

[PDF] Unfamiliar Fishes

John Hodgman, Keanu Reeves, Sarah Vowell, Edward Norton, Fred Armisen, John Slattery, Bill Hader, Catherine Keener, Paul Rudd, Maya Rudolph - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: Unfamiliar Fishes

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Recounting the brief, remarkable history of a unified and independent Hawaii, Vowell, a public radio star and bestselling author (The Wordy Shipmates), retraces the impact of New England missionaries who began arriving in the early 1800s to remake the island paradise into a version of New England. In her usual wry tone, Vowell brings out the ironies of their efforts: while the missionaries tried to prevent prostitution with seamen and the resulting deadly diseases, the natives believed it was the missionaries who would kill them: "they will pray us all to death." Along the way, and with the best of intentions, the missionaries eradicated an environmentally friendly, laid-back native culture (although the Hawaiians did have taboos against women sharing a table with men, upon penalty of death, and a reverence for "royal incest"). Freely

admitting her own prejudices, Vowell gives contemporary relevance to the past as she weaves in, for instance, Obama's boyhood memories. Outrageous and wise-cracking, educational but never dry, this book is a thought-provoking and entertaining glimpse into the U.S.'s most unusual state and its unanticipated twists on the familiar story of Americanization. (Mar.)

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Review "Sarah Vowell is an intellectual melting pot. Her cleverness is gorgeously American..." - *Los Angeles Times*

"Its scintillating cast includes dour missionaries, genital-worshipping heathens, Teddy Roosevelt, incestuous royalty, a nutty Mormon, a much-too-merry monarch, President Obama, sugar barons, an imprisoned queen and Vowell herself, in a kind of 50th-state variety show. It's a fun book...[a] playful, provocative, stand-up approach to history."—*The New York Times Book Review*

"As entertaining and personable as it is informative."—*Washington Post*

"Sarah Vowell is for my money, the best essayist/radio commentator/sit-down comic and pointy headed history geek in the business."—*Seattle Times*

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