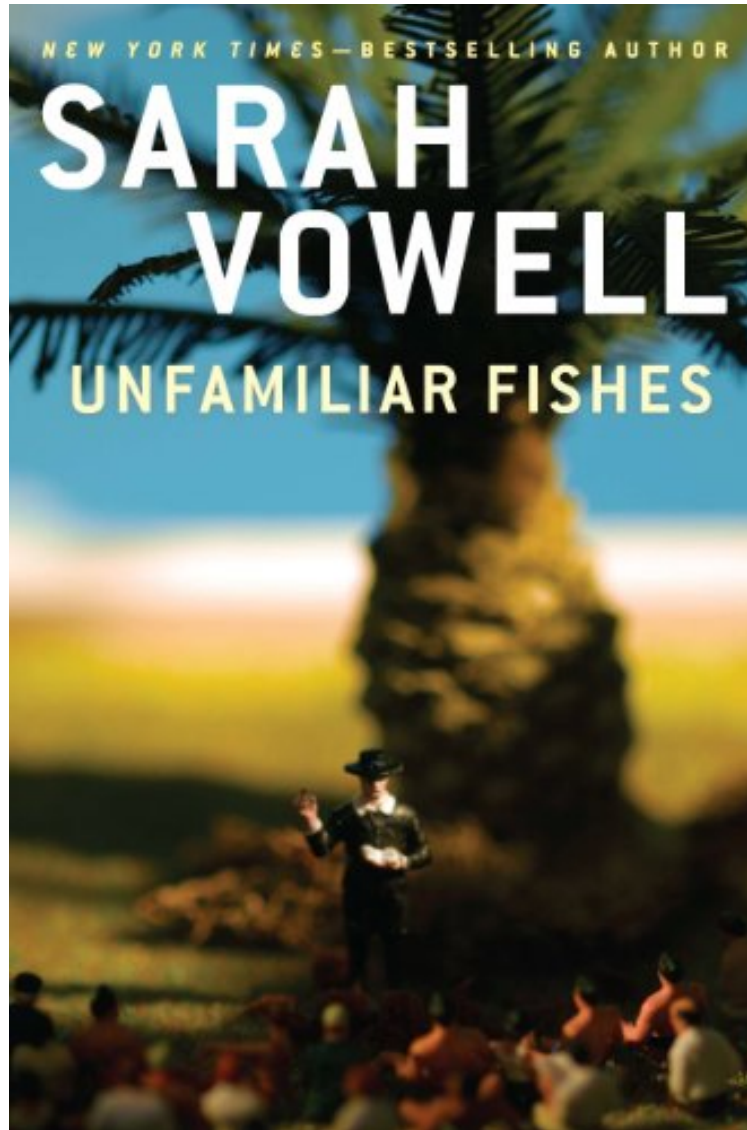


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Unfamiliar Fishes

Von Sarah Vowell

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

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Did The Missionaries Give As Much As They Took?Von James Gallen"Unfamiliar Fishes" is Sarah Vowell's history of how Hawaii became a part of America. Including, but not limited to the actual political take over, it presents the broad sweep of cultural transformation that preceded the legal one. On these pages one meets Kings and warriors, clergy and merchants, imperialists and nativists, Americans and true Hawaiians. Vowell draws on her Indian heritage in

presenting the story from the perspective of the native Hawaiians in contrast to the Americans, primarily the missionaries, who brought the Gospel and their descendants who invited the flag. This book helps the reader understand how the natives cooperated in the gradual mutation of their Polynesian islands into a land that would be home, but no longer theirs. Vowell's writing is irreverent and entertaining. This chronicles a history with which most Americans are unfamiliar. The author obviously is partial toward the natives and presents the reader with the question of whether the Americans, who brought Christianity, democracy and prosperity, really took more than they gave. The book's conclusion is obviously that they did. The reader should consider the facts and draw his or her own conclusions.

Kurzbeschreibung From the author of *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States*, an examination of Hawaii, the place where Manifest Destiny got a sunburn. Many think of 1776 as the defining year of American history, when we became a nation devoted to the pursuit of happiness through self-government. In *Unfamiliar Fishes*, Sarah Vowell argues that 1898 might be a year just as defining, when, in an orgy of imperialism, the United States annexed Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Guam, and invaded first Cuba, then the Philippines, becoming an international superpower practically overnight. Among the developments in these outposts of 1898, Vowell considers the Americanization of Hawaii the most intriguing. From the arrival of New England missionaries in 1820, their goal to Christianize the local heathen, to the coup d'état of the missionaries' sons in 1893, which overthrew the Hawaiian queen, the events leading up to American annexation feature a cast of beguiling, and often appealing or tragic, characters: whalers who fired 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, lepers, con men, Theodore Roosevelt, and the last Hawaiian queen, a songwriter whose sentimental ode "Aloha 'Oe" serenaded the first Hawaiian president of the United States during his 2009 inaugural parade. With her trademark smart-alecky insights and reporting, Vowell lights out to discover the off, emblematic, and exceptional history of the fiftieth state, and in so doing finds America, warts and all. From the Hardcover edition. **Pressestimmen** 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. Its 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** **Kurzbeschreibung** From the author of *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States*, an examination of Hawaii, the place where Manifest Destiny got a sunburn. Many think of 1776 as the defining year of American history, when we became a nation devoted to the pursuit of happiness through self-government. In *Unfamiliar Fishes*, Sarah Vowell argues that 1898 might be a year just as defining, when, in an orgy of imperialism, the United States annexed Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Guam, and invaded first Cuba, then the Philippines, becoming an international superpower practically overnight. Among the developments in these outposts of 1898, Vowell considers the Americanization of Hawaii the most intriguing. From the arrival of New England missionaries in 1820, their goal to Christianize the local heathen, to the coup d'état of the missionaries' sons in 1893, which overthrew the Hawaiian queen, the events leading up to American annexation feature a cast of beguiling, and often appealing or tragic, characters: whalers who fired 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, lepers, con men, Theodore Roosevelt, and the last Hawaiian queen, a songwriter whose sentimental ode "Aloha 'Oe" serenaded the first Hawaiian president of the United States during his 2009 inaugural parade. With her trademark smart-alecky insights and reporting, Vowell lights out to discover the off, emblematic, and exceptional history of the fiftieth state, and in so doing finds America, warts and all. From the Hardcover edition.