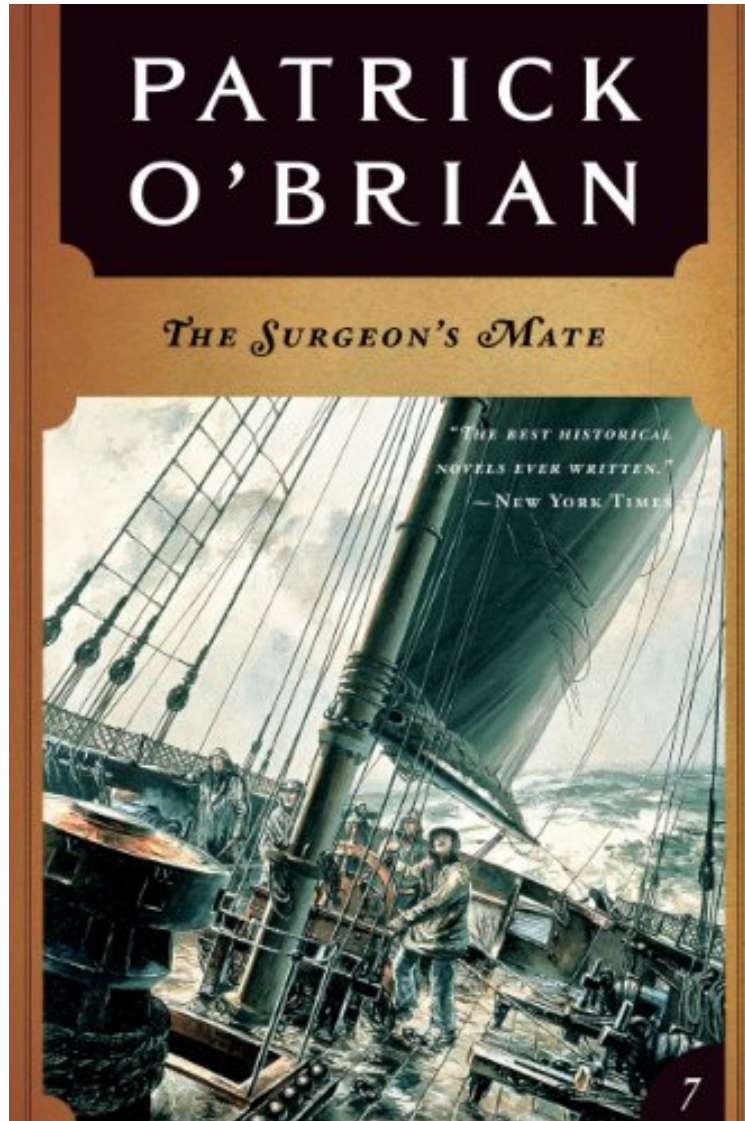


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Von Patrick O'Brian

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Von Patrick O'Brian : The Surgeon's Mate (Vol. Book 7) (Aubrey/Maturin Novels) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Surgeon's Mate (Vol. Book 7) (Aubrey/Maturin Novels):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The privateer "Liberty" and her "Mr. Henry: " Patrick Henry?Von Doug BriggsJack Aubrey may be resigned to the perils of his profession, but Stephen must now be silently wondering if maybe he and Jack are the men who never return.Indeed, this story began two volumes ago, in "Desolation Island", where it looked like they might have "copped

