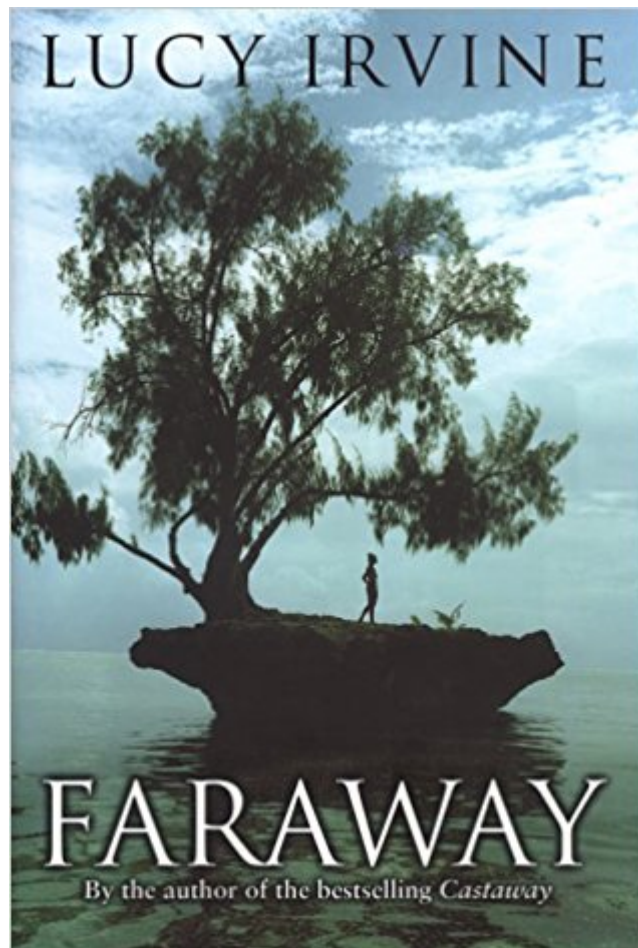


The book was found

Faraway



Synopsis

In 1999, Lucy Irvine took her three children to the farthest corner of the Solomons to live for a year on remote Pigeon Island. The invitation came from an intrepid 80-year-old, Diana Hepworth, who set sail from England in search of a faraway paradise. This work tells of both their experiences.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Here, finally, is the follow-up to Irvine's tremendously popular *Castaway* (1984), which described what happened after she answered an ad saying, "writer seeks 'wife' for year on tropical island." Her latest adventure also began with an intriguing invitation. Diana Hepworth, an 80-year-old woman, invited the *Castaway* author to house-sit for her for a year on (predictably enough) a remote island. So off Irvine went, with her three sons in tow, to Pigeon Island. Readers familiar with the author's previous work will be on familiar ground here, as Irvine describes the joys and hardships of "roughing it" on an isolated island. (Some parts of the story are a little surreal--picture the author trying to submit newspaper articles by e-mail, using a solar-powered dial-up connection.) Some readers may consider the book too similar to *Castaway*, but those willing to stick it out will be rewarded with a rich, detailed, often moving story that stands perfectly well on its own and tickles the wanderer's imagination in all of us. David Pitt

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"A rich, detailed, often moving story that stands perfectly well on its own and tickles the wanderer's imagination in all of us." --BOOKLIST

"Another astonishing

tale. -- CONDE NAST TRAVELER -- "Irvine's integrity, fine prose, brilliant powers of observation, and sheer pluck make Faraway my nomination for travel book of the year." -- Val Hennessy, DAILY MAIL -- This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I read Castaway many years ago, and just realized Lucy Irvine had written another book. This one isn't as much a survival diary, but it's every bit as enjoyable. She and her sons move to a very small island in the South Pacific so she can write the biography of the couple who settled on the island after WWII. Half of the book is about the story of the Hepworths (including many photos), and half is of the culture, traditions and personalities of the Pigeon Islanders. Irvine falls in love with life on the Island, and all the people she met there, and leaving was hard when her year was up. Like the best visitors to any country (or island), she "went native" and was accepted by the local people and allowed to see some of the more secretive rituals and taboos. I really enjoyed this book, and recommend it as much as Castaway.

