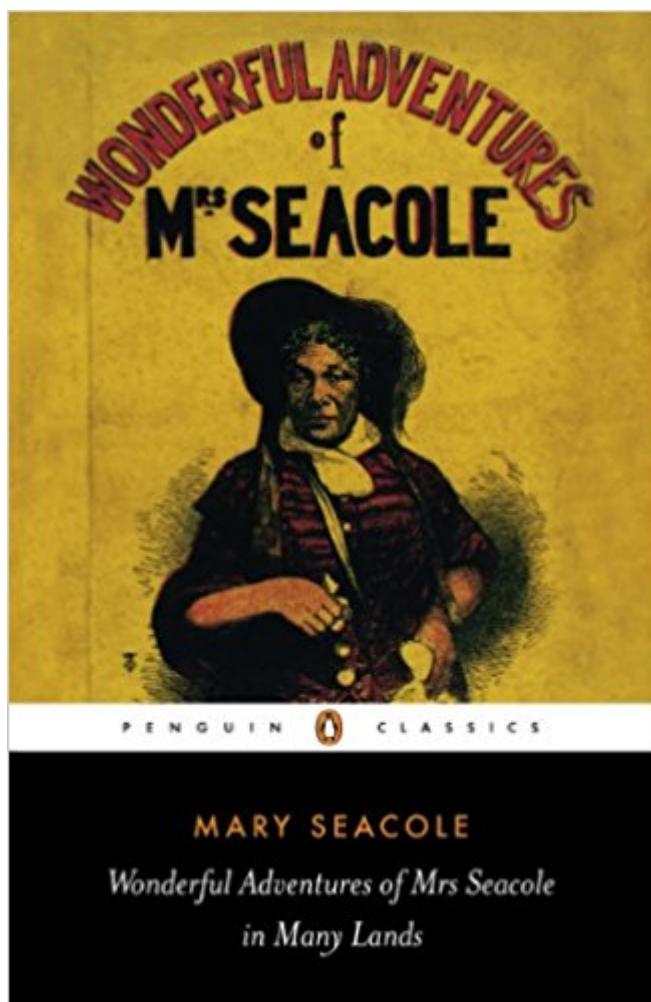


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# Wonderful Adventures Of Mrs Seacole In Many Lands (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

Written in 1857, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands* is the autobiography of a Jamaican woman whose fame rivaled Florence Nightingale's during the Crimean War. Seacole traveled widely before arriving in London, where her offer to volunteer as a nurse in the war was met with racism and refusal. Undaunted, she set out independently to the Crimea, where she acted as doctor and nurse to wounded soldiers while running her business, the 'British Hotel'. Told with energy, warmth, and humor, her remarkable life story and accounts of hardships at the battlefield offer significant insights into the history of race politics. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mary Seacole (1805-1881) was born in Jamaica. She was decorated for her work in the Crimea, which helped open up the medical professions to women.

Interesting book

Very interesting book about a very interesting lady.

We all know Florence Nightingale, but what about Mrs. Seacole, the Creole nurse who also served the wounded and dying in the Crimean War? Mrs. Seacole was born in Jamaica in 1805, half black, half Scottish, and equally proud of both bloodlines. She learned Creole medicine from her "doctress" mother. During some of her adventures in lawless Panama, she became adept at tending knife and gunshot wounds. Hearing of the miserable conditions among the wounded in the Crimean War, she longed to help. Florence Nightingale, however, refused to accept the brown-skinned Mrs. Seacole as a nurse, despite her ideal qualifications. And so Mrs. Seacole sponsored herself, setting up a combination shop and restaurant near the siege grounds of Sevastopol and dividing her time between business and the battlefield. An upbeat narrator full of fascinating anecdotes, Mrs. Seacole is humorous, motherly and audacious by turns. An inveterate traveler to dangerous places, she never ceases to amaze us with her entrepreneurial chutzpah and her passion for healing. This complex woman was too colorful a personality to be defined by her color. She simply refused to be daunted by the deep racism of society. To read her autobiography is to feel very close to her. Mrs. Seacole was a charmer as well as a great humanitarian, and it's easy to see why she was so beloved by the sick and wounded and the soldiers who saw her in action. The Wonderful Adventures make wonderful reading, but more importantly, the book presents us with a heroine who has been strangely eclipsed by Florence Nightingale, yet deserves to be just as famous. The introduction is also an excellent read and gives background on the Crimean War that I sorely needed, not being up on history. Highly recommended!

A refreshingly different perspective on the Crimean war, Mary Seacole tells of her exploits as a nurse and inn-keeper on the embattled peninsula. Seacole has a witty, charming way with words and despite her bravery and tireless efforts remains humble throughout. Her fetishization of British troops would be troubling (I don't think you meet any British soldier that is less than honorable and brave in this book), but for the revelation that she equally took care of the Russian wounded whenever possible. Short, self-effacing, funny and sweet, Wonderful Adventures is recommended for history buffs who like the occasional different view on oft-described events.

Mary Seacole's reputation after the Crimean War certainly rivalled that of her counterpart Florence Nightingale but for a very long time she was a forgotten footnote in history, and this probably had a lot to do with the fact she was not a white middle class woman, but was instead the offspring of two

races, that of a Scottish father and a black Jamaican mother. She was a born healer and a woman of tremendous energy, she overcame official indifference and racial prejudice as she strove to prove her worth as a Nurse on par with Nightingale herself. Seacole got herself out to the war by her own efforts and at her own expense, she risked her life to bring comfort to the wounded and dying soldiers; and became one of the first black woman to make a mark on British public life. But while Florence Nightingale has gone down in history, Mary Seacole was relegated to obscurity until very recently. This book tells her story in her own words, of her travels, her experiences, her life as a woman in colour living in a time of bigotry, prejudice and racial hatred. It's a fantastic book and brings to life in its many pages a woman of courage and moral conviction that what she was doing with her life was the right thing to do. To me Mary Seacole optimises the Crimean War in a way that Nightingale never can. A book worthy to be read in schools in the way that Anne Frank is read even now in the 21st century.

We have below numerous comments some praising some belittling..and yes you read her Autobiography and wonder fact or fiction that is until you discover and read her will..The big mistake is making her out to be a black hero..she never considered herself black..she was brought up and lived with the Henriques family both here and Jamaica ..she was a member of the family (in the wider sense) Amos in London was a top surgeon then homeopath..So first get out of your head a black mama figure from the plantation, she was educated and lived with people. who were wealthy..read the willThe life she led was remarkable for any person let alone a woman..

An amazing story of an equally amazing woman. Mary travels to many continents, sometimes during war to offer her nursing/healing skills to those most in need. Although Mary encounters obstacles in getting to where she can be of help, she always manages to persevere and succeed and is able to use the talents and skills she is so eager to share.

This is the companion volume to Lady Nugent's Journal as every story has two sides, especially that of Jamaica and its women. Here is the lady whose practices formed the basis of Florence Nightingale's fame. Florence heard of Mary's protocols for fighting pestilences of the day and they made Florence famous but she wouldn't employ Mary. Mary's spirit remains alive in Jamaican women who continue to innovate to survive. Another indispensable book to historians of the Americas and women. This book, the Dictionary of Jamaican English and Lady Nugent's Journal sit side by side as prizes on my shelf. Shub Down & Small-up Yuself! Diaries of Jamaica by BusThe

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