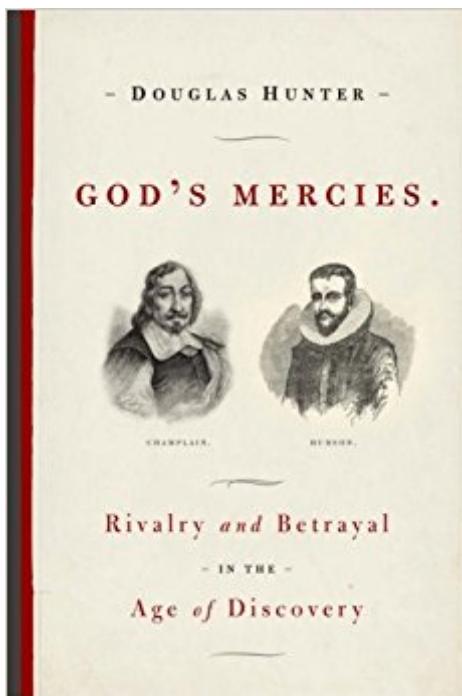


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# God's Mercies: Rivalry, Betrayal, And The Dream Of Discovery



## Synopsis

From acclaimed author Douglas Hunter, a searing historical work about death, deceit and dishonour, and the rivalry between Samuel de Champlain and Henry Hudson—two of the greatest explorers of the seventeenth century. Samuel de Champlain of France and Englishman Henry Hudson were rival explorers in a race to describe and exploit the northern half of North America and, not least, to find a profitable passage to the Orient. The English had been trying to find a way through the Arctic since the 1570s. For Hudson, the dream of discovery proved fatal. A mutiny in the summer of 1611 saw Hudson, his teenage son John, and seven other crew members cast adrift in James Bay in an open boat. They were never heard from again. In May 1613, Samuel de Champlain left the site of present-day Montreal on a journey up the Ottawa River into uncharted territory. Champlain had undertaken the expedition because of extraordinary testimony from a young informant, Nicolas de Vignau, who had spent 1611-12 with the Algonquin and returned to France with an incredible story: He had visited the Northern Sea. What's more, he had seen an English youth, the sole survivor of a shipwreck, held captive by the Nebicerini people as a gift for Champlain. To rescue both the English youth and his own career, Champlain set out to collect him. God's Mercies has all the elements of a great adventure mystery: a mutiny, a massacre, a murder trial, signed confessions, and intrigue at the highest levels of state. Truths would be revealed as lies, and lies would turn out to be half-truths.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A page-turner . . . God's Mercies is entertaining, enlightening, and significant:

Bravo!"—The Globe and Mail "A work that combines scholarly rigour and fresh insight...a

riveting account."Ã¢â€œLiterary Review of Canada"Hunter writes with the kind of vividness that makes you want to pull the blankets closer. . . . A first-rate adventure story."Ã¢â€œCalgary Herald"Hunter knows how to construct a dramatic narrativeÃ¢â€œ. ItÃ¢â€œs tough to marry historical scholarship and entertainment. Part of the challenge is to provide just the right level of detail for average readers while faithfully hewing to the historical record. But Hunter gets the balance just right as he plows through the historical evidence and pulls pieces of the puzzle together. Adventures in Canadian history donÃ¢â€œt come much better than this."Ã¢â€œWinnipeg Free Press"Let Douglas Hunter join the ranks of Canada's greatest explorers. His journey into the lives and curiously intertwined fates of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain is the stuff of great adventure and evenÃ¢â€œ new discovery. There's enough wind in this writer's sails to carry the reader effortlessly through the EuropeanÃ¢â€œ foundingÃ¢â€œ or perhaps we should say invasionÃ¢â€œ of the land we now call Canada. A grand achievement indeed."Ã¢â€œRoy MacGregor, author of *Canadians: Portrait of a Country and Its People*

Douglas Hunter has written widely on business, history, and sport. His previous books include *War Games*, *Molson: The Birth of a Business Empire* and *The Bubble and the Bear: How Nortel Burst the Canadian Dream*, which won the National Business Book Award.

I kept on reading and reading. Has a good, clear analysis of the trial of the mutineers. Learned a lot about both Hudson and Champlain.

I noticed a little mistake Hunter made within the first few paragraphs. He states that the ship from Hull that Jonas Poole encountered off Spitsbergen was named the "Marmaduke". It was in fact named the "Hopewell", its master being one Thomas Marmaduke. Note that this review will be helpful to few if any people, like most (all) of my nitpicking reviews. Cheers!

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