



The Conjurer's Bird: A Novel

Martin Davies

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In 1774, an unusual bird was spotted on Captain Cook's second expedition to the South Seas. This single specimen was captured, preserved, and brought back to England—and no other bird of its kind was ever seen again. The bird was given to naturalist Joseph Banks, who displayed it proudly in his collection until it too disappeared. Were it not for a colored drawing created by the ship's artist, it would seem that the Mysterious Bird of Ulieta had never existed.

Two hundred years later, naturalist John Fitzgerald gets a call from an old friend asking him to join the search for the bird's remains. He traces the bird's history, uncovering surprising details about the role of a woman known only as Miss B in Joseph Banks's life and career. Could she be the key to solving the mystery—to finally finding the lost Bird of Ulieta?

Seamlessly leaping between two time periods, *The Conjurer's Bird* is at once the story of Joseph Banks's secret life and of Fitz's thrilling and near-impossible race to find the elusive bird.

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