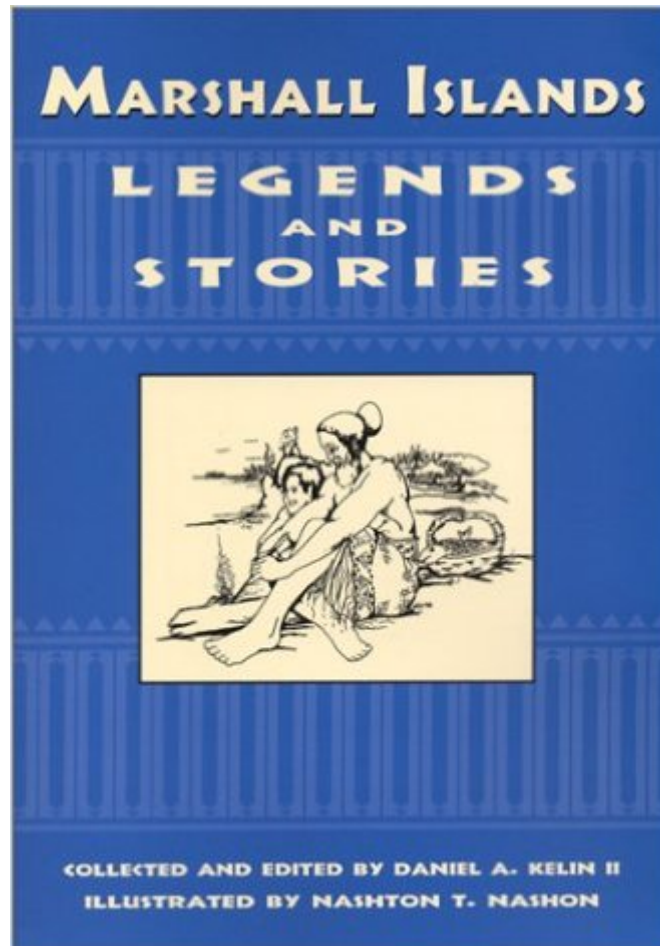




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Marshall Islands Legends And Stories



Synopsis

Marshall Islands Legends and Stories — available Spring 2003 (Pacific Island Studies)
Collected and adapted by Daniel A. Kelin II, illustrated by Nashton T. Nashon Offers a timeless collection of legends and stories from native Marshallese storytellers. This easy-to-read and pleasurable book recounts accurate stories enhanced with illustrations by local Marshallese artists.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Bess Press (March 1, 2003)

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Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #13,965,369 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 inÂ Books > History > Australia & Oceania > Marshall Islands #2765 inÂ Books > History > Australia & Oceania > Oceania #25315 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Folklore & Mythology

Customer Reviews

Daniel A. Kelin, II is the Director of Drama Education with the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. He also serves as a Summer Drama Director with Jodrikdrik Nan Jodrikdrik Ilo Ejmour, a Marshall Islands youth organization. Dan is well-known for his work with Pacific Island students, having taught in Vanuatu, the Marshall Islands and Samoa, as well as having developed specialty programs for Pacific Island English as Second Language Learners throughout Hawaii. He toured China as an actor with the University of Hawaii's Beijing Opera company and has had plays he wrote/directed tour the islands of Hawaii, the Marshall Islands and Guam. His writings have appeared in magazines and periodicals as diverse as Hawaii Review, Tinfish, Storytelling, The Eclectic Literary Forum, Marvels and Tales, Parabola, The Kamehameha Journal Of Education, Spider, Hopscotch for Girls and Highlights Magazine for Children. Under a Rockefeller Foundation grant Dan developed a play for HTY based! on the songs, dance and folk stories of the Marshall Islands. The American Alliance for Theatre and Education awarded him the 1995 Youth Theatre Director of the Year and in 2002 he was honored with the Society for Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators Barbara Karlin Grant.

As an English tutor for elementary school students from the Marshall Islands now residing in a rural US community, I hoped that this collection would provide insight into the cultural background of the kids. My plan was to preview it and then pass it around to the classroom teachers of my students, encouraging them to use it to foster cultural appreciation. I initially requested that our ELL program purchase the book and was told that funds were lacking but that I could try to get the school library to buy it. I didn't feel like wading through the red tape and decided to order a copy myself. I was right - it is a great collection and gives an insight into Marshallese culture that I haven't been able to find anywhere else. But I'm awfully glad that I didn't ask the elementary school library to pay for it, because it could never be placed on the shelf. Most of the stories deal with very adult themes and are not appropriate for use in an elementary school setting. Also, the illustrations represent women with bare breasts, roughly drawn but definitely there and certainly an accurate depiction for these authentic legends. I don't even want to think about the commotion this would cause in a 5th-grade classroom. Still, I personally really enjoyed reading both the biographical backgrounds of the storytellers as well as the legends themselves, and there are several stories that we will be able to use as "read-alouds," or that possibly can be paperclipped in such a way that I can have a student read w/out being distracted by the illustrations. Really a great book for anybody who desires to learn more about the culture of the Marshall Islands!

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