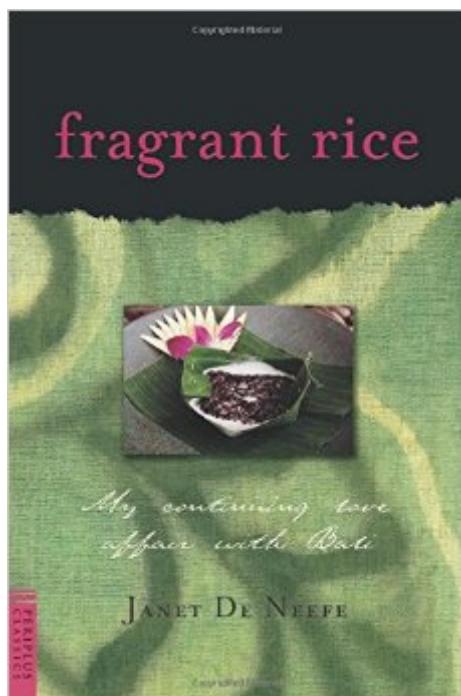


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Fragrant Rice: My Continuing Love Affair With Bali [Includes 115 Recipes]



Synopsis

Peppered with authentic Balinese recipes, this memoir is a love letter to the food and culture of Bali. When Janet De Neefe stepped off the plane in Bali in 1974, she felt an immediate connection to this island paradise. Though curious about Bali's culture, its warm people and its mouthwatering cuisine, she didn't expect to fall in love with a Balinese man and make a new life there. Now, years later, Janet and her husband have four children and run two of the most successful restaurants in Bali. In this delightful memoir, Janet shares entertaining stories of being 'gently shaped like warm rice for offerings' as she adapts to another culture and way of life. She offers insights into the ancient myths and rituals still alive in Bali today, and passes on delicious recipes handed down through generations of her husband's family. *Fragrant Rice* shows how the love, hope and warmth that makes this island such a special place is still very much alive today. Family recipes included are: Ayam Gerang Asem (Sour Chicken Stew) Bubur Injin (Black Rice Pudding) Ikan Mekuah (Fish Soup) Nasi Goreng (Fried Rice) Satay Manis (Beef Satay) Babi Kecap (Pork in Sweet Chilli Sauce) Gado-Gado (Vegetables in Peanut Sauce) Bregedel Tahu (Tofu Fritters) Kolak (Fruits in Coconut Milk)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this book although I often wondered why. Were the occassional strange sentence constructs Australian English or poor editing? Is it wise to give recipes using candlenuts many pages before the warning regarding raw candlenuts? What audience is De Neefe writing for in this part biography, part social anthropology, part food chronicle, part "if she writes once more that this is

her kids' favorite" ... but her recipes are good. Then I changed my perspective to reading the book as I would read the travel & food articles in a magazine such as Gourmet. I relaxed and enjoyed the book for what it is - a very personal take on Bali and its foods by someone fascinated by the foods and the uses of food in the social structure. Not to mention that she is a good tutor for the basics of the Balinese taste, leaving one comfortable improvising before one has tried a single recipe. Bravo.

Loved this book. It truly gave insight to the history, culture, religion, traditions, geography, food, and made you love the people!!! I read it during my flight on my second journey to Bali. Highly recommend to anyone who wants to experience Bali with a non-tourist view.

I enjoyed *Fragrant Rice: My Continuing Love Affair with Bali* very much. There is a certain type of travel book that draws me in completely: a writer falls deeply in love with another culture, as if he or she is finding a long-lost home at last, and is able to share that love in a way that is both knowledgeable and emotionally compelling. Although there are moments when the writing falters and, as intimated in another review, the writer assumes an interest in her children's preferences that the reader might not feel, I was able to have the experience I look for in a travel book, living a life I will never have but could dream of. The recipes are lovely. The insight into the culture is fascinating. The author's life, with one foot in Bali and the other in Australia, and the reality that she will never be part of the Balinese as her husband and children are, is compelling and just a bit heartbreaking.

If you want to learn more about Bali, this is a good book. The author has a very Western view of life, that mellows beautifully when she moves to Bali. Her stories of her change, of her family, and of her community are rich, warm and very interesting. I definitely plan to go to Bali after reading this book.

I enjoyed reading this book while traveling in Bali because it shed light on Balinese customs, cooking, and community life from the perspective of an Australian learning how to assimilate into her husband's culture and to grow a successful business together in the Honeymoon Guesthouse (now expanding to a second guesthouse) and their several restaurants that are popular with visitors and locals alike. I also enjoyed reading the recipes. Fun travel reading and a good souvenir to help you try to replicate Balinese dishes at home.

Fragrant Rice from Janet de Neefe is a book full of love, intelligence and wisdom. It describes movingly the love the Balinese people to their children from the time they are born. With this special

love the children can grow up happy, confident and fulfilled. It shows up so clearly what most children in the West are missing – love. Janet writes in the beautiful book about her love to Bali, the community, wonderful people and her love to the incredible healthy and tasty food. Janet is an excellent cook and also shares delicious recipes in the book. I'd love to give the book 10 stars! Thank you very much Janet for showing the world how we can live in love and happiness. I read the book three times.

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