



*Rochester to Richmond* is a reflective journey between the Pools of Rochester and London, a path that was once of commerce, but is now for pleasure. Rochester was once of immense importance to Britain's past trading heritage, with large industries using the river to transport their cargo to the capital. Nowadays, the belching chimneys pouring acrid fumes and cement dust have declined and the oil refineries have slipped away, but the wharves lining the banks remain. As a distraction, Ardley wanders a little above Rochester and a little above the Pool of London towards Richmond. He sails past towns and villages that gave tan-sailed barges building materials and food to take to London, stopping to explore along the way. He lands among the marsh and mud, finding graves, the ribs of old sailors, and farmsteads enveloped in sea purslane and lavender. In prose that meanders like the rivers and creeks he sails on, Nick Ardley tracks Britain's industrial heritage and its relationship with its many waterways.

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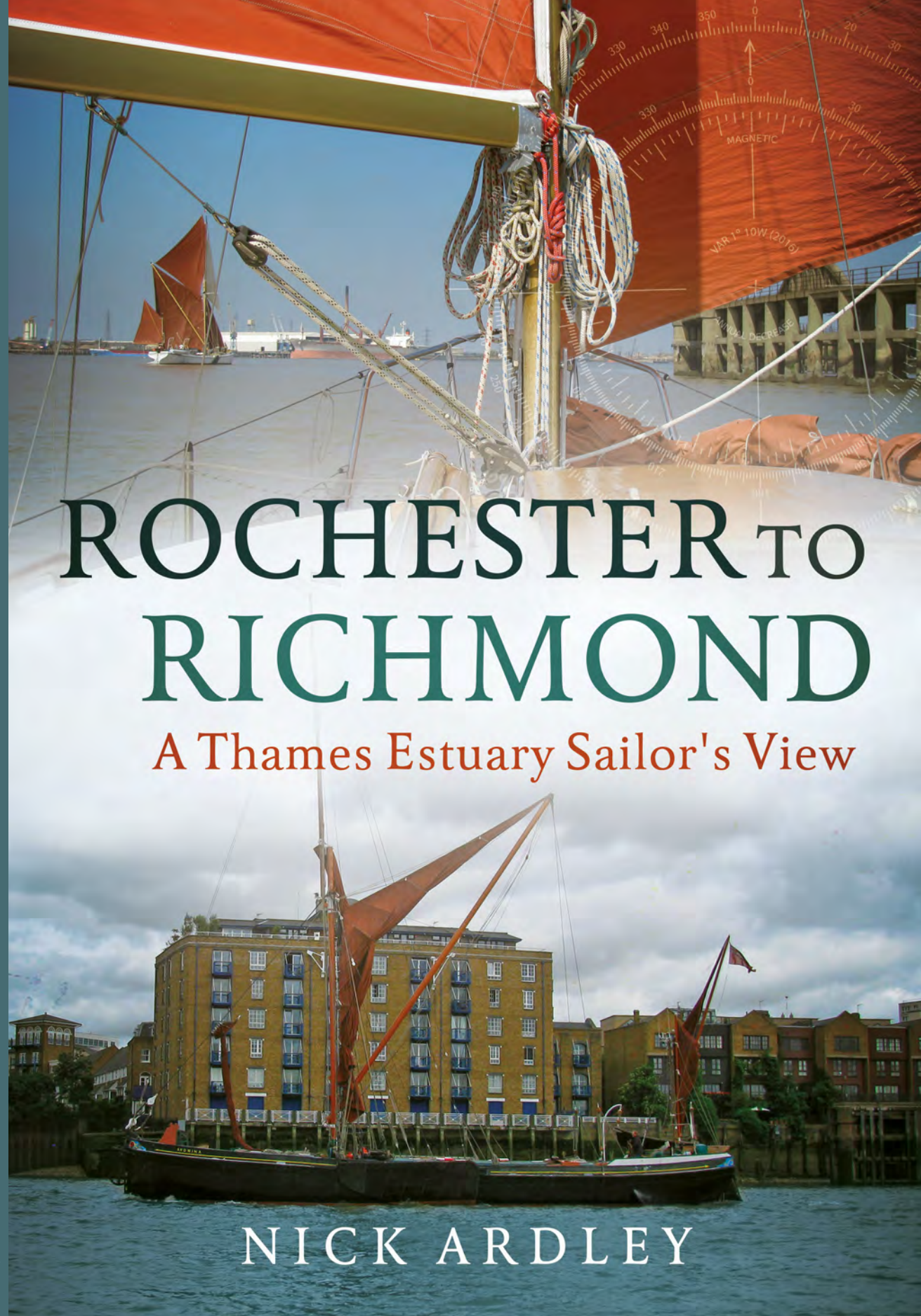
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ROCHESTER TO RICHMOND

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A Thames Estuary Sailor's View

NICK ARDLEY