

## A Scientific Romance Ronald Wright

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Collision of Worlds David M. Carballo 2020 "Mexico of five centuries ago was witness to one of the most momentous encounters between human societies, when a group of Spaniards led by Hernando Cort es joined forces with tens of thousands of Mesoamerican allies to topple the mighty Aztec empire. It served as a template for the forging of much of Latin America and began the globalized world we inhabit today. This violent encounter and the new colonial order it created, a New Spain, was millennia in the making, with independent cultural developments on both sides of the Atlantic and their fateful entanglement during the pivotal Aztec-Spanish war 1519-1521. Collision of World examines the deep history of this encounter with an archaeological lens-one that considers depth in the richly layered cultures of Mexico and Spain, like the depths that archaeologists reveal through excavation to chart early layers of human history. It offers a unique perspective on the encounter through its temporal depth and focus on the physical world of places and things, their similarities and differences in transatlantic perspective, and their interweaving in an encounter characterized by conquest and colonialism, but also active agency and resilience on the part of Native peoples"--

Bill, the Galactic Hero Harry Harrison 2012-10-15 Bill was a peaceful farm boy until he was lured by the martial music of a passing recruitment sergeant, drugged, and made to enlist in the Empire Space Corps. His basic training is sheer hell, but somehow he manages to stay alive and achieve the rank of Fusetender 6th Class in the process. En route to an engagement with the lizard-like Chingers, Bill's spaceship is involved in a supreme contest and by accident Bill is the man who saves the ship and wins the day. A grateful Galaxy awards him its highest accolade, the Purple Dart, to be presented by the Emperor himself on the fabulous aluminium-covered capital planet, Helior. And then his adventures really start to take off in the most bizarre and nastily surprising ways...

A Scientific Romance Ronald Wright 2012-08-14 In this critically acclaimed and bestselling novel, Ronald Wright has fashioned a story for our times, an unforgettable chronicle of love, plague and time travel in the tradition of Nineteen Eighty-Four and The Handmaid's Tale.

Cut Stones and Crossroads Ronald Wright 1984

The Time Ships Stephen Baxter 2010-04-09 The highly-acclaimed sequel to H G Wells's The Time Machine, from the heir to Arthur C. Clarke.

Requiem for a Species Clive Hamilton 2010 To some, the term encompasses innovation, change and commitment to the future and to others it means preservation, conservatism and a watchful eye on the future. City Fights follows on from the symposium "Energy and Urban Strategies", which bro

Debt David Graeber 2012 Economic history states that money replaced a bartering system, yet there isn't any evidence to support this axiom. Anthropologist Graeber presents a stunning reversal of this conventional wisdom. For more than 5000 years, humans have used elaborate credit systems to buy and sell goods. Since the beginning of the agrarian empires, humans have been divided into debtors and creditors. Through time, virtual credit money was replaced by gold and the system as a whole went into decline. This fascinating history is told for the first time.

The Purple Cloud M. P. Shiel 2014-06-22 "If now a swell from the Deep has swept over this planetary ship of earth, and I, who alone chanced to find myself in the furthest stern, as the sole survivor of her crew... What then, my God, shall I do?" The Purple Cloud is widely hailed as a masterpiece of science fiction and one of the best "last man" novels ever written. A deadly purple vapor passes over the world and annihilates all living creatures except one man, Adam Jeffson. He embarks on an epic journey across a silent and devastated planet, an apocalyptic Robinson Crusoe putting together the semblance of a normal life from the flotsam and jetsam of his former existence. As he descends into madness over the years, he becomes increasingly aware that his survival

was no accident and that his destiny - and the fate of the human race - are part of a profound, cosmological plan.

The Plague Year Lawrence Wright 2021-06-08 'A virtuoso feat ... a book of panoramic breadth' New York Times Book Review 'A devastating analysis ... Wright is a master of knitting together complex narratives' The Observer

Just as Lawrence Wright's *The Looming Tower* became the defining account of our century's first devastating event, 9/11, so *The Plague Year* will become the defining account of the second. The story starts with the initial moments of Covid's appearance in Wuhan and ends with Joseph Biden's inauguration in an America ravaged by well over 400,000 deaths - a mortality already some ten times worse than US combat deaths in the entire Vietnam War. This is an anguished, furious memorial to a year in which all of America's great strengths - its scientific knowledge, its great civic and intellectual institutions, its spirit of voluntarism and community - were brought to naught not by a terrifying new illness alone, but by political incompetence and cynicism on a scale for which there has been no precedent. With insight, sympathy, clarity and rage, *The Plague Year* allows the reader to see the unfolding of this great tragedy, talking with individuals on the front line, bringing together many moving and surprising stories and painting a devastating picture of a country literally and fatally misled. 'Maddening and sobering - as comprehensive an account of the first year of the pandemic as we've yet seen' Kirkus

