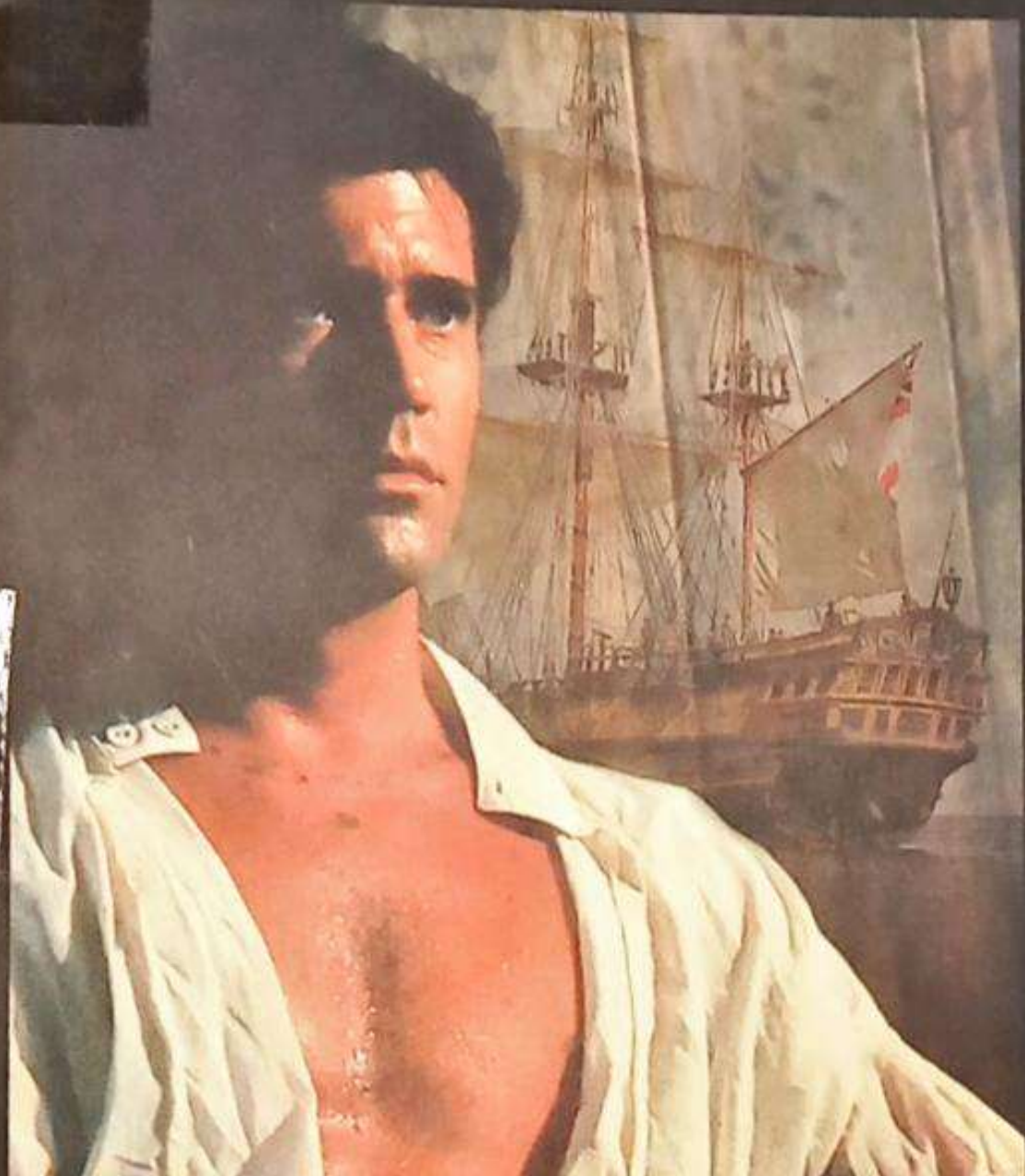


OXFORD BOOKWORMS LIBRARY
1

MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY

TIM VICARY



MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY

Two hundred years ago life on a sailing ship was not easy. You ate hard bread and bad meat. You worked night and day, often cold and wet and hungry. You saw no land for months and months. There were dangerous storms and many accidents; some ships never came home again.

In 1787 *HMS Bounty* leaves England and sails halfway round the world to Tahiti in the south seas. The captain of the ship is William Bligh, and his First Officer is Fletcher Christian. The *Bounty* is not a happy ship. Bligh is a hard man, and his officers and his men do not like him. They are angry and afraid – afraid of more long months at sea. It takes a year to sail home to England . . . a year of Captain Bligh.

