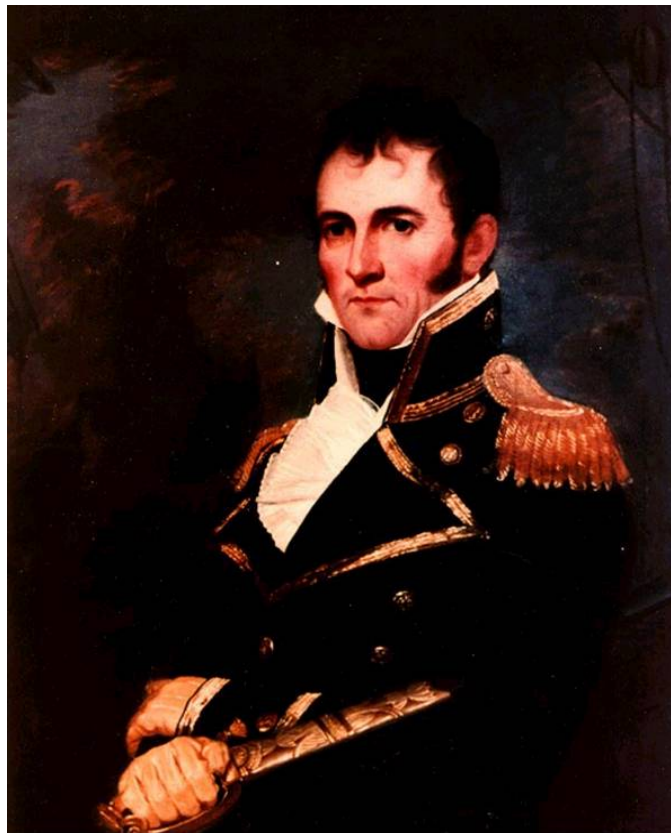


None So Daring

The Epic Saga of Commodore David Porter



by Robert Porter Lynch

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SYNOPSIS

None So Daring is the epic saga of one of America's most dashing heroes. Set between 1790 and 1830, it is the true story of the swashbuckling, visionary, powerful and often volatile Commodore David Porter. Each episode is based on historical evidence.

Virtually forgotten to history, this story resurrects, with carefully researched accuracy, the remarkable and fascinating story of a man whose dramatic storybook career is virtually unparalleled in U.S. history for excitement, adventure, romance, and intrigue.

Dashing, bold in every stroke, visionary, but hot-headed and impetuous, Commodore Porter's naval adventures included fighting Arab terrorists in the Mediterranean and clashing with Caribbean pirates like Jean Laffite. Later, his escapades in the War of 1812 in the Pacific struck into the heart of the British Admiralty, triggering their wrath. During this Pacific odyssey, the touching adventures on the voyage of his young adopted son, David Glasgow Farragut, whose will lift the hearts of young and old alike. Porter's role in bottling up the British fleet after their attack on Washington probably turned the tide of the War of 1812, preserving this nation's liberty.

His passionate and tempestuous love affair with Evalina, a Congressman's daughter, brought him love, obsession, betrayal, and tragedy. Evalina was a real life Scarlett O'Hara. Living elegantly in their Washington mansion, Meridian Hill, and using her husband's power and her cunning, together they had widespread influence in Washington politics.

While Porter's daring exploits at sea and his position in Washington brought him both fame and power, he also attracted powerful enemies. After successfully eradicating piracy from the Caribbean (1823-24) he inadvertently became entangled in a power struggle between Andrew Jackson and John Quincy Adams. Commodore Porter, as the most dominant naval figure remaining from the War of 1812, was sideswiped by Henry Clay and harshly attacked by John Quincy Adams in what is still considered one of the most tumultuous courts-martial in military history, rivaling Truman's ouster of MacArthur for its divisiveness to the American people.

After his court-martial, the self-exiled Porter became the Chief of Naval Operations for the Mexican navy, where he locked horns with new nemesis, General Santa Ana (later to fight against Crockett at the Alamo), who twice attempted Porter's assassination, in which the Commodore, in swashbuckling fashion, fought off his attackers with pistols and swords. Later, after Jackson defeated Adams for the Presidency, Porter was appointed the first ambassador to the Middle East.

Commodore Porter's career – heroic and tragic, visionary and pecuniary -- influenced American and world affairs. His sons, David Dixon Porter and David Glasgow Farragut went on to become the most decorated and heroic naval figures of the Civil War. Theodore Roosevelt reputedly patterned his own dashing career after Porter. But this dramatic hero has been largely forgotten, until this historic novel.

