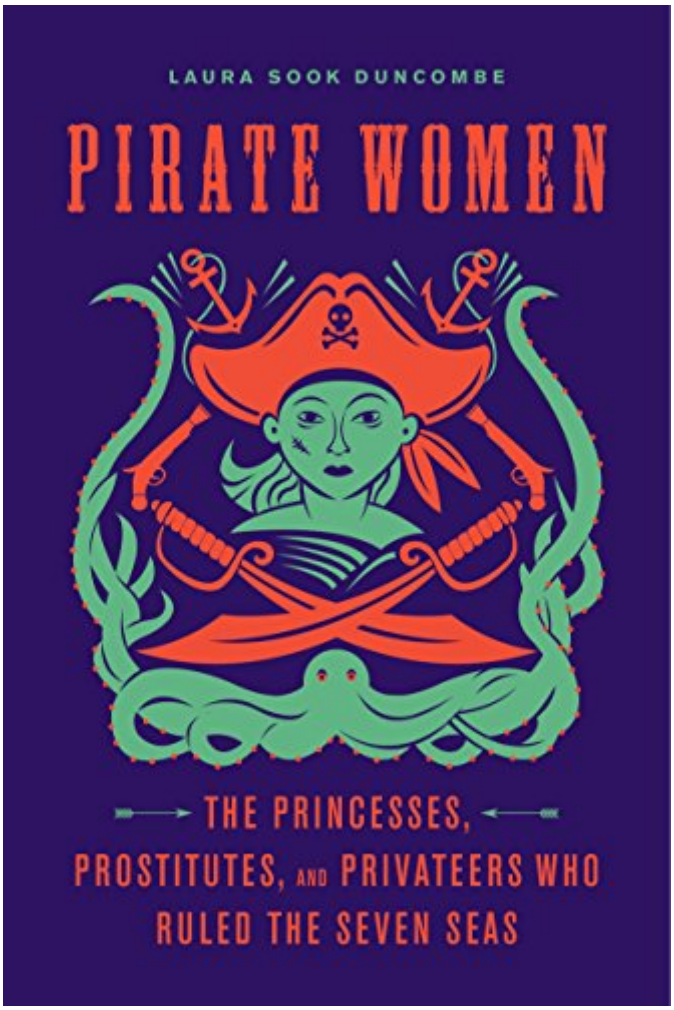
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Pirate Women: The Princesses, Prostitutes, And Privateers Who Ruled The Seven Seas



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Synopsis

In the first-ever Seven Seas history of the world's female buccaneers, Pirate Women: The Princesses, Prostitutes, and Privateers Who Ruled the Seven Seas tells the story of women, both real and legendary, who through the ages sailed alongsideÃ¢â ¬â •and sometimes in command ofÃ¢â ¬â •their male counterparts. These women came from all walks of life but had one thing in common: a desire for freedom. History has largely ignored these female swashbucklers, until now. Here are their stories, from ancient Norse princess Alfhild and warrior Rusla to Sayyida al-Hurra of the Barbary corsairs; from Grace O'Malley, who terrorized shipping operations around the British Isles during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I; to Cheng I Sao, who commanded a fleet of four hundred ships off China in the early nineteenth century.Author Laura Sook Duncombe also looks beyond the stories to the storytellers and mythmakers. What biases and agendas motivated them? What did they leave out? Pirate Women explores why and how these stories are told and passed down, and how history changes depending on who is recording it. It's the most comprehensive overview of women pirates in one volume and chock-full of swashbuckling adventures that pull these unique women from the shadows into the spotlight that they deserve.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I absolutely loved this book. I learned so much about women's roles in pirating, becoming entrepreneurs of the illegal kind and great leaders in the days when this rarely happened and was not recorded for history. And, I appreciate the context style in which it was presented in that the author stated that certain facts are confirmed and others are not. The research required for this must have been staggering. But one of the walk always from reading this book is that there is overwhelming evidence that many women lived the outlaw life. I also learned a great deal about the culture and political landscape back in the day that influenced the business of pirating. The book is written in a fast story telling style with a few doses of snarky added. And - spoiler alert - the real life of pirates was nothing like Pirates of the Caribbean, Disney style. To other readaholics, you will love this book. Good work Laura.

This book was interesting and informative. It is not extremely in depth, and it's main purpose seems to be to just get the names and general histories of these female pirates out there. Sometimes the chapters were a little long and ramble-y (I wish there were more and smaller sections instead). But otherwise, worthwhile read.

I'm not always one to enjoy a non-fiction work but I really enjoyed reading this! Laura writes in a knowledgeable yet accessible manner to give us all the information without making it sound like a blase research paper. Her moments of personal remarks/opinions remind the reader that this book was written by an actual human instead of just a voice reiterating facts. Stories were organized in a chronology that was easy to follow and the vocabulary made a non-fiction book easy to enjoy.

Good book. Wandered off topic seemingly to fill pages but some fascinating stories especially on Cheng I Sao. I would recommend.

This is the most fun I've had reading history in god knows how long. I absolutely loved it.

It was an excellent read. Rock on women of the sea!!!!

It’s great having a source on pirates focusing on women and that perspective. Duncombe’s musings are thought provoking and insightful. A really great read that prompts further interest.

A really interesting, well-told story about a topic I hadn’t even thought about, let alone heard of.

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