The Man within My Head Pico Iyer 2012-03-15 Ever since he first read Graham Greene, Pico Iyer has been obsessed by the figure of the writer and by one of the great themes of Greene's work: what it means to be an outsider. Wherever he has travelled—usually as an outsider himself—lyer has found reminders of Greene's life, observed scenes that might have been written by Greene, written stories that recall Greene. Yet as Iyer recounts the history of his obsession, another phantom image begins to assert itself, one that Iyer had long banished from his inner life--that of his father. Insightful, tender, superbly written, *The Man Within my Head* is another masterpiece from one of our great travel writers.

The Winning of Barbara Worth Harold Bell Wright 2008-12-03 Books for All Kinds of Readers. ReadHowYouWant offers the widest selection of on-demand, accessible format editions on the market today. Our 7 different sizes EasyRead are optimized by increasing the font size and spacing between the words and the letters. We partner with leading publishers around the globe. Our goal is to have accessible edi...

The World As It Is Chris Hedges 2011-04-12 Drawing on two decades of experience as a war correspondent and based on his numerous columns for Truthdig, Chris Hedges presents *The World As It Is*, a panorama of the American empire at home and abroad, from the coarsening effect of America's War on Terror to the front lines in the Middle East and South Asia and the continuing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Underlying his reportage is a constant struggle with the nature of war and its impact on human civilization. "War is always about betrayal," Hedges notes. "It is about betrayal of the young by the old, of cynics by idealists, and of soldiers and Marines by politicians. Society's institutions, including our religious institutions, which mold us into compliant citizens, are unmasked."

The Betel Nut Tree Mystery Ovidia Yu 2018-06-07 'Great protagonist, great setting - this is a delightful book' Morning Star

The second novel in Ovidia Yu's delightfully charming crime series set in 1930s Singapore, featuring amateur sleuth Su Lin. What we came to think of as the betel nut affair began in the middle of a tropical thunderstorm in December 1937 . . . Singapore is agog with the news of King Edward VIII's abdication to marry American heiress Wallis Simpson. Chen Su Lin, now Chief Inspector Le Froy's secretarial assistant in Singapore's newly formed detective unit, still dreams of becoming a journalist and hopes to cover the story when the Hon Victor Glossop announces he is marrying an American widow of his own, Mrs Nicole Covington, in the Colony. But things go horribly wrong when Victor Glossop is found dead, his body covered in bizarre symbols and soaked in betel nut juice. The beautiful, highly-strung Nicole claims it's her fault he's dead . . . just like the others. And when investigations into her past reveal a dead lover, as well as a husband, the case against her appears to be stacking up. Begrudgingly on Le Froy's part, Su Lin agrees to chaperon Nicole at the Farquhar Hotel, intending to get the truth out of her somehow. But as she uncovers secrets and further deaths occur, Su Lin realises she may not be able to save Nicole's life - or even her own. 'Charming and fascinating with great authentic feel. This book is exactly why I love historical novels' Rhys Bowen 'I really enjoyed this wonderful gem of a book. The diversity and rich history portrayed in the book are what make *The Frangipani Tree Mystery* a brilliant read. The fact that it's a fusion of crime and historical fiction adds brownie points to the package!' Bookloves Reviews

A Scientific Romance Ronald Wright 1997 It is 1999, in London, David Lambert, jilted lover and reluctant museum curator, is about to discover the startling news of the return of H.G. Wells' time machine to London. Motivated by a host of unanswered questions and innate curiosity, he propels himself deep into the next millennium.

