

OLIVER'S WAR



TITLE: Oliver's War

GENRE: War/Historical/Romance

LOG LINE: A socially-inept young man ends up a sitting duck in battle when his jealous peers design a malicious and impractical battle plan to ruin him. Young Commodore Perry's story, though largely unsung, is truly the stuff of American legend.

COMPARABLES: Hornblower, Master and Commander, Saving Private Ryan



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Synopsis

In 1797, Oliver Hazard Perry - one of the youngest midshipman to enlist in the U.S. Navy - stole silently into the Captain's headquarters of the enemy vessel. He cocked his gun's barrel and aimed it at the figure that lay sleeping in the hammock - only to feel another gun dig into his back. "Bang," said his father. "You're dead."

Two weeks later Oliver found himself dangling overboard the schooner General Green, upside down, and vomiting into the green swells of the Mediterranean as punishment for being seasick. His father, Captain Perry, administered the punishment.

These were only war games and discipline for the fiercely patriotic, twelve-year-old man-child, who vowed such a defeat nor disgrace would ever happen to him again.

It is 1801, and at the tender age of sixteen Oliver finally gets his chance at redemption. In desperate need of a hero to ward off national embarrassment, a young America pins Oliver a Lieutenant for attempting to save his ship while half the middies and his Captain cowered under British impressment - and all while combating a severe case of seasickness, a slippery, blood-soaked deck, and a handful of bizarre phobias.

Back home, the boyishly handsome and naive Oliver wears his newly decorated uniform to a ball held in his honor. Proving himself to be a fish out of water, the socially inept lad runs into Elna - his childhood friend who has grown into an enchanting beauty. His embarrassing confrontation at the ball only endears him to her more.

Married at eighteen, Oliver later must leave his bride to report to the Navy. When his jealous peers maliciously design an impractical battle plan to ruin him, a stubborn Oliver takes the dangerous rendezvous head on and ends up a sitting duck in one of the most amazing battles ever staged. With what can only be called "Perry's luck," Oliver barely escapes and brings his fleet to victory. Oliver Hazard Perry's story, though largely unsung, is truly the stuff of American legend.