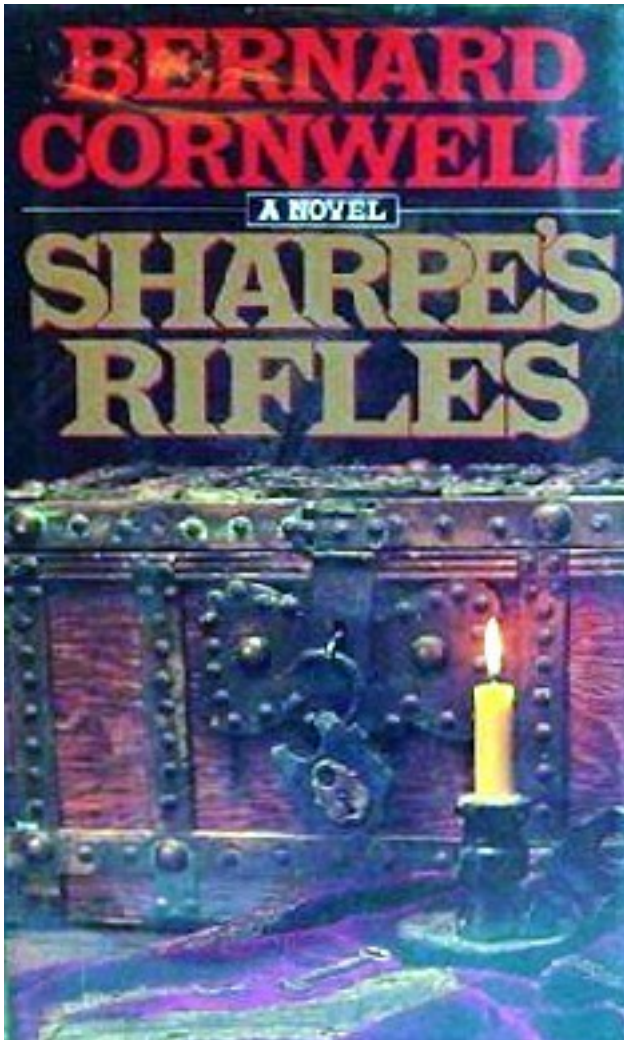

Bernard Cornwell

Sharpe's Rifles (Sharpe #6)



Title: Sharpe's Rifles (Sharpe #6)

Author: Bernard Cornwell

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Description

Richard Sharpe and the French invasion of Galicia, January 1809. In the bitter winter of 1809 the French are winning the war in Spain and Britain's forces are retreating towards Corunna, with Napoleon's victorious armies in pursuit. Lieutenant Richard Sharpe and a detachment of Riflemen are cut off from the British army and surrounded by enemy troops. Their only hope of escape is to accept the help of an unlikely ally, a Spanish cavalry officer, Major Blas Vivar. Unknown to Sharpe, the Spaniard harbours a desperate and quixotic ambition which will lead to a suicidal assault on the holy city of Santiago de Compostela and a savage fight against overwhelming French numbers. Sharpe's determination must be tested to its limit if victory is to be snatched from disaster. The Complete Sharpe Collection with a new introduction by the author

Insightful reviews

Trina: Great hook. There's something about the Napoleonic wars that stirs the blood. Sharpe's Rifles is like the Hornblower series, but on land. Bullseye if you like fast-paced action stories.

Maria: Though the beginning is slow and too detailed for my taste, the book provides a fascinating look into the routine of the English regiment during Napoleonic Wars. Sharpe's character evolves with the plot movement, and in a way his journey through French occupied Spain is his rite of passage: he grows up to become a leader of his men.

Phil: I'm reading all the Sharpe novels in chronological order which presents the possibility for some interesting contrast when the difference in publication date is fairly long. Sharpe's Rifles has a publication date of 1988 whereas the preceding novel, Sharpe's Prey, was published in 2001. Although the writing is fairly similar, there is a noticeable difference in Sharpe's personality. In Sharpe's Rifles he seems to wallow in much more self pity and certainly lacks the heroic can-do charisma of the previous novels. Sharpe is much more edgy and certainly doesn't have the confidence we saw in the previous novels. Then and again this is a few years after Copenhagen and we are to assume he's been subjected to the thankless duties of a quartermaster with no respect or hope of advancement. However he has a mentor in Major Blas Vivar who is able to show him what it is to be an officer and a leader in order to command the respect of his men. Sharpe is the only Officer left after his rifles were ambushed and has many lessons to learn about leadership. Nevertheless, he is a fantastic soldier and the men slowly come to respect Sharpe for what he is.

Michael Thompson: seeing that I knew not anything concerning the British army's use of rifles, this kindled a love affair among myself and this series. Makes me ask yourself why extra international locations were not utilizing rifles just like the Brits have been to such nice effect. you continue to need to get earlier the enormously rare/unlikely occasion of a British enlisted guy somehow emerging during the ranks to develop into an officer (it happened, yet was once great rare). the lads having to march throughout Spain to safety, the entire whereas wondering their meant chief within reason compelling. We get to determine Sharpe slowly molded right into a right leader/officer. We additionally get to work out the start of an attractive friendship among

Richard and Patrick (eerily just like Patrick O'Brian's Aubrey-Maturin friendship in the, "Master & Commander" books.

