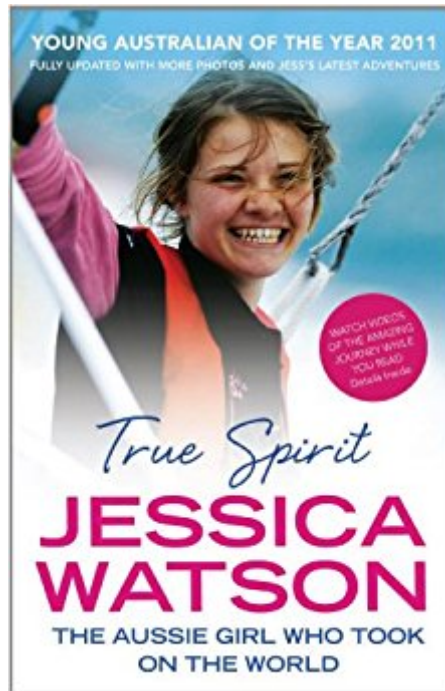




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True Spirit: The Aussie Girl Who Took On The World



Synopsis

The story of a remarkable girl who followed her dream and conquered the world. On 15 May 2010, after 210 days at sea and 24,285 nautical miles, 16-year-old Jessica Watson sailed her yacht, Ella's Pink Lady, triumphantly back into Sydney Harbour. She had become the youngest person to sail solo, unassisted and non-stop around the world. Told in Jessica's own words, this fully updated edition of True Spirit shares with the reader her childhood, her inspiration, her years of planning and what has happened since she conquered the Everest of sailing. It is an inspiring story, one that ultimately proves that we all have the power to live our dreams – no matter how small or big they are.

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Customer Reviews

Every once in a blue moon someone comes along and has a different take on how to live life. All of us, when we were young, read about people doing amazing things, but how many of us, when the book was put down, said to themselves, "I could do that" and then went about doing it! Imagine what chain of events would have had to occur for a teenager who was washing dishes to pay for sailing experience, with no boat and only a dream, to become the girl who two years later would sail into Sydney harbor to the rapturous welcome of tens of thousands of fans, the public praise of the

Prime Minister, and international sailing stardom! Written, first person, in an engaging and understated style, the book "True Spirit" is the story of how a young girl from an adventurous family was taken by the dream of sailing around the world, solo, nonstop and unassisted after hearing a book by Jesse Martin. Martin, who had circumnavigated ten years before, had written how he was just an average person with a dream. Through hard work and dogged perseverance, Jessica replicates his achievement a few days short of her seventeenth birthday. Jess's charming personality really comes through in the book, as it did in the captivating blogs she wrote during the voyage. "True Spirit" starts with Jessica's life before the dream takes hold at age eleven. Jessica gives some background of her unusual childhood living on a boat, and on the development of her taste for adventure. Following, is a description of how all the various pieces came together, from preparing the boat, to the sponsorships and public debate over her age, and the wisdom of someone so young undertaking such a difficult and possibly deadly voyage. The events surrounding her dramatic ship collision at night during a practice run, as well as the resulting public debate are covered. The book really takes off as she leaves Sydney harbor and into the unknown. As part of the voyage narrative, the blogs that Jessica sent from sea are included and elaborated on, giving the reader an insight into Jess's emotional highs and lows while solo voyaging. All was not smooth sailing. In the South Atlantic the yacht suffered four serious knockdowns. The blogs are the heart of the book, and give the reader a sense of what it is like to be at sea, with its vast sky, sealife, and raw nature. The daily rhythm of life at sea is captured, with its routines, reflective times, and constantly changing weather conditions. Jessica becomes one with the sea and her boat, Ella's Pink Lady. The last part of the book chronicles the incredible welcome that Jessica received after completing her record breaking voyage, as a country stopped to welcome home one of its own who dared to carry on in the face of adversity, and fulfill her ambition. Upon finishing the book I was struck by how absolutely amazing Jessica is, and how much she accomplished in a very short time. A humble soul, Jessica insists she is an average person. Her message to the world is that we all have the ability to do remarkable things, we just have to dream, plan and work hard! Jessica Watson is an inspiration, and I'm sure we haven't heard the last from this very special person. Thomas

I followed Jessica's voyage 'round the world through her blogs and so when the book True Spirit came out I just had to buy it. A large portion of the book contains all her blogs written during the voyage. In this section of the book Jessica sprinkles in a lot of notes elaborating on her condition, thoughts and fears at the time. In some cases she admits that her realtime blogs were more upbeat

than she was feeling, her honesty in this book is enchanting. She had some seriously dark moods during her voyage but Jessica wanted her parents and supporters to keep a positive attitude and she later shows how insightful that strategy was after she found herself on shore fretting over Abby Sutherland's disappearance. Jessica realized that while being alone on a boat in the middle of a raging ocean can be frightening, it can be even more frightening to be sitting on shore worrying about someone on a boat in the middle of a raging ocean. Most of all this book can serve as an inspiration to young people everywhere. Not everyone has a dream to sail around the world, but almost everyone has a dream, and in this book Jessica explains how she made her dream a reality. Sure, some adults helped her but Jessica makes it clear that she had to PROVE to them that she was dedicated enough to follow through, especially after crashing her boat into a freighter just before departure. She also explains that the biggest thing her parents did for her was to stand out of the way and allow her to live her dream. Good advice for all parents.

Although she denies it, Jessica Watson is a true hero adventurer, as Australia confirmed last week by naming her Young Australian of the Year. This book tells the story of her trip around the world, solo, non-stop and unassisted. This means that she was not allowed to land anywhere or receive physical help from anyone. She did have telephone and internet contact with friends and a whole support team to give her sophisticated weather reports and advice on how to fix broken equipment. She had to do it all--from sailing under very difficult conditions to repairing a broken diesel engine and other equipment. This book is the story of Jessica's odyssey, beginning with a young girl's incredible dream and ending with thousands of Australians cheering her arrival in Sydney harbour at journey's end. The book is written around her blog, on which she gave almost daily reports of her trip. When she arrived home, Jessica wove her retrospective thoughts around the blog narrative, giving the reader insight into what she was feeling and how she kept herself going emotionally, telling some of the things she did not want to put in the blog. It is a saga that moves from long periods of boredom to sheer terror as sudden storms toss her boat around and even upside down. Sometimes all she could do was go into the cabin strap herself in and wait for it to be over. Above all, Jessica is a gifted writer, even without an editor. She did not have one when writing her blogs. The Kindle addition has hotlinks along the way to video blogs that Jessica posted on her journey. It was a life changing experience. Jessica left Australia as a girl and returned several months later as a young woman. Her story should be an inspiration for any young person that you can live your dream and make a difference in the world. One of the reasons Jessica wanted to take on this adventure was that as a teenage girl people did not take seriously her skills as a sailor. In fact,

before she left, many were questioning the wisdom of letting her attempt this trip. At her welcome home, they were silent. If she has accomplished nothing else, she knows that no one will ever dismiss her as a silly girl again! I hope this book will inspire other young people to take up sailing. Being a solo sailor teaches you to use the wind and your boat. It expands your knowledge of both what you can do and what you can't. For those of us that are older, it is an exciting story and an encouraging bit of inspiration in times when most of the news is troubling.

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