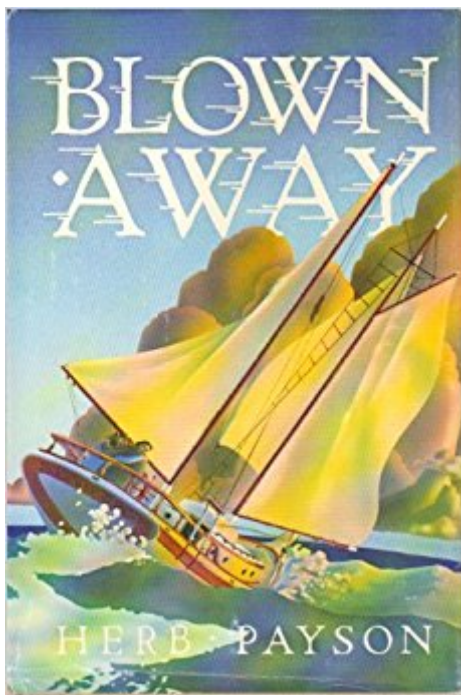


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# Blown Away



## Synopsis

New 35th anniversary edition "The older I get, the more things there are that tend to make me nervous. I don't see myself as full of cowardice, but as lacking in courage. Given death on one hand and destruction on the other, I have occasionally behaved in manly fashion, but show me an easy way out and I take it." Thus the Payson credo. And thus, behind the self-effacement, a sensible attitude for anyone tackling the formidable challenges and risk of sailboat cruising. The bare outline of Payson's story is a familiar one but with a unique twist: at middle age, a couple decides to take four of their six children on a 38 foot boat, depart work ashore (in the Paysons' case, the smoky nightclubs of L.A.) and take up the cruising life. But the fleshing out of the story - a blend of uproarious mishaps and white-knuckled action - is pure Payson with his style that gained him loyal followers in *Sail* magazine and others around the world. In nearly seven years of South Pacific island-hopping, the author not only has refined diverse boat-handling and boat-living skills, but has learned that adversity can be funny (to readers, anyway). He applies this outlook to such universal problems as broken-down heads, dilatory customs officials, dubious navigational fixes and coping with gale-force headwinds when a boat (his own beloved *Sea Foam*) is shaped more like a bowling ball than a 12-meter. His shaky self-esteem notwithstanding, Herb Payson is a sailor with the kind of hard-earned wisdom that only thousands of tough miles can confer, and his sage advice on the hows and how-nots of cruising is well worth heeding. His story, told with eloquence and humor, will surely rank as a classic of nautical literature. This special 35th anniversary edition is enhanced with a foreword by Lin Pardey plus Herb's reflections on how cruising affected his children and his relationship with his determined, lifelong partner/wife Nancy. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Getting away from it all was not an impossible dream for Herb and Nancy Payson, a California couple: they sold their belongings, purchased a ketch, SEAFOAM, and sailed for the Southern Seas. In their workaday lives Herb was a nightclub pianist and Nancy a cocktail waitress; he was an experienced sailor; she was eager to learn. So they set out with their children, one just 10 years old. And they enjoyed their journeys. When cash ran low everybody went to work: he and a son worked at carpentry in New Zealand; Nancy and a daughter made blouses for a boutique in Papeete and the 10-year-old made tourist souvenirs from coconut shells. The story is a realistic portrait of an adventurous, enterprising family, with enough sailing lore to satisfy most bluewater buffs.