The Day of the Triffids John Wyndham 2010-07-01 The classic postapocalyptic thriller with "all the reality of a vividly realized nightmare" (*The Times*, London). Triffids are odd, interesting little plants that grow in everyone's

garden. Triffids are no more than mere curiosities—until an event occurs that alters human life forever. What seems to be a spectacular meteor shower turns into a bizarre, green inferno that blinds everyone and renders humankind helpless. What follows is even stranger: spores from the inferno cause the triffids to suddenly take on a life of their own. They become large, crawling vegetation, with the ability to uproot and roam about the country attacking humans and inflicting pain and agony. William Masen somehow managed to escape being blinded in the inferno, and now after leaving the hospital, he is one of the few survivors who can see. And he may be the only one who can save his species from chaos and eventual extinction . . . With more than a million copies sold, *The Day of the Triffids* is a landmark of speculative fiction, and “an outstanding and entertaining novel” (*Library Journal*). “A thoroughly English apocalypse, it rivals H. G. Wells in conveying how the everyday invaded by the alien would feel. No wonder Stephen King admires Wyndham so much.” —Ramsey Campbell “One of my all-time favorite novels. It’s absolutely convincing, full of little telling details, and that sweet, warm sensation of horror and mystery.” —Joe R. Lansdale

*The Gold Eaters* Ronald Wright 2015-09-22 A sweeping, epic historical novel of exploration and invasion, of conquest and resistance, and of an enduring love that must overcome the destruction of one empire by another. Kidnapped at sea by conquistadors seeking the golden land of Peru, a young Inca boy named Waman is the everyman thrown into extraordinary circumstances. Forced to become Francisco Pizarro’s translator, he finds himself caught up in one of history’s great clashes of civilizations, the Spanish invasion of the Inca Empire in the 1530s. To survive, he must not only learn political gamesmanship but also discover who he truly is, and in what country and culture he belongs. Only then can he find and be reunited with the love of his life and begin the search for his shattered family, journeying through a land and a time vividly portrayed. Based closely on real events, *The Gold Eaters* draws on Ronald Wright’s imaginative skill as a novelist and his deep knowledge of South America to bring alive an epic struggle that laid the foundations of the modern world.

*Oryx And Crake* Margaret Atwood 2009-09-03 By the author of *THE HANDMAID’S TALE* and *ALIAS GRACE* \* Pigs might not fly but they are strangely altered. So, for that matter, are wolves and racoons. A man, once named Jimmy, lives in a tree, wrapped in old bedsheets, now calls himself Snowman. The voice of Oryx, the woman he loved, teasingly haunts him. And the green-eyed Children of Crake are, for some reason, his responsibility. \* Praise for *Oryx and Crake*: ‘In Jimmy, Atwood has created a great character: a tragic-comic artist of the future, part buffoon, part Orpheus. An adman who’s a sad man; a jealous lover who’s in perpetual mourning; a fantasist who can only remember the past’ -INDEPENDENT ‘Gripping and remarkably imagined’ -LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS

*Henderson’s Spear* Ronald Wright 2014-05-20 A masterly epic that weaves a contemporary search for a missing father with a vivid story from the heyday of the British Empire. Liv, a Canadian filmmaker, is writing from a Tahiti jail, piecing together her troubled past and her family’s buried history for the unknown daughter she gave up at birth. The search for her own father, a pilot missing since the Korean War, has brought her to the South Seas and landed her behind bars on a trumped-up murder charge. In the stillness of her cell, Liv ponders the secret journal of her ancestor Frank Henderson, who came to these same waters a century before on an extraordinary three-year voyage with Queen Victoria’s grandsons--Prince George (later George V) and Prince Eddy, who would die young and disgraced, linked by the gutter press to the Ripper killings and many other scandals. Through unforgettable characters and a mesmerizing story, *Henderson’s Spear* traces two tales of obsession, intrigue, and loss--from the 1890s and the 1990s. These stories reach around the world from Africa, England, and North America to converge with compelling effect in the Polynesian islands. With a deep understanding of the landscape and culture of the South Sea Islands, Ronald Wright’s *Henderson’s Spear* explores the patterns of history and the accidents of love.

*Far North* Marcel Theroux 2010-03-25 Every day I buckle on my guns and go out to patrol this dingy city. Out on the far northern border of a failed state, Makepeace patrols the ruins of a dying city and tries to keep its unruly inhabitants in check. Into this cold, isolated world comes evidence that life is flourishing elsewhere - a refugee from the vast emptiness of forest, whose existence inspires Makepeace to take to the road to reconnect with human society. What Makepeace finds is a world unravelling, stockaded villages enforcing a rough and uncertain justice, mysterious slave camps labouring to harness the little understood technologies of a vanished civilization. But Makepeace’s journey also leads to unexpected human contact, tenderness, and the dark secrets behind this frozen world. *FAR NORTH* leads the reader on a quest through an unforgettable arctic landscape, from humanity’s origins to its likely end. Bleak, haunting, spare - and yet ultimately hopeful, the novel is suffused with an ecstatic awareness of the world’s fragility and beauty, and its unexpected ability to recover from our worst trespasses.

