

# RASCALS IN PARADISE

BY James A. Michener And A. Grove Day





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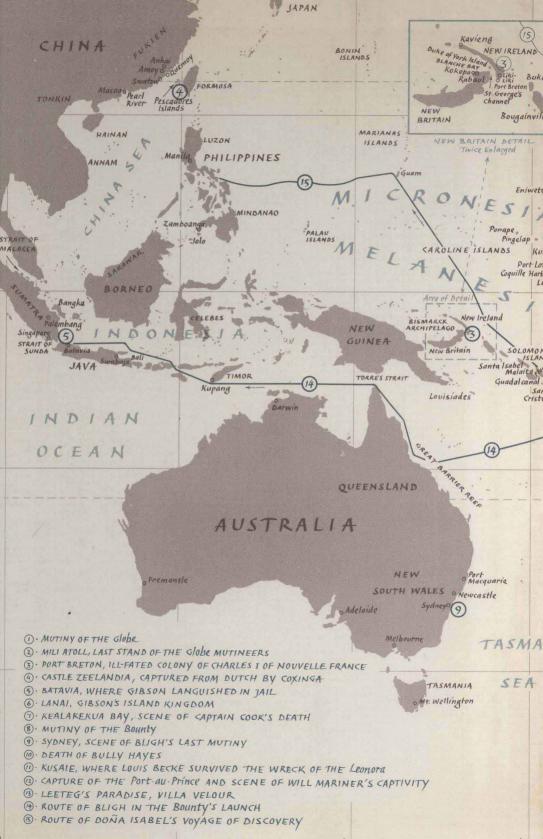
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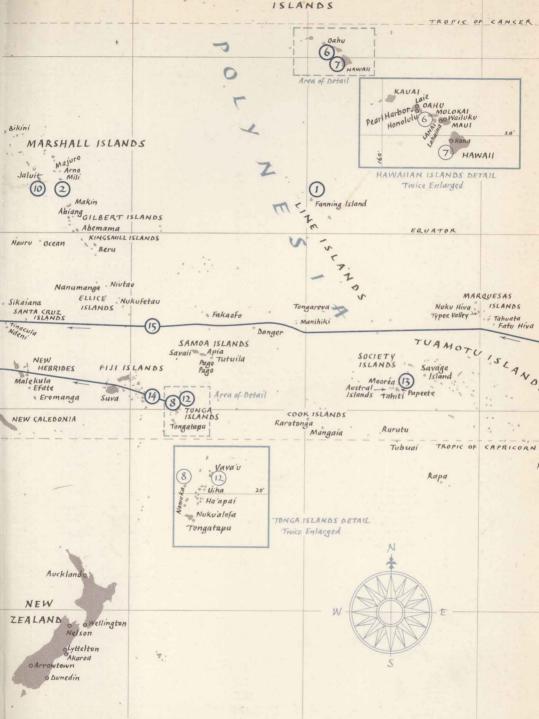
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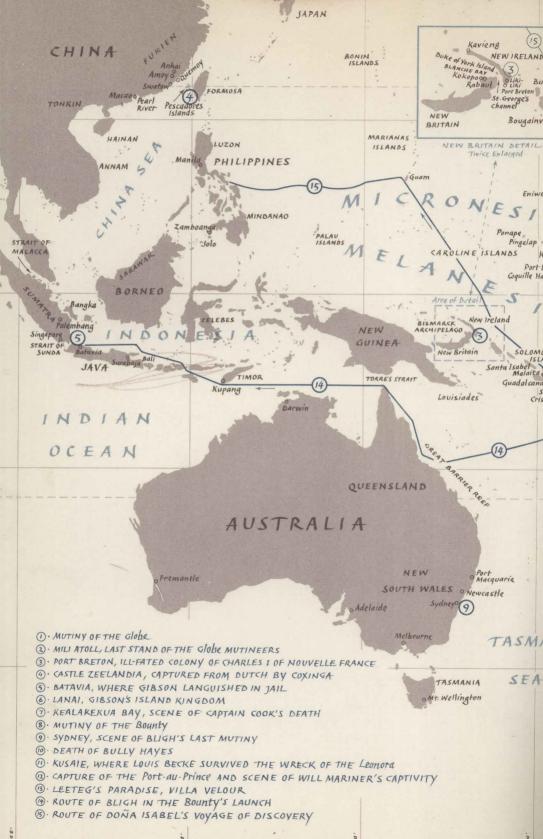
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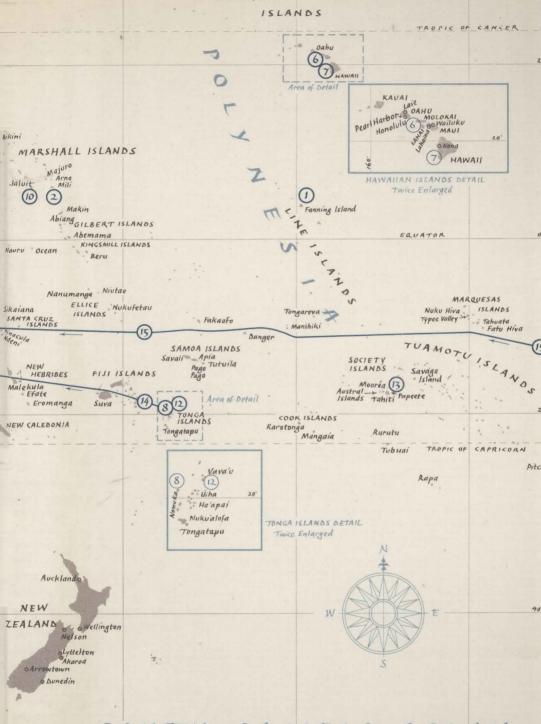
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SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

