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The Surgeon's Mate



Synopsis

Unbridged CD Audiobook Narrated by Patrick Tull

Book Information

Series: the Aubrey/Maturin series (Book 7)

Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

Unbridged CD Audiobook Narrated by Patrick Tull

The best nautical historical fiction ever written, period. O'Brian researched exhaustively and infused a lifetime of passion, expertise, and emotion into every volume. The books are not only infinitely readable, they're page burners, each and every one, with laudable character development and environmental description that put 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.

Once more O'brian has crafted a great sea story . You feel the tension on the quarterdeck as a chase and later a near disaster occurs. A bit more of this takes place on shore than I would prefer, but still a very entertaining read.

This novel is a personal favorite so far in the series (I've only read nine of them). This is Maturin's story mostly and it's exciting, funny in parts, and it ends beautifully.

Seven books into the series, that O'Brian can still surprise me, intrigue me, and keep both character and story fresh astounds and pleases me to the bottom of my feet. This is why O'Brian receives such high praise and accolades, and it is well deserved. The Surgeon's Mate has Aubrey return home after a long separation, only to find himself in financial and legal trouble ashore - a situation apparently as common to sailors in the early 19th century as it is now. Added to this, Cpt. Aubrey has to contend and deal with the consequences of his dalliance in Nova Scotia. Thankfully, Aubrey and Dr. Maturin are quickly dispatched to the Baltic. I will forego the details of the mission lest I spoil the plot - suffice it to say the past of Maturin and Aubrey's service in America catch up with both of them with rather surprising (and delightful) consequences. The title of the book, so often clear to readers as the story unfolds, was here a mystery until literally the final few pages, and was in any case a double-entendre of sorts. That O'Brian, as Aubrey, both enjoy a good play on words, I couldn't help but laugh out loud as I read the final few pages solving the puzzle. As I've said with each previous review on O'Brian's series, the 5 star reviews of his books are very much deserved. Highly recommended.

Slower moving than some other volumes of the series. The title is misleading due to your thoughts from the preceding volume. A must read for any Aubrey/Maturin fan

Patrick O'Brien writes the Best sea novels The rad. Best characters best tactics best sailing best ever. Can't wait to get the next one

A continuation of the greatest series of naval stories ever. The boys are dragged from pillar to post all over the northern hemisphere. Excessive celebration ashore in Nova Scotia with an ambitious young lady leads to some anxious moments later for Jack, while Stephen aspires to a more conventional relationship with Diana. A tense cat and dog chase across the North Atlantic finally sees the boy's return home, but, fortunately for Jack, life as a landsman is brief, and he is off again, dispatched to save the world from despotic French cataclysm. A shipwreck and imprisonment in Paris rounds out the story, a rousing tale leavened with the (mostly) accidental amorous adventures of the protagonists' new friend, Jagiello. If you do not enjoy this novel, you are a slab-sided scrub and cove. It has a beautifully constructed plot told in wonderful prose by the master of the genre.

THE SURGEON'S MATE, the seventh installment of the Jack Aubrey- Stephen Maturin series about

the British naval captain and his surgeon friend at the start of the nineteenth century picks up the story as "Lucky" Jack and the Doctor, along with Diana Villiers (the woman Stephen has long pined for), head back to England after escaping Boston aboard the HMS Shannon and its subsequent defeating of the USS Chesapeake. The story continues with a series of loosely related episodes: Jack's losing himself in an affair with a woman of questionable character in Halifax, his and Stephen's mission to win over a Catalan unit from the French at Grimsholm (now in Finland) and capture the fortress there, and the imprisonment of Jack, Stephen, and Stephen's Swedish assistant Gedymin Jagiello by the French and our heroes' attempt at escape. Stephen's secret life as a super spy for the British Crown also becomes threatened. Throughout the book, the reader might assume the title refers to Jagiello, but it becomes apparent by the end that this is not so. Jagiello, in any case, is an odd character who's not well fleshed out. He seems to be present mostly for comic relief, and late in the book he also serves as a plot device. THE SURGEON'S MATE is the least satisfying of the Aubrey-Maturin novels at this point in the series, at least as a stand-alone novel. Although the last fifty pages are exciting, most of the rest of the novel, while still engrossing--Patrick O'Brian's prose style still pleases--is even more episodic than usual. It reads like a coda to the previous (and superior) book in the series, THE FORTUNE OF WAR (see my review on .com) than it does a cohesive work of its own merit. Still, to any fan of O'Brian's novels, this is not an important consideration.

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