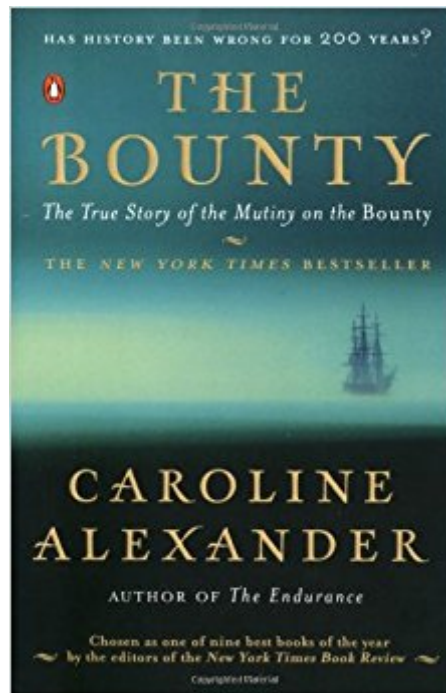




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The Bounty: The True Story Of The Mutiny On The Bounty



Synopsis

More than two centuries after Master Mate Fletcher Christian led a mutiny against Lieutenant William Bligh on a small, armed transport vessel called *Bounty*, the true story of this enthralling adventure has become obscured by the legend. Combining vivid characterization and deft storytelling, Caroline Alexander shatters the centuries-old myths surrounding this story. She brilliantly shows how, in a desperate attempt to save one man from the gallows and another from ignominy, two powerful families came together and began to create the version of history we know today. The true story of the mutiny on the *Bounty* is an epic of duty and heroism, pride and power, and the assassination of a brave man's honor at the dawn of the Romantic age.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Surely this exhaustingly-researched, enthralling and enthusiastically-written tome is the last word on the most famous of all seafaring mutinies, that of shipmate Fletcher Christian and against Lieutenant Bligh on the *Bounty*. More than 200 years have gone by since the ship left England after dreadful weather kept it harbored for months, on its mission to transport breadfruit from Tahiti to the West Indies. The mutiny in Tahiti left the mutineers scattered about the paradisiacal islands and found Bligh and 18 of his loyal crew members set adrift in a 23-foot open boat. Bligh, who'd served as Capt. James Cook's sailing master, fantastically maneuvered the crew on a 48-day, 3,600-mile journey to safety. Caroline Alexander, author of *The Endurance*, is never in over her head even when weaving together densely twisting narratives, or explaining the unwritten rules of the Royal Navy, of the complexities of class and hierarchy that impelled much of what happened aboard the

Bounty. The book centers far more on the effort to round up the mutineers than the actual mutiny itself. The book is enlivened by the colorful commentary of the crew members themselves, gleaned from letters and court documents. Alexander does us all the favor of presenting Bligh the way he was understood and received in his day--as a brilliant navigator who, when placed in context, was not a brutal task-master at all. She roots the tyrannical figure we know so well from the movies on the last-ditch efforts of one well-connected crew member to save his own hide from hanging. --Mike McGonigal --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A contributor to the New Yorker, Granta, Cond‚ Nast Traveler and National Geographic, Alexander brings the past to life with travel narratives spanning continents and centuries. Alexander (The Endurance) again recreates a high seas voyage, retelling a familiar story-of the South Pacific misadventures of the small British naval vessel the Bounty-yet taking a fresh look at the drama. Commanded by William Bligh, the Bounty left England in December 1787 to transport breadfruit trees from Tahiti to the West Indies. During the 1789 mutiny, Bligh and crew members were set adrift in an open boat and eventually returned to England. Bligh-who up until now has been viewed as a tyrant-was praised at the time, Alexander finds, since "no feat of seamanship was deemed to surpass Bligh's navigation and command of The Bounty's 23-foot-long launch, and few feats of survival compared with his men's forty-eight-day ordeal on starvation rations." Alexander's reconstruction of the mutiny and its aftermath (thanks to her exhaustive research through books, reports, newspapers, correspondence, historical societies and archives) is almost as remarkable as Bligh's feat. She details daily events during the captured mutineers' court-martial, expanding on court transcripts. Separating facts from falsehoods and myths in the closing chapters, she finally turns to the life of the mutineers on Pitcairn Island, noting "this fantastic tale of escape to paradise at the far end of the world had the allure of something epic." Alexander's work is destined to become the definitive, enthralling history of a great seafaring adventure. Maps and illus. not seen by PW. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have to give five stars to a history book so wide-ranging and well researched, but I have some problems with it. The order of the chapters defies ordinary chronology and logic, with "Pandora" coming before "Bounty" for example. The documentation is not the old-fashioned exact kind, so it is often very hard to tell exactly where which piece of information or quotation came from. Finally, she gives much evidence about certain important matters, but holds back from making judgments. What

she says about Peter Heywood, to mention the most obvious case, is damning, but she never offers her opinion on whether he took part in the mutiny. See my review of "Awake, Bold Bligh," for a real opinion..

Caroline Alexander, Congratulations on presenting "THE BOUNTY" the true story. After visiting Norfolk Island in Feb 2013 and speaking with lots of local descendants, especially one in particular John Gilbert Christian a descendant of Fletcher Christian. I became interested to find out a more about N I and its history and John had spent most of his life researching his family history and that of other Bounty descendant families. He suggested to me that I find a copy of Caroline Alexander's "THE BOUNTY" because he thought she presented the nearest to The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty. I enjoyed visiting Norfolk Island and meeting a wonderful lot of people, and after reading THE BOUNTY the story all fitted into place. Well Done Caroline Alexander.

Being a real Bounty fan, I found this a very good and extremely well documented (20% of the book is bibliography) story of what happened not only on the Bounty, but to the participants from all perspectives. Caroline Alexander does differentiate between fact and conjecture/opinion, so you are free to form your own opinions based upon the factual offerings she presents exceedingly well. For Bounty enthusiasts this is a must read.

This is an amazing story about one of the "real" life of Captain Bligh - not the one in the movies. I never realized he spent a month trying to get around Cape Horn - the planned route he was supposed to follow to get to Tahiti. I have read many, many nautical and historical books about the time of the tall ships, nothing matches this adventure. His seamanship and determination in sailing the 23' open Bounty launch 3,600 miles through the uncharted Barrier Reef defies description and imagination. It is pathetic how the British politics played out during the court-martial - making sure Capt. Bligh was at sea so he could not personally testify against a crew member who was favored by certain court martial members. Read and discover the actual purpose behind bringing back the "breadfruit" plant. Great read.

Read this one for sure! If you enjoyed "Mutiny on the Bounty" you will enjoy this one for sure!

Very readable overview of the famous incident from a variety of perspectives. A good introduction for the beginner yet full of interesting tidbits and stories for those more well acquainted.

Well done character study of the individuals involved in the true event.

Riveting account of the mutiny, what led up to it, the aftermath, the background of the participants---extremely interesting and very well written. Highly recommended. What we think we knew about the Bounty mutiny, before reading this book, may well be at odds with what we find out about the mutiny, particularly about the conduct and character of William Bligh. The various witnesses speak for themselves, however---let the reader judge whether what we have (before this book) been told of this voyage was the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

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