



## Treason's Harbour

**Author:** Patrick O'Brian  
**Genre:** Literature  
**Publisher:** London: Harper Collins, 1997  
**ISBN:** 978-0-19-953737-2  
**RRP:** £7.99 (+£2.80 p&p)

*Probably my favourite film of all time is Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World, with Russell Crowe as Captain Jack Aubrey. But it was just one a series of books.*

This is one of a set of 21 stories set in the great days of sail, more precisely in the Royal Navy of Nelson around the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Each of the stories involve the duo of the fearless Captain Aubrey and his friend (and ship's surgeon) Dr. Stephen Maturin travelling the world (normally on their faithful ship HMS Surprise) and fighting Napoleon Bonaparte's France, with whom Britain was at war at the time.

This, *Treason's Harbour*, is the 9th in the series (the one that was made into the film being the 10<sup>th</sup>). Divided into many chapters and spread over 300 or so pages, this instalment of the saga sees our heroes venture to the Middle East and Egypt. They must undertake a mission of vital diplomatic urgency, survive attacks from enemies on all sides, and, if possible, swipe a treasure ship or two which may turn up. The text itself is augmented by regular diagrams, is complemented by a wide by a lengthily set of notes, entitled 'about the book', which details the life and times of the characters, including with diagrams pictures and information on what would really have been going on in those days.

I must confess, like the rest in the series, *Treason's Harbour* is a bit of a boy's book. But then again, it doesn't really claim to be anything but. These books hark back to a romantic time of adventure that we shall never see again, and, though I've not yet read all of the books in the set, the ones I have read I've really liked. A great story.

8 sausages out of 10

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