mike peyton

Out of Our depth

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Introduction

In my early sailing days doom and disaster – the basis of many a cartoon idea – came thick and fast, in fact, too quick and too fast. I could easily get six cartoon ideas before I had cleared the moorings. But gradually over the years as gribble was overtaken by osmosis, my own self-generated ideas got more scarce – months between disasters instead of, as in the old days, minutes or even, early on it seemed, seconds between incidents.

Then there came a lull, a slight vacuum and, as you know, nature abhors a vacuum. That is why I drifted into chartering, drawn that way, I like to think, by the same natural law as that of the moon attracting the tides. Everyone knows the theory behind chartering: you take people sailing who pay you for it, and you make a profit. That's a joke to start with.

However, charterers see everyday incidents with a fresh, irrational and innocent eye which is now beyond my more experienced, even jaundiced, view. They also cause incidents to happen with their fresh, irrational and innocent actions, try as I can with all my experience to prevent them. So, as grey hairs grew (prematurely I like to think, prompted by these occupational hazards) I used my charterers' innocent remarks and actions to provide cartoon ideas.

And so, to them I dedicate this book.

MP, North Fambridge

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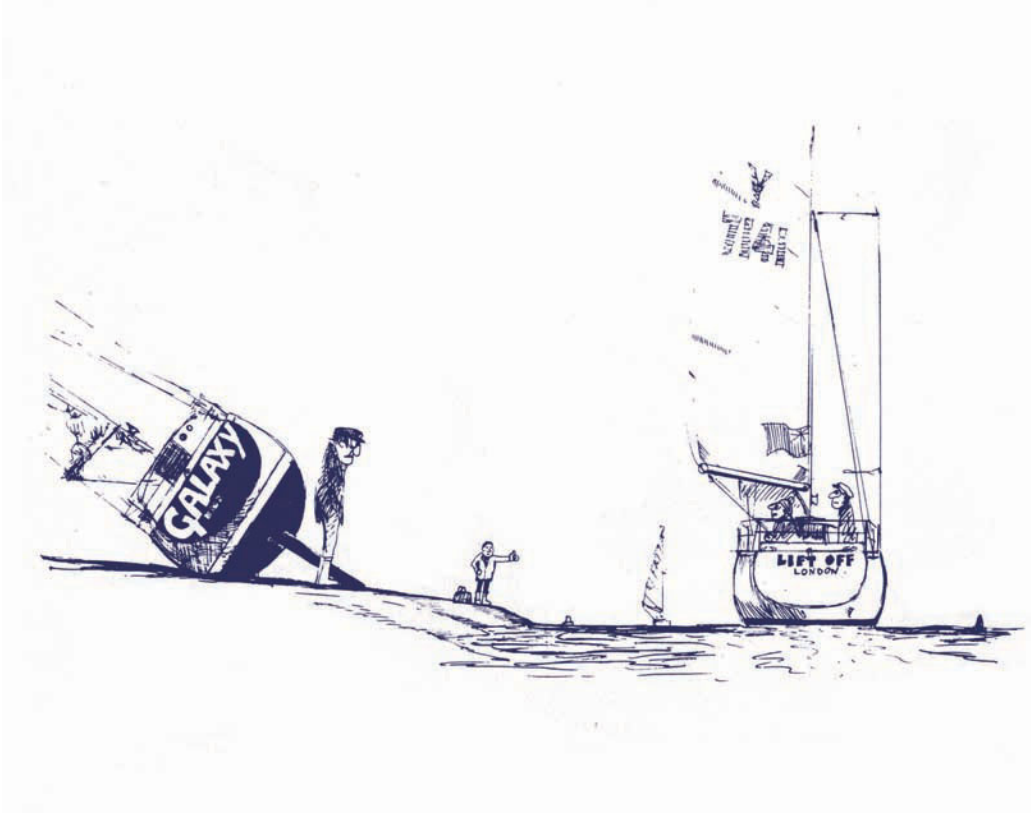
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