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## Salt and Emerald: A Hesitant Solo Voyage Round Ireland

*Alastair Scott*

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**Alastair Scott : Salt and Emerald: A Hesitant Solo Voyage Round Ireland** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Salt and Emerald: A Hesitant Solo Voyage Round Ireland:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Oddly printed and quite ramblingBy David MantheyDecades ago, I read Alistair Scott's "Tracks Across Alaska" and enjoyed in immensely. I had half forgotten about him until I stumbled across Salt and Emerald. I was so looking forward to this -- I enjoy a good travelogue, and I enjoy

sailing. Unfortunately, the book is printed in an annoying sans serif font, which makes it hard to read. Any time I notice the font in a book, I feel that the typesetter has failed in some way. With the irritating font, the entire book was a bit of a chore to read. While *Tracks Across Alaska* was a joy, this seemed to be more of a duty. It feels like Scott is doing this out of some obligation (or possibly, just to get a novel experience for a book), and the tone is less witty and clever than I was expecting. Still, it isn't a bad read, just not what I had anticipated. There are some high points, even if they are not especially profound -- the slowness of unmotorized travel, the uncertainty and power of the sea, the kindness and rudeness of strangers. If this had been printed better, I would have liked it more. Since it wasn't, this was only an average read.

Alastair Scott, world-traveller by kilt, backpack, bicycle and dogsled, takes to the water on a voyage of revelations round Ireland. With only sixty miles solo skippering experience and one successfully laid (and recovered) anchor he takes on some of the most challenging waters in Europe in a sometimes tense, often hilarious personal odyssey. Over 1,700 miles he confronts his temperamental ally, the sea, in sandbars, tidal sluices, the Atlantic swell of the exposed west coast and an injurious summer storm which leaves him, literally, single-handed. His discovery of this new form of exploration gets him into some classic sailing predicaments - and some unique ones! Yet this book is much more than a personal adventure. Scott's practised eye for the eccentric and wonderful roves over Ireland past and present revealing a brimming chalice of places, from the awesome to the terrifying, and characters as diverse as doyen of Irish sailing Wallace Clark, travel writing luminary Dervla Murphy, Fungi the dolphin and pilgrims on the summit of Croagh Patrick. His idiosyncratic curiosity about everything he encounters leads the reader on a hugely entertaining voyage of discovery.