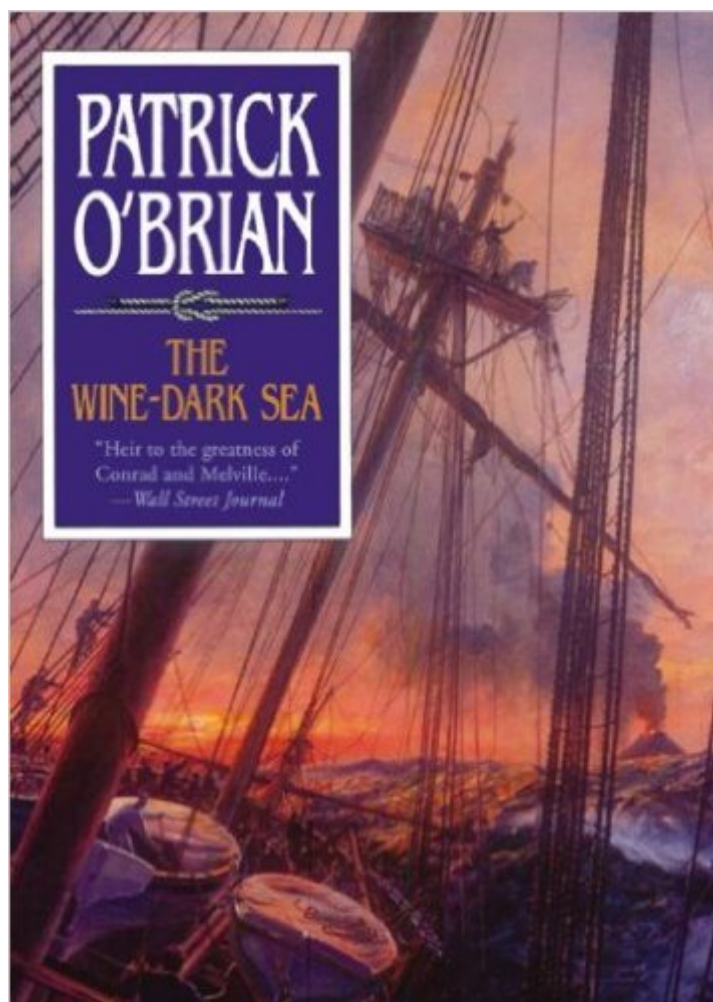


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The Wine-Dark Sea (Aubrey-Maturin)



Synopsis

Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin pursue a privateer through the Great South Sea. While Maturin's mission is to ignite the revolutionary tinder of South America, Aubrey will survive a desperate journey and come face-to-face with his illegitimate son. They are reunited in a breathtaking chase through stormy seas and icebergs.

Book Information

Series: Aubrey-Maturin (Book 16)

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (93 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,851,555 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \(O \) > O'Brian, Patrick](#) #1746 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Sea Adventures](#) #2672 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Sea Stories](#)

Customer Reviews

I once had a creative writing instructor who insisted all of his students read one of O'Brian's novels to learn what truly superior writing was all about. I chose *The Wine-Dark Sea* and am I glad I did. O'Brian is truly a master! *The Wine-Dark Sea* opens with Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin in pursuit of an American privateer sailing the South Sea. The British, already engaged in the Napoleonic Wars, have made the mistake of also blundering into war with a young upstart, the United States. Maturin, in *The Wine-Dark Sea*, desires to relieve the pressure on the British government by inciting the revolutionaries of South America, more specifically, Peru. O'Brian, a master storyteller, also has a sharp eye for detail. His descriptions of the landscape, the sea, life on board the midgit man-of-war and even the Andes are no doubt the best in all of literature. The spine-tingling barbarity and bloody battle scenes are so real, they'll make you glad you're only reading a book (although the writing is so good you may forget that at times)! I really can't praise O'Brian highly enough. He is both artist and perfect craftsman and beside him, most authors rapidly pale. If you love the sea, if you love adventure, if you just love a good book, you absolutely can't go

wrong with *The Wine-Dark Sea* or any of O'Brian's other novels. All of them are just perfect. END

