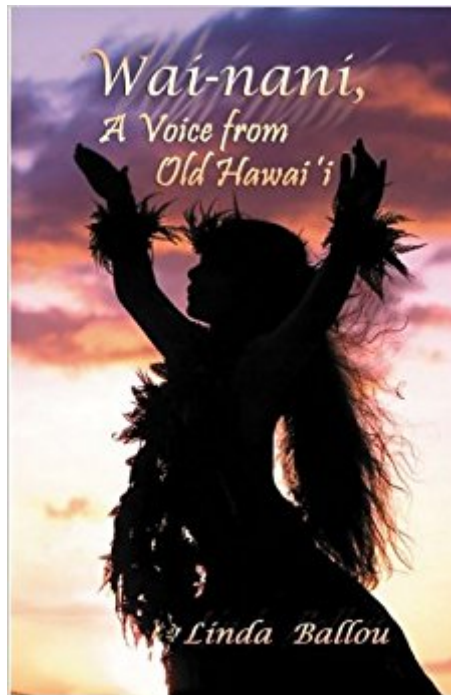


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Wai-Nani, A Voice From Old Hawaii



Synopsis

Through Wai-nani's eyes, you'll experience the Hawaiian society as it existed when Captain James Cook arrived at Kealahou Bay in 1779; ride the billowing seas with Eku, the wild dolphin she befriends; learn why she loved the savage, conflicted ruler, Makaha; walk with her as she defies ancient laws and harsh taboos of the Island people; share the love she received from all who knew her and learn how she rose to become the most powerful woman in old Hawai'i. Linda Ballou weaves legends of old Hawai'i and an evocative love story into a poetic rendering of the "people of Old." Be transported into ancient Hawai'i. Feel present in the lives of royals and learn the secrets of the mysterious Polynesian culture that called for human sacrifice. The story is told through the eyes of Wai-nani, a fiercely passionate, free-spirited woman who takes the reader on a seductive journey. Ballou delivers vivid imagery, historical detail, emotional impact, tragedy and triumph amidst the sensual beauty of the Islands.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a fictionalized account of Hawaiian royalty and, in particular, the life of one of Kameameha's most beloved wives which was fascinating and alive. A thoroughly researched book, there is no doubt that the author has a deep love for Hawaii, its people and culture. The resulting story becomes an educational journey into their way of life. I believe that Ballou has done a great service to the Hawaiian people. It was a joy to read! Anne-Good Reads Feb. 2017 5-Stars "A true & brilliant watercolor of imagination and reality! For those who know & love the Islands, it brings forward a visual feast of the past --For those who have yet to experience

the rare beauty & history of Hawaii, a remarkable yet educational trip of truth touched by beauty & fantasy. Ballou: this is great!"~XX-Connie Nelson"Hi Linda - I started reading Wai-nani tonight. Nicely written and it's a compelling story. You really have a sense of Hawaiian life and culture and the imagination to bring an earlier time to life."~Michael Shapiro- Travel writer and author of Sense of Place"WAI-NANI -- A Voice From Old Hawaii is a beautifully written epic about a strong independent woman. It is a history lesson written with care and heart about a remarkable people during an amazing time. The Queen Ka'ahumanu, the favorite wife of Kamehameha the Great, inspired Wai-nani's character. Linda has caught the beauty, mystery, and heart of the Hawaiian culture. I found this book both educational, and inspirational: a seductive journey through time and to a place of great majesty and history. A must read for all those who enjoy romance and history."~Yolanda Renee"Wai-nani is a masterpiece! The historic novel tells the dramatic and heart warming love story of Wai-nani. By weaving the ancient legends of Old Hawaii into this compelling story, Ballou captivates the reader with her beautiful descriptions and very real characters, who come alive in your imagination. Once I got the rhythm I could hardly put the book down. It is an excellent read, especially if you have been or plan to go to Hawaii." ~Bonnie Neely, Editor of Real Travel AdventuresBallou's artful storytelling pulled me into Wai-nani's dramatic struggle - the universal journey to discover how and why one fits into the beautiful, yet flawed world one lives in. The duality of Wai-nani's relationship with the ocean and a family of dolphins that offers her uncomplicated freedom and expression, and her relationships within a culture where she must struggle physically, emotionally and spiritually against her traditional "place of standing," is a magical, inspiring and thought provoking read. Scott Hillenbrand - Feature Film Director/Producer Reviewed By Nandita Keshavan for Readers' FavoriteWai-Nani is an exciting historical drama about a Hawaiian girl from a royal family. She swims to another island, and there she meets Makaha, who is a son of the king. How she fares in a childless marriage and tries to gain the trust of the people, despite being the daughter of a rival king, adds to the suspense and intrigue. Author Linda Ballou writes beautifully and the pages of this book are filled with such vivid descriptions of the culture and imagery of old Hawaii that the effect of the writing is believable and compelling.