None So Daring is written with the power and passion equal to its main character, with inspiring dialogue, fast-paced action, suspense, romance, tragedy, human fallibility, remarkable lessons in leadership, and petty abuses of power. Heroes, villains, beauty, treachery, and intrigue fill the scenes in a true life story usually found only in fiction.

Written in the genre of Melville and Stevenson, this epic saga is comparable with the romantic intrigue of *Gone with the Wind*, and the powerful intensity of *Patton* -- Porter was a real-life Rhett Butler and a naval George Patton. Like Patton, he was a spirited and beloved leader at sea, but antagonized by petty politics and in-fighting during peacetime.

THEMES

In *None So Daring*, three themes clash in an intricate interplay:

- 1) **Love & Innocence**
- 2) **Duty & Honor**
- 3) **Power & Politics**

Each of these themes are fully developed, but each theme also conflicts with one of the other two, creating a captivating contention between values, goals, and desires.

AUDIENCE APPEAL

Appealing to men and women, as well as children, this compelling story fully embraces “the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat,” chivalry, heroism, political intrigue, all woven into a romantic fabric of deep love and betrayal. The novel’s broad appeal to a wide audience makes the book an excellent basis for at least one movie and perhaps a mini-series. The novel is being written in a style that will easily lend itself to the screen.

BOOKS AND MOVIES

Books: The full version book is estimated to be between 500 and 600 pages when complete. Another children’s book comparable to *Treasure Island* could easily be extracted from the original version.

Book Status: Approximately 90% of the research is complete (over 50 books read, and extensive library research) Full-scale writing has begun, with 10% of the writing complete and all chapters outlined.

Movie: *None So Daring* is written in a series of scenes that are easily adapted into two movies: 1) the first spanning from 1790 to 1815, and 2) the second from 1815 to 1830. Another children’s movie is possible by focusing on the scenes with the younger heroes.

Website: The website: www.NoneSoDaring.com has been secured.

THE AUTHOR

Robert Porter Lynch, a descendant of Commodore Porter, is an accomplished author in the business world, having authored two very popular and widely acclaimed books about strategic alliances. He has written chapters in other books and magazines. Robert is an amateur historian and story teller, a graduate of Brown and Harvard Universities, and a former Naval Officer with combat duty in Vietnam. Mr. Lynch is an accomplished public speaker and teaches advanced management courses at several universities. He resides in Naples, Florida.

STORY BOARD

OVERVIEW OF THE CHAPTERS

All Episodes (except 1.1-1.3) are true and based on Careful Historic Research

Chapter 1. GOING TO SEA

- 1.1 Boy on a Dolphin (1790): A sweeping view of the ocean, focus in on young David Porter, aged 10, riding the bowsprit of his father's ship, playing with dolphins, bonding with father, who is highly instrumental in instilling critical values.
(The powerful images of unfettered boyish joy give credence to the lure of the sea, a lure that can also have a very unpleasant hook, as exemplified in the final scene)
- 1.2 The Sea as Seductress (1790) Father, the Captain explains to this young boy about working with the sea, not fighting it. Mastering the sea is making it serve you, being sensitive to her ever-changing temperaments, "You must deal with Mother Nature just like you treat any woman. Don't expect her to be the same every day. You must love her for what she is, not for how you want her to be."
(This scene places the sea in a larger, more complex context that, as he grows, Porter will need to sort out. It is also symbolic of the nature of a woman, who he eventually marries, but never comes to understand)
- 1.3 Merlin (1790): Captain Porter is a Merlin-like figure whose wisdom is carefully inculcated in young David. The old man's deep understanding of the ways of the world and probing of questions way before his time give him the aura of an oracle.
(Porter is to be faced with a complex, changing, and contradictory world. He grows to be both wise but volatile, which, at times extract him from danger, while at others cast him unnecessarily in harm's way.)
- 1.4 The Prison Ship (1780): Imprisoned during the Revolution, Porter's father was imprisoned in a hell-hole. His experience with near death and his miraculous escape is fascinating and impactful on his son's future escapes from danger.
(The father's magical capabilities are manifest in how he deals with death, despair, and destruction. Porter's ability to grasp this real world experience accelerates his own development, and gives him critical tools for future life experiences. Young Porter begins to grasp the larger world in powerful stories and images.)
- 1.5 Inner Sanctum (1790): Senior Porter's ship cabin is an intriguing treasure trove of knowledge that is reinforced by his idiosyncratic personality.
(The portrait of Porter's father's inner world illustrates how both mind and soul have merged into a unified spirit, forming a foundation for his son to lead a unique though flawed life.)
- 1.6 Home and Mother (1794): The future Commodore was raised by a pious mother who did not want him to go to sea. Ultimately she lets him go in a touching scene of distress and release.
(This is the first conflict Porter must face between Love, represented by mother, Honor, represented by father, and Duty, represented by being true to himself)
- 1.7 Repelling Invaders (1796): This is Porter's first taste of battle and blood shed. The father is heroic, contrasted to the reprehensible actions of the British.
(Porter's first trial by fire is passed successfully under the leadership & tutelage of his father, who shows he can integrate the roles of both a magician and a warrior.)

