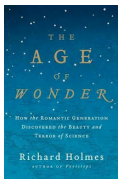


The age of wonder : how the romantic generation discovered the beauty and terror of science

The Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science



If you only read one book about science this year, let this be the one. Richard Holmes

has somehow managed to meld a compendium of 18th and 19th century scientific biographies into a compelling narrative that is part travelogue, part scientific exploration, and all magical. He begins with the story of Joseph Banks who travelled the South Seas with Captain Cook as the expedition's botanist, a position he paid for and equipped with many new instruments and two great mastiffs. Banks was one of the earliest westerners to visit Tahiti. He soon learned the language and basically abandoned his botanical studies to become an anthropologist in Paradise.

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