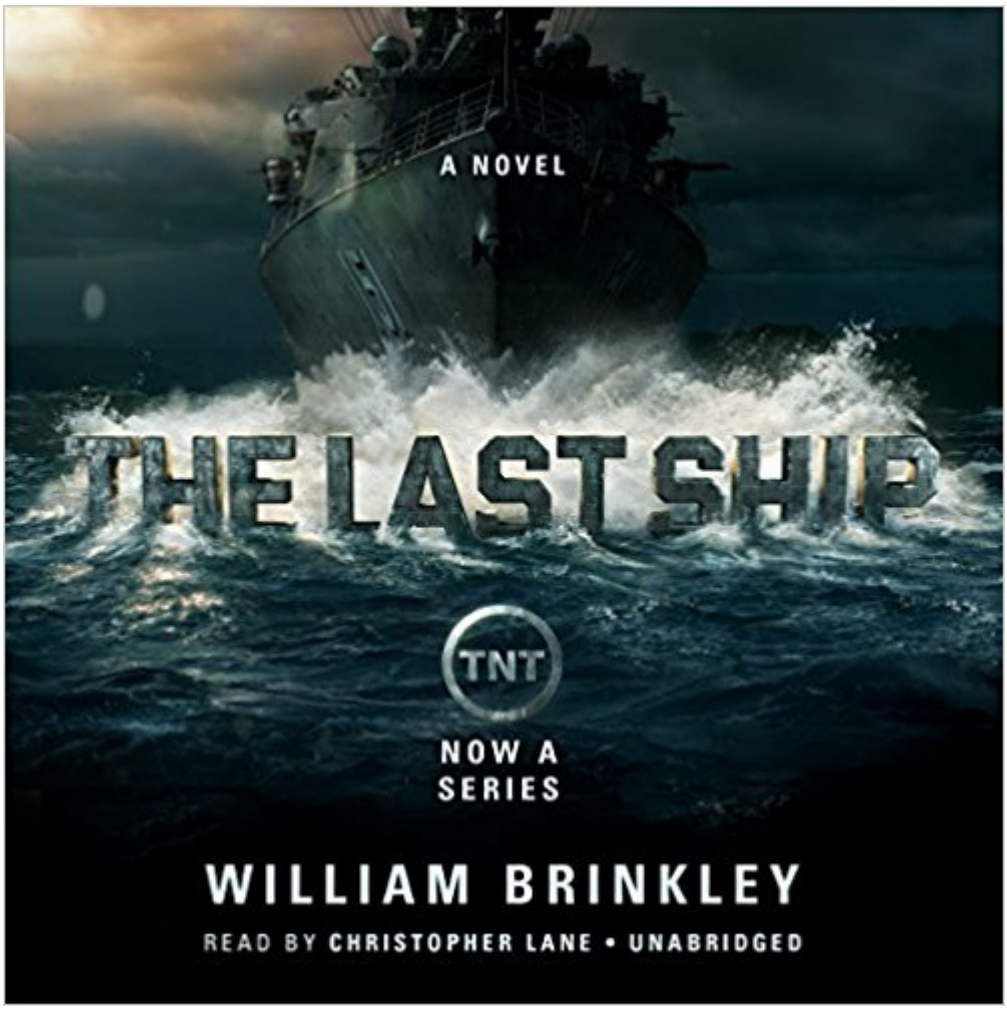
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The Last Ship: A Novel



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Synopsis

[Read by Christopher Lane] Hailed ''an extraordinary novel of men at war'' (Washington Post), The Last Ship is the book that inspired the TNT miniseries starring Eric Dane, Rhona Mitra, and Adam Baldwin, with Michael Bay as executive producer. The unimaginable has happened: the world has been plunged into all-out nuclear war. Sailing near the Arctic Circle, the USS Nathan James is relatively unscathed, but the future is grim and Captain Thomas is facing mutiny from the tattered remnants of his crew. With civilization in ruins, he urges those that remain - 152 men and 26 women - to pull together in search of land. Once they reach safety, however, the men and women on board realize that they are the earth's last remaining survivors - and they've all been exposed to radiation. When none of the women seems able to conceive, fear sets in. Will this be the end of humankind? This thrilling tale of post-apocalyptic suspense is perfect for readers of Going Home by A. American, Lights Out by David Crawford, The End and The Long Road by G. Michael Hopf, and One Second After by William Forstchen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Perhaps the most surprising thing about this apocalyptic novel of the sea is that Brinkley has been able to spin so slender a plot to so great lengthmore than 500 pages. Global nuclear disaster has struck, and the guided-missile destroyer Nathan James, short on food and fuel, its crew of men and women seriously depleted by desertions, sails the seas in search of an uncontaminated landfall. The Nathan James is apparently the only ship afloatuntil it meets a Russian sub and a little belated glasnost is arranged. The destroyer's captain, a man given to Conradesque reflections more often

ponderous than illuminating, describes how he struggles to assert his authority and maintain crew morale, how he establishes a settlement on an unpolluted Pacific island, assigning to his female crew the task of ensuring the continuation of the human race (he has a steamy affair with one of them himself) and how he handles, among other problems, a case of multiple murder. Brinkley (Don’t Go Near the Water, Quicksand) clearly knows the U.S. Navy, and his narrative has its moments. However, his style here is turgid and the story as a whole, unlike the sleek and deadly Nathan James, sits pretty heavily in the water. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

