

Surviving Paradise: One Year on a Disappearing Island

Peter Rudiak-Gould

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*"Utterly unexpected, vivid, and blessedly funny."—Ernest Callenbach
author of the bestselling Ecotopia and Publisher's Lunch*

PETER RUDIAK-GOULD

SURVIVING PARADISE

*One Year on a
Disappearing Island*



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Peter Rudiak-Gould : Surviving Paradise: One Year on a Disappearing Island before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Surviving Paradise: One Year on a Disappearing Island:

Just one month after his 21st birthday, Peter Rudiak-Gould moved to Ujae, a remote atoll in the Marshall Islands located 70 miles from the nearest telephone, car, store, or tourist, and 2,000 miles from the closest continent. He spent

the next year there, living among its 450 inhabitants and teaching English to its schoolchildren. At first blush, *Surviving Paradise* is a thoughtful and laugh-out-loud hilarious documentation of Rudiak-Gould's efforts to cope with daily life on Ujae as his idealistic expectations of a tropical paradise confront harsh reality. But Rudiak-Gould goes beyond the personal, interweaving his own story with fascinating political, linguistic, and ecological digressions about the Marshall Islands. Most poignant are his observations of the noticeable effect of global warming on these tiny, low-lying islands and the threat rising water levels pose to their already precarious existence. An *Eat, Pray, Love* as written by Paul Theroux, *Surviving Paradise* is a disarmingly lighthearted narrative with a substantive emotional undercurrent.