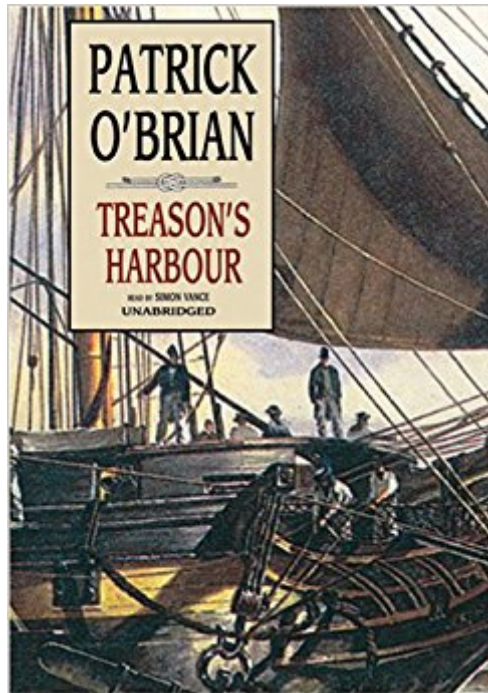




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Treason's Harbour (Aubrey Maturin, No. 9)



Synopsis

[Read by Simon Vance] This ninth volume in Patrick O'Brian's beloved Aubrey-Maturin series is full of suspense, taking on the role of both nautical adventure and spy story. The polished prose vividly evokes the nineteenth century atmosphere. All of Patrick O'Brian's strengths are on parade in this novel of action and intrigue, set partly in Malta, partly in the treacherous, pirate-infested waters of the Red Sea. While Captain Aubrey worries about repairs to his ship, Stephen Maturin assumes the center stage, for the stockyards and salons of Malta are alive with Napoleon's agents and the admiralty's intelligence network is compromised. Maturin's cunning is the sole bulwark against sabotage of Aubrey's daring mission.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A splendid saga." --Los Angeles Times Book Review "Splendid adventures...polished, historically accurate, and intensely pleasurable." --Kirkus Reviews "Certainly the greatest series about the British Navy ever written - indeed, one of the most successful of its magnitude ever written in any genre." --Publishers Weekly "O'Brian's narrative . . . provides endlessly varying shocks and surprises-comic, grim, farcical and tragic. An essential of the truly gripping book for the narrative addict is the creation of a whole, solidly living world for the imagination to inhabit, and O'Brian does this with prodigal specificity and generosity." --A.S. Byatt

PATRICK O'BRIAN (1914-2000) was born Richard Patrick Russ in England. During the Second

World War, he and his wife were involved in British secret-service activities. After the war, he changed his name to Patrick O'Brian and began his career as a novelist, biographer, and translator. In the 1990s, Mr. O'Brian, then in his seventies, achieved the critical and popular recognition that was his due.

I thought that I had ordered the book read by Simon Vance but I received one read by Patrick Tull. I prefer Simon Vance's version and that's the one I thought I had ordered.

I love this series, and while I'm glad I read this installment, in order to understand the overall continuity of the entire series, it's not one of his very best. A definite four stars, however- well written and well read.

I have been listening to Simon Vance's narration of this series since book 1, Master and Commander. I have listened to many audiobooks including many free ones from Librivox.org read by well-intentioned, very generous people from around the world for whom English is a second language, and by Americans who don't look up the pronunciation of specialized terms. The stories have been marred and interrupted by these simple errors, and further magnified by chapters extraordinarily rendered by people who really know what they're doing. When I started this series, I really had no idea how much fun it would be, and how alive Vance's narration could make the stories. Vance is a virtuoso. He uses timbre, force, accent, nasality, cadence, and pitch to consistently represent the characters across the volumes. I had first encountered such supreme rendition listening to John Lithgow's narration of Michael Crichton's "Disclosure" and have enjoyed it again just this past summer. I've seen the movie twice, but Lithgow's performance is unique. Although I've been enjoying Vance's narration, I really had no idea how gifted he was until I listened to this same volume narrated by Patrick Tull. Tull's diction and vocal insinuations are amazing, and well worth the experience. But I have come to "see" Maturin as a refined, sensitive, almost effeminate man of extraordinary intelligence through Vance's voice, and O'Brian's prose. And after 8 volumes of "pictures" rendered by Simon Vance, I just wasn't able to follow Mr. Tull's depiction of him in this story as well as I have the previous stories by Vance. I have been spoiled. I ended up getting this version by Vance, and re-listening is so comfortable and effortless. I have found a man with an extraordinary talent who has recreated hundreds of books: classics, Ian Flemming's Bond, Books That Changed The World series; and I intend to enjoy them all.

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