



## Jewel of the Pacific

*Linda Lee Chaikin*

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Amid the looming political crisis in Hawaii, Rafe Easton faces one of the worst crisis he's ever known. As a man of determination, independence, and masculine pursuits he suddenly becomes blind and his world ends. Pride causes him to abandon the upcoming marriage to Eden Derington and seek medical care in San Francisco. Through an associate he sends a letter to Eden telling her he left Honolulu to find himself again. When he never hears from her again he settles into the belief that he was right all along; a helpless man is a bag of bricks around a woman's neck.

Parker Judson's niece, the beautiful Bernice "Bunny" Judson, sees her opportunity and makes a play for the one man she's always wanted, Rafe.

Hurt and angry that Rafe has walked out of her life, Eden knows about his eyesight loss but she never received the letter Rafe sent to her. In heartbreak she goes with her father Dr. Jerome to Molokai to set up the clinic for lepers. Eden hopes to pick up the shattered pieces of broken plans and begin life anew. At last she is emotionally free to close the door on the leper colony and allow her mother to rest in peace in the presence of the Lord she had trusted.

Eden discovers that during the year she was on Kalawao, not only did Rafe return to Honolulu, but he has rebuilt Hanalei coffee plantation on the Big Island, and is again running for a seat in the legislature. He is hard at work with the other anti-Royalists to depose the Hawaiian queen and to bring the Hawaiian Islands under the Stars and Stripes.

Rafe's blindness was only a temporary condition. Although she's delighted for Rafe, she discovers that he has no intention of reaching out to her again. While her lost love affair with Rafe is as painful to her as ever, he is cool and distant, avoiding her to the point of arrogance. Nor has he been romantically idle. Cousin Candace sadly informs Eden that Rafe is spending most of his time with Bernice Judson, and that her husband Keno has heard Parker Judson saying he is hoping for Rafe's future marriage to his niece. Eden is both hurt and angry.

The clouds of political disaster have arrived overhead. Eden must decide which side of the upcoming Revolution she is going to support. Plus she must discover the painful lessons God wants her to learn, and if she will ever find healing for her bruised heart with or without a life that includes Rafe.

## **Jewel of the Pacific Details**

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## From Reader Review Jewel of the Pacific for online ebook

### My Book Addiction and More MBA says

JEWEL OF THE PACIFIC by Linda Lee Chaikin is an exciting Historical Thriller set in Hawaii. #3 in "The Dawn of Hawaii" series, but can be read as a stand alone. See, "The Spoils of Eden" and "Hawaiian Crosswinds. With political crisis growing in Hawaii, Rafe Easton, Eden Derington and Bernice Judson must face their fears, come to grips with their past and find a future for themselves. Filled with faith, secrets, danger, healing, forgiveness, and love. A powerful story! Sure to be an epic. I have not read the other two in this series, but intend to read them, I had no trouble following the storyline. Although, I feel you would have a better understanding of the two main characters if you read the first two, to understand what made them make the decisions that were made. Still, I would recommend "Jewel of The Pacific" especially if you enjoy historical fiction, romance, learning more about the Hawaii Islands. A great story! Received for an honest review from the publisher and Wynn-Wynn Media, LLC.

Rating: 4

Heat Rating: Sweet

Reviewed by: AprilR, (Courtesy of My Book Addiction and More)

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### Angie Fehl says

So here we are at Book 3 of the Dawn of Hawaii series, I believe it's still in the year 1892 (just a few weeks or months down the road, maybe) and SURPRISE! Rafe & Eden still can't get on the same page about whether to settle down or not. I will say though, I think this story was my favorite of the trilogy.

At the end of Book 2, (small spoiler ahead, but if you haven't read the first two books, why are you reading about the 3rd one?) Townsend had kidnapped Eden, tried to kill her by locking her up on his son's boat and setting it on fire. Rafe is able to get Eden out just in the nick of time which cues the inevitable big, dramatic "you saved me!" smoochy-face-professing-of-forever-love scene.

Book 3 here opens with Townsend and Rafe getting in a scuffle where Townsend knocks Rafe upside the head with a brass bookend (no, seriously!) and runs away. Rafe finds himself pretty much instantly blind. After a short stay in the hospital for observation, he decides to go chill and adjust to his new reality (as well as refine his plans for how to push forward Hawaii's annexation with the US) at his mom's house in San Francisco, CA (Knob Hill neighborhood, no less!) He tries to get a slightly martyr-ish message to Eden, telling to go on, find happiness without him because he doesn't want to be a burden to her but she never gets the message. So they're both sitting there, on separate coastlines, thinking "Wait...What? We just gonna leave it there?!" Eden's not sure what else to do with herself, so she goes back to her work with the leper colony. Speaking of the leper colony, I like that this story gave a deeper look into the colony itself -- the buildings, the community. I enjoyed getting to see that environment a little more in this book, since it was more just a background feature in the last two books.

