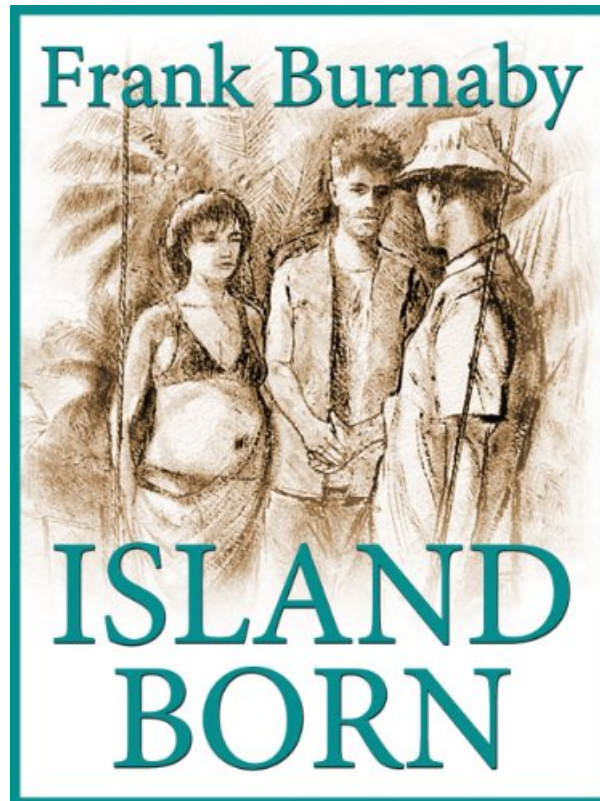


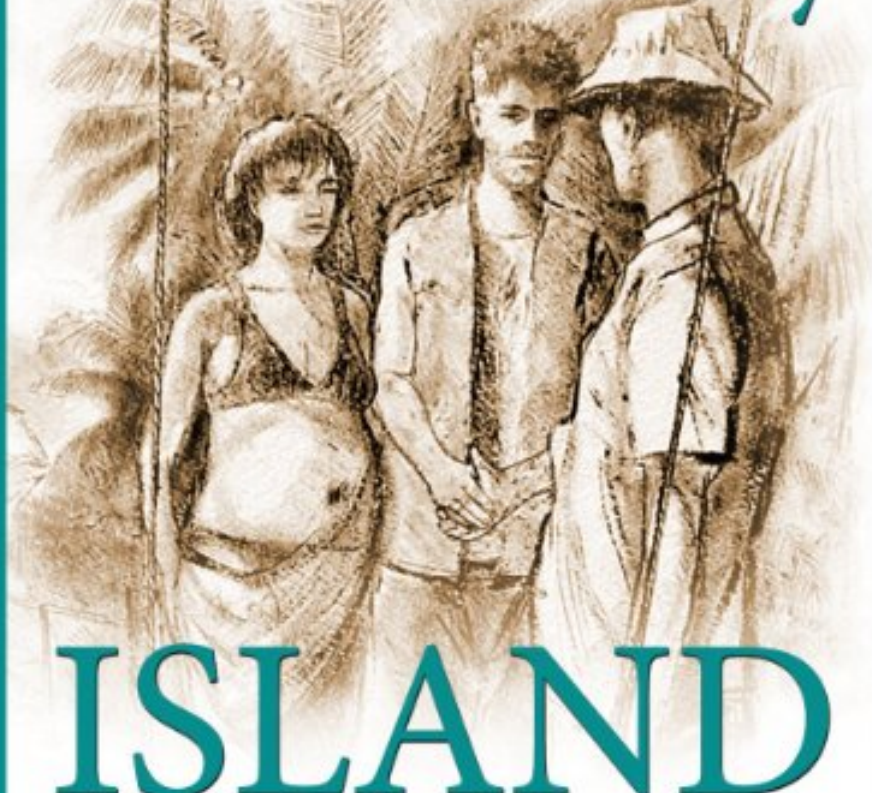
ISLAND BORN BY FRANK BURNABY



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About the Author

Frank Burnaby is a poet, traveler, sailor, and storyteller. He worked as a gifted and successful lighting designer in Los Angeles for many years. Then moving to an island in the Pacific Northwest, he devoted his time to raising his sons, writing, and to the creation of a wilderness school focused on the developmental needs of 7-13 year old children to experience nature. As a youth, he survived his parent's good intentions of enrolling him in military school in seventh grade where he learned to disassemble and reassemble his rifle with his eyes closed, and to pull weeds for not having a mirror shine on his shoes. For high school they sent him away to boarding school in New Jersey. In 1969 after a stint at San Francisco State University film school, Frank boarded a freighter bound for North Africa. Hitchhiking across Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, he made his way through India and South East Asia, to remote islands in Indonesia by native boat, and finally on to Hong Kong where he taught English. Landing back in New York City he drove a taxi at night, and studied acting at Herbert Berghof Studios. He worked quickly as an actor including an offer to be a principal in a travel adventure feature film, but instead of pursuing an acting career he started a thriving vegetarian taco stand on the edge of the meat packing district. Drawn to the sea and his own dream of sailing to a tropical wilderness, he took a job as an apprentice shipwright in a Los Angeles marina. Soon after, he set off with his soon-to-be wife, Gayle, to purchase a small vintage sailboat in England. He was 27, and she was 17. The ensuing five year voyage, eastward across the Indian Ocean, and their amazing story living on an uninhabited island changed his life forever. This is the story, **Island Born**.

