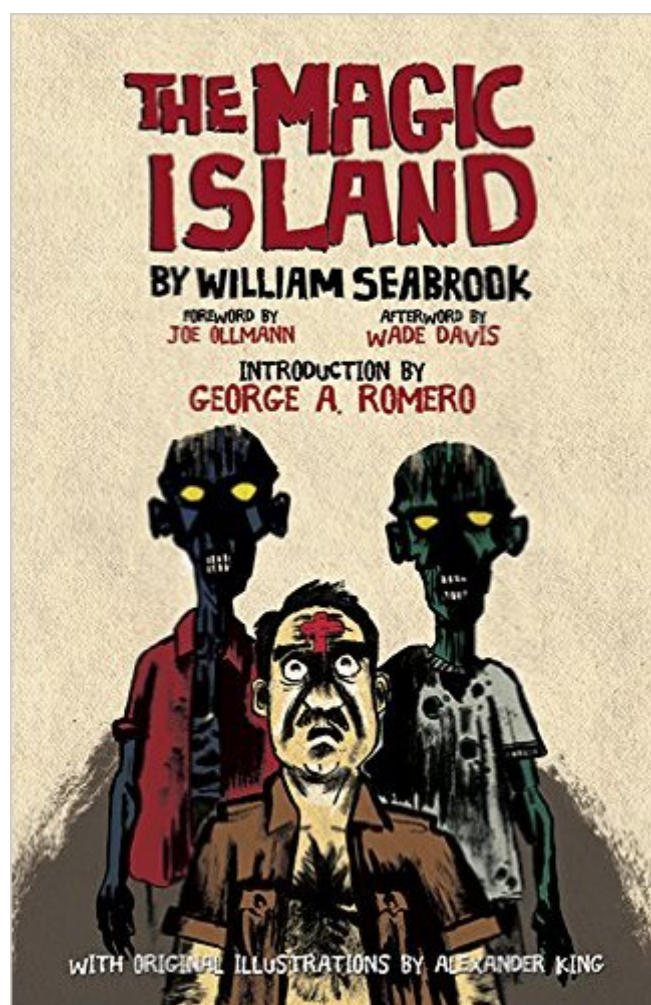


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# The Magic Island



## Synopsis

"The best and most thrilling book of exploration that we have ever read" | [an] immensely important book." " New York Evening Post "A series of excellent stories about one of the most interesting corners of the American world, told by a keen and sensitive person who knows how to write." " American Journal of Sociology "It can be said of many travelers that they have traveled widely. Of Mr. Seabrook a much finer thing may be said" " he has traveled deeply." " The New York Times Book Review This fascinating book, first published in 1929, offers firsthand accounts of Haitian voodoo and witchcraft rituals. Journalist and adventurer William Seabrook introduced the concept of the walking dead • zombies • to the West with his illustrated travelogue. He relates his experiences with the voodoo priestess who initiated him into the religion's rituals, from soul transference to resurrection. In addition to twenty evocative line drawings by Alexander King, this edition features a new Foreword by cartoonist and graphic novelist Joe Ollmann, a new Introduction by George A. Romero, legendary director of Night of the Living Dead, and a new Afterword by Wade Davis, Explorer in Residence at the National Geographic Society.

## Book Information

Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (April 20, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 048679962X

ISBN-13: 978-0486799629

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.9 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (8 customer reviews)

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in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Cults

## Customer Reviews

I must admit that I am drawn to musty, old books like a moth to a flame. I haphazardly ran across a 1929 hardcover edition of Seabrook's "Magic Island" and was immediately struck by the dark and brooding illustrations as well as the marvelous old black & white photos within its yellowed leaves. A brief thumbing through the chapter listings announced its topic to me: voodoo and black magic in Haiti. Seabrook was a well-travelled journalist and author of numerous newspaper articles, short

stories, and books. "Magic Island" finds him living in turn of the century Haiti and takes you deep into his search for information about voodoo and black magic as practiced among the locals. You are not only stepping back into early 1900's society and ways, but into the unspoken underbelly of Haiti that few "white" men were ever allowed to see. This book is simply fascinating from front to back, but best to take into consideration the time period this was written and do not expect a rip-roaring-Indiana-Jones-style adventure that Hollywood has seemed to fill the current public's minds with. The book is indeed slow, as much of Seabrook's writing is of his conversations and meetings that ultimately lead him to the secret society and its practices. Have patience, though, and you will arrive to the "juicy" center and the voodoo rites Seabrook was allowed to witness and sometimes even participate in as an initiate. I would suggest getting an early edition of this wonderful book as I did. By literally holding in your hands something that is as old as the story itself, it seems to somehow bring you a sense of proper time displacement and aids with the immersion into Seabrook's journey.

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