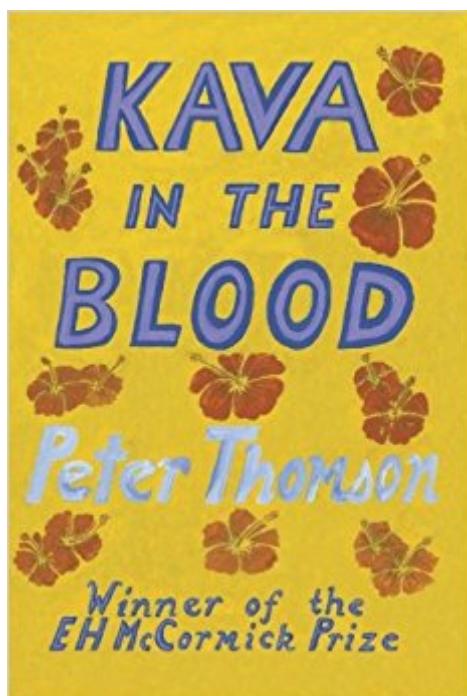


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Kava In The Blood: A Personal & Political Memoir From The Heart Of Fiji



Synopsis

"The literary device of juxtaposing the story of the Fiji coup against autobiographical reminiscences of a Fiji background works very well. This is an excellent story, beautifully written and skillfully mixing the personal with the political .. The EH McCormick Award for the Best First Book of Non Fiction, sponsored by the New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN Inc) and Creative New Zealand, goes to Kava in the Blood by Peter Thomson." - Judges Report, Montana New Zealand Book Awards, 2000. Entwined through the author's reportage of the 1987 coups is an evocative picture of life in the islands. Thus, Kava in the Blood is also an intriguing story of hurricanes, haunted houses and copious kava consumption, set within the dramatic landscapes and vibrant cultures of the Fiji Islands.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Peter Thomson, born in Suva, Fiji in 1948 is a Fiji diplomat and is currently Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Peter is a fifth generation Fijian of Scottish descent. He began his career as a Fiji civil servant in 1972, working in rural development as District Officer in Navua, Macuata and Taveuni. From 1978 to 1985 he served in Tokyo and Sydney for Fiji's Ministry of Foreign Affairs before returning to Suva in 1986 as Permanent Secretary of Information. In 1987 he was appointed as Permanent Secretary to Governor-General, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau. During Peter's time at Government House between the two coups d'etat of 1987, the Governor-General was the sole executive authority of Fiji. Peter Thomson is a passionate advocate for a multi-racial, multicultural Fiji. He believes that race-based constitutions and political parties have been very

divisive for the nation and is committed to working towards a future in which all citizens enjoy equal rights.

A wonderfully written piece of work, embedded with numerous memories of Fiji and concise chronological description of the post-coup happenings. Kava will remain in the blood of many who fled Fiji, in 1987, after the dissolution of democracy. They will forever preserve the memories and the warm, fuzzy feelings of the country of their birth. The style of writing of this book is almost unique, in the sense that it alternates between the harsh sadness of the political disruption and the beauty of Fijian life style, which gives the reader a break and an opportunity to rendezvous the islands of Fiji. Peter Thomson served as a dedicated civil servant, while in Fiji, and this book is an added contribution to his dedication to this nation.

TO know what happened in the country I was born. No dislikes. I chose this book by Peter Thompson because some one told me it was a very good reading.

Was a gift

Old traditions die hard. The Pacific preference for oral story telling rather than putting down thoughts and facts on paper has left us with very little in writing on the important political and social developments of this region. "Kava in the Blood" is a very welcome exception to this trend. Written by a Fiji Islander, Peter Thomson, the book provides an exceptional insight into the life and soul of the South Pacific's largest and most multi-racial of States. The blending of the personal with the political stories not only makes for more fascinating reading but also a better understanding of where Fiji stands today with so much uncertainty about it's future.

I read Peter Thomsons first edition of Kava in the Blood and really enjoyed it, but was most excited to find the new edition with photos and illustrations (definitely a huge improvement). The book juxtaposes Thomsons recollections and stories of growing up in a seemingly idyllic Fiji, with the first-hand description of the Fijian coup in 1987. Thomson was Secretary to Governor General, so this is an insiders view and quite fascinating. A great read and highly recommended to anyone hankering for a life under a cocoa nut tree, and for travelers to Fiji this is essential reading.

Anyone living in the Pacific region needs to read this book to help understand what makes Fiji and

the Pacific so unique

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