



Pasha

Julian Stockwin

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Word has come from the British ambassador Arbuthnot that the neutral Turks are being wooed by the French and if the ancient city of Constantinople falls into their hands, Napoleon's route to India will be completely unfettered and his plans for world domination a reality. Concerned for his safety, Arbuthnot is demanding a large fleet presence to take him off and bring the Turks to their senses. Braving treacherous currents, unreliable winds, and giant bombards, Thomas Kydd returns to sea and rescues the ambassador, but as Kydd waits for the rest of the expected fleet, the French are able to strengthen the Turkish defenses. Meanwhile Kydd's friend and confidential secretary, Nicholas Renzi, has assumed a new and dangerous role that he can never make public. He engineers a coup in the Topkapi Palace that turns the tables on the French but at the cost of both infidel nations being ejected from the Ottoman Empire. When Kydd learns of Renzi's incarceration in a Turkish prison, he knows it will take superb seamanship and sheer bravado to free his friend.

Pasha Details

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From Reader Review Pasha for online ebook

Paul says

Always a good read. Sir Thomas and The Earl are off on another adventure.

Lori Field says

I have really enjoyed the Kydd Sea Adventures by Julian Stockwin. Some books, though, are definitely better than others. I probably tend to enjoy more the books where Kydd is doing well versus those where nothing seems to be going right for him. Things are definitely going well for Kydd in Pasha. He's an undisputed success in his career. Pasha, though, follows Renzi at least as much if not more than Kydd. While Renzi is having success of his own, it doesn't seem to be of his own making. He's more of an accidental success. I enjoy the Kydd stories and look forward to what comes next.

S.J.A. Turney says

I cannot tell you what a pleasure it is to be back at sea once again with Captain Thomas Kydd. Though the majority of my reading is of novels set in the ancient world or at most in the high medieval era, every now and then I like to dip into another era for a change, and Stockwin is fast becoming one of my absolute favourites.

If you've not read any of the Kydd series, I'd best warn you that you might not want to start with this volume, Pasha being the fifteenth book in the series. Of course, the bright side of that is that if you haven't read any of them, I'm switching you onto not just one book, but 15.

Set in the late 18th to early 19th century, the series follows the nautical adventures of one Thomas Kydd, a low born southern Englishman who rises through the ranks of the British Navy, as well as those of his confidential secretary Nicholas Renzi. The first volume begins in 1793, meaning – those of you familiar with the era will probably already have thought of this – the reader has some of the most amazing and world-changing events to come.

So on to Pasha – Volume 15 – which takes place in 1807. After the disastrous debacle in South America from book 13 and the brief sojourn in the Caribbean in book 14, Kydd is called back to England. Fearing for his career and even legal repercussions after South America, our hero returns with his ship l'Aurore to face his doom. What he is returning to is far from what he expected.

More than any other book in the Kydd series I am fearful of giving anything away with Pasha. It is a book far too easy to spoil for the prospective reader, and so I shall attempt to tempt you without detailing too much plot.

As you might guess from the title, this book takes place in the Eastern Mediterranean – the domain of the Ottoman Empire. Sent east from the coast of Spain with orders to put himself at the disposal of the British ambassador in Constantinople, Captain Kydd finds himself at a critical moment in Ottoman history. Allied

with both Britain and Russia, the Ottoman sultan is in the unenviable situation of being attacked by their Russian 'friends' while being wooed by their enemy the French. The British ambassador is desperate and nervous and on the verge of something precipitous, and Kydd is unable to do much more than do as he is told.

Throw into the mix a British nobleman acting as a spy and intriguer in the court of the Sultan, and things can only become more complex. At stake in this mess is the potential for Napoleon Bonaparte to secure an alliance with the Ottoman Empire and with it, a route for his forces into the wide world without having to break out past the British Navy. So no pressure, then?

Cue intrigue, races under fire, sea battles, imprisonment, escape, trickery, panic, land assaults and so much more in a switchback tale that is easily the best in the series and stands to be one of my top books of the year.

Incidentally, there is one scene in the book that will stay with me for a long time, because it reminds me very closely of one of my favourite movie moments of all time. Remember that scene in *Das Boot*, where the sub has been stuck on the bottom of the sea and manages to resurface but has to make a run through the Straits of Gibraltar on diesels, with the captain in the conning tower, yelling 'Verdammt' as he pounds his fist on the sub while guns blast from both sides? You don't? Well now go out and watch that movie too! But there is a comparable scene in *Pasha* that held me with the same power.

Finally, I will say once again that Stockwin's writing is among the most authentic in the field. Not only has he managed to get the feel of the era in his speech and descriptive, but his own history in the Royal Navy informs everything he writes and lends it an air of authority. Moreover, in addition to that wonderful prose and conversation, in this particular volume, he manages to add in the exotic heady culture of Ottoman Istanbul. It is a win, quite simply.

Kydd is back, and volume 15 is the best yet, full of surprises and excitement.

Angel Serrano says

Después de sus aventuras caribeñas, Renzi vuelve a Inglaterra a pedir la mano de la hermana de Kydd y a reconciliarse con su familia. Pero la próxima aventura les espera inmediatamente en los Dardanelos. Estambul se encuentra en un cruce de caminos entre su aliada inglesa, su guerra con Rusia y la presión de Bonaparte para cambiar de bando.

Ryan says

The Kydd series has been a favorite of mine right from the first book. *Pasha* spends more time following Kydd's dear friend Renzi as he enters a new phase of his life. While the sea allowed him to escape much of the responsibilities of his noble birth, everything comes to a head as he returns home.

This is a solid addition to the narrative, and I'm intrigued as to where our heroes will be lead to next.

Jim says

This is the 15th novel in the Kydd sea adventure series by Julian Stockwin.

Kydd and his life-long friend, Nicholas Renzi, are bound for home in HMS Aurore, Kydd ordered home in connection with the court martial of Commodore Popham, who was responsible for the British disaster at Buenos Aires in 1806. Upon arrival in London, both Kydd and Renzi are confronted with complete surprises that change their lives and, in turn, terminate their close relationship aboard whatever ship Kydd is in command of.

Subsequently, Kydd is ordered to join the fleet blockading the port of Cadiz. From there, he is ordered to take a dispatch to the Fleet of the Eastern Mediterranean to support the evacuation of the English ambassador to Constantinople. The French have increased their influence with the Sultan to the extreme disadvantage of the English ambassador.

Kydd and his crew make several transits of the Dardanelles to and from Constantinople.

This novel is replete with historic facts and just enough fiction to allow Kydd and Renzi to play important roles in history.

A great read and a great addition to the sea adventure series.

Paul says

This was a give-away copy that I was awarded and asked to give an honest review.

I rarely fail to complete a book, but this one made the short list. I just couldn't connect with the story at all. I gave up just about 1/4 of the way in. Perhaps if I had been familiar with the series and the characters it might have been different.

The first few chapters of this book are all about political and social events in England. No action, no intrigue, nothing really interesting at all. Nothing like what I expected.

But I could have gotten through all that for the light at the end of the tunnel if the writing to that point hadn't been so strange and disjointed.

The writing lacked description and detail in some places, and was overly detailed in others; and both were wrong. I would have preferred more descriptive detail about the ship and the landscape and less about what the footmen next to the coach were wearing. Also, the story jumped setting with very little transition -- left me saying "Huh?" and going back to re-read more than once. I hate having to do that! Again, maybe if I was familiar with the characters and storyline, and was accustomed to the author's writing style, I might have been able to keep up.

The author also left several sentences unfinished, trailing off with an ellipsis. This happened at least 1/2 dozen times in the portion I did read. With half of those occasions, I had no idea what was being implied.

Another editorial pet-peeve is that "Mr" and "Mrs" were not punctuated -- ever. Strange choice there.

I'm sure this will nix my chances of ever getting another giveaway to review, but that's alright. I have to be honest. This just wasn't for me.

Clemens Schoonderwoert says

This very exciting sea-faring story by Julian Stockwin is the 15th volume of the wonderful Thomas Kydd series.

As ever the book is again full with the authentic language of the great seas which makes this whole series so unique and original.

At the same time the author has the great ability in making his characters, whether real or fictional, come vividly to life within this story.

This story begins, I think in my humble opinion, in the year AD 1807, when Thomas Kydd is feted by his King and country because of his Caribbean exploits, but not before after having giving evidence against his one-time commander, Commodore Popham.

After that experience he is sent with his crew and their ship L'Aurore on a secret mission to Constantinople and to a new sphere of interest, the Dardanelles, and these Dardanelles connect the route from the Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea and thus providing a route to India.

The only big problem is that the French has long coveted this route and they will stop at nothing to halt the British from conquering this important route, for they will even go as far as by taking Renzi their prisoner. And so Thomas Kydd will once again show his superb seamanship and cunning to save Renzi, who in the meantime has become Thomas's brother-in-law and also obtained the title of Lord Farndon, and thus to bring victory to the British in this fight with the French.

Very much recommended, for this is a Seafaring tale at it's very best!

Marten says

A good summer read

At the end of this summer, I have traveled with Kydd and Renzi on some wonderful trips. This might be the most entertaining. I have little knowledge of the Ottoman Empire in this time, so it was rather interesting to read this tale. I am glad that Renzi, in his rise to nobility is still connected to Sir Thomas Kydd and the L'aroure.

Vickie says

While sea adventures are not my usual cup of tea, I found this to be rather exciting once I got used to the seafaring language. I believe it was more actual than the usual poshed or pirated up verbage a reader or movie watcher sees or hears and it took a little bit of getting used to.

Once enmeshed, I enjoyed the story of Captain Kydd and his friends, family and fellow sailors. Fabulously researched, this could have been a dry treatise, but was actually a well-written adventure. I can recommend it and I look forward to finding the rest of this series and start at the beginning.

Jim says

This is the fifteenth volume in the Kydd series. Any of these can stand alone, but of course they're so much better if read in order.

Pasha sees our heroes through a few transitions. First we finally find out if Renzi will ever marry Kydd's sister. She has been waiting for him to make up his mind and so have we. Both Thomas Kydd and Mr. Renzi gain new titles which force them to part company as Renzi takes on new roles both at home and abroad. In fact, Pasha may seem to be more about Renzi than Captain Kydd. Never fear. Stockwin doesn't let him have the whole book. There is plenty of excitement aboard ship. We get the usual battles and fires and the conversation between sailors we've come to know as well as a few new characters.

Historical fiction blends real events with fictional characters. There is a very interesting note from the author that tells of his trip to Turkey, the people, the buildings, and the history that inspired him to write such an intriguing cloak and dagger adventure.

I was delighted to win a copy from Goodreads Giveaways and would have gladly given it one more star for just a little more time at sea.

D.w. says

Stockwin is a master storyteller, giving us plots that in the context of the age of sail period, work well, whilst he gives his main character the chance to remain at sea. He however has begun to suffer because of his buddy sidekick subplot. The Nicholas Renzi plots stopped working many novels ago, and yet Stockwin continues to beat this dead horse.

Kydd is a wonderful 'Tar' hero. But Renzi who has been a morose anchor for so many books looked like he could be written out. But no, he returns against all logic and reason to be on seen again. In the author notes Stockwin even tells us he moved around events in history so that his Renzi, spy, character could be witness to them.

Sorry Julian, a first rate book loses a star because you need to either give plausible credence for the character, or let him stay at home in England making heirs with Kydd's sister. There is plenty of intrigue in Parliament during this period that Nicholas could be involved in while Kydd sails the seas making them safe for England.

Eileen Iciek says

I won this advance readers copy from Goodreads. I'm not much into sailing stories so this was an unusual read for me, but still quite enjoyable. It is part of a series of books about a British ship, the L'Aurore, and its captain, Thomas Kydd.

The story takes place during the Napoleonic era and involves a little known incident during that period in

Constantinople involving the Ottoman Sultan Selim III, the French, the English navy, and the Russian navy. The book was well written but the better focus was always on the sailing parts; the part of the story taking place at the Sultan's court was good, but not as sharp a picture. The book had a glossary of terms at the end, but there were many more used that I was completely unfamiliar with. The only one, though, that I felt compelled to look up was foul bottom - which has absolutely nothing to do with diapers that need to be changed!

If you like sailing stories, or military stories from the Napoleonic era, this might be the book for you.

Michael says

PASHA was my first book as an Early Reviewer and I appreciate being able to read a pre-release copy from the publisher. My expectations were high after reading glowing comments on the Historical Naval Fiction web site (<http://historicalnavalfiction.com/>) and in the publisher's Quarterdeck newsletter (<http://www.mcbooks.com/newsletter.php>) Unfortunately for me, and this is no criticism of the author or the publisher, I read Julian Stockwin's PASHA for the first time starting with the 15th book in the Kidd series. I've read everything written by Patrick O'Brian and C. S. Forester and so expected rousing sea battles, decks awash with blood, clever nautical ruses, and a background of intrigue. PASHA is mostly about Nicholas Renzi and his exploits on land in England and Constantinople.

Accounts of Captain Kidd sailing through the Dardanelles several times (once in daytime and another harrowing passage at night) did not disappoint for sailing tension. Slick maneuvers of nautical lore were fun to read as was the principal character's time in Constantinople. A couple sea skirmishes received brief mention.

Picking up Stockwin's 15th book in the series left me craving for more adventure, excitement on the high seas, and insight into the characters of Captain Thomas Kidd and Nicholas Renzi. I must read the book that describes his part in the Battle of Trafalgar! By all means, I recommend PASHA. But please read a few of Stockwin's other books first (start with KIDD, first in the series, if you can) so you more fully appreciate the characters and allusions to past adventures. You won't be disappointed!

Meredith Peters says

A thoroughly enjoyable adventure! I look forward to reading them all!
