



# Artemis

*Julian Stockwin*

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## **Artemis** Julian Stockwin

With *Kydd*, Julian Stockwin introduced us to a young wig-maker from Guildford who was kidnapped and pressed into duty with the tempestuous crew of the *Duke William* battle ship. Now, Thomas Paine Kydd is back -- with a vengeance -- in the latest installment of Stockwin's thrilling naval adventure series.

*Artemis* is the eighteenth-century crack frigate that Kydd and sea-mate Nicholas Renzi are set to sail all the way to the fabled Far East. In this great age of fighting sailing ships, Kydd's voyage promises to be a perilous undertaking. But not even shipwreck, mutiny, or a confrontation with a mighty French frigate manages to thwart *Artemis* and her crew. It's only when Kydd receives an urgent message from home -- one that threatens to cut short his career and trap him on shore forever -- that *Artemis's* real journey begins.

Filled with mesmerizing suspense and vivid details of Napoleonic-era seafaring, *Artemis* is classic, page-turning storytelling at its best.

## **Artemis Details**

Date : Published June 15th 2010 by Scribner (first published April 4th 2002)

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Author : Julian Stockwin

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# From Reader Review Artemis for online ebook

## James says

Some people have said that this is an improvement on the debut novel, but I feel that it falls just shy of that brilliance. But not by much. **Four Stars**

### Plot: Four Stars

This plot centers, mainly, around Kydd and Renzi's adventures on the crack frigate *Artemis*. What really caught my attention to this book was the way that the plot was woven into real life events so well, but still managed to create/find events which grew the characters. I loved the time on shore at the beginning of the book and the insight we got into the old Kydd - especially when contrasting it with the new, sea-loving Kydd.

We then got to follow the adventures of the ship as we see action, we see long sea voyages, we see exploration, we see poor seamanship and the dangers that it imposes. All of this is done so brilliantly and entertains you so well, but at the same time explores key issues - like why we felt we had the right to colonise, the legality of the press gang and general questions about our acclaimed *Civilisation*.

But don't let that dissuade you. It is not a lecture, it is not a diatribe. First and foremost this is a story of adventure on the high seas, the mere fact that these issues arise is happenstance (in the story at least) and does not steer the story and does not effect the story. Primarily this is entertainment, if you happen to learn something/question something then all the better.

But I must stress, because some don't like it, this is not a lecture, its an adventure.

The only part of the whole plot that I didn't like, and what stops it from being five stars, was that occasionally it felt like it stalled. It was really minor, but I like to think I set high standards for five stars.

### Characters: Four Stars

Many people have commented on this series commending it's character building, and I can't help but agree. One of it's best features. I am at book four now, and I can tell you that the growth within these books is proportional, real and worth every book. In this novel, we see Kydd develop from the accepting, if not willing, press-ganger into a true seaman who develops skills and a love for his job.

Renzi continues to be a great character and we see his history and character get explored and developed. I think his true quality though is the logic he brings, almost as if he is a translator for us - the puppet through which we can see and understand the world we watch so vividly. Because, some times, Kydd can seem too much in character for me that I fail to understand him - Renzi solves that perfectly, and lets us enjoy Kydd for what he is.

My only qualm with either of them, is Kydd can be too naive as a person (and I do wonder if he would truly lack the social graces he does coming from a wig-making profession) and Renzi is too good (Kydd is meant to be the natural sailor, and I feel Renzi is taking attention from that by keeping pace with him).

### Writing: Four stars

I would love to give this the perfect score it might possibly deserve, but the two flaws that I have pointed out above (pace - in some places - and character flaws) show room for improvement in the writing department. Purely technically though, Stockwin is a genius. You live the experience, you don't watch it, read it or anything; you live it - it is that vividly done. And not overly so either. Just right.

In fact I feel bad for not giving it five stars it's so good, but those two flaws nag at me - and its nice to think that there is still room for improvement.

Overall: Four Stars (nearly five)

A wonderful addition to a great series. Almost a five star, but just, JUST, slightly flawed in small areas. Though in truth, I think I am being too hard. A brilliant read.

Have Fun Reading.

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### **Eric says**

Onto the next in the series Seaflower . Fun tales, if you are into "iron men and wooden ships."

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### **Robin Carter says**

The second book in a long running series this title has made many improvements on the debut title issues, the characters have grown, and gone is the innocence to the plot a new originality pervades the whole story and leaves the reader with a shanty lilt to their speech and a roll to their gait.

Having read the rest of the series and read the rest of the reviews i can tell others that Julian did learn and progress the characters even further, and when that was coupled with his obvious passion for the sea and all things nautical, you end up with a series that does rank up there with Forrester and O'Brian, every year i look forward to my new instalment of Kydd...but to get there you have to start at the beginning.

Well recommended

(Parm)

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### **Kory Klimoski says**

This is the 2nd book in the Thomas Kydd series and it does not disappoint. These novels were recommended to me in Portsmouth and I am glad of it! I loved the Aubrey/Maturin series and this is of the same caliber. Thomas Kydd continues his climb up the ladder of Napoleonic British Navy. He falters in this book, but picks up stride and ends on a high note.

