

Mistress and Commander

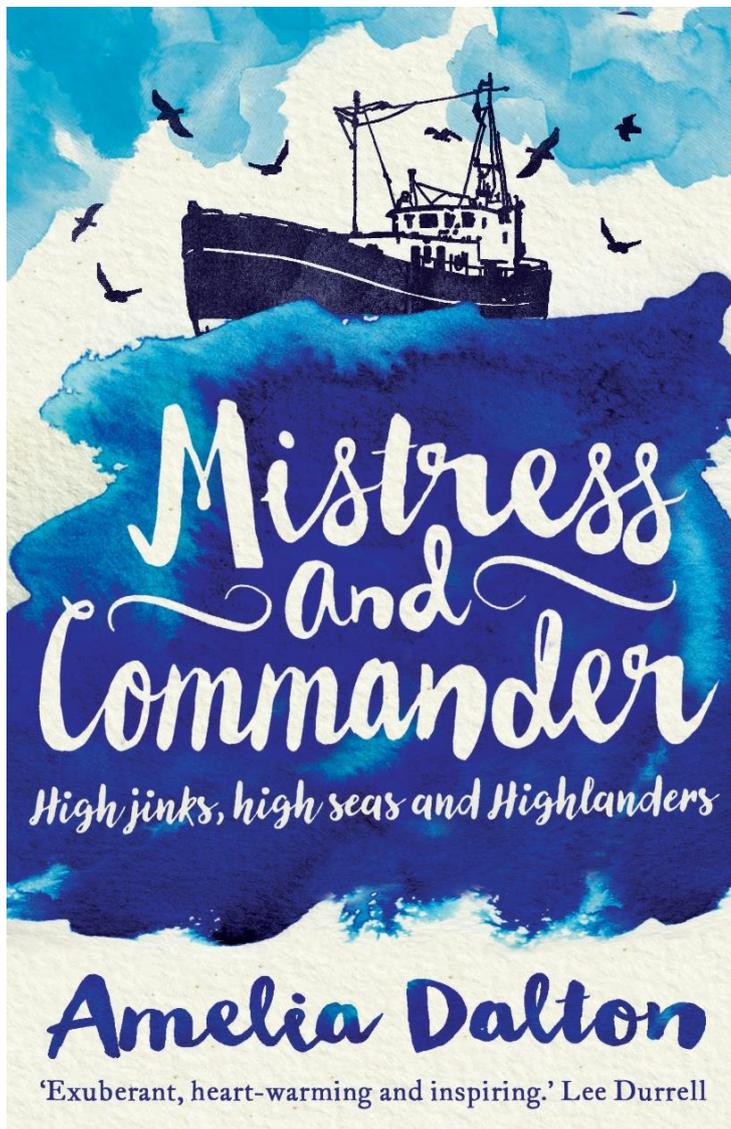
is a story of characters: the character of the boat, her skippers, surveyors, repairers, passengers, engineers, rivals, marine officials and owner. All of them men. Except the owner, Amelia Dalton. She was the men's employer, competitor, boss, client, hostess and pupil.

Today her experiences would be read as a feminist text; for Amelia they were just something to be got on with at the time. The fact that she was female and just about everyone else in her world happened to be male was irrelevant. For the rest of us it makes her achievements all the more extraordinary. If there was a glass ceiling in the world of shipping in Scotland in the 1990s, Amelia either didn't notice it or left it in smithereens.

"My encounters with Amelia Dalton have been mostly on the high seas near places like Madagascar, Borneo and Venezuela, where she has proven time and again her ingenuity, resilience and courage. Now I know how this mix of attributes came to reside in one extraordinary person."

Mistress and Commander is exuberant, heart-warming and inspiring, a captivating read."

Lee Durrell, Durrell Wildlife.



"Imagine A Year in Provence with the cast of Para Handy; add a touch of James Herriot, and you'll get the drift of Mistress and Commander. Imagine Freya Stark, or some other dauntless female, taking on the alpha male communities of maritime Scotland and you'll have the measure of Amelia Dalton."

Peter Hughes, Telegraph & FT travel writer.

The true story of how Amelia fell out love with her safe, predictable county life of grouse moors, hunt balls and starchy Yorkshire society and was thrown into a world of suspicious chauvinistic fishermen after the unexpected death of her second son. It began as a love affair with the sea, a roguish sea dog, uninhabited islands and a boat.

Unexpectedly becoming a battle to pay back loans and appease shareholders whilst running the ship's engines. Amelia had to charm her way through bureaucratic red tape, overseeing shipyards, engineers and industrial tribunals whilst escaping the lascivious desires of her irascible crew.

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From abandoned trawler to chic expedition ship

