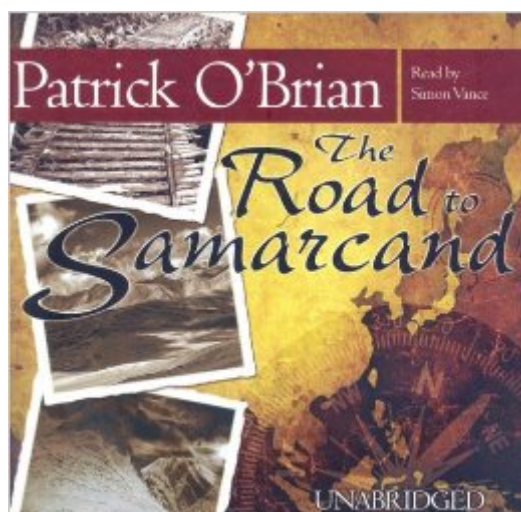


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# The Road To Samarcand: An Adventure



## Synopsis

This stand-alone adventure from the mighty Patrick O'Brian begins just where his devoted fans would want it to: with a sloop in the South China Sea barely surviving a killer typhoon. But the time is the 1930s and the protagonist a teenaged American boy whose missionary parents have just died. In the company of his rough, seafaring uncle and his elderly English cousin, an eminent archaeologist, young Derrick sets off in search of ancient treasures in central Asia. Along the way, they encounter a charismatic Chinese bandit and a host of bad characters, including Russian agents fomenting unrest. The tale ends in an ice-bound valley with the party caught between hostile Red-Hat monks and the Great Silent Ones, which is how the Tibetans designate the yeti.

## Book Information

Audio CD

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 6.5 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,817,568 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \( O \) > O'Brian, Patrick](#) #9450 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > British & Irish > Historical](#) #15596 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged](#)

## Customer Reviews

I've just had a new experience. I have put down an unfinished O'brian book, and I don't intend to pick it back up. I struggled through about 2/3 of it, wincing at the cliched characters and looking in vain for a sign that this writer might someday become OUR Patrick O'brian. Unfortunately, when the good guys fought a fierce ambush attack against Kazak warriors, my endurance became one of the battle casualties. It seems Our Sea Captain Sullivan charged heedlessly into the fray, hurling his rifle at the enemy, then, "...in each hand he held a Kazak by the neck. With a crack like a rifle-shot he smashed their heads together. The helmets rang and fell, and the Tartars dropped senseless from his hands." But he's not through, our Captain Sullivan. "He had no weapons, but he held a man by his feet, and whirling him round he drove the Kazaks before him. They scattered, and he threw the body with all his force, knocking three of them down." Until today, I could not have imagined that our

beloved Patrick had been so influenced by the Three Stooges. Thankfully, his descriptions of the heat of battle improved so markedly over the years that I suspect that he began basing his writing on his study of actual war. If you're looking for that pre-Aubrey/Maturin book that shows the shape of things to come, you want "The Unknown Shore". O'brian develops the prototypes for Jack and Stephen, known here as Jack Byron and Tobias Barrow, and sends them on a seafaring adventure. O'brian's prodigious gifts for developing characters we care about who then enlighten us on shipboard life as well as larger themes of leadership, character, ambition and loyalty are on full display here.

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