

AN OPEN LETTER TO HYLAS AND DICK JACHNEY

Thank you. We must have critically examined 50 boats in our quest to find an offshore sailing cruiser for our adventure of a lifetime – a five year double-handed circumnavigation. We were every broker's nightmare for almost two years until we decided to entrust you with building our dream boat. After living on *Heartsong III* for four months, we think it's about time that we gave you a piece of our mind.

We cannot emphasize enough, especially to Dick and to the many owners who await delivery of their own Hylas 54 from the factory, how happy we are – how blissfully, chocked-up happy and we are with our beautiful boat.

Every single day, we discover something on this Hylas 54 that is so exquisitely conceived, or that is built so much stronger than it had to be, that we are thrilled all over again. From the smallest ingenious nuance (and they are apparently infinite) to the most fundamental structural component (and our surveyor confirms their integrity), this boat is awesome. She is eminently comfortable – at the dock, at anchor, and at sea under every condition we've experienced so far.

And fast. Look at the power of that boat wake in the photos. I can't begin to express the elation that I feel when we're under sail. Most importantly though, we are confident after multiple Gulf Stream crossings and an 1100-mile passage under challenging conditions, that she is solid, safe, and forgiving.

And beautiful. The other day, Alan and I admitted to each other that when we first started looking for the boat, one of our unarticulated requirements was that its very appearance had to give us a certain tingle – a small but delicious chill of appreciate. With this boat, we feel it. Daily. And it's your doing. (Actually, it's beginning to be a little embarrassing the constant stream of "wow"! compliments we get at anchorages and marinas. Not that we're tired of it yet).

Maybe best of all, the interior design allows me to have all the storage and labor saving devices a high-maintenance urban transplant could want. I have an office with a computer desk attached to the nav station that is just as functional as my office ashore. I have a shower big enough to shave my legs without banging my elbows. I can check the oil on the engine and generator with no bodily contortions whatsoever. I have space to do yoga in the main saloon. My family and friends can visit in comfort and privacy. I can store three months of provisions in the galley pantry and lockers alone. I have a washer/dryer and 500 gallons of fresh water and fuel. I am a happy woman.

Alan, who has been looking over my shoulder, wants to express his particular gratitude for watertight bulkheads, integrated storm shutters, a magnificent short-handed rig that rarely requires venturing from the cockpit offshore and a fast Twaron hull that both points well and is bullet-proof.

Thank you, too for allowing us to have input at every stage of design and building. You let us say exactly what we wanted, and we got exactly what we wanted. We were moderately experienced cruising sailors before we moved about *Heartsong III* four months ago. This is our fourth boat. In 1983, Alan cruised the Med (from Crete to Gibraltar) and crossed the Atlantic in a 29 foot wooden Golden Hind. For the last thirteen years, he and I have sailed the Med and Caribbean at every opportunity in our previous 44 and 51 foot sloops. Based on that experience, we believe that the Hylas 54 is the ultimate offshore cruiser. You have balanced all the important stuff – safety, speed, comfort, and aesthetics – without seeming to compromise a darned thing. Furthermore, you have executed the design with engineering expertise and workmanship that is unequalled on boats of twice the price and reputation. We are sincerely awed and humbled that we have the great good fortune to own a Hylas 54.

Thanks, Dick and the Jachney family and CYC staff. Thanks, Joseph, Michael, Jane and the rest of the Huang family and Queen Long Marine staff. Thanks, German Frers and your design team. Thanks, Sam & Charlie Lewis and all the commissioning contractors on whom you daily ride herd. We are forever in your debt. Liza & Alan Farrow-Gillespie, *Heartsong III*.