



Hornblower During the Crisis

C.S. Forester

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Although unfinished at the time of C. S. Forester's death, Hornblower During the Crisis delivers a full measure of action at sea—the hallmark of this incomparably exciting series of historical adventures. On the threshold of securing his first post as captain, Hornblower finds himself forced by the exigencies of war to fight alongside a man whom he has unintentionally helped to court-martial. And for the first time Hornblower assents to engaging in espionage in his efforts to bring victory and glory to England in the Napoleonic Wars. This extant fragment of Forester's final Hornblower novel is followed by the author's notes regarding the novel's conclusion. Also included in this volume are two stories—"Hornblower's Temptation" and "The Last Encounter"—that depict the great sea dog Hornblower in his youth and old age, respectively.

Hornblower During the Crisis Details

Date : Published April 28th 1981 by Pinnacle Books (Mm) (first published 1967)

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Author : C.S. Forester

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From Reader Review Hornblower During the Crisis for online ebook

Matt says

Started in the morning-finished by 3 pm. A short, unfinished story- the last written by Forester. I am trying to read these in chronological order and this takes Hornblower from the day he is relieved of command of Hotspur to getting his full Captainship. The unfinished ending includes the author's notes on how the story will conclude (Hornblower is successful) in his mission to deliver forged documents to bring about the battle and Nelson's victory at Trafalgar. I had to knock off a star because it was an unfinished manuscript- but even at the end of his life Forester could still spin an excellent sea yarn. Looking forward to the next three books in the series- which I purchased as a lot on e-bay: Hornblower and the Antropos, Beat to Quarters and Ship of the line. Have I mentioned this is one helluva series? Yes. I guess I have.

Michael Campbell says

What there is of this book is brilliant. The story really picks up speed early on and maintains the fast pace up until the book just stops... I understand that the author died, leaving the book unfinished, but it seems that the best course of action to me would have been to leave the book unpublished.

Perhaps hire a ghost writer to finish the book from the author's notes? It seems to me, the publisher took the least favorable course of action. What there is of the book is grand, but that it suddenly stops right in the middle of the plot is severely unsettling.

Jim says

Superb, if frustrating, final chapter in C.S. Forester's wonderful series of books about British sea officer Horatio Hornblower, **HORNBLOWER DURING THE CRISIS** is unfinished due to the author's death. Nonetheless, the book is every bit as engaging as the other Hornblower novels, and the author's notes give at least an illusory sense of resolution to the story. Included are two Hornblower short stories, one a tasty bit of mystery, the other a grace note that really ends the saga just as it should end. I will miss reading Hornblower novels. No other series of books has given me the particular kind of joy provided by this one.

Mike (the Paladin) says

According to the information on the book cover this is the book (actually part of a book) that C.S.Forester was writing when he died. It takes place just after Hornblower left the Hotspur.

It's still a good narrative and I enjoyed it as I have all the Hornblower books. We follow him through the adventure that he ran into just after turning the ship over to it's new commander. Then there are some notes that tell us where the book was planned to go along with another short episode.

So, a "fill in" in Hoenblower's life but still a good read.

Terri says

This book actually has 3 stories in it. The first has the same name as the book and recounts the time right after Hornblower is recommended for post rank and therefore must leave the Hotspur, but before the rank is confirmed. He languishes for several weeks on a transport ship to England that has bad luck with the wind, is a witness for the court martial of his successor on the Hotspur, and then is headed off to be a spy when the story abruptly ends. Forester did not complete the book before he died.

The next two stories are short vignettes. the first tells a short story about Hornblower when he's a newly promoted lieutenant and is involved in the hanging of a deserter and Irish rebel. The last story takes place when Hornblower is 72 and the Admiral of the fleet and has a brief encounter on a rainy night with someone who claims to be Napoleon.

TK421 says

This 4 star rating comes with a caveat: The novel was left unfinished. What was written is marvelous. Ernest Hemingway loved C. S. Forester's writings, and I cannot disagree with Papa.

Jim says

Well read & written - what there was of it. This is the last novel Forester wrote. He was working on it & died with only about a third of it finished. His notes & the rest of the series let us know it turned out alright, of course. As audio books, these are generally 8 or 9 parts of 70 minutes each. This book had 3 such parts for the novel & the last part was 2 short stories "Hornblower's Temptation" (AKA 'Widow McCool') and "The Last Encounter". The first should be read after the first book 'Midshipman' & the last is the very last story, so I skipped it for now in case of spoilers.

I'm glad I listened to what there was of this story. It's important in Hornblower's development, especially in his career. There's plenty of action, as usual. A bit gorier than most, too. On to the next book, Hornblower and the Atropos!

