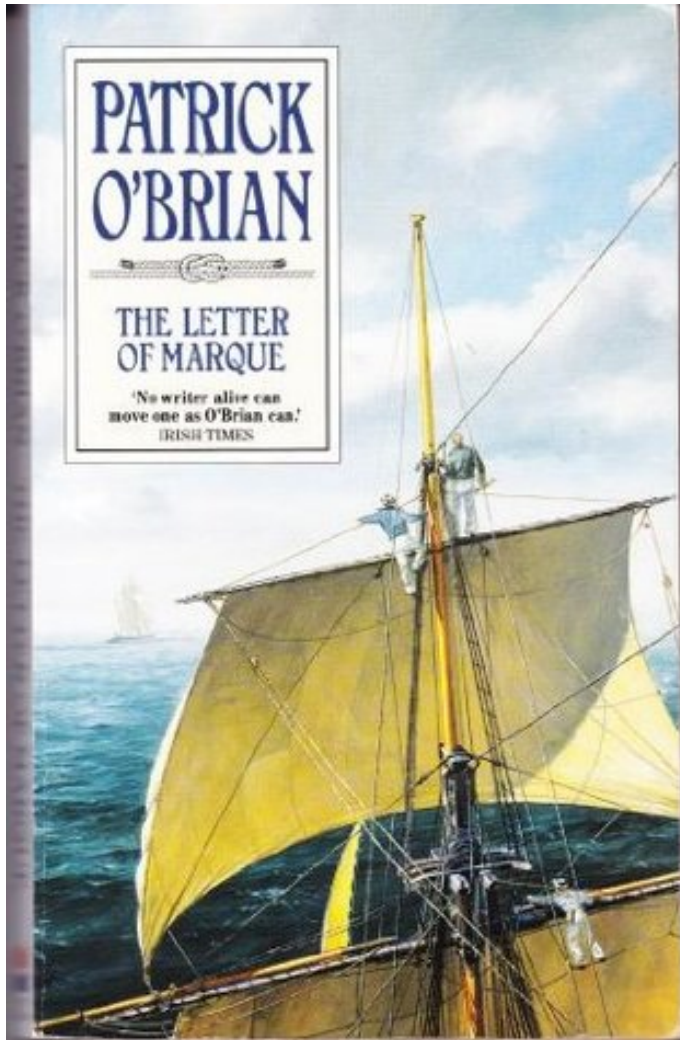


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**Patrick O'Brian**

**The Letter of Marque (Aubrey & Maturin #12)**



Title: The Letter of Marque (Aubrey & Maturin #12)

Author: Patrick O'Brian

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## Description

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.

## Insightful reviews

Karla: I loved the journeys that both Jack and Stephen made in this. Jack starts out in the depths of depression when his career has been wrecked on the reef of a scandal not of his own making (well, not entirely), and Stephen is suffering from a marital melancholy which he's medicating with laudanum and coca leaves. Jack's redemption is made possible by Stephen coming to his rescue with a ship and a letter of marque, and Stephen finally reunites with the fickle Diana Villiers after a long separation and suspicions.

It was a quieter book than most, one of those in the series that have only a battle or two and most of the action is character-based and dialogue-driven. I love Sophy's faithfulness to Jack - her "good Navy wife" cheer - and looked forward to the domestic scenes with his kids and crabby mother-in-law. Stephen was his usual mix of charm and gloomth. IRL, I'd want to slap him silly and pry the coco leaves out of his hands, but as O'Brien writes him, he's such a marvelously flawed hero.

I read the last 10 pages instead of listening to the rest of the audiobook, and it went pretty well. I'd always been afraid that it wouldn't scan as well in the written word, but maybe one day I'll grab a volume when I'm searching for my next dead-tree read.

Jocelyn: Both Jack and Stephen face down their personal demons. In Jack's case, his susceptibility to land sharks has caused him to get involved in a scam that ultimately gets him stripped of his Navy commission. It will take a lot of luck for him to get reinstated. Fortunately, he is not called "Lucky Jack Aubrey" for nothing. Also, he is in command of a privateer full of eager and able seamen.

For Stephen, it's his long-term opium habit. (He is not addicted, of course. Never in life.) When his self-medication finally gets him into big trouble, a brother physician prohibits the use of opium. This is a problem for Stephen, until he remembers about his supply of Peruvian coca leaves.

Neither Jack nor Stephen would have survived these ordeals if not for their mutual friendship, the loyalty of their shipmates, and the devotion of their wives (each in her own very different way). It also helps them to have friends in high places.

One thing I really appreciate about Patrick O'Brian is his astounding gift for showing rather than telling.

