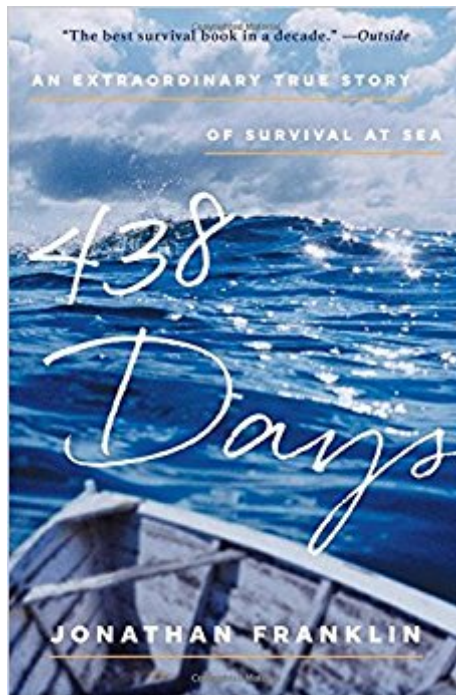




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# 438 Days: An Extraordinary True Story Of Survival At Sea



## Synopsis

Declared "the best survival book in a decade" by Outside Magazine, *438 Days* is the true story of the man who survived fourteen months in a small boat drifting seven thousand miles across the Pacific Ocean. On November 17, 2012, two men left the coast of Mexico for a weekend fishing trip in the open Pacific. That night, a violent storm ambushed them as they were fishing eighty miles offshore. As gale force winds and ten-foot waves pummeled their small, open boat from all sides and nearly capsized them, captain Salvador Alvarenga and his crewmate cut away a two-mile-long fishing line and began a desperate dash through crashing waves as they sought the safety of port. Fourteen months later, on January 30, 2014, Alvarenga, now a hairy, wild-bearded and half-mad castaway, washed ashore on a nearly deserted island on the far side of the Pacific. He could barely speak and was unable to walk. He claimed to have drifted from Mexico, a journey of some seven thousand miles. A "gripping saga," (Daily Mail), *438 Days* is the first-ever account of one of the most amazing survival stories in modern times. Based on dozens of hours of exclusive interviews with Alvarenga, his colleagues, search-and-rescue officials, the remote islanders who found him, and the medical team that saved his life, *438 Days* is not only "an intense, immensely absorbing read" (Booklist) but an unforgettable study of the resilience, will, ingenuity and determination required for one man to survive more than a year lost and adrift at sea.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The best survival book in a decade." (Outside) "A spectacular triumph of grit over adversity, *438 Days* is an intense, immensely absorbing read." (Booklist) "A fascinating, action-packed

account of long-term survival on the open seas." (Kirkus)"A fascinating, action-packed account of long-term survival on the open seas. Very inspiring!" (ABC News (Best Book of 2015))"[A] harrowing tale." (New York Daily News)"Jonathan Franklin is an American journalist, but it is with a novelist's eye for detail, rather than a reporter's matter-of-factness, that he gives this gripping saga the chronicle it deserves...it unfolds like a rollicking adventure story...remarkable...reminded me of both Yann Martel's *Life Of Pi* and William Golding's *Pincher Martin*, yet tells a tale that is nothing if not astoundingly, engrossingly singular." (Daily Mail (UK))"This riveting adventure has us in its grip, spellbound and eager to know more about the mysterious Salvador Alvarenga. His story of resilience, ingenuity, and grit is an unforgettable true-life adventure." (BookPage)"As this old world pursues its endless journey round the sun, many are the tales of death and disaster on the high seas. Few indeed are those that tell of near-miraculous survival, fed by human courage, faith, strength and intelligence. This is one such." (Roanoke Times)

Jonathan Franklin regularly reports for The Guardian, VICE, and Esquire. He also works with the team at Retro Report producing documentaries broadcast by The New York Times. Based in Santiago, Chile, and Manhattan, Franklin reports on Latin America. Franklin's previous book *33 Men*, the exclusive account of Chilean miners trapped nearly a kilometer underground, became a national bestseller in the US and UK and was translated into nineteen languages. He can be contacted @FranklinBlog and JonathanFranklin.com.

Absolutely captivating. It is memorizing to be immersed in the story of a man who defies all odds to survive physically, mentally emotionally and spiritually through what must be one of the most enduring stories of survival in history. Witnessing the experience, the will, the mental fortitude, the skill and the transformation left me as a reader appreciating and sympathizing with Alveranga as he moves through this truly unique experience. I encourage any reader with a hint of curiosity about the story to read this book! It was intriguing to understand not only how he did it but how the experience changed him. Truly fascinating.

This is the story of Salvadore Alvarenga who survived 438 days at sea, in which he drifted 6,000 miles over the Pacific Ocean. Overall I rated this book four and a half stars out of five. This was a truly amazing story, it is a one of a kind story. The kind you will only hear once in your lifetime. It is one of those stories that you have trouble believing that it's true. I really liked how this book included relevant information/facts and opinions coming from specialists, in that they backed up as well as

enriched Salvadore Alvarenga's remarkable survival at sea. I am in awe of Salvadore, in his humility and his optimism, in how he never gave up. Just close your eyes for a moment, and imagine that you are stranded at sea. What would you do? How would you survive? To find out how Salvadore Alvarenga survived you must read this book for yourself

The Cruel Sea.....generally unforgiving...delivered this hungry little fella to a beach in the Marshall Islands. When you see the photos of his boat is when you should be quite surprised. This was good reading for me! Franklin kept it rolling along and managed to 'put you there'...which is the mark of a clever scrivener. It was fairly arduous in its entirety but no less compelling when you consider the suffering this man endured. Not to mention the abject fear when weighing up the possibilities he may be flailing around with the sharks who verily wanted to eat him. What a horrible thought to be tortured with daily for months. That the story had a dramatic component was not going to ensure its success in literature. That was going to depend on the ability of the author to deliver...and for me Franklin succeeded.

I read it in two days. This is an amazing and heroic story of a hardwired optimist who knew how to make the absolute most out of the most absolutely dire of circumstances. As a recreational SCUBA diver and lifelong Alaskan, I have spent some time on and in the water. I came away from this book with a new respect for the ocean and the small guy who chooses to make a living from it. This true story is as gut-wrenchingly real as it gets. My high respect and admiration to the survivor, Jose Salvador Alvarenga.

This man's story at sea has always sparked my curiosity. This is a well told story using the best details available to give you an idea of how this man beat the odds. I had a hard time putting this book down. In fact it might fall under the category of a weight-loss book because you'll forget all about eating as you're reading it.

A survival story for the ages, 438 Days tells the captivating story of Salvador Alvarenga's courage, determination, and cunning as he drifted across the Pacific Ocean in a small boat without oars or motor for over a year. The story is fascinating, and this book is so brilliantly researched and composed that Franklin must be lauded for having created a masterpiece in the genre of survival books. Franklin has compiled data from oceanographers, fishermen, physiologists, psychologists, and the survivor's own accounts including those of the cycles of the moon to create a clear timeline

and trajectory of Alvarenga's boat, mind, and body as it drifted further and further from home.<sup>438</sup> Days is such a compelling read, it is hard not to be moved by this tale of the strength and limits of the human body and spirit.

Wow. He went from way selfish, party animal self made man and mocking people who believed in God until a desperate situation subdued him and it all began to click. There is a difference between gritting your teeth to get through something and gaining something eternal that is solid gold. Hope he makes it all the way.

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