

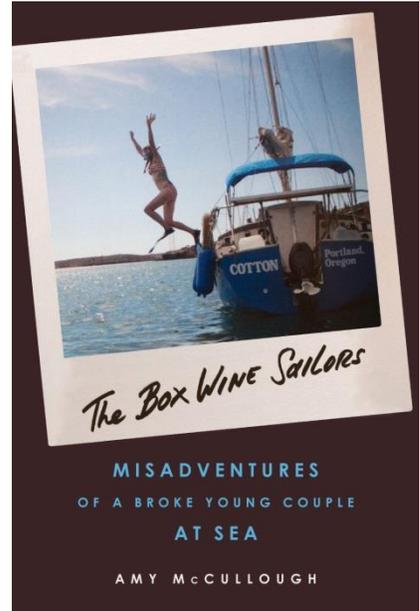
A memoir about doing something awesome *now*—even if you have no idea how to

Amy McCullough bought a boat, quit her job and spent a year at sea

Like many people, Amy and Jimmie craved an escape from “real life.” They were young, in love and just wanted to be together—and they didn’t want to wait until they were retired for the opportunity. Unlike many people, they turned this dream into a reality. The middle-class 20-somethings living and working in Portland, Oregon, bought a shabby 27-foot sailboat, quit their jobs and sailed down the coast from Portland to the Sea of Cortez. They’d read a few sailing books, rented two instructional VHS tapes and practiced sailing once a week for about a year before departing, but they weren’t rife with nautical knowledge—or money. They learned as they went, about sailing and each other. They were young, able and excited about being each other’s “mate for life.”

The Box Wine Sailors: Misadventures of a Broke Young Couple at Sea (Academy Chicago, an imprint of Chicago Review Press, November 2015) is Amy McCullough’s memoir of taking to the Pacific for a year with the love of her life—in a boat that was categorically considered “too small” for ocean sailing. She and her partner, Jimmie, lived without heat, refrigeration and much “must-have” sailing equipment. They marveled at the kindness and generosity of those they met along the way, and lived on the cheap, eating ramen, rice and canned vegetables, drinking rum and the ever-affordable box wine. The most difficult, dire situations that they’d ever encountered (ever!) were tempered by witnessing the most breathtaking sights imaginable.

An adventure memoir and a quirky tale of true romance, *The Box Wine Sailors* collects the couple’s humorous and often poignant tales, depicting all the accomplishments and terrifying incidents of sailing a small boat on the ocean. While addressing how two very normal people did something that so many fantasize about while sitting at their desks, McCullough also embraces and reveals ridiculous anecdotes—from passing out due to Dramamine-tinged hangovers, being boarded (and ticketed) by the U.S. Coast Guard, walking 20 miles to do laundry and not showering for weeks to having their boat’s tiller snap off while surfing breakers into the tiny entrance of Florence, Oregon and finding ultimate joy in a five dollar Little Caesar’s pizza. *The Box Wine Sailors* speaks to travel, sailing and adventure enthusiasts, and anyone who has ever dreamed of taking a break from the daily grind. McCullough’s down-to-earth writing tinged with humor and sass showcases the practical (and inspirational) philosophy that “everyday” people can do anything, at any time, if they want to badly enough.



Amy McCullough is the former music editor of *Willamette Week*, Portland, Oregon’s Pulitzer Prize-winning alt-weekly newspaper, and has also written for *Eugene Weekly* and *SAIL Magazine*. In addition to writing, McCullough makes music and movies with her partner and former shipmate, Jimmie. She lives in Austin, Texas.

The Box Wine Sailors: Misadventures of a Broke Young Couple at Sea

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