

Pacific Raven: Hawaii Poems - Kathryn Waddell Takara

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This award winning book, with vivid descriptions of the Hawaiian Islands and the majestic beauty and politics therein, is the setting for Honolulu author Kathryn Waddell Takara's new collection of poetry, Pacific Raven, Hawai'i Poems. The lyrical poetry of Takara mingles the ethereal with the corporeal. Takara's poems inspire. They transcend the personal and join with the social, historical, political, philosophical, and cosmic forces that touch our lives in Hawai'i and beyond. She intersects her sketches of human nature and desires, of the environment and local community with her poignant observations of Nature's fragile beauty in the Hawaiian Islands. These sonorous poems register the ways in which growth and dwelling "being attentive and responsive to the natural, social, and political economies of one's surroundings" involve spiritual and creative movement and reflect many artistic and philosophical traditions. This is an insightful book of Hawai'i, of its life and its land. If you've never been to Hawai'i, then come here first. It's a better introduction than anything from the Hawaii Visitors Bureau. Waddell Takara eloquently and masterfully weaves and spins her poems with the sharpness of a raven's Spirit. She is a poet who has pulled from many sources, who submerged and emerged into the depths and spiritual richness of many cultures, creating her own brave new world of detailed beauty. Reading through the book, one must pause to reflect upon the visual images, the subtexts of ethnic, emotional, and economic conflicts, and then come to terms with the insights that this well written work provides. The poems are so intriguing they do not let you put this volume of poetry aside and have that rare quality of absorbing the reader into the very heart of each one, evoking tender moments of insights, the spirituality of the author and the wisdom that comes through careful observation and a long life. Kathryn Waddell Takara is a voice that deserves to read, to be heard, to be admired, to be respected. This is a refreshingly bold, beautiful, and strong branch of poems on the magical tree of poetry!

Author: Takara, Kathryn Waddell
Publisher: Pacific Raven Press
Illustration: N
Language: ENG
Title: Pacific Raven: Hawaii Poems
Pages: 00000 (Encrypted PDF)
On Sale: 2010-03-01
SKU-13/ISBN: 9780984122806
Category: Poetry : American - African American
Category: Poetry : American - General

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