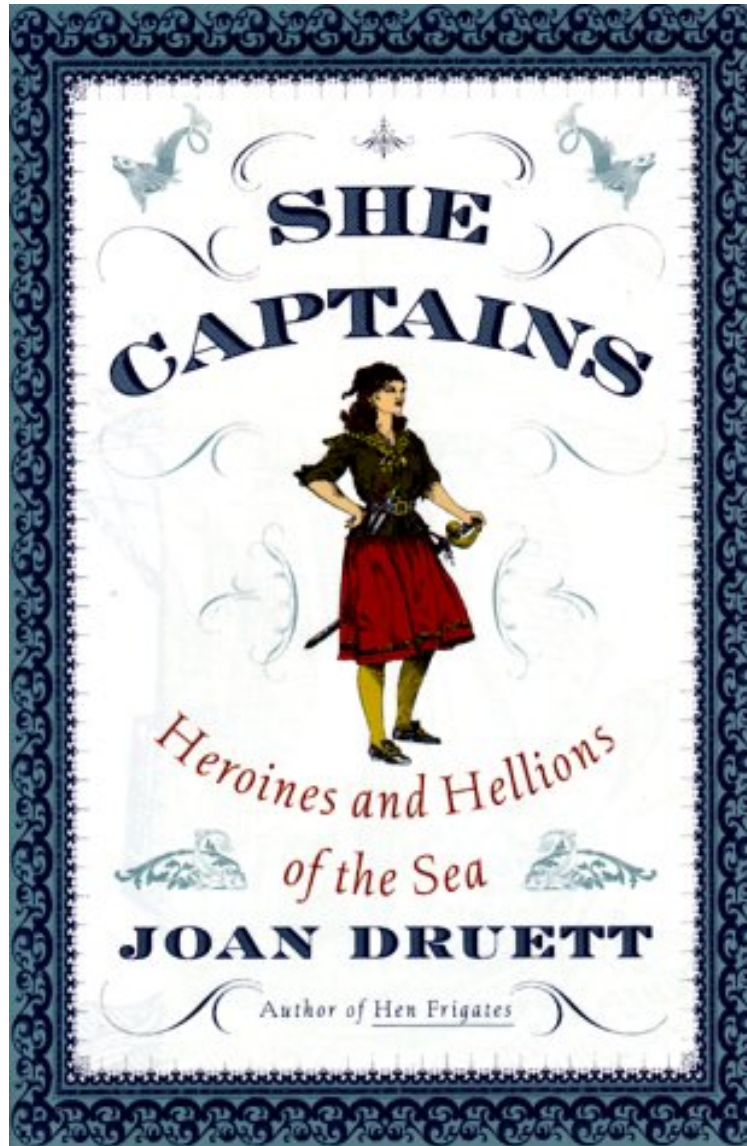


(Read free ebook) She Captains: Heroines and Hellions of the Sea

She Captains: Heroines and Hellions of the Sea

Joan Druett

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Joan Druett : She Captains: Heroines and Hellions of the Sea before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised She Captains: Heroines and Hellions of the Sea:

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Pirates4)Pirate Queens5)Captured by Corsairs6)The Widows 7) Bobby and Read 8) The Naked Truth9)Ship's Business 10) Fatal Shores and 11) Fatal. Impact. This is an incredibly detailed history-we not only get personal biographies of the women ; but how weather and clothing affected the women.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sail ship and women of historyBy barbara g.Interesting history of the ships that sailed the world before the invention of steam power and those that were on them as crew etc.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gift for Wife!By MikeBought this for my wife. And, she love it. She volunteers on a local tall sailing ship and this has provided extensive background material for her. Also, gives her input for the character she dresses as when she volunteers. Great buy at a good price.

