

Blue Dolphin Books, Mansfield
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ADVANCE INFORMATION SHEET No 1

TITLE	SOLO	SUBTITLE: A Thousand Miles from Anywhere
PRICE	£14.99 PB	ISBN 978-0-9555124-1-4
AUTHOR	Dave Clarke	
PUBLISHER	Blue Dolphin Books	PUBLICATION DATE: 30th August 2012
CATEGORY	travel, adventure, rowing: WTL, WTLP, CVS, WSSN7, FSX	
SPECIFICATIONS	192 pages, 234 x 156mm, flapped paperback sewn, illustrated with charts and colour photographs	

WHO WILL BUY THIS BOOK? Armchair travellers, those who have an interest in personal adventure and/or oceanic rowing

"Anyone who rows an ocean single-handed deserves respect and Dave Clarke is one of those very respected few."

Sir Matthew Pinsent CBE

"His story cannot fail to impress; an ordinary man doing extraordinary things... The world needs adventurers – Dave Clarke is surely one of them: you might be too." Ranulph Fiennes

Dave Clarke is an inveterate adventurer: a man with an incurable desire to test his physical and mental limits against the forces of nature. He has a passionate relationship with rugged country and wild oceans, constantly seeking out new challenges where he is able to commune with the natural world and find solace and freedom from the constraints of a busy working life.

One of his favourite environments is the deep ocean; as he puts it, "one of the last great wildernesses and one that can never be tamed." From an early age he drew inspiration from the sea and the men who took their living from it. Self-taught in sailing skills, he sailed solo and unsupported from Falmouth to Barbados across the great North Atlantic in one of the smallest boats to ever make the journey; described by Sir Ranulph Fiennes as a story that turned a dream into a life-changing reality.

And now Dave has another adventure to relate. In *Solo: A Thousand Miles from Anywhere* he again hears the siren call of the great oceans and attempts to row single-handed and unsupported the three thousand mile journey across the Atlantic – despite never having rowed a boat in his life. This book is about that adventure. Of the year-long struggle to find the funds, the problems of boat design and construction, the frustrations of bureaucracy, the heartbreak of leaving his family for many months, the pain and joy of ocean rowing and the eventual success that brought its own difficult re-adjustments.

Solo is the inspiring story of an ordinary man who refused to let go of his dream. Written with humour, self-deprecation and deep insights that can only come when you're on your own – a thousand miles from anywhere.

About the Author: Dave Clarke is a forty-something, successful businessman and an active board member and shareholder with several companies. His preference is for adventure in wild country, being an accomplished mountaineer, climber, mountain biker, sailor and now – ocean rower. As he puts it, "I'm still at the heart of a mid-life crisis that began at age twenty; still searching for an indefinable freedom." A devoted family man living in Cheshire, he uses the Peak District on his doorstep to escape the rigours of the Boardroom. *Solo: A Thousand Miles from Anywhere* is Dave's second book following his successful *An Ocean Away*, the acclaimed story of his first solo and unsupported trans-Atlantic ocean journey in his tiny eighteen-foot sailing yacht *Sharky*.

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