- 1.8 Impressment & Escape (1796): This scene is a tragic shift from the joys of freedom on the open sea to the horrors of being captured by British, the flogging of fellow American, escape, recapture and final escape. During this scene young David is abducted forcibly from his father's ship and placed into forced servitude (impressment) by the British Navy, a stern and cruel master. He successfully escapes, ending the chapter.
(The experience is the critical transformational moment in defining Porter's character, his affirmations, and his view of reality. The unrestrained conflicting images of brutality and resurrection are indelibly implanted in Porter, who must distinguish what is real and only seems to be real.)

Chapter 2. CONSTELLATION MIDSHIPMAN & CARIBBEAN PIRATES

- 2.1 A Perilous Return (1797) Making his way back to America was filled with obstacles and difficulties. In the mean time, his father's ship capsizes, leaving him without a command.
(Porter is still young, and uses his will to overcome incredible odds to achieve his vision of honor and justice. He vows to fight for what's right, and that good things will accrue to him by his merit and hard work.)
- 2.2 The Midshipman and Reuben James (1798): Porter becomes a midshipman on the newly commissioned frigate *Constellation*. He forms a brotherhood that will last for two decades with fellow midshipmen Stephen Decatur and Oliver Hazard Perry. Decatur's dashing, Porter's prankishness, and Perry's compassion are revealed early. Porter and Decatur are also linked with a dark skinned sailor, Reuben James, who stays with Porter throughout the book, as his anchor to his men and the realities of sea-going life.
(As a future officer in training, Porter strives to live up to the code of honor and discipline required to be a naval leader. He listens to his new Captain's every word, like a knight pledging fealty to his king. Neither brash nor arrogant, at this point in his life he is a student, learning. He is proud to carry the traditions of past heroes.)
- 2.3 Confrontation with Authority (1798): Aboard the frigate, faced with a cruel officer who has baited him too much, Porter strikes the bully, which is a court martial offense. However, he persuades Captain Truxton, an heroic figure, that the officer was derelict and Porter's behavior was in the best interests of the new Navy. Truxton concurs, and exonerates Porter.
(Porter is in the exceedingly difficult situation where authority does not uphold honorable standards. Duty and Honor come into conflict with Power. Porter's temper prevails, but ultimately the Captain, the supreme judge whose compassion is veiled by sternness, rules in favor of Porter. This lesson becomes a higher standard seldom achieved by lesser men, and thus Porter is trapped in this expectation of Righteousness all his life.)
- 2.4 Action in the Foretops (1799) *Constellation* engages *L'Insurgente* in the quasi war against the French. It is the first military engagement since the revolution. Porter is in the foretops with Reuben James. Together they save the ship from tragedy when French cannon fire jeopardizes the ship's masts, dramatically risking their own lives in the rigging.
(This scene is pure action and adventure. It epitomizes the bravery and willingness

- to risk life and limb for the good of the ship.)*
- 2.5 Holding Off French Prisoners (1799) After the battle, Midshipman Porter is selected to help take command of the embattled French frigate. With only a dozen sailors, he held off a mutiny of 173 French prisoners while sailing the heavily damaged frigate back to port.
(Porter was courageous and quick to action, which, in this instance in combat, is highly advantageous, but far less valuable in complex situations, as he was to learn later.)
- 2.6 Boldness in Pirate Combat (1800): Promoted to Lieutenant aboard the schooner Experiment, Porter's Captain Maley tries to surrender his ship when it is attacked by pirates. Porter boldly strips command from Maley, inspires his crew to fight, is severely wounded, but fights on, and captures pirates.
(For his actions, Porter is meritoriously promoted to a ship commanded by a coward. Again, Porter exceeds his authority in what could easily be considered a mutinous action to take charge of a situation where the consequences would be disastrous if he faltered. He is commended for his boldness, which reinforces a view of the world that bravery and strong action to do what is right will be admired and rewarded.)

