

# WYATT'S HURRICANE

DESMOND BAGLEY

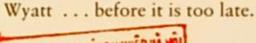


#### WYATT'S HURRICANE

All hurricanes are frightening. They begin out at sea and quickly build up into a huge heat engine, bigger and stronger than a thousand bombs. They bring rain and floods and savage, violent winds, which can break a man's neck. Nobody can stop a hurricane. You can only wait and watch, and hope to God it never comes near you.

Hurricane Mabel is going to be very nasty indeed. David Wyatt, a young weather scientist, has a strange feeling about Mabel. She should stay out at sea and not come near the Caribbean island of San Fernandez. But Wyatt believes she will change direction and hit the island. He can't explain why – he just knows he is right.

While Mabel moves slowly northwards, some people on San Fernandez are worrying about another danger – war, which also brings death. War seems more important to them. They can fight a war, and win. But they can't fight a hurricane, so they should listen to





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#### Wyatt's Hurricane

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## Flying into the hurricane

The silver aeroplane flew south-east in fair weather, across the small green islands called the Lesser Antilles. The sky above was clear, and the blue Atlantic below shone in the bright sunshine. But somewhere, far out above the Atlantic, trouble was waiting and the plane flew on to look for it.

The pilot, Harry Hansen, was an officer in the United States Navy, with twelve years' flying behind him. He stared hard at the sky in front of him, and at last saw the first thin clouds appear. He pushed a button and spoke into the radio.

'We're getting near, Dave. Any change of orders?'

Officers in the United States Navy didn't usually take orders from a foreigner, but that didn't worry Hansen. He was a sensible man. He liked to fly with men who were good at their jobs – and who would help him to get the plane back home in one piece.

David Wyatt came forward to speak to Hansen and looked out at the sky. Already the clouds were thicker and heavier. In a few more minutes the plane would be in the storm.

'We'll take the usual route in,' he said. 'We'll follow the wind round in a circle, moving slowly inwards all the time. When we get to the south-west corner, we'll turn into the centre.'

'OK,' said Hansen. 'But I hope you get all the information that you need. I don't want to do this twice.'

Wyatt smiled. 'Neither do I.'

He went back down the plane and fastened himself into his seat. The two men who worked with him were already busy. The three of them made sure that everything was safe and that