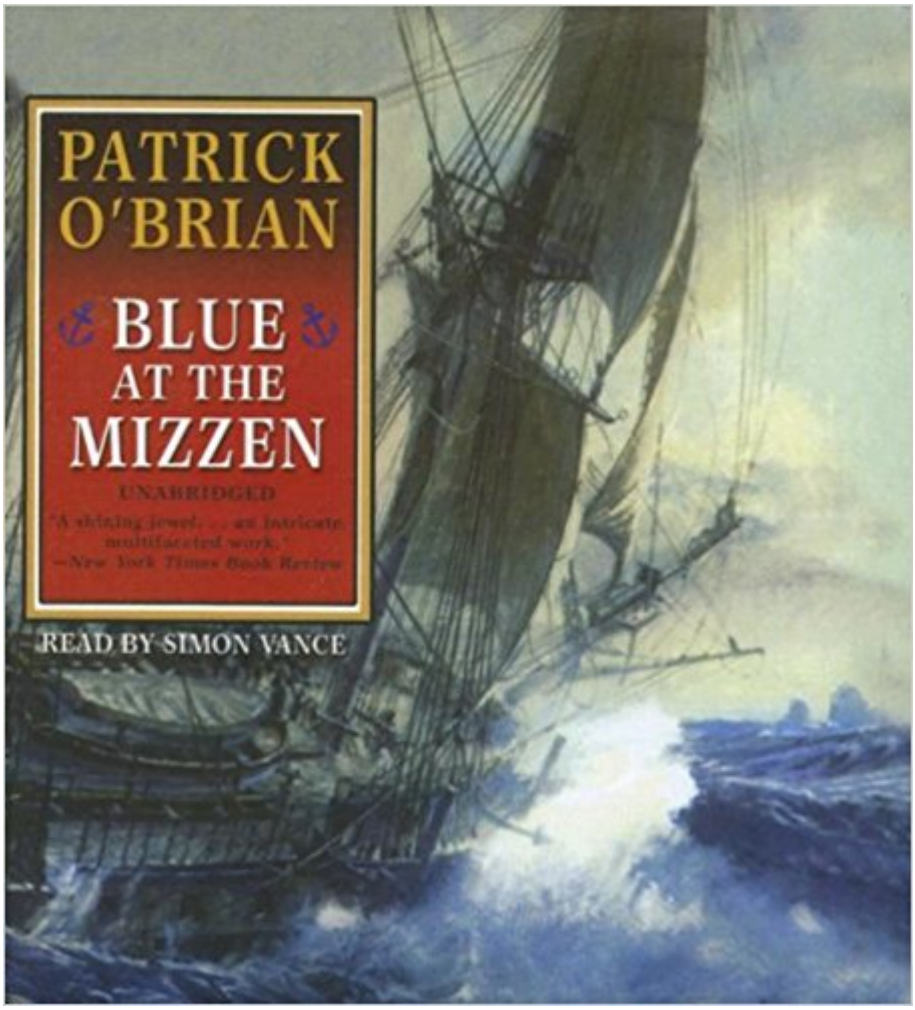
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Blue At The Mizzen: Aubrey-Maturin Series Book 20



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Synopsis

Napoleon has been defeated at Waterloo, but the ensuing peace becomes ugly for Captain Jack Aubrey, with violent celebrations of the English sailors in Gibraltar and the desertion of nearly half his crew. To cap it all off, the Surprise is nearly sunk in a shattering night collision on the first leg of her journey to South America, where Jack and Stephen are to help Chile assert her independence from Spain. The delay for repairs reaps a harvest of strange consequences, and then the South American expedition is a desperate affair, starting with near disaster in the ice-choked seas far south of the Horn. In the end, Jack, again the daring frigate commander of old, stakes all on a desperate solo night raid against the might of the Spanish viceroy in Peru.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The book contains the usual splendid blend of nautical detail and political intrigue, savage battles and naturalists' musing, all ratified by O'Brian's seemingly effortless ability to deploy the vocabulary and idioms of the time." --New Yorker

Great, of course. You will like this logical end to the series. [Think twice before you read "21" as it leaves one up in the air. As it is incomplete you my feel responsible for all the characters and relationships for a long time. "21" is for real fans.]

Patrick O'Brian is my favorite author historical Fiction at it's finest.

Cannot recommend enough.

I think Simon Vance does a great job - and his delivery is very nuanced, with every voice very distinct. Outstanding series - I have listened to all 21 on my way to and from work, and they made the ride much more enjoyable.

I assume that people interested in audio versions of O'Brian's novels have already read the books. So, listening to a read version is a supplementary pleasure that can follow a great read. My rating here has nothing to do with the literary quality of the work in question. The whole Aubrey-Maturin series is superb. But if you want to listen to them I recommend that you stay away from any of the versions read by Simon Vance. His are tedious, monotonous readings, in which he is unable to sufficiently differentiate the characters, with their diverse accents from around the world. For example, Maturin grew up in Ireland, and should therefore have a bit of an Irish accent. Vance can't do it. Rather, he gives us stuffy readings that makes Jack sound like a bombastic jerk, and Stephen like a mincing prig. And in his hands, Diana sounds like a silly simpering ninny. An actor, not just a reader is required. I highly recommend Patrick Tull, who recorded the entire series with consistent success and enthusiasm, as well as John Lee, who unfortunately only recorded the first 6 volumes.

Sorry to Blackstone, but Patrick Tull does the best version of narrating this series. This is one of the best series of books/audio books I have ever read/listened to. If someone is going to buy this audio book for someone else or has already been listening to this series, then you need to switch to the Patrick Tull version by Recorded Books. He does a superb job and will not be touched by any competition ever. The narrator of this book does not express Aubrey in a manner that meets my expectations.Blackstone is a good audio book company, but this one audio book missed the mark.

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