



Blue Horizon

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Following on from Monsoon the next generation of Courtneys are out to stake their claim in South Africa. The journey they make takes them through the untouched wilderness of a beautiful land filled with warring tribes and dangerous animals.

Blue Horizon Details

Date : Published May 7th 2004 by Pan Books (UK) (first published January 1st 2003)

ISBN : 9780330376310

Author : Wilbur Smith

Format : Paperback 777 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Adventure, Cultural, Africa

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Toni Osborne says

The story is set in the 1800 where the main characters are out to stake their claim in southern Africa. They are traveling along infamous roads which take them through the untouched wilderness, a beautiful land filled with warring tribes and wild animals. At the heart of the story is love, hatred, vengeance and greed.

You will find captivating the infinite details of bloody attacks from enemy tribes and other pursuers all through the book. The elephant and hippopotamus hunts are so realistic you would think you are watching a movie. The high sea battles are so engaging you can hear the sizzling of the fire and the crackling wood of the ships. Of course the author added a bit of romance to all this action.

I found this book a bit hard to read mainly because my taste is more towards spy and police stories rather than reading about men in loincloths engaged in primitive war-fare. On the whole I could say I did not dislike the book.

Lauren says

While I appreciate this is probably extremely well researched in historical terms, I found it hard to be impressed when having to slog through page upon page of cringe worthy dialogue being expressed by characters that were two dimensional, the writer seems to think he can make women interesting by depicting them giving their male companions a bit of lip in between getting themselves into trouble and running to check on the dinner, yawn. For all the detail that was so painstakingly researched, to me it felt show-offy rather than interesting next to everything else. I hate not finishing a book I've started, but I had to give up on this one. I just couldn't take anymore.

Liesl says

This is not the Wilbur Smith I know. Too long with too much detail. Won't put me off his next book but disappointed in this one.

Lindsay Brown says

So. So terrible. Unnecessary rape scenes. Don't recommend this series. The Courtney's of Africa waaaaay better

Jim A says

The third of the early Courtney family adventures. This book pretty much picks up where Monsoon left off without moving forward a generation.

Anyone looking at picking up Wilbur Smith's Courtney saga really should start with Birds of Prey rather than the first Courtney book written, When The Lion Feeds. Gives a much better back story into the family history.

Justin says

All in all, this is a fun and somewhat pulp-y romantic adventure story. Really, it's more like a collection of several stories, which sometimes gives the reader a feeling that the author is trying to cover too much ground. In the end though, the various plot threads come together in a satisfying way.

First of all, this book is #12 in a series, but the series covers multiple generations of the Courtney family over several hundred years. The only other book in the series that directly effects this one is the one right before it; the characters in Blue Horizon recap the important points at various times throughout the story anyway.

Surprisingly, this book has a lot of hallmarks of objectivist literature. The main character kick-starts the action in the name of love. The protagonists are strongly entrepreneurial and stick to their moral values, while the antagonists are constantly trying to steal what isn't theirs and blaming others for their own failures. Many of the book's conflicts are resolved through trade, reason, or appealing to someone's rational self-interest.

Sheetal Dasgupta says

The detailing is awesome. The tribes, the terrains, the sea. You can feel it.

Haleth says

Il seguito di *Monsone*, non strabiliante come quest'ultimo, ma imperdibile se si sono apprezzati *Uccelli da preda* e, appunto, *Monsone*.

Purtroppo però comincia a diventare ripetitivo, i soliti cliché si sprecano, i nuovi personaggi non si fanno amare tanto quanto i vecchi. È un bel libro lo stesso, o forse a me è parso più bello di quanto non fosse perché era un secolo che non leggevo Wilbur Smith.

Insomma, c'è l'Africa, ci sono i paesaggi mozzafiato, c'è l'avventura, c'è l'orizzonte. Per me questo libro fa parte di una sorta di grande trilogia con i due precedenti, anche se purtroppo non raggiunge le stesse vette. Forse ci perde più di quanto non dovrebbe proprio perché viene naturale metterlo a confronto con gli altri, che per me saranno difficilmente eguagliati (se non da *Il settimo papiro* e *Il dio del fiume*, che però sono tutta un'altra cosa), e che insieme costituiscono una grande saga.

E con questo ho detto tutto e il contrario di tutto. :P

Kevin Chilvers says

This is the first Courtney book I've read and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Despite not reading the previous books it stood alone and I did not feel lost. It is a long book (over 600 pages) but this action based thriller with a bit of romance kept me engaged.

Recommended to anyone who likes an entertaining yarn.