Chapter 3. BARBARY PIRATES War (U.S.'s first war with Arabs)

- 3.1 Jefferson says Fight (1801): America's first declared war against Arab pirates, the equivalent of today's terrorists. Action aboard the Sloop of War Enterprise in Tripoli with larger pirate ship, which surrenders after a three hour battle.
(Honor, Courage, Bravery, and Daring are hallmarks of Porter's character. Porter is easily angered when his values are challenged by disreputable thugs. In this and the following episode, he demonstrates his character.)
- 3.2 Saving His Honor (1802): Confronted with an irate drunken tavern keeper who insults then assaults Porter, he is struck to the ground, then, in self defense, slays the drunk with his saber while floored. Lamenting his action, though justified, he helps support the widow.
(Symbols are, and always will be very important in Porter's value structure. When his uniform is insulted, he not only takes it personally, but also sees it as an attack upon his nation.)
- 3.3 Hand to Hand Combat (1802): Porter leads a handful of men on an expedition against the pirates, is wounded in both legs, but rallies his men against powerful odds. Despite his wounds, he requests to get back into action, but is denied permission.
(Danger is never considered when duty and honor call. This daring display of raw courage might be considered by the faint-at-heart as reckless, but in a warrior, he is all the more respected by fellow officers and crew as his reputation grows.)
- 3.4 Imprisoned (1803): Assigned as first officer of the frigate *Philadelphia*, which grounds on a reef under the guns of a Tripolitan fortress. The Captain and other officers elect to surrender the ship without a fight. Porter is incensed, advocating a defense of the ship and a fight if necessary. Without sufficient support to fight, he and Captain Bainbridge become Prisoners of War for a year and a half. Bainbridge, depressed, leaves a leadership vacuum which Porter fills admirably. He displays

courage and great leadership training fellow officers, keeping morale, and planning escapes.

(Giving up the ship without a fight is not Porter's style. Once captured, he must deal with the insults and the loss of freedom. In classic style, falling back upon his father's lessons on the prison ship, he plans escapes and keeps the morale of the crew high. This is not a time of self reflection, but a time of faith in his ideals and a recommitment to his traditional values, spurred by an absolute hatred of the pirate captors who commit the sin of mistreating his crew. Porter resolves never to surrender without a gallant fight, something that stays with him throughout his life, and sometimes becomes a liability.)

- 3.5 Decatur's Daring Act (1804): Burning of the *Philadelphia* under the enemy fortress guns. Attempted rescue of Porter and his crew by Stephen Decatur, and heroism by Reuben James to save Decatur's life.

(Porter's old friend, Decatur, following chivalric code, cannot leave his friends and comrades under the scimitar of an evil force. With daring and courage, Decatur's gallantry invigorates the American forces and the inspires the prisoners.)

- 3.6 Defying the Bashaw (1805): Disgusted with the foul treatment of his sailors, Porter demands a confrontation with the powerful Bashaw at the risk of being beheaded. He is so persuasive, the Bashaw remarkably agrees in a dramatic scene of suspense and impending doom.

(Again, willing to confront authority that conflicts with his strong value structure, Porter risks his life to save others. While angry, he is in possession of his senses sufficiently to convince a man who was presumed to be incorrigible)

- 3.7 Release and Prophetic Encounter (1806) Porter, Bainbridge, and Crew are released from prison after U.S. wins the war. Porter is given command of the *Enterprise*. First encounter with Captain Hillyar in Gibraltar, an encounter prophesizing what will come eight years later in Valparaiso

(Eighteen months in prison has neither discouraged nor softened Porter's resolve nor has it created a crisis of faith. To the contrary, it has only emboldened him, which begin to reinforce an almost mythical view of himself)

- 3.8 Bold Confrontation (1806): In Malta Porter confronts the British, and flogs a British seaman who affronts the American flag. British threaten to blow him out of the water. He calls their bluff, inspiring relations with crew.

(Living in the myth of power and boldness, Porter's brashness and challenge to the British, and in particular to Hillyar, his future adversary, set the stage for a terrible crisis, as his own legend is destroyed later in a checkered future of heroic victories, unfortunate betrayals, and sometimes unnecessary defeats.)

Chapter 4. COURTSHIP, NEW ORLEANS, & BARRON'S COURT MARTIAL

- 4.1 Falling in Love (1807): Porter returns to America. Meets Evalina, the young daughter of Congressman and Revolutionary War hero. Amusing scenes winning her hand.