The author of Don’t Go Near the Water superbly depicts life on a U.S. Navy destroyer after a heavy nuclear exchange. That women are now integrated into the navy adds to the interest. The survivors hunt a safe haven where life and perhaps the human race can continue, away from radiation. A Russian submarine, apparently friendly, appears and then is gone, while a group of mutineers irrationally try to return "home." The captain’s narration is thoughtful and sensitive. Inexperienced with women, he must oversee the desperate assembly-line attempts to conceive children that he himself does not join. More than a military adventure, this is a first-rate study of beauty amid ghastliness, engrossing to the end.William A. Donovan, Chicago P.L.Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

I had recently finished reading Brooks’ "World War Z" when I saw this novel pop up on my Kindle recommendations email list. I read the summary of this story and I thought "why not". I was originally disappointed in the beginning because I wasn’t used to the writing style. Then 1/4 of the way through, the novel started flowing and the story swept me away. 1st off, the author’s style seems to be a homage to Conrad’s. This classical literature tone initially turned me off since it was written like a journal. Also, the book starts at the beginning of the 3rd Act of the story. Then the protagonist recalls the start of the 1st Act. I felt this was disorienting personally, but once the reader becomes familiar with the other characters and the ordeal that they undergo to survive then the story turns this novel into a page turner that I could not stop reading till the conclusion.

The overall storyline is excellent but it is a very hard read. It is a hard read because the Brinkley used numerous large undefined words that I actually had to look up on the internet to see what they meant. Unless you are a high level accademiac, they weren’t words used in normal conversation. Also he had numerous sentences that were up too and exceeding 150 words in length. . By the time

I finished reading the sentence I had to go back and see what was at the beginning of the sentence. I was always taught in English class to keep it simple stupid (KISS). I would be very reluctant to buy another of his books for fear of running into the same problem. He had an excellent storyline but it was just very hard to keep track of the storyline when interrupted by his large undefined words. Thank you, David

I read this book not long after its initial publishing, and it immediately became my favorite modern novel, of any genre, period. Before you go further, here is my perspective: my favorite author is Joseph Conrad. This book is a worthy successor to Conrad's nautical literature. If you are looking for a quick read, look elsewhere. And yes, though I think of myself as articulate and well read, I admit to having to look up a word every few pages--though in every case, the usage was not gratuitous, and the rarified vocabulary always seems to enhance the narrative (as well as improve my own vocabulary quite a bit). Yet in addition to the lyrical, rich prose, there are layers of meaning, including of military and technological authenticity, that are remarkable. I am also a student of naval warfare and weapons systems; this book doesn't strike one wrong note there, nor in Naval customs, language, protocols and etiquette. That is one layer of many. Astonished that TNT would even know of this work, let alone turn it into a TV series, I was moved to re-read it. Since I doubt the TNT series will be able to plumb the depths of this novel--let's just hope they capture the naval authenticity, that alone would be monumental novelty for mass entertainment--I urge people who might be interested in a modern version of Joseph Conrad to read the book before watching the series. I must say, reading most of the other reviews of this masterpiece really puts me in touch with the consistent decline in SAT verbal scores. It is a pathetic commentary that speaks for itself. Let's just say, if you like Joseph Conrad, I'm pretty sure you will like this novel. Sadly the author, who had been a World War II Naval officer, died not long after this book was published, at the peak of his writing powers--of suicide. Perhaps he could see where modern readers' tastes were headed. . .

It's interesting to see the reviews slagging the author's word choices and writing style, because that was what was continually fascinating to me as I dug into this lengthy book. I found the captain's first-person narration to be very unique and engaging, and every time I saw an obscure word used or a long sentence I traced that back to the captain's personality, to his mind, to his very personal way of thinking.Without giving any spoilers, there was only one false plot point to me (revealed close to the end) that I felt was unnecessary and too much of a digression. Otherwise I very much enjoyed learning the ways of the sea and experiencing these cataclysmic events as seen through the eyes

of this fully-formed protagonist.

The book is as dry as the crackers in an MRE. The pace of the narrative and the method of conveying the story seems jerky and disjointed. the recent TV show is a great adaptation, although I would've liked to seen more focus on the rebuilding of America in the beginning of Season 3.Mr Brinkley may be a fine author, but the book just didn't hold up to my expectations-too many gaps in the story line.

I picked this book because of the TV show. To my surprise, only the premise of being the last ship to survive a world-wide disaster was used on the show. The book itself takes a much different turn with the first person narrator, the captain, telling his view of what is transpiring. I think the author wrote this with a thesarusas beside him because in almost every sentence there are words that are not used in everyday speech and writing. On my Kindle, I had to stop and look up a word about every two pages. His sentences are long and somewhat convoluted, displaying a good facility with the language, but at times it detracted from the story. There are some surprises in the novel, and the conclusion is somewhat unsatisfying as if the author didn't know exactly where to go next. Even though it was very different for the TV show, it was a good story.

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