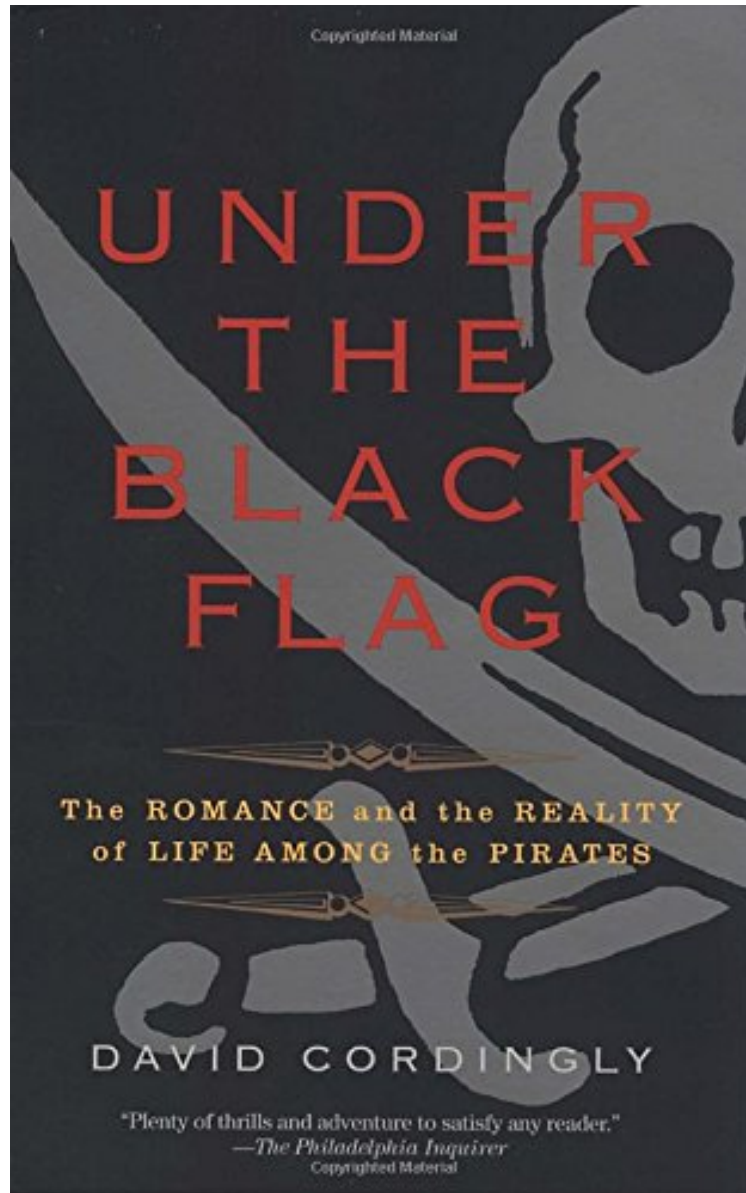


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Under the Black Flag: The Romance and the Reality of Life Among the Pirates

David Cordingly

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#55839 in Books David Cordingly 2006-05-09 2006-05-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.201, .55 #File Name: 081297722X336 pagesUnder the Black Flag The Romance and the Reality of Life Among the Pirates | File size: 27.Mb

