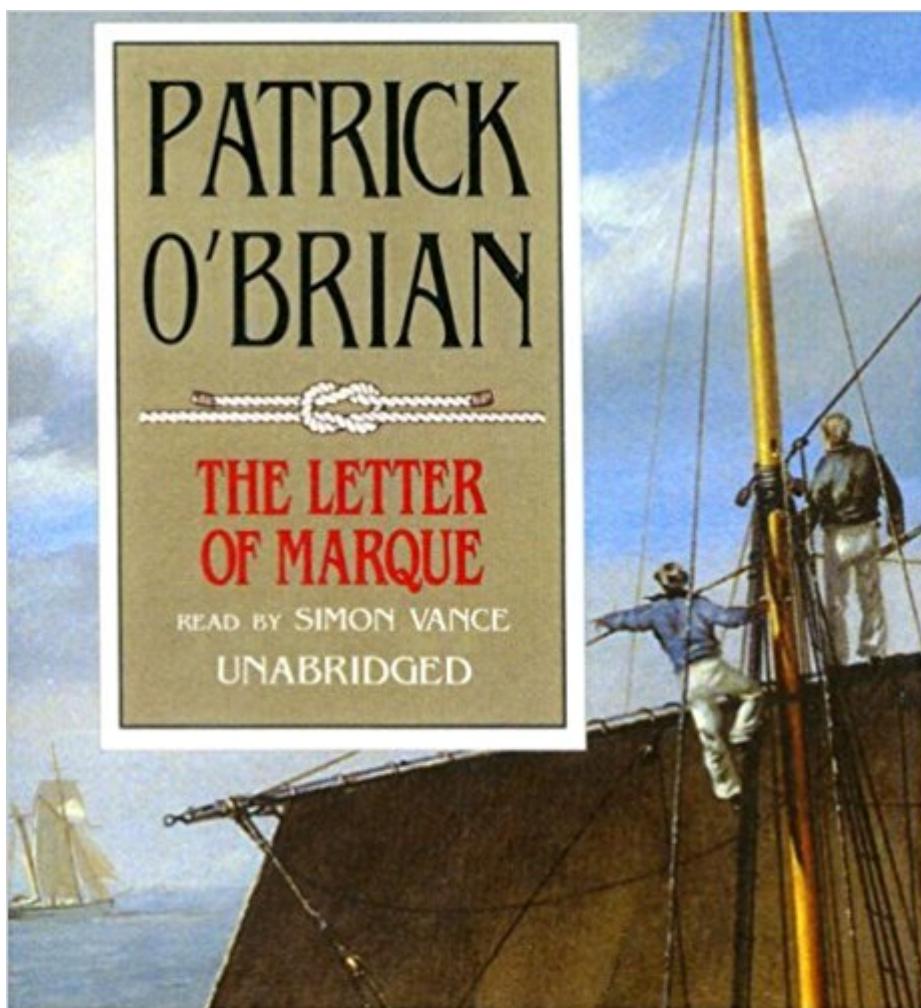


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The Letter Of Marque (Aubrey-Maturin)



Synopsis

If Jane Austen wrote Royal Navy yarns, they might read like this. The early-19th-century locations are fascinating, as are the evocation of period shipboard life.... Seafarers and landlubbers alike will enjoy this swift, witty tale of money and love. -- Publisher's Weekly

Book Information

Series: Aubrey-Maturin (Book 12)

Audio CD: 8 pages

Publisher: Blackstone Audiobooks; Unabridged edition (November 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786166495

ISBN-13: 978-0786166497

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.2 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 113 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,890,264 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (O) > O'Brian, Patrick #487 in Books > Books on CD > History > Military #3092 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Sea Stories

Customer Reviews

When Jack Aubrey is unfairly deprived of his commission in the Royal Navy, Stephen Maturin comes to the rescue, purchasing the captain's former ship and outfitting it as a privateer, to be commanded by...Jack Aubrey. Soon the Surprise is off to sea, on a mission that Aubrey hopes will redeem his good name. The author's grasp of period detail is astonishing as ever--and so is his gift for pure entertainment. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. Unlike its competitors, who are usually linked to major book publishers, Blackstone specializes in giving new audio life to classics—using prize-winning readers like Vance to bring new and exciting life to neglected works. This is Vance's 17th reading of one of O'Brian's superb seafaring novels about Jack Aubrey and Dr. Stephen Maturin, and it's the first time that anyone has made new versions since O'Brian's death in 2000. Vance (who also reads under the names Robert Whitfield and Richard Matthews) is absolutely perfect for O'Brian's sad and stirring tale about Post Captain Aubrey's unjust punishment: Aubrey has been stricken off the Admiralty's list, usually the end of a man's career. But Dr. Maturin uses his own money to buy Aubrey's old ship,

HMS Surprise, and turn it into a privateer—*a letter of marque*. Vance catches the subtle differences between the land-owning Jack, his rough-tongued crew and the Spanish/Irish Maturin. O'Brian fans should relish this excellent audio outing as should anyone with a love of adventure, history, the sea and fine writing. (Reviews, July 6, 1990). (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

What a great account of friendship at it's best. I really love it when O'Brian details the strong bonds between the friends in these books. Forced to account for the true theme of this book, I would say friendship, love of friends. There is a lot going on in the book and things are looking up for Aubrey and it is all possible because of his relationships with those around him. O'Brian has made Aubrey a sucker for every scheme ever developed on land and, although he is a slow learner in this environment, he does learn and grow. He is lucky to have the friends he does because they create the opportunities for Aubrey to change his fortunes. His fortunes change in interesting ways that are worth reading about so for the small expense of the book you can expect really good entertainment that sets up the great opportunities in the future for Aubrey. Even Maturin's fortunes are looking up in every respect. I highly recommend the book.

"Letter of Marque" is 12th in the 20 novel Aubrey-Maturin series, featuring Captain Jack Aubrey and his companion ship surgeon Stephen Maturin, set in the early 1800s. "Letter of Marque" one a episode in a grand epic, and as such the plot is of secondary importance. **SUMMARY** Jack Aubrey has been dismissed from the Royal Navy and is in low spirits. However, Stephen Maturin, now rich by inheritance, purchases the frigate "Surprise" and a "letter of Marque", i.e., an authorization to operate as a privateer. However, Stephen is still in the intelligence service, and the resulting missions are a mixture of intelligence collecting and profit making. The privateering goes well making Jack wealthy and popular. Later Stephen journeys to Sweden and is reconciled with his wife, Diana. In the meantime, partly as a result of the death of Jack's father, Jack acquires a seat in Parliament, and sufficient influence to be given assurance that he will soon be reinstated in the Royal Navy. **COMMENTS** "Letter of Marque" is a typical installment in the saga, filled with fascinating characters, battles, sea lore, and insights into early. There is virtually no mystery or suspense, but rather high adventure. Many men will wish that Stephen simply divorce and forget Diane, but of course, that's easier said than done. **THE VERDICT** I have lost track of how many times I have read the entire series start to finish-- somewhere between six and ten times, and I look forward to re-reading the series again and again. This is one of the grand classics to purchase in hardcover,

and to bequeath to your grandchildren.> Click on ["Stoney"](#) just below the product title to see my other reviews, or leave a comment to ask a question.

I've read all (except for the unfinished last) volumes in this series; and they are old friends; as I go back through the series for probably the 5th time I am reminded of the brilliance and genius of Patrick O'Brian, who has created one of the great friendships in all of English literature; a wonderful recreation of England and America of those early years of the 19th Century, and, as a sailor and naval historian I can attest to the astonishing accuracy and faithfulness to history O'Brian writes, bringing the Royal Navy back to our knowledge and characters we can greet as old friends. Go buy the first two books. Be prepared to be enriched and entertained and amazed.

The whole series is wonderful, but I have a special fondness for this one because it focuses on privateering, a topic routinely botched by other authors.

The last few books in this series had gotten very complicated and very dark. This book hits a much-needed "reset" button. Captain Jack Aubrey, who in the last book was stripped of his rank and convicted of a crime he did not commit, blazes his way to exciting, glorious redemption. Doctor Stephen Maturin, while still flirting with disaster with his laudanum addiction, reconciles some of his personal problems and resolves a confusing, multi-book story arc with a bang. The Letter of Marque is a fun and exciting read, though the story was not especially emotionally involving, so did not stick with me as much as thought it would. Great history and wit as we've come to expect from this author. On to the next book! Reviewer: Liz Clare, co-author of the historical novel "To the Ends of the Earth: The Last Journey of Lewis and Clark"

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