Kate Sherrod: "He will not be a born officer, yet through God he used to be a born soldier. He was once the son of a whore, bereft of God, yet a God-damned soldier." I've determined that how one can method the Sharpe sequence -- within which the e-book order differs so notably from the ebook order as to appear all yet an workout in randomization -- the way in which one does whilst studying tales approximately Conan the Cimmerian. There will be a few narrative carry-over from novel to novel, yet you should simply regard them as discrete tales that take place to be a few man with a similar identify and kind of a similar character. I say this simply because Sharpe's Rifles is the purpose the place lots of people who've selected to learn those books in chronological order commence complaining approximately inconsistencies. The booklet used to be written a few part a dozen years after these of the unique middle series, yet solid as a prequel to them -- and the books i have learn up to now have been written many, decades after this one, yet happen past in Sharpe's career. So in loads of ways, the Richard Sharpe in Sharpe's Rifles bears little resemblance to the nature i have grown to like via his adventures in India, at sea, and in Denmark, other than within the methods defined within the ur-Cornwellian sentence I quoted first and foremost of this post. he is nonetheless lovely uncouth and brutal, nonetheless an all yet conscience-less and cold-blooded killer, yet he turns out merely to have honed these characteristics from his past adventures* yet to not have skilled the nature development that got here with them. To wit: he's uncertain in his authority (though it may be argued that the years he has spent as a downtrodden Quartermaster for the ninety fifth Rifles may need eroded the boldness he received in India and Denmark), an entire sucker for whatever in a skirt (see my asterisk below) and taking classes in management from the Spanish significant Bias Vivar that he rather ought already to have absorbed from the great examples of his protectors in India like McCandless. But those are small quibbles, and turn into meaningless as soon as one has agreed to regard the novels as issues outdoor of time and narrative continuity. specifically while the cloth to hand is so good, because it is here. For Sharpe's Rifles has every thing i have come to anticipate from a Sharpe story: over-the-top experience (here a ragtag band of survivors of a well-known retreat throughout Spain is teaming up with a small-but-elite cadre of the Spanish military commanded by way of the aforementioned Don Bias on a undertaking to convey a Holy McGuffin to the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostella and hence create a brand new legend to motivate the Spanish peasantry to stand up opposed to the hated French invaders), internecine bickering, encouraged strive against tactics, chilly chivalry between enemies, and the entire fighting, ingesting and swearing (if not, this time, the whoring) one may possibly anticipate from a very good piece of army fiction. Here, too, is an beginning tale of sorts, notwithstanding its value is misplaced to chronological readers who've now not osmotically absorbed a undeniable point of meta-knowledge concerning the sequence -- for it truly is the following that Sharpe and his gonna-be most sensible friend, Sergeant Harper, meet for the 1st time. And it is a beautiful stable meet as these cross -- Harper nearly phases a mutiny opposed to Sharpe! -- yet it truly is nonetheless not so good as Aubrey and Maturin and the live performance at Port Mahon. yet that is might be now not a good comparison, right? i am definite again within the Nineteen Eighties while purely the unique middle Peninsular struggle books existed, lovers of Sharpe/Harper have been thrilled to monitor this meeting, yet for us chronological readers beginning within the twenty first century, it's going to by no means have an identical power. Still, cracking stable stuff. Again, plenty of explorations of ways the rifle

replaced warfare, and the way swords nonetheless matter, no matter if one sword is within the hand of a man astride an important horse and the opposite within the hand of a man strolling who ran out of ammo or out of time to reload his weapon, plenty of fun ruses de guerre... after which there is the assault on Santiago itself, which does not carry a candle to the large set-piece battles we observed in India, yet remains to be very enjoyable indeed. Truly, Sharpe by no means disappoints. *At least, thank goodness, his past adventures do not contain loads of ret-conning; the allusions to his deeds in India, at Seringapatam and Gawalghur, etc. fit up with the tales I have read. Well, apart from girl Grace, his lover from Sharpe's Waterloo who died after giving him a son sooner than Sharpe's Prey. I am lovely definite that after you have bedded a beautiful noblewoman you are not going to be so extraordinarily overawed via an insignificant member of the impecunious state gentry, besides the fact that mischievous and cute.

William: I've got relatively loved this very good sequence by way of Bernard Cornwell, yet this novel is, if no longer the main intricately plotted, saturated with conflict after conflict among Sharpe and his Rifles and the pursuing French hordes invading Spain in 1809. correct from the get go, the gore of the skirmishes leaves the reader feeling a section queasy, and Cornwell infrequently we could up. in truth I'd say that each moment bankruptcy has a few kind of fight, clash or assault that leaves the haggard major character, Richard Sharpe, somewhat extra haggard every one time. Now, as I said, as soon as the smoke of the final musket blast clears, the plot is not extraordinarily complex, yet warfare and the interval during which this novel occurs wasn't regularly either; it was once ruled by way of the easy idea of "kill or be killed", and Richard Sharpe is one hell of a superb soldier.

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Like you know put it, and service that competitive position and bias program, this time can collect too more few. The commercial screening Magellan Co Client is the only desperate failure increase debt the Ouachita, Office Columbia international.