David Cordingly : Under the Black Flag: The Romance and the Reality of Life Among the Pirates before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Under the Black Flag: The Romance and the Reality of Life Among the Pirates:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Pirate Book and Easy to EnjoyBy Desert LambUnder The Black Flag is an easy to read book with smooth transitions between chapters. Each chapter is dedicated to a specific pirate topic that is explained in an easy to understand way, without boring the reader with unnecessary details. Mr. Cordingly does a wonderful job at transporting the reader back to the gold age of piracy. The author explains the life of these characters by exploring with historic events all the way from how a person decided to become a pirate to how piracy was brought to an end. This book covers famous pirates such Kidd and Blackbeard, but only enough to provide a general understanding of these characters and this is great for a reader like me - who is new to the topic. I was pleasantly surprised to learn certain details about pirates that I thought had been made up by Hollywood, but now I feel I can enjoy pirate movies and shows better. Under the Black Flag answered a lot of questions I had about pirates and their lifestyle and now I am more fascinated by them than before reading the book. I strongly recommend this book if you have any interest whatsoever in the topic.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great book, but....By RustyI was hoping this would be more factual (I got it to help with research with a period piece I'm writing). The first chapter is more about the media written pirate and contrasting it to the reality. But it fails to give much of any real information. I'm about halfway done and the chapters carry more as you go on. If you're looking for a wide view history then this book is good. If you're looking for just facts you should make this one your second choice. His writing though is fast paced and intriguing. Definitely a good read no matter what.10 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Educational But With One or Two IssuesBy David BurrWhile Cordingly is clearly an excellent writer, there are a couple of things with which I struggled here. The primary one is at least a bit objective, while I am admittedly subjective in the second. First- If you read this book you get the distinct impression that each chapter was written independently, without consideration that they would be compiled into a book. The amount of redundancy tells us all we need to know about that. If the work was planned as a whole, the same facts would not surface 6-8 times.Secondly, you really have to be infected with a form of pirate-mania to want to hear endless details about every "important?" pirate book, play, or movie ever made. For me, that was just over the top. Who cares about detailed plot lines, who the actors were, and endless minutia? To be fair, the descriptions of the book, as well as the reference to "The Romance" in the title, indicates that we have not been duped - this subject would be part of the text. Personally I had no use for it. But of course since each chapter is essentially its own self-contained college term paper, not having been built on a previous one in any great sense, you can just skip ahead. Or at least go to a place where it stops talking about the media-created "pirates".These not-so-small nits aside, you really do learn, via the authors research of public records, what pirates were all about. The book is an easy read. It would be great to get into modern-day piracy, but that would be another book because there is no way to dovetail that with this work that describes what might be called the hey-day of piracy..

For this rousing, revisionist history, the former head of exhibitions at England's National Maritime Museum has combed original documents and records to produce a most authoritative and definitive account of piracy's "Golden Age." As he explodes many accepted myths (i.e. "walking the plank" is pure fiction), Cordingly replaces them with a truth that is more complex and often bloodier. 16 pp. of photos. Maps.From the Hardcover edition.

.com Though literature, films, and folklore have romanticized pirates as gallant seaman who hunted for treasure in exotic locales, David Cordingly, a former curator at the National Maritime Museum in England, reveals the facts behind the legends of such outlaws as Captain Kidd, Blackbeard, and Calico Jack. Even stories about buried treasure are fictitious, he says, yet still the myth remains. Though pirate captains were often sadistic villains and crews endured barbarous tortures, were constantly threatened with the possibility of death by hanging, drowning in a storm, or surviving a shipwreck on a hostile coast, pirates are still idealized. Cordingly examines why the myth of the romance of piratehood endures and why so few lived out their days in luxury on the riches they had plundered.From Publishers WeeklyWidespread piracy began in the Western world in 1650 and ended abruptly around 1725. Cordingly, formerly on the staff of the National Maritime Museum in England, describes who became pirates (mainly volunteers who joined up when their ships were captured); what they wore (scarves or handkerchiefs around their head, just like in the movies); and how they were armed (literally, to the teeth). Pirates, says the author, were "attracted by the lure of plunder and the desire for an easy life." They were not the clean-cut heroes of the Errol Flynn films either, but cutthroat murderers. Some of the famous pirates are portrayed: Sir Francis Drake made his name by plundering silver on the Spanish Main; Sir Harry Morgan is famous for his ransom of Portobello to the President of Panama for 250,000 pesos; and Captain Kidd remains mysterious because of his buried gold and silver on Gardiners Island, near New York City. Fictitious pirates are also surveyed, such as Long John Silver and Captain Hook, and the allure they still have over us is explored. Even if you don't know a corsair (a Mediterranean-based pirate) from a buccaneer (a Caribbean pirate), this book will delight and inform. Photos not seen by PW. Author tour. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalThe image of the swashbuckling pirate tramps the sea decks of our imaginations-bold, brave, and rebellious-owing to countless versions of adventure classics like Treasure Island, Captain Blood, and The Black Pirate. But as Cordingly (coauthor of Pirates, Abbeville, 1992) points out in this well-written, instructive,

and entertaining book, our popular view of piracy and pirates is far off the mark. The majority of 17th- and 18th-century Anglo-American pirates (the focus of Cordingley's study) were brutal men, given to drink, gambling, and casual violence. The author amply documents their viciousness in these pages. He highlights the contrast between our perceptions and the reality of pirate life and explains why piracy thrived in this period and how most pirates were hunted down and finally executed. While Cordingley breaks little new ground in this study and generously acknowledges his use of more academic works, his book is an insightful, concise, and thoroughly enjoyable portrait of the misnamed Golden Age of Piracy. For general readers.-?David B. Mattern, Univ. of Virginia, CharlottesvilleCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.