

A Farm in the South Pacific Sea

A novel based on a Seattle businesswoman's adventures in the Kingdom of Tonga in the late 1960s.

"But there must be some mistake. You are a woman."

So begins June Sandusky's adventure in the South Pacific Sea. Though she's been invited by the king to site and develop a spiny lobster farm in the sea, the Privy Council expect a man.

At the king's behest, sea captain/business owner Tavita Tupioni takes June on a handicrafts buying trip and site search. He's half-British, married to a Tongan woman who lives in religious seclusion, and he's confounded by his attraction to this American.

June is equally attracted to Tavita but determined to stay focused on her project. She settles on Mango Island in a palm frond *fale* sans running water and electricity, and builds an enclosure in the sea. Her chief diver, Tomasi, a bronzed Adonis with no last name, moves into her life. The island women and children adopt her as one of their own, holding feasts and dances in her honor.

June spends over three years struggling against the sea, the Privy Council and her buried memories of an abusive relationship before a cyclone that rips through the islands helps free her to share an uncommon love with one good man.

Reviewers praise the unique setting, well-crafted characters and moving plot of Walker's fictionalized account of her cousin June's adventures. They call Walker a talented writer who portrays her protagonist's strengths and flaws with equal doses of compassion and candor.

Jan Walker is the author of a prison teacher's memoir, *Dancing to the Concertina's Tune*, and young adult novel, *An Inmate's Daughter*, that received "Washington Read's" awards from the state librarian. She lives and writes in Gig Harbor, Washington.
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A Farm in the South Pacific Sea
by Jan Walker

Fiction—Adventure
Plicata Press
ISBN: 978-0-9828205-2-0
Paperback 5.5x8.5 - 298 pages
Retail \$15.00
Available from major distributors,
Plicata Press and online retailers

Plicata Press
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Plicata Press derives its name from the Western redcedar that grows along the Pacific coast from southern Alaska to northern California and reaches into the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains.