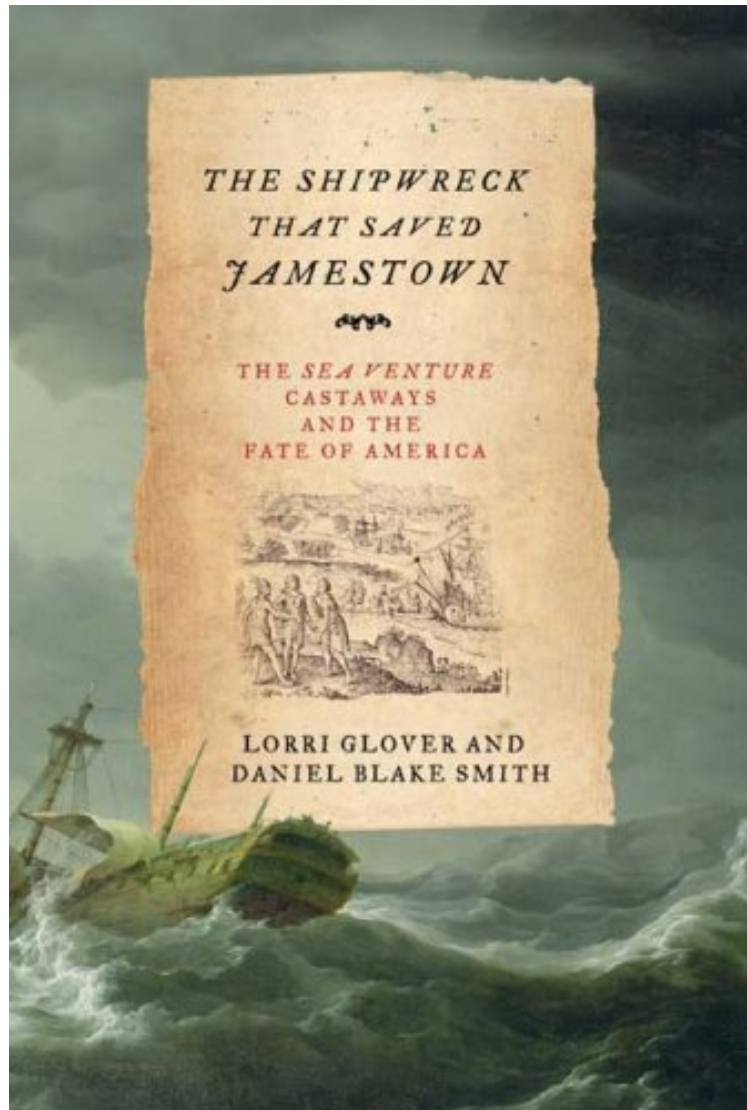


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The Shipwreck That Saved Jamestown: The Sea Venture Castaways and the Fate of America (John MacRae Books)

Lorri Glover, Daniel Blake Smith

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Lorri Glover, Daniel Blake Smith : The Shipwreck That Saved Jamestown: The Sea Venture Castaways and the Fate of America (John MacRae Books) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Shipwreck That Saved Jamestown: The Sea Venture Castaways and the Fate of America (John MacRae Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book about the settling of AmericaBy History FanI had recently read a history of the Jamestown settlement, and learned about this episode in that. While this book also covers some of the history of Jamestown, it is much more. Besides the story of the wreck itself, it goes into the political and religious reasons behind the settlement idea, looks at what is known of the backgrounds and personalities of many of the principals involved, and describes both a ship of that time period, and what an ocean voyage was like. It has a very readable style, so that I found myself often deciding to read "just one more page", and finishing a chapter instead. Too many times I have walked away from a book with on otherwise interesting subject, simply because the writing style was too hard to follow or hold my attention. This book is anything but that. An excellent story, and very well written. As a fan of almost any American history, I thoroughly enjoyed this book and learned a new chapter of it.10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Good story, Good research, So-so writing...By P. SenguptaI picked up this book before a trip to Bermuda hoping to find a fun history of the Sea Venture expedition. In the end, the story of the Sea Venture was every bit as exciting as advertised. The book followed the truly amazing and gripping story of the Virginia colony and the accidental colonization of Bermuda. In addition to being a great story the author also does a good job of drawing from an enormous amount of primary sources and gives large parts of the story in the words of the castaways or colonists themselves. My only criticism of the book (and the reason I only gave it 3 stars) was the writing itself. The writing was so repetitive I found myself skimming large portions of the book in an attempt to avoid dj vu. For example, when describing the marketing campaign of the Virginia company, the book has to cite close to 25 different sources all saying the same thing (i.e. God wants England to colonize Virginia; we must colonize Virginia in the name of God and King; if you colonize Virginia you will go to Heaven). We get it ... the campaign was marketed using religious and patriotic rhetoric... And beyond sometimes providing too many examples, the language used by the author was also repetitive. Often entire sentences would be largely identical to sentences you'd already read. For example, the author describes the colonists as motivated by a combination of "ambition" and "desperation" at least 15 times. Using exactly the same phraseology. If, however, you can get over this repetition (or skim through the portions that you feel like you've already read) you can learn about a truly remarkable adventure!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Stunning StoryBy LACARMost of us remember the story of Jamestown from high school history and maybe even from a visit to the Jamestown site. But I never knew more than that the English settlers had a hard winter! The authors have documented and put together a clearly written . . . and disturbing . . . story about how really difficult it was to gain a foothold in the New World. As usual those in charge were driven by greed and poor planning so that hundreds died unnecessarily. But then again, without the funds and big egos of the "leaders", we might all now be citizens of Spain. Reading about the horrors the colonists endured, especially the cannibalism, caused me to have nightmares! But the saving of the souls on the Venture, which eventually saved the whole colony, was thrilling. This is stuff movies are made of. I'd give the book five stars except that there is some redundancy, especially the final chapter that seemed to just reminding me what they had already said. Don't read it if real life makes you nervous. Do read it if you want the whole story of our country's feeble beginning.

A freshly researched account of the dramatic rescue of the Jamestown settlers The English had long dreamed of colonizing America, especially after Sir Francis Drake brought home Spanish treasure and dramatic tales from his raids in the Caribbean. Ambitions of finding gold and planting a New World colony seemed within reach when in 1606 Thomas Smythe extended overseas trade with the launch of the Virginia Company. But from the beginning the American enterprise was a disaster. Within two years warfare with Indians and dissent among the settlers threatened to destroy Smythes Jamestown just as it had Raleighs Roanoke a generation earlier.To rescue the doomed colonists and restore order, the company chose a new leader, Thomas Gates. Nine ships left Plymouth in the summer of 1609the largest fleet England had ever assembledand sailed into the teeth of a storm so violent that it beat all light from Heaven. The inspiration for Shakespeares The Tempest, the hurricane separated the flagship from the fleet, driving it onto reefs off the coast of Bermudaa lucky shipwreck (all hands survived) which proved the turning point in the colonys fortune.

From Publishers WeeklyFew history tales pack the excitement of Virginia's founding. Most accounts start with the 1607 Jamestown landing. But like Kieran Doherty in 2007's Sea Venture, historians Glover (Southern Sons) and Smith (Inside the Great House) focus on the desperate endeavors to rescue the colony from disaster after its first year. It's a rip-snortin' story of shipwreck, intrigue, horror, courage, risk, luck and will, and the authors milk it for all it's worth. Whether the wreck of the Sea Venture on Bermuda and its recovery as part of the fleet sent to save Jamestown was more important to the fate of America than the original 1607 settlement is open to question. That aside, the authors let the story unfold in all its inherent complexity, tragedy and suspense. Glover and Smith focus on the tale's human elements and its often harrowing, sometimes inspirational events with appropriate verve. The authors have brought the drama in the Chesapeake alive in all its gripping detail. (Aug.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. In thisgripping account of shipwreck, mutiny, perseverance, and deliverance, the epic story of the wreck of the Sea Venture and its consequences for the survival of Jamestown, England's first

successful colony in the New World, is told for the first time. Glover and Smith persuasively make the case that in saving themselves, the 150 castaways stranded for nearly a year on the remote island of Bermuda ultimately saved English America. James Horn, author of *A Land As God Made It: Jamestown and the Birth of America*