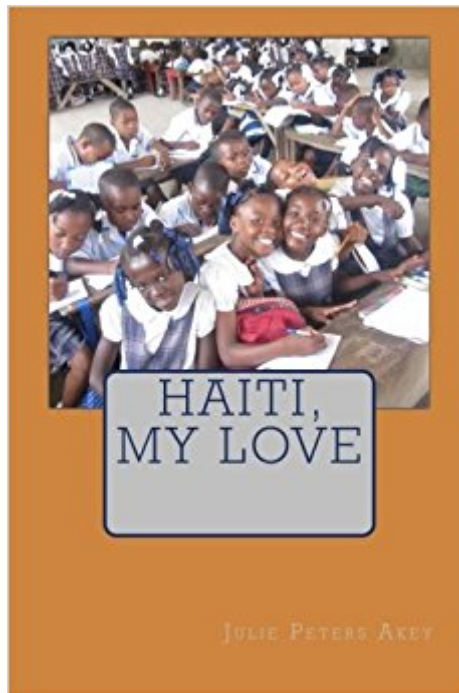




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Haiti, My Love



Synopsis

A beheaded teenage cow thief, a Vodou love powder, counterfeit U.S. currency, and a loup-garou who steals souls during the night. These are the stories of Julie Peters Akey's journeys through Haiti, told through her eyes and experiences, both as a soldier during Haiti's tumultuous years, and later as a volunteer after the earthquake. Julie gives an honest portrayal of all that is Haiti: foreign military intervention, natural disasters, a cholera epidemic, dictatorships, coups, and Vodou. In doing so, she artfully shares the surprising beauty, passion, and love found throughout the country. Despite all the misery, she shows how one person really can make a difference in the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Julie Peters Akey's passion for Haiti began during a 9-month deployment to Port-au-Prince while serving in the U.S. Army. She loves to travel and has visited 34 countries. Julie is an ESOL teacher in Northern Virginia where she lives with the husband she met in Haiti and her twin boys.

Haiti, My Love is an insightful, intimate view into one woman's experiences and adventures in poverty stricken Haiti. Beginning with her military deployment in the late 1990s, the author lays the groundwork for understanding Haiti today where she heads a non-profit organization focusing on education. As an accurate and honest first-hand account, this book is a must-read for anyone planning missions or humanitarian work in Haiti. The author has had such incredible opportunities to embed herself in Haitian life that her lessons learned are priceless for anyone that is thinking about visiting or working in Haiti. At the same time, if you

are not an adventurous spirit but wish you were, reading this book will allow you to walk a mile in Julie Akey Peters's shoes having an adventure in Haiti without leaving the comfort of your favorite easy chair.

Great book. Julie, gives us a great look into Haiti, its culture, its struggles, the people. From her first hand experiences living and working and how one exceptional person, like Julie, has made a big impact on so many lives. It's a great read.

Haiti, My Love Ok, we also know the author, she is an incredible person, wonderful family, so adventurous, caring, giving, thoughtful, unselfish... and it's a good read as well!!! :)

Good authors seem to wield a magic wand. They transport you to a place where the pages come alive with smells and flavors, where you vibrate with the rhythms of life, smile with the joys and cry with the sadness. Good authors make you live intensely through the letters as if these were little boats that will take you to that place. This is definitely the gift Julie Akey Peters gives you with her excellent writing through the book "Haiti, my love". Her works are like lyrics, allowing you to do more than visit this Caribbean island. They transport you, inspiring compassion, affection and love for this misunderstood island. This is definitely a very human and real book, based on the real experiences of a woman who worked hard to make a difference. Julie Akey teaches us that you just have to begin to love and to be compassionate, and the power of this place will multiply your efforts. Whether it's roofing a school, giving a pencil to a student or hugging a child... everything counts, everything can help to change a person's life and change the world little by little. Comfortably on my sofa in Bogota with Julie Akey's book in my hands, I've experienced firsthand the tragedy of the earthquake and the improvised fields of tents scattered throughout the city. I've visited with sadness the improvised cemeteries. I've climbed on a crowded tap-tap (colorful bus that is used as a means of collective transport) and watched with horror as a passenger falls from the chaos to his tragic death. Akey's letters lead us into hospitals as onlookers to unthinkable heartbreak. We witness the streets filled with dead bodies; but we also witness the miracle of life in childbirth and see the author saving a person's life after an accident. We visit makeshift schools (that are reserved only for those who can afford it.). In one episode, justice is practiced at the hands of the citizens, ending in the slaying of a young thief of cows. We read about the island's history, and its crippling corruption, from the time of slavery to the

terrible dictatorships and current presidents. Nevertheless I also feel the warmth of the island, I dance every night to its music, and I feel the sincere friendship of the family that shelter the author. I can acknowledge gratitude and witness that despite everything, love also flourishes. *Loving Haiti* illustrates how one person's passion can inspire personal and collective actions that can change lives. This is a book that shows us how we can intervene where it seems impossible to help. And it is an important book for those who want to know Haiti and the particular experience of a person who was involved in a beautiful and compassionate project to change and save lives. Nery Santos Gomez

For the record, I know the author personally, but please believe me when I say that is not why I am giving this book 5 stars. I am giving it 5 stars for the honesty presented in the book, because the author delivers exactly what she promises in the Foreword; a collage of emotions, memories, stories and anecdotes that she experienced firsthand in Haiti, all of which bind her to the country and ultimately keep her madly in love with it. The book is divided into 21 chapters, each roughly following a different theme, such as religion, music, history, crime, politics and very importantly the children of Haiti. I say 'roughly' follows because the themes and ideas in the book are tied together and blend into one another and often the author moves from one to the other after a few paragraphs, as well as moving in time from her three different visits to the country. She relates a story, picks out an element to discuss, turns it round and round until you can taste it yourself or hear the music thumping as is often the case in Haiti, then suddenly looks at a different aspect of life and picking up this new thread, tells another story. Very quickly, she had me caught in the complexity of life in Haiti, where nothing is simple and nothing changes quickly, and there is no easy straight-forward solution to any problem. The author does not gloss over the poverty, the corruption or the humanitarian issues, but neither does she hide the beauty or the passion of the people who live there. She admits the failures of the government as much as its triumphs. She shows the cruelty of vigilante justice and the generosity in the hearts of people who have so little. Since I've known the author for many years, I have also known that she had a 'thing' for Haiti. A 'thing' that has turned into a passion for helping the people there, especially the children and working on giving them an education. I never really understood before; not that she had a passion for helping children, I understand that. But this passion for Haiti, in particular. Now I understand. This book and its author do not set out to save the world, only to save Haiti, one school, one child and one life at a time.

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