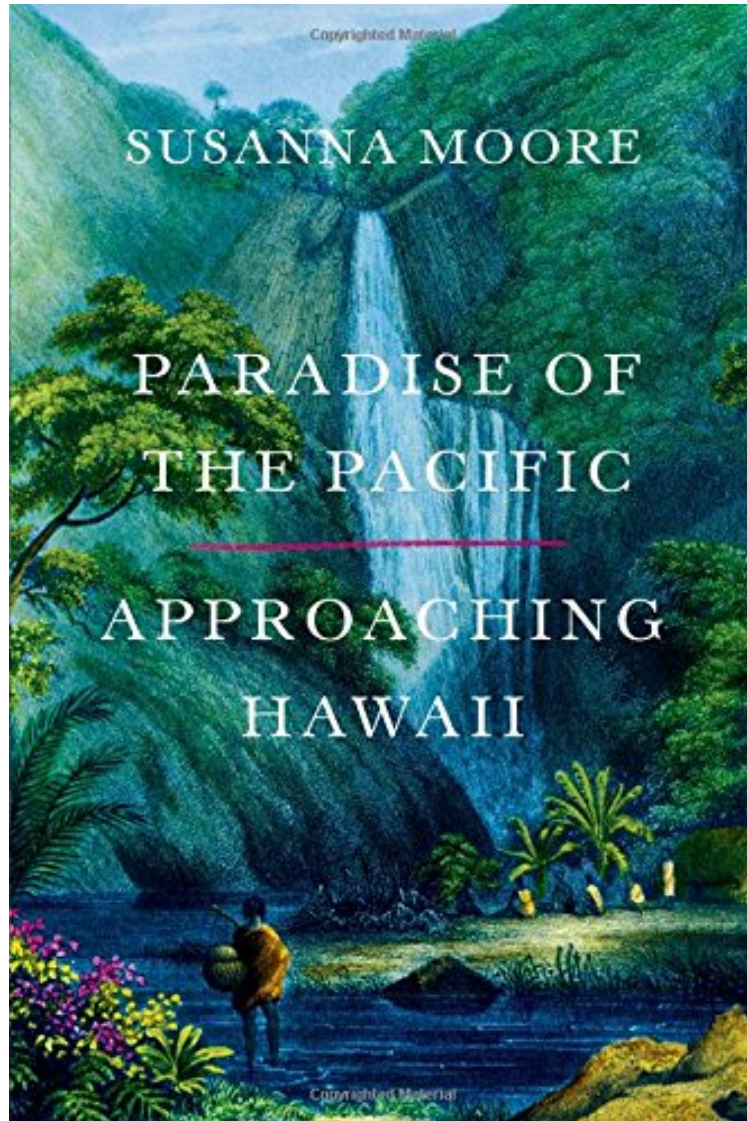


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Paradise of the Pacific: Approaching Hawaii

Susanna Moore

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#655608 in Books Moore Susanna 2015-09-01 2015-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.17 x 6.271, 1.00 #File Name: 0374298777320 pages Paradise of the Pacific Approaching Hawaii | File size: 33.Mb

Susanna Moore : Paradise of the Pacific: Approaching Hawaii before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paradise of the Pacific: Approaching Hawaii:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. The book to begin with...By AlicewaimeaHere, finally, is the first book to begin an exploration of Hawaii. Susanna Moore's meticulously researched story of the Kamehameha line brings alive life in Hawaii, how it all began and why it led to where we are today. A perfect companion to "A Shoal in Time" which is the definitive history of Hawaii, this book nuances daily life and many of the reasons behind events in Hawaiian history. A must read for any first time explorer to Hawaii as well as long time residents alike, the clear and

