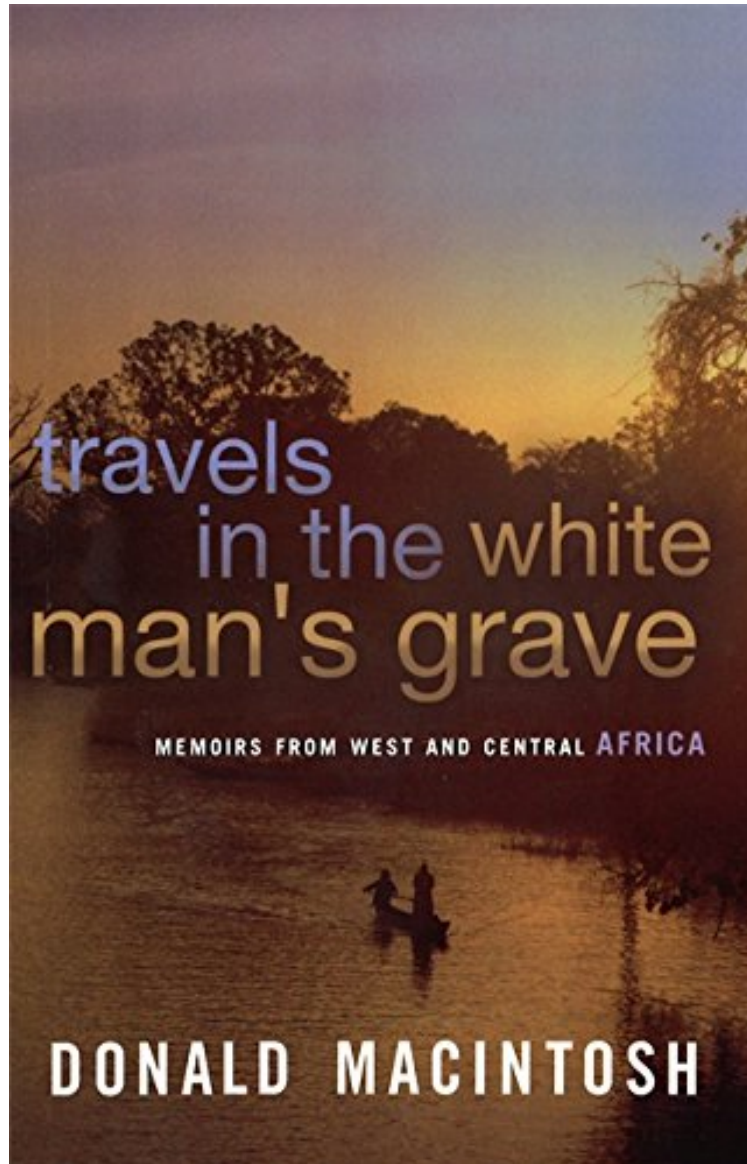


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Travels in the White Man's Grave

Donald MacIntosh

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Donald MacIntosh : Travels in the White Man's Grave before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Travels in the White Man's Grave:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great read! By Avalon One of the best books I have read on Africa. The author's has captured the essence of Africa in this well written book. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Title misleading By Wini Benvenuti I was disappointed to find that the stories have nothing to do with the title.

It's just a nickname for west Africa. The attitudes expressed seem out of the 50's. He was there in the 50's but it's written in the 1990's. The descriptions of some of the Africans seem to treat them as uneducated, ignorant. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fanciful, Delightfully Written Tale of Africa By Craig Stephans MacIntosh has emerged from the continent of Africa with a chest full of treasures and has penned them into a brilliant book. He begins the stories with what led him to Africa...the forests. Through the telling of information about trees and lumber, MacIntosh runs through some entertaining stories about his time in Africa. These stories run the gamut of events that include harrowing escapes and run ins with wild animals and extraordinary encounters with natives whom he befriends. In some of the stories, he is the main character and in others he has heard it secondhand. Both ways are captivating. On the whole, the book is warm and delightful with many humorous touches. MacIntosh lifts the veil of the mysterious jungles of Africa for readers. I look forward to learning of more of MacIntosh's travels in the white man's grave. The narrator of the audio version is a first rate actor and reads the book splendidly. Shakespeare On Spirituality: Life-Changing Wisdom from Shakespeare's Plays

At the beginning of the 1950s, the interior of West and Central Africa was still known to most of the outside world as the 'White Man's Grave' and consisted of vast expanses of mysterious and threatening primeval forest. When Donald MacIntosh, 23-year-old Gaelic-speaking Scottish forester, was offered a position in Nigeria in 1954, it was a dream come true and he found himself posted to the hot, cloying humidity of those fabled lands. During the next 30 years he was to wander through some of the most remote areas of West Africa where he operated as a forest botanist. There he listened to the tales of ancient Africa from the lips of hunters, fishermen, chiefs and witch doctors from a vast diversity of tribes in myriad encampments. He drank palm wine with them and attended their village dances and ceremonies under the tropic moon. He had many adventures with the creatures of the forest, from the magnificent leopard to the instantly fatal spitting cobra. The sinister arcanum of primitive Africa is never too far away from the surface in this book, encountering a host of characters along the way - with exotic names like 'Magic T. Sperm' and 'Famous Sixpence' - whose stories are all told here.

From Booklist In 1954, MacIntosh, a Scottish forester, traveled to Nigeria to catalog and survey the vast number of tree species in the area. He ended up staying in Africa for three decades, and his work took him to many different countries. His book is a collection of tales from his time in the land he refers to as the "White Man's Grave." MacIntosh tells of his encounters with the often-dangerous denizens of the forests, which included masses of ants, deadly snakes, and even a leopard. MacIntosh had a close call with a snake when he stepped on it and had to leap away from its snapping jaws. And when a carpenter was killed by a cobra, the residents of his village believed his spirit was responsible for the illness that descended upon them shortly after his death. MacIntosh also met interesting people, including a boy who had an eyebrow-raising name and a reserved man who was part of a deadly cult. Skilled at storytelling, MacIntosh makes everything in his memoir--even the descriptions of trees--fascinating. Kristine Huntley Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved A poignant and humourous storyteller of the West African bush to rival Gerald Durrell. ?TLS He writes with a charming insouciance that celebrates an Africa before big business tore the heart out of the rainforest. ?SUNDAY TIMESExcellent... [MacIntosh's] book, one of the surprises of the year, is a slender but richly entertaining memoir ?Sara Wheeler, DAILY TELEGRAPH Although MacIntosh's African life was full of adventures and dangers, he never exaggerates them, and writes with a fluidity and understated grace which makes his book a pleasure to read. By turns beautiful, poignant and very funny, MacIntosh rarely misses the mark, and this memoir should become a classic of the genre. --Toby Green --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title. ?Toby Green, .co.uk About the Author Donald MacIntosh is the son of a Perthshire woodcutter and studied forestry in Argyll. He spent 30 years as a tree prospector/surveyor in the rainforests of Liberia, Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Nigeria. He now lives in the South of England and is still homesick for the Africa he knew.