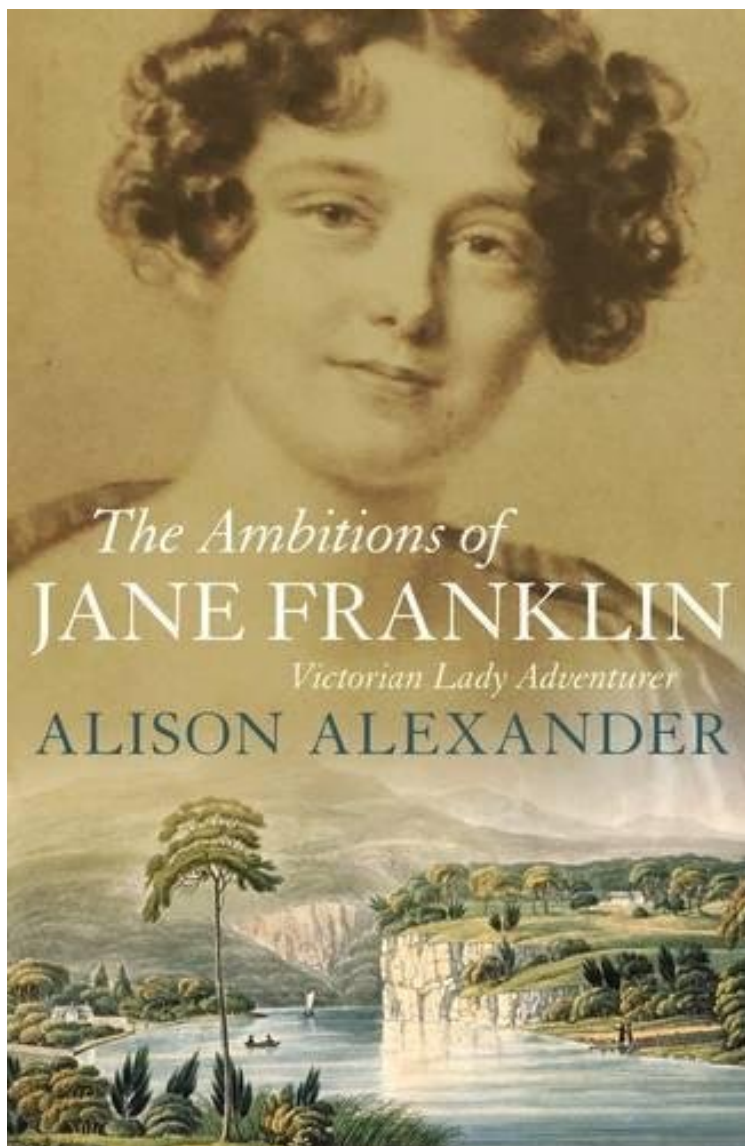


(Pdf free) The Ambitions of Jane Franklin: Victorian Lady Adventurer

The Ambitions of Jane Franklin: Victorian Lady Adventurer

Alison Alexander

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Alison Alexander : The Ambitions of Jane Franklin: Victorian Lady Adventurer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ambitions of Jane Franklin: Victorian Lady Adventurer:

0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Ambitions Of Jane FranklinBy BOWYANGThis book gives an insight to the early history of Tasmania.Jane was very influential in the affairs of government and exercised considerable power, which is unusual for that time in history.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An

exceptionally well written and useful biography of Jane Franklin. By Beth Camp I enjoyed reading this biography of Jane Franklin because in so many different ways, I felt this book clarified who Lady Franklin was through letters, careful research, and reconstruction of her life. The book clearly describes her childhood, her early, rather adventurous and intrepid travels, her late-in-life marriage to Arctic explorer Sir John Franklin, and, of most interest to me, her subsequent sojourn in Van Diemens Land (current Tasmania) during his governorship there. Despite the considerable research that underpins this biography and a consistently even-handed style, the book is quite readable and brings an accurate picture of Lady Franklin to life very effectively. Through snippets from her surviving letters and journals, for example, we learn of Lady Franklin's anguish and private misgivings about how she could best support her husband, a genial and deeply religious man, who most agree lacked the political skills to navigate the rough-and-tumble politics of colonial Van Diemens Land. Alexander's retelling of the political infighting that led ultimately to Franklin's recall clarifies the different groups who supported and opposed Sir John without editorializing. Alexander suggests that those newspapers that criticized Lady Franklin's meddling do not accurately reflect how the Franklins were regarded and what they achieved in Van Diemens Land. In the Victorian Era, Alexander points out such women of a certain class were expected to stay home and embroider, to ornament their husbands' careers. They might help out, in this age before photocopying, to copy out documents. Lady Franklin did copy such documents, but she also critiqued them, suggested editing changes, and lobbied for the good of the colony. Lady Franklin was too independent, too worldly, too well educated, and passionate about her interests, to submerge herself into a submissive role. But Lady Franklin had flaws as well. She was flirtatious, demanding, and very aware of class distinctions (and enforced them). She can't have been easy to live with; yet, despite her bouts with ill health, she inspired those around her with her generosity and perseverance. She was outraged and humiliated by public criticism. The picture that emerges from *The Ambitions of Jane Franklin* is of an indomitable, almost driven woman, one much larger than history recognizes. If you are drawn to history about the Victorian Era, women's lives in general (and Lady Jane Franklin, in particular), or the colonial period in Australian history, this is a remarkable, well-researched and written resource. I'm now on my second read through.

A genius at publicity before the term existed, Jane Franklin was a celebrity in the mid-19th century. Her remarkable life included extensive travels, years as a governor's wife, and a public battle to save her husband from accusations of cannibalism. In a period when most ladies sat at home with their embroidery, Jane Franklin achieved fame throughout the western world, and was probably the best traveled woman of her day. This biography traces her life from her birth in late 18th-century London, to her marriage at the age of 36, to her many trips to far-flung locations, including Russia, the Holy Land, northern Africa, America, and Australia. Once Jane Franklin married Sir John Franklin, her original ambition to live life to the full was joined by an equally ardent desire to make her kind and mild husband a success. Arriving in Tasmania in 1837 when Sir John became governor, she swept like a whirlwind through the colony: attempting to rid the island of snakes; establishing a scientific society and the Hobart regatta; adopting an Aboriginal girl, and sending a kangaroo to Queen Victoria. She became the first white woman to travel overland from Melbourne to Sydney. When her husband disappeared in the Arctic on an expedition to discover the Northwest Passage, she badgered the Admiralty, the public, and even the President of the United States to fund trips to locate him, and then defended his reputation when remains of the expedition were located, and there were claims of cannibalism. Single-handedly she turned him from a failure into one of England's noblest heroes. She continued traveling well into her 70s and died at 84, refusing to take her medicine to the last.

In Alison Alexander, Jane Franklin has found a biographer as adroit and willing to explore obscure nooks and crannies as herself. *Arctic Book Shines* a bright light on the character of this remarkable woman. *Sydney Morning Herald* Even-handed and often wryly amusing. *Canberra Times* Alexander tells Lady Jane's story with a mixture of sophisticated analysis, personal insight and affectionate humour that penetrates much more deeply to the real woman. It holds the reader's fascinated attention to the end... It is likely to be the definitive study of Lady Jane Franklin for many years. *The Australian* About the Author Alison Alexander is a historian.