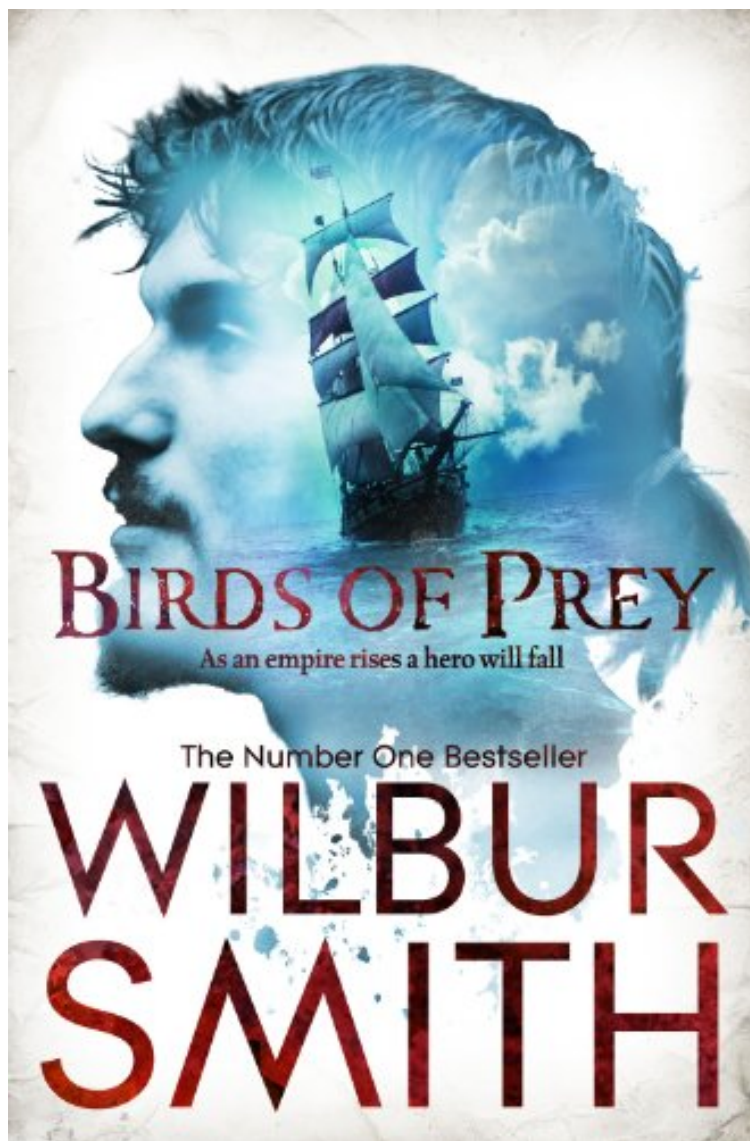


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Birds Of Prey



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Description : Description du produitRocketing onto bestseller lists with his two majestic novels, River God and The Seventh Scroll, Wilbur Smith captivated readers with tales full of passion, rage, and glory. With BIRDS OF PREY, a tale of high seas and high adventure, Smith will enthrall readers once again. The year is 1667; Sir Francis Courteney and his son Hal are on patrol in their fighting caravel off the Agulhas Cape of South Africa. They are lying in wait for one of the treasure-laden galleons of the Dutch East India Company returning from the Orient. So begins a quest for adventure and the spoils of war that sweeps them from the settlement of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa to the Great Horn of Ethiopia far to the north -- at a time when international maritime law permitted acts of piracy, rape, and murder otherwise punishable by death. Wilbur Smith introduces a generation of the indomitable Courteneyns and thrillingly re-creates their part in the struggle for supremacy and riches on the high seas. From the very first pages, Wilbur Smith spins a colorful and exciting tale, crackling with tension and drama, that builds and builds to a stunning climax.

Packed with vivid descriptive passages of the open seas, breathless pacing, and an extraordinary cast of characters, *Birds of Prey* is a masterpiece from a storyteller at the height of his powers.

Prsentation de l'diteurIt is 1667 and the mighty naval war between the Dutch and the English still rages. Sir Francis Courtney and his son Hal, in their fighting caravel, are on patrol off southern Africa, lying in wait for a galleon of the Dutch East India Company returning from the Orient laden with spices, timber and gold . . . A breath-taking adventure from start to finish, *Birds of Prey* by Wilbur Smith is a fabulous addition to The Courtneys of Africa series. 'The scope is magnificent and the epic scale breathtaking . . . Wilbur Smith is one of those benchmarks against whom others are compared' The Times 'An epic and gripping tale' Mail on Sunday 'Meticulous research supports constant excitement in a fast-moving tale' Washington Post 'A gripping tale, relentless in its flow, that evokes a more colourful age - one of passion and a majesty of spirit that is seldom illustrated with such nerve' Daily Express.com Look up "classic adventure novel" in the dictionary and you'll find the strong and capable features of South Africa's own Wilbur Smith, who--in books as varied and enjoyable as *River God*, *The Seventh Scroll*, *When the Lion Feeds*, and *The Diamond Hunters*--displays an awesome storytelling ability. His latest is one of his best efforts: a richly detailed story of war and piracy on the high seas in 1667, 150 years before Patrick O'Brian's *Aubrey and Maturin* books. From Library Journal In 1667, Sir Francis Courteney commands his ship off the coast of Africa in England's war against the Dutch. He has groomed his son Hal to succeed him as captain. *Birds of Prey* chronicles Hal's swift and bloody passage to manhood after his father's torture and death at the hands of the Dutch. Escaping with the remaining crew, Hal makes his way overland to claim his father's hidden treasure and confront the treacherous English captain who betrayed them. Men are hacked apart in sword fights, blown to bits in shipboard battles, mauled by crocodiles, and more in this tale from the prolific author of such historical fare as *The Seventh Scroll* (LJ 4/15/95). Short on character development and tight plotting, this meandering escapist novel will be relished by those who enjoy swashbuckling tales with nonstop action.

For popular collections. ?Kathy Piehl, Mankato State Univ., Minn. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.