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The Commodore



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Good read, but nowhere near the quality of the earlier Hornblower books. The original three part series, later consolidated into the original "Captain Horatio Hornblower," were filled with the agonies of the young Hornblower trying to rise from nothing through the ranks of the British navy. They are filled with action and wonderful descriptions of naval life in the days of sail. In this one, the struggles are over. He is now Sir Horatio, Knight of the Bath, Brother in Law of the Duke of Wellington and, frankly, just a little stuffy. After the original Hornblower, I recall that subsequent books were serialized in the Saturday Evening Post and subsequently published with titles like "Mr Midshipman Hornblower," "Lieutenant Hornblower," and "Hornblower and the Atropos." All of them are set in the time of the hero's efforts not only to have immediate success against overwhelming odds but also work his way upward in the ranks. I would particularly recommend "Lt. Hornblower," which is the only book in the series not told from the perspective of the hero but rather as seen by Lt. Bush, a primary character in most of the succeeding books.

I have read all the Hornblower books. This is good book, but not C.S. Forester's best work. The author attempts to bring in actual historical characters into the story, such as Carl von Clausewitz, but it comes as a little cheesy. However, I did enjoy the emphasis on the political and strategic aspects of warfare, rather than just retelling a series of battles. Overall, if you have read this far into the series, then this is a must read to move Hornblower's story-line towards a conclusion. I would not recommend this as the first read in the series. Definitely need to have a few Hornblower books under you belt before trying this novel.

This is the 11th book (chronological order) of the much beloved Hornblower series. Note that the Hornblower series was not written in a chronological order, so by publication date this book comes before *Mr. Midshipman Hornblower*, which is the 1st book of Hornblower's fictional naval career. You can certainly read the books out of order, and in fact "*Beat to Quarters*" which is the first book Forester wrote, is not a bad place to start. The book is three tales, starting with Hornblower being sent to deal with a British Brig currently in a state of mutiny. This leads to Hornblower getting a lead into a possible revolt against Napoleon. This means a stay on land, as Hornblower becomes the military governor of a French City! For his duties, our long suffering hero is awarded with a Peerage, giving way to the title. We finally return to the scene of some of Hornblower's earlier adventures in France. Great characterization, great adventure.

This book finds Horatio Hornblower in the Baltic Sea and in Russia. Here he has to do what seems to be the impossible: fight the French and keep Russia and Sweden as British allies. Not an easy job. But if you have read the previous Hornblower novels then you know he can do it. It is just a question of how to do. Also this book gives insight into the Russian campaign of Napoleon, but not in great detail. I mean after all this book is about Horatio Hornblower not Napoleon, but you can see why Napoleon has no love for this devilish Englishman, a thorn in the side of Napoleon on land and sea this time.

It's always very satisfying jumping into a Horatio Hornblower novel. I've read the books chronicling his progression up the ranks to this point, where he is now a commodore, responsible for a naval squadron, and tasked with the chore of slowing or stopping his old adversary, Napoleon Bonaparte. This time, his assignment takes Hornblower to the Baltic Sea, where he finds himself dealing with the Russians, who may or may not, depending on when you ask, be England's ally. You'll meet Tsar Alexander and a beautiful Russian countess. You'll see again Hornblower's faithful colleague Bush (now a captain in his own right) and the ever-faithful aide, Brown -- both of whom have starred in earlier Hornblower novels. In *Hornblower*, Forester has fashioned one of the most endearing characters in modern fiction. Never reluctant to act boldly, yet always beset by self-criticism, Hornblower gives us repeated lessons in leadership. The Hornblower books are very good. Forester has the master's touch in structuring and executing his books. I soon will be at the end of this wonderful series of books and will miss them.

I enjoyed the book and how it brought to close one of my favorite characters. I many of the books in the series in the 1970s and remembered how much I enjoyed the then it was great catching up with the story again and finishing it. I recommend the series to everyone looking for adventure.

Commodore Hornblower Commodore Hornblower is the ninth volume of the eleven volume Hornblower Saga. In this episode Hornblower is tasked with the mission of taking a small flotilla to the Balkans. The interesting thing to me is the inclusion of two ships designed to fire mortars and the system used to adjust fire rapidly, they used flags signaling over and short and by how much and fire- for-effect of course. (You'd never know that I was an ex-Field Artillery Officer. I did get to call for fire with the sixteen inch guns from the New Jersey once. I probably enjoyed this book more than the preceding eight , but that is probably because of my field artillery background. I highly recommend this volume and the entire series. The next volumes is Lord Hornblower. Gunner May, 2014

Great book. Mainly for boys -- probably not for those under 12.

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