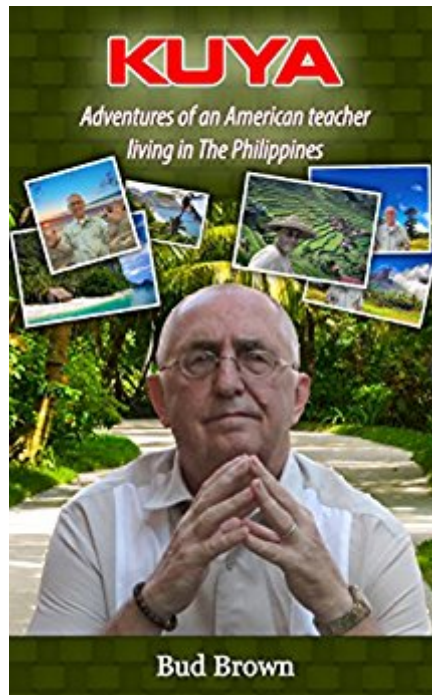




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KUYA: Adventures Of An American Teacher Living In The Philippines



Synopsis

The Philippines, an island nation of Southeast Asia, encompasses over 7000 different land masses, and is home to approximately 100 million people...including Bud Brown. An American school teacher with a yearning for travel, Bud has lived among the Filipino people for some time, and certainly long enough to amass a wonderful collection of endearing tales and unique insights. He draws upon some of these observations and vignettes to bring you this enlightening book. Through Bud's eyes explore cultural customs and traditions that set the Filipino people apart from any other community on the planet. Learn the differences between North American English and that used in the Philippines; the comparison is educational, but equally comical. Visually take part in a quick study of customary hand gestures and expressions that speak volumes, without uttering a sound. Pay attention – a fun little quiz is included to test your worldly skills. In a casual, informal dialogue with the reader the author shares his love of the people, their ancient culture, and the country, he's learned to call home. He's immersed himself in their language and become – “Kuya” (Older Brother) to many of the local Filipinos, who have embraced him as a friend and neighbor. You too will have a newfound love and appreciation for these humble islanders, as you take this short literary journey through the perceptive eyes of a foreigner, whose transformation is nearly complete. Buy this book and begin to discover for yourself the tender tales, humorous anecdotes, and – “mind shocks” that you'll meet within its pages. Who knows, maybe you'll unearth within your own heart, as Bud Brown has, an eagerness to learn and share. Come along – there's no better time...

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Customer Reviews

The title of this book is misleading, since the author doesn't describe teaching or even working in the Philippines; instead, it's a collection of a few anecdotes and pieces of advice for intercultural communications, with a very brief guide to common gestures at the end. Somebody planning travel to the Philippines would find this useful, but somebody planning to work or teach would definitely require something more comprehensive. A general reader would enjoy the anecdotes and find the intercultural notes interesting.

As a former expat teacher who spent 17 years abroad living in Ghana, Thailand, El Salvador, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon, I bought this book thinking that I'd have a nice read while also learning something about the Filipino culture. This purchase turned out to be a huge mistake. I just wasted \$2.99 on a novice author's work that isn't even 50 pages long ... not that I would have wanted to read anymore than I did. Despite my interest in the Philippines, I simply could not get past chapter 7. Where to begin? 1) At the start of this book, the author mentioned a woman named Gloria in passing. WHO IS GLORIA? At first I thought she might be a housekeeper but then I realized that she was probably his wife. Later on in the book, Gloria began speaking to a local in one of the native languages ... so I began wondering if she was a Filipina and if so, how did she meet Mr. Brown? Unless the author discussed this later on in the book after chapter 7, he never actually said. Mr. Brown purports to be a teacher but he never said what he teaches. I hope it's not English composition. Any English 101 student will tell you that when you're telling a story, you should always address the five W's ... who, what, when, why, and where. How may also be important depending upon the story in question. 2) The spelling in this work was absolutely atrocious. Surely the spell checker on Word should have caught some of these mistakes! He wrote "hat" when he meant "that." He wrote about a "fearce" worm when he meant "fierce." He wrote about bus "sits" when he meant "seats." The bad spelling was incredibly distracting. 3) The author also had a disturbing tendency to

