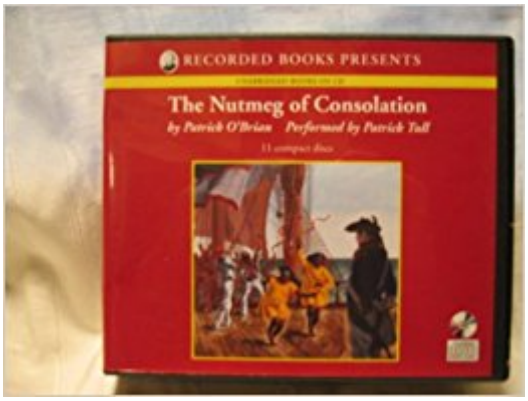
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The Nutmeg Of Consolation (Aubrey/Maturin Series, #14)



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Synopsis

Book by Patrick O’Brian

Book Information

Audio CD

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Best Sellers Rank: #2,359,683 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (O) > O’Brian, Patrick #94506 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical

Customer Reviews

Book by Patrick O’Brian

It’s a great story but it seems to be the bit in the middle between two other stories. Not a lot happens here but we get a good account of Australian life, politics and misery of transportation during the era. If you’d like to know more about Australia from an early fictional naturalist’s point of view then this is the book for you. There is some action at sea but it is in the same vein as the last few books in that not much successfully happens, a few exciting moments that don’t develop into in great action and ends up being dissatisfying as a sea adventure. I can’t fault the writing or the story telling but I wouldn’t really classify this as a sea story. O’Brian’s command of attitudes and grasp of the time and place are unequaled as usual. I recommend the book but I would also say it could be skipped with little concern.

I am rereading the entire series and enjoying every moment. O’Brian’s capacity for description, character development, and accuracy of historical details is a joy, as is his wry sense of humor. The frailties and foibles of his chief protagonists Aubrey and Maturin coexist quite believably with their more heroic aspects.

Sailing back from a diplomatic a diplomatic mission the ship grounds on uncarted reef, it shows how dangerous it was to be in little known waters at the time. The crew is attacked by savage murderous tribe from Borneo. By luck the crew is saved and lands in Batavia. The Governor can supply them with small frigate which is submerged to drown pestiferous matter.They sail bound for Sidney and by coincidence HMS Surprise saves the Nutmeg from serious peril.In Sidney there are learned description of condition in the colony and the reader can have speculative enlightenment why the famous sailor Capt. William Blight was fired as governor and sent to England shortly before HMS Surprise and Nutmeg arrived.

Another excellent O'Brian tale. One caveat, however; if you are a softhearted animal lover you might appreciate an "heads up". There is an anecdote about a Polar Bear and her cubs, which has little if any reason to be there, you would do well to skip. I wish I had avoided the reading. It's around page 176 in the Kindle version.

I've read the first 14 books in this series now, and I found this to be the least interesting. Long discussions of nature and science, and a lot of sailing as opposed to the more balance content in the earlier volumes

I read this book out of order in the series, and I have to say, don't do that. This book series really needs to be read in order as where one book ends, the next one starts.Overall, this book is lightness and optimism. Bad things happen, but then good things happen in spades. I liked it. Our hero's have a rough start, a good middle, a rough time in Botany bay, but then do the right thing, with a great ending.Triggers: Violence - it's a war book, so there is a lot of death and violence. Lots of observations about the prisons in Botany bay, and the punishments, like flogging and such. Some sex, but it's off camera.

The Nutmeg of Consolation continues Aubrey's voyage into the southern hemisphere that began with _The Thirteen Gun Salute_, the Suprise sailing in and around Indonesia, eventually docking in Sydney. While I recommend reading the Aubrey/Maturin series in order, many of the books can be read out of sequence. In this instance, however, to do so would be to find oneself adrift.Picking up immeadiately where _The Thirteen Gun Salute_ left off, the crew of the _Diane_, awaiting rescue, begins to build a skiff of their own. As is not uncommon in the South China Sea (then, as now), the crew is soon set upon, and after (typically) an adventure or two, are set to rights and find

themselves back in port. The political climate that Maturin had left - the French out manovered politically - takes a more nautical turn as Aubrey, refitted, seeks to destroy the French ship before it reaches the Straits of Magellan, the ship and crew eventually making port in Australia - a penal colony at the time. (Forgive my broad summary - I want to avoid spoilers, the better for readers to enjoy O'Brian's writing and structuring of the broader narrative.) His depiction of the fauna of the continent, as well as his description of the social climate is so detailed as to make me believe I am walking with Maturin on his journey; it is an utterly fantastic mental vacation.The balance O'Brian strikes between nautical fiction - his brilliant and vivid depiction of life at sea and in combat - with his attention to historical detail politically and militarily, alternated with his close attention to natural history through Maturin, continues to impress, astound, and capture both imagination and attention. This book, as with the series, warrants the numerous five star reviews it has garnered. Highly recommended.

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