

Beautiful Obsession

In my fit forties, I was operating under the illusion that I could do anything and felt invincible. Full swing into my second childhood, I owned my horse and was conquering cross country courses. That's right! We were jumping over every hurdle in our path, careening around mountain trails and splashing through creeks. It was thrilling to be fulfilling all my horsey fantasies.



Then one day, while practicing our rough version of dressage, I felt a tingling in my lower back. Within days this sensation manifested itself into a crippling condition that left me crawling from the bed to the fridge on my knees. Diagnosis—garden variety herniated disc. In time, my body healed and I was left with a disciplined physical regime and a higher regard for good health. I decided to combine the things that I love—horses, travel and writing as my path to full expression. My first published articles were all about horses. I used these credits to get travel writing gigs at guest ranches. Throughout my feisty fifties, I enjoyed fantastic outdoor adventures and established myself as a travel writer.

Self actualization on so many levels gave me courage to tackle my long buried dream of publishing the novel I'd been working on quietly over a twenty year period. When I lived on Kauai, I became so smitten with great personage of Ka'ahumanu, a childless chiefess who was the favorite wife of Kamehameha the Great, that writing her story became a beautiful obsession. The changing landscape of the publishing world and the opportunities provided through the internet made the realization of my dream possible. In May of 2008 I did it! I published *Wai