



The Happy Return (A Horatio Hornblower Tale of the Sea)

By C S Forester

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June, 1808 - and off the Coast of Nicaragua Captain Horatio Hornblower has his hands full . . . Now in command of HMS Lydia, a thirty-six-gun frigate, Hornblower has instructions to form an alliance against the Spanish colonies with a mad and messianic revolutionary, El Supremo; to find a water route across the Central American isthmus; and 'to take, sink, burn or destroy' the fifty-gun Spanish ship of the line Natividad - or face court-martial. And as if that wasn't hard enough, Hornblower must also contend with the charms of an unwanted passenger: Lady Barbara Wellesley . . . This is the fifth of eleven books chronicling the adventures of C. S. Forester's inimitable nautical hero, Horatio Hornblower.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

C. S. Forester was born in Cairo in 1899, where his father was stationed as a government official. He studied medicine at Guy's Hospital, and after leaving Guy's without a degree he turned to writing as a career. On the outbreak of war he entered the Ministry of Information and later he sailed with the Royal Navy to collect material for *The Ship*. He made a voyage to the Bering Sea to gather material for a similar book on the United States Navy, and it was during this trip that he was stricken with arteriosclerosis, a disease which left him crippled. However, he continued to write and in the Hornblower novels created the most renowned sailor in contemporary fiction. He died in 1966.

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Reader Christian Rodska sounds much like the late Roddy McDowell--the same expressive precision, the same British accent, the same skill with narrative flow. Without fully acting out each part, Rodska differentiates the characters, and through his handling of the prose, one can hear the creaking of the ship's rigging and the screams of dying men. This is a Horatio Hornblower sea story set in Napoleonic times, one of the best: The Captain attempts to help a mad Central American revolutionary to overthrow the Spanish dominions. D.W. © AudioFile 2002, Portland, Maine-- *Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine*

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