This is an amazingly well-written, fascinating account of Lucy Irvine's time on Pigeon Island. At the time of writing Faraway she is the mother of three beautiful boys (who accompany her to Pigeon) and a much more mature, well-rounded individual than the 25-year-old in Castaway. She pulls off an admirable feat here... telling the Hepworth's story as well as her own and giving you a compassionate insight into the character of everyone she writes about. I hated for this book to end. In the middle of a northern winter I was truly transported to the tropics. I felt, by the end, that I had become part of the Pigeon Island extended family. Well done.

Remembering the book Castaway brought me to Lucy Irvine's follow-up book Faraway. Learning about two dreamers who set off by boat from England to explore the world captures interest to those of us who marvel at these fearless explorers. Settling on a beautiful South Seas island sounds romantic, but in reality is living and competing with tribal natives and primitive traditions as rewarding a trade-off to familiar homelands and the more traditional way of living life close to loved ones and modern conveniences as one might think? You decide. Lucy Irvine provides an honest and raw look at what it is really, really like. To those of us arm chair dreamers, I was mesmerized.

I loved this book well written saw a doco on Pigeon Island about the Hepworths done by Alby Mangles and was interested in the story. They said that Lucy Irvine had written a book about them,

hard to find in book form but I got it on kindle. Loved it well written and enjoyed it love Lucy's writing style its good when you feel like you are there on the island. Just started reading Castaway by Lucy Irvine 10/10

a good read by Lucy Irving, world traveler, and feisty writer, that has had a few ups and downs, but never losing her perspective, on her family and writing

Faraway is a biography about Tom and Diana Hepworth who after WWII decided to trade the UK for a paradise in the sun, i.e. Pigeon Island in a remote province of the Solomon Islands. This story is mainly based on the diaries of Tom Hepworth and written by Lucy Irvine, who spent a year in the island for research and had an earlier island living experience as written down in Castaway. The story learns that living in a tropical paradise is actually very hard labour to keep it up. Besides practical and distance related problems, troubles with the locals and local traditions are continuous problems to be dealt with. In case of the Hepworths, a stiff upper lip, working hard and unquestioned love for each other and sticking to all that is what keeps the dream going, but at a price. As this way of life was a dream of choice for Tom and especially Diana, it wasn't for their children. The way the daughter's mental condition is being dealt with, as in: it'll be alright as long as we put our minds to it, is a bit of a metaphor for the story as a whole. As commissioned by Diana Hepworth, the book was meant as a realization of a never fulfilled ambition of Tom Hepworth to write a book about the life and times of their dream. The Hepworth story is alternated by Irvine's own account of living on Pigeon Island together with her sons. This enlivens the book with an extra storyline, plus it allows Irvine to take a more personal (and needed) look at the Hepworth story. Because of this, despite everyone having their problems, you can't help having a lot of respect for all involved, especially Diana. Although the book focuses a lot on family relations and emotions, it's a very well written book that ought to be ranked high in Pacific literature.

Lucy Irvine is enlisted by the strong-willed Diana Hepworth, who has been living on Pigeon Island for the past 40 years, to live for one year on Pigeon Island and write her story. Lucy, not one to be pushed around herself, takes her three sons to the island and records Diane and Tom's story of sailing around the world for ten years and then settling on Pigeon island to raise a family in paradise. The book is a combination of Lucy's year on Pigeon Island with the Hepworth's experiences there. She pulls no punches, presenting the bad with the good. Photos are included of the family, the local islanders and Lucy and her sons. It's a fascinating story and very compelling

reading. Her dreamy descriptions of the warm water and sun made me long for the sea. I was under the book's spell until I could finish it.

Lucy Irvine is a deeply underestimated author, perhaps because of her exotic and unsettled life. Her examination of the culture of Pigeon Island is extraordinarily sensitive. She is unsparing and intense in her search for the truth that underlies the Hepworth's relationship with the inhabitants of this Pacific corner and, by extension, all cultures with an unknown counterpart. Lens-like, she misses nothing that is humane or fragile or beautiful. This was my favorite book for a very long time. For a while, Irvine was living in a remote corner of Scotland and now appears to be living in the Balkans. Whatever comes from her pen next is sure to be remarkable.

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