



Innocence to Independence: Life in the Papua New Guinea Highlands, 1956-1980

Judith Hollinshed

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Judith Hollinshed first arrived in the remote Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea wearing two stiffened petticoats and the naive enthusiasm of a young wife. It was 1956, pre-independence and the excitement and trials of forging a life in wild and isolated country were an adventure for this Australian.

Set during a time of extraordinary social and political upheaval, this book is an account of the difficulties and dangers she and her husband faced establishing a coffee plantation and a home for their two sons at Alimp. Told with humour and honesty, it also provides an insight into the impact of expatriate settlement and the cash society on the highlanders' traditional way of life and the problems encountered by the Australian administration in tackling its mission to bring the fragmented tribes of Papua New Guinea to a state of independent democracy.

Independence brings disillusionment to many, tribal fighting increases and tensions between black and white reach dangerous levels. Judith, along with other expatriates, must confront the heartbreaking reality of leaving a country that has for so long been home.

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