

The Alien Corn

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Henry James. An Alien's "History" of America
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"The" Kathákoça
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a memoir describing how a search for the truth about the author's enigmatic distant mother bears witness to past and present oppression

this interweaving of folklore history and science tells the seven century story of the importance of corn in the americas

martha banta's henry james an alien's history of america is the product of a lifetime of thinking about james and his odd but oddly productive relation to the land of his birth a biography of an autobiography it serves as a peripatetic history of the central cross currents and intersections between europe and america memory and history romance and realism these diverse elements structure james's channeling of his own experience as a displaced or alienated american into a variety of genres memoirs and travel writing novels and tales letters and literary criticism social and cultural commentary together they constitute the never completed novel of his ongoing autobiographical project in its masterful weaving together of materials text and time frames henry james an alien's history of america moves fluidly back and forth over the intricate tapestry of james's life and texts it identifies and analyzes key moments words and tropes that echo across the years tracing the instances of repetition reversal self revelation and re vision that underwrite this life

record this study represents a major advance over conventional sometimes oversimplified readings of james s international theme his attitudes about both europe and america emerge here in their full complexity and contradictoriness the breadth and depth of banta s knowledge of james and of the historical america from which he emerged and which he never ceased to engage however ambivalently will make this a rich reading experience for general readers as well as scholars david mcwhirter editor of henry james s new york edition the construction of authorship and henry james in context

this work examines the lives of four female characters in the bible naomi ruth tamar and esther their stories differ significantly from those of most female biblical characters in that each woman is depicted without a dominant male companion and each is featured in the bible s more secular texts the author evaluates each character s role as a female protagonist and demonstrates how each story represents an innovative view of religion and a revisionist evaluation of women s roles finally the author proposes that these narratives may have been authored by women appendices provide additional information about boaz judah and tamar greek versions of the book of esther mordecai s decree and literacy in ancient israel includes a glossary and timeline

in this minutely detailed comprehensive chronology toru kiuchi and yoshinobu hakutani document the life in letters of the greatest african american writer of the twentieth century the author of black boy and native son among other works wright wrote unflinchingly about the black experience in the united states where his books still influence discussions of race and social justice entries are documented by wright s journals articles and other works published and unpublished as well as his letters to and from friends associates writers and public figures part one covers wright s life through the year 1946 the period in which he published his best known work part two covers the final fifteen years of his life in exile a prolific period in which he wrote two novels four works of nonfiction and four thousand haiku each part begins with a historical and critical introduction

we can all remember the stories we were told as children santa claus lives at the north pole st bernard dogs carry brandy to help lost climbers lady godiva rode naked through coventry they were great stories and we believed them but are they true max cryer sets out to investigate the truth or otherwise of ideas and beliefs we may have always been told are true but which on closer examination may not be for example did winston churchill coin the term iron curtain ok is an american expression right tulips come from holland don t they did sarah palin say i can see russia from my house the subjects covered in this highly entertaining book are diverse ranging from politics science and social history to language music and the natural world max cryer approaches each with an open mind seeking to uncover the truth behind some of our most cherished beliefs be prepared for surprises

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