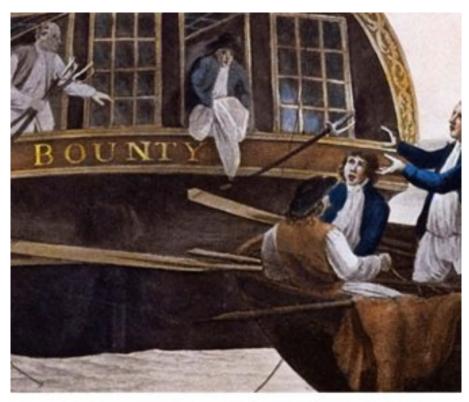


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About the Author

Charles Nordhoff (1887-1951), who served together as U.S. Air Service pilots in World War I, had a highly successful literary partnership that lasted nearly 30 year and produced several worldwide bestsellers. He is best known for his high-seas adventure Bounty trilogy.

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James Norman Hall (1887–1951) was an American author best known for the novel Mutiny on the Bounty with co-author Charles Bernard Nordhoff (1887–1947) an English-born American novelist and traveler. Mutiny on the Bounty is the title of the 1932 novel by Charles Nordhoff and James Norman Hall, based on the mutiny against Lieutenant William Bligh, commanding officer of the Bounty in 1789. It has been made into several films and a musical. It was the first of what became "The Bounty Trilogy", which continues with Men Against the Sea, and concludes with Pitcairn's Island.

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Most helpful customer reviews

27 of 27 people found the following review helpful.

Survivor meets Lord of the Flies

By Will o' the Wisp

This is a magnificent book and the best of the Bounty Trilogy. I've read it many times over the years and find myself wholly captivated by it each time.

"Pitcairn's Island" follows the story of Bounty mutineer Fletcher Christian and eight of his men who are hunting for a sanctuary in which to hide from the long arm of the Royal Navy. They bring their Tahitian wives and several Tahitian men along with them. Finding Pitcairn's Island uninhabited, they settle there in 1790, less than a year after the mutiny. The men range from about age 21 to 38, Christian himself was only about 24 yrs old although the movies always seem to depict him as being older.

The Pitcairn story operates on multiple levels--- the attempt by criminals to make a Utopian society, the conflict between the English and the Tahitians, the conflict between the men and the women, conflict between the educated officers, Christian and Young, and the low-born seamen. The tiny colony struggles with alcoholism, race warfare, slavery, rape, insanity and even religious rebirth. The story seems impossible to believe and yet all of it is true. The mutiny story has made for several rousing motion pictures but they always end with the mutineers arrival at Pitcairn and never deal with what happened afterwards, which is the most fascinating part of the story.

Will some filmmaker PLEASE bring this story to the screen?

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

The best of the Bounty trilogy, and the most thought-provoking

By Craig MACKINNON

This is the third of the Bounty trilogy. The first book chronicles the mutiny itself, as well as following the fate of the non-mutineers who were left in Tahiti when the ringleaders left. It is a good book - often filmed, so most know the general story. The second book, Men Against the Sea, follows the fate of Captain Bligh and those that chose not to participate in the mutiny who were put off the ship into a boat to make their way as best they could. They eventually reached a Dutch colony and Bligh made his report on the mutiny. This book, Pitcairn's Island, is the story of the mutineers who tried to find an island on which to live out their lives without fear of discovery. The island must be small and remote enough not to have been charted by the admiralty, but big enough to sustain the lives of 27 people indefinitely. Fletcher Christian, leader of the mutineers, picks Pitcairn's Island, known to him from a previous cruise, but officially "undiscovered" because no one could attempt a landing on it.

With the group of mutineers are a number of Polynesian men and women. Once forced to live in close quarters, the inevitable culture conflict starts, especially because the British chauvenism in thinking the Polynesians to be inherently inferior savages. This sets up an ethnically-divided society, and ultimately leads to civil war between the British seamen and their Polynesian counterparts. Rape, murder, drunkeness, and treachery leads to a fascinating account of interracial conflict that ultimately concludes with redemption for the survivors and an optimistic note that all will be well now that the bigotted first generation has died out.

As others have mentioned, this is a "fictionalised" account of the stories of the mutineers. It is based on fact, where available. Certainly, this allows the authors to chose which of the many versions on the subject to believe (or to cut-and-paste together likely events where the facts are seemingly contradictory). Overall, it is the most interesting story, and the one that follows the most conventional arc. I think the other two books should be read first, saving the best for last.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent reading!!

By Linda Schmid

Best story I've ever read in my life. very interesting. Couldn't put it down. Great novel for people of all ages. Everyone should read this book. Good history book of Pitcairn Island.

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