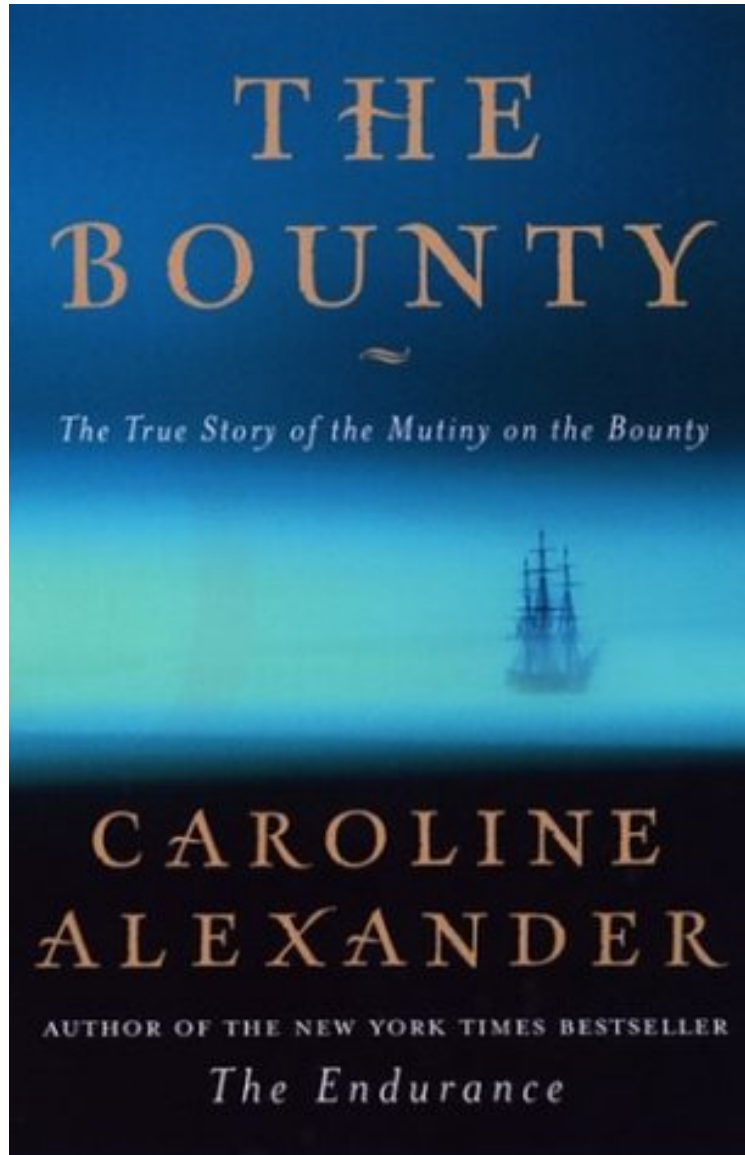


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The Bounty: The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty

Caroline Alexander

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#667084 in Books 2003-09-15 2003-09-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.56 x 1.62 x 6.46l, #File Name: 067003133X512 pagesLight and dark green hardcover, jacket in colors of black and greenswith distant scene of ship. 489 pages. | File size: 35.Mb

Caroline Alexander : The Bounty: The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bounty: The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. You Will Know Everything There is to Know.By Easar57This very detailed account of the events before, during, and long after the "mutiny" is en example of the gray middle in life. The

heroes and villains are not clearly evident - just ordinary people with human flaws. Captain Bligh and Fletcher Christian were certainly not Charles Laughton and Clark Gable. The details surrounding the lives of the players in this story, and the description of life on and off British naval ships during the relevant years helps show the context of the story in crystal clarity. If there was any true villain, it would appear to be Captain Edwards of the Pandora. The only criticism of the book is perhaps not even a fair one, in that it was so difficult to keep some of the names straight. (Did he stay with Bligh? Did he stay on Tahiti? Did he go to Pitcairn? etc.). That the telling is so detailed is the reason for all of the names, and the author should not be faulted for that. I finished the book believing that I now know all that there is to be known about this famous incident at sea. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read for Bounty Enthusiasts By James Vigneau 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 exceeding well. For Bounty enthusiasts this is a must read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is an amazing story about one of the "real" life of Captain ... By EMC2 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.

More than two centuries have passed since Master's Mate Fletcher Christian mutinied against Lieutenant Bligh on a small, armed transport vessel called Bounty. Why the details of this obscure adventure at the end of the world remain vivid and enthralling is as intriguing as the truth behind the legend. In giving the Bounty mutiny its historical due, Caroline Alexander has chosen to frame her narrative by focusing on the court-martial of the ten mutineers who were captured in Tahiti and brought to justice in England. This fresh perspective wonderfully revivifies the entire saga, and the salty, colorful language of the captured men themselves conjures the events of that April morning in 1789, when Christian's breakdown impelled every man on a fateful course: Bligh and his loyalists on the historic open boat voyage that revealed him to be one of history's great navigators; Christian on his restless exile; and the captured mutineers toward their day in court. As the book unfolds, each figure emerges as a full-blown character caught up in a drama that may well end on the gallows. And as Alexander shows, it was in a desperate fight to escape hanging that one of the accused defendants deliberately spun the mutiny into the myth we know today - of the tyrannical Lieutenant Bligh of the Bounty. Ultimately, Alexander concludes that the Bounty mutiny was sparked by that most unpredictable, combustible, and human of situations - the chemistry between strong personalities living in close quarters. Her account of the voyage, the trial, and the surprising fates of Bligh, Christian, and the mutineers is an epic of ambition, passion, pride, and duty at the dawn of the Romantic era.

.com 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 taskmaster 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 From Publishers Weekly 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. From Booklist*Starred * Countless rebellions have taken place since Fletcher Christian overtook Captain William Bligh in 1789, but it is the story of the mutiny on the Bounty that has taken permanent hold of the public's imagination, to be played and replayed on stage and screen. Why this is so is amply demonstrated by Alexander's (The Endurance, 1998) fast-reading and gripping narrative, which draws on a host of primary-source materials, including letters, diaries, logs, and court transcripts, to provide an in-depth, well-researched look at all the elements that went into the history-making event. From the overly cramped quarters of the ship to the enticing depiction of the generous and sensual Tahitians to Fletcher's elusive motivations, Alexander leaves no detail unexamined. She makes a convincing case that Bligh has been unjustly maligned, mainly due to the machinations of mutineer Peter Heywood, who escaped the hangman's noose at his court-martial but sought to deflect evidence of his central role by exaggerating accounts of Bligh's temper tantrums; furthermore, Alexander underlines Bligh's navigational skills with hair-raising descriptions of his 4,000-mile voyage in an overloaded open boat, which brought the loyalists to safety. Other narrative highlights include the discovery, after many years, of the mutineers' families on Pitcairn Island. A rollicking sea adventure told with enormous confidence and style. Joanne Wilkinson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved