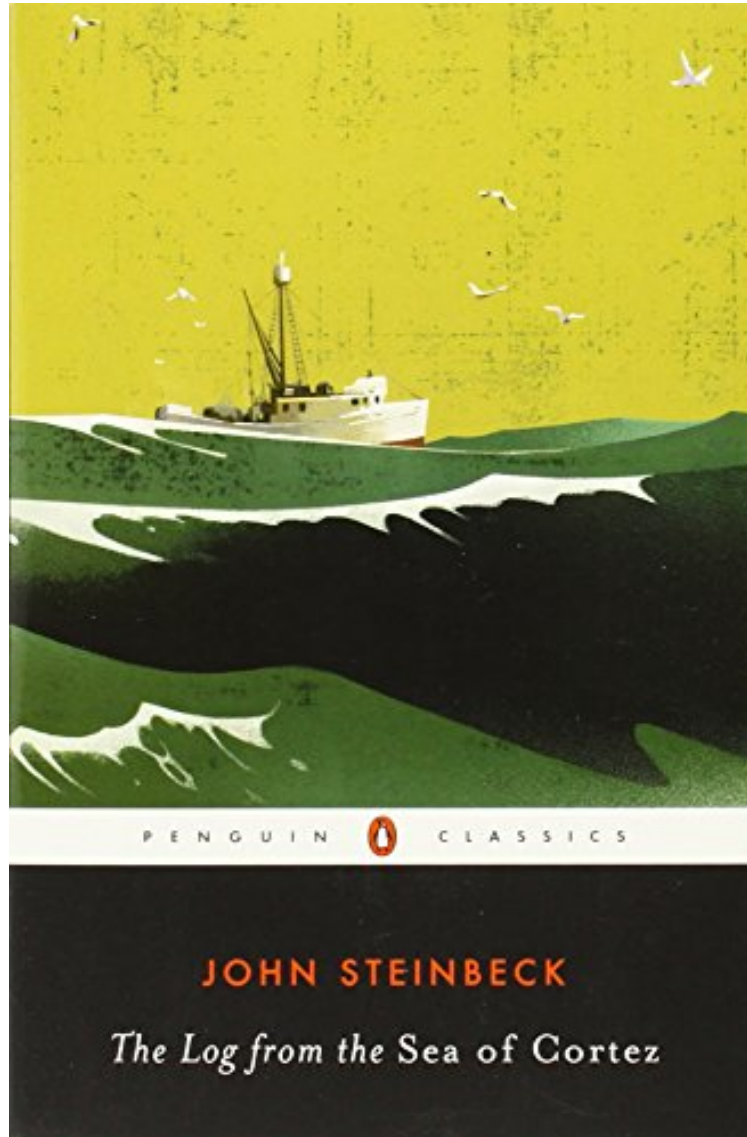


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The Log from the Sea of Cortez (Penguin Great Books of the 20th Century)

John Steinbeck

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John Steinbeck : The Log from the Sea of Cortez (Penguin Great Books of the 20th Century) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Log from the Sea of Cortez (Penguin Great Books of the 20th Century):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great book and the descriptions are totally accurate. And always

be nice to the Captain of the Port. By John J. Falkenstine In the nineties was I was in a remote area West of Puerto Penasco and the tide was in. Right off the beach the water was alive and solid with color. There were uncountable fish, small crabs and plants. So Steinbeck's descriptions were very correct and I was totally excited to find that the book I had read was so accurate. I have been to the Sea of Cortez many many times and always have a copy of the book with me. That visit to the tidal flat caused me to go back to Penasco that same day and I bought a complete snorkeling outfit. I also ended up booking a trip on a boat the next day and on my first dive found that the force of the tide and my swimming skills were "divergent". Despite having read it many times its still a good read, but what can make it more interesting is to read the book from the crew, in which they describe the difficulties with Steinbeck's wife and give a humorous angle on the whole trip as well. For those who like the book, take a trip to Mexico and go to more remote areas with a truck, a tent, cold beer and drinking water (this is a real desert). You will be stunned at the life in this Sea. You will also be surprised at how many smaller settlements will have a federal official-The Captain of the Port. Don't mess with him. He can take your boat away.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book gives you a very good insight to the type of man John Steinbeck was ... By Robert H. Bryngelson This book gives you a very good insight to the type of man John Steinbeck was as a youth and if you have read his works you can see the seeds for many of his books in this enjoyable read. Keep in mind this book is a quasi-log with a mixture of contributors (both human and scientific) who are investigating the marine life along the margins of the Sea of Cortez or the Gulf of Baja. John Steinbeck, favorite son of California and an earthy writer of the life and environs of California and Texas and with great emphasis on the San Joaquin Valley, will always be a favorite of mine. The one book that I think should be required reading for political science majors is his work "The Moon is Down". He wrote this book while he was a war correspondent in Europe. He shows how surviving and living in constant tolerance in the face of an oppressive conquer becomes manifested in a small village. And, he does it in a emotional moving and simple set of predictable milestones and events.

