

“Adrift”

By Helen Lutz

My mother was scared to death of water; she didn't swim, she didn't enjoy boating, even a shower would take her breath away – she took baths. As such, being her first born, I was barely exposed to water as a child and didn't learn to swim or even put my face in the water let alone dunk my head when I was little. Girl Scouting required me to learn to swim well enough to earn my First Class Award (this was before Silver and Gold awards), but I never enjoyed swamping canoes. Even now swimming is not my thing. I don't mind sitting poolside, dangling my feet, talking with others, sipping a cool drink; but water sports still hold no interest. Even on vacation in the Caribbean I passed on swimming with the dolphins and snorkeling.



“Adrift” tells the story of Tami Oldham played by Shailene Woodley and based on true events in Tami's life. Tami is a young free spirit traveling the world working odd jobs to earn just enough cash to take her to her next adventure. Living in Tahiti Tami loves the water – swimming, boating, surfing, you name it and she's in. It's in Tahiti that she meets an English adventurer/sailor who yearns to sail around the world named Richard Sharp played by Sam Claflin. Although there is almost a ten year difference in their ages, Tami and Richard hit it off finding that they both fearlessly crave adventure and each other.

Sailing around the world does require cash and Richard agrees to sail the luxury yacht, Hazana, from Tahiti to San Diego for an older couple needing to quickly return home. Of course, Tami will accompany him – what a wonderful job doing what they love and not only being paid handsomely but also getting two first class airline tickets back to Tahiti to look for their next adventure. Life is good, what could possibly go wrong ... go wrong ... go wrong?

Hurricane Raymond rears his ugly head just a few days into their adventure with little warning – there is no diverting it, no escape. The 44 foot yacht is no match for Mother Nature and her damaging waves as the Hazana is tossed about like a child's toy in a boy's bath tub (little boys are a bit rougher than little girls). Tami awakens to find water in the cabin and Richard no longer anchored to his safety line. Overwhelmed by events, Tami frantically looks for Richard finally spotting him in the distance injured and barely hanging on to a piece of wreckage.

Director Baltazar Kormaku tells Tami's story of being adrift on the damaged yacht for 41 days using camera shots from the current shipwreck as well as happier flashbacks to help us understand Tami and Richard and their budding relationship. Hollywood loves a love story, couple it with a disaster flick and cap it off with a triumphant story of survival and you have a winning combo. This one is special as the female character is resourceful and wise instead of counting on the guy to save the day.

“Adrift” currently sails on to movie screens everywhere twisting and turning its way through the waves and the story. On a scale of one to four Hart Beats I give “Adrift” TWO AND 1/2 HARTS. It's a very good example of why I'm a landlubber.