

MAORI

Synopsis

One man, inexorably torn across two cultures, fights to forge a new nation at the ends of the Earth.

Spanning half a century, MAORI follows the fictional lives of those pivotal historic individuals who stand at the cusp of change and hold the power to shape the course of New Zealand's entire future, as the country prepares to transform itself from the world's final, furthestmost wilderness into a bastion of modern civilisation, capable of leading the rest of the world with its progressive politics and inclusion.

Our all-too-human hero, ship captain, merchant adventurer, and philanderer, Robert Coffin is pulled between two proud nations - on the one side the pompous yet fierce British with their traditions, decorum, trade and gunboat diplomacy and claiming a moral imperative to push trade and religion and Western values, and on the other side the the honour-bound yet viciously violent Maori willing to stop at nothing to preserve their way of life and liberate their sacred land through driving out all the invading European settlers back into the oceans from whence they came. Unbeknownst to him, Coffin's wife Holly is traversing from the other side of the globe along with their sick son in order to reunite their family, whilst she herself is in complete ignorance of her husband's lovers and bastard children already in New Zealand on both sides of the racial divide. Meanwhile, Coffin's rival businessman and arch-enemy Tobias Hull does everything within his own power, both legal and otherwise, to destroy Coffin's livelihood as well as his life, reluctantly being willing only to temporarily put aside their differences in order to defend and battle against the increasingly destabilising attacks by the growing horde of marauding natives led by the tenacious freedom-fighting Maori warrior Hone Heke. Throughout the entire conflict, the elderly Maori shaman Tuhoto warns both sides that there are larger and more terrible forces at work, greater even than the might of the British military and the ruthlessness of the Maori warriors combined.

Can the Maori successfully employ their warrior prowess with the necessary strategic guerrilla warfare tactics to be the first ever to stem the historical tide of European settlers conquering every indigenous race they ever meet, or will either side manage to heed in time the rambling warnings of the tired, old shaman before the New Zealand motherland herself delivers a tragic blow on such a scale as to afflict both races and force them to cooperate in order to simply survive?

Featuring all the trappings of an epic tale- love, lust and loss, triumph and tragedy, drama, romance, and excitement- and based on the original novel of the same name by *New York Times Best Seller* Alan Dean Foster ("*Star Wars*", "*Aliens*", "*Transformers*", "*Terminator Salvation*"), MAORI is at heart a historical actioner perfect for the big screen, in the same vein as any of James Clavell's best *Asia Saga* novel classics.

MAORI... experience the journey of a lifetime.

(C)1988, 2012-14 Alan Dean Foster

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