



Captain Alatriste

By Arturo Perez-Reverte

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The first action-packed adventure in the internationally acclaimed Captain Alatriste series, with Arturo Pérez-Reverte's most stunning creation to date.

Captain Alatriste is a Spanish soldier who lives as a swordsman-for-hire in seventeenth-century Madrid. Needing gold to pay off his debts, Alatriste and another hired blade are paid to ambush two travelers, stage a robbery, and give the travelers a fright. “No blood,” they are told.

Then a mysterious stranger enters to clarify the job: he increases the pay, and tells Alatriste that, instead, he must murder the two travelers. When the attack unfolds, Alatriste realizes that these aren’t ordinary travelers, and what happens next is only the first in a riveting series of twists and turns, with implications that will reverberate throughout the courts of Europe.

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Captain Alatriste By Arturo Perez-Reverte Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #417794 in Books
- Brand: Plume
- Published on: 2005-12-27
- Released on: 2005-12-27
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .65" w x 5.30" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

International bestseller Pérez-Reverte (*The Club Dumas*) offers a winning swashbuckler set in 17th-century Spain. Hooded figures, apparently acting on the behalf of Fray Emilio Bocanegra, "president of the Holy Tribunal of the Inquisition," hire famed soldier Capt. Diego Alatriste to murder two Englishmen who have come to Madrid. One of the hooded figures, however, begs Alatriste (out of earshot of the others) only to wound the pair. When Alatriste and his fellow assassin, an ill-humored Italian, surprise the British, the captain is impressed by the fighting spirit they show, and he prevents the assassination from taking place. (The Italian, infuriated, swears eternal revenge.) When the Englishmen turn out to be on an important mission, Alatriste suddenly finds himself caught between a number of warring factions, Spanish and otherwise. Splendidly paced and filled with a breathtaking but not overwhelming sense of the history and spirit of the age, this is popular entertainment at its best: the characters have weight and depth, the dialogue illuminates the action as it furthers the story and the film-worthy plot is believable throughout. *Agent, Howard Morhaim.* (May 5)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

If you read *The Queen of the South* (***1/2 Sept/Oct 2004), you already know what a sure, confident writer Pérez-Reverte is. In fact he is one of the few authors about whom the appellation "international best-seller" actually means something. *Captain Alatriste*, which has sold over a million copies in Spain, is just now being released across the ocean. Reviewers seem confident that American readers will gobble it up as well. The historical detail is engaging, but never heavy-handed. The characters (some, like the painter Velázquez or poet Francisco de Quevedo, real) are well-rounded. The prose is taut and the pace quick. *Captain Alatriste* is sure to both delight and whet your appetite for the second in the series, *Purity of Blood*, due out next January. The film starring Viggo Mortensen probably won't hurt either.

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From [Booklist](#)

Spanish writer Perez-Reverte already has generated an eager readership for his historical thrillers; the latest is *The Queen of the South* (2004). Now, his earlier five-novel sequence (each title a phenomenal best-seller in Spain) featuring swordsman-for-hire Diego Alatriste, set in Spain's quickly tarnishing seventeenth-century golden age, is being published in the U.S. for the first time. The individual volumes will appear over the course of the next few years, beginning with this first installment. The Alatriste series defines the term *swashbuckling*. Captain Alatriste, a veteran of Spain's Flemish wars, deploys his sword for anyone who will pay, which inevitably leads him into some dicey situations; the one detailed here is a commission to assassinate, under the cover of darkness, two Englishmen on a visit to Madrid. At the last moment, Alatriste decides against running them through and spares their lives--which turns out to be fortunate on a diplomatic level, since his intended victims are revealed to be the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Buckingham, in Spain to attempt to arrange a marriage between the prince and the Spanish king's daughter. From first word to last, this novel, sure to be a hit in this country as well, fairly drips adventure off every page. *Brad Hooper*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lois Yale:

This Captain Alatriste book is just not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is definitely information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. That Captain Alatriste without we realize teach the one who reading through it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't become worry Captain Alatriste can bring once you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Captain Alatriste having fine arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Clifford Harvey:

The book Captain Alatriste has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was written by the very famous author. Tom makes some research ahead of write this book. This book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after looking over this book.

Leticia Bennet:

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