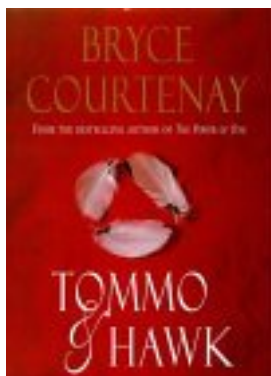

Bryce Courtenay

Tommo and Hawk (The Potato Factory #2)



Title: Tommo and Hawk (The Potato Factory #2)

Author: Bryce Courtenay

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Description

Brutally kidnapped and separated in childhood, Tommo and Hawk are reunited at the age of fifteen in Hobart. Together they escape their troubled pasts and set off on a journey into manhood. From whale hunting in the Pacific to the Maori wars of New Zealand, from the Rocks in Sydney to the miners' riots at the goldfields, Tommo and Hawk must learn each other's strengths and weaknesses in order to survive. Especially in their last, worst confrontation between good and evil. Brilliantly evoking a time of struggle and triumph in the young colonies, Bryce Courtenay has created an unforgettable tale of the enduring bond between two brothers.

Insightful reviews

Jeffrey Rasley: Tommo & Hawk is the second in Courtenay's Potato Factory Trilogy. Courtenay is a master storyteller, indeed. Per a previous reviewer, I'd say at least as good as Hemmingway. His description of life in 19th Century Colonial Australia & New Zealand is that of "nasty, brutish, and short men", other than the saintly and gigantic Hawk. My criticism of the first book in the series was that Courtenay was too cruel to Mary -- just over-the-top, horribly sadistic gratuitous violence perpetrated on a sympathetic character -- to the point that the reader wants to turn away from it and shout, Make it stop!

In this second book there is plenty of gut-wrenching violence and cruelty, but most of it is perpetrated on faceless characters or those getting their just desserts (with at least one exception of Maori Billy). What is a minor turn-off for me is that Hawk is just too perfect. He is physically a giant, brilliant and scholarly, idealistic, compassionate, philanthropic, innocent but clever and discerning,, and a great lover. He does resort to Old Testament justice to punish the unjust, but only when thoroughly provoked and the reader is urging the big fella to kick some ass. He's just too good.

Another nit one might pick is that all the bad guys and perpetrators of evil are all white (with one exception). Kind of surprising, the, usually pictured as downtrodden, Irish comprise many of the evil doers. Perhaps even more surprising, Quakers come off pretty badly. The Maori and Aborigines are noble and sagacious. The Chinese ("Celestias") are gentle and wise. Whites are "nasty, brutish, and short" tempered. On the other hand, the cruelties and injustices inflicted upon the natives and Chinese by white colonists were horrid and despicable. So, Courtenay is not just posterizing stereotypes, it's history. But, it just comes off, for me, too easy, too black/good, white/bad.

The character I enjoyed the most is Tommo. He has much of Ikey's loveable rascality, And, he can kick ass. He's not as complicated and neurotic as Ikey. But, he's a tortured soul, who is a cool customer.

It's a great read or listen. I heard it as an audiobook, and the narrator is fabulous.

Sue Smith: An excellent continuation of the story started in the book 'The Potato Factory', following the twin brothers Tommo and Hawk as they become young men finding their way in an

often cruel world. So incredibly well written, with descriptions that paint vivid pictures that really let you in on the tales as if you were right along side them as their adventures unwind. Often tragic but always uplifting, it's really an epic tale of how you can become you're own person in a world that seems fraught with despair and anger and greed. And the importance of love and family to help you get through the worst of whatever you're in. Looking forward to continue the story of the Soloman family into the next book.

Sher: A very weak ending which I find extremely irritating. This author appears to be lazy or greedy as the story is unfinished requiring reader to purchase the next book of the triad to learn the demise of a principle character. Good books in a series stand alone and don't resort to such cheap tricks. Had I not already purchased the third and final book of the series I would not have made the purchase on principle alone. I find it so ironic this book is a about greed & standing up to the injustices to the poor committed by the evil, more affluent or both. Farty Sparrer is alive and well in more than one fashion.

It is impossible to give this book the four stars I might have when the book is unfinished. Had I not enjoyed the book otherwise I would have given this book one star.

Asheena Budhai: i like Bryce Courtenay's books, despite the fact that this sequel begun of well, yet grew to become too predictable. The characters of Tommo and Hawk have been tricky to fall in love with, which was once completely the other of Ikey and Mary within the Potato Factory. the tale confirmed little or no own progress within the characters, which was once what i used to be trying to find in the end the adventures. in spite of the fact that i like to recommend it in simple terms as a continuation of the Solomon's story.

Lance Agena: whereas I loved this follow-up to The Potato Factory, it was once one other tackle the storyline that did not concentrate on the characters that i like so much, Ikey and Mary. not anything in Courtenay's tales permit for characters' happiness to final for long. And being that the experiences for the 3rd e-book within the sequence had negative comments, I knew I wasn't going to learn it so I must have stopped on the moment to final bankruptcy of this booklet the place every little thing appeared to be great and tidy on the end. Still, the writing used to be impeccable and that i particularly cared for the characters. However, there's a rhythm of heartache and distress that turns into predictable. finish the tale prior to the final bankruptcy and you can finish at some extent that may go away you satisfied.

Margaret: i actually get pleasure from books in a series... yet i am getting pissed off while a booklet doesn't fairly end. This used to be like e-book 2 within the woman with the dragon tatoo. It leaves you thinking about what occurs to the key players. It felt just like the finish of chapter, now not the tip of a book. i do not are looking to break the tale yet there has been some extent a few bankruptcy again whilst this publication can have led to a extra whole way. I simply learn the stories for the final e-book and plenty of of the readers have been disappointed. They echoed my evaluation of a superb first ebook with much less ability within the moment one and recommend that the final one may be disappointing. i feel i'm going to finish now....I may possibly look at it in a publication shop to work out what I think, yet not likely to take advantage of one my audible credit on it.

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