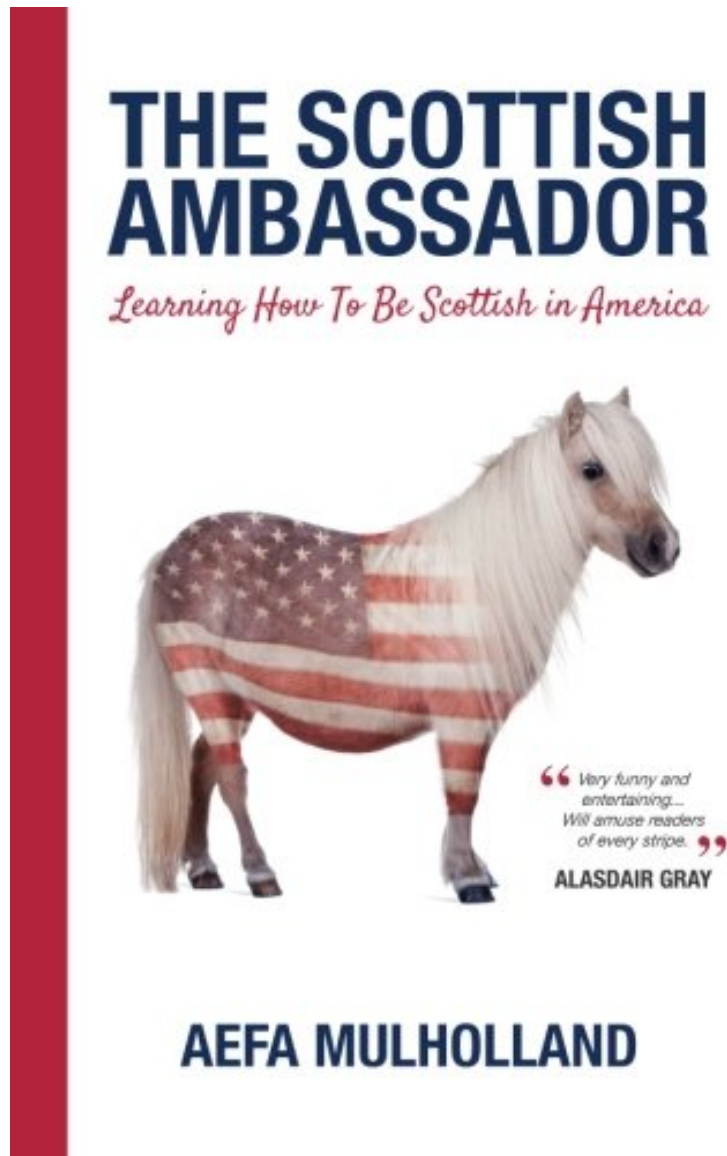


(Download free ebook) The Scottish Ambassador: Learning How to Be Scottish in America

The Scottish Ambassador: Learning How to Be Scottish in America

Aefa Mulholland

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Aefa Mulholland : The Scottish Ambassador: Learning How to Be Scottish in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Scottish Ambassador: Learning How to Be Scottish in America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A delightful readBy B.E. LesterI was recently in Dunedin, Fl., and spied a placard for upcoming Highland Games, and giggled to myself thinking of Aefa Mulholland's affable and fun book The Scottish Ambassador. Ms. Mulholland, who is from Glasgow, rediscovered her Scottishness by touring

many of the Highland games in the United States with caber-tossing, hammer-throwing, kilt-and-tartan wearing Americans of Scottish descent. Ironically or possibly sensibly, Ms. Mulholland did not grow up with the activities and accoutrements that we here in the U.S. assign to Scotland: "I never had any interest in tartans or Highland Games, Gaelic and golf. They just weren't any part of my life growing up in Scotland." She goes on to describe how her sister did pursue "Scotland's more post-card-popular pursuits." Her stops in her pilgrimage include Portland, Ore., Savannah, Ga., Chicago, Memphis, New York City, New Orleans, and even Honolulu. Mulholland also delves deeply into the Scottish roots in this country: "I really hadn't known the scope of Scotland's influence on America today. Never mind that nearly half of the signatories of the US Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent. Forget that cultural forces from Donald Trump to Eminem are of Scottish blood..." Well, ahem! We will forgive them for that. Mulholland's exquisite wit is strongly on display throughout the book. Be prepared to giggle lavishly. After being dubbed with Scottish stereotypes from a Chicago taxi driver upon hearing her accent, she says simply: "I experience a moment's pure hatred for Mel Gibson." There is nothing better than an outsider's view of our country from an insider's point of view. "The Scottish Ambassador: Learning How To Be Scottish in America" is a delightful read. Look for the wee horse on the cover. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Some interesting and cute insight....By JP CzarThis book was fine....Some interesting and cute insight. A Scotswoman, living in America, learns how the non-Scotland crowd (outside of Scotland) views Scotland - what's important, what is Scottish, etc...0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great for a giggle!By MisslissaThis boisterous book is an adventuresome romp around the US with a lively and hilarious companion. Aefa Mulholland is a fresh and charming addition to the travel writing genre. Her lively wit is matched by her willingness to do just about anything to "learn to be Scottish", despite being a proud Glaswegian! I have laughed out loud on public transit reading about Aefa's shenanigans and consistently gift it to friends as something to brighten up their days. Highly recommended!

When she moved from Scotland to America, Aefa Mulholland had never gone to a Highland Games, spoken Scottish Gaelic or played golf. Or worn a kilt or feather bonnet. Or thought about swapping the grumpy old tabby for a Scottie dog, gone Nessie-spotting or played bagpipes. Or done so many things so often expected of Scots overseas. Growing up in Glasgow was entertaining, but her antics and outfits tended not to feature tartan or have a bagpipe soundtrack. Aefa's Scotland was grittier. It was down-to-earth. It threw pizzas into deep-fat fryers. And she never felt it lacking... until now, 20 years later, when she realises that she's been away so long that her Scottishness is fading. She sets out immediately to shore up her Scottishness, facing her fear of bagpipes and dread of organised social dancing as she travels from Florida to Washington State, New York City to Honolulu, meeting the kind, the compelling and the kooky characters that inhabit America. She struggles through a Gaelic immersion weekend on a ranch full of cats in Texas, attempts Scottish country dancing in Honolulu, plays golf on a rattlesnake-infested sand course in Arizona and is bemused by proliferations of cloaks and dragon puppets at her first Highland Games in Oregon. She visits Chicago's Scottish Retirement Home to learn secrets of 'The Scottish Way,' has tea with Hawaii's freshly elected Scot of the Year and is as confused as the passing New Yorkers by the Tartan Day parade. She catches caber tosses, Scotch tastings and sheepdog demonstrations from the Pacific to the Mississippi, tries to claim Elvis for the Scots and finds herself deep in backwoods Georgia with a hundred Scottie dogs. Everywhere she goes, she is met with warmth and kindness—and by puzzled Americans, confused as to why a Scottish-born Scot can't recognise her clan colours or muster even a 'Good Morning' in Gaelic. From the early days of the quest till its final steps, Aefa explores what it means to be Scottish, what it means to be Scottish-American and what it means to be at home so far away from home.

"Very funny and entertaining... Too many books about Scotland as po-faced and serious as my own are craving attention. [The Scottish Ambassador] will amuse readers of every political stripe and will be popular with both Scots patriots and their critics." Alasdair Gray, author of Lanark. "Welcome to the USA - the United Scots of America - as chronicled by [Aefa Mulholland], a Glasgow-born author who has spent four years documenting the good, the bad and the crazy subcultures of our expats across the pond," Scotland's Daily Record.