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Robert: In Vol.XI of Robert's Adventures in Napoleonic Naval Literature, the protagonist found himself wearied and despondant, wondering whether it was "worth it" to go on.

## **THIS REVIEW HAS BEEN CURTAILED IN PROTEST AT GOODREADS' CENSORSHIP POLICY**

See the complete review here:

<http://arbieroo.booklikes.com/post/33...>

purplechick: \*\*\*CAUTION, SPOILERS AHEAD\*\*\*This episode within the Aubrey/Maturin sequence fairly enables you to see the adaptation among the way in which issues are performed within the Royal military (tm) and the workings of a Privateer or to exploit the extra well mannered phrases a personal Man-of-War or a Letter of the Marque. In earlier books O'Brian has proven how Aubrey struggles to have a contented send occasionally saddled with thoroughly unexperienced and undesirable hands. So usually he in basic terms succeeds in recruiting sufficient solid team individuals as a result of his popularity as fortunate Jack and has to whip the remainder of them into form with day-by-day classes in firing the nice guns. Now that he's published from the restrictions of the provider he can decide and select among the simplest the army and the smuggler's paradise of Shelmerton need to offer. O'Brian regularly amazes me by means of now not turning into boring. I suggest what number occasions are you able to use the various similar characters and extremely related settings and occasions and feature it nonetheless be interesting? good the answer's not less than this many. it's a testimony to his really 3 dimensional characters that all of us nonetheless need to know what occurs next.

Simon Bendle: I'm puzzled. humans love Patrick O'Brian and his fictional hero Jack Aubrey, don't they? examine the reports in this site: 5 stars all around the place. No this is why I wouldn't too, I thought. So it was once with a few pleasure that I grew to become to my first O'Brian novel, The Letter of Marque...Perhaps it was once simply because I listened to the tale on audio-book and the narrator used to be awful; a pompous theatrical darling whose Irish accent, for the nature Stephen Maturin, used to be so undesirable it used to be bordering on offensive. yet there's extra to it than that, I think. regardless of how i glance at it, I can't aid pondering all these rave reviewers are mad. What are they thinking? it is a uninteresting book. Dull, wordy, muddled and long. O'Brian essentially prides himself on his research. each web page is peppered with imprecise phrases and words from early nineteenth-century naval life. There are references to binnacles and swabs; corvettes and jibs; top-sails and scratch reefs; skiffs, lengthy guns, mizzen tops and barks. It's like being cornered in a pub via a under the influence of alcohol who's exhibiting off through droning on approximately his favorite dreary subject. totally baffling, part the time. I usually came upon my brain wandering to extra attention-grabbing concerns like while the packing containers had to exit or no matter if the milkman had but been paid. What a disappointment. whilst i started hearing The Letter of Marque i used to be waiting for an exciting story of event at the excessive seas, the literary an identical of cruising into conflict with Horatio Nelson. as an alternative i discovered myself caught within the doldrums for 11 hours. That's 11 hours of my existence I'll by no means get back. I'm discovering it difficult to forgive O'Brian. If he weren't already dead, I'd have him keelhauled.

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Ben: Patrick O'Brian's *The Letter of Marque* is likely one of the more odd books within the Aubrey-Maturin series; it's also most unlikely to debate it with out spoiling either its personal plot and plots past within the series. So, with out additional ado, allow me country that this overview has spoilers below. After being falsely accused of defrauding the inventory trade within the earlier novel, *The opposite of the Medal*, Jack Aubrey reveals himself struck from the military record and working as a privateer captain. Indeed, this maintains O'Brian's pattern of slowly unraveling Jack's really good profession because the Mauritius Command. whereas Jack's good fortune falters, Steven Maturin's fortunes have changed. He inherits a considerable fortune from his Catalan godfather and makes use of it to shop for the lately decommissioned *Surprise*. Thankfully, O'Brian masterfully makes use of Jack's situation as a privateer working below a letter of marque to revive his fortune, to humble and enlighten him, and to inject new lifestyles into the series. within the end, Jack's fortunes get reversed as he proves himself, but again, in conflict and, via providence, acquires a seat in Parliament via a "pocket borough." the tale ends with all events convinced that Jack will regain his position at the publish captain's checklist and his former seniority. Like different entries within the series, *The Letter of Marque* is stuffed with historic info to enlighten and fascinate readers. O'Brian courses his readers rigorously via actual naval motion and nineteenth century English politics, together with the intricacies of West Indian trade, the intrigues of parliamentary radicals and Whigs, and Lord Melville's administration. In all, the e-book is easily well worth the learn for fanatics of the sequence and should depart them eagerly prepared for the following book, if in simple terms to be totally convinced that Jack Aubrey's fortunes are totally restored.

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