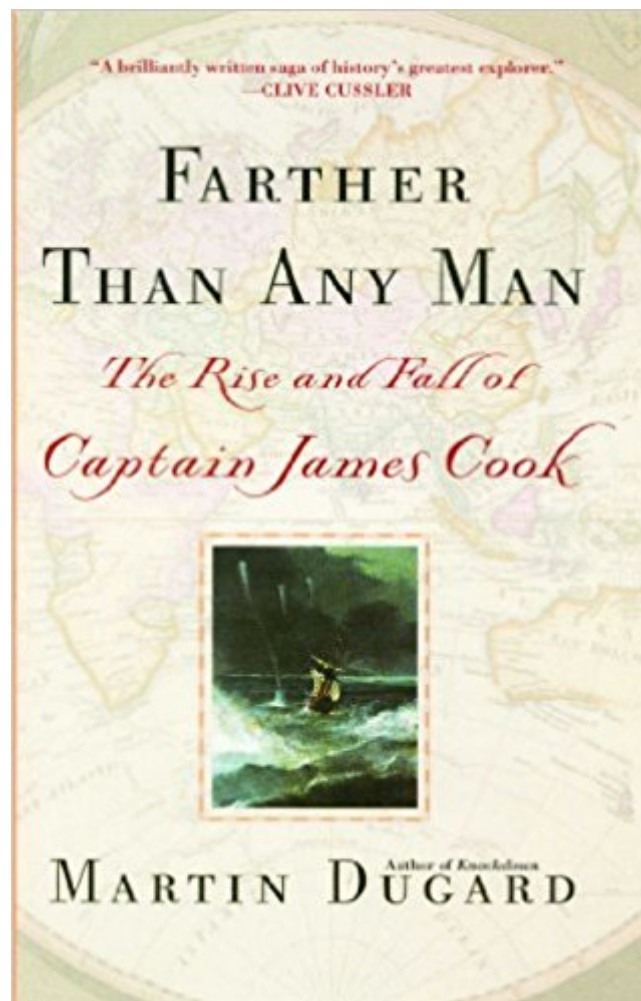




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Farther Than Any Man: The Rise And Fall Of Captain James Cook



Synopsis

In the annals of seafaring and exploration, there is one name that immediately evokes visions of the open ocean, billowing sails, visiting strange, exotic lands previously uncharted, and civilizations never before encountered -- Captain James Cook. This is the true story of a legendary man and explorer. Noted modern-day adventurer Martin Dugard, using James Cook's personal journals, strips away the myths surrounding Cook's life and portrays his tremendous ambition, intellect, and sheer hardheadedness to rise through the ranks of the Royal Navy -- and by his courageous exploits become one of the most enduring figures in naval history. Full of realistic action, lush descriptions of places and events, and fascinating historical characters such as King George III and the soon-to-be-notorious Master William Bligh, Dugard's gripping account of the life and death of Captain James Cook is a thrilling story of a discoverer hell-bent on going farther than any man.

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Customer Reviews

In a strong effort "to clear away the tangle of myth and hero-worship" that surrounds his subject, Dugard (Knockdown: The Harrowing True Account of a Yacht Race Turned Deadly), a well-known adventurer himself, deftly recounts the exciting story of James Cook, a farm boy from northern England who at first worked on merchant ships and then, when offered a chance to captain his own ship, turned his employer down and joined the Royal Navy. Cook started at the bottom and worked his way up, but knew he was not from the right social class to advance to captain. However, others recognized his talents: Cook was the first noncommissioned Royal Navy officer to be appointed to

command a vessel. His trek with the Endeavour which began in 1768 and circumnavigated the globe, charted the coasts of New Zealand, scouted numerous Pacific isles and retrieved botanist Joseph Banks (who grew to respect Cook after trying to steal command of his ship) brought Cook international fame. Dugard recounts Cook's four-year voyage with the Resolution, which also sailed around the world while trying to locate the coasts of the legendary Southern Continent (Antarctica). By the end of this voyage, Dugard contends, Cook's ego had begun to get in the way of his talent. Thereafter, Cook began to make errors and became tyrannical at sea. This character change ultimately cost Cook his life when he was slain by Hawaiian natives. Well researched, with information from Cook's own journals, this fast-paced book brings to life the English explorer driven to outclass his predecessors and contemporaries. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Like Pizarro and Cortez, Capt. James Cook changed history by discovering unknown lands and opening them up to European settlement. Born to a farming family in 1729, Cook longed for a career at sea, apprenticed himself to a shipping company, and after nine years rose to the rank of captain in the merchant marine. On the verge of a profitable career, he resigned to enlist in the Royal Navy and soon became an officer an improbable feat in the 18th century. After service in Canada in the French and Indian War, he was given command of a survey ship and spent time charting eastern Canada. Later, he commanded three epic voyages to the South Pacific, in 1769, 1772, and 1776, discovering Tahiti, New Zealand, Tonga, New Caledonia, and many other islands. In 1779, he arrived at the Kona coast of the big island of Hawaii, where hostile natives killed, steamed, and ate him. There are few exemplary biographies of Cook, and Dugard has written a masterly one-volume account of the great explorer's life. It belongs in all public and academic libraries. Stanley L. Itkin, Hillside P.L., New Hyde Park, NY Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Martin Dugard writes in a style that compels the reader to keep on page turning. His research is extensive, details are provided without becoming overwhelming. The reader feels the voyage unfolding as he reads. Great read, I learned many new things about Captain Cook, but more important the details of the way of life that existed in that era for the sea going leader was fascinating. I highly recommend this book to anyone that has curiosity about what motivates an explorer. No GPS, or communication ... wow all alone in the vast expanse of the oceans.

Good overview of the life of an amazing man. We just completed a cruise from Sydney to Hawaii, stopping off in New Zealand, Tahiti, Morea, and Bora Bora. Captain Cook's legacy was everywhere and made me want to learn more about the man. This book gave a good overview for the casual reader. I thought details of the third voyage were light compared to the first two and I would have liked some historical pictures of the principal characters plus better maps.

A decent narrative but not very compelling. Didn't learn nearly as much about Cook as I'd hoped.

Easy read and gripping. I really enjoy the authors storytelling approach to relate historical happenings. He takes some liberties into relating the psychology of cook, but it's believable all the same.

Good book that covered this great explorer's entire life. My only regret is the author tried too hard to summarize everything in one book. Seems it would have been better in multiple books.

When I think of James Cook, Hawaii and the Cook Islands immediately come to mind. I knew nothing else about him. "Farther than Any Man" explores the life of James Cook from his modest upbringings to his death in a faraway place. You learn of the things in Cook's character and environment that drove him to seek success and recognition in the rigid class structure of England. Hard and dangerous life aboard ship on a voyage of discovery, Cook's treatment of crew and the natives he encountered are brought to life. You can feel a change come over Cook on his final and fatal voyage. A fine book for one interested in the bigger than life characters who went out and faced danger in the unknown during the age of discovery.

Captain Cook was an amazing man. Amazing that a young farm hand would have such a desire to see the oceans and be apart of the seagoing life. He not only had the desire but he was smart, He rose from a seaman to captain of the ship. It was unheard of for a commoner to be an officer in the Royal Navy. Cook was the Captain of two voyages to the South Pacific and the search for the South Pole. He became famous. On his third voyage to find the Northwest Passage he met his demise.

Having read Cook's own record of his trips I found the interpretation of his state of mind on the third trip interesting. I also visited the bay in Hawaii where he was killed. Interesting, but not a lot of promotion of the Cook story in the island . Also interesting is the Union Jack on the Hawaii state

flag!

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