Why would I recommend not reading this book? The answer is simple; I urge you to start at the beginning and buy *Master and Commander*, the first book. I say this because the odds are you have not read O'Brian before, if you had, you would scarcely need a recommendation for a book in the middle of the series. No, if you had read O'Brian before you would have either decided not to read more or as so many have before you, would have read the series, devouring one book after another in the order they were intended to be read. *The Wine-Dark Sea* is a section of one of the greatest examples of nautical fiction ever written, don't deny yourself the joy of watching these characters grow and develop over the course of the opus.

Another incomparable tale by that master of sea stories, the late Patrick O'Brian. Part of the Aubrey/Maturin series, this one follows the book "*The Truelove*," which led His Majesty's Hired Vessel "*Surprise*" to the Hawaiian (Sandwich) Islands to protect British whaling interests there, which were threatened by a pioneer of communism, Monsieur Dutourd, who was endeavoring to set up his own idealistic society there at the expense of British interests. As this book starts, Dutourd's ship, the "*Franklin*," is being pursued by Aubrey in the "*Surprise*," on a strange, wine-colored sea in unusual weather. Soon the reason for the strange sea and weather becomes evident as an erupting volcano causes damage to both ships. The story revolves around British intelligence agent Dr. Maturin's attempt to influence political events in Peru, several battles at sea with the concomitant taking of prizes, battle with a pirate, deaths and injuries in battle, and the nearly deadly struggle of Dr. Maturin's medical assistant, the Rev. Martin, with his conscience. No one knew nautical lore and the square-rigged vessels of the Napoleonic era (ca. 1800) as well as Patrick O'Brian. Many of his sea battles are taken directly from the annals of the British Admiralty, and his dialogue is replete with period expressions that lend even greater authenticity to his tales. I recommend that a newcomer to this series start with "*Master and Commander*," the first book of the series. Untold hours of pleasure await you. ...

The Wine-Dark Sea by Patrick O'Brian There are few prose stylists writing today who can compare with Patrick O'Brian for the smooth, evocative and fluid stories which come from his pen. This book, a particularly fine example of O'Brian's craft, is part of his Aubrey/Maturin series of sea-faring novels. Sailor Jack Aubrey, while a typically crusty man of the blue briny, is also a well-read and witty contrast and companion to Doctor Stephen Maturin, an erudite physician with a huge love of

the sea. Together, the two have had many adventures, but in *The Wine-Dark Sea*, they face some of their greatest challenges ever with remarkable spirit and aplomb. The story here is great entertainment with lots of page-turning action, but the lush writing is simply seductive and so easy to become lost and quite "at sea" within. While these are often considered "men's books," I strongly suspect that many women would be attracted to the strong plots, grand characterization, and fine writing; there is never the least hint of the crude or the coarse in these highly literate, but so readable novels. I have often suggested the works of Patrick O'Brian to writing students as a model for crisp, fresh, lively prose and most highly recommend this series to anyone who loves a great read.

Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin, having sailed off on a combination privateering and intelligence mission in the *SURPRISE* back in the twelfth novel in the saga, finally are nearly home again -- and this is installment number sixteen! It's hard to believe, too, that after so many volumes, with at least one circumnavigation and any number of roundings of Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope, we find Britain still embroiled in what we in the States refer to as the War of 1812. And what a journey this book narrates, from the witnessing of a new volcanic island and capture of a most irregular privateer in the mid-Pacific, to anxious flight through the Andes by mule and llama, to yet another encounter with ice-islands in the south Atlantic. Although the plotting seems thin at times and lacking in useful details, the narration is as adroit as ever, especially in the author's patented style of understatement. Not his best work by far, but very much worth reading.

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