With her pistols loaded she went aboard And by her side hung a glittering sword In her belt two daggers, well armed for war Was this female smuggler Was this female smuggler who never feared a scar. If a "hen frigate" was any ship carrying a captain's wife, then a "she captain" is a bold woman distinguished for courageous enterprise in the history of the sea. "She captains," who infamously possessed the "bodies of women and the souls of men," thrilled and terrorized their shipmates, doing "deeds beyond the valor of women." Some were "bold and crafty pirates with broadsword in hand." Others were sirens, too, like the Valkyria Princess Alfhild, whom the mariners made rover-captain for her beauty. Like their male counterparts, these astonishing women were drawn to the ocean's beauty -- and its danger. In her inimitable, yarn-spinning style, award-winning historian Joan Druett tells us what life was like for the women who dared to captain ships of their own, don pirates' garb, and perform heroic and hellacious deeds on the high seas. We meet Irish raider Grace "Grania" O'Malley -- sometimes called "the bald Grania" because she cut her hair short like a boy's -- who commanded three galleys and two hundred fighting men. Female pirates Anne Bonny and Mary Read were wanted by the law. Armed to the teeth with cutlasses and pistols, they inspired awe and admiration as they swaggered about in fancy hats and expensive finery, killing many a man who cowered cravenly before them. Lovelorn Susan "Put on a jolly sailor's dress/And daubed her hands with tar/To cross the raging sea/On board a man of war" to be near her William. Others disguised themselves for economic reasons. In 1835, Ann Jane Thornton signed on as a ship's steward to earn the fair wage of nine dollars per month. When it was discovered that she was a woman, the captain testified that Jane was a capital sailor, but the crew had been suspicious of her from the start, "because she would not drink her grog like a regular seaman." In 1838, twenty-two-year-old Grace Darling led the charge to rescue nine castaways from the wreck of the Forfarshire (the Titanic of its day). "I'll save the crew!" she cried, her courageous pledge immortalized in a torrent of books, songs, and poems. Though "she captains" had been sailing for hundreds of years by the turn of the twentieth century, Scotswoman Betsey Miller made headlines by weathering "storms of the deep when many commanders of the other sex have been driven to pieces on the rocks." From the warrior queens of the sixth century B.C. to the women shipowners influential in opening the Northwest Passage, Druett has assembled a real-life cast of characters whose boldness and bravado will capture popular imagination. Following the arc of maritime history from the female perspective, *She Captains'* intrepid crew sails forth into a sea of adventure.

.com Mention the word "pirate," and you'll likely conjure up an image, courtesy of Robert Newton's scenery-chewing performance in the 1950 film adaptation of *Treasure Island*, that features a peg-leg, a parrot, and a mighty "arrgh." New Zealand-based maritime historian Joan Druett amends that image to include voices in a higher register, adding *She Captains* to other works (*Hen Frigates*, "She Was a Sister Sailor") that address women's roles in the passage and exploration of the high seas. Druett reaches far back in history, opening her lively book with an account of the water-coursing Masegetae queen Tomyris, who bested the Persian king Cyrus on the shores of the Volga River. Druett enlists dozens of other militarily, criminally, and commercially extraordinary women in her *dramatis personae*, including the Egyptian pharaoh Cleopatra, whose name is synonymous with mysterious beauty but who also commanded a mighty navy; Cheng I Sao, the 18th-century terror of the South China Sea; and Lucy Brewer, who, disguised as a man, served as a common sailor aboard the U.S.S. *Constitution*. Along the way Druett considers the role of New England women as financial mainstays of the whaling trade, stops at Spanish ports of call controlled by powerful (and sometimes bloodthirsty) women, and generally has a fine time exploring waters that history has little charted. --Gregory McNameeFrom *Publishers Weekly*Following *Hen Frigates*, an account of 19th-century women at sea, Druett tackles a broader canvas, portraying the exploits of seafaring women throughout history. Though unevenly paced, this entertaining work is filled with fascinating characters distinguished by "bold enterprise in the history of the sea" and a robust appreciation of women's forgotten or little-known role in maritime activity. The cast ranges from Cleopatra, the Valkyries, pirate queens such as Anne Bonny and cross-dressing sailors to tough mariners' wives, lighthouse keepers like Kate Walkers at Robbins Reef, N.Y., and enterprising ship owners. Some are memorialized in legend, like the Irish pirate Grace O'Malley, while others are included because of their influential relationships: Emma Hamilton had a scandalous affair with Admiral Nelson; Lady Jane Franklin launched an intensive campaign for the rescue of her husband's lost 1845 Polar expedition that not only secured Sir John Franklin's reputation as an arctic explorer but led to the opening and mapping of new arctic routes. While the early chapters are densely populated and rooted in myth, literature and folk tales, the livelier stories in the second half draw on contemporary documents and

diaries, often coming boldly to life and occasionally ringing with familiar themes, as in the story of Grace Horseley Darling, a lighthouse keeper's daughter who helped rescue shipwreck victims off the coast of Northumberland in 1838 and was made into a folk heroine by an invasive, greedy press. Line drawings. (Mar.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Druett, a prizewinning maritime historian and author of *Hen Frigates* (1998), is as valued for her jaunty storytelling as she is for reclaiming the forgotten lives of seafaring women. Here she charts the fortunes of once celebrated maritime heroines. Women, Druett discovered, have heeded the call of the high seas for centuries, and her meticulous research yielded portraits of dozens of courageous, nonconformist, and tough women who rode the waves in pursuit of wealth, power, adventure, love, revenge, and freedom. She begins with warrior queens of ancient Greece and Egypt, then launches into a riveting history of women pirates, from the Vikings' Alwilda to sixteenth-century Ireland's Grania, a "resolute and reckless admiral," to Cheng I Sao, who ruled the South China Sea. Druett's bold inquiry includes profoundly disturbing accounts of abductions along the Barbary Coast, debacles in the South Pacific, and the fate of women sailors disguised as men. Maritime lore has always been rich in romance and suffering; Druett's revelations increase its fascination tenfold. Donna Seaman