141 of 144 people found the following review helpful. First Rate By C. Ebeling John Steinbeck had a high interest in marine biology, one that helped forge an extraordinary friendship with Ed Ricketts in the 1930s. Ricketts, the model for Doc in CANNERY ROW, was a professional biologist living in Monterey. He proposed an exploration of the Gulf of California and in the spring of 1940 he and Steinbeck set sail on a rented boat with a colorful crew that should have suggested a sea novel along the lines of CANNERY ROW and TORTILLA FLAT. The original result from this trip was the book THE SEA OF CORTEZ, which included the "log" fashioned by Steinbeck and an extensive inventory of the scientific information collected. It was published in the fall of 1941 and promptly forgotten when Pearl Harbor was struck. A decade later, the scientific catalogue was removed and Steinbeck added another section, a moving and often hilarious appreciation of his friend Ed Ricketts. The title became THE LOG FROM THE SEA OF CORTEZ and that's what we have here. This is a great book for the beach, where I read it. It is filled with the imagery of a warm coastal area. It is several things, really: a book filled with the wonder and scientific knowledge of marine life, a how-to (and sometimes how-not-to) guide for collecting specimens, a travelogue that captures the wilderness communities of Baja California in its time, and an often hilarious account of staying amused at sea with the likes of a crew with names like Tony, Tex, Sparky and Tiny. Steinbeck also takes the occasion to explore his own philosophy as inspired by their studies. Especially interesting is his Easter Day entry, in which he defines and explores at length what he calls "teleological" and "non-teleological" thinking. He gives us much to think about, and does so in clear, fluent prose. If you pay close attention, you will see him forming the idea for what years later became THE PEARL. One caution: read the critical introduction AFTER enjoying the text. Like most introductions, it contains some spoilers and it also makes references that are better understood once one is familiar with the material it limns.

In the two years after the 1939 publication of Steinbeck's masterful *The Grapes of Wrath*, Steinbeck and his novel increasingly became the center of intense controversy and censorship. In search of a respite from the national stage, Steinbeck and his close friend, biologist Ed Ricketts, embarked on a month long marine specimen-collecting expedition in the Gulf of California, which resulted in their collaboration on the *Sea of Cortez*. In 1951, after Ricketts' death, Steinbeck reissued his narrative portion of the work in memory of his friend and the inspiration for Cannery Rows Doc. This exciting day-by-day account of their journey together is a rare blend of science, philosophy, and high-spirited adventure. This edition features an introduction by Richard Astro. 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.

About the Author John Steinbeck, born in Salinas, California, in 1902, grew up in a fertile agricultural valley, about twenty-five miles from the Pacific Coast. Both the valley and the coast would serve as settings for some of his best fiction. In 1919 he went to Stanford University, where he intermittently enrolled in literature and writing courses until he left in 1925 without taking a degree. During the next five years he supported himself as a laborer and journalist in New York City, all the time working on his first novel, *Cup of Gold* (1929). After marriage and a move to Pacific

Grove, he published two California books, *The Pastures of Heaven* (1932) and *To a God Unknown* (1933), and worked on short stories later collected in *The Long Valley* (1938). Popular success and financial security came only with *Tortilla Flat* (1935), stories about Monterey's paisanos. A ceaseless experimenter throughout his career, Steinbeck changed courses regularly. Three powerful novels of the late 1930s focused on the California laboring class: *In Dubious Battle* (1936), *Of Mice and Men* (1937), and the book considered by many his finest, *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939). *The Grapes of Wrath* won both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize in 1939. Early in the 1940s, Steinbeck became a filmmaker with *The Forgotten Village* (1941) and a serious student of marine biology with *Sea of Cortez* (1941). He devoted his services to the war, writing *Bombs Away* (1942) and the controversial play-novelette *The Moon is Down* (1942). *Cannery Row* (1945), *The Wayward Bus* (1948), another experimental drama, *Burning Bright* (1950), and *The Log from the Sea of Cortez* (1951) preceded publication of the monumental *East of Eden* (1952), an ambitious saga of the Salinas Valley and his own family's history. The last decades of his life were spent in New York City and Sag Harbor with his third wife, with whom he traveled widely. Later books include *Sweet Thursday* (1954), *The Short Reign of Pippin IV: A Fabrication* (1957), *Once There Was a War* (1958), *The Winter of Our Discontent* (1961), *Travels with Charley in Search of America* (1962), *America and Americans* (1966), and the posthumously published *Journal of a Novel: The East of Eden Letters* (1969), *Viva Zapata!* (1975), *The Acts of King Arthur and His Noble Knights* (1976), and *Working Days: The Journals of The Grapes of Wrath* (1989). Steinbeck received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1962, and, in 1964, he was presented with the United States Medal of Freedom by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Steinbeck died in New York in 1968. Today, more than thirty years after his death, he remains one of America's greatest writers and cultural figures.