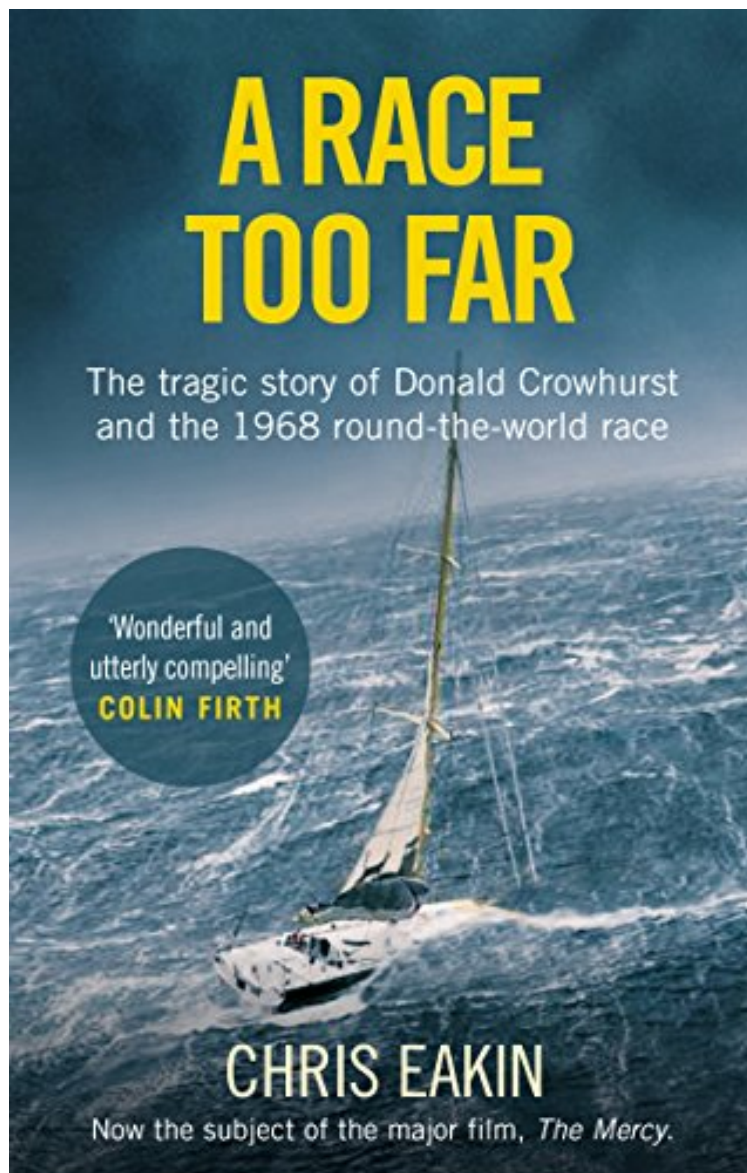


(Mobile pdf) A Race Too Far


## A Race Too Far

Chris Eakin

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**Chris Eakin : A Race Too Far** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Race Too Far:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Gripping story wonderfully toldBy transponderThe Golden Globe sailing race of 1968-69 is a fascinating event full of interesting characters and human drama, both on shore and at sea. If this is your first book about the subject, you are bound to love it: pacy, informative about the sea and sailing without assuming knowledge or going too much into detail, and with a real human sympathy for the people involved.If you

