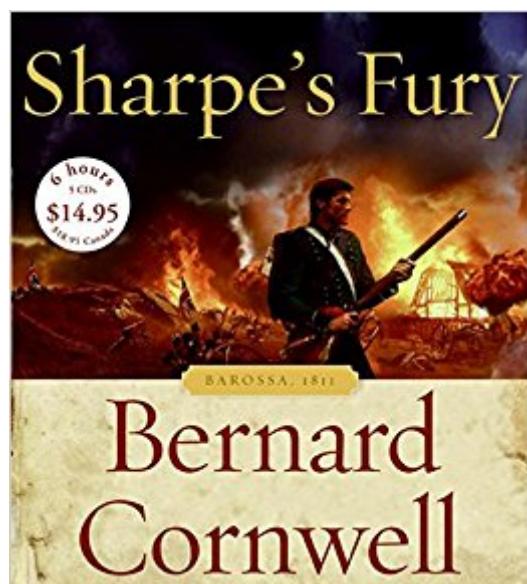


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Sharpe's Fury (Richard Sharpe's Adventure Series #11)



Synopsis

The year is 1811 and the French appear to have won their war in Portugal and Spain, with Spain fallen to the invader except for the sea-wrapped city of Cadiz. Captain Richard Sharpe has no business being in Cadiz, but an attack on a French held bridge goes disastrously wrong and Sharpe finds himself in a city under French siege and political rivalry. Some Spaniards believe their country's future would be best served by forging a friendship with Napoleon's France, and their cause is helped when some letters, written to a whore by the British ambassador, fall into their possession. They resort to blackmail, and Sharpe is released into the alleys of Cadiz to find the whore and retrieve the letters. Yet defeating the blackmailers will not save the city. That is up to the charismatic Scotsman, Sir Thomas Graham, who takes a small British army to attack the French siege lines. The attack goes horribly wrong, Sir Thomas's outnumbered army is trapped, and Richard Sharpe finds himself embroiled in one of the most desperate infantry struggles ever to have been fought. In a bloody and stirring battle, Sharpe and the English get their revenge and their victory, but at a terrible cost. A triumph of both historical and battle fiction, Sharpe's Fury will sweep both old and new Sharpe fans into their hero's incredible adventures.

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Customer Reviews

Capt. Richard Sharpe, upstart rifleman, performs a sensitive mission for Henry Wellesley, the duke of Wellington's younger brother and special envoy to Spain in Cadiz, in bestseller Cornwell's rousing 21st military historical (after 2005's Sharpe's Escape). A secret cabal of Spaniards who favor a rapprochement with France threatens the alliance between England and Spain in the fight against

Bonaparte. The conspirators, who include a murderous priest, Fr. Salvador Montseny, have stolen some unfortunate love letters Wellesley wrote to his prostitute amour, Caterina Blazquez, and plan to use them to embarrass the British. It's up to Sharpe to recover the letters and save the alliance. Meanwhile, British troops, with little help from the Spanish army, maneuver to lift the French siege of Cadiz. As usual, Sharpe must contend with a snobbish superior officer, Brigadier Moon, who gets his just reward in a delicious surprise twist at battle's end. One hopes the nasty Father Montseny, who disappears from the action too soon, will return to bedevil Sharpe in future installments. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Once again, Cornwell is right on target, providing an irresistible combination of rousing military history, penetrating character analysis, and suspenseful martial intrigue. In the twenty-first entry in the best-selling Sharpe series, Cadiz, the last bastion of Spanish independence, is under siege, and it is up to the ever-resourceful Richard Sharpe and his stalwart unit of British soldiers to foil their ruthless French enemies in the winter of 1811. Of course, nothing is that simple, as Sharpe and his comrades become embroiled in much more than basic military maneuvers. The action culminates in the historic Battle of Barossa, which Cornwell--as usual--re-creates in painstakingly bloodcurdling detail. This new installment in a masterful, long-running series set during the Napoleonic Wars, which will appeal equally to devoted fans and to crossover readers who devoured the novels of the late Patrick O'Brian, is stirring British military history at its finest. Margaret FlanaganCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

If you are interested in good military history and like fictional characters in real battles, the Sharpe's series by Bernard Cornwell is outstanding. There are about 15 or 18 books in the series, starting when Private Richard Sharpe is an 17 year old private in the British Army in India in the late 1700, and follows him through battles in India, Trafalgar, Denmark, Portugal, Spain and eventually to the battle of Waterloo. Cornwell has done his research and us sticklers for realism can see he has the correct history of the battles, description of same, proper equipment, tactics, and armament. BBC did a 15 part mini-series which is available on DVD and well worth the watch. But be warned that the DVD series starts in Portugal and leaves out the first books on India where Sharpe is a private, makes sergeant, and finally makes ensign. In the series he is a lieutenant who, because he rose from the ranks and is disliked by the "proper" officers of aristocratic families who bought their commissions, gets assigned to the 90th Rifles (Green Jackets) as no other snooty officer wants to

be there (they don't like how slow the rifles load compared to muskets even though the Baker rifles have longer ranges and are more accurate than the Brown Bess muskets). But Sharpe drills his men until they are very combat effective. As a retired US Army infantry officer, and US Marine Vietnam vet, I really like this series. Only 10 more books to go! Cornwell, a former BBC producer, took his motivation for writing this series after reading the Hornblower series as a lad.

Sharpe's Havoc is, like all the others I've read in the series, a page turner. There is constant action, constant friction between Sharpe and some of his men, as well as with incompetent superiors. There always seems to be a woman involved to a greater or lesser extent. There's always a bad guy that Sharpe has to overcome. The writing is very descriptive. You can almost feel the heat of India or the cold of Portugal. Don't be surprised if you find yourself reading the whole book in a day.

I have enjoyed reading the entire series over the years. The series offers clever plots framed within the confines of the British / Indian wars and the campaign of Napoleon to capture Spain and Portugal. There are great characters, both heroes and villains, all firmly grounded in the confines of the times and circumstances.

Sharpe and his band of green jackets continue to fight (and win!) against the French despite the inept military bureaucracy surrounding them on all sides. This is a GREAT read

Bernard Cornwell's books are timeless tales of an anti hero bucking the system and using his smarts to outwit the folks who feel superiority is based on both wealth and birth. I have been reading these books for over ten years now, and Sharpe's struggle through the ranks, his courage and ingenuity have been entertaining as well as illuminating. The Sharpe series is about the birth of the modern British army. His battles scenes are told through a telescopic lens that places the reader in the middle where they can see the carnage, feel the adrenaline laced fear, the insecurities, as well as the stark realization that the commitment to his fellow soldiers is the only way out. Sharpe should not have been a success. He is little more than a criminal, running from a murder charge, can't sit a horse, borderline illiterate, yet he has a deep rooted sense of morality, a natural affinity for strategy as well as a sixth sense in understanding a situation, reading it and finding solutions. I love reading about the way he peels back the layers to reveal and then destroy the corruptness that sullies the noble ideals that are the core of his existence. I've learned a lot from the Sharpe books. Cornwell's crisp writing is clear and concise. Sharpe's Havoc joins a superior series about a superior officer

and I do indeed hope he and Harper will march again.

Richard Sharpe is at it again. It is 1803. Marshall Soult and his French army have barreled into Portugal and are temporarily stymied on the north shore of the Douro River. Citizens of Oporto on the south side are anxiously awaiting the assault to come, if and when the attackers can figure out a way to cross the river. The situation is made to order for Lt. Richard Sharpe of his Britannic Majesty's 95th Rifles. Fortunately, Sharpe will have help. Sir Arthur Wellesley, the future Duke of Wellington, has landed at Lisbon and is bringing a British army north to save the day. Any readers who have read "Sharpe's Rifles," the initial book in this series, will know that one British army has already been run out of the Iberian Peninsula. Spain has fallen to the French invasion. Portugal is next on Napoleon's schedule. Wellesley's small force will be hard pressed to hold the south bank. To push the French out is beyond credulity. Even rescuing Sharpe's stranded riflemen on the north shore may be impossible. We must stop here with a broader explanation regarding the author Bernard Cornwell and his invention of the London guttersnipe Richard Sharpe turned British officer. There are 22 books in the Sharpe saga, two or three short stories and, I believe, 22 movies. There are a couple of web sites and a fan club. How's that for a niche product? I refer to it as a niche because not everyone, especially these days, is interested in the 300-year-old Peninsular Campaign of the Napoleonic Wars. Not everyone is interested in a soldier from way back when, regardless of how brave and competent. He is an officer from the ranks whom men either follow gladly or mark for death. The women in his life are more single minded. They can hardly wait for Sharpe to claim them. As for me, I have read about Sharpe off and on almost since the first book came out in 1980. It has been hit or miss at the library. The books kept me confused. I might find Sharpe in India, or perhaps Denmark. He somehow found himself in a naval battle at Cape Trafalgar with Nelson and he bounced all over Spain. Finally, I decided to make sense of the nine books covering the Peninsular Campaigns in Portugal and Spain by buying them and reading them in chronological order. "Havoc" is the second book of this particular series, which ends in the south of France with Napoleon's first exile. Now, we can go back to the plot. Sharpe is dodging the French on the north shore, when he sees a lone British soldier across the river. It turns out Wellesley has arrived with his troops but is not interested in just saving the city. He wants to cross over the river and drive the French out of Portugal. Does he succeed? Is Sharpe much help or do his romantic inclinations and feud with another officer take precedence? You won't find out here. Get the book. It's quite readable.

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