

The Letter of Marque (Vol. Book 12) (Aubrey/Maturin Novels)

By Patrick O'Brian

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"Fine stuff...[*The Letter of Marque*] leaves the devotee of naval fiction eager for sequels."?Jonathan Yardley, *Washington Post Book World*

Captain Jack Aubrey, a brilliant and experienced officer, has been struck off the list of post-captains for a crime he did not commit. His old friend Stephen Maturin, usually cast as a ship's surgeon to mask his discreet activities on behalf of British Intelligence, has bought for Aubrey his former ship the *Surprise* to command as a privateer, more politely termed a letter of marque. Together they sail on a desperate mission against the French, which, if successful, may redeem Aubrey from the private hell of his disgrace.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
When Jack Aubrey is unfairly deprived of his commission in the Royal Navy, Stephen Maturin comes to the rescue, purchasing the captain's former ship and outfitting it as a privateer, to be commanded by...Jack Aubrey. Soon the *Surprise* is off to sea, on a mission that Aubrey hopes will redeem his good name. The author's grasp of period detail is astonishing as ever--and so is his gift for pure entertainment.

From Publishers Weekly
If Jane Austen wrote Royal Navy yarns, they might read like this sequel to Master and Commander and Post Captain (which Norton issues in paperback in August). In the early 1800s, Captain Jack Aubrey, unjustly drummed out of service, is now master of the "letter of marque" (privateer) frigate Surprise , secretly owned by Stephen Maturin, ship's doctor/naturalist/abandoned husband/opium-eater and intelligence agent. The major events here are two great sea victories that make Jack a rich folk-hero, and Stephen's winning back of his wife and breaking his laudanum habit. Jack's seamanship and heroism are complemented by Stephen's absent-minded brilliance, their friendship cemented by their shared music-making (violin and cello, respectively). The early-19th-century locutions are fascinating, as are the evocation of period shipboard life (including ship-provisioning and naval lingo), Whitehall politics (rotten boroughs, etc.) and drug addiction (coca leaf-chewing as well as opium-eating). Seafarers and landlubbers alike will enjoy this swift, witty tale of money and love.
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From Library Journal
Originally published in England in 1988, this U.S. publication is the long-awaited sequel to Master and Commander (LJ 12/15/69) and Post Captain (LJ 8/72). It continues the adventures of Captain Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin, ship's doctor. Jack, who has been unfairly dismissed from the British Navy, continues his sea career under a "Letter of Marque," a polite term for a privateer. Stephen struggles to balance his scientific interests, his own inclination toward addiction to laudanum, and his concern for his friend. The author has created two wonderfully contrasting characters in bluff, hearty Aubrey and reedy, intellectual Maturin. Readers will be glad to see these unlikely friends in action again. The historical background of the Napoleonic era, as well as the details of early 19th-century naval warfare, are authentically depicted. An exciting sea story with good character development. Recommended for public libraries.
- *C. Robert Nixon, M.L.S., Lafayette, Ind.*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edna Kopec:

This The Letter of Marque (Vol. Book 12) (Aubrey/Maturin Novels) book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is definitely information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This specific The Letter of Marque (Vol. Book 12) (Aubrey/Maturin Novels) without we comprehend teach the one who studying it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't

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Jena Alvarez:

Now a day people that Living in the era just where everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not require people to be aware of each data they get. How people have to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Looking at a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information especially this The Letter of Marque (Vol. Book 12) (Aubrey/Maturin Novels) book because this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

Terry Matlock:

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Jeffery Harman:

The Letter of Marque (Vol. Book 12) (Aubrey/Maturin Novels) can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to get every word into pleasure arrangement in writing The Letter of Marque (Vol. Book 12) (Aubrey/Maturin Novels) although doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource data that maybe you can be among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial considering.

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