(At the age of twenty seven, Porter knows it's time to begin a romance and have a family. He chooses a young lassie twelve years his junior who is infatuated with him. She is energetic, captivating, bright, and charming. Porter, not understanding

- Navy. Evalina's father elected to Congress. Love and Lust for Money manifests itself in Evalina (who begins to look more like a real life Scarlett O'Hara). Couple establishes beautiful home (Greenbank) on the waters of the Delaware River.
- 4.10 Commanding the Essex (1811): Porter is promoted to Captain and given command of the frigate *Essex*. Unsuccessfully tries to persuade Navy Department to outfit it with larger guns, which ultimately later leads to the tragic demise of the ship.
- 4.11 Christmas in Newport (1811): On a shakedown cruise that was ultimately supposed to end happily at Oliver Hazard Perry's home in Newport, the *Essex* is struck by a thunderous gale, forcing her aground and requiring Porter to cut down its masts to save the ship. Young Glasgow Farragut is on board in a harrowing adventure that almost leads to their deaths.

Chapter 5. PACIFIC ODYSSEY

- 5.1 Love at Greenbank (1812): Tender love scene at Porter's home on the water, Passionate lovemaking as they conceive more of their family. Evalina briefly follows her husband down to the edge of the shore as he rows away before setting to sea for war.
- 5.2 Capturing the First Ship of the War (1812): Porter captures the first British ship of the War of 1812. Young Farragut's training under is done tenderly under the tutelage of Porter and seaman Reuben James. The *Essex* outfoxes British adversaries.
- 5.3 Rounding the Horn (1813): Porter takes the *Essex* on an exciting voyage around Cape Horn – the first American frigate to risk the dangerous journey, thus following in the steps of Odysseus, Magellan, and Cook. The crew's training and building loyalty in the face of tremendous adversity is an excellent example of leadership. Porter's exciting and dangerous passage through the world's most challenging seas is dramatically presented.
- 5.4 Scourge of the Pacific (1813): Porter's remarkable and daring private war in the Pacific tears the heart out of British shipping in the Pacific. Although a warrior, Porter is honorable and respects the vanquished foe.
- 5.5 Galapagos Island Adventure (1813): Humorous scenes of young Farragut and Porter chasing Iguanas and seals, slipping and sliding on rocks; Farragut (for 12th birthday) takes command of the whaling ship *Barclay*, confronting cantankerous Captain Gideon Randall and through brashness overcomes his fears and wins the hearts of the crew, sailing the ship back to Valparaiso.
- 5.6 Consternation of the British Admiralty (1813): Scene in London as Porter is branded the Scourge of the Seas. They send a squadron to comb the Pacific to seek, find, and destroy Porter; Captain Hillyar makes it his purpose to eliminate Porter from the Pacific.
- 5.7 Marquesas Archipelago Adventure: (1813): Porter's flotilla conquers the Marquesas; establishes capital of Madisonville; beautiful Polynesian maidens play with sailors; sexual encounters on a Polynesian paradise.
- 5.8 Battle with Typees (1813): Porter leads his crew and other peaceful Marquesian allies across difficult mountain trails to engage in vicious fights the murderous Typee tribe; Porter is daring to the point of foolhardiness, but emerges victorious against dark forces and a daunting terrain. Porter draws pictures to illustrate his

book.

Chapter 6. VANQUISHED IN VALPARAISO

- 6.1 Celebration in Valparaiso (1814): Porter is treated like a royal guest at state dinners. Ballroom dancing with attractive Chilean maidens. Porter learns the British Squadron is closing in on him.
- 6.2 Jousting in the Harbour (1814) Captain Hillyar finds Porter in Valparaiso, and attempts a sneak attack, which, by espionage and subterfuge, Porter repels without a fight. Porter's honor and integrity prevents him from taking advantage of Hillyar. But Hillyar's ships blockade Porter in the neutral harbour.
- 6.3 Battle at Valparaiso (1814): After six frustrating weeks of blockade, Porter realizes the rest of Captain Hillyar's squadron will ultimately join Hillyar and destroy the *Essex*. Porter runs the blockade. Misfortune strikes as a freak squall snaps his main top mast. Hillyar dishonorably wins ferocious battle where Porter loses half his crew in a horribly bloody battle, outnumbered and outgunned two to one. Porter is forced to surrender. Both Porter and young Farragut survive.
- 6.4 Prisoner & Parole (1814): Hillyar captures Porter. Plucky scene when British Midshipmen try to take Farragut's pet pig Murphy. Porter's honor and fair treatment of British wins honorable parole from Hillyar. Porter sails back to U.S. under parole; Porter recaptured off New York Harbour by British who refuse to honor Hillyar's parole. Porter then makes daring escape.
- 6.5 Hailed as Hero (1814): Porter hailed as national hero in New York. Reunited with friends Washington Irving, Stephen Decatur, and Robert Fulton. Carriage pulled by sailors thru streets of New York and Philadelphia.

