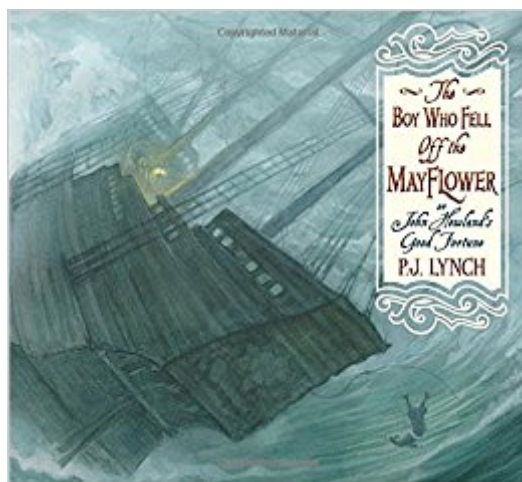


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# The Boy Who Fell Off The Mayflower, Or John Howland's Good Fortune



## Synopsis

In the first book he has both written and illustrated, master artist P.J. Lynch brings a Mayflower voyager's story to vivid life. At a young age, John Howland learned what it meant to take advantage of an opportunity. Leaving the docks of London on the Mayflower as an indentured servant to Pilgrim John Carver, John Howland little knew that he was embarking on the adventure of a lifetime. By his great good fortune, John survived falling overboard on the crossing of the Atlantic Ocean, and he earned his keep ashore by helping to scout a safe harbor and landing site for his bedraggled and ill shipmates. Would his luck continue to hold amid the dangers and adversity of the Pilgrims' lives in New England? John Howland's tale is masterfully told in his own voice, bringing an immediacy and young perspective to the oft-told Pilgrims' story. P.J. Lynch captures this pivotal moment in American history in precise and exquisite detail, from the light on the froth of a breaking wave to the questioning voice of a teen in a new world.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0940 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 64 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (September 22, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763665843

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Product Dimensions: 11.4 x 0.5 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 63 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #9,001 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary](#) #8 in [Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Boats & Ships](#) #20 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

Based on historical fact, this feast of a book, the first illustrator Lynch has authored as well, will captivate readers from its opening double-page spread...What sets this book apart from myriad

Pilgrim stories is Howland's personal point of view, which helps readers enter into the tenor of the time, when the settlers' religious faith both motivated and sustained them, and the dramatic illustrations with their expert play of expression, composition, and light. Sweeping and grand, this personal take on a familiar story is an engaging success. **Kirkus Reviews** (starred review) Lynch's meticulous watercolor and gouache illustrations imbue the pages with cinematic energy. The opening birds-eye view of bustling 1620s London allows careful readers to spot a tiny Howland running through muddy streets on a clandestine errand; a later spread shows the Native Americans from shadowy woods as they secretly watch the newly arrived Pilgrims. Short chapters with straightforward titles chronologically segment a familiar story that has been personalized through stunning artwork and insightful storytelling. **Publishers Weekly** (starred review) The clearly written, first-person account, told from John's point of view, combines history with adventure and a hint of romance. Based on historical sources, the narrative is laced with well-imagined characterizations and conversations. The book's wide format showcases Lynch's dramatic and richly atmospheric watercolor and gouache paintings, which include strong individual character portrayals as well as beautifully composed scenes on land and at sea. This handsome volume offers a dramatic personal story of the Pilgrim's voyage on the Mayflower and their early experiences in America. **Booklist** (starred review) Coupled with richly detailed and often dramatic watercolor and gouache illustrations, Lynch's fast-paced text brings a new excitement to the Thanksgiving story. An excellent choice for teachers seeking a new approach to the history of the Pilgrims. **School Library Journal** (starred review) Mr. Lynch's first few paintings in this superb picture book so capture the squalor, overcrowding and political danger that the Pilgrims faced in the Old World... **The Wall Street Journal** Enhanced by a large format that showcases Lynch's striking watercolor and gouache illustrations, this fictionalized account of Howland's story will spark young readers' interest in learning more about the Wampanoag and English people who encountered one another so long ago. **BookPage** Howland's voice is vibrant and convincing, and Lynch deftly integrates information known about Howland's future... Lynch's watercolor paintings harken back to the dramatically composed and illuminated work of N. C. Wyeth. **Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books** P. J. Lynch has written a compelling accounting of young John Howland's story and the larger story of the Mayflower. The writing is crisp, and the facts are presented in captivating prose. The rich, detailed paintings he uses to illustrate his story evoke times past and steep the readers in Howland's journey. This is

one of the finest middle-grade historical picture books available. Don't miss it. •San Francisco Book Review

P.J. Lynch, one of the most accomplished children's book creators working today, has won the Kate Greenaway Medal twice and the Christopher Medal three times. His meticulous research brings impeccable detail to the twenty books he has illustrated, including *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* by Susan Wojciechowski, *When Jessie Came Across the Sea* by Amy Hest, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, and *Mysterious Traveler* by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham. P.J. Lynch lives in Dublin.

I purchased this book last spring while waiting for it's release in September. The story is about my 10th great-grandfather, John Howland, a passenger on the Mayflower. It's a great read for 4th and 5th graders. The pictures are where I was introduced to the paintings of P.J. Lynch...they are spectacular! The fact that this book is about my ancestor makes it that much more exciting. This should be in every middle school so kids can read something exciting that they can relate to concerning the Mayflower.

This is a very nice book that we bought for my wife's two granddaughters as she is trying to spark their interest in their ancestor John Howland and the Mayflower Society. The story and wonderful art throughout the book are perfect for kids from 12 y.o. to 14 y.o.; Old codger that I am, even enjoyed reading this book. "The Boy Who Fell Off The Mayflower" is a great way to stimulate the interest of young people in our American heritage, even those of us who are not so fortunate as to have an ancestor on the Mayflower. The Mayflower Compact is our Magna Carta and all Americans regardless of when they arrived on our shores should embrace this document and the struggle to survive of the Pilgrims. It's our common history and this book is worthy of being read by all of us.

I sent this to a grandson who loved the book. I have not seen it, but my daughter said the illustrations were beautifully done (Of course! This was P J Lynch!) and that their whole family learned many new things about the Mayflower and John Howland's part in history.

I gave this to my eight year old grandson and he is now begging for more books about American history. P.J. Lynch's tale is historically accurate and well-told. His gorgeous watercolor paintings are full of more detailed information -- what London looked like in the early 1600's, what it was like to be

on a small, barely sea-worthy boat crossing the Atlantic to the New World, what it was like to try to survive in a harsh, new land with native American neighbors -- and they greatly enhance his fascinating tale.

This book is now a family treasure. As one of John Howland's many descendants, I bought myself a copy as well as one for each of my children and grandchildren. The artwork is absolutely beautiful - it's stunning - and the story is very well written. It's a great children's book, but we adults love it too.

Beautiful book. Illustrations and story are wonderful. I read this to my grandchildren (ages 5 to 17 so they would know what early life on this continent was like and to enhance their appreciation for their own lives today. They were all captivated by this unique story.

Beautiful illustrations and thrilling story of the Pilgrim voyage. I gift this book often to youngsters /relatives that come to visit me in Plymouth!

Beautiful illustrations and great story

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