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The memoir, *ISLAND BORN*, challenges what is possible in love and nature. The author and his partner (and soon-to-be-wife), from vastly different backgrounds in Los Angeles, resolve to follow an intuition and sail "the wrong way around the world" – eastward across the Arabian Sea. Pitted against treacherous conditions that included the volatile social and political situation of the world ashore, they discover what it takes, and what it means, to surpass all previous personal and cultural expectations so that they might truly live, and in the end, truly die.

Twenty-one years old, Gayle becomes pregnant in the middle of their sailing adventure, but her pregnancy does not make them retreat to Los Angeles where they began. They discover a tiny uninhabited island in a remote atoll, as barely discernible as a shake of pepper in the vast blue of their Indian Ocean chart. There they decide to give up their dream ship, and begin a real life journey neither of them could have ever imagined. With the help of an old chief on a nearby island, they build a thatched family home with no electricity, no running water, no telephone, no address, no bills, and no neighbors.

ISLAND BORN seeks to answer the question of whether it is still possible to voyage to an unspoiled place, not only on the globe, but within ourselves. In meeting this risk head on, Frank and Gayle's voyage takes them to a reality of themselves that confirmed the bare whisper of that initial intuition. Together, they pull up anchor from the seabed of their culture and travel to a place where their determination, their romance, and their lives are challenged beyond the limits of each horizon, but they keep going.

(Approximately 434 pages)

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A perfect read for anyone who has ever dreamed of adventure

By Erin

I never wanted to set this book down! Frank Burnaby's "*Island Born*" is the perfect book for anyone who has ever dreamed of sailing around the world or questioned whether there might be a better way to live. The rich detail transported me in both time and place, and even after I set the book down at night, visions of the scenes I had traveled through would play back in my head. Because there is no shying away from personal and intimate detail in this book, because you are invited to share in their conflict and despair, joy and jubilation, you feel a part of this adventure, an invisible companion taken with them. I couldn't stop talking about it to family and friends! There is a tension between Frank, Gayle, their boat and the sea that kept me riveted to the page. It made me question whether 'paradise' is found or made, and whether it is ever where or what we expect it to be. Even having finished the book, I come back to it wondering, did they find their paradise on the island, or was it on the boat beforehand, or was it not a place at all, but in the intimacy of shared space and in days filled with purpose? If you are about to pick this book up, I have to admit I feel sort of envious, for you are about to set sail on a great adventure...

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Fine Memoir?!!!!!!

By Mark's Friend Greg

This book is one of the greatest reads ever. I know for a fact that it is all true, and still the only problem was about every third page I had to remind myself I was reading a Memoir not a Novel. Truth IS stranger than fiction. My God what a story. This can't be true I tell myself. The excitement is never ending. These are two very brave people. The spectacle of the people and the scenery are so clearly documented, that what I saw on my trip to [...] was no surprise at all. All those experiences are for real, all those people and places and things exist. As a matter of fact incredibly still exist as I sit here writing. This book did crazy things to me like make me think of whom I would want to share it with...generally people I have not thought of for ages. Nice feeling...

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Thank you, Frank Burnaby for sharing this rare personal story.

By Tony in Chico, ca

The book *Island Born* is a nautical treasure concocted with the best skills of Melville, Defoe, Tristan Jones, and Slocum, as these great authors could also transport you with grace into their adventuresome stories. I once lived on an island for 6 years. I wandered down to the harbor in Iraklion, Crete in 1974 and met the crew of the beautiful yacht, *Joya*. Whoever thought that nearly 40 years later I would read *Island Born*, the story of the two on *Joya*? This is a classic tale along with *Riddle of the Sands*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and *Treasure Island*, which awake the soul of a true sailor. After 32 years of owning a 12-ton cutter, I now sail vicariously through novels. This is simply the best sailing story I have read in over 25 years; it is superbly written with nearly lyrical poetry in the use of descriptions! I keep going back to it because it is exactly what I wanted to do. Since reading the book, I have searched Google maps for hours following the story and looking at islands in the Maldives, where 27% of the population live in the capitol, which is surrounded by 26 atolls consisting of 1200 islands. I mention this because it is the essence of Frank and Gayle's journey: But, they didn't know it prior to arrival. You must read this incredible journey to appreciate what Frank and Gayle discovered. Tony, sad ex-owner of NASHA

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