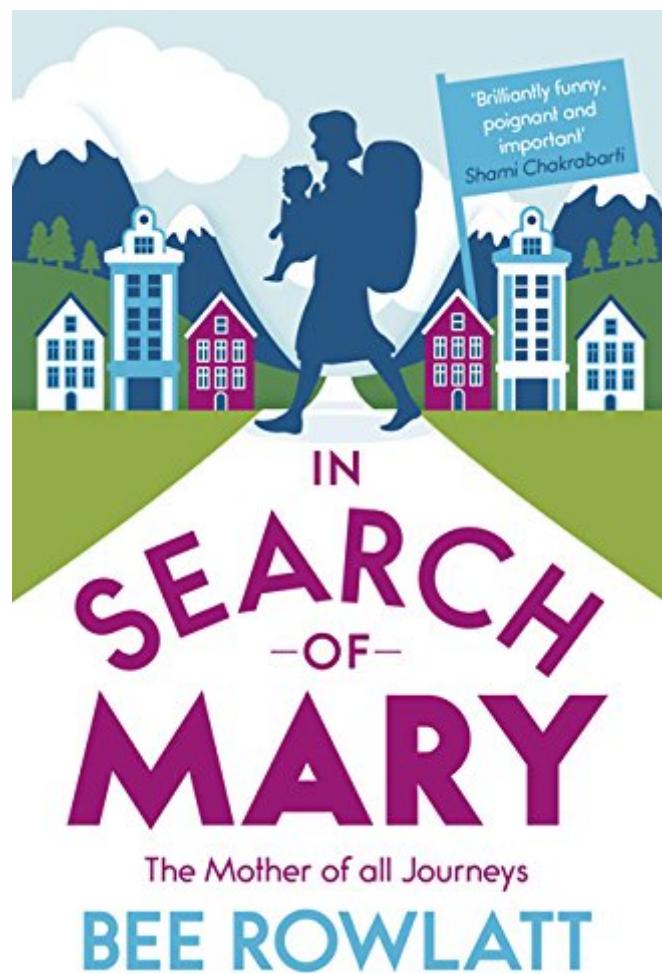


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In Search Of Mary: The Mother Of All Journeys



Synopsis

Toddler in tow, Bee Rowlatt embarks on an extraordinary journey in search of the life and legacy of the first celebrity feminist: Mary Wollstonecraft. From the wild coasts of Norway to a naked re-birthing in California, via the blood-soaked streets of revolutionary Paris, Bee learns what drove her hero on and what's been won and lost over the centuries in the battle for equality. On this biographical treasure hunt she finds herself consulting a witch, a porn star, a quiet Norwegian archivist and the tenants of a blighted council estate in Leeds — getting much more than she bargained for. In her quest to find a new balance between careers and babies, Bee also discovers the importance of celebrating the radiant power of love in all our lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a book about following in the footsteps of the mother of feminism, Mary Wollstonecraft, who is most remembered today for her publication of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. But she did much more than write this history changing book. She traveled with her maid and baby and yes, without a male escort, unheard of at the time. She is a woman to be admired in many ways. Bee

Rowlatt decides to follow in her footsteps by taking her youngest child, a toddler, with her and go to all the place Wollstonecraft went. She goes first to Scandavania, just as Wollstonecraft did, although Rowlatt is not in pursuit of lost silver (treasure hunt). She meets some interesting people along the way and gets a little taste of what Wollstonecraft went through. Then Rowlatt heads to Paris where she lives in much better circumstances than Wollstonecraft did. Wollstonecraft was in Paris during the Revolution and was constantly under threat of jail or worse, but Rowlatt does not let us forget this. Wollstonecraft wanted to go to the States to meet women there who were causing their own revolution but never made it. Rowlatt; however, does and meets up with a witch and a porn star. Rowlatt writes an interesting and charming version of Wollstonecraft's travels and gives us a 21st century view of the famous feminist. She further shows us that Wollstonecraft still has much to teach us. This is a delightful and enlightening book which I highly recommend.

Bee Rowlatt is a gifted young author, a mother with a passion for life, and a love of the incredible Mary Wollstonecraft, feminist of the late 1700s. Bee magically makes history alive, as she retraces Mary's journey through Norway, Sweden, and onto France. Wollstonecraft is not simply a sepia photograph of a severe looking woman. She spent her short life confronting inequality in her time, and we readers see in Bee and her toddler son who accompanies her that the feminist struggle is still raging in many settings. Bee will cause you to laugh, cry, shake your head in disbelief. And the quirky people she meets range from the smitten male collector of all things Mary, through the street women, and the new-age eco-sexual set. I was impressed and inspired when Bee reads "the rest of the book" and learns about her hero and about herself. She returns home stronger and more gifted in her communication. This is an author to watch and enjoy. Bravo!

A meticulously researched, thoughtful, thought-provoking, and often hilarious account of an amazing woman and the relevance of her work and life on our work and life today. Mary Wollstonecraft, as recounted by Bee Rowlatt, is eminently accessible and this book led me to digging up my college notes where I had been lucky enough to read Wollstonecraft but had clearly failed to fully grasp her depth.

IN SEARCH OF MARY is nearly as moving, inspiring, intellectually stimulating, and hard to categorize as Mary Wollstonecraft herself. As a biography, IN SEARCH OF MARY is a lively introduction to the great (and greatly under-appreciated) feminist, Mary Wollstonecraft. As a travelogue, it is a fabulously entertaining account of author Bee Rowlatt's journeys

with her toddler son as she seeks insights about Wollstonecraft, feminism, motherhood, and other gender-loaded questions from Norwegian sea captains, Parisian academics, Californian porn stars. As an extended essay, IN SEARCH OF MARY is an utterly readable examination of such complex subjects as the pleasures and perils of travel, the causes and consequences of revolution, the challenges of women's work in all its various guises, the impact of class and culture on women's issues, the ephemerality of life, and the enduring nature of love.

This was our book club pick for September. It wasn't worth the time spent reading it. None of us enjoyed it. Still can't figure out why I care about the characters experience. Very odd book.

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