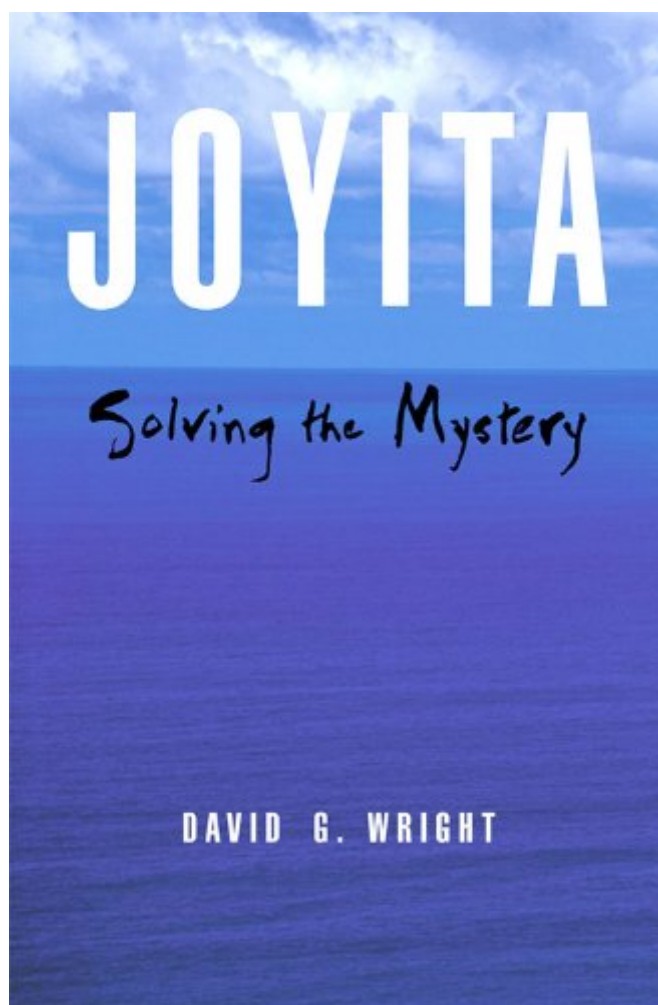


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Joyita: Solving The Mystery



Synopsis

In 1955 the United States-owned ship Joyita mysteriously disappeared while sailing between Apia, Samoa, and Tokelau in the Pacific Ocean. The ship was discovered in poor condition near Fiji five weeks later, but no trace has ever been found of the 25 crew and passengers who had been aboard. This is an account of events and a thorough investigation of possible explanations. It evokes the exotic expatriate life of the mid-century Pacific Islands with colorful characters and unexpected relationships.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For some reason, of all the derelict ship and boat stories that exist, the Joyita has hands down always been the one that most got under my skin. The famous picture of her weatherbeaten, half-submerged state the day she was found adrift in the middle of the Pacific haunts me more than any other. This book is an extremely well researched and written account of the Joyita tragedy. I was unable to put it down until finished. The pictures delivered through both old photographs and the images his written words build in your mind as you read are profoundly haunting...and sad. And the presented likely fate of the souls on board is truly horrifying. I recommend this to anyone who loves true mysteries of the sea.

In 1955 the 69-foot ship Joyita left Apia, Samoa, carrying 25 people. It never arrived at its intended destination in the Tokelau Islands. Five weeks later, the Joyita was found partially submerged, deserted and drifting, near Fiji. No trace of any aboard the Joyita when she sailed from Apia was ever found. I first learned of the mystery surrounding the Joyita in Alan Villiers's marvelous book "Posted Missing," where it is mentioned in passing. (Villiers's book was published at a time when the Joyita, apparently, was still missing). My interest piqued, I was eager to acquire David Wright's book and look more deeply into the mystery. Wright is an academic, and his analysis of the Joyita's fateful voyage reflects that, being well-reasoned, persuasive, and somewhat dry. Wright's book left me disappointed, as I had been after delving into the mystery of the Mary Celeste. (The dust jacket refers to the Joyita as the "South Pacific Mary Celeste," an appellation that is especially apt given Wright's conclusion.) In fairness to the author, I suspect the potential for disappointing is inherently high when an investigation turns a mystery into a prosaic tragedy.

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