



The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe

Glynis Ridley

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe

Glynis Ridley

The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe Glynis Ridley

The year was 1765. Eminent botanist Philibert Commerson had just been appointed to a grand new expedition: the first French circumnavigation of the world. As the ships' official naturalist, Commerson would seek out resources—medicines, spices, timber, food—that could give the French an edge in the ever-accelerating race for empire.

Jeanne Baret, Commerson's young mistress and collaborator, was desperate not to be left behind. She disguised herself as a teenage boy and signed on as his assistant. The journey made the twenty-six-year-old, known to her shipmates as "Jean" rather than "Jeanne," the first woman to ever sail around the globe. Yet so little is known about this extraordinary woman, whose accomplishments were considered to be subversive, even impossible for someone of her sex and class.

When the ships made landfall and the secret lovers disembarked to explore, Baret carried heavy wooden field presses and bulky optical instruments over beaches and hills, impressing observers on the ships' decks with her obvious strength and stamina. Less obvious were the strips of linen wound tight around her upper body and the months she had spent perfecting her masculine disguise in the streets and marketplaces of Paris.

Expedition commander Louis-Antoine de Bougainville recorded in his journal that curious Tahitian natives exposed Baret as a woman, eighteen months into the voyage. But the true story, it turns out, is more complicated.

In *The Discovery of Jeanne Baret*, Glynis Ridley unravels the conflicting accounts recorded by Baret's crewmates to piece together the real story: how Baret's identity was in fact widely suspected within just a couple of weeks of embarking, and the painful consequences of those suspicions; the newly discovered notebook, written in Baret's own hand, that proves her scientific acumen; and the thousands of specimens she collected, most famously the showy vine bougainvillea.

Ridley also richly explores Baret's awkward, sometimes dangerous interactions with the men on the ship, including Baret's lover, the obsessive and sometimes prickly naturalist; a fashion-plate prince who, with his elaborate wigs and velvet garments, was often mistaken for a woman himself; the sour ship's surgeon, who despised Baret and Commerson; even a Tahitian islander who joined the expedition and asked Baret to show him how to behave like a Frenchman.

But the central character of this true story is Jeanne Baret herself, a working-class woman whose scientific contributions were quietly dismissed and written out of history—until now. Anchored in impeccable original research and bursting with unforgettable characters and exotic settings, *The Discovery of Jeanne Baret* offers this forgotten heroine a chance to bloom at long last.

From the Hardcover edition.

 **Download** [The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, ...pdf](#)

 **Read Online** [The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Scienc ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe Glynis Ridley

From reader reviews:

Terry Carr:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? E-book is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or maybe goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They can be reading whatever they have because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Why not the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book once they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will need this The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe.

Beverly McClendon:

The book The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe will bring you to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to study, this book very suitable to you. The book The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

James Fulk:

Reading a book for being new life style in this yr; every people loves to learn a book. When you learn a book you can get a large amount of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, mainly because book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your study, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, these us novel, comics, and also soon. The The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe provide you with a new experience in studying a book.

Mandy Jackson:

You may spend your free time to see this book this reserve. This The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe is simple to develop you can read it in the park your car, in the beach, train and also soon. If you did not have much space to bring the actual printed book, you can buy the actual e-book. It is make you much easier to read it. You can save typically the book in your smart phone. Therefore there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

Download and Read Online The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe Glynis Ridley #XI8NUPA6QJL

Read The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe by Glynis Ridley for online ebook

The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe by Glynis Ridley Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe by Glynis Ridley books to read online.

Online The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe by Glynis Ridley ebook PDF download

The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe by Glynis Ridley Doc

The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe by Glynis Ridley Mobipocket

The Discovery of Jeanne Baret: A Story of Science, the High Seas, and the First Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe by Glynis Ridley EPub