruce Knecht, author of **THE PROVING GROUND**

"The Race was a wild ride, and The Race is a fine read." -- Herb McCormick, sailing correspondent for the New York Times, editor of **Cruising World Magazine**

"The Race is probably the finest account of the history of the circumnavigator's quest yet written." -- Lincoln P. Paine, author of **Ships of the World**

"A sophisticated chronicle that keeps the drama thrumming along nicely....told with just the kind of finesse the contest deserves." **Kirkus Reviews**

"Zimmermann keeps the action continuous and tense...An exciting and fascinating story." --Derek Lundy, author of **GODFORSAKEN SEA**.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sheldon Downs:

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Jon Estrada:

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Amber Tyson:

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