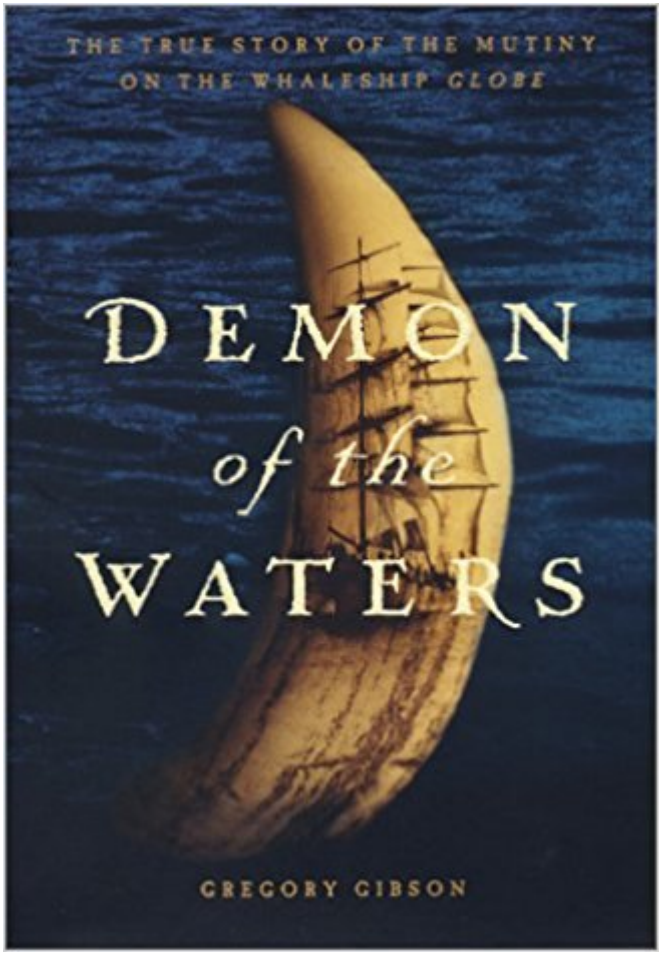
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Demon Of The Waters: The True Story Of The Mutiny On The Whaleship Globe



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Synopsis

In 1985 Greg Gibson was sent a handwritten journal discovered by a small time book dealer in rural Indiana. It turned out to be a young officer's account of the 1825 naval expedition dispatched to the Pacific with orders to apprehend the perpetrators of the Globe mutiny. The mutiny and its aftermath were notorious as the goriest crime in American maritime history; involving hatchet murders, stabbings, shootings and a shipboard lynching. The long-lost journal was the first eyewitness account of the fate of those mutineers, and of the innocent men left at the mercy of the tattooed islanders who adopted and enslaved them. At the center of the mutiny was a young man raised in a staunch Nantucket Quaker family. As a boy Samuel Comstock's head was filled with the stories of daring naval exploits and sea-faring adventure. As he grew older, these fantasies took a darker turn. One year into a Pacific whaling voyage, Comstock brutally murdered the captain and his officers. He and three accomplices then forced the terrified crew (among them his fifteen year old brother) to sail to the Mulgrave Islands where he planned to kill everyone aboard, destroy the ship, subdue the natives and rule the island as its king. In the confusion that followed, six of the innocent crew stole the Globe and piloted her, in an epic shorthanded voyage, 7500 miles back to South America. There they told the world of the terrible events they had witnessed. The Navy sent out its expeditionary force and seventeen-year-old midshipman Augustus Strong penned the journal that would resurface 175 years later. The story of the Globe mutiny is one of unending fascination. Dovetailing Gibson's riveting account of the mutiny is the history of the sperm oil industry, its Nantucket Quaker powerbrokers, the growth of American naval influence and how their combined agendas played out in the remote reaches of the Pacific. Above all, Demon of the Waters is, in the tradition of Nordhoff and Hall's Mutiny on the Bounty, a story of men and the sea. Brilliantly conceived, gripping, horrific, and insightful, Demon of the Waters is destined to become a classic of sea adventure. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

In 1978, a sailor's log of apparently little value surfaced in Vevay, Ind., and the notebook was eventually discovered to have been penned in 1827 by a 17-year-old sailor named Augustus Strong, stationed aboard the Dolphin, a U.S. Navy schooner dispatched to rescue surviving members of a mutiny in the South Pacific. Using Strong's 150-page record as a primary source, Gibson (Gone Boy), a collector of rare maritime books, retells the shocking tale of the gore-drenched mutiny aboard the whaler Globe. The mutiny was led by rogue Samuel Comstock so the 21-year-old could sail to the remote Marshall Islands, where he intended to build a kingdom for himself and enlist the natives in his private army. Word of the mutiny prompted the rescue voyage of the Dolphin and Strong's personal ledger. While Gibson diligently recounts the building of the Globe and the history of Nantucket whaling as well as the life and hard work aboard a whaler the chronicling of the mutiny lacks punch and the key figures are devoid of significant character. By the time Gibson personally visits the isle of Comstock's landing and death, readers might find it difficult to share the author's interest in what comes across as a bloody though bland story. Illus. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A whaling vessel built in 1815, the Globe was 78 feet long and staffed by a crew of 21; that one of the crew members was a psychopath bent on taking over the ship, killing his shipmates, and retiring to a South Pacific island to rule the natives seems more like fiction but in January 1825 became fact. In the early chapters of this well-written narrative, Gibson (Gone Boy: A Walkabout) details the dangerous vocation of whaler in the early 1800s, and his recent discovery of a journal by a sailor aboard the navy vessel sent to rescue the survivors of the mutiny is of interest. Gibson's chapters on shipbuilding could have been omitted, as this subject is addressed elsewhere, but once the voyage is under way the real adventure begins. The scheming Samuel Comstock was slain three weeks after committing his evil deeds on the Marshall Islands, leaving his final goal of becoming king unfulfilled. Over 30 pages of notes and a 120-title bibliography attest to Gibson's impressive