The Audible reader of this book is fabulous! He dramatizes the reading but does not over-do it. Very well read and I am looking forward to the next book.

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## **Jean says**

I am a big fan of historical “age of Sail” naval genre particularly those set during the Napoleonic era. I enjoyed the first book in this series “Kydd” so I have ventured on to book two in the series. The time frame of the book is 1793.

Thomas Kydd and his friend Nicolas Renzi is now Able Seaman aboard the frigate HMS Artemis. After a battle against the French frigate Citoyenne which includes hand to hand combat the Artemis barely wins the battle. Our heroes are promoted to Petty Officers. Kydd sister arrived in port to tell him their father is gravely ill. Kydd obtain permission for leave to visit his father before the Artemis sails for India and China.

Stockwin paints a full vivid picture of naval life with lots of attention to detail. It is obvious there is lots of knowledge and research behind this book, as well as knowledge about Royal Navy life of that era. Stockwin is a good writer and drives the story forward at a good clip. The characters are original and interesting. The book is entertaining and educational. I can recommend this book to anyone interested in nautical historical fiction. I read this as an audio book downloaded from Audible. Christian Rodska narrated the book.

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## **Barry Martin Vass says**

The year 1793 is an interesting time to set a novel. The French Revolution was still going on, and a lot of the French elite were in the process of losing their heads. Napoleon was named a general and began his rapid rise to the top of the French military. The infamous mutiny on HMS Bounty was four years earlier, although it was still a topic of debate in most English ships. In the previous book of this series, Thomas Kydd, a young English wig-maker, is pressed into service on an old line-of-battle ship, the Duke William. In this book he ships out on the frigate Artemis, a fast man-o'-war going in harm's way. From a stirring battle with a French warship, Kydd and his crewman quickly become folk heroes, then sail to India, where they escort a British envoy and his family to China; then it's on to the South Seas, finally rounding Cape Horn in a blizzard. Author Julian Stockwin paints a clear picture of the people and customs of this time, and the story is stronger for it. Artemis is reminiscent of the seagoing tales of C.S. Forester and Robert Louis Stevenson, but what it most reminded me of are those old swashbuckling pirate movies of Errol Flynn like Captain Blood and The Sea Hawk. Great action, thoughtfully told!

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## **Jim says**

This is the second in the Thomas Kydd series of naval adventures by Juian Stockwin. Kydd and a number of his sea mates are transferred to the frigate, HMS Artemis. After a deadly, but victorious naval battle with the French frigate, Citoyenne, Artemis has to go to port for extensive repairs. Kidd is met by his sister upon arrival at port and is persuaded to return home to help the family business. In little time, Kydd realizes that he is not meant for life ashore and longs to return to the sea. His friend, Nicholas Renzi, comes to his rescue and they come up with an alternative plan to assist the family.

Shortly thereafter, both Kydd and Renzi are back aboard the repaired Artemis and are en route to India.

This is a story replete with naval battles, visits to foreign ports and South Sea islands. It also involves a wonderful account of the ship rounding Cape Horn.

Altogether it is a great tale of naval life aboard a tall ship.

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### **Jonathan says**

Definitely matured as a writer between books one and two. Always fun to note. I hope to do the same.

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### **Jim says**

Kydd is rising quickly through the ranks. He started as an inexperienced landlubber. Now he is a petty officer. Sometimes his quick instincts and good luck are a little hard to believe. It will be interesting to read on and see if he ever gets sick or hurt.

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### **Brian says**

The natural follow on From Kydd. I have now read & purchased all books in the series and am awaiting my copy of "The Baltic Prize"

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### **Patty says**

It's been a while since I read any Patrick O'Brian or Forrester seafaring novels. I picked this one up for my Dad and enjoyed it quite a bit. I don't think it's in their league as far as characterization, dialogue, etc., but lots of historical accuracy and excitement.

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### **Bob Hinnant says**

I found this book very entertaining. I like how the author keeps the story moving. So many authors get carried away describing topography or other features. While some can be interesting or can add to the story, many times it can be over done to a point where it breaks up the rhythm of the story.

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### **Brian says**

Kydd was pretty good, but Artemis is much better. The story moves along at a brisk pace. Thomas Kydd has to deal with issues onland and sea. He encounters wild women, a French frigate,ferocious storms, and cannibalism in India, China, the south Pacific, and the roaring 40s. Rarely is there a dull moment. The ending clearly sets up the 3rd installment of the series.

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**Steven says**

Excellent book but the ending was kind of abrupt.

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**Mike says**

I have really come to enjoy this series following the main character Thomas Kydd. These books really capture the spirit of adventure by pulling the reader into a bygone age...almost making me wish I could sail the ocean blue like they did back then. One has to get used to the writing style and the 18th century lingo, but this is a very entertaining book - making the reader want to dive into the next one.

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