----- Below is also in the review of the first book -----

The full series in Published Order:

1. The Happy Return (1937) aka Beat to Quarters
2. The Ship of the Line (1938)
3. Flying Colours (1938)
4. The Commodore (1945) aka Commodore Hornblower
5. Lord Hornblower (1946)
6. Mr Midshipman Hornblower (1950)
7. Lieutenant Hornblower (1952)
8. Hornblower and the Atropos (1953)
9. Admiral Hornblower in the West Indies (1957)

10. Hornblower and the Hotspur (1962)
11. Hornblower and the Crisis (1967) aka Hornblower During the Crisis
12. Hornblower Addendum (2011)

Hornblower One More Time contains 3 short stories:

- Hand of Destiny
- Charitable Offering aka The Bad Samaritan
- Hornblower and His Majesty

Hornblower Addendum - Five Stories (2011) is 5 adventures of Horatio Hornblower, two as Lieutenant, two as Captain, and one as Admiral of the Fleet.

The Hornblower Companion is an atlas with brief descriptions & should be read along with the books.

Hornblower Chronology: From Wikipedia & other sources.

(SS = Short Story)

1. Mr Midshipman Hornblower Jan 1794–Mar 1798
- 1.4 Hornblower and the Hand of Destiny (SS) 1798 (need to find)
- 1.5 Hornblower and the Big Decision (Temptation or Widow McCool) (SS) 1799
2. Lieutenant Hornblower May 1800–Mar 1803
3. Hornblower and the Hotspur Apr 1803–Jul 1805
4. Hornblower and the Crisis aka Hornblower During the Crisis Aug 1805–Dec 1805 (partial, unfinished novel)
5. Hornblower and the Atropos Dec 1805–Jan 1808
6. The Happy Return aka Beat to Quarters Jun 1808–Oct 1808
7. The Ship of the Line May 1810–Oct 1810
- 7.5 Hornblower's Charitable Offering aka The Bad Samaritan (SS) Jun 1810
8. Flying Colours Nov 1810–Jun 1811
- 8.5 Hornblower and His Majesty (SS) 1812
9. The Commodore aka Commodore Hornblower Apr 1812–Dec 1812
10. Lord Hornblower Oct 1813–Jun 1814
11. Admiral Hornblower in the West Indies May 1821–Oct 1823
- 11.5 The Last Encounter (SS) Nov 1848

"The Point and the Edge" is a brief outline of a story.

The Wikipedia entry for the series has a lot of good information, but careful of spoilers. There is a table listing all the books & stories with both the UK/USA published names & dates, plus the chronological dates, movies & other stuff.

Marion Vermazen says

Reread well loved characters

Donna Sundre says

Well, this was fairly disjointed. I think Forester died during the writing of this tale. The book was supplemented with the author's notes on the book's finish. there were also two additional chapters with short stories involving our hero. the last one was pretty frivolous, but fun, and had Barbara back again as his wife.

I think I'll go back to some more modern spy novels--or perhaps some Michener...we'll see...

Rebeccabmark says

I'm so hooked to this series, and loved the set up of this 4th book. One of the best so far, only to be sad that it comes to such a short, quick end. Worth the read in order, I'm happy that I have the fifth book to pick up!

Karl Pannike says

I have savored these books for the last couple years, not wanting to read them all at once so I could enjoy them as long as possible.

This last book was a perfect conclusion to the Hornblower saga.

I am already sad that I have none left to read.

E says

This was the last Hornblower novel that Forester wrote; it was unfinished upon his death. However, he did include notes about how the plot would play out. It is typically packaged with two short stories, one from early in Hornblower's career, one from much later (when Hornblower is retired and unwittingly aids the future Napoleon III!). The novel is good; for the first time Hornblower is engaged in espionage, although his conscience is not fully on board. However, as the notes reveal, the secret plot Hornblower is engaged in will lead directly to Trafalgar, so it is quite important indeed (never minding the fact it's fiction, of course!). We also see Hornblower's promotion to post-captain confirmed in this book.

Sad to see the Hornblower series come to an end. It would be interesting to compare the series with the Master and Commander series; ask me in person.

Larissa says

I realize this story is unfinished, but the novel ended at quite a nice point. The short stories were pleasant reads.

Simon Mcleish says

Originally published on my blog here in November 1998.