go off on these little tangents that didn't lead anywhere. In chapter 7 he talked about brushing up against a makahia plant. He said that the plant abruptly wilted and collapsed. He then abruptly changed the subject and began talking about something else. I found myself thinking, "WAIT - why did the plant wilt?" I had to google the name of the plant and was not particularly surprised to find that the author even managed to misspell the plant's name. It's not a "makahia" plant. It's a "makahiya" plant. The leaves are incredibly sensitive and the plant will fold up and collapse if touched. The seeds of this plant are also toxic. The author talked about his brother who came to the Philippines to meet a prospective wife who was Filipina. Gloria and the author met this woman at the airport. The three of them were later picked up by an expat named Luke. SO WHAT HAPPENED? Did Bud's brother propose to this woman? Did they get married? I don't know. Perhaps Mr. Brown will write a 2nd book. If he does, I will not purchase it. This book was poorly written. Mr. Brown's atrocious spelling is distracting and many of his anecdotes fall short of addressing the 5 W's. Save your money or better yet, spend it on another book. This one is not worth reading. It is certainly NOT worth \$2.99. At this point, I just couldn't take any more of this book. As a published author, I think this book has potential but it needs a LOT of work. It needs to be edited. The stories need to be fleshed out so that readers aren't left dangling. I'd also like to learn who Gloria is. Is she a Filipina and if she is, how did the two of them meet?

Good information and a fun read...only wish there was a little more.

Awesome book kuya!

Another book I purchased and the comments I wrote in Bud's other book apply here as well. read the books and if you give it some thought you will find the lessons learned apply in Central and South America as well.

This is a 'noddy' book. For anyone who has ever been to the Philippines or married to a Filipina, you can't help nodding as you read it - it is just so spot on! Bud Brown brings decades of first hand experience and a terrific narrative style to this great little read. I had the pleasure and privilege of meeting Bud in Bogal, Cebu back in 2003. Bud loved to entertain the kids with his street magic tricks and we had some fun times in a great part of the world. Bud speaks fluent Tagalog and Cebuano and has been married to his lovely Filipina wife Gloria for more than 30 years, so he is truly an expert on the country, culture and the people. Now retired and living the life in the Pinas, Bud should

have plenty of time to write a few more of these little gems.

This is a must read for anyone wanting to live in or travel to Philippines. So much good advice packed into each chapter. As a traveler of SE Asia I can say that exploring another culture can be awkward and confusing. Bud Brown has written a guide that not only applies to Philippines but to any culture a traveler is not familiar with. Patience, observation and politeness go a long way towards the making of an enjoyable experience rather than a frustrating one. His advice on understanding the Philippine is priceless. Bud shares with readers great insight based on his experience from a long lasting marriage to a wonderful Filipina. One will have a much better understanding of the customs and logic and a good chance at success in a long relationship with a woman of the Philippines. Many relationships between a man and woman of different culture and background end because of misunderstanding and not any other real issue. Mr. Brown gives valuable advice that will go a long way in avoiding misunderstandings between partners. Hope the author writes follow up books to help us better understand and fit in with a different culture whether living there or just visiting. Knowledge replaces confusion and frustration and makes for a stress free stay in one of the many wonderful places on this planet. The author has given us the basic tools we need to achieve this.

Bud Brown's book could easily be titled "How to Live the Good Life." Bud is a positive thinker who sees the glass half full. He loves the Philippines and enjoys his life to the fullest. I recommend the book but with some caution. Not everyone is as positive as Mr. Brown on living here in the Philippines. Yet, his book is a must for those planning on living here because you need to know the many aspects of Filipino culture and how it can relate to you.

Franco KUYA: Adventures of an American Teacher Living in The Philippines

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