Matt says

In the eleventh instalment of the Courtney series, Smith continues to lay the early foundation of the Courtney family in South Africa. This novel moves the story to the next generation of Courtney children, specifically the sons of Tom (Jim) and Dorian (Mansur). In the early portion of the novel, the reader learns of Jim's fascination with Louisa Leuven, who appears on a prison ship that docks close to the family settlement. Louisa's story is one of pain and severe abuse, which Smith recounts in graphic detail, including the crime that sees her unjustly sentenced. When Jim helps free Louisa from the ship, they escape into the African wilderness, fleeing colonial authorities. During their adventure, Jim and Louisa fall in love while finding a way to allow their feelings to grow, hampered by Louisa's past and issues of trust. When the colonial governor learns that Tom has been aiding in his son's activities, the entire Courtney family is blacklisted and they must leave their home, for fear of further retribution. At their new settlement, the story shifts to focus on Dorian and Mansur, who still hold onto the former's past life as the adopted son of the Prince of Oman. When the current Caliph of Oman seeks revenge on Dorian for all he did while living with the family in Zanzibar, death seems the easiest solution. However, after Dorian's wife, Yasmini, is killed, these Courtney men refuse to turn the other cheek and will stop at nothing to avenge her death. Dorian chooses to take back the Caliphate and must wrest control from the evil Zayn al-Din. While beginning their trek, Mansur meets Verity and falls madly in love. It is only later that Mansur realises that she is actually his cousin, daughter to Tom's twin brother, Guy. While Verity has been told much about her family, she learns that all she knows are lies and falsehoods. Verity chooses Mansur over her own father, who vows to bring the Courtney family down in any way he can. While Dorian fights for his honour, Mansur must face-off against his uncle to protect the woman he loves, spilling Courtney blood no matter what. A powerful novel that Smith uses to enrich the further generational saga of the Courtneys, told in intricate detail.

Moving away from the nautical battles that played a central role earlier, Smith is able to offer up an exciting and multi-faceted story that is sure to keep the reader's attention. Filled with the excitement of battles of the heart and freedom, Smith advances the Courtney story with new characters and significant twists, some of which were bound to come to the forefront and others whose genesis only add to the epic adventure on which this family has embarked. As I presumed, the departure of Guy in the previous novel could not be ignored, as he appears in the form of a bitter man who hates the family he left in England, only to exact his own form of revenge. With so many plots and characters to keep balanced, Smith does a stellar job at ensuring the reader is not left bored or confused. With much to keep the series momentum looking forward, Smith catapults the Courtneys into yet another adventure, as he expands the family tree, forcing the reader to plot something out, in order to keep things clear for the twelfth novel.

Kudos, Mr. Smith for another great novel in which you keep a quick but constant pace for all your characters to grow and develop.

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<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

Lizzy B says

In the fast paced world of the Courtney brothers life is never dull. Wilbur Smith once again exhibits his seamless ability to run multiple story lines in parallel, building suspense and without ever loosing one. A desire to find out what happens next continues to drive one deeper and deeper into the book until the point of no return. Before i knew it i was completely engrossed and there was just no putting the book down.

Bringing a mix of historical happenings, action, battle, honour, strategy, adventure, love, family life, quirky characters such as the beauty from the prison ship Jim rashly set's his heart upon, to long lost and hated family members with a penchant towards evil, this book is a gem from start to finish. Only thing i found is that nautical understanding may have been beneficial in the early parts of the novel. By the end terminology and turns of phrase were well incorporated into my understanding, so it was no longer an issue. Over all fairly accessible, delightfully interwoven, and truly gripping.

Peter Mazzucco says

My favorite book all-time. The conclusion to the early Courtney series; excellent as a stand-alone book as well. Wonderful story of revenge, exploration and love. Epic and detailed... a must read. I suggest reading the series starting with Monsoon, then Blue Horizon and lastly, Birds of Prey (works better as sort of a prequel).

Rusty says

Wilbur Smith is a talented author and I love his novels. This is one of many stories about the Courtney family who lived in South Africa. The tale takes place in the early 1800s. This one begins with a slave ship anchored in the harbor where it fled from a storm. Jim Courtney brings produce to the ship to sell where he sees a beautiful young woman whom he cannot forget. When he rescues her, he finds himself on the run and his family persecuted by the authorities. The rest of the book focuses on their adventures as they flee the authorities.

Some readers felt the book was rambling but I enjoyed the many adventures and experiences that they have including those of his parents. Life changes dramatically for them all and perhaps what happens to this family can only happen in fiction but I enjoyed every page. The novel spurs the reader to search for the next one, When the Lion Feeds. The series begins with Birds of Prey, progresses to Monsoon, than to Blue Horizon. There are thirteen novels in about the family spanning a period from 1660 to 1987 so one can follow the family for a long time!

Chris says

I hope this series never ends!

Jennifer Busch says

yuck. The back says it's filled with "bravado, greed, and romance". If romance is a man patting himself on the back and telling his "woman" what a wonderful man he is, then sure, I guess the write up is correct. I found it pathetic and impossible to read. Do not read.
