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978-1-108-08260-0 - A Journal of a Voyage Round the World, in His Majesty's Ship Endeavour:
In the Years 1768, 1769, 1770, and 1771; Undertaken in Pursuit of Natural Knowledge, at the
Desire of the Royal Society

Anonymous

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A Journal of a Voyage Round the World, in His Majesty's Ship *Endeavour*

This slim volume, published anonymously in 1771 within months of the *Endeavour's* return from Captain Cook's first voyage, predates Hawkesworth's publication of Cook's own journal in his *Voyages* (1773, also reissued). It has been attributed variously to two of the ship's petty officers (Orton and Perry); Sydney Parkinson, draughtsman; his employer Joseph Banks; or the Swedish botanist Solander. The story moves rapidly, with well-chosen detail: mines that 'destroy two thousand slaves yearly', or the brown granite of a communal laundry. The author describes marine animals, Tahitian and New Zealand society, and foodstuffs including a 'large milky farinaceous fruit, which when baked resembles bread' – the breadfruit that Joseph Banks later decided to introduce to the Caribbean, leading to the ill-fated *Bounty* voyage (Bligh's account of which is also reissued). The author reports making 'considerable progress in learning the language of the country', and concludes with a short list of Tahitian words.

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