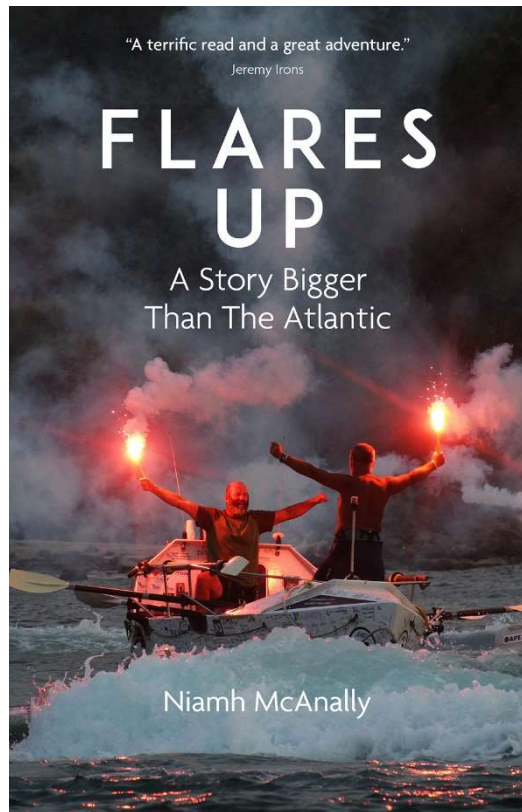




Title information



Flares Up

A Story Bigger than the Atlantic

By Niamh McAnally

Key features

- Inspirational story of two middle-aged Newcastle men who rowed across an ocean
- Firefighter Paul Hopkins and entrepreneur Phil Pugh are part of elite group to have completed the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, known as the world's toughest row
- More people have been in space than have rowed the Atlantic Ocean
- Experienced author Niamh McAnally, a former TV director and seafarer herself, felt compelled to write their story after photographing them crossing the finish line
- Colour photo section with pictures from the race
- Book publication coincides with the run-up to the 2022 race, which departs in December
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

Description

Flares Up is a true story of adventure, tenacity and the capacity of the human spirit to triumph over adversity. Firefighter Paul Hopkins, 55, survives a brain haemorrhage. The experience motivates him to undertake the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge – to row 3,000 miles across the Atlantic. He teams up with entrepreneur Phil Pugh, who is aged 65 but renowned for undertaking extreme physical challenges in honour of his disabled son. They encounter major financial and physical setbacks, which cause years of delays and put a strain on both their marriages. Finally, on 12 December 2019, in a fourth-hand 20ft wooden boat, they set off from the Canary Islands. Violent storms, 30ft waves and equipment failure leave both men seasick, dehydrated and sleep-deprived. Alone on the ocean, they are forced to examine their lives. Was the decision to undertake this challenge brave, selfish or foolish? After 70 days, nine hours and 11 minutes at sea, they cross the finish line, two changed men. Will either of their wives be there to greet them?

Details

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