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ADVANCE INFORMATION SHEET No 1

TITLE An Ocean Away **SUBTITLE:** Small boat: Big dream
PRICE £16.99 HB **ISBN** 978 -0-9555124-0-7
AUTHOR Dave Clarke with John Holloway
PUBLISHER Blue Dolphin Books, Mansfield
PUBLICATION DATE: October 25th 2007
CATEGORY travel, adventure, sailing: WTL, WTLP, CVS, WSSN3
SPECIFICATIONS 252 pages, 234 x 156mm, hardback sewn, illustrated with charts and photographs

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

Dave 'Sharky' Clarke might be a typical Northern lad, yet from a very early age he harboured an extraordinarily untypical ambition. He dreamed not only of sailing, and not merely of sailing solo, but of sailing solo across the Atlantic.

What in an unsettled upbringing, a fractured family life, and a catastrophically disrupted education, had brought him to that ambition? Perhaps it was in spite of those things that he set himself so monumental a challenge. Furnished with only an eighteen-foot sailboat, which lovingly christened Sharky, the remarkable adventure of Dave Clarke's life began, with its highs, lows, its near-death scrapes, and the people who lit his path along the way – not least the woman he was eventually to marry.

As the author himself points out, 'The Atlantic...is 76,000,000 square miles of turbulent menace, vengeful and forgiving in turn. Not a place for the foolhardy or reckless, but a challenge to those who dare test themselves against its mesmerising power. Few have sought to pit themselves against it, armed only with those precious commodities, personal skill and determination.'

Dave Clarke, with no seafaring tradition, a sailor entirely self-taught, lacking finance, and blessed only with a steely resolve, turned his dream into reality. *An Ocean Away* is quite simply an unforgettable account, by turns poignant, modest, full of longing, but above all hugely inspiring – required reading for all those with a sense of adventure in their souls.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dave Clarke, now in his early forties, is a family man and the managing director of his own successful company. He is currently in training for a solo row across the Atlantic in January 2008; the theme for his second book.

'Occasionally someone undertakes an especially daring and half-mad enterprise and returns with an extraordinary tale to tell. Dave Clarke's adventure is an heroic tale told with honest modesty. Authentic and frequently humorous, *An Ocean Away* takes you right to the heart of his voyage as if you're bobbing up and down on his tiny boat and tasting the salt on your lips. Read it, it's brilliant!' *Barefoot Doctor, author, healer*

'A passionate story to inspire us all to follow our dreams. This is an exciting account of an unsupported journey that overcame adversity, setbacks and moments of real doubt to turn a dream into a life-changing reality; an inspirational read with a wild touch.' Sir *Ranulph Fiennes*

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