

4. At a time in history where women were thought to be less than equal to men (nearly 70 years before the Nineteenth Amendment would give women the right to vote), Mary Patten surely must have been frustrated by the limitations imposed on her by society. Does her husband also limit, or try to limit, Mary's actions and interests?
5. From the first chapters of the novel, Mary and Joshua appear to be very much in love. Does Joshua know Mary's inner strengths or does he see her merely as a charming wife?
6. What are the reasons for Keeler's actions on board Neptune's Car? Do his motivating intentions change after he learns of Joshua's infirmity?
7. How much credit is due Joshua for quelling Keeler's attempted mutiny? Do you think the outcome would have been different had Mary and 2nd Mate Timothy Hare had to face down Keeler alone?
8. Why does the rest of the crew side with Mary over Keeler?
9. How would you define the relationship forged between Mary Patten and second mate Timothy Hare? Does this relationship change over the course of the novel, and if so, how?
10. Is Mary Patten a feminist? Why or why not?

Author Bio

A native of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Douglas Kelley now makes his home just across the Oklahoma state line. From this landlocked base, a profession as a corporate pilot facilitated his travels to research this book of the sea. **The Captain's Wife** is his first novel.

Critical Praise

"[Kelley] makes a splendid contribution to recent literature."

The Captain's Wife

by Douglas Kelley

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