it" in the horrible old Leopard. Then the next story, *The Fortune of War*, begins with the Leopard limping into a British port off the Malay Peninsula, where after being treated handsomely they board the fast-sailing packet ship *La Fletch* for England (at last) where Jack is to take command of a new frigate. But the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune say nay, for their ship burns and sinks, leaving them on the open ocean in a ship's boat whose sails had been stolen and sold by a corrupt boatswain. After many brutal, parched, sunburned days in the lifeboat terror strikes once more when a ship within hailing distance fails to see them and sails on. As they appear about to succumb to the elements, however, they are rescued by *HMS Java*. Just as they are recovering from the debilitating ordeal in the lifeboat, *Java* engages the American ship *Constitution* (it's the War of 1812), loses the battle, and Aubrey and Maturin find themselves prisoners of war in Boston. There they discover they are very special prisoners, for Aubrey or Maturin -- or both -- are suspected of being more than a captain and his ship's surgeon. They escape this peril by sailing a little sloop out of Boston harbor into the open sea where they meet and are taken aboard the blockading *HMS Shannon*. With them is the love of Stephen's life, Diana Villiers, who was in Boston due to entirely credible circumstances, and whose fervent desire to leave with them is equally credible. The long and perilous chain of events that lead us to this story seem to be behind them. But they must endure one more sea battle -- the *Shannon* engages the *USS Chesapeake* in a short but exceedingly bloody engagement (all true), takes *Chesapeake*, and lands them in friendly Halifax. Now comes the *The Surgeon's Mate*, where it seems that Aubrey and Maturin and Diana will at last reach England without further hair-raising adventures. Not so fast, mate. Shortly into this fine, fine tale they board the packet *Diligence* for England, but the *Diligence* is intercepted by two strangely determined American privateers. It soon becomes evident that it is Aubrey and Maturin -- and a person of no less importance to their pursuers, Diana -- that is the prize sought, not the dispatch-carrying *Diligence*. Like O'Brian is known to do by those who read the fine print and between the lines, and do with great cunning, here he throws us a nice bone to chew on. The first schooner seen is a sleek, fast vessel, one that Captain Dalgleish is familiar with. He lowers his telescope and tells Aubrey, "Yes. She is the *Liberty*; and I see Mr. Henry has given her a new coat of paint." Interesting indeed. Those who have explored the lives of the Patriots know that the Patrick Henry who concluded his moving speech for independence with the immortal words, "Give me liberty or give me death," owned a fast, sleek schooner named *Liberty*. So now, six points off the starboard bow of the *Diligence* is the American privateer *Liberty*, commanded, coincidentally, by a "Mr. Henry." Like icebergs, some of O'Brian's most pregnant stuff is tucked away from the view of many readers. Its discovery is not necessary to fully enjoy the story, but when we do find a gem the satisfaction is as pure as being let in on a fine secret. We recall that in the very first volume of this wonderful series, Aubrey's ship *Sophie* took a much superior ship named the *Cacafuego*. "Caca fuego" could be translated into a seemingly vulgar phrase, which led a *New York Times* reviewer to prose disparagingly about Master and Commander and ridicule O'Brian's choice of ship names. But it so happens that the Spanish had not one but two ships by that name. Nothing is preposterous in an O'Brian tale. Patrick Henry died a dozen years before the War of 1812, and O'Brian is not implying it was Patrick Henry's *Liberty* that intercepted the *Diligence* -- he's just having fun and permitting a few readers to get a double dip.² von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Aubrey/Maturin Baltic adventure Von Joseph H Pierre It would be a disservice to the reader to expose the plot too much, but suffice to say that Captain Aubrey and Doctor Maturin have resolved their adventure in America ('*The Fortune of War*'), and now sail into the Baltic to turn certain Catalan troops there against their French masters. Stephen Maturin is fluent in the Catalan language, has land there, and is sympathetic to the people. And, of course, he is an intelligence agent for the British. This is a great series. The late Patrick O'Brian was a great story teller, and he knew his subject intimately. He probably knew more about the square-rigged ships of the era than any other writer alive. His recent death, at the age of 86, was a great loss to people who loved his work. If this series is new to you, may I advise you to go to the first book in the series, '*Master and Commander*,' and begin to read there. You will enjoy the series far more. There are some twenty books in the series, so there is lots of pleasure ahead. Of course, each book will stand alone, but they are better read in sequence. Joseph Pierre, Author of *THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS: Our Journey Through Eternity*⁰ von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A superlative example of a masterful series of books. Von lonextract@ameritech.net The Aubrey/Maturin cycle is not only one of the most exciting historical adventure series written in this century, but is also a work of deep psychological characterization, recondite literary symbolism, scrupulous historical accuracy, and surprising humor. In short, these books are fine literature and "*The Surgeon's Mate*" is arguably one of the three best out of the entire series of eighteen written so far. O'Brian's recreation of the cornucopia of humanity in the Napoleonic era is most impressive; but O'Brian's greatest talent, among a myriad of great talents, is to bring a subtle, ironic humor to the Yin/Yang relationship of the two heroes - inducing laughter out of tragedy, and sadness out of triumph. Look for the triple meaning behind the words of the title, "*The Surgeon's Mate*".

Kurzbeschreibung "Vividly detailed 19th-century settings and dramatic tension punctuated with flashes of wry humor make O'Brian's nautical adventure a splendid treat." Publishers Weekly Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin are ordered

home by dispatch vessel to bring the news of their latest victory to the government. But Maturin is a marked man for the havoc he has wrought in the French intelligence network in the New World, and the attention of two privateers soon becomes menacing. The chase that follows through the fogs and shallows of the Grand Banks is as tense, and as unexpected in its culmination, as anything Patrick O'Brian has written. From Publishers Weekly This entry in O'Brian's late-18th-century seafaring series will delight fans, while offering newcomers a good place to jump in. Here Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin are assigned to help a Polynesian queen in her struggle with a Napoleon-backed rival, and a female convict is smuggled aboard by a midshipman in Australia. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sThe musings and adventures of 18th-century sailors Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin (*The Ionian Missionary*, *The Surgeon's Mate*, et. many al.) follow the winds to the South Pacific. On this cruise: a shipboard wedding and a Polynesian dust-up. With Britain between wars for the moment, Captain Aubrey shifts his flag to *The Truelove*, a merchantman with a military past, and sails to Sydney and points east on a leisurely semiofficial cruise. As usual, Jack is accompanied by his friend Maturin, physician, naturalist, and early intelligence agent, and, as on previous voyages, the crew includes Mr. Martin, a clergyman who shares Stephen's great interest in birds of the world. This time, though, there is a bird on board--a prostitute smuggled out of Sydney by a smitten young officer. She's bad news. Even after she is wed to the smitten and violently jealous Lt. Oakes, Clarissa sees no reason not to scratch the itches of her husband's messmates. Discipline goes to pot, and Jack decides to disembark the young couple at the earliest opportunity. But nothing happens quickly when one must wait for wind. There is plenty of time for Clarissa to consult her physician, who learns that the lady is left cold by the marriage act and, in discussing her depressing past, also learns the identity of a traitor in the highest level of government. When *Truelove* at last finds the wind, it is off to a Hawaiianish island and rousing battle to install a government sympathetic to his Britannic majesty George III. Intelligent escape. Not for the rushed. (In April, Norton will also issue first-time US editions--at \$9.95 each--of two more Jack Aubrey adventures: *Treason's Harbour*--ISBN: 0-393-30863-4; and *The Far Side of the World*--ISBN: 0-393-30862-6.) -- Copyright 1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.