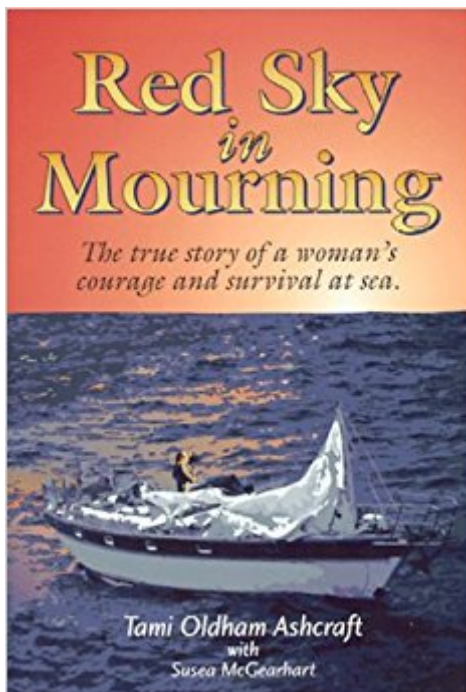


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Red Sky In Mourning



Synopsis

Tami Oldham and her fiancé, Richard Sharp, are caught in a violent hurricane in the crystal waters of the Pacific Ocean. Richard is swept overboard and Tami is left grief-stricken and alone on a ravaged yacht. *Red Sky in Mourning* is her amazing story of 41 days of survival recounted among poignant flashbacks of the adventure and romance she and Richard experienced while cruising French Polynesia.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tami Oldham Ashcraft grew up in San Diego. She spent much of her teenage years surfing and spending time in the water. Tami gave up her surfboard for sails when she signed onto a yacht as crew headed for French Polynesia. During this time her love of sailing developed and has been a priority in her life. Tami now resides in Friday Harbor, Washington, with her family. In addition to writing, she owns and operates Brightwork By Tami, a yacht refinishing business.

Fabulous book.. True story too!

A good story to read while out sailing for the week.

While Hemingway provides a moving fictional tale in *The Old Man and the Sea*, Tami Oldham Ashcraft shares her heart-rending, real-life experience with the reader in *Red Sky in Mourning*.

Other written accounts of storms at sea often leave non-sailors wondering why anyone would traverse any ocean in a cruising boat, but this book balances the immense joys of sailing in the South Pacific with the risk of facing a survival situation. On a deeper level though, she inspires a passion for life. Can any man who has not ridden a Manta Ray, "caressed the side of the moon," or made ardent love in a tropical waterfall have lived as fully as Richard? Can any woman who has not ridden the bow with whales in a phosphorescent sea, smelled the earth, or loved so deeply be as complete? She copes with grief, faces her fears and charts her own course. In the end she not only survives but quietly triumphs. What a movie this would make!

I loved the story even though it was true and tragic. Tami is my neighbor and I never knew she wrote a book until recently. She is such a brave and courageous person to have gone through all this plus losing her beloved. I don't think I could ever master what she did. She recently lost her daughter and I know times are very difficult for her but with the courage she has in her I pray she will find peace. I will re-read the book again and again.

First of all, Tami's story is astounding. As for what she went through, and for her demonstrated abilities to survive at sea (bearing in mind that this was a woman in her early-twenties who successfully sailed a demasted vessel and found Hawaii right where she calculated it would be), she deserves every accolade. Also, we should remember that she accomplished this in the wake of the terrible reality of losing her beloved fiance. But let's review the book. The story is a compelling one, and here's a chance for fans of the genre to (i) avoid a choking saga of the open lifeboat, and (ii) experience a firsthand account of what was, all in all, a happy and successful ending. The presentation is split between a narrative of the capsizing and the ensuing survival tale, and a full biographical account of the author's life with a heavy focus on the relationship between the author and her fiance. At times, this presentation was confusing as events in one part (the real-time capsizing account) did not click with events not yet revealed in the other part (the unnecessarily comprehensive biographical account). Like country music, the writing is cliché-ridden (beginning with the title of the book), but that seems to occur mostly in the biographical portions of the book. The accounts of the some-40 days at sea are awesome, and Tami does a pretty good job of putting us there. Big clumps of time seemed to be passed over quickly, but we do get the sense that there were many days and nights that came and went with seeming endlessness and little action. It's interesting that God gets a lot of mention in this book, although most of it is in the "in vain" nature (here's a game - I dare you to take a drink of beer everytime you read "Oh my ---!"). And God is both

prayed to and His presence acknowledged many times, but we also see the author and her lover proudly getting it on in full (and explicitly acknowledged) view of the deity. Weird perspective for the author to shareNote that I listened to the audio version of this book, read by the author. The author's reading was a little flat, and this could have used a professional actress, but it was neat to hear the author tell her own story. All in all, this is not among the best in its genre. But it's a heck of a story, and this is the only place to hear it.

What an inspirational story! When she was only twenty-two years old, Tami Oldham Ashcraft and her fiancée Richard Sharp took on a job to deliver a yacht from Tahiti to San Diego. Both Tami and Richard were experienced sailors, with over 50,000 miles of blue water sailing between them. What should have been a pleasant adventure turned into disaster though, on Day 19 of the trip, when the two were unable to outrun Hurricane Raymond. The two sailors fought bravely to escape the storm, but to Tami's horror, she woke up after what she thought was a brief sleep below decks, only to discover that the ship was filling up with water, and Richard apparently was washed overboard, his D-ring having broken open. What follows is a remarkable story of determination, faith, and dealing with a lost love, as Tami survives forty-one days on her own and manages to navigate the demasted ship to Hilo, Hawaii. In addition to telling the story of her survival, Tami includes reflections on the trip she and Richard had taken to Tahiti just before they started their fateful trip back to California. This book did such a great job of conveying the romance of the sea and long ocean voyages. Unlike some other tales of surviving disasters, Tami is completely humble in her telling of the story. This was a thoroughly enjoyable read, and a wonderful tribute to the human spirit. I highly recommend this book to all!

I met Tami at the St. Petersburg Sailboat Expo. She was at a table with several other authors talking about their books. She told me a little about "Red Sky in Mourning", and it sounded very interesting, but I moved on. The next day at the Expo, I went straight back and bought the book. I'm very glad I did. The story of this woman's struggle to survive alone at sea, in what was left of the boat after the hurricane is truly inspiring. This experience alone would have been enough for a gripping adventure novel. But the author very tenderly intertwines her survival with flashbacks of her loving memories of her fiancée, Richard. And then there was the voice that was always there to get her back on track when she got discouraged or wanted to give up the fight to survive. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in sailing, the sea, love, spirituality, and adventure.

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