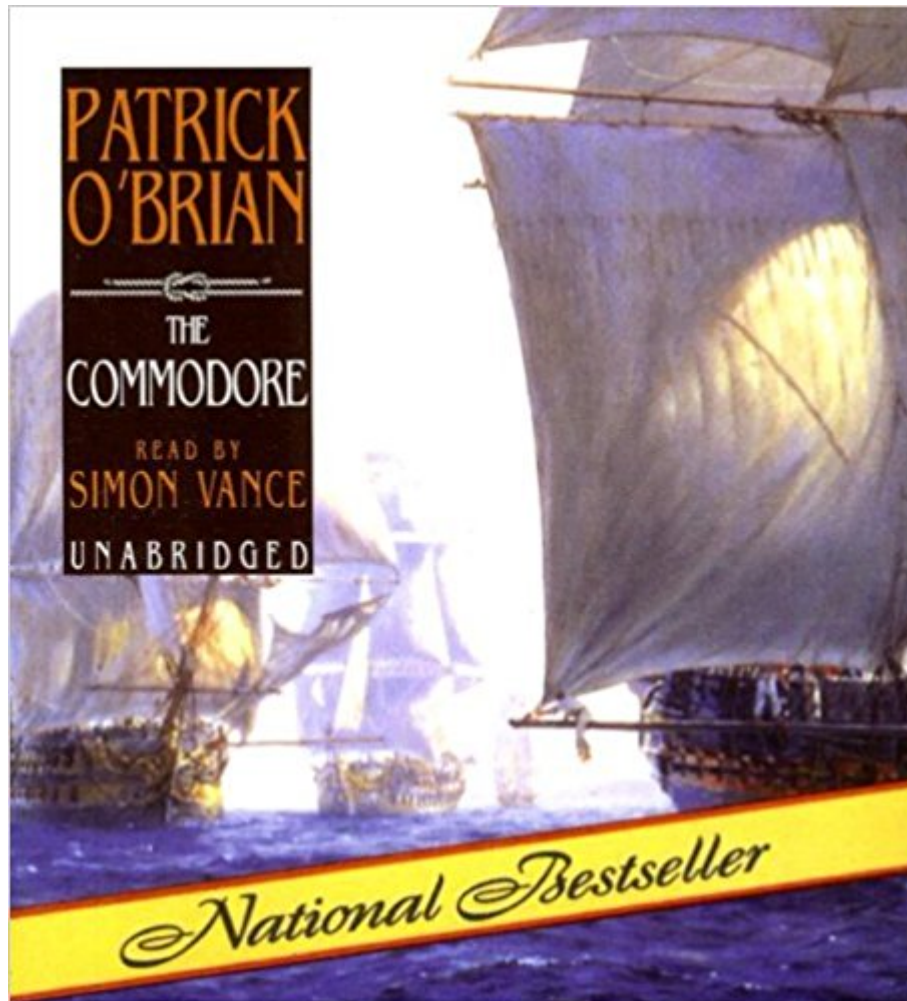




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# The Commodore (Aubrey-Maturin)



## Synopsis

Having survived a long, desperate adventure in the Great South Sea, Captain Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin return to England to very different circumstances. For Jack it is a happy homecoming, at least initially, but for Stephen it's disastrous. His little daughter appears to be autistic, while his wife, Diana, unable to bear this situation, has disappeared, with the child looked after by the widowed Clarissa Oakes. Much of the story takes place on land, but soon Aubrey and Maturin are sent on a mission to the fever-ridden lagoons of the Gulf of Guinea to suppress the slave trade, but their ultimate destination is Ireland. There the French are mounting an invasion that will test Aubrey's seamanship and Maturin's resourcefulness, and the climax of the story is one of those grand, thrilling fleet actions on which the British Navy's supremacy was founded.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After several installments of gallivanting around the South Seas, Aubrey and Maturin return home to England, where the surgeon-cum-intelligence-agent discovers that his wife has disappeared. As if such a domestic crisis weren't enough, the intrepid pair are also dispatched to the Gulf of Guinea (to suppress the slave trade) and to Ireland (to rebuff an impending French invasion.) O'Brian's stunning range, coupled with his mind-bending command of minutiae, explain why James Hamilton-Paterson has called him "the Homer of the Napoleonic Wars." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Having spent 16 previous volumes so wonderfully delineating his pair of 18th-century heroes, Captain Jack Aubrey and physician/secret agent Stephen Maturin, and the world in which they live, O'Brian apparently feels that series fans will be delighted to share any aspect of their lives. He's probably right. In this 17th seagoing adventure (after *The Wine-Dark Sea*), O'Brian successfully manages the trick of devoting much of the book to matters more domestic than naval. Stephen's words to Jack's wife, Sophie, hardly smell of gunpowder and brine: "...that was a sumptuous feast you gave us.... I returned to the venison pasty not once but three times." Jack is greeted with an unexpected promotion to full Commodore when he arrives back in England. Meanwhile, Stephen finds that his wife, Diane, has run away because of her guilt over the apparent autism of their young daughter, whom Stephen meets for the first time, and with whom he is painfully unable to communicate. When next they head out to sea, both men depart under clouds: a jealousy-induced disagreement with Sophie weighs on Jack's mind, while plotting by Stephen's enemies has put his fortune and friends in jeopardy. Re-engaging in the Napoleonic Wars, the new Commodore takes his motley and often fractious squadron on a foray to disrupt slave traders in the Gulf of Guinea and then to the seas off Ireland to engage the French. As always, O'Brian tells his tale with great historical and nautical accuracy. Those who have sailed these seas before will happily go along on this latest voyage. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Good read, but nowhere near the quality of the earlier Hornblower books. The original three part series, later consolidated into the original "Captain Horatio Hornblower," were filled with the agonies of the young Hornblower trying to rise from nothing through the ranks of the British navy. They are filled with action and wonderful descriptions of naval life in the days of sail. In this one, the struggles are over. He is now Sir Horatio, Knight of the Bath, Brother in Law of the Duke of Wellington and, frankly, just a little stuffy. After the original Hornblower, I recall that subsequent books were serialized in the *Saturday Evening Post* and subsequently published with titles like "Mr Midshipman Hornblower," "Lieutenant Hornblower," and "Hornblower and the Atropos." All of them are set in the time of the hero's efforts not only to have immediate success against overwhelming odds but also work his way upward in the ranks. I would particularly recommend "Lt. Hornblower," which is the only book in the series not told from the perspective of the hero but rather as seen by Lt. Bush, a primary character in most of the succeeding books.

