



The King's Commission

Dewey Lambdin

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Dewey Lambdin has created one of the greatest characters in historical adventure fiction. Naval officer and rogue, Alan Lewrie is a man of his times and a hero for all times. His equals are Hornblower, Aubrey, and Maturin—sailors beloved by readers all over the world.

In *The King's Commission*, Midshipman Alan Lewrie passes the examination for Lieutenancy and finds himself commissioned first officer of the brig o'war Shrike. There's time for some dalliance with the fair sex, and then Lieutenant Lewrie is off to patrol the North American coast and attempt to bring the Muskogees and Seminoles onto the British side against the American rebels. Then back to the Caribbean, to sail beside Captain Horatio Nelson in the Battle for Turks Island.

The King's Commission Details

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Tim says

Tales of adventure that cast a different light on the Revolutionary period of the United States from a British(ish) perspective. Once again, the after-hours conduct of Lewrie occupies quite a bit of the story and doesn't do anything to contribute to the story. I suppose that it is supposed to be a "coming of age" story, but it's shallow. The naval information is lacking and seems inaccurate to a degree. I like the story in that it contributes to the series, but I hope that they get better. Anyone that sees this series as comparable to the "Aubrey/Maturin" series by Patrick O'Brian would make me doubt that they have ever read O'Brian. A bit more like Hornblower, but earthier. I would recommend it to a select audience. Certainly not teenagers.

Erick says

very enjoyable, good sea tale.

Alan says

Alan Lewrie has been in the British Navy for only two years. Now an acting master's mate, he stands before the promotion board and is awarded his Lieutenancy. He is given a commission as the only lieutenant on an unrated brig, the Shrike, and there learns his craft. Some good naval action and a bit of sexual escapes make a good read. Interesting change from Hornblower or Jack Aubrey.

Doc says

Not an good as Bolitho or Hornblower--and the F-bombing doesn't make it any better.

Lois says

Allen remains bawdy, funny, ingenious, and lucky. And the scene at the end with the cat and the new captain made me laugh so hard!

JodiP says

I had read the first book in the series, and thought it was so so. There was far was and Commander but of course that is never available. However it was a great distraction from the awful reality we're living in these days so I might continue to read the series.

Linda says

Another great book in the naval adventures of Alan Lewrie series. They just keep getting better!

Jim says

This is the third of Dewey Lambdin's series on the career of Alan Lewrie. The timing of this novel is the last couple of years of the American Revolution, after the defeat of Cornwallis and before the peace treaty is signed between the new U.S. and Britain. Lewrie is serving in the Caribbean where the Royal Navy continues to battle the French and the Spanish navies, which had allied themselves with the colonies. Lewrie distinguishes himself and passes the test for lieutenancy, thereby becoming a commissioned officer. He is transferred to the small brig, "Shrike," where he serves as First Officer.

As is his wont, Lewrie has his share of female liaisons ashore, having affairs with the widow of an Army officer, the older wife of a civilian planter on Jamaica and ends up losing his relationship with Lucy Beaumont.

The Shrike is ordered to carry diplomats to the Gulf coast of Florida, where the British hope to enlist the Creeks and Seminoles in resisting the spread of the young U.S. westward. This mission has, at best, mixed success, but Lewrie serves admirably.

In a battle commanded by Captain Horatio Nelson, the Shrike's captain is badly injured and Lewrie, at a very young age, is made captain of the brig.

This novel, like others in the series has its share of ship handling, naval battles and excitement. Perhaps not as much as the first two novels, but nevertheless a good fun read.

Michael Smith says

Alan Lewrie, now an experienced seaman and junior watch-stander despite only a couple of years in the Royal Navy, is a refreshingly Corinthian young rake, dividing his attentions pretty much evenly between increasing his growing competence in his profession and topping every female he can find. Here he parts company from the unpredictable Capt. Treghues and from his friend and mentor, Lt. Railsford. Then he receives, as a reward for bravery and demonstrated abilities, an early appointment as 1st Lieutenant into a small brig commanded by the superannuated Lt. Lilycrop -- one of the most delightful and fully developed supporting characters Lambdin has yet come up with. Of course, Alan later learns his being given such a post was a clerical error, . . . but he manages to keep his job nevertheless. (As a more senior officer later remarks, sheer luck and the ability to land on one's feet is probably as important a factor in naval success as seamanship.) Then comes a galloping adventure among the Creeks of the West Florida coast -- including Lewrie's temporary acquisition of a lovely young Indian wife. The character of Desmond McGillivray is based on the real Alexander McGillivray, a Creek-Scot half-breed raised white but still well-connected among the tribes. Lambdin paints him as a superior, rather prim sort, which doesn't really fit with the historical McGillivray's character (with which I am familiar from research on the Panton and Leslie trading

companies during that period). Nothing really goes quite right for Our Hero in this volume, but that's the way real life often is. An increasingly enjoyable series.

