

SHORE LINE

Edited By Elaine Lembo

A New Life

I FIRST WATCHED THE MOVIE *CAST AWAY* 10 years ago. The film tells the story of a FedEx employee marooned on a remote, uninhabited South Pacific island. It's a story of adventure, survival, and discovery.



The message resonated with me when it was released in 2000, the year we bought a rather worn-out 1981 Cabo Rico.

This was long before we had the means or any tangible plans to sail around the world. It was back when this voyage was a dream—just an idea of a life that my wife, Catherine, and I wanted to live. A life that felt as remote to our reality then as the South Pacific island did to Tom Hanks' character in *Cast Away*. But what we did have was the conviction, the absolute belief that we would one day achieve our dream and explore the world, sailing off over the horizon with the freedom to live a life that could reset our priorities.

We've been cruising now for 1,600 days, and we've sailed nearly 20,000 nautical miles, detailing our adventures on our website (www.zeroXTE.com). We've traveled a long way since we left our old lives behind in New York in 2007, and, after sailing down through the Yasawa Group along

If only Tom Hanks, the marooned star of *Cast Away*, had had a boat at his disposal on Monuriki island, in Fiji's Yasawa Group, where the popular movie was made. Here, some of the crew of *Dream Time* makes the most of solitude.

NEVILLE HOCKLEY

SHORELINE

Fiji's western border, we visited Monuriki, the island featured in *Cast Away*.

We dropped our anchor in 50 feet of translucent water on the steep seabed, just a few boatlengths off the recognizable beach where Hanks collected his soggy FedEx packages. It didn't matter that Monuriki, the island portrayed in the movie as isolated and remote, is in fact part of the Mamanuca-i-Cake Group, northwest of Fiji's Viti Levu, and surrounded by half a dozen other similar islands. Or that *Seaspray*, a 70-foot wooden charter schooner, had just delivered over 40 tourists and was now moored off the same beach. It didn't matter because we'd sailed *Dream Time* to an island that once existed to us only on the big screen, an island an ocean away from our old lives, and one that represented a remote, distant, and undiscovered world.

In the early afternoon, *Seaspray* left us alone with Monuriki. Even though the steep beach allowed just a paltry 3-to-1 anchor scope, our 60-pound CQR was buried deep in the sandy bottom. The trade winds were

light and the barometer was steady, so we decided to stay for the night.

We spent our afternoon exploring the tiny uninhabited island, wading around in the shallow lagoon waters surrounded by schools of bait fish and the occasional black-tip shark.

We gathered driftwood for a fire and rigged a hammock on the beach. I even made my very own substitute Wilson, the volleyball that Hanks befriended. With *Dream Time's* silhouette rocking gently just off the beach, we settled in for the night, roasting marshmallows over the fire and lying under a moonless sky saturated with stars.

In the morning, before *Seaspray* delivered its cargo of tourists, I spent an hour swinging in a hammock, the only noise the gentle and rhythmic sound of waves caressing the sandy shore. Catherine was on *Dream Time*, and I was alone on a tiny island in the South Pacific, living a life that a decade earlier would have seemed to me like a dream, a grand adventure, or, perhaps, just a really, really good movie.

Neville Hockley

GREEN WAKES: SHOP THE FREE TABLE



AT MY MARINA, WE HAVE A DESIGNATED table for free stuff in the common area. It's the spot for anyone to pass along items that are no longer wanted or needed. For sailors on the hunt, whether it's for the odd cleat or a partial tube of sealant, the Free Table represents a step up from your usual Dumpster diving.

The gear and materials range from brand-new to heavily used. It's strictly a first-come/first-served arrangement, so the early birds get the worm, and money never changes hands.

A steady flow of treasures are donated and claimed every day. I've snared a

bronze fog bell, stainless-steel fasteners, cookbooks, first-aid supplies, and rain gear. I've contributed everything from plumbing supplies, partial cans of bottom paint, assorted hardware, and wetsuits to a microwave.

Here's another silver lining: By removing unneeded items from your boat, you free up space and reduce weight on board.

Get on the bandwagon and set up a Free Table at your marina or yacht club. You'll feel good about sharing and conserving, and in return, you may just snag the perfect item for your boat.

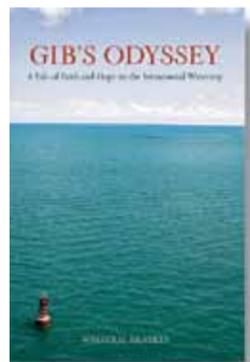
Debra Carmichael

Have you seen a person or group doing something to help make the world a little greener? Send greenwakes@crusingworld.com a brief story and photo.

GOOD BOOK

Gib's Odyssey: A Tale of Faith and Hope on the Intra-coastal Waterway by Walter G. Bradley (2011; Lyons Press, \$23). Gib Peters, a man who was diagnosed with A.L.S., or Lou Gehrig's disease, at the age of 67, is determined to beat death. His true story will have you thanking your lucky stars as he sets off on a singlehanded cruise from Key West to New York to test his character against all odds. Bradley, a neurologist, chronicles Gib's six-month voyage through the sailor's emails to friends and family as his mind stays sharp but his body slowly deteriorates. Meanwhile, the hardship and hilarity he encounters aboard his 29-foot powerboat, *Ka Ching*, easily drowns out the hum of his engines. Gib will have you laughing, crying, and hugging your loved ones a little tighter. But most important, he'll inspire you to throw off those dock lines and take on life with everything you've got, whether via power or sail.

Sydney Rey



DEBRA CARMICHAEL (TOP), COURTESY OF LYONS PRESS (BOTTOM), MAP BY DAVID NORTON