I found this an entertaining and enjoyable read, and the plot device of using a private journal to give us a window into what Cook might have been thinking and feeling during the expedition works well. However, I stress the word "might", because in common with all writers of "faction", Mr Lay has faced the dilemma of writing an entertaining tale around a well-documented character and expedition. All three of Cook's voyages were the subject of many accounts by members of the expeditions, and these accounts are mostly readily available, and are summarized in the magisterial biography of Cook by Professor J.C. Beaglehole. Fortunately for this book, there is leeway in that Cook's private character is largely a closed book to us; he left few personal communications, and of course was written about either by his subordinates or by senior members of the 18th-century establishment.

Mr Lay's characterization of Cook focusses on the well-known changes in his character during the third voyage; his harsher treatment of native peoples and...

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Professor G. E. Challenger, who, being satisfied that no criticism or comment in this book is meant in an offensive spirit, has guaranteed that he will place no impediment to its publication and circulation. 3 of 353. The Lost World. CHAPTER I. The Lost World. I gave the self-evident answer that I should be a ruined man, upon which he jumped from his chair, reproved me for my habitual levity, which made it impossible for him to discuss any reasonable subject in my presence, and bounced off out of the room to dress for a Masonic meeting. At last I was alone with Gladys, and the moment of Fate had come! James Cook's New World. About the Author. Also by Graeme Lay. Copyright. Introduction. The year is 1775. Recently returned from a triumphant three-year voyage around the world, his second circumnavigation, Captain James Cook RN is honoured by King George III and the Royal Society. Acclaimed by the Admiralty and the London public, he also has his portrait painted by Nathaniel Dance. Young James Cook was resplendent in a new outfit: polished boots, white breeches, black tricorn hat, navy-blue frock coat and a matching waistcoat which his mother had sewn for him. Doing his best to conceal his nervousness, he fiddled with the waistcoat’s brass buttons. His mother handed him a small bag containing mutton sandwiches and some fruitcake. Lay has Elizabeth Cook, previously accepting of her husband’s need to sail away for years at a time, express anger at his decision to go on this third voyage. She even accuses him of becoming arrogant and, sure enough, we see signs of arrogance. The expedition has scarcely set sail when the sloppy refitting of the two vessels by the notoriously corrupt naval dockyards produces the first of many gear failures. And the aim of the voyage, to discover the northeast passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic, is beyond the vessels at Cook’s disposal and destined for failure. James Cook's Lost World by Graeme Lay (Fourth Estate $36.99). - Canvas. Advertisement.