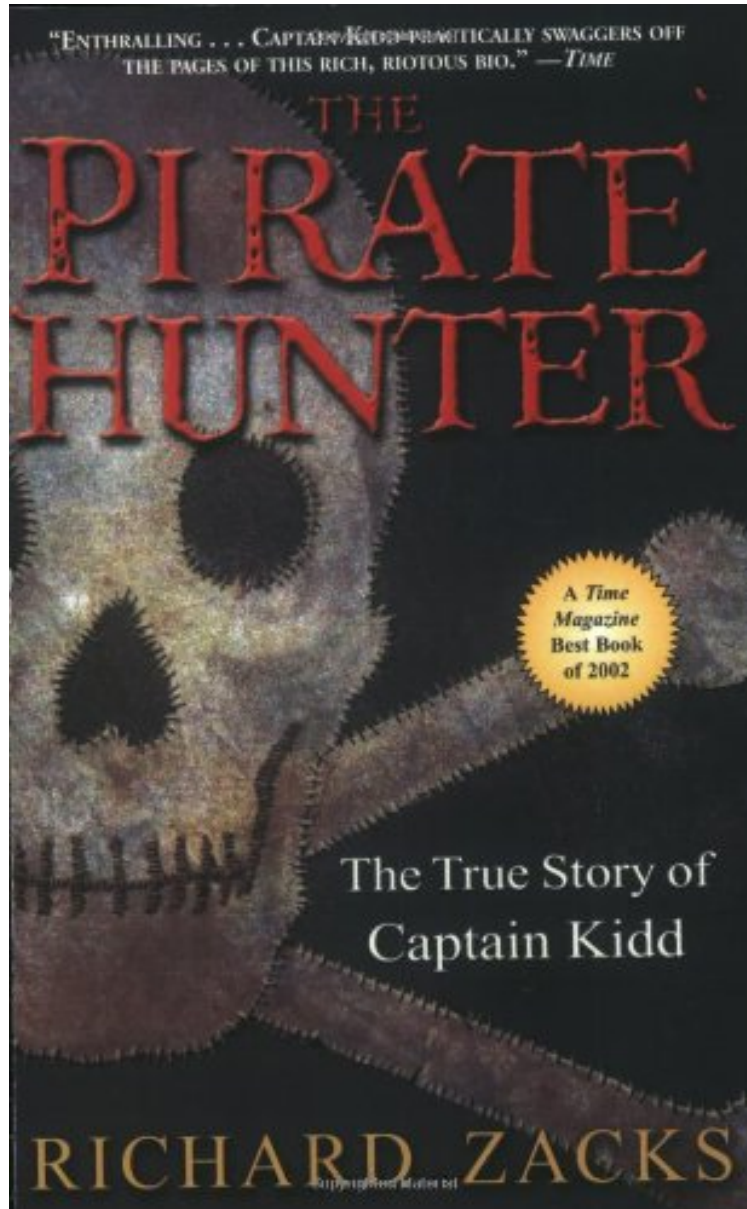


(Ebook pdf) The Pirate Hunter: The True Story of Captain Kidd

The Pirate Hunter: The True Story of Captain Kidd

Richard Zacks

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Richard Zacks : The Pirate Hunter: The True Story of Captain Kidd before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pirate Hunter: The True Story of Captain Kidd:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting, but a slog in some areasBy Book NinjaI have read some

of this author's other books and liked them. I love sea stories and the true ones are better than the fictionalized ones. This is a maddening story of how governments use and abuse and the abused pay the price. It has many surprising details. The problem with this book is that it gets bogged down in the "sea journey" portions. I find them tedious to read. For a historian, it would probably be more compelling. That said, this is a captivating :) story. I think, however, the editing should have been a bit sharper. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Great Adventure! By Bruce7512I had never heard of Richard Zacks before reading this book. But on the cover I saw a ringing endorsement from Jimmy Buffett, and being a long-time Parrothead and fan of his books as well, I thought I would give it a try. After reading the first 3 chapters, I quit reading, put the book down and bought the Kindle version to take with to Mexico with me on vacation. In a nutshell, reading this book is a Grand Adventure, that is so much better for being the well-researched truth. This book is Mark Twain, Tom Clancy and James Clavell all rolled into one. It has humor, politics, intrigue and a cast of characters that only history could create. This book really pops. Richard Zacks recreates the golden age of pirates in a way that captures your imagination and sweeps you away to another place in another time. The cast of lords and ladies, cutthroats and thieves, comes alive to portray the high drama that formed the life of both seafaring men, and those who profited most from their lives and deaths. If you have ever dreamed of sailing over the horizon into adventure, danger and exotic ports of call, or if you just want to play pirate for a little while, this book is for you. Don't miss your chance. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good read to teach you about pirates and privateers By Stillworking This was an informative, non-fiction, account of the exploits of the privateer William Kidd. At times the story dragged on a little, but mostly it read like an adventure novel. In the end, it made me happy that I live now and especially glad that I did not have to cross the ocean in the 17th or 18th centuries by ship.