factual style of writing are balanced with humor, wit and insight. A joy! 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Paradise Lost By Allan Bachman Susanna Moore's Paradise of the Pacific Approaching Hawaii was only partially written by Ms. Moore. Her beyond belief over-reliance on extracts from various historical tracts makes her contribution about 60% maybe less. The rest, endless quotes, some in context many not, seem contrived to fit into the not often linear narrative. Many could have been eliminated altogether and replaced by a single summary sentence. I was never sure if Ms. Moore was trying to impress with all the reading and highlighting she or someone had done or was just trying to provide her brief, 300 page (261 of text), book some heft. She failed. Many pages barely have any of her written words, a sentence here or there then a long passage from another work: a pattern which would be repeated interminably throughout the book. She deals with the amazing history of Hawaiian labor immigration and cultural effects in a page or two and really not at all and completely ignores the annexation story with an oh, that's for another book dismissal. Hopefully a book she is not planning on writing. It like the last 50 years leading up to annexation and beyond did not occur. For my money the best book is Gavan Daws Shoal of Time or coming in a distant second Captive Paradise: A History of Hawaii James L. Haley, even Sarah Vowell's Unfamiliar Fishes is at least amusing in its descriptions of the missionary impact on the native Hawaiians. Lastly, read Michener's Hawaii as this book, even though fictional will be a better foundation for Hawaiian pre-history and beyond than anything to be found in Paradise. 43 of 44 people found the following review helpful. One hell of a good story, but maybe not the story many readers will expect. By Lyndon Brecht This is a difficult book to describe. It is an utterly absorbing story, a kind of history told through the lives of participants--even the grimly proper missionaries come through as living, breathing human beings. This is not your book, if you are looking for nature, modern Hawai'i, a travelog or traveler's guide, or modern history. It stops at the point of American annexation of the islands. That said, Moore tells an absorbing story, primarily from Captain Cook's "discovery" of the islands to the annexation, much of it told in the form of interaction between the American missionaries and the dynasty of Kamehameha and his descendants. I'd suggest sampling a few pages before you buy. My guess is that many readers will love the book but that some will wonder why it was written. There is a great deal of Hawai'ian history that's background but not described in detail. This background includes such things as the arrival of whaling ships (largely American), the white (and also from Asia) beachcombers, the sandalwood trade, and details of the conquest of most of the islands by Kamehameha. The overall story is not ethnographic, not an academic analysis, not sociology nor a detailed account of missionary activity. It's first and foremost a narrative about people. The Hawai'ians descended from migrants encountering a new land, who over centuries formed an elaborate culture. The missionaries encountered a new land and new culture and tried to change it for what they saw as better. In the background are the arrivals of whaling ships, of commerce. There have been many arrivals in the islands, of course, including Chinese and Japanese and others brought in to work the fields. The central story remains the extended Kamehameha family and native interaction with missionary ideas. There's a great deal about Hawai'ian myths, traditions and particularly the cultural trait called "kapu." Moore describes the belief and cultural system as sometimes cruel and arbitrary, with the commoners sometimes treated like serfs, but one which once broken, left the people adrift and alone in a new and almost alien world. Moore does not see the thousand years before Cook's "discovery" in any way as an Eden, nor does she praise what the missionaries tried to create. She does portray the manipulations leading up to the annexation as rather negative, but not much detail is provided. By then, the native people were a minority in their own islands. Her last, short, section is titled "The Voice of Land Shells," and is a personal reflection on the loss; melancholy in tone, it's also very well written. There's one appendix on personages and gods, with pronunciation indicated for the Hawai'ian words. There's a second appendix, a glossary, with many Hawai'ian words and pronunciations. These are helpful, given the welter of names featured in the narrative.

The dramatic history of America's tropical paradise The history of Hawaii may be said to be the story of arrivals from the eruption of volcanoes on the ocean floor 18,000 feet below, the first hardy seeds that over millennia found their way to the islands, and the confused birds blown from their migratory routes, to the early Polynesian adventurers who sailed across the Pacific in double canoes, the Spanish galleons en route to the Philippines, and the British navigators in search of a Northwest Passage, soon followed by pious Protestant missionaries, shipwrecked sailors, and rowdy Irish poachers escaped from Botany Bay all wanderers washed ashore, sometimes by accident. This is true of many cultures, but in Hawaii, no one seems to have left. And in Hawaii, a set of myths accompanied each of these migrants legends that shape our understanding of this mysterious place. In Paradise of the Pacific, Susanna Moore, the award-winning author of *In the Cut* and *The Life of Objects*, pieces together the elusive, dramatic story of late-eighteenth-century Hawaii its kings and queens, gods and goddesses, missionaries, migrants, and explorers a not-so-distant time of abrupt transition, in which an isolated pagan world of human sacrifice and strict taboo, without a currency or a written language, was confronted with the equally ritualized world of capitalism, Western education, and Christian values.

Paradise of the Pacific, Ms. Moore's new nonfiction book about Hawaii . . . provides a fascinating history of that Pacific archipelago . . . It is an elegantly written and conscientiously researched book. Michiko Kakutani, *The New*

York Times [Paradise of the Pacific is] an astonishingly learned summation of the Hawaiian meaning, elegantly written, often delightfully entertaining and ultimately sad. Jan Morris, *The New York Times Book* [A] fascinating account . . . The power of *Paradise of the Pacific*, then as well as its bitter beauty resides in Moore's ability to lay out this progression as a set of turning points, inevitable from the standpoint of the present, but in their own time more a matter of human ambition and fallibility. David Ulin, *The Los Angeles Times* *Paradise of the Pacific*, a superb telling of the Hawaiian story from the earliest voyages, is immensely satisfying on so many levels—as a detailed history, as a startling drama, as a cultural heritage of bellicosity and beauty. Susanna Moore, a brilliant novelist, a scrupulous researcher, gives this complex history an astonishing vitality. Paul Theroux Just when I think I know all there is to know about Hawaiian history, Susanna Moore (once again) proves me wrong. With a voice of friendly authority and wit, she translates meticulous research into gripping prose. *Kaui Hemmings*, author of *The Descendants* This is a fascinating and well-balanced look at how a unique culture came to be and the heartbreaking manner of its end. *Publishers Weekly* Moore digs deep and delivers a thoroughly researched account of Hawaii's distinct culture and history . . . Moore's background in storytelling radiates throughout this work, creating a quick-paced and well-crafted narrative. Highly recommended for the armchair historian and those intrigued by Hawaiian history, maritime exploration, and the history of Christian missionaries. *Library Journal* *Paradise of the Pacific* is a work of scholarship, sympathy, and, as with all Susanna Moore's books, literary elegance. It is also a long amazement. One figure after another steps from the shadows in a world that sometimes seems as remote as Homer's. Alec Wilkinson, author of *The Ice Balloon* *Library Journal* About the Author Susanna Moore is the author of the novels *The Life of Objects*, *The Big Girls*, *One Last Look*, *In the Cut*, *Sleeping Beauties*, *The Whiteness of Bones*, and *My Old Sweetheart*, and two books of nonfiction, *Light Years: A Girlhood in Hawai'i* and *I Myself Have Seen It: The Myth of Hawai'i*. She is from Hawaii.