Chapter 7. HEROICS IN WASHINGTON

- 7.1 Reunited (1814): Romantic love scene with Evalina, who has given birth to their second child while Captain Porter was at sea. Evalina starts to plan how to use the small fortune of prize money Captain Porter earned from his adventures in the Pacific, signaling the power and prestige Evalina has always desired since she was a child; Captain Porter makes beautiful sketches of his family (Children & Evalina). But the war is not over.
- 7.2 Call to Save Washington (1814): Harsh interruption of tranquility, Porter called upon by President Madison to save Washington City from attack by the British; Porter rallies his sailors to do what the Army cannot. He dashes by horseback with his crew and cannons to Washington. Arrives at Washington just as British are burning the White House, the Capital, and his new frigate under construction. Horrible scene of flames and British soldiers terrorizing Americans. Porter is incensed; sets up gun emplacements south of Mount Vernon on Potomac to intercept British ships escaping down the river.
- 7.3 Skirmish that Saved the Nation (1814): Porter's small band of sailors inflict havoc on the British until forced to retreat because of lack of gunpowder. President Madison honors Porter for his heroic counter-attack on the British. Bottling up of the English fleet enables the successful defense of Baltimore, thus saving the country from capitulation to the British. Francis Scott Key writes Star Spangled Banner after listening to British Admiral curse Porter.

- 7.4 Fulton & Dream of Speed (1814): Porter returns to New York, reunited with Washington Irving and Stephen Decatur. Assigned command of first steam ship in a navy; Fulton on his death bed attended by Porter, who pledges to make steam power a formidable force for a new navy. Washington Irving helps get Porter's book of the exploits of the cruise of the Essex published; Porter becomes famous for his adventures; awarded medals for valour and bravery, being heralded for his exploits.
- 7.5 Appointed Navy Commissioner (1815): In acknowledgement for his skills and judgment, Porter, Rodgers, and Decatur are given Presidential appointment as a triumvirate to guide the new Navy. Camaraderie builds, but treachery lurks behind the three musketeers.
- 7.6 Meridian Hill (1815): Porter and Evalina plan to build beautiful mansion north of the White House from the winnings from his war victories. Name the house Meridian Hill. Porter writes book about his adventures in the Pacific and becomes heralded throughout the nation.
- 7.7 Elegant Balls and Farming (1816): Humorous scenes of Porter trying to be a gentleman farmer on his Washington Estate and raising a family. Evalina entertains profusely and holds many balls for the powers of Washington. Close friendship with Decatur and his wife Susan. Evalina's controlling personality manifests itself.
- 7.8 Latin American Revolution (1817): Porter champions the cause of Revolution in Latin America, setting stage for a later role in Mexican Navy, and Monroe Doctrine, which becomes a double edged sword to his career.
- 7.9 Barron Returns (1818): Barron is reinstated into the Navy despite the enormous protestations of every Naval Officer, setting the stage for the demise of Porter and Decatur.
- 7.10 Piracy on the Rise (1819): With the decline of the Spanish Empire in America, the power vacuum spurred a massive number of pirate attacks on American shipping interest in the Caribbean. The Navy is called upon to take action.
- 7.11 Perry's Warning (1818) Oliver Hazard Perry is appointed to role to curb piracy. While on journey to Venezuela he visits Porter and Decatur, warning them both of Captain Jesse Elliott, a cunning antagonist who is using all in his power to destroy Perry's career as well as Decatur and Porter. Sadly, Perry then dies of yellow fever before he returns from his mission.
- 7.12 Decatur's Duel (1820): Elliott goads Barron into a duel with Decatur, who is mortally wounded. Elliott attempts to flee the scene of the duel, but Porter gallantly chases Elliott on horseback, corals him, and forces him to return to the scene to attend to the wounded Barron. Nation mourns Decatur's death.