know about the race and have read *A Voyage For Madmen* by Peter Nichols or *The Strange Last Voyage of Donald Crowhurst* (by Tomalin and Hall), you may wonder what more this book can offer. Well, it's this: 1. Eakin interviews all those that are still alive and willing to talk, about their involvement in the race and its various catastrophes. We hear, for example, from Captain Craig Rich, who investigated Crowhurst's sailing positions during and after the race. People that were just names before now come forward as interesting people in their own right. Eakin has rightly judged, I think, that those already acquainted with the race story, from the Crowhurst angle or from the nine sailors angle, find their interest rippling out to the non-sailors, publicists, journalists, investors, wives and family that all played their own parts in the saga. He indulges that interest by widening the cast of 'speaking' characters in this account. 2. Eakin brings the story up to date, by sharing the thoughts and attitudes of the surviving key players, forty years on. Some have already died (e.g. Crowhurst's publicist, Rodney Hallworth), but others are old men and women whose stories and final thoughts on the drama were captured by Eakin before it was too late. In a way, the Globe race was too large an event in the lives of the competitors -- and for onlookers -- to be just about 'then'. It's a story that people have reflected on, argued about, and researched ever since. It's a story of 1968 that has a 'now', too. 3. Because there is original research, and a big-picture approach to the whole event -- people-wise, technology-wise, time-wise, and significance-wise -- one learns facts that are not presented in other accounts, and one gains a more rounded view. The writing is very good: clear, direct, conversational, uncluttered and unpadding. Eakin effortlessly weaves the chronologies of nine different sailors: the book is tautly structured and you never wonder why he is talking about this or that now, instead of something else. Whether you're new to the Golden Globe story or you're a completist that can't get enough, I highly recommend this book. --- Postscript: All of the reporters or commentators that I know of speak of Crowhurst's 'madness'. But it wasn't insanity in the usual sense -- as in the case of the American mother of several children who thought she heard voices urging her to kill them, or Charles VI of France, called 'The Mad', who believed (it is said) that he was made of glass (for all we know, he was trying to indicate to a callous world that he felt vulnerable). When it comes to assessing mental states, the world does not have a good track record, and many individuals however much lauded (e.g. Sigmund Freud) cannot be trusted. My own view, after many years of thinking about the evidence at hand, is that Donald Crowhurst was depressed. Seriously, suicidally depressed. That's it. He was not insane: insanity is a brain problem and sufferers can't be 'snapped' out of it. Donald's problem was that he did not have Clare, did not have a loved one nearby, did not have a friend, did not have a loving 'mirror' of himself (as our best friends are) to show him that the situation was not worth ending his life for. He was suicidally depressed. He could have been saved. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nine set sail on an around the world race, only one finished. By Stephen An excellent read for sailors and non sailors alike. The writer gives a forensic examination of not only the participants but also those they left behind and the effect the same ace had on there last version in the intervening years. Highly recommended 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Sailor or not, it's a great read! By Siwa B. This book is an account of a remarkable 1968 sailboat race around the world. Stipulations; boats sailed solo, nonstop, without any aid or assistance. Nine entered, one finished. Since then, more people have gone into space than have sailed solo, nonstop, around the world. It's quite a read!

The true story of the tragic round-the-world yacht race - now the subject of *The Mercy*, starring Colin Firth and Rachel Weisz. In 1968, the Sunday Times organised the Golden Globe race; an incredible test of endurance never before attempted; a round the world yacht race that must be completed single-handed and non-stop. This remarkable challenge inspired those daring to enter; with or without sailing experience. *A Race Too Far* is the story of how the race unfolded, and how it became a tragedy for many involved. Of the nine sailors who started the race, four realised the madness of the undertaking and pulled out within weeks. The remaining five each have their own remarkable story. Chay Blyth, fresh from rowing the Atlantic with John Ridgway, had no sailing experience but managed to sail round the Cape of Good Hope before retiring. Nigel Tetley sank while in the lead with 1,100 nautical miles to go, surviving but dying in tragic circumstances two years later. Donald Crowhurst began showing signs of mental illness and tried to fake a round the world voyage. His boat was discovered adrift in an apparent suicide, but his body was never found. Bernard Moitessier abandoned the race and carried on to Tahiti, where he settled and fathered a child despite having a wife and family in Paris. Robin Knox-Johnston was the only one to complete the race. Chris Eakin recreates the drama of the epic race, talking to all those touched by the Golden Globe: the survivors, the widows and the children of those who died. It is a book that both evokes the primary wonder of the adventure itself and reflects on what it has come to mean to both those involved and the rest of us in the forty years since.

"Wonderful and utterly compelling" \* Colin Firth \* About the Author Chris Eakin is a qualified Yachtmaster and sails regularly in the English Channel with his wife. He has been a journalist on newspapers and with the BBC for more than 35 years. He lives in London.