*Cinder* (The Lunar Chronicles Book 1) Marissa Meyer 2012-01-05 A forbidden romance. A deadly plague. Earth’s

fate hinges on one girl . . . CINDER, a gifted mechanic in New Beijing, is also a cyborg. She's reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's sudden illness. But when her life becomes entwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the centre of a violent struggle between the desires of an evil queen and a dangerous temptation. Cinder is caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal. Now she must uncover secrets about her mysterious past in order to protect Earth's future. This is not the fairytale you remember. But it's one you won't forget.

What Is America? Ronald Wright 2008-09-02 The country's origins and diverse history, the self-perceptions and beliefs of what this country was, is, and has become as well as its standing in the world are examined and discussed in relation to current events and international affairs.

Everyman's Rules for Scientific Living Carrie Tiffany 2007-07-10 Independent young Jean Finnegan embarks on a scientific life in Australia at the side of agricultural expert Robert Pettergree, with whom she shares a passionate marriage at the beginning of World War II.

The Hollow Man Oliver Harris 2019-08-01 'A twisting spiral of lies and corruption' Val McDermid From the hilltop he could see London, stretched towards the hills of Kent and Surrey. The sky was beginning to pale at the edges. The city itself looked numb as a rough sleeper; Camden and then the West End, the Square Mile. His watch was missing. He searched his pockets, found a bloodstained serviette and a promotional leaflet for a spiritual retreat but no keys, phone or police badge. Detective Nick Belsey needs help. Something happened last night - something with the boss's wife - and Belsey needs to get out of London, and away from the debt and the drink and the deceit. Collecting his belongings back at Hampstead CID on what should be the last day of his career, Belsey sees a missing person's report. But this one's different; this is on The Bishop's Avenue, one of the most expensive streets in the city. Belsey sees a chance for a new life. But someone else got there first. Praise for A Hollow Man '[Belsey has] got to be London's coolest cop... Harris has plundered London's underworld for his richly plotted and unusual detective series... It's heady stuff' Daily Mail 'Thrills, spills and fine writing' Telegraph

Historical Dictionary of Science Fiction Literature Brian M. Stableford 2004 This reference tracks the development of speculative fiction influenced by the advancement of science and the idea of progress from the eighteenth century to the present day. The major authors and publications of the genre and significant subgenres are covered. Additionally there are entries on fields of science and technology which have been particularly prolific in provoking such speculation. The list of acronyms and abbreviations, the chronology covering the literature from the 1700s through the present, the introductory essay, and the dictionary entries provide science fiction novices and enthusiasts as well as serious writers and critics with a wonderful foundation for understanding the realm of science fiction literature. The extensive bibliography that includes books, journals, fanzines, and websites demonstrates that science fiction literature commands a massive following.

Henderson's Spear Ronald Wright 2002-07-01 Henderson is a Man of Empire. He has seen the world ebb and flow. When he dies, he leaves behind a treasure trove of objects, of mementoes to a life well-lived. To his granddaughter, Liv, he has always been a shadowy figure whose stories exist on an almost mythical plane, until, clearing her mother's house, she discovers his diaries, which offer a glimpse into a world beneath the polished facade of Victorian England. Some years later Liv finds herself writing to the daughter she hasn't seen since birth and tracing the patterns which have brought her to a Polynesian jail and which stretch back to the last century and Henderson. In 1892, Henderson set sail on a journey accompanying Queen Victoria's young grandsons, the Princes George and Eddy, on a two year sojourn around the South Seas. During that voyage, the events he witnesses are to have a near fatal effect on his life. A century later, Liv is left to piece together the fragments of his life and their meaning while at the same time attempting to clarify the more recent past: her own peculiar predicament and the disappearance of her father in the aftermath of the Korean War. The journey she undertakes is as harrowing as anything Henderson experiences but is informed by the weight of subsequent generations...

The Cambridge History of Science: Volume 6, The Modern Biological and Earth Sciences David C. Lindberg 2003 This book in the highly respected Cambridge History of Science series is devoted to the history of the life and earth sciences since 1800. It provides comprehensive and authoritative surveys of historical thinking on major developments in these areas of science, on the social and cultural milieus in which the knowledge was generated and on the wider impact of the major theoretical and practical innovations. The articles are written by acknowledged experts who provide concise accounts of the latest historical thinking coupled with guides to the most important recent literature. In addition to histories of traditional sciences, the book covers the emergence of newer disciplines such as genetics, biochemistry and geophysics. The interaction of scientific techniques with their practical applications in areas such as medicine is a major focus of the book, as is its coverage of controversial areas such as science and religion, and environmentalism.