#### RASCALS IN PARADISE

Books by James A. Michener
Tales of the South Pacific
The Fires of Spring
Return to Paradise
The Voice of Asia
The Bridges at Toko-ri
Sayonara
The Floating World

Books by A. Grove Day

Dispatches of Hernando Cortés from Mexico (EDITOR)

Bluejacket (WITH F. J. BUENZLE)

Coronado's Quest: The Discovery of the Southwestern States

Hawaii: a History (WITH R. S. KUYKENDALL)

The Spell of the Pacific: An Anthology of Its Literature (WITH CARL STROVEN)

The Sky Clears: Poetry of the American Indians
The Greatest American Short Stories (EDITOR)
Hawaii and Its People

#### To Mari and Virginia



JAMES A. MICHENER was born in New York City in 1907 and grew up in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, which he left at fourteen to bum his way cross-country. The years that followed, with their great variety of odd jobs and experience, were an important part of his early education. Feeling the need for some more formal training, he entered Swarthmore College and studied in the honors course. After some postgraduate years of "teaching others how to teach," he became an associate editor in the textbook department of the Macmillan Company, where his stay was interrupted by World War II. Out of his wartime experience with the Navy in the Solomon Islands came Tales of the South Pacific (Pulitzer Prize, 1947), which was adapted into the musical South Pacific by Rodgers, Logan and Hammerstein. There followed Fires of Spring, an autobiographical novel; Return to Paradise; The Voice of Asia; The Bridges at Toko-ri; Sayonara; and, most recently, The Floating World: The Story of Japanese Prints.

A. GROVE DAY lived for twenty years on the fringes of the Pacific Ocean at Stanford University, California, and for the past twelve years has lived in the mid-Pacific city of Honolulu, Hawaii. He was, however, born in Philadelphia, in 1904, and many of his ancestors, like those of his collaborator, came from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Dr. Day spent part of his boyhood in northern Mexico, leaving that country one day ahead of an attacking force led by the bandit Pancho Villa. Since his graduation from Stanford in 1926, he has traveled widely and has been a free-lance writer of magazine articles and books, which range from college texts in language, literature and history to popular biographies and an anthology of the best writing in English from the Pacific region, The Spell of the Pacific. His most recent book, Hawaii and Its People, 2 colorful, authentic account of these romantic islands, derives from his service as professor of English at the University of Hawaii, to which he came in 1944.

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#### RASCALS IN PARADISE

### To All Who Seek a Refuge

IN AN AGE of anxiety men seek a refuge. Because of some deep urge, constant throughout history, troubled men traditionally dream of islands, possibly because the smallness of an island invites the illusion that here the complexities of continental societies can be avoided, or at least controlled. This is a permanent, world-wide dream.

When the island chosen for refuge happens to lie in the South Pacific, a colorful body of romance often helps to make the idea of escape an absolute obsession. Then, if the chosen island is reputed to contain lovely and uninhibited girls, the obsession is apt to degenerate into a monomania. And if the girls are Polynesians, the dreamer is truly lost.

