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Scurvy: How a Surgeon, a Mariner, and a Gentleman Solved the Greatest Medical Mystery of the Age of Sail

Stephen R. Bown

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Stephen R. Bown : Scurvy: How a Surgeon, a Mariner, and a Gentleman Solved the Greatest Medical Mystery of the Age of Sail before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scurvy: How a Surgeon, a Mariner, and a Gentleman Solved the Greatest Medical Mystery of the Age of Sail:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Rare KnowledgeBy 1R5Contains a great deal of medical and nautical history in a very palatable format...The hideous conditions on sailing ships (not the halcyon noble existence suggested by majestic artwork). Entire fleets lost to disease. How cures were found then lost to social, scientific, and political hierarchy. History not on History Channel or in general curricula. History you won't find elsewhere unless you are specifically a student of nautical history and medical science of the era...very interesting and informative read or listen...2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, detailed, informative medical case study.By William R. ToddmanThis is an informative, interesting history of scurry's discovery and treatment. The "discovery" of vitamin C as both a prophylactic and cure is clearly explained. As such, it is an excellent teaching aid for those interested in learningabout and teaching scientific methods. The control and experimental conditions (ships on which vitamin C was not madeavailable vs. those on which C was available) are memorable and accurate. Moreover, the narration is clear, varied, and entertaining. Overall, an excellent audiobook.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting subject and pretty good book.By Charles HallThis is a perfectly adequate audio

book. I think if I were reading a paper copy I might have skimmed over a few sections, but as an audio book it's fine. The history of survey and the associated politics in the Royal Navy is pretty amazing stuff. If you're at all interested in naval history, you'll enjoy this. The downside is the guy reading the book is just OK, and the text can get pretty repetitious. For example, the symptoms of scurvy are described in detail a zillion times.

Book by Bown, Stephen R.

From AudioFile During the eighteenth century, medicine had advanced little from the Dark Ages; there were few cures for anything. Bown's fascinating biography of that maritime age tells of two doctors and Captain James Cook—all sailing against prevailing winds—and how their contributions led to a cure for a common mariners-disease of the time, scurvy. The name of the preventive and remedy—ascorbic acid—comes from the outdated word "antiscorbutic." With the voice of a storyteller, Dan Cashman tells of the unsanitary conditions of life at sea; details such as weevils in sailors' biscuits and corpses stored in French ships' bilges abound. To humorous advantage, Cashman uses the same foreign accent for all languages, including his Napoleonic quotes. J.A.H. copy; AudioFile 2004, Portland, Maine-- Copyright copy; AudioFile, Portland, Maine