



## The Nautical Chart

By Arturo Perez-Reverte

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**The Nautical Chart** By Arturo Perez-Reverte

Coy is a sailor without a ship. Tánger Soto is a woman with an obsession to find the *Dei Gloria*, a ship sunk during the seventeenth century, and El Piloto is an old man with the sailboat on which all three set out to seek their fortune together. Or do they?

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

A treasure hunt for a Jesuit ship sunk by pirates off the coast of Spain is the plot on which Perez-Reverte's new novel turns, but a love story is the real heart of this nicely crafted, carefully told adventure. A suspended sailor happens on a maritime auction in Barcelona, where he meets the beautiful Tanger Soto, a museum curator whose winning bid buys her a 17th-century atlas that may reveal the final resting place of the *Dei Gloria*. Coy, the sailor, is totally smitten, so it's no surprise that he signs on to help Tanger track the sunken ship to its grave in waters he's sailed since childhood. Enlisting the aid of a diver friend, Coy and Tanger stay a few steps ahead of the crooked salvagers who've been trying to get the atlas, outmaneuvering the attempts on their lives and the efforts to keep them from the treasure. Perez-Reverte (*The Fencing Master*, *The Club Dumas*) is better at plumbing the mysteries of the human heart than those of the sea, but *The Nautical Chart* manages to combine history, suspense, and obsessive love in a slow-paced but ultimately engrossing read. --  
*Jane Adams*

#### From Publishers Weekly

Popular Spanish novelist Perez-Reverte (*The Fencing Master*; *The Club Dumas*) is known as "the master of the intellectual thriller." But his customarily skillful blend of pop erudition and conscious borrowing of literary precedents threatens to capsize this tale of a race to retrieve a fortune in emeralds that sank off the Mediterranean coast of Spain in 1767. Manuel Coy is now in the Conrad phase of his life, having previously lived a Stevenson period and a Melville period. He is a "sailor exiled from the sea," his pilot's license suspended for two years after he ran a merchant ship onto an uncharted rock in the Indian Ocean. Attending an auction of nautical relics in Barcelona (in his "Lord Jim jacket"), Coy watches a beautiful young blonde woman outmaneuver a menacing ponytailed man to purchase a 17th-century nautical chart of the Spanish coast by Urrutia Salcedo. The woman is Tanger Soto, of Madrid's Museo Naval; the ponytailed man is a famed pirate of sea salvage, Nino Palermo. Coy comes to Tanger's defense when he sees her being threatened outside the auction house by Palermo thus putting himself in the service of a woman he is sure will eventually betray him. The characters are only too aware of the affinities of their story with *The Maltese Falcon*, and with a whole library of sea literature. Perez-Reverte is too accomplished a novelist to write a truly dull book, and the underwater sequences that climax the story are masterfully done. But any sea adventure that is more than half over before it makes it to the sea has to be in some kind of trouble. (Oct.) Forecast: This may not be Perez-Reverte at his best, but his second-best will be more than good enough for most readers. A first printing of 125,000 copies and a five-city author tour are in the works.

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#### From School Library Journal

A suspended sailor and a gorgeous woman who works at Madrid's Naval Museum join forces to uncover a sunken galleon and find themselves in hot water. From the author of intellectual thrillers like *The Flanders Panel*.

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### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

**Kirk Fonseca:**

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**Bruce Brown:**

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**Ellis Pauling:**

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**Julio Canfield:**

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