

## The Pirates Wife: The Remarkable True Story of Sarah Kidd

By: Daphne Palmer Geanacopoulos

**About the book:** *The Pirate's Wife: The Remarkable True Story of Sarah Kidd* by Daphne Palmer Geanacopoulos is a narrative nonfiction book that tells the life story of Sarah Kidd, wife of the infamous Captain William Kidd, focusing on her journey from a New York socialite to a woman navigating the perils of piracy, using newly discovered primary sources to reveal her resilience, intelligence, and fight against a corrupt system. The book details her life before and during her marriage to Captain Kidd, her efforts to save him, and her life after his execution, challenging pirate myths and highlighting her as a resourceful figure in her own right.

**About the Author:** Daphne Palmer Geanacopoulos is an author, historian and journalist. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and other publications. She earned a Doctor of Liberal Studies degree from Georgetown University, with an emphasis in Maritime History.

### People:

- **Sarah (Bradley) Kidd:** English-born, thrice-widowed New York socialite who acted as a merchant, helped hide her husband's treasures, and navigated his trial.
- **Captain William Kidd:** A Scottish sailor, privateer, and alleged pirate executed in 1701.
- **Samuel Jr:** Sarah's youngest brother accompanied William on his voyage as a pirate hunter. Contracted illness and was let off on an island to recover.
- **Elizabeth Morris:** Maid to the Kidd family. Who took care of the Kidd children when Sarah and William were both arrested.
- **Robert Livingston:** Kidd's primary investor and supporter.
- **Lord Bellomont:** Captain general of New York. Worked under the King to get rid of pirates and worked with Kidd with mutual advantage. Was ultimately one of the ones to sentence Kidd to death for piracy.
- **William Moore:** The crewman of Kidd's who was murdered by Kidd.
- **William Cox:** Sarah's first husband whom she married at 15. Cox is where Sarah got most of her wealth from, as well as her knowledge of business and other industry knowledge.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How does Sarah Kidd evolve throughout the story? What experiences shape her the most?
2. In what ways does Sarah challenge or conform to the expectations of women in the 18th century?
3. What is your impression of Captain William Kidd? Do you view him as a villain, a victim, or something in between?

4. How does the book portray the role of women in colonial society? What limitations did Sarah face?
5. What does the story reveal about marriage, loyalty, and survival during this time period?
6. How does the author balance historical fact with storytelling? Did anything surprise you about the realities of piracy and colonial life?
7. What role does reputation play in the book, especially regarding accusations of piracy?
8. Do you think Sarah Kidd was complicit in her husband's actions, or was she unfairly punished? Why?
9. How does the book challenge the traditional narrative of pirates and their families?
10. Were the legal proceedings against William Kidd—and their impact on Sarah—justified based on what you read?
11. How effective is the author's use of historical detail in bringing the story to life?
12. Did you find the pacing and structure engaging? Why or why not?
13. How does the author create empathy for Sarah Kidd?
14. What aspect of Sarah's story resonated with you the most?
15. If you were in Sarah's position, how might you have handled the challenges she faced?
16. What lessons about resilience or justice can modern readers take from this story?
17. How does this book compare to other historical biographies or narratives you've read?
18. What misconceptions about piracy or colonial life did this book change for you?
19. Was there anything in the story that particularly surprised you, either in a good or bad way? What about it made it so surprising?
20. What are some themes in this story? Were there any that stood out to you?
21. What were your favorite parts of the book? Your least favorite parts?
22. What is the difference between a privateer and a pirate?
23. What was the legal status of married women in the seventeenth and eighteenth century?
24. Did you learn something new from reading *The Pirate's Wife: The Remarkable True Story of Sarah Kidd*? If so, what?
25. Did Sarah ever reveal where Captain Kidd's treasure was buried?

**Read Alike:**

- **Mutinous Women: How French Convicts Became Founding Mothers of the Gulf Coast**  
By: Joan E. DeJean

- The Zorg: a Tale of greed and murder that inspired the abolition of slavery By: Siddharth Kara
- Anne Bonny : pirate queen of the Caribbean by Christina Leaf