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Coconut Milk (Sun Tracks)



Synopsis

Coconut Milk is a fresh, new poetry collection that is a sensual homage to place, people, love, and lust. The first collection by Samoan writer and painter Dan Taulapapa McMullin, the poems evoke both intimate conversations and provocative monologues that allow him to explore the complexities of being a queer Samoan in the United States. McMullin seamlessly flows between exposing the ironies of Tiki kitsch—“inspired cultural appropriation and intimate snapshots of Samoan people and place. In doing so, he disrupts popular notions of a beautiful Polynesia available for the taking, and carves out new avenues of meaning for Pacific Islanders of Oceania. Throughout the collection, McMullin illustrates various manifestations of geopolitical, cultural, linguistic, and sexual colonialism. His work illuminates the ongoing resistance to colonialism and the remarkable resilience of Pacific Islanders and queer-identified peoples. McMullin’s Fa’afine identity—the ability to walk between and embody both the masculine and feminine—creates a grounded and dynamic voice throughout the collection. It also fosters a creative dialogue between Fa’afine people and trans-Indigenous movements. Through a uniquely Samoan practice of storytelling, McMullin contributes to the growing and vibrant body of queer Indigenous literature.

Book Information

Series: Sun Tracks (Book 76)

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (1 customer review)

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Customer Reviews

I went into reading Coconut Milk knowing as much about Samoa as a quarter long Pacific Lit class could teach, but after reading this book I felt much more aware. It was my favorite text that was read

in class. The first hand experiences and fictional stories blend into a cohesive portrayal of how one might feel as a faâ™afafine or just a Samoan in general. Coconut Milk deals with colonialism, pop culture, being a faâ™afafine and gay, heritage, as well as trying to find a place in a world while feeling stuck between two cultures. If interested in learning about Samoa, how one might feel if they're split between two cultures, or just into some quality poetry I would certainly suggest Coconut Milk.

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