Marshall says

The third entry in this series is an enjoyable captivating read. Action, history, adventure, and a bit of naughty fun. If you are a fan of the Sharpe series and the inimitable Flashman you will not be able to put this series down. It's a must that you start with number 1, but always make sure you have the next in the series handy.

Barry says

Best of the series so far. Crackles along at a good pace. Lewrie, as a character, is closer to Flashman than Hornblower and that's a good thing.

Eric_W says

It seems, judging from hints in this third volume, that Lewrie has managed to clear himself of the charges maliciously leveled by his erstwhile father, and gained a bit of glory for himself in the process. Lt. Kenyon returns to haunt him briefly, but Alan parries Kenyon's attempts to get Alan into deep water by reminding Kenyon of his (Kenyon's) own sordid past with sodomistic pleasures, and this prevents Kenyon from sabotaging Alan's successful promotion to a commission: his lieutenancy. He is forthwith accidentally posted as first lieutenant to a small brig, the Shrike. Normally, a new lieutenant would have been assigned as third lieutenant on a large 3rd or 2nd rated ship to learn the trade, so Alan has to learn everything quickly, on-the-job. Typically, Alan becomes embroiled in a substantial amount of woman trouble almost immediately while in Jamaica. He resumes his torrid affair with Betty Hillwood, a married woman of rapacious nature, while simultaneously courting the beautiful Lucy, daughter and heir to the Beaumann fortune. Betty is rather domineering and grasping, and when Alan declines her wish to become her gigolo – not wishing to lose his freedom to plow as many fields as possible -- he has to deftly use some malicious gossip of his own to prevent her from totally ruining his reputation. He fares better at sea, where he has discovered a veritable talent for seamanship, and his encouragement of the long-suffering Captain Lilycrop to daringly raid Spanish shipping along the coast (the shallow-drafted Shrike can sail in much less depth, preventing deeper-keeled warships further offshore) brings them a small amount of fame and more prize-money for themselves and the admiral. As a reward, they are ordered to take on a mission with some envoys to see if they can't garner the support of the Creeks in the Carolinas. The War of the Rebellion is not going well for the British and they want to enlist support of the Indians against the rebels to hold on to the southeastern colonies, if possible, and maintain control of Charleston. By the end of this volume, Lewrie has served in an abortive mission off Turk Island and through happenstance, obtained the captaincy of the Shrike. But knowing Lewrie, he's bound to get into some kind of trouble. In the next volume, *The King's Privateer*.

Glenn says

Although the previous offering in this series bored me a little, the action in this one was unrelenting, but the thing I noticed most about it was the author's knack for character development. Two new characters were introduced that likely were temporary, but I find myself hoping that I'll encounter them again in upcoming books of the series. This one was thoroughly enjoyable, and I sensed that the author really begins to hit his stride. Looking forward to the next one!

Don Casto says

This was the third of a series of Mr. Lamblin's books about sailing ships and life in the late 1700s. It stood up to the most stringent test I have . . . maintaining my interest after picking it up and putting down for over a month.

Eric says

I have read all 17 installments of the Alan Lewrie adventures and am now going back and re-reading some of my favorites. The King's Commission is one of those books. There's plenty of sea-action, a little romance, and lot of detail about sailing in an 18th century ship of war. Lambdin's historical fiction is also informational and he does a good job blending the fictional story into some of the actual events. If you enjoy maritime historical fiction, these are great books to read.

The King's Commission is set in the time period where Britain's war with American colonies is winding down. The war with France and Spain is also starting to peter out as well. The story is set in the Caribbean where competition among the European powers is stiff for preserving their colonial interests in the Caribbean for political, military and economic purposes.

For career military (both army and navy alike), peace means being set ashore with half pay. So ambitions are great to advance in the service as much as possible.

This and the other stories are easy, quick, reads. A lot of fun!!
