



SILVA MCLEOD



ISLAND GIRL TO AIRLINE PILOT

A story of love,
sacrifice and
taking flight



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CATEGORY Autobiography/ Discrimination **IMPRINT** Exisle

KEY POINTS

- A love story across cultures.
- A story of achievement against the odds written to inspire others facing barriers.
- A unique South Pacific voice and point of view.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Silva Mcleod was born on the small Tongan island of Vava'u. She married Ken, an Australian, in a traditional Tongan ceremony before moving to Australia.

Silva had always dreamed of flying and with Ken's encouragement she braved the barriers to enter the male-dominated field of aviation. She became the first Tongan female airline pilot and worked for the Royal Flying Doctor Service amongst other small airlines before joining Virgin International, flying B777s around the world.

DESCRIPTION

This is the incredible story of Silva Mcleod, the first Tongan woman to become an airline pilot, told with frankness and wit by Silva herself.

Silva was a Tongan girl from a small island with little hope of anything beyond getting married and having babies. Her dreams of becoming an airline pilot seemed just that — dreams — until

Ken McLeod came into Silva's life. He was an Australian hired to build a hospital on her island of Vava'u. She started dating him despite frowns from her family. After a whirlwind romance, they got married in a traditional Tongan ceremony before moving to Australia.

There were many barriers to succeeding in such a male-dominated field, but Silva refused to give in. She became the first Tongan female airline pilot and worked for the Royal Flying Doctor Service amongst other small airlines then Virgin International, flying B777s around the world.