Chapter 8. PIRACY & POLITICS IN THE CARIBBEAN

- 8.1 Failed Suppression of Pirates (1821) After continued transgressions, including over 3000 attacks on U.S. shipping, Congress and the President declare war on the Caribbean pirates in 1819. However, no naval commander was able to stop the rouges like Laffite, Cofrecinas, Domingo, Diablito, and their ilk of banditti. Pressure mounts for something to be done.
- 8.2 Money Problems (1822): Evalina's lust for power and prestige and parties, combined with a growing family and the difficulties of maintaining a large estate

- result in mounting debts. Porter's enemies, spurred by Barron, Biddle, and Elliott, undermine the Commodore.
- 8.3 Commodore Returns to Battle (1822): Seeking to gain glory, regain power, and accumulate wealth from his share of their booty, Porter resigns as Naval Commissioner and steps forward to command a new "Mosquito Fleet" in the West Indies. As his flagship, Porter procures world's first steam vessel ever to be engaged in armed combat.
- 8.4 Battling Pirates & Yellow Fever (1823): Porter's Mosquito Fleet routes pirates from Caribbean. Works well with British in alliance to wipe seas clear of pirates. British defeat Laffite, Porter captures Domingo. Swashbuckling, chasing rouges from sea onto shore as they are pursued vigorously through island jungles. Porter's men defeat Diablito and his crew. Cuban waters cleared of piracy. Yellow fever decimates Porter (who nearly dies) and nearly half his force dies of the dreadful disease.
- 8.5 Recovery in Washington (1823) Porter and his fleet are forced to return to Washington to recover. Evalina nurses him back to health. President Monroe congratulates Porter on Cuban operations, but is critical of Puerto Rican efforts.
- 8.6 Back to Sea (1824): Porter Evalina and children travel to Key West while Porter fights pirates again, focusing on Puerto Rico, the last remaining pirate haven. Evalina very unhappy in Key West frontier outpost cottage. Stressed by Evalina, Porter strains the British Anti-Piracy Alliance; Monroe and Adams are disturbed at Porter's lack of aplomb. Porter contracts Yellow Fever again; returns to Washington to recover, but instead is chastised and then sent back to Caribbean.
- 8.7 Fajardo Fiasco (1824): Puerto Rican pirates rein terror on St. Thomas, burning and pillaging the town. Porter chases terrorists into Puerto Rican town of Fajardo. Raises ire and wrath of Secretary of State/Presidential Candidate John Quincy Adams.

Chapter 9. CROSSED SABERS- A NATIONAL CALAMITY

- 9.1 Lafayette Returns (1824): To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the nation, Marquis de Lafayette triumphantly tours America. Visits Porter's father-in-law who was Lafayette's second in command during Revolution. Henry Clay, watching American adulation of war heroes sees Porter as potential future rival for his future Presidential bid.
- 9.2 Cunning of Clay (1824): Clay conspires with John Quincy Adams to prevent Jackson from attaining the Presidency. Clay sees Fajardo incident as means to discredit Porter. Clay convinces Adams and Sec. of Navy Southard recall Porter for court-martial, thus discrediting him in the eyes of the public.
- 9.3 Backroom Maneuvering (1825): Clay tips the scales of run-off election in House of Representatives, thereby anointing Adams as the new president, consummating their historic "corrupt bargain." To divert attention from the manipulation, Adams and Clay use Porter's court-martial as a diversion.
- 9.4 Arrest & Gag Order (1825): Porter returns to Washington amidst chaos resulting from the corrupt bargain. He's arrested and given a gag order, preventing him from defending himself in the press. Porter attempts to prevent court-martial with the

intercession of Lafayette, who is staying as Adams' guest at the White House. Adams is repulsive to Lafayette. Friction builds between Commodore and Evalina as financial, and now professional problems build.

- 9.5 Court Martial (1825): – Captain Barron is appointed presiding officer. Court is stacked against Porter as his enemies are put on the bench. Barron gets revenge as Elliott and Biddle, also on the Court Martial Board, conspire to eliminate a senior rival. Vivid display of conflict during one of nation's longest and most adversarial Courts-Martial. Honor and justice violated when Porter is convicted, though given very light sentence.
- 9.6 Nation and Family in Turmoil (1825): National cries of outrage as Navy pillories its last remaining hero from the War of 1812. Porter is humiliated and near bankruptcy. He resigns his commission in his beloved navy; his marriage with Evalina is on the rocks as her need for prestige and power is crushed. Instead of supporting her husband, she blames him, deserting him emotionally. Her anger and depression deeply affect their marital relationship.