The authors of this book can testify to the allure of the Pacific. One is a college professor who has served as head of a large department at the University of Hawaii. He has learned that three days after a blizzard in Minnesota, or a week after the explosion of the newest horror bomb, or three weeks after the onslaught of general bad news, his mail will be flooded with applications from professors on the United States mainland who think they could be happy only on a Pacific island. The number of Americans who believe that the islands possess some remedy for our day's malady is staggering.

The other author has reported generally upon the Pacific, and as a result receives a constant stream of mail from citizens of many nations who have grown weary of atomic bombs, dictators, taxes and neurasthenia. His correspondents are united in their conviction that only in the fabled islands of the South Seas can they find the fulfillment that their own society denies them. Were each of the islands a continent, there would still be insufficient room for the defeated people of the world who require refuge.

In fact, this chimerical concept of a haven from the world's dismay is so persistent that the present authors have felt obligated to review the facts. In this book they propose to inspect the histories of certain strong-natured adventurers who actually did flee to the Pacific, and they hope to find from the lives of these worthies some answers to several questions. Was the great ocean ever the refuge it has been popularly supposed to be? Is it such a refuge today? Are those of us who dread the atomic age well advised in seeking haven on some distant atoll?

This book chronicles ten instances in which men—and one woman—sought solace and fulfillment in the broad Pacific. Some fled there to escape complex and overmastering social forces resembling those under which we struggle to survive. Others, driven by the urge to power, hoped to set up private kingdoms where they could rule in accord with their desires. Still others sought refuge in the lonely ocean because they had more or less exhausted the resources of their civilizations, and these men resemble the schizophrenics of our contemporary society, at home nowhere, lured constantly by an alien dream. The remainder were downright juvenile delinquents who prove that this ugly manifestation of a disrupted society is a time-less rather than a contemporary phenomenon.

The characters whose profiles are here sketched differ from each other in most ways. The periods when they play their parts range from 1595 to 1953. The roster includes a Spanish lady explorer, a Chinese-Japanese pirate and filibuster, an Australian writer, a British naval officer, a French nobleman, a young English privateersman and four Americans: a slavedriving buccaneer, a politician of the Pacific, an artist, and a young Nantucket whaleman. The scenes of their operations cover not only the open ocean but also land areas from Peru to the China coast and from Hawaii to New Zealand, with additional episodes played against such backgrounds as the Marquesas, Tahiti, Samoa, the Dutch East Indies, Tonga, the Solomons and Formosa.

Yet, with the exception of Captain Bligh, these ten adventurers had

two things in common. They were convinced that, at least for the while, some other part of the world held richer promise than their homeland. And each settled upon the Pacific as his area of escape.

In dealing with these dreamers, we were constantly reminded of a fabled occurrence in recent Pacific history. In the 1930's there was in Australia a learned gentleman who clearly foresaw that a great war was about to break over the world. He had no desire to participate in this foolish war, but he had to conclude from his studies that Europe was going to explode and that the resulting fires would involve Africa and much of Asia. With extraordinary clairvoyance he deduced that Australia, left unprotected because the military men were preoccupied with Europe, would surely become a temptation to Asia and would probably be overrun.

Wishing to avoid such a debacle, he spent considerable time in determining what course a sensible man should follow if he wanted to escape the onrushing cataclysm. He considered flight into the dead heart of Australia, but concluded that although he could probably hide out in that forbidding region, life without adequate water would be intolerable. Next he contemplated removal to America, but dismissed this as impractical in view of the certainty that America would also be involved in the war.

Finally, by a process of the most careful logic, he decided that his only secure refuge from the world's insanity lay on some tropical island. He reasoned, "There I will find adequate water from the rains, food from the breadfruit and coconut trees, and fish from the lagoons. There will be safety from the airplanes which will be bombing important cities. And thanks to the missionaries, the natives will probably not eat me."

Fortified with such conclusions, he studied the Pacific and narrowed his choice of islands to the one that offered every advantage: remoteness, security, a good life, and a storm cellar until the universal hurricane had subsided.

Thereupon, in the late summer of 1939, one week before Germany invaded Poland, this wise Australian fled to his particular South Pacific refuge. He went to the almost unknown island of Guadalcanal.

This book relates the adventures of other people who in their days of hope or torment fled to their obscure Guadalcanals, where, they were convinced, perpetual ease and fulfillment awaited them.