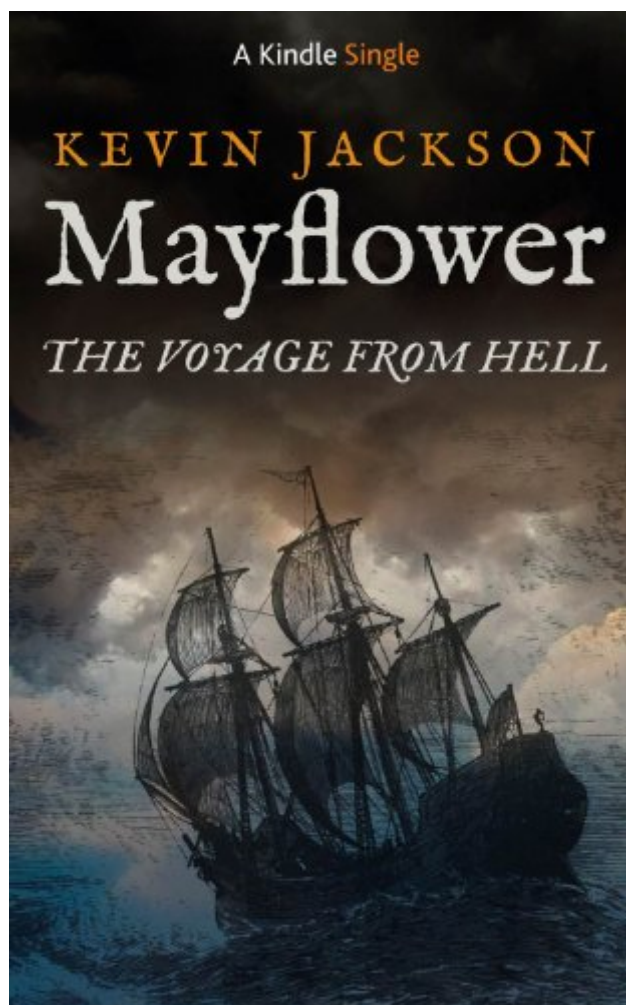


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Mayflower: The Voyage From Hell (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

"The Mayflower: A Voyage from Hell" .The writer Kevin Jackson looks at the reality behind the mythic status of the Mayflower - and the journey that 'created' the New World. Most of the voyagers of that famed 1620 crossing of the Atlantic were not in fact religious pilgrims, but people intent on forging a better life for themselves in the virgin territory of America's east coast. 130 hardy souls were confined in a space no bigger than a tennis court, braving the 'Northern' crossing, without any firm idea of what awaited them in the New World. A riveting account of the sailing that changed the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In other words, the passengers of the Mayflower were representative of their era. Two groups set out, Saints (Saints) and Strangers. The colony was to be a separatist colony that also made money. This book gives a detailed account of the complex politics and economics behind the launching of the ship. More to the point, Jackson describes conditions on board that were more horrific than I had understood them to be. This book is a fascinating snapshot of a seminal point in history.

Although a short work, Jackson gives an overview of the main characters -- Mayflower's

passengers/Pilgrims, the ship's crew, the religious leaders who founded the church, and even key Native Americans who helped the Pilgrims in the new world. The book also gave a very good account of the extreme conditions that were faced on the trip across the Atlantic. I was tempted to give this four stars because I wanted it to be longer, but it is a Kindle Single, so the short length is appropriate.

I was expecting more about the actual voyage, but I guess that there was not much to write about given it was only a two month sojourn on the water. Setting the scene before hand with the main characters and then the following of their lives once in the new world was both interesting and informative. I was disappointed that the author did not list his sources. Good over all read.

This short non-fiction book brings an important segment of American history to life for even reluctant teen readers. The book is divided into short chapters and the wording is fairly simplified. The details of the historic voyage of the Mayflower are pared down to the basic facts while characters are described adequately enough to allow the reader to see them as distinct individuals. The sordid and sometimes horrific conditions which these immigrants faced are presented matter-of-factly which explains why the word "Hell" is used in the title. This book is not a Disney version in which everyone lives happily ever after; this is non-fiction which honestly tells the reader that many who attempted the settlement in the new world did not live to enjoy it.

Jackson's account of the May flowers gruelling passage recounts the horrors faced by the pilgrims. He very nicely sheds facts from myth. It's a pleasure to read history so succinct. There are no lulls or passages bogged down by academic screed.

I love the concept of Kindle Singles, and while the quality may be a bit uneven, this is one I'm definitely glad I chose to read. Probably the title was what first caught my eye, and since it's a topic I really hadn't revisited since grade school, I decided to take a chance on this one. The title is a little misleading, though. Rather than focus just on the voyage -- and yes, it was hellish -- it really takes the people we know as Pilgrims from their formation in England to the exodus of some of the group to the Netherlands, and the whole decision to take a chance on relocating to the new world. The delays in getting underway, the autumn storms on the Atlantic, sickness, death, and the landing far north of their original destination are all recounted. The book then takes the group through its first couple years, including the development of friendly relations with the local natives, and finishes with

a wrap-up of what happened to some of the leaders. Ultimately, it's a story that everyone is probably familiar with on some level, but this is a nice refresher for those who want to take an adult look at an important early chapter in our history. I'm glad I read it.

I have a newfound respect for these hardy forebears. They not only took care of each other against some very tough odds but helped the crew and others who wouldn't or couldn't take care of themselves. I don't ever remember hearing before that the Pilgrims were two groups: The Saints and the Strangers. This brief history filled in a lot of blanks for me. With only half of them surviving until Spring, literally burying half their number, they pressed on. It is truly a short history of amazing perseverance. I recommend it to any American History buff.

I wished it had been longer. I am British and I had always been intrigued about the first settlers in North America; where they came from and what was their purpose in daring to cross the Atlantic when hardly anybody else had done so. Also their religious fervour was an inspiration for someone like me who is far from religious-minded. The detail is amazing, in view of the little documentary information one can find on the subject. Highly recommended and I am looking forward to reading more from this author.

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