They begin to talk quietly . . . Why not stay here in Tahiti, with its blue skies and its friendly people? Why do we need a captain? Why not put Captain Bligh in the ship's boat and send him home to England in that?

But the punishment for mutiny is death . . .



OXFORD BOOKWORMS LIBRARY

True Stories

Mutiny on the Bounty

Stage 1 (400 headwords)



Series Editor: Jennifer Bassett
Founder Editor: Tricia Hedge
Activities Editors: Jennifer Bassett and Alison Baxter

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

TIM VICARY

Mutiny on the Bounty


OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,
and education by publishing worldwide in

Oxford New York

Auckland Bangkok Buenos Aires Cape Town Chennai
Dar es Salaam Delhi Hong Kong Istanbul Karachi Kolkata
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Mumbai Nairobi
São Paulo Shanghai Taipei Tokyo Toronto

Oxford and Oxford English are registered trade marks of
Oxford University Press in the UK and in certain other countries

ISBN 0 19 422949 1

© Oxford University Press 2000

Fourth impression 2003

First published in Oxford Bookworms 1994

This second edition published in the Oxford Bookworms Library 2000

No unauthorized photocopying

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any
means, without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University
Press, or as expressly permitted by law, or under terms agreed
with the appropriate reprographics rights organization. Enquiries
concerning reproduction outside the scope of the above should
be sent to the ELT Rights Department, Oxford University Press,
at the address above

You must not circulate this book in any other binding or cover
and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer

Photographs used in this book are taken from
the motion picture *The Bounty*, starring Mel Gibson,
Anthony Hopkins, and Sir Laurence Olivier, and appear
courtesy of Paradise Films Inc, copyright 1984. All rights reserved.

Map on pp 28–29 by William Rowsell / The Garden Studio

Typeset by Wyvern Typesetting Ltd, Bristol
Printed in Spain by Unigraf s.l.

CONTENTS

STORY INTRODUCTION	i
1 From England to Tahiti	1
2 Mutiny!	9
3 In the launch	15
4 The Pandora	24
5 Death, life, and Thursday	32
Map	28
GLOSSARY	40
ACTIVITIES: Before Reading	44
ACTIVITIES: While Reading	45
ACTIVITIES: After Reading	48
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	52
ABOUT BOOKWORMS	53

1

From England to Tahiti

It was a cold day in December, 1787. There was a strong wind and a green sea. Three men and a boy stood on the deck of the little ship, *HMS Bounty*. Behind them, on the land, were some hills and small white houses. The ship moved slowly out to sea.

The boy, Peter Heywood, was fourteen years old. He was a young officer, and he was happy and excited.

'England looks very small, Mr Christian,' he said.