research on this topic. Recommended for public libraries with maritime interests. James Thorsen, Central North Carolina Regional Lib. Syst., BurlingtonCopyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I’m only 30 pages into a roughly 250 page book, and I’m already feeling the book’s fatalness in my right hand. Mr. Gibson does an excellent job bringing the reader into the time and culture of Nantucket whaling era. The book, as one would expect, reads as the expected historical fable - the best slightly imagined historical reenactment account possible based on the collection of known sources, both primary and secondary. Adding to the suspense of the story, however, Mr. Gibson entwines a captivating meta-narrative as well - the discovery of new historical texts and accounts via a niche culture of "book scout" specialists. In a sense Mr. Gibson’s account becomes a historical source in addition to the originals as he brings new and relevant primary source to the fore. This book reads as adventure story, history, sailing, and whaling. In the great tradition of the adventure story, Mr Gibson’s protagonist/antagonist brings us to an encounter with the human soul at the brink of existence.

I have a good dozen books in my library dedicated to Whaling history - some very rare and I had to work hard to get. I am happy to have this book in my lbrary. There are two well-known albeit unusual incidents associated with the industry - The Essex being sunk in the mid-Pacific by a bull sperm whale and the mutiny of the Globe. This is a defining book on the Globe incident. Gibson does a great job documenting the early life of the psychopathic mutineer leader and his Captain. He discusses the course of events which led to the eventual take-over of the ship and it’s Marshall Islands destination. When the few terrified escapees steal the ship and sail to Valparaiso, a firestorm of media and political intrigue occurs, eventually leading the the deployment of a Naval ship to determine the fate of the mutineers that were left behind. The jewel is the author’s discovery of a handwritten manuscript by an officer of the Naval vessel sent by the U.S. government to bring the principals to justice. Previously unknown to scholars, this amazing document brings new information to light about the mission, it’s execution and eventual conclusion. Great fun, and historically very accurate. You won’t be disappointed ....

This is a fascinating book, beautifully written. The story itself is gruesome, as any story of wanton savagery and violence is bound to be. But the details, and the background ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ the acquisition of a long-lost document; the descriptions of whale ships and shipboard life; the people of

Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard; the conspiracies aimed at murder; the ship's officers and crew; the people of the Pacific islands ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • all leap off the pages. I could barely stand putting the book down after each reading session. It's a classic, and worth six stars out of five!

The subtitle of this account of what happened during and after the mutiny implies that all previous ones are somehow untrue or only partially true. I've read copies of the original documents as well as two studies dedicated to this extraordinary and shocking episode of maritime history. I've found no reason to doubt that the reports of those who survived -- William Lay and Cyrus Hussy -- were anything other than the recollections of events that must have been seared indelibly into their memory. The Cruise of the Dolphin, Hyrum Paulding's journal of the long voyage across the Pacific to bring the mutineers to justice is a fascinating look at how the South Pacific islanders lived in the early 18th Century. The rescue of Lay and Hussy by the Dolphin is captivating. In short, Demon of the Waters adds very little to what has been done before.

Aside from the history of this horrendous mutiny, the intricate details of the whaling industry are well depicted - very informative! I'm glad that this dark chapter in our human history is almost at the end.

I highly recommend this book to all who like to read about toll ships and see adventures.Painstakingly, masterfully written, book embraces detailed description of whaling ships and their role in making many Nantuckers rich, as well as many aspects of human life during the "golden" era of whaling for oil industry. But not only this.We have many historical details about early Pacific navigations and about competition for dominance in this region between France, Britain and Americans.We will learn with fascination how white sailors encountered first time and clashed with other cultures and tribes of Pacific islands; also, how the toll ships were build on Nantucket Island at the beginning of the 19th century and who was involved in those projects.And of course the main theme - gruesome events on the deck of the "Globe" and on the Mili atoll (Marshall islands), where two cultures met suddenly by surprise and got stunned - beautifully woven into the whole text.Masterpiece, Mr. Gibson, no doubt. It should be considered as continuation of "In the Heart of the Sea".

Looks like a great book..I look forward to these holidays being over so that I can read it!

The author not only writes a fascinating sea story, but provides an extensive bibliograpy for an

amateur historian to seek additonal resources.

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