Rafe eventually comes back to Hawaii, with old flame Bernice (whom he ran into again while in San Francisco) tagging along behind him. Bernice intends to steal Rafe away but he couldn't be less interested in rekindling all that business, and he also knows that Eden's cousin, Zachary, has an interest in Bernice {it was at this point I was thinking hmm, getting a little Gone With The Wind here...}. You can imagine the

estrogen-bomb-catfight-waiting-to-happen showdown that goes down between Bernice and Eden!

Jewel Of The Pacific, I thought, had the most entertaining plot of the three books. I was also happy to see that Eden's tendency to be a little overly preachy and quick to judge seemed to be toned down a bunch, allowing me to find her a warmer, more accepting & more interesting character. I'm still not quite sold on the romance between her and Rafe, but I liked to see her character grow some in that aspect. She felt more real, more down-to-earth in this novel.

I feel like the early parts of this novel might have taken at least a smidge of inspiration from Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre, what with the rift between the lovers, a fire, the male lead blinded. Just a commonality I noticed.

While I did like this one best of the series, there were a couple things that I found bothersome: 1) The opening chapters of this book struck me as strangely sounding like a blogger or publisher synopsis of the second book. I can appreciate that she was trying to link the books, perhaps even make them work as stand-alones by giving an overview of what happened in the last book. But it was the way it was written -- how Chaikin used a kind of "then this happened, and then this happened and then this was said" way of doing the overview -- I don't know, it just made for awkward flow in the early pages of Jewel Of The Pacific. 2) I found myself a little bothered at the way Bernice was portrayed, at least the way her "non-believer" status was harped on. While her scheming itself was pretty despicable, I was bothered at how there was this tone of "well, what do you expect from a non-believer". I didn't like this attitude or tone of "non-believer = homewrecker". Sure, knock her for her shady behavior, but don't make it seem like Christians deserve more or better love than anyone else. So while I was enjoying the story for the most part, I had to deduct some points for this disappointing element.

If you have enjoyed the books in the Dawn Of Hawaii series thus far, I would recommend going ahead and finishing it out with this book. Or if you're like me and were a little underwhelmed with the first book, I would say hang in there and try this one -- it ends on a nice note!

FTC Disclaimer: Moody Publishing provided me with a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review. The opinions above are entirely my own.

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## **Laura says**

JEWEL OF THE PACIFIC is the third book in Ms. Chaikin's series The Dawn of Hawaii. These books are not stand alone and readers should read The Spoils of Eden and Hawaiian Crosswinds first. I did read the previous two books, but it's been over two years since the last one came out and I was still quite lost in this one. So readers will want to refresh their memories by rereading the first two books.

Ms. Chaikin is certainly talented in prose, painting such a vivid word picture of the setting that the reader can literally see the exactly blue of the sky and know how many clouds floated in sight. The setting is very beautifully portrayed, but as a result it does slow the story down considerably, making it almost drag at times.

Still, Eden is a very believable character, loving and kind, and Rafe also. The story is set in a real time period of Hawaii's history, with some very real people appearing as characters in the book. Ms. Chaikin included a directory of who people are, whether they were real or imaginary, and a map of the islands. She also included a glossary of Hawaiian terms, which was very helpful.

## **Etinosa Omoigiade says**

Jewel of the Pacific was an interesting read. It was a nice love story interwoven with the history of Hawaii. It is not a book of profound depth but nonetheless it was captivating and a good read.

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## **Deborah says**

Amid the looming political crisis in Hawaii, Rafe Easton faces one of the worst crisis he's ever known. As a man of determination, independence, and masculine pursuits he suddenly becomes blind and his world ends. Pride causes him to abandon the upcoming marriage to Eden Derington and seek medical care in San Francisco. Through an associate he sends a letter to Eden telling her he left Honolulu to find himself again. When he never hears from her again he settles into the belief that he was right all along; a helpless man is a bag of bricks around a woman's neck.

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## **My Review:**

This story was a stunning conclusion to the Dawn of Hawaii series. I learned a lot about how it became a state, how leprosy really affected the population, and of course, the running of a sugarcane and coffee plantation. I felt as if I was really there with the way Chaikin describes the state in such detail and beautiful imagery. While I have seen this trilogy through from the first book till now, I was not disappointed with the historical accuracy and tidbits along the way that made this such an enjoyable ride for the entire series.

I must admit I was very disappointed when Rafe and Eden went their separate ways. I guess I really expected all along that somehow things would work themselves out, but the way it ended was not at all how I anticipated it to finish. It was a historical thriller in every sense of the word, with the crosswinds changes that swept the island and brought it to be the state it is today. Queen Liliuokalani was present with historical accuracy, as well as the Molokai leper colony that changed the lives of many people in their time of greatest need. A recommended trilogy and novel that delves deep into the annexation of Hawaii.

This book was provided by the publisher for free in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Connie Huynh says**

i can't find the way to read this book

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