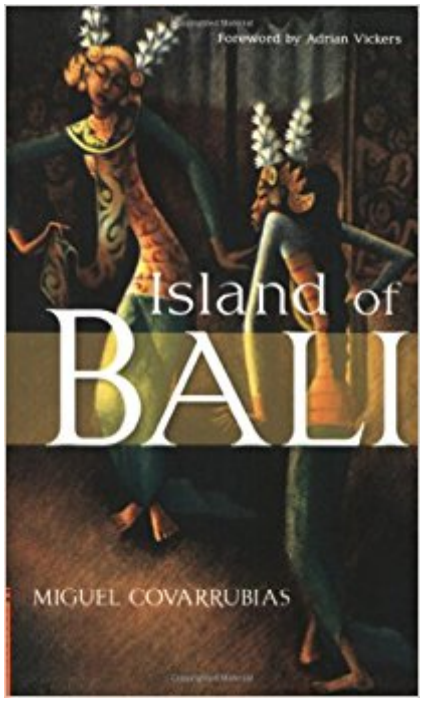
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Island Of Bali (Periplus Classics Series)



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Synopsis

Island of Bali is now available with a foreword by Professor Adrian Vickers which puts the book into context for a modern audience.First published in 1937, Island of Bali is still regarded by many as the most authoritative text on Bali and its fascinating people. Included is a wealth of information on the daily life, art, customs and religion of this magical "Island of the Gods." In the author's own words it presents a "bird's-eye view of Balinese life and culture."Miguel Covarrubias, the author, was a noted painter and caricaturist as well as a student of anthropology. He lived in Bali for a total of three years in the early 1930s, and today his account is as fresh and insightful as it was when it was originally published. Introducing the island with a survey of hits history, geography and social structure, Covarrubias goes on to present a captivating picture of Balinese art, music and drama. Religion, witchcraft, death and cremation are also covered.Island of Bali will appeal to anyone with an interest in this unique island, from general Eat, Pray, Love readers to serious anthropologist alike. Complementing the text are 90 drawings by Covarrubias and countless others by Balinese artists. Also included are 114 half-tone photographs, and five full-color paintings by the author.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Miguel Covarrubias (1904-1957) was born in Mexico City and was an author, painter, caricaturist, and professor of art history at the National School of Anthropology in Mexico City. Adrian Vickers was born in Tasmania, New South Wales, in 1958 and moved to Sydney to undertake a degree at the University of Sydney, where he was awarded a BA (Hons) in 1980 and a PhD in 1987. His PhD

thesis, undertaken in the Indonesian and Malayan Studies Department, involved extensive research in Bali, Jakarta, the Netherlands and the USA. Vickers has taught Indonesian history, language and culture at the University of Sydney and for the Workers' Education Association, and written many articles on Balinese art, literature and history. He is Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, University of Sydney.

I love this book. Not being an anthropologist myself I bought it mainly for my interest in the illustrations by its author Miguel Covarrubias, the famous Mexican artist of the thirties and forties. Yet, as I read it, I enjoy that the texts by Covarrubias are extremely well written, in colorful, exciting and romantic ways. The structure of the text shows a conscious approach to connect the physical, social and spiritual contexts of life of the native Balinese population in the thirties in a well ordered fashion, which eighty years later remains useful and attractive even if anthropological studies have evolved considerably afterwards. The text combines tons of detailed information on the life of the Balinese at that time, with rich anecdotal content from the time Covarrubias and his wife Rose spent in the island. The description of people, places, costumes and traditions is very accurate and still adorned with plenty of adjectives in ways that convey both the admiration and love Covarrubias developed for the people of Bali. Were it not because the anthropological and cultural research of Covarrubuas in Bali is well documented, the realities the book describes appear as fantastic dreams of an adventure fiction book.

I should have been alerted by the old dates of the previous comments. The book is badly printed on very cheap paper, so bad as to be unacceptable. Illegible type! Muddy reproductions! An insult to Covarrubias! has allowed a return. But they really should not be listing it.Product Description: "Hesperides Press are republishing these classic works in affordable, high quality, modern editions, using the original text and artwork." THIS IS A LIE!1. It cost (...).2. The name Hesperides does not appear in the book. No publisher would dare take credit for it.3. It is not a reprint using the original text and artwork. It is a photocopied facsimile.4. The "Look Inside" is a different, better produced book.

Covarrubias' epic "Island of Bali" is the defacto guide to Bali's cultural, social and religious life circa 1930's. His determination to document the island before the invasion of mass tourism is useful in that many of the principles he describes are still a part of life on Bali. The advent of modern, western ways; resort hotels, traffic, commercialism and the bombings has not dulled the Balinse penchant

for traditionalism one bit, this book details all that survives from the past in the modern era. If you ever wondered what the rice gods looked like, why people still file their teeth or how a temple is laid out, this is the source. It is well written, very accessible and entertaining, it can be read straight through or used as a reference. Miguel Covarrubias was an outsider/foreigner who wanted to understand the rich legacy of the island of Bali, for those that are in this position today, "Island of Bali" is invaluable.

Wonderfully written and informative. This book is a historical and anthopological document. It surpassed my expectations.

I love this book and when I saw that was selling a hardcover edition I jumped at it. HUGE MISTAKE!!!!! It is a bad xerox between two hard green covers. Since part of the beauty of the book is Covarrubias's illustrations it is a sin. is ruining its good name by selling this edition.

If you only read one book on Bali, read this one. Believe me, I'm Balinese.Miguel Covarrubias, and his wife Rose,who were Mexican, went to Bali twice, once in 1930 for several months and again in 1933 again for several months. The first time they stayed in Denpasar, the capital, and the second time in Ubud, where I live.They stayed with Walter Spies in Ubud,who was an extraordinary German, who had been living there for years, and who totally absorbed Balinese culture. My mother worked for him. He taught the Covarrubias's a lot.They then wrote their book. It is regarded as the bible and all subsequent books owe a lot to it. Some things have changed, of course, but only on the surface. We are very traditional, especially in the Ubud area. The book is an excellent introduction to our rich culture.The book discusses family and village life, rice farming, our Bali-Hindu religion, ceremonies, history, drama, art and dance.It's very readable and the photographs and line drawings are great.

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