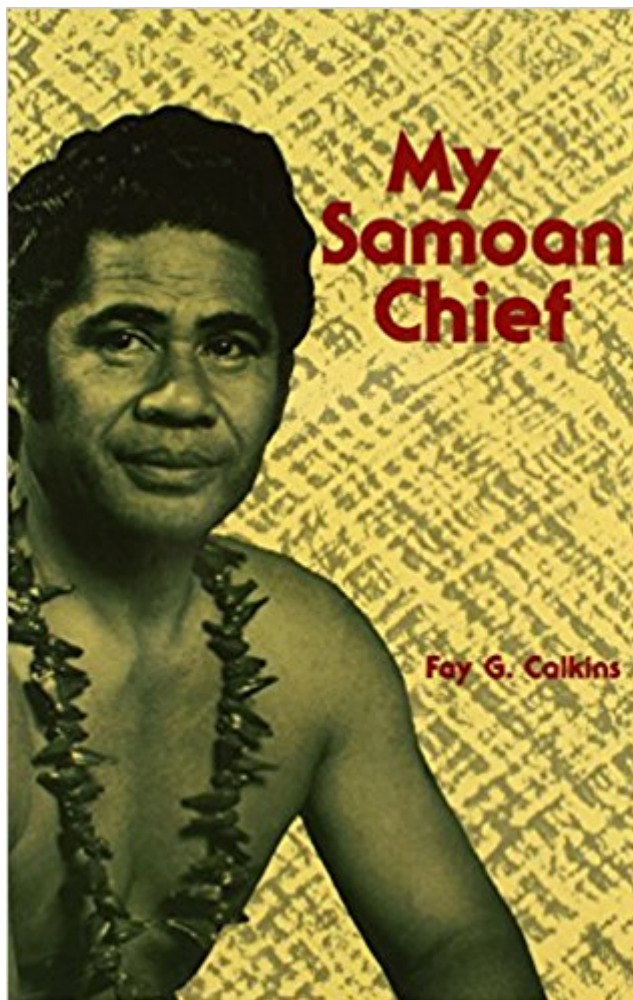


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My Samoan Chief



Synopsis

This is an engaging autobiographical account of a young American woman's life in her Samoan husband's native home. Fay Calkins, a descendant of Puritan settlers, met Vai Ala'ilima, a descendant of Samoan chiefs, while working on her doctoral dissertation in the Library of Congress. After an unconventional courtship and a typical American wedding, they set out for Western Samoa, where Fay was to find a way of life totally new and charming, if at times frustrating and confusing. Soon after her arrival in the islands, the bride of a few months found herself with a family of seven boys in a wide range of ages, sent by relatives to live with the new couple. She was stymied by the economics of trying to support numerous guests, relatives, and a growing family, and still contribute to the lavish feasts that were given on any pretext--feasts, where the guests brought baskets in which to take home as much of the largesse as they could carry. Fay tried to introduce American institutions: a credit union, a co-op, a work schedule, and hourly wages on the banana plantation begun by her and her husband. In each instance, she quickly learned that Samoans were unwilling or unable to grasp her Western ideas of input equaling output, of personal property, or of payment received for work done. Despite these frustrations and disappointments, however, life among the people of her Samoan chief was for Fay happy and productive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A warm and observant picture of modern Samoan life." A warm and observant picture of modern Samoan life.-- "Pacific Islands Monthly"

A warm and observant picture of modern Samoan life. (Pacific Islands Monthly)

The rating process is an easy a choice to make as the entire purchasing process. Product was easy to find, review and purchase. The delivery was made as projected and everyone was completely satisfied. Quality product and purchasing process all around. Definitely a shining recommendation for all interested in the concept of "money well spent!"

Great perspective and a must read if you're going to spend your life with a Samoan!!

Great narrative!

Very interesting book .

This book was a truly great read for those looking to understand more about Samoan society. Not much has really changed in 50 years . It will give insight into the differences between western thoughts and ideals and faaSamoa, the Samoan way. It is also humorous and very entertaining.

The book is a classic work on the people of Samoa (formerly Western Samoa). I read it years ago, but wanted to return to it after many years.I did and the book is as I remembered it - an informative, well written and interesting work. Highly recommend it to readers interested n Pacific Island people.

Fay Calkins and her husband, Vai, meet while studying for graduate degrees in the U.S. They return to Vai's native Samoa with dreams of developing Samoan politics and economics. "My Samoan Chief" offers a humorous look into the cultural and practical issues that confront their academic ideas. Fay provides a loving Western lens on different aspects of Samoan culture.This is a great read for economists, and those interested in third world development. Even when development ideas come from the inside out, it proves nearly impossible to implement them without significant cultural adjustment. An enlightening and beautiful story of the interactions of Western and Samoan culture.Also, a well written and entertaining read.

I grew up in the polynesian culture and for two years I lived, ate and breathed "Samoa" by attending a Samoan church, singing the hymns in Samoan and dancing with the church up and down the

coast of California. As well, my BIL is Samoan and while reading this book I kept shaking my head a vigorous YES at what the author so clearly outlined. I was delighted, moved to tears, captivated, and thrilled to have read this story of life in Samoa. I read it from cover to cover while on a month long vacation throughout the Hawaiian islands and every chance I got I called my sister to read her bits and pieces of this wonderfully crafted book. Her understanding of the "Samoan way" was reinforced by the authors life experience. Anyone know where she is now??? I recommend this book HIGHLY, for anyone...anywhere....anytime.FAA-Samoa!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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