--Publishers Weekly Perhaps the most delightful result of Herb Payson's decision to give up his credit card-cluttered life for one of bluewater cruising is that now he provides sailors (be they armchair or active) with uproariously funny tales of magic and woe. He has been charming magazine audiences with his adventures for several years; here he tells the entire hilarious but often humbling story of his family's move from California to a Pacific-bound ketch in *Blown away*. Whether Mr. Payson is plotting a speedy but good-humored escape from a Costa Rican shrimp crew who lust after his two daughters, or recounting an ultra-untraditional but imaginative tropical Christmas celebration, he is wonderfully funny. His writing style is clever and captivating, his observations and character descriptions apt and lively. Though it is often painful to consider his mistakes and his constant battles with a demanding and sometimes difficult boat, one realizes that he is not especially concerned with imparting nautical knowledge, but rather in relating his overall experiences in learning to cruise. And this he accomplishes with an honest account of foolish error mixed with growing awareness of the immensity and value of the family's undertaking. Unlike many other books of this sort *Blown Away* can be appreciated simply as a series of entertaining anecdotes to be read while sailing, at anchor or in the living room. One can read this book strictly for its humor and style and enjoy it completely. Or, one can realize that beyond the laughter is a rather honest tale of one family's metamorphosis from languor to liveliness—a change often observed in families who successfully establish the sea as their home --Cathy Lush - *Cruising World Magazine* Herb's self-deprecation is a wonderful counterpoint to his serious seamanship. *Blown Away* lets the reader laugh as he learns. A classic comedy of riches. --Sail Magazine Perhaps the most delightful result of Herb Payson's decision to give up his credit card-cluttered life for one of

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Herb Payson, a professional jazz musician, ran away to sea with his wife Nancy, a cocktail waitress plus four of the six children from their combined families. Over the next two decades, they sailed on three different boats to more than 26 countries, the whole family working along the way to keep their adventures afloat. Herb soon found his voice as a sailing writer and his work appeared regularly in Sail Magazine. His three books, filled with both humor and serious seamanship advice have become classics. When age made sailing less fulfilling, he and Nancy settled in Port Townsend Washington where Herb returned to his musical roots, playing jazz piano --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is a real gem. I can honestly say that it changed my life in that it made apparent that real people really do sail boats across oceans. Herb tells the story of doing this with his family with a wonderfully wry and humorous style. It's true, as some have noted, that the book uses some nautical jargon at times that won't be familiar to the average layman though that really does not interfere with the story. For those of us who have ever dreamed of chucking it all and heading off to the South Pacific, Herb has performed a real service in showing us that yes, it can be done. Wherever you are, Herb, here's to you!

Good book. A lot of travelog info, but some tips for new travelers. For example, when you pull into a new anchorage where other boats are, don't be too cool--make it look like you're having difficulty docking. That way, the people whose privacy you are diluting will feel sorry for you and invite you over for a visit, instead of being put off that you are so much cooler than they are. I would have never thought of that one!

The author has a great sense of humor and I found myself laughing out loud on numerous occasions. His vivid descriptions of people, places and situations were excellent. I hope to go back and find other articles, books, etc. to enjoy.

For anyone wanting to go cruising but have never done it and no idea what to expect, this book is a must. There are very few good books on living aboard a yacht. Herb's 'Blown Away' is an amusing, well-written expose of his wife and several children's 6 year jaunt around the South Pacific. It gives you a real feeling of the trials and tribulations faced by this intrepid band of sailors. Even if you have no intention of yachting, this is still an entertaining and worthwhile piece of literature.

Herb is a terrific writer. Funny as hell, this book is a honest and straightfoward account of the cruising life.

I saw the Payson's at a Marine lecture, laughed so hard I had to buy the book and have it signed. 30 years later the book is gone but the laughs are just as good (it takes real talent to talk about a marine head exploding and make you laugh). I can relate to all of them.

This book is one of my favorites. If you love true adventures, and real-life drama, read this book! Herb Payson does a wonderful job in drawing the reader into his boat and taking us for a ride! You will have a mixture of dread, excitement, and anticipation as they cruise along from island to island. This book will make you want to sell everything you own and move into your own boat. But don't let their setbacks discourage you. They have several mishaps while out at sea... But I won't spoil the fun and tell you what happens ---- This is good reading and I dare you to put the book down before you are finished!!! Happy armchair sailing!

Looked for a while to get this and finally found it. While the copy was pretty banged up and had a LOT of ink marked pages, it was still exactly the book I imagined. If you love sailing you should read it.

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