Ano Ano (the seed) for Wai-nani - A Voice from Old Hawaii took root in my heart thirty years ago when I lived on the north shore of Kauai. I became smitten with the great personage of Ka'ahumanu, the childless bride who was the favorite wife of Kamehameha the Great. This was in the late 70's, a time when women were breaking the traditional mold. Ka'ahumanu faced down the

all-powerful priests and ended the 2,000-year-old kapu system that called for harsh penalties for infractions. Writing the story of this empowered woman, mostly overlooked by western historians, became a beautiful obsession. Readers of *Wai-nani* are amazed at the authentic detail and depth of my research. I went to most of the places described in my book, including the sacred Waipio Valley now closed to overnight stays. I hiked across the smoldering floor of Iki Crater in Volcano National Park, and spent hours in The Place of Refuge on the Big Island trying absorb the mana of the ancestors. I read old and new chronicles on Hawaiian history, spent hours at Bishop Museum and hired a Hawaiian scholar to read my manuscript. In short, I did everything in my power to stay true to the culture and re-create an authentic portal into a world that is lost to us now.

Linda Ballou has created a beautiful story of *Wai-nani*, a High Chiefess, and her life and the cultures of old Hawaii. *Wai-nani* struggles with the old customs and strives to make changes of those considered to be taboo or not acceptable. She falls in love with Makaha, a great warrior, at a time when Chiefs are allowed more than one wife. I love the author's description of the beautiful scenery, flowers and can imagine the taste of the food. I smile when *Wai-nani* befriends a family of dolphins, particularly one she names Eke. This story actually has some historical aspects which are interesting and educational. I highly recommend this book.

Wai-nani is written with so many beautiful poetic descriptions of people and scenes. Linda wrote it so magically that I felt like I was actually swimming with Eku, the dolphin and *Wai-nani*. I liked learning about the historical account of the ancient Hawaiian people and their culture while reading it as a love story. The characters all became so alive for me that I held concern for each one of them and how their lives would be revealed. I savored the story like a wine connoisseur savors wine. I really enjoyed the adventures this story took me on.

I look forward to reading a book that both teaches me and also takes me on a vacation. Linda Ballou's thoroughly researched, *Wai-Nani: High Chiefess of Hawaii* did both. I felt like I had just stepped off a boat onto the shores of Hawaii in the mid-eighteenth century. The book chronicles the history of a woman who fearlessly challenged the confines of women's roles in Hawaiian culture at that time. *Wai-Nani*, wife of warrior husband Makaha, fights a personal battle to rise to a position of leadership, to become the "Mother to the island people." Author Linda Ballou's thoroughly researched novel shines in its detail about pre-Captain Cook Hawaiian culture. She effortlessly weaves into her narrative details of the customs, gods, war campaigns, hunting, celebrations,

spirits, taboos and flora and fauna of early Hawaii. The lavish colors of Hawaii literally jump off each page as she takes the reader on an inside tour of the famous islands. Reading about Wai-Nani's special relationship with the dolphins below the water is an additional treat. Kudos to Linda Ballou for delivering vivid imagery, historical detail, emotional impact, tragedy and triumph with such sensual beauty. I have never seen Hawaii. Wai-nani makes me want to visit.

Beautifully written. The book takes you on many journeys with the Hawaiian Spirit. Very well written. Thanks for taking me on the journey back to the islands in a time when it was blooming!

*****This is a beautiful story, a fictionalized account of the life of a Hawaiian woman, Wai-nani, based upon the life of Hawaiian chiefess Kaahumanu. Reading this lovely novel is an appealing way of learning about early Hawaiian life. The story is filled with vivid imagery and rife with details that make this time period come to life. I especially enjoyed the way the voice of the book reflects Hawaiian thinking and values. Readers who would enjoy this novel the most are those very interested in early Hawaiian life and/or the lives of indigenous peoples. Highly recommended. *****

I loved this book! Wai-nani was a woman ahead of her time. A true empowered female figure. Linda Ballou's writing is captivating to the point that I felt that I was there. Set in beautiful Hawaii, filled with ancient secrets, and alive with colorful history. I couldn't put this one down. BJ Chorak, Ouray Colorado

I loved this book and it contained so much historical detail and was so interesting. I love Hawai'i and this was a fictionalized story with lots of historical details from a time we don't know much about...Kamehamaha I and his first wife.

Hard to keep reading.. just seems to ramble..

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