Chapter 10. MEXICAN MISADVENTURES

- 10.1 Mexicans and Spaniards vie for Porter (1825): Spaniards and Mexicans are still battling over Mexican sovereignty. After Porter's resignation, both offer him senior positions in their navies. Mexico sweetens the offer with a very large land tract in their Texan Territory. Porter accepts the Land Deal to rescue his failing fortunes, leaving Evalina in Washington, promising to support her.
- 10.2 Commanding Mexican Navy (1826): Porter builds Mexican Fleet. Attracts officers and men from U.S. Navy to serve with him due to his great leadership skills. Wins several key battles against Spaniards, but yearns to return to Meridian Hill.
- 10.3 Key West Reunion (1827): Porter makes Key West his other naval station for the Mexican Navy. Vexes Secretary of State Clay and President Adams by recruiting U.S. Navy personnel and using Key West as base of Mexican naval operations against Spanish navy. Sec. Navy Southard is incensed he is using an American port as a base for a foreign nation. Fearing his charisma will cause desertion from the navy's ranks, Porter is ordered out of Key West.
- 10.4 Death & Destruction (1828): Mexican brig *Guerrero* commanded by Porter's nephew slaughtered by Spanish frigate *Lealtad*, outgunned three to one. Porter's nephew killed, but Porter's son David Dixon, (future Civil War Admiral) who is on board, survives. Mexican government fails to pay navy, prize money is not forthcoming, creating financial crisis at home. Another son dies of yellow fever. Evalina panics as financial condition worsens. Evalina has an affair, which disheartens Porter.
- 10.5 Santa Ana Jealousy (1828) Political warfare in Mexico City catches Porter in power struggle. Mexican Navy receives no funds to maintain ships. General Santa Ana (adversary later at Alamo) is angered when Porter attempts to prevent Santa Ana's corruption in Vera Cruz, his naval port.
- 10.6 Assassination Attempts (1828): Santa Ana fraudulently lures Porter into ambush on the road to Mexico City. Attacked by four armed assassins, Porter kills two with single shot pistols, and drives the two off with shotgun. Undeterred, the ruthless Santa Ana tries again, sending two assassins armed with knives into Porter's

home. Porter leaps out of bed, sword in hand, slaying one and driving the other fleeing through a glass door.

Chapter 11. EMPTY EXONERATION & DIPLOMACY

- 11.1 The Ugly Election (1828): Jackson faced off with Adams in an election that resembles a feuding duel. It was the nation's most vicious and belligerent campaign. Jackson, vindicated, prevails in the election, sending Adams scurrying out of the White House. Jackson's inaugural party is the most raucous the country would ever experience. President Adams rents Porter's home while vacating Washington.
- 11.2 Resignation Amidst More Financial Turmoil (1829): President Jackson, convinced Porter was wronged, invites Porter to return. Dejected and broke, Porter returns to Washington to find former President Adams residing at his beloved Meridian Hill, and the property soon to be foreclosed upon. The Mexican land deal evaporates as Porter's last hope for financial salvation founders. Evalina's love becomes animosity after her father dies. Home is lost for back payments. Evalina has mental breakdown. Family polarizes.
- 11.3 Offered Consulate Position (1830): Jackson and Sec. of State Van Buren offer Porter position of Consulate to the Barbary States (later becoming the first Ambassador to the Turkish Ottoman Empire in the Middle East.) Looks in mirror that has carving of a rising phoenix, declares he shall not be defeated.
- 11.4 Sailing to the Sunset (Final Scene) (1830): Porter sets sail for his Middle East assignment in the State Department. Reflects on his life and writes letter to David Glasgow Farragut containing the famous lines:

I am getting old, and have had many sorrows, much sickness and affliction ... I have never been elated with prosperity, and ought not, and I hope am not depressed at the loss of worldly goods. There was a time when there was nothing that I thought too daring to be attempted for my country; but those times are past, and appear only as a confused and painful dream. A retrospect of the history of my life seems a highly-coloured romance, which I should be very loathe to live over again"

-- The End --

12. EPILOGUE

12.1 What Happened to key Characters in History

- David Porter's last years in the Diplomatic Corps
- John Quincy Adams
- Andrew Jackson
- Commodore James Barron
- General Santa Ana
- Admiral David Glasgow Farragut

None So Daring

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- Admiral David Dixon Porter
- Commodore Jesse Elliott
- Henry Clay

12.2 Porter's Ideas & Influence on History

- Latin America
- Bases in the Pacific
- Opening of Japan
- Steam Power, then iron clad ships
- Relations with Middle East
- War of 1812
- Civil War
- Teddy Roosevelt

12.3 Family Affairs

- Evelina
- Children