This posthumously published collection of Hornblower stories includes the last story Forester wrote, which is an incomplete first draft, and the last Hornblower story in their internal chronology. The incomplete story, which fills the bulk of the book and gives it its title, is Forester filling in a gap in Hornblower's past. A newly appointed captain, he captures a ship and takes possession of secret papers from Napoleon, bearing his new seal as Emperor of France. This, the Admiralty decides, is to be used as the model for a forged order to the French admiral Villeneuve, to entice him out of his refuge so that the British fleet could attack (the scenario of the battle of Trafalgar). Hornblower volunteers to travel into Napoleon's empire and take the fake dispatch to Villeneuve; then the draft ends, left uncompleted on Forester's death.

The problem with all of this lies in a kind of inconsistency with the rest of Hornblower's career, caused by the fact that the internal chronology of the stories does not match the order in which they were written. Such an important event, besides opening up the possibility of promotion in a completely different way, would surely have resonances to be picked up later, particularly in *Flying Colours*, in which he is again travelling secretly through French territory (this time as an escaped prisoner of war). But because these books were written earlier, neither Hornblower himself nor any of the other characters ever mentions the scenario of this story.

The book is filled out with two earlier short stories. One features Hornblower as a kind of detective, where the solution to the problem he has been set seems to me to be rather too contrived. The other is set right at the end of Hornblower's career, in the year of revolution 1848 when he entertains an unexpected guest whom he thinks is a madman because he is announced as claiming to be Napoleon; of course, he turns out to be Louis Napoleon (later Emperor Napoleon III) on his way to Paris to seize power. Forester was not a master of the short story, and these two stories are competent pieces of craftsmanship without really having even the ambition to be anything more.

Overall then, this book is for Hornblower fans and competitors, not the casual reader.

Matthew says

this book was NOT one he was working on when he died; it is far more likely a book he had started then discarded. Worse was the fact that after the "Authors notes about the ending' they publishing company put in something completely different. The main part of the book has Hornblower waiting to get his Captaincy "written in" [to officially become a Captain] but in the end of the book he is a newly appointed Lieutenant. I am sorry I read this book because it nearly ruined the series for me.

Mitch Teemley says

"During the Crisis" lacks a little of the spit and polish Forester would have given it if he'd lived to finish it; it's also just a fragment (not even half a book, really). But if you're a Hornblower fan (I am), you'll want to read it, anyway. In addition, there's something poignant about knowing it was the last thing this great writer worked on before he died.

Nancy Ellis says

It's a shame poor Forester died before finishing this book....it was working its way up to a great story! Horatio recovers documents from a French ship which turn out to be of great value to the Royal Navy. The book ends as Horatio agrees to become a spy. What a terrific adventure that would have been! On the up side, Forester left notes as to how he planned to complete the story, so at least we weren't "left hanging"....no pun intended in relation to the traitor/deserter hanged in one of two short stories published with this book. The first deals with Horatio's younger days, the second with his old age, leaving us with a completely satisfactory conclusion to the Hornblower saga.....after I read the rest of the books in chronological order....

Mr. Matt says

My three star rating comes with an enormous asterisk. The author passed away without being able to finish the work. The book - what there is of it - is awesome.

Hornblower leaves the Hotspur. He is promoted to Post-Captain. On the way back to England, he leads a desperate attack on a French frigate. Although the attempt to take the ship fails, some confidential correspondence from the New French Emperor falls into his hands. A couple of weeks later, Hornblower is in Whitehall, meeting with the Secretary of the Admiralty and a convicted Forger. They are hatching a scheme to draw the French out to battle. And then, alas, the story ends.

It left me distinctly unsettled. I wanted to know what was going to happen next. I wanted to see the story unfold - to follow Hornblower as he went to Spain to deliver his forged message. I know he would get into all sorts of scrapes and it would be a load of fun.

Three stars out of five - entirely because it was unfinished.

Jasontrent says

This is not a typical full blown Hornblower adventure, but rather a collection of three short stories that take place at different points in the Hornblower chronology. The first of these short stories is longer than the other two combined, and is the closest to the previous (chronological) entries in this series. However, due to the death of C.S. Forester, the story remains incomplete and leaves the reader wanting the conclusion to play out (the story is concluded based on C.S. Forester's notes, but in rather abrupt and curt fashion). The other two short stories are light repasts that do not quite fit either chronologically or stylistically. To be read by the Hornblower enthusiast but quickly to be set aside for more sumptuous fare to come.

Bill Tanner says

This is definately number 4 in chronological order, but then a short story follows (Widow McCool), which goes back to when Hornblower was a signal lieutenant under command of Captain Sawyer.

Confusion in this Penguin Edition as another short story emerges, The Last Encounter, which I have not read as I am trying to keep to chronological order.

I am not sure why this final work was written out of order, was there continued demand for earlier career stories ?
