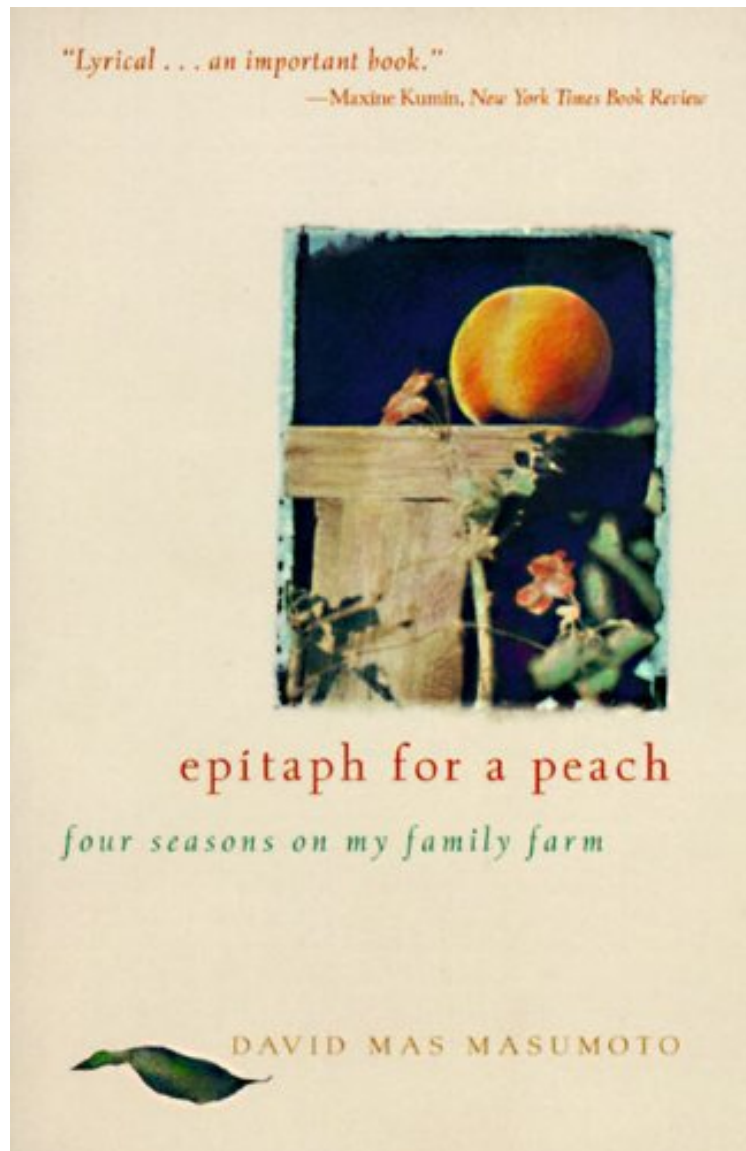


[Get free] Epitaph for a Peach: Four Seasons on My Family Farm

## Epitaph for a Peach: Four Seasons on My Family Farm

*David M. Masumoto*

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**David M. Masumoto : Epitaph for a Peach: Four Seasons on My Family Farm** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Epitaph for a Peach: Four Seasons on My Family Farm:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Truly A Peach of A StoryBy My OpinionThis is a wonderful story of a man and his family who are in harmony with the land. This is a story of personal feelings. Mr. Masumoto writes in a poetic style, which makes you not only feel the peach juices running down your chin, but if you close your eyes

you can taste the sweetness of the juice. He also presents his life as a child working with his dad on the farm. He shares his experiences on the farm as a young man who shoots his first bird, a giant barn owl that he regrets to this day. Later, he experiences an egret being shot by a cousin, which also saddens him. While I never grew up on a farm, I also remember the jack rabbit that I shot as a kid, which I still remember to this day (I am 72 years old). I also remember being with a friend who shot a red tailed hawk and I thought at the time, what a terrible waste for such a momentary pleasure. The author projects his inner feelings about life. He reflects on his own life and that of those who surround him, family, friends, laborers and the public that consumes his produce. He contemplates the life of his peach trees and vineyards, which he nurtures from small plants, to maturity and at their end of life. He thinks of the life of the weeds and insects that he has to compete with to allow his crops to survive. This short story is full of life experiences that any reader can relate to. This is a book to read during the quiet moments when you want to reflect upon your personal life and contemplate what experiences have given meaning to your own life destiny. A destiny that none of us travel alone. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful. By SuI have been looking for this book for over 15 years since I saw the author read from it at a writers conference in 1996. Beautiful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Much good information. It was chilling. By Tester-review Fascinating story of one Japanese family's hard work raising peaches for a living. Much good information. It was chilling, however, to learn about the Japanese being sent from their own property during WWII because our country feared they would rise up against us.

A lyrical, sensuous and thoroughly engrossing memoir of one critical year in the life of an organic peach farmer, *Epitaph for a Peach* is "a delightful narrative . . . with poetic flair and a sense of humor" (Library Journal). Line drawings.

From Publishers Weekly This is a peach of a book, as delectable as the Sun Crest peach Masumoto is struggling to save. It is a superior variety as to taste but has a short shelf life. The author, a third-generation farmer, gives an eloquent account of one year on his farm in the California desert. He notes that grape and tree fruit farmers are deprived of an annual rite that other farmers have—planting a new crop. Peach trees are planted every 15 to 20 years; grapevines, once in a lifetime. And, according to the author, a new planting is like having another child, requiring patience and sacrifice and a resounding optimism for the future. Masumoto's book reveals his commitment to the land and his family; it is also a cogent commentary on American agriculture. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This book is a delightful narrative on the life of a Japanese American peach and grape farmer in the San Joaquin Valley near Del Rey, California. With poetic flair and a sense of humor, Masumoto offers his perspectives on the joys and frustrations of raising and tending peaches and grapes. He describes his relationship with the weeds and insects that invade his fields, the unpredictability of the weather, his desire to treat workers fairly, and the realities of the market structure. Reading about Masumoto's attempts to produce high-quality peaches and his fears that rain at the wrong time will destroy his drying grapes will be a truly educational experience for those not familiar with the complexities of farming. Masumoto observes with awe the diversity of nature over four seasons and his family's obligation to plan their lives around the seasons. Many books about family farms today present an image of economic and social distress, but this work portrays the positive aspects as told by a farmer who enjoys his work. Recommended for public libraries. Irwin Weintraub, Rutgers Univ. Libs., Piscataway, N.J. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Masumoto is a third-generation fruit grower in Del Ray, California. In his simple memoir, the college-educated farmer discusses the continual challenge of growing fruit in an area where annual rainfall is marked in single digits (irrigation is the answer) and weeds threaten to overtake the crop. In chronologically arranged chapters that extend from spring planting to summer harvesting to winter waiting, Masumoto reflects on a variety of topics, including the fact that his succulent, organically grown peaches, which have a shelf life of only one week, aren't in demand; and his recollection of losing 35,000 trays of drying raisins to intense rainfall reveals why he always "feels persecuted by the power of nature." A lyrically written memoir by an introspective orchardist. Sue-Ellen Beauregard