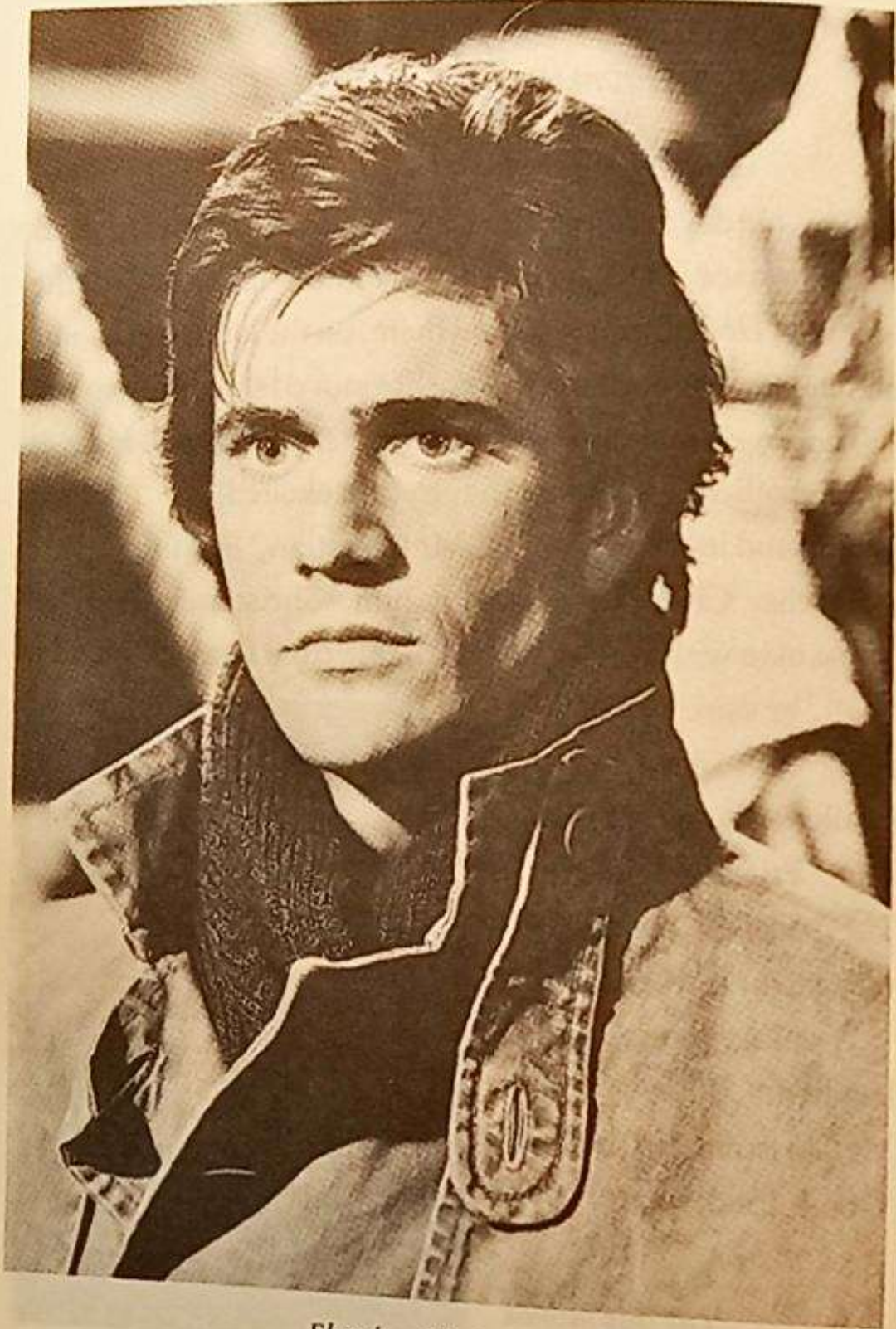
Fletcher Christian smiled at him. Christian was a tall young man with black hair and a long tired face. 'England is small,' he said. 'But we're going to some much smaller islands. Tahiti. The Friendly Islands. They're small, but they're very warm and beautiful.'

A sailor, John Adams, laughed. 'That's right, Mr Christian, sir,' he said. 'Good food, warm sun,



The ship moved slowly out to sea.

Mutiny on the Bounty



Fletcher Christian

blue skies – and hot, beautiful women, too! I want—’

‘Be quiet, man!’ someone shouted. Christian and Heywood looked behind them. They saw the captain, William Bligh. He was a small man with brown hair. Christian knew Bligh well; they were friends. But Bligh was a captain now, so things were different. The *Bounty* was his first ship, and it was very important to him.

‘Don’t talk about women on my ship, Adams!’ he said angrily. ‘Be quiet, and sail this ship! Do you hear?’

‘Yes, sir,’ said Adams quietly.

‘Now, listen to me, Mr Christian. And you, too, Mr Heywood.’ Bligh stood very near them, but he didn’t speak quietly. All the sailors could hear him. ‘I’m the captain of this ship – remember that! We’re going thirty thousand kilometres through bad weather and very bad seas, and I don’t want any accidents. You are officers, so you don’t talk to sailors about women or drink, or anything! You must work hard, and your sailors must work hard, too. Do you understand me, Mr Christian?’

‘Yes, sir,’ said Christian. But he didn’t look happy.

‘Good. And you, Mr Heywood?’

‘Yes, sir.’ The boy looked at Bligh, afraid. Then Bligh smiled.

‘Is this your first time at sea, boy?’

‘Yes, sir.’

‘Well, you must work hard, and listen to me. One day,

Under the Moon

ROWENA AKINYEMI

It is the year 2522, and the planet Earth is dying. The Artificial Ozone Layer is only 300 years old, but it is breaking up fast. Now the sun is burning down on Earth with a white fire. There is no water. Without water, nothing can live. Trees die, plants die, animals die, people die . . .

In a colony under the moon, people wait for news – news from home, news from the planet Earth. And in a spaceship high above Earth, a young man watches numbers on a computer screen. The numbers tell a story, and the young man is afraid.

The planet Earth is burning, burning, burning . . .

Robinson Crusoe

DANIEL DEFOE

Retold by Diane Mowat

'I often walked along the shore, and one day I saw something in the sand. I went over to look at it more carefully . . . It was a footprint – the footprint of a man!'

In 1659 Robinson Crusoe was shipwrecked on a small island off the coast of South America. After fifteen years alone, he suddenly learns that there is another person on the island. But will this man be a friend – or an enemy?