I have read all the Hornblower books. This is good book, but not C.S. Forester's best work. The

author attempts to bring in actual historical characters into the story, such as Carl von Clausewitz, but it comes as a little cheesy. However, I did enjoy the emphasis on the political and strategic aspects of warfare, rather than just retelling a series of battles. Overall, if you have read this far into the series, then this is a must read to move Hornblower's story-line towards a conclusion. I would not recommend this as the first read in the series. Definitely need to have a few Hornblower books under you belt before trying this novel.

This is the 11th book (chronological order) of the much beloved Hornblower series. Note that the Hornblower series was not written in a chronological order, so by publication date this book comes before Mr. Midshipman Hornblower, which is the 1st book of Hornblower's fictional naval career. You can certainly read the books out of order, and in fact "Beat to Quarters" which is the first book Forester wrote, is not a bad place to start. The book is three tales, starting with Hornblower being sent to deal with a British Brig currently in a state of mutiny. This leads to Hornblower getting a lead into a possible revolt against Napoleon. This means a stay on land, as Hornblower becomes the military governor of a French City! For his duties, our long suffering hero is awarded with a Peerage, giving way to the title. We finally return to the scene of some of Hornblower's earlier adventures in France. Great characterization, great adventure.

This book finds Horatio Hornblower in the Baltic Sea and in Russia. Here he has to do what seems to be the impossible fight the French and keep Russia and Sweden as British allies not an easy job. But if you have read the previous Hornblower novels then you know he can do it. It is just a question of how to do. Also this book gives insight into the Russian campaign of Napoleon, but not in great detail. I mean after all this book is about Horatio Hornblower not Napoleon, but you can see why Napoleon has no love for this devilish Englishman, a thorn in the side of Napoleon on land and sea this time.

It's always very satisfying jumping into a Horatio Hornblower novel. I've read the books chronicling his progression up the ranks to this point, where he is now a commodore, responsible for a naval squadron, and tasked with the chore of slowing or stopping his old adversary, Napoleon Bonaparte. This time, his assignment takes Hornblower to the Baltic Sea, where he finds himself dealing with the Russians, who may or may not, depending on when you ask, be England's ally. You'll meet Tsar Alexander and a beautiful Russian countess. You'll see again Hornblower's faithful colleague Bush (now a captain in his own right) and the ever-faithful aide, Brown -- both of whom have starred in

earlier Hornblower novels. In Hornblower, Forester has fashioned one of the most endearing characters in modern fiction. Never reluctant to act boldly, yet always beset by self-criticism, Hornblower gives us repeated lessons in leadership. The Hornblower books are very good. Forester has the master's touch in structuring and executing his books. I soon will be at the end of this wonderful series of books and will miss them.

I enjoyed the book and how it brought to close one of my favorite characters. I many of the books in the series in the 1970s and remembered how much I enjoyed the then it was great catching up with the story again and finishing it. I recommend the series to everyone looking for adventure.

Commodore Hornblower Commodore Hornblower is the ninth volume of the eleven volume Hornblower Saga. In this episode Hornblower is tasked with the mission of taking a small flotilla to the Balkans. The interesting thing to me is the inclusion of two ships designed to fire mortars and the system used to adjust fire rapidly, they used flags signaling over and short and by how much and fire- for-effect of course. (You'd never know that I was an ex-Field Artillery Officer. I did get to call for fire with the sixteen inch guns from the New Jersey once. I probably enjoyed this book more than the preceding eight , but that is probably because of my field artillery background. I highly recommend this volume and the entire series. The next volume is Lord Hornblower. Gunner May, 2014

Great book. Mainly for boys -- probably not for those under 12.

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