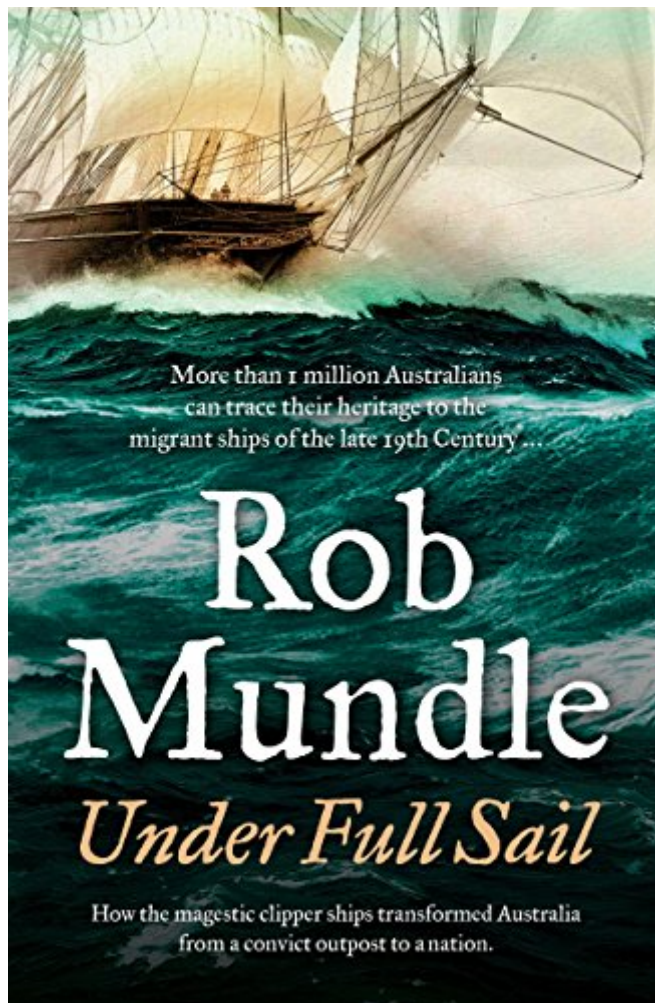




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Under Full Sail



Synopsis

How the mighty clipper ships transformed Australia from convict outpost to a nation. More than one million Australians can trace their heritage to the migrant ships of the mid-to-late 19th century... The story of the Clipper ships, and the tens of thousands of migrants they brought to the Australian colony of the nineteenth century, is one of the world's great migration stories. For anyone who travelled to Australia before 1850, it was a long and arduous journey that could take as much as four months. With the arrival of the clipper ships, and favourable winds, the journey from England could be done in a little over half this time. It was a revolution in travel that made the clipper ships the jet airlines of their day, bringing keen and willing migrants 'down under' in record time, all hell-bent on making their fortune in Australia. Rob Mundle is back on the water, with a ripping story that starts on the sea, aboard a clipper ship charging across the Southern Ocean, laden with passengers heading for Melbourne in response to the lure of gold. Brimming with countless stories of the magnificent ships and fearless (and feckless) characters we find on them, like Englishman "Bully" Forbes and American "Bully" Waterman driving their ships to the limit and the tragic legacy of the many shipwrecks that were so much a part of this era.

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Customer Reviews

This is a magnificent book for those who love seafaring tales. It is a beautifully written history of the mighty clipper ships that carried immigrants to the U.S. for the California gold rush and then to the Australian gold fields for the Australian rush, helping to populate the new land. Mundle describes the development of these ships carrying clouds of sail across the oceans, and their role in migration and commerce, the triumphs and tragedies. They were the peak of sailing ship development, the equivalent of today's jet liners, and their captains were the equivalent of today's jet airliner captains. Sometimes, the hubris of those captains led to tragedy, claiming the lives of hundreds.

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