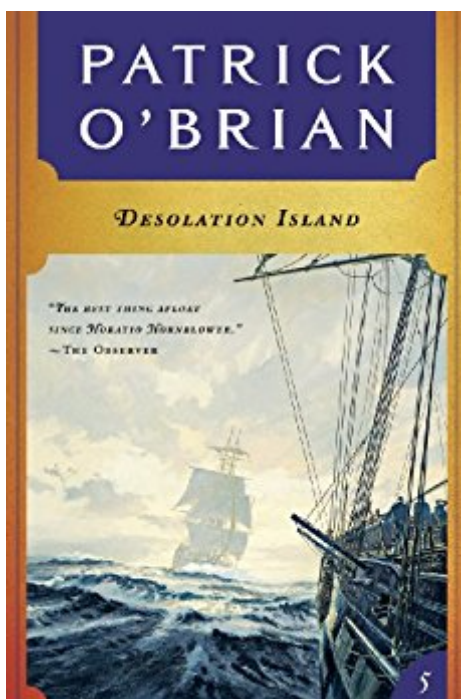


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Desolation Island (Vol. Book 5) (Aubrey/Maturin Novels)



Synopsis

"The relationship [between Aubrey and Maturin]...is about the best thing afloat....For Conradian power of description and sheer excitement there is nothing in naval fiction to beat the stern chase as the outgunned Leopard staggers through mountain waves in icy latitudes to escape the Dutch seventy-four."âStephen Vaughan, Observer
Commissioned to rescue Governor Bligh of Bounty fame, Captain Jack Aubrey and his friend and surgeon Stephen Maturin sail the Leopard to Australia with a hold full of convicts. Among them is a beautiful and dangerous spyâand a treacherous disease that decimates the crew. With a Dutch man-of-war to windward, the undermanned, outgunned Leopard sails for her life into the freezing waters of the Antarctic, where, in mountain seas, the Dutchman closes...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In "Desolation Island", Patrick O'Brian begins what can be considered a miniseries within the larger arc of his Aubrey/Maturin Novels. This miniseries continues through "Fortune of War", and is concluded in "The Surgeon's Mate". It is preceded by the stand alone "Mauritius Command". So if you are considering purchasing books in this arc, make sure you read them in order to get the most enjoyment. And while I'm at it- go back to the first novel, "Master and Commander" and read the

series in its entirety if you are a newcomer. You will become hooked in no time, and it is well worth the time commitment - my father and I initially read the series over the course of several months. Back to the story at hand. "Desolation Island" begins with CPT Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin being dispatched to rescue CPT Bligh of the HMS Bounty notoriety from colony that has rebelled against him in Australia. However, this initial mission is quickly subsumed in a variety of mishaps and adventures that conspire to throw the two friends on one of their greatest stories, spanning three novels mentioned above. This book includes what I consider the most intense and greatest ship to ship battle that I have ever read. As Aubrey commands the HMS Leopard, a decrepit old ship of the line, he is pursued by a larger, more heavily armed and fully manned Dutch ship of the line - the Waakzaamheid. Their chase leads them through the treacherous waters of the southern hemisphere, where the slightest mistake is fatal, putting Jack Aubrey's legendary sailing prowess and gunnery skills to the test.

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