

A Missionary's Journey: The Extraordinary Adventures of David Youngman, Missionary Runaway

In the annals of religious history, the story of David Youngman stands out as a tale of adventure, faith, and redemption. As a young missionary sent to the remote reaches of the world, Youngman embarked on a journey that would forever change his life and the lives of those he encountered.

Early Life and Calling



David Youngman: Missionary Runaway by Jonathan Bergmann

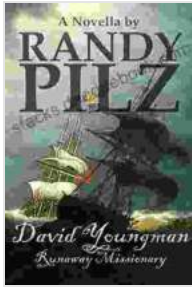
★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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David Youngman was born in the year 1835 in the small town of Newington, Connecticut. From a young age, he exhibited a deep faith and a desire to serve others. At the age of 19, he joined the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), eager to spread the Gospel to distant lands.

Assignment to the Sandwich Islands

In 1856, Youngman was assigned to the Sandwich Islands (later known as Hawaii). Arriving on the island of Oahu, he was met with a vibrant and diverse Polynesian culture. Youngman immersed himself in the local customs and language, becoming fluent in Hawaiian.

Missionary Challenges



A MISSIONARY PREACHING
in Boston, 1820 at the Sandwich Islands 1823

As a missionary, Youngman faced numerous challenges. The Hawaiian Islands were a hotbed of religious competition, with missionaries from various denominations vying for converts. Additionally, Youngman encountered cultural barriers and linguistic difficulties.

A Growing Disillusionment

Over time, Youngman began to question the methods employed by the ABCFM. He grew disillusioned with the emphasis on rigid theological doctrines and the perceived paternalism toward native Hawaiian converts.

The Decision to Run Away

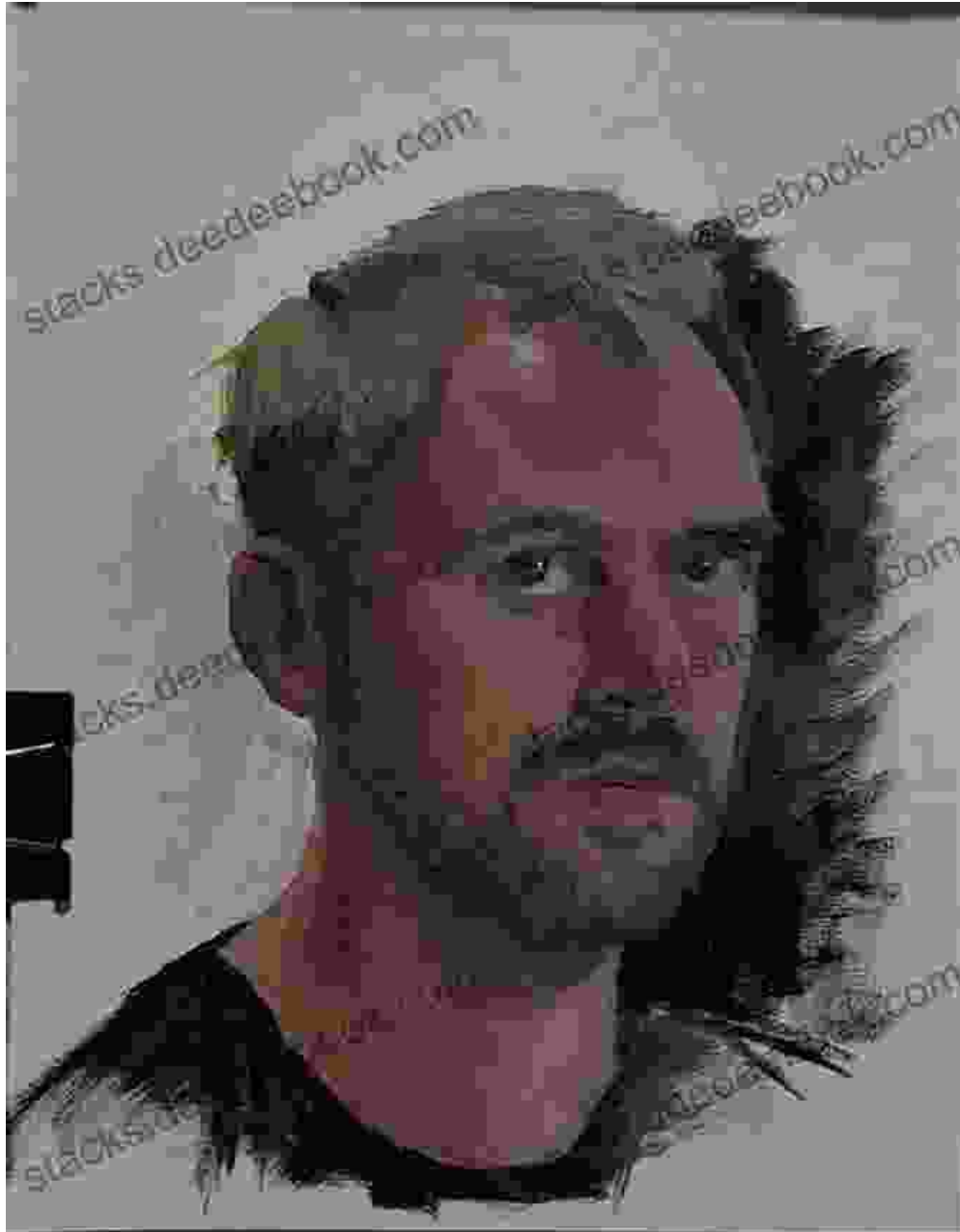


In 1860, Youngman made a momentous decision to leave the ABCFM and run away. He abandoned his missionary post and ventured into the remote wilderness of the Hawaiian Islands.

A New Life in the Islands

Youngman's journey into the wilderness led him to a profound understanding of Hawaiian culture and spirituality. He immersed himself in local traditions, studied the Hawaiian language, and formed deep relationships with native Hawaiians.

Return to Society and Legacy



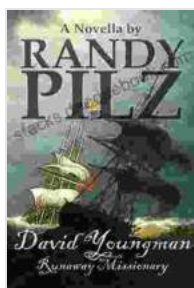
After several years of living in the wilderness, Youngman gradually returned to society. He married a Hawaiian woman and settled down on the island of Molokai. In his later years, he served as an elder in the Hawaiian Evangelical Church.

Youngman's experiences as a missionary runaway had a lasting impact on his life and work. He advocated for a more inclusive and culturally sensitive

approach to missionary work.

The story of David Youngman is a testament to the transformative power of faith, adventure, and personal growth. As a missionary runaway, he blazed a unique trail, challenging traditional missionary practices and forging deep connections with the people he served.

Youngman's legacy lives on as a reminder of the importance of cultural understanding, the pursuit of spiritual truth, and the resilience of the human spirit.



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