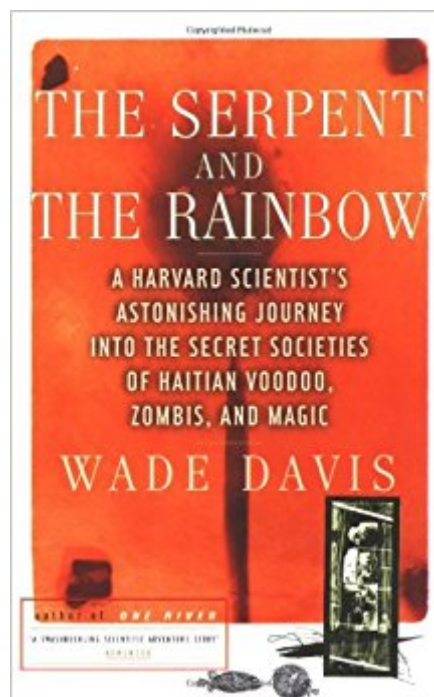




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# **The Serpent And The Rainbow: A Harvard Scientist's Astonishing Journey Into The Secret Societies Of Haitian Voodoo, Zombis, And Magic**



## Synopsis

A scientific investigation and personal adventure story about zombies and the voodoo culture of Haiti by a Harvard scientist. In April 1982, ethnobotanist Wade Davis arrived in Haiti to investigate two documented cases of zombies "people who had reappeared in Haitian society years after they had been officially declared dead and had been buried. Drawn into a netherworld of rituals and celebrations, Davis penetrated the voodoo mystique deeply enough to place zombification in its proper context within voodoo culture. In the course of his investigation, Davis came to realize that the story of voodoo is the history of Haiti "from the African origins of its people to the successful Haitian independence movement, down to the present day, where voodoo culture is, in effect, the government of Haiti's countryside. *The Serpent and the Rainbow* combines anthropological investigation with a remarkable personal adventure to illuminate and finally explain a phenomenon that has long fascinated Americans.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Exotic and far-reaching . . . a corker of a read, just the way Indiana Jones would tell it." -- The Wall

Street Journal "Zombies do come back from the dead, and Wade Davis knows how." -- Washington

Post Book World "An account solving one of the most puzzling biological mysteries of all time." --

Omni

Wade Davis received his doctorate in ethnobotany from Harvard University. Author of six books, including *One River*, he divides his time between Washington, D.C., Vancouver, and a remote

fishing lodge in northern British Columbia. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As an ethnobotanist myself, I enjoy all of Wade Davis' books, because I see his images from the same side of the street. This being his first book,(I believe), it was well written,and Davis' ability to blend science, and literature is more than excellent. I wasn't as entranced with this book as I was with "One River".(a later book) The Back in Boston chapter lost my attention just temporarily, but probably because the secrets shared of Haitian culture and viewed aspects of Afro-Caribbean religion of the earlier section's of the book were so intoxicating to read. An fascinating and knowledgeable read

For a short book this is not a quick read. Absolutely fascinating telling of the subject matter, and a window into the mind of a young grad student

I loved this book! Learn about plants, other cultures, secret societies, cultural ideas, and kept interested with adventurous travel. The whole concept of zombi and voodoo is now completely changed in my mind, and I believe for the better. It's well written, he makes an effort to wholeheartedly embrace a culture and people who he initially knows nothing about. The characters are well described, evolving as he learns more about them. As I see it, this is a must read book that will be gracing my library shelf for many years to come. So glad I purchased it. Might I add, I never knew it was a movie til I read other folks' reviews and knew very little about this book before I got it so my views weren't tainted by any expectations. Guess now I'll watch the movie and be disappointed by Hollywood's rendition...

This is a must read. I believe it also a movie. It's a super interesting story that has roots in anthropology, science and voodoo.I am a skeptic in things of the supernatural but this book had me really second guessing my feelings. I sat down to read it and went through the entire book in one sitting. This is a book I could read over and over

Great book, it is a really interesting read. There is some controversy over his findings, and it is not written like a scientific book at all, it is more of a travel log, and I am sure it is embellished heavily, but it is interesting and well written, at least the first half is anyway, after that it gets a little slow, but thats just for my taste.

Such a loooooooooooooong slow read...I have to agree with other folks that have made these same comments; it was very long and dry which made it a bit harder to maintain my attention span (and I've lived in West Africa where voodoo originated)!

I bought this book and read it so that I could use it as a reference on a college psychology paper on the "Voodoo Death Curse". Let me tell you, if you love anthropology or just mind-blowing things in general, this book is phenomenal. The only problem I had was the use of abstract words. I found myself having to look words up a lot, but I don't know what else anyone would expect from a Harvard anthropologist. You can also skip over them. I found that it doesn't really matter. Great for college students!

The book is about a researcher who travels to Haiti to discover the components of zombi poison in order to find a medicinal use for it. What he ends up getting is a change in world view as he immerses himself in the voodoo culture. I found the first 3/4 of the book engaging and very interesting, but the last quarter of the book seemed to drag on as it goes into the history of voodoo culture. The book is almost nothing like the movie btw.

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