A literary treasure, *The Pirate Hunter* is a masterpiece of historical detective work, and a rare, authentic pirate story for grown-ups. Captain Kidd has gone down in history as America's most ruthless buccaneer, fabulously rich, burying dozens of treasure chests up and down the eastern seaboard. But it turns out that most everyone, even many respected scholars, have the story all wrong. Captain William Kidd was no career cut-throat; he was a tough, successful New York sea captain who was hired to chase pirates. His three-year odyssey aboard the aptly named *Adventure* galley pitted him against arrogant Royal Navy commanders, jealous East India Company captains, storms, starvation, angry natives, and, above all, flesh-and-blood pirates. Superbly written and impeccably researched, *The Pirate Hunter* is one ripping good yarn.

From Publishers Weekly Entertaining, richly detailed and authoritatively narrated, Zacks's account of the life of legendary seaman William Kidd delivers a first-rate story. Though Kidd, better known as Captain Kidd, was inextricably bound with piracy and has popularly gone down as a marauding buccaneer himself, Zacks (*An Underground Education*) argues that he was actually a mercenary backed by the English government and several New World investors to track down pirates and reclaim their stolen wares. The book is cogent and replete with supporting evidence without the heavy-handed feel of some scholarly work. What really sets the book apart is Zacks's gift as researcher and storyteller. He highlights the role of an undeniable pirate, Robert Culliford, in Kidd's tale and pits the two men against each other from the outset, constructing his book as an intriguing duel. Aside from the tightly constructed plot, Zacks also wonderfully evokes the social and political life of the 17th century at land and at sea, and he takes turns at debunking and validating pirate folklore: while it appears the dead giveaway of a skull and crossbones made it a rare flag choice, Zacks contends that pirates did often wear extravagant clothing and were as drunk, cursing, hungry, horny... and violent as myth would have them. Augmented by such details and driven by a conflict between Kidd and Culliford that keeps the pages flying, Zacks's book is a treasure, indeed. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From *The New Yorker* William Kidd is remembered as one of history's greatest pirates, and thousands of people have searched in vain for the treasure he supposedly left buried on a desert island. In this fascinating work of historical revisionism, Zacks argues that in fact Kidd was a privateer, commissioned by the British Crown to hunt down pirates. But his mutinous crew was dissatisfied with the slim pickings of buccaneer-hunting, and Kidd himself inadvertently fell afoul of the powerful East India Company, which tarred him as a criminal. Instead of being acclaimed a national hero, he died on the gallows, in 1701. Zacks's detective work here is thoroughly convincing. In addition, he sets the suspenseful tale of Kidd's downfall within its larger historical context, in a manner reminiscent, at times, of Defoe, vividly illustrating the brutalities of life on a seagoing vessel and the chaos of urban society at the end of the seventeenth century. Copyright 2005 *The New Yorker* From Booklist We all know Captain Kidd, the bloodthirsty pirate who murdered and plundered his way across the seven seas, sailing under the skull and crossbones. Well, it turns out that pretty much everything we know about Kidd is wrong. He wasn't a pirate; he was a privateer, commissioned by the British government to hunt pirates. He wasn't ruthless; as a matter of fact, he was a family man, with a wife and daughter waiting back home, which wasn't some decrepit shanty but a well-appointed house on New York's Wall Street. This surprising, eye-opening book completely changes our perception of Captain William Kidd, a nice Scottish fellow who would be quite shocked to learn what we think of him these days. It also introduces us to a genuinely ruthless pirate, Robert Culliford, who was to bring much calamity to Kidd's life.

Zacks fills our minds with the sights, sounds, and even the smells of the seventeenth century, and he rescues William Kidd from eternal damnation. A lively, educational, thoroughly spellbinding trip back in time. David Pitt
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