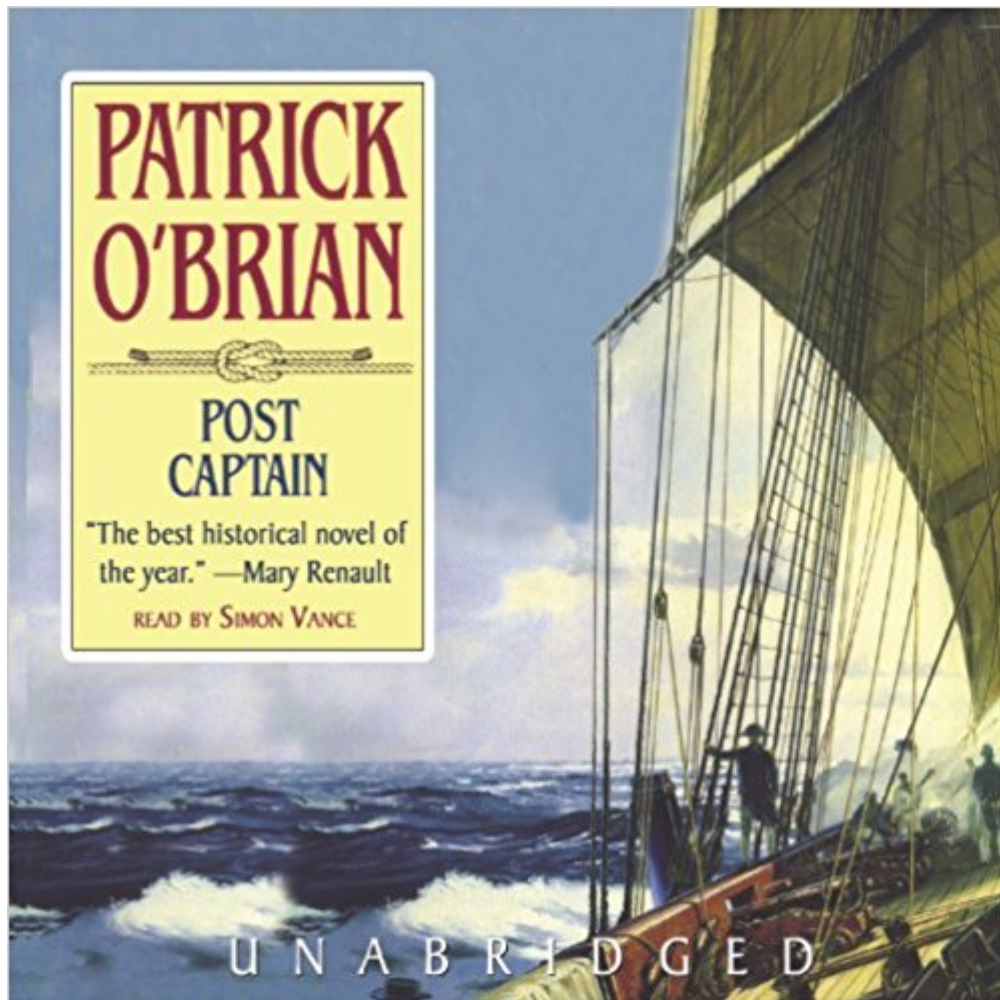




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Post Captain (Aubrey-Maturin Series, Book 2)



Synopsis

[Read by Simon Vance] The high-seas excitement continues in this second installment of Patrick O'Brian's highly acclaimed series. "We've beat them before and we'll beat them again." In 1803, Napoleon smashes the Peace of Amiens, going to war once again. This is doubly alarming news for Captain Jack Aubrey, who is taking refuge in France from his creditors. He is interned but soon escapes from his French debtor's prison, fleeing across the French countryside to lead a ship into battle. After managing to avert a possible mutiny, he pursues his quarry straight into the mouth of a French-held harbor. Stephen Maturin's struggles, with himself as much as with a proud and intelligent woman, are woven into Aubrey's, straining their friendship at times to the breaking point.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"They're funny, they're exciting, they're informative. There are legions of us who gladly ship out time and time again under Captain Aubrey." --New Yorker "Master and Commander raised almost dangerously high expectations . . . Post Captain triumphantly surpasses them . . . a brilliant book." --Mary Renault - English writer best known for her historical novels "It has been said that this series is some of the finest historical fiction of our time . . . Aubrey and Maturin have been described as better than Holmes and Watson, the equal of Quixote and Panza . . . All this is true. And the marvel is, it hardly says enough." --Los Angeles Times "Patrick O'Brian can put a spark of character into the sawdust of time." --Observer "Earphones Awards winner Simon Vance juggles multiple characters, accents, and dramatic and comedic scenes with aplomb . . . Vance's warm, welcoming voice captures colorful characters, entertaining relationships . . . Readers in search of a handful of

excellent companions with whom to spend many enjoyable hours will be hail and well met.”

--AudioFile

PATRICK O'BRIAN (1914-2000) was born Richard Patrick Russ in England. During the Second World War, he and his wife were involved in British secret-service activities. After the war, he changed his name to Patrick O'Brian and began his career as a novelist, biographer, and translator. In the 1990s, Mr. O'Brian, then in his seventies, achieved the critical and popular recognition that was his due.

Wonderful, historical novel set during the Napoleonic Wars full of action so real you will smell the smoke and hear the roar of cannons. This is a series for anyone who loves Naval history set in the early 1800's. O'Brian writes a cracking good story that is not only filled with action, but also the political views of the era, natural history as it was understood then, philosophy and fascinating details of the everyday lives of both officers and ordinary seamen. Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin are complex characters that display the finest nobility, and at times the lowest of behavior, making them larger than life heroes with feet of clay that we can all identify with. There is also a splendid cast of supporting characters, many of which appear in his future works, as well. All in all, O'Brian certainly deserves recognition as one of the top historical writers of his era.

The best nautical historical fiction for the late eighteenth, early nineteenth century British navy there is, hands down. O'Brian researched exhaustively to produce this series, and the accuracy is spot on. More to the point, they're infinitely readable, with laudable character development and environmental description that puts you firmly in the midst of what you're reading. There is such a wealth of description, you'll want a dictionary, thesaurus, and an atlas at hand when you dive in. Trust me when I tell you, buy them all, because you won't be able to put them down, and when you're done with one, you'll simply have to have the next right at hand.

Someone who has 283 reviews hardly needs another one, but for the record here it is. This was a good read, early 19th century and the action parts were gripping and suspenseful. The author obviously knows his Napoleonic Navy through and through, even down to the correct Navy slang and mannerisms of the time. The conversations between the male protagonists and their feminine counterparts are sometimes dull but never the less, this book would make a good movie.

Book number 2 in the series. Can't wait for my new order to arrive! I first ordered 3 books. I got into them really quickly. I am having to look up some meanings of the words Mr. O'Brian uses to understand, but that is okay. These are wonderful stories.

My second time through the series, and what a treat to have both the audio and the text to illuminate each other -- they really do. As a confirmed terrestrial, the first go-round I let the nautical language and some other arcana that O'Brian loved to throw in just wash over me---I was in a tearing hurry, cracking on, not a minute to lose, with child to finish each book! This time, the ruminations on existence, passages of exquisite, poignant and pellucid description stand out, as they would in any novel away from the sea. These are not just sea adventure stories, although they're amazingly good sea adventure stories. I often go to sleep while being read to, but one of the chapters in this one had me lying in bed covering my eyes, even though it was dark. There's more land business in this novel than most of them, but I found the sharp wit, recreation of 19th Century England, and characters every bit what you'd want from a writer who loved Jane Austen but has his own genius rather than aping hers -- he owns the early 19th Century as if he were born there, without ever sounding stilted. He's in his element. I'm trying to limit myself to buying no more than one of these a month, but it's hard. I recommend getting the book and the audio together -- much cheaper than the audio alone, and hardly more expensive than the book by itself. So, , you've just reeled me in, you scrubs. Eighteen books, and audio, to go. A nice piece of coin, but having the whole series on my Kindle is a lot cheaper than therapy or a spa membership.

Patrick O'Brian's masterwork, the Aubrey-Maturin series, treat readers to the best elements of historical fiction, immersing them in an intricately textured environment. The author's love of world history, naval warfare, mesh seamlessly with his sense of society, language, science and politics. Post Captain, the second and longest book in the series, spends a great deal more time ashore, as Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin focus on their romantic pursuits. It's a lot like a Jane Austen piece, but with a great deal more blood, guns and swearing.

I read the entire Aubrey/Maturin series 20 years ago. I recently decided to read them again and I am glad I did. O'Brian's writing is as brilliant and enjoyable as I had remembered. This is as good as it gets!

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