All for Love John Vernon 1995 The fictional biography of Colorado legend Baby Doe Tabor and her daughter,

Silver Dollar, tells the rags-to-riches-to-rags saga of the adventuress, miner, homewrecker, and pauper

The House of Fame Oliver Harris 2019-08-01 'Mazy, pacy London noir' Ian Rankin Ten days after the station closed, he was informed he'd been officially suspended pending a hearing over allegations of gross misconduct. No details. A few hours after that, he got a call from a man who wouldn't give his name but told him he was under surveillance...They were bracing themselves for a shit-storm. Stay safe, the caller said, and hung up. Amber Knight is hot property - pop star, film star, front-page gossip. DC Nick Belsey is less celebrated. He can't shake his habit of getting into serious trouble and his career at Hampstead CID is coming to a dishonourable end. He is currently of no fixed address - squatting in a disused police station round the corner from Amber's swanky Primrose Hill mansion. But a knock on the door from a frantic and confused woman looking for her missing son is about to lead Belsey straight into the heart of Amber's glittering life. When a body is found and a twisted crime spree ensues, Belsey finds himself dangerously embroiled in a world of celebrity, obsession, glamour and desperation. Praise for *The House of Fame* 'Harris has a terrific sense of place, hurtling between the wealthiest and most-run-down areas of London... The plot unfolds in a chilling and totally unexpected direction' Sunday Times 'A fast-paced thriller that is also nuanced and evocative...hats off to Harris, who has, once again, managed it with style and authority' Guardian 'Gripping, and Oliver Harris is punchy and perceptive' The Times

Economics for Life: 101 Lessons You Can Use Every Day Bruce Madariaga 2021-07-23 *ECONOMICS FOR LIFE 3e* is a book about real-world applications for economics. In addition to applications, the text contains critiques of common economic fallacies, paradoxical economic results, and solutions to economic mysteries that are sure to interest students. Tied through its Appendices to all South-Western principles texts, *Economics for Life* helps students use economic concepts to better understand the world around them. The book serves as a valuable resource for delivering a more applications-based Principles (or Economics 101) course and can be bundled at no additional charge. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.

The Fountainhead Ayn Rand 2014-12-02 When *The Fountainhead* was first published, Ayn Rand's daringly original literary vision and her groundbreaking philosophy, Objectivism, won immediate worldwide interest and acclaim. This instant classic is the story of an intransigent young architect, his violent battle against conventional standards, and his explosive love affair with a beautiful woman who struggles to defeat him. This edition contains a special afterword by Rand's literary executor, Leonard Peikoff, which includes excerpts from Ayn Rand's own notes on the making of *The Fountainhead*. As fresh today as it was then, here is a novel about a hero—and about those who try to destroy him.

The Cambridge Companion to Literature and the Posthuman Bruce Clarke 2016-12-31 This book gathers diverse critical treatments from fifteen scholars of the posthuman and posthumanism together in a single volume.

Time Among the Maya Ronald Wright 2015-08-25 The Maya of Central America have been called the Greeks of the New World. In the first millennium AD, they created the most intellectually and artistically advanced civilization of the Americas. Throughout the ensuing centuries, as neighbouring empires fell in warfare and to the Spanish invasion, the Maya endured, shaken but never destroyed. In *Time Among the Maya*, Ronald Wright's journey takes him not only to the lands of the ancient Maya, but also among the five million people who speak Mayan languages and preserve a Mayan identity today. His travels begin in tiny Belize, exploring the jungles and mountains of Guatemala, bloodstained by civil war, and end in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula. Embracing history, politics, anthropology, and literature, this book is both a fascinating travel memoir and the study of a civilization.

Science Fact and Science Fiction Brian M. Stableford 2006 Science fiction is a literary genre based on scientific speculation. Works of science fiction use the ideas and the vocabulary of all sciences to create valid narratives that explore the future effects of science on events and human beings. *Science Fact and Science Fiction* examines in one volume how science has propelled science-fiction and, to a lesser extent, how science fiction has influenced the sciences. Although coverage will discuss the science behind the fiction from the Classical Age to the present, focus is naturally on the 19th century to the present, when the Industrial Revolution and spectacular progress in science and technology triggered an influx of science-fiction works speculating on the future. As scientific developments alter expectations for the future, the literature absorbs, uses, and adapts such contextual visions. The goal of the Encyclopedia is not to present a catalog of sciences and their application in literary fiction but rather to study the ongoing flow and counterflow of influences, including how fictional representations of science affect how we view its practice and disciplines. Although the main focus is on literature, other forms of science fiction, including film and video games, are explored and, because science is an international matter, works from non-English speaking countries are discussed as needed.

On Fiji Islands Ronald Wright 2020-09-16 In little more than a century, Fiji islanders have made the transition from cannibalism to Christianity, from colony to flourishing self-government, without losing their own culture. As

Ronald Wright observes, societies that do not eat people are fascinated by those that did, and often used this fact as an excuse to conquer, kill and enslave. Touring cities bustling with Indian merchants, quiet Fijian villages and taking part in communal ceremonies, he attributes the remarkable independence of Fiji to the fact that the indigenous social structure remains intact and eighty-three per cent of the land remains in local hands.

**Cut Stones and Crossroads**Ronald Wright 2020-06 We get to share in his personal discoveries through the humour and good fellowship of the road, full of entertaining misadventures. But there is never any doubt that there is an ultimate purpose to these journeys: a passionate need to bear witness to the truth about the past, after centuries of persecution by an alien ruling class. So through the dense clouds of historical tragedy, Wright excavates hope that a revival of pride and dignity in Andean culture is possible.

**A Short History Of Progress**Ronald Wright 2010-08-31 Have we learnt the lessons of the past - or will we be next? Many of the great ruins that grace the deserts and jungles of the earth are monuments to civilisations which fell victim to their own success: from Easter Island's monolithic wilderness to the perpetual silence of the Maya ruins and ultimately to today's melting ice caps and growing ozone hole, the cycle has continually repeated itself across the years.

**Home and Away**Ronald Wright 1993 The first major collection of travel pieces from the bestselling author of *Stolen Continents* reveals the world to us--from Belize to Egypt--in all its comedy, strangeness and humanity. "Home and Away is a marvellous mix of adventure and observation, antique civilizations, contemporary politics and irresistible storytelling.

**The Amalgamation Polka**Stephen Wright 2007-06-12 Born in 1844 in bucolic upstate New York, Liberty Fish is the son of fervent abolitionists as well as the grandson of Carolina slaveholders even more dedicated to their cause. Thus follows a childhood limned with fugitive slaves moving through hidden passageways in the house, and the inevitable distress that befalls his mother whenever letters arrive from her parents. In hopes of reconciling the familial disunion, Liberty escapes--first into the cauldron of war and then into a bedlam more disturbing still. A vibrant display of literary achievement, Stephen Wright brings us a Civil War novel unlike any other.

**Stolen Continents: The "New World" Through Indian Eyes**Ronald Wright 1993 In many Eurocentric histories, Europe's discovery and conquest of the Americas is described as a great saga of achievement. In this seminal book, Ronald Wright tells the story of the people who already lived in the Americas at the time of the European conquest. It's a story of plague and invasion that crippled great civilizations and killed one fifth of the human race. Weaving together contemporary accounts of native peoples with his own compelling historical narrative, Wright has assembled a powerful account of what he terms "a holocaust that began five centuries ago."

**Henderson's Spear**Ronald Wright 2010-05-21 In the tradition of Melville and Stevenson, a superb storyteller -- winner of the David Higham Prize for Fiction -- brings literary art of great range and beauty to a South Seas epic. Two tales of passion and intrigue, from the 1890s and the 1990s, reach around the world from Canada, England and West Africa to converge in the Polynesian islands. The story opens as a letter from Olivia, a Canadian filmmaker who writes from a Tahitian jail to the daughter she gave up for adoption at sixteen. Olivia's search for her own father, an airman missing since the Korean War, has brought her to the South Seas and landed her in prison on a trumped-up murder charge. The other main strand of the novel -- based on fact -- is told in the secret diaries of Frank to have been Jack the Ripper. Frank is driven to write down what he knows when he begins to suspect there are people who wish him out of the way. As she fights to get out of jail, Olivia recalls her own childhood in the English house where Henderson once lived. There, while packing up the family home after her mother's death, she finds Henderson's old papers and learns of links between herself and him that she had never known, links that explain her mother's behaviour and her father's disappearance. Written with a deep understanding of the landscape and culture of the South Sea islands, Henderson's Spear is at once a moving study of loss -- of a parent, a child, a past -- and an exploration of historical forces that nearly extinguished a people and still threaten us today. Ronald Wright's deft touch and luminous prose make this rich, powerful novel utterly compelling.