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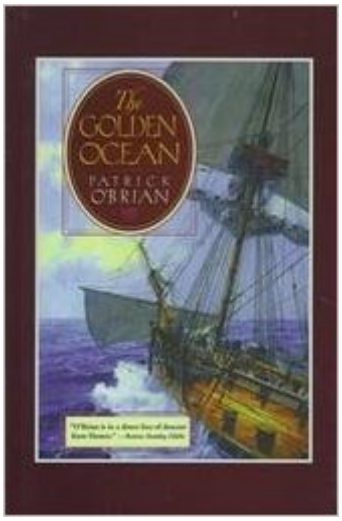
# The Golden Ocean

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## Synopsis

10 compact discs (11 hr.). Performed by John Franklyn-Robbins, unabridged.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #5,867,448 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( O ) > O'Brian, Patrick #6367 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Sea Stories #10886 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > British & Irish > Historical

## Customer Reviews

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The Golden Ocean was written in 1956 and is Patrick O'Brian's first novel about the sea. As such, it is the perfect precursor to the highly acclimed Aubrey/Maturin series. The protagonist of this book is Peter Palafox, son of an impoverished Irish parson. In 1740, Peter, who has never before seen a ship, signs on, as a midshipman with Commodore Anson. Together with his lifelong friend, Sean, Peter hopes to find his fortune. He finds danger and disappointment instead, as Anson and his men circle the globe through poorly charted waters. And, although they seize a vast fortune in Spanish gold and silver, only one of Anson's five ships survives the voyage. The Golden Ocean is as perfectly and beautifully crafted as are the Aubrey/Maturin novels. The writing is brilliantly detailed and the action perfectly paced. With The Golden Ocean, O'Brian has created a perfect world of must-read-on storytelling. A book deserving of ten stars and anyone's time.

I went on a search and purchase mission for my husband for these books, via Marketplace. I believe I secured all 20 books in this series, with some additional novels by the same author, (Patrick O'Brian.) My spouse has been eating them up, and I am enjoying seeing him actually relax and give himself permission to sit and read. A win all the way. I wonder if many women have read

this series... Honestly, I don’t know.

If you loved the Aubrey/Maturin series, then this book is a must purchase. If you haven’t read that series, then this might be a little difficult to jump into. As others have said, the jargon and just general language might be a little hard to digest at first. Based on historical events like much of the later series, this was a joy to read and brought the era to vivid life.

Surprisingly good for O’Brian’s early effort at adventure writing. I loved each and every one f the Aubrey/Maturin series and "The Golden Ocean" took me away on a wonderful journey to exotic, faraway places and strange people. Surprising that O’Brian could take my imagination so far, starting with the homey, simple culture and people of dear old Ireland - which O’Brian seems to be familiar with - enough to make me feel like I was there - through the challenges and sufferings out there on the great wide world’s oceans and back. Back to where people were still loving and welcoming.Only a real master story-teller can keep my interest with surprises and suspense right throught the whole story, wondering to the end if this is really going to end happily.

I didn’t want to commit to the famous series, but wanted a taste of the author’s voice because of his reputation as a skilled and prolific writer. The Golden Ocean was quite an amazing story in all its seafaring detail and British nautical language. Sometimes poetic, sometimes dull, I read a lot of it out loud. With all the sailing jargon and Irish-isms there could be pages where I was just guessing. O’Brian romanticized a difficult way of life, and I think by the title I could have expected the exuberant happy ending. If I try another, I would look for an illustrated, annotated version.

An exciting nautical adventure by one of my favorite authors. O’Brian shows off his encyclopedic knowledge of his material in an evocative, entertaining, and enthralling manner. Compelling characters, magnificent settings, and a feeling of high adventure doused with strong empathy for the men in their glory and in their dismay.

I’ve read all 20 and a half volumes of the Aubrey/Maturin series and will read them 5 times over as soon as I have finished all else that is available by POB.The Golden Ocean is just pure delight. I can not really add anything substantial to the praise from the other 12 or so reviewers, but I wanted to add my contribution.POB was truly a master at storytelling. Who else could have come up with Sean’s version of the gambling/pickpocketing disaster story in the first chapter (Sean starting like a

proto-type for Padeen, but then developing into somebody else)? Or the fluency of the dialogues between the partners in poverty in chapter 2, even if the actual story does not have any real surprises? Who else can jump time gaps with this efficiency at summarizing longish periods in half sentences (like the probably epic, but untold journey through Ireland with one lame horse for three men, which is of course the proto-type for all Maturin's races, failed or not, towards reaching his ship in time)? Who else can squeeze whole commentaries into one verb or adjective? There is also a proto-type for Jack Aubrey's joking style in the person of an "elderly" midshipman.Great stuff.

Next time the Cap'n sends ye aloft to the masthead, have the Kindle version of this fine novel stashed in yer skivvies, shipmate. Oh aye, and the valuable story of the world it is; adventurous, hilarious, and heart-rending too. If never you've put to sea with Pat O'Brian before, you'll find him the finest seafaring author as ever made sail, and there's no better place to meet him than upon The Golden Ocean.

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