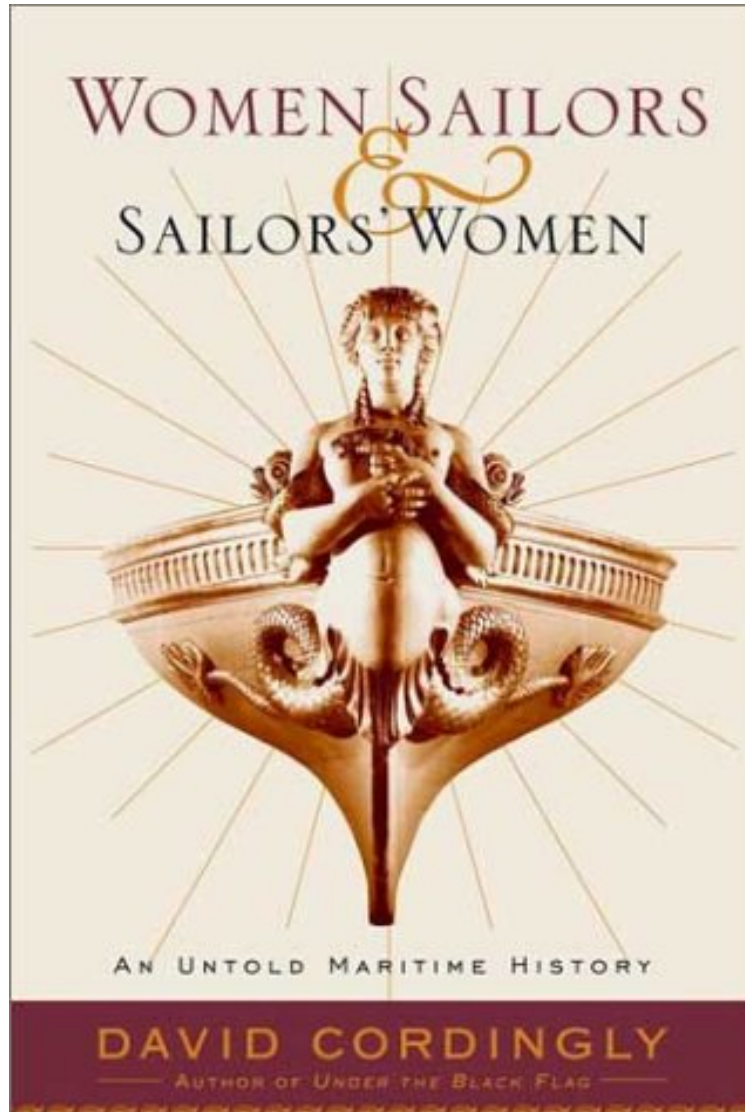


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Women Sailors and Sailors' Women: An Untold Maritime History

David Cordingly

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David Cordingly : Women Sailors and Sailors' Women: An Untold Maritime History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women Sailors and Sailors' Women: An Untold Maritime History:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not about women, especially not women at sea.By GinaConsidering the title of the book is "Seafaring Women", I expected the book to be about women who were at sea. The first chapter is about prostitutes (though, to be totally fair, there was a passing mention of a floating brothel, so those women were *technically* on the water). The second chapter is about press gangs and conscription and how men had to leave their

families behind. The third chapter is about a fictional woman, created and invented by a man. I got 60 pages into this and only read one story about one actual woman, and she murdered her own baby after cheating on her husband. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. So entertaining! By The Rev Ari I'm playing a tabletop RPG "Seventh Sea" and wanted to read up on women on the high seas. I found this book quite informative and very entertainingly written. We even drew some character traits from some of the historical sailors. A highly recommended read for anyone interested in an overview of the grand centuries of naval and whaling fleets and the age of lighthouses. There is even an entertaining chapter on mermaids. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining for casual reader, mind blowing for history students By Daniel Martins I have been reading about pirates for some time. Bought lots of books on it, made a lot of research so, when I opened this book I wasn't expecting much news... boy, I was wrong. David Cordingly opens the door for a deep study into the modern history of seafaring, not only making us better understand the participation of women during the maritime expansion, but also understanding the life they had back then as a whole. I recommend it to anyone interested in women's history, modern time history, cultural history or pin pointed sea history!

For centuries the sea has been regarded as a male domain. Fisherman, navy officers, pirates, and explorers roamed the high seas while their wives and daughters stayed on shore. Oceangoing adventurers and the crews of their ships were part of an all-male world or were they? In this illuminating historical narrative, maritime scholar David Cordingly shows that in fact an astonishing number of women went to sea in the great age of sail. Some traveled as the wives or mistresses of captains. A few were smuggled aboard by officers or seaman. A number of cases have come to light of young women dressing in mens clothes and working alongside the sailors for months, and sometimes years. In the U.S. and British navies, it was not uncommon for the wives of bosuns, carpenters, and cooks to go to sea on warships. Cordingly's tremendous research shows that there was indeed a thriving female population from female pirates to the sirens of legend on and around the high seas. A landmark work of womens history disguised as a spectacularly entertaining yarn, *Womens Sailors and Sailors Women* will surprise and delight readers.

From Publishers Weekly The shipwrecked sailor is a familiar figure, but what of the woman lighthouse keeper who rescued him? Readers of sea lore know the pirate Calico Jack, but what about his mistress Anne Bonny and her lover, Mary Read? An Oxford-trained maritime museum curator, Cordingly (*Under the Black Flag*) writes back into naval history these and other women who went to sea with their lovers, either as wives or as cross-dressing "cabin boys." Although he sometimes wanders away from his primary subject to describe great moments in maritime history only distantly connected to women, his tales are so compelling it's hard to begrudge him the digressions. And while many of his anecdotes are quite titillating, his understated British voice keeps readers from feeling embarrassed for keyhole peeping. For instance, his sangfroid account of how a cross-dressing woman sailor's testimony led to a male sailor's execution for the crime of sodomy allows readers to draw their own conclusions. The only shortcoming to this delightful volume is its lack of illustrations. (Mar. 2) Forecast: Published in conjunction with a companion exhibit in Newport News, Va., and the author's tour of maritime museums, this book will find solid sales among female adventure fans and the many devoted readers of Patrick O'Brian's seafaring sagas. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Cordingly (*Under the Black Flag*), former curator of paintings and head of exhibitions for the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, here offers a fascinating survey of the role of women on shore and at sea during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, the great age of sail. Recent studies of this period reveal that "a surprising number of women went to sea," some smuggled aboard, some as the wives or mistresses of captains, and some dressed in men's clothing, working undiscovered (often for an entire voyage) alongside their shipmates. Set out in the form of a voyage, the author's historical narrative begins at the seaports; follows the varied stories of women sailors, sailors' women, and men without women at sea; examines the mystic relationship between women and water; moves on to adventures in foreign ports; and returns (with a brief investigation of lighthouses and female lighthouse keepers) to the seaports. Almost as action-packed as the sea yarns of C.S. Forester or Patrick O'Brian, Cordingly's carefully documented account presents a facet of maritime life that might surprise even Horatio Hornblower or Jack Aubrey. Recommended for public and academic libraries. DR Robert C. Jones, Central Missouri State Univ., Warrensburg Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist A distinguished nautical historian provides an absolutely fascinating glimpse into the lives of the intrepid women who went to sea during the great age of sail. Countless females set sail for reasons of adventure, romance, or duty in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Included among their numbers were the wives or mistresses of ships' officers, prostitutes, female pirates, and women disguised as male sailors. Women undertook a variety of tasks at sea, often acting as nurses, surrogate mothers, and additional deckhands. In quite a few cases, a woman was called on to take command of a vessel because of the death or the illness of the captain. Most interesting is the author's examination of how the men reacted to and related to the women who toiled alongside them in a predominantly male province. A significant contribution to both women's history and maritime scholarship. Margaret Flanagan Copyright American Library

