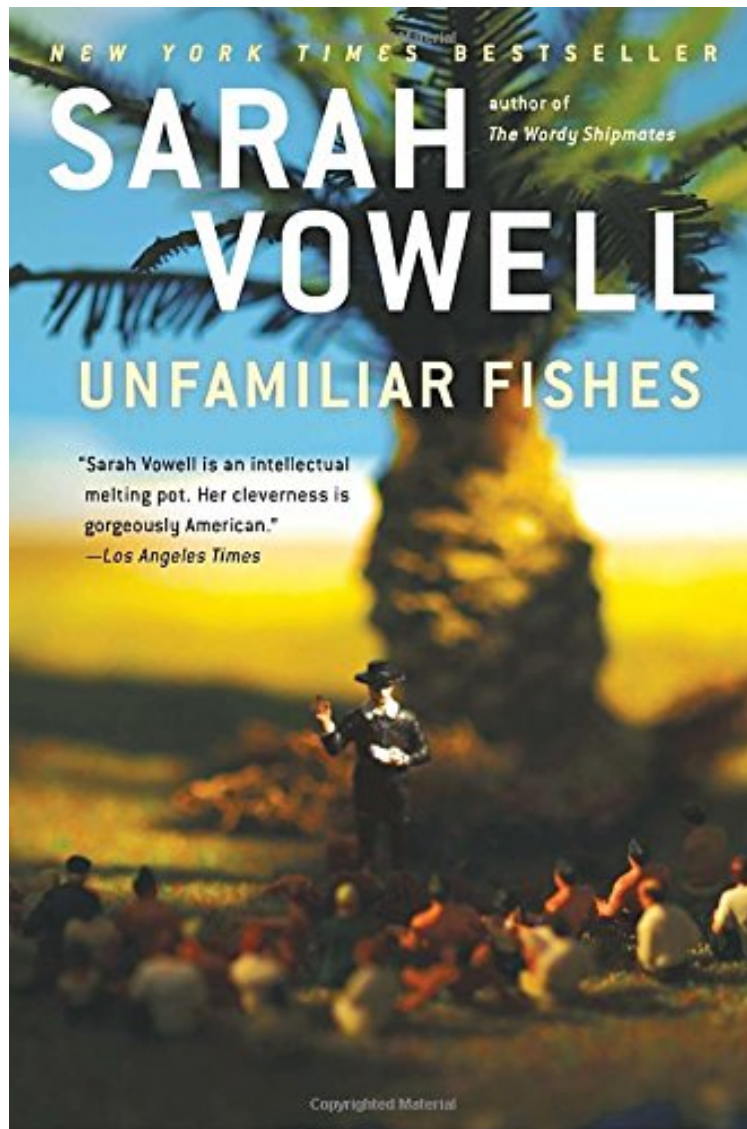


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Unfamiliar Fishes

Sarah Vowell

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Sarah Vowell : Unfamiliar Fishes before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unfamiliar Fishes:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Mark Zuckerberg should read this By M. Pikaard If you want to know how we came to acquire Hawaii, read this. Again Sarah Vowell puts comedy and perspective together to create a real understanding of the Americanization of a distant colonial outpost. Wild and entertaining storytelling. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must read before visiting Hawaii By KKI am also grateful for all of you who read this and take an interest in this history. Hawaii is a long adrift kingdom with a complex human and environmental

undertow – and not simply a beautiful vacation spot where you can play with dolphins and drink a mai tai. Gratitude for Sarah Vowell. Mahalo, Sarah. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love this book By jenniemommy I love this book. The storytelling is great. We live in Hawaii and I learned so much I didn't know from Sarah's research. I like to share this with our many visitors so I continue to buy new copies. Xo

From the author of *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States* comes an examination of Hawaii, the place where Manifest Destiny got a sunburn. Of all the countries the United States invaded or colonized in 1898, Sarah Vowell considers the story of the Americanization of Hawaii to be the most intriguing. From the arrival of the New England missionaries in 1820, who came to Christianize the local heathens, to the coup d'état led by the missionaries' sons in 1893, overthrowing the Hawaiian queen, the events leading up to American annexation feature a cast of beguiling, if often appalling or tragic, characters. Whalers who fire cannons at the Bible-thumpers denying them their god-given right to whores; an incestuous princess pulled between her new god and her brother-husband; sugar barons, con men, Theodore Roosevelt, and the last Hawaiian queen, a songwriter whose sentimental ode "Aloha 'Oe" serenaded the first Hawaiian-born president of the United States during his 2009 inaugural parade. With her trademark wry insights and reporting, Vowell sets out to discover the odd, emblematic, and exceptional history of the fiftieth state. In examining the place where Manifest Destiny got a sunburn, she finds America again, warts and all.

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.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. "Sarah Vowell is an intellectual melting pot. Her cleverness is gorgeously American..." – Los Angeles Times "Its scintillating cast includes dour missionaries, genital-worshiping 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 "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 About the Author Sarah Vowell is the bestselling author of *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States*, *Unfamiliar Fishes*, *The Wordy Shipmates*, *Assassination Vacation*, and *The Partly Cloudy Patriot*.