



# Until the Sea Shall Give Up Her Dead

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**Charles Hayden returns in the thrilling new naval adventure from bestselling author S. Thomas Russell, today's "Patrick O'Brian for a new generation" (*Kirkus Reviews*).**

Master and Commander Charles Hayden has received fresh orders that take him and the HMS *Themis* to the Caribbean, with instructions to meddle with French shipping to the colonies. While en route, they rescue two Spanish castaways who beg for help fleeing from a vengeful family situation—Hayden agrees to do what he can, though it's soon clear his two new guests aren't exactly what they seem.

Arriving in the lawless Caribbean seas, Hayden and *Themis* find themselves torn between the forces of reckless English captains, conflicts between royalist and revolutionary Frenchmen, and Spanish ships that are enemies to both England and France. And when someone very dear to him is kidnapped, Hayden may sacrifice everything in a reckless pursuit to save her. . . .

## Until the Sea Shall Give Up Her Dead Details

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Author : Sean Thomas Russell

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# From Reader Review Until the Sea Shall Give Up Her Dead for online ebook

## John says

I enjoyed the first two books, but unfortunately it's been downhill since then as far as I'm concerned. The ending of this drawn out story was just too predictable. This could almost have been written by a different author.

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## Spacedout says

Disappointing. This series started out great but I found myself skimming this one.

I loved the *Bow Street Runner* series - evidence of Mr Russell's grasp of writing historical fiction. *Moontide and Magic*, the *Initiate Brother* series are all evidence of Mr Russell's phenomenal skill.

The Themis series not so much.

Hayden gave all evidence of being a powerful new figure in naval fiction but I am now beginning to really dislike his character. Too much whining, an improbable level of action/coincidences and over the top dramatization.

Hayden is not the uptight Hornblower, not the authoritative Jack Aubrey and nor swashbuckling Lewrie. He is forever pining or suffering tragedy. Its too much to bear. I have suspicions that I have been spoilt by O'Brian who may have known as much about this period as Mr. Russell but wrote with such authority. Jack Aubrey instilled in me the belief that a Navy Captain does not ~~take advice from~~ consult midshipmen.

This is my first review (and perhaps last) on goodreads. I write to vent and to also hope that the author is inspired to make a mid-course correction :)

That said, everyone else seems to love the book so maybe its me who is crazy. Think I will go looking for some rum and find a Henrietta to pine for.

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## Lauren says

The quality of Russell's Hayden series has continued to diminish with each passing book and what was a wonderfully promising start to a fun series has now culminated in a spectacularly disappointing finish. While the characters and the actual naval adventuring remain solid, exciting and a truly enjoyable read, Russell's continued insistence on including terrible romantic subplots that detract from the overall narrative makes whole chapters of story-telling unpalatable and difficult to get through. The last half of "Until the Sea Shall Give Up Her Dead" (that which is without any romantic storyline) is worth at least four stars. But as the page count started to run out and the story began to look like it would have to be resolved in only a handful of pages, it all fell apart again in a wholly unsatisfying, slapdash ending as though Russell himself simply gave

up around the four-hundred page mark and threw an ending onto it. There appears to be no word as to whether or not there will be a fifth book -- to be honest, I probably won't read it if there is one.

(view spoiler)

Two stars on the whole. You disappoint me, sir.

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### **Adrienne Anila says**

Hmm... I like that our bold captain can display weakness. And our author has the good sense to leave the future open to future endeavors. Definitely not my favorite Hayden book to date though. Seemed a bit reaching for plot.

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### **scott hamilton says**

#### **A good read that respects accuracy in the details**

A good story well written. The ship scenes were accurate. The middle of the story slowed a bit, but a good read. The book is recommended.

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### **Tim The Enchanter says**

very disappointing. I only read 70 percent before finally giving up. the 70 percent was only due to the fact I enjoyed the first 3 so much. this book contains the most awkward and forced love story I have read. For a series that has focused on action on the high seas, this story line was out of character. the story was flat, the characters were bland and the book was boring.

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### **John says**

Disappointing. I have to believe the author has given up this series given the time since this last installment, and perhaps rightfully so. After a stellar beginning with the first two books, the latter two seem to be on a downward trajectory, as the author putrefied his work with attempted romances. Unfortunate, because he is very talented at writing the stuff for which we read books like this- naval adventure and intrigue, both on sea and land. This book demonstrates in flashes the author's talent in that respect. But the bizarreness and unbelievability of the romance angle in this book is just too much dead weight for the story to take off with.

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### **J Mark Harrison 3 says**

A very excellent book. Very gripping. Full of action, suspense, naval warfare and a thread of romance through the whole story.

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### **João Martins says**

Not quite up to O'Brian's Aubrey/Maturin quality, IMO, but deals with slavery, racism and gender in a way that is much more comfortable to me than Forester's Hornblower.

If you've slowly come to exhaust Napoleonic era naval fiction, definitely worth a read!

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### **Garfield666 says**

I really really liked the first three books in the series, this one is a complete letdown.

The sea warfare action is bland and uninteresting and the new love interest, argh!!!!

The romantic sub plot of the first three books was psychologically credible and had a wonderful Jane Austen-esque authentic period feel, the romance here is at the level of the worst kind of fanfiction or a cheap neckbiter Banging the Highlander adventure novel.

It is so annoying, contrived and cliched that I was happy when

\*SPOILER\*

she died in the end. Just to get rid of her asap.

Really a pity that a very promising series at the same entertainment level as the Alan Lewrie series nosedives and now seems to be ended with THIS piece of literary manure.

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### **Julia says**

I picked this up at the library without knowing it was part of a series. It worked fairly well as a stand-alone, although there were references to things and people that were probably in the other books.

The main character is a captain in the British navy in the late eighteenth century. Britain is at war with France, although it appears to be pre-Napoleon since there are a lot of references to the Jacobins. Spain is a fragile ally, not sharing religion or culture but also hostile to the French. This book is set in the Caribbean, with the English ships based in Barbados and the French based in Guadalupe.

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## **Alex says**

This is very much a book of two halves for me. The early part - the love aspect - is not, in my opinion, particularly good or gripping. I just found myself getting increasingly frustrated with Hayden for being led by his willy and with the author for not really living in the real world. On the otherhand the later part - the more naval focussed - was exceptionally well written and I found the chase scene at the end of the book particularly gripping.

Having now read four books by Sean Thomas Russell in this series, what do I think?.....his books are interesting to read and certainly rate above some others, but are not as good as O'Brien or Forrester - middle of the pack but still entertaining.

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## **Ronald Roseborough says**

An exciting tale of English and French ships and seamen in the age of sail. The sea erupts with the sound of cannons and clash of swords as two nations fight for control of the Caribbean. The book is full of very exciting depictions of sailing and fighting on the high seas. The love interest comes across a bit weak, although it is essential to set up the main plot of the action. Captain Hayden, of His Majesty's Royal Navy, is once again at sea. This time he sees what appears to be two Spanish men adrift in the vast waters of the Caribbean. The Spanish at this time are a tentative ally of the British in their fight against the French navy. One of the Spaniards is eventually revealed to be a young senorita in disguise. The rather fetching young lady, Angelita, catches Capt. Hayden's eye and eventually his heart. The young senorita's brother, Miguel, will have none of this. He plots to ruin the young couple's plans for a happy life. As Capt. Hayden returns to sea under his new admiral's orders, treachery and deceit are working behind his back. Hayden is forced to fight his way back to his young wife, only to find she has been kidnapped by her brother and a French spy. Regardless of the miles of sea that separate them or the number of enemy ships that sail in his way, nothing will stop Hayden from rescuing his lady. The best parts of the book are the rousing, imaginative descriptions of the sea battles as Hayden heats up the Caribbean in search of his love. Book provided for review by Amazon Vine.

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## **Mary A says**

Not really very well written at all - but I persevered with it because I do love a historical British maritime novel.

The best part were the scenes at sea without the silly love interest. And having a woman disguised as a man aboard a ship at sea (in those close quarters!) was absolutely ridiculous.

I was pleased to see the love interest was conveniently killed off at the end of the novel.

All the reviews say the first 3 books in the series were significantly better, so I'll give them a try.

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## **AndrewP says**

Book four of this series and defiantly the weakest so far. The plot seemed to meander quite a bit and there

was a lot of non-naval melodrama. Captain Hayden reminded me of James T. Kirk in some ways, always getting involved with women and poking his nose into things that shouldn't be his business. I can appreciate his moral and ethical concerns but sometimes it seemed beyond the scope of what a British naval officer would do.

In that naval action parts of the book, there was too much rowing around in small boats. Maybe it's just me but I did not find this very exciting. Sometimes the author made it seem like the British sailors were down to half a dozen men, then a bit later they were doing something that obviously required a great many more. It just seemed unclear and inconsistent.

I found myself having a hard time concentrating on this one. The narrator of the audio book was not nearly as engaging as the ones for the previous three books. When the next in the series comes out I will be reading some critical reviews before I purchase it, or just get it from the library when it becomes available.

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