



Lost Paradise: From Mutiny on the Bounty to a Modern-Day Legacy of Sexual Mayhem, the Dark Secrets of Pitcairn Island Revealed

By Kathy Marks

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Pitcairn Island -- remote and wild in the South Pacific, a place of towering cliffs and lashing surf -- is home to descendants of Fletcher Christian and the "Mutiny on the Bounty" crew, who fled there with a group of Tahitian maidens after deposing their captain, William Bligh, and seizing his ship in 1789.

Shrouded in myth, the island was idealized by outsiders, who considered it a tropical Shangri-La. But as the world was to discover two centuries after the mutiny, it was also a place of sinister secrets. In this riveting account, Kathy Marks tells the disturbing saga and asks profound questions about human behavior.

In 2000, police descended on the British territory -- a lump of volcanic rock hundreds of miles from the nearest inhabited land -- to investigate an allegation of rape of a fifteen-year-old girl. They found themselves speaking to dozens of women and uncovering a trail of child abuse dating back at least three generations.

Scarcely a Pitcairn man was untainted by the allegations, it seemed, and barely a girl growing up on the island, home to just forty-seven people, had escaped. Yet most islanders, including the victims' mothers, feigned ignorance or claimed it was South Pacific "culture" -- the Pitcairn "way of life."

The ensuing trials would tear the close-knit, interrelated community apart, for every family contained an offender or a victim -- often both. The very future of the island, dependent on its men and their prowess in the longboats, appeared at risk. The islanders were resentful toward British authorities, whom they regarded as colonialists, and the newly arrived newspeople, who asked nettlesome questions and whose daily dispatches were closely scrutinized on the Internet.

The court case commanded worldwide attention. And as a succession of men passed through Pitcairn's makeshift courtroom, disturbing questions surfaced. How had the abuse remained hidden so long? Was it inevitable in such a place?

Was Pitcairn a real-life "Lord of the Flies?"

One of only six journalists to cover the trials, Marks lived on Pitcairn for six weeks, with the accused men as her neighbors. She depicts, vividly, the attractions and everyday difficulties of living on a remote tropical island. Moreover, outside court, she had daily encounters with the islanders, not all of them civil, and observed firsthand how the tiny, claustrophobic community ticked: the gossip, the feuding, the claustrophobic intimacy -- and the power dynamics that had allowed the abuse to flourish.

Marks followed the legal and human saga through to its recent conclusion. She uncovers a society gone badly astray, leaving lives shattered and codes broken: a paradise truly lost.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Pitcairn Island was first settled more than 200 years ago by Fletcher Christian and other mutinous crew members of the HMS *Bounty*, along with several Polynesian women from neighboring islands; the community has always been small, but a mythology has built up around it as a remote, idyllic paradise. Pitcairn is thoroughly civilized, agrees Marks, a British journalist based in Australia, except in one respect... children were almost routinely raped and assaulted. In 2004, Marks was one of just six journalists allowed on Pitcairn to cover the trials of several islanders accused of repeated sexual abuse of teenage and preadolescent girls; her eyewitness accounts of the proceedings, and the hostility of Pitcairners, still subject to British laws, who believed their entire society was under persecution by the outside world, is gripping. She systematically demolishes the argument that Pitcairn was a different culture, where underage sex was the norm, and considers why outside observers—from the British government to local schoolteachers and priests—let the abuse continue unchecked for decades. The crimes are disturbing enough, but the Pitcairn community rallying around its most brutal sexual predators, and their relatively light punishment, is a truly unsettling story, even in Marks's restrained retelling. (Feb.)

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Review

"Tautly told and often troubling, 'Lost Paradise' cracks open the celluloid myth of the world's most celebrated island to expose the dark human drama within. Like Jon Krakauer's 'Under the Banner of Heaven,' it's unsettling, inspiring -- and very, very haunting." -- John Tayman, author of 'The Colony: The Harrowing True Story of the Exiles of Molokai'

About the Author

Kathy Marks grew up in Manchester, England, and studied languages. She has been a journalist since 1984, working first for Reuters news agency and then for national newspapers in Britain, including the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Independent*. Since 1999 she has been based in Sydney as *The Independent's* Asia-Pacific Correspondent, reporting from Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, East Timor, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, and the South Pacific. She has covered major stories around the region, including the post-independence violence in East Timor in 1999, the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings, the civil war in Indonesia's Aceh province, the Indian Ocean Boxing Day tsunami in 2004 and the 2006 Java earthquake. In 2004 she was one of six international journalists who travelled to Pitcairn Island for the child sex abuse trials.

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Willie Hodges:

The book *Lost Paradise: From Mutiny on the Bounty to a Modern-Day Legacy of Sexual Mayhem, the Dark Secrets of Pitcairn Island Revealed* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. So just why must we leave a good thing like a book *Lost Paradise: From Mutiny on the Bounty to a Modern-Day Legacy of Sexual Mayhem, the Dark Secrets of Pitcairn Island Revealed*? Several of you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim that will book can give many details for us. It is absolutely

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The book untitled Lost Paradise: From Mutiny on the Bounty to a Modern-Day Legacy of Sexual Mayhem, the Dark Secrets of Pitcairn Island Revealed contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains her idea with easy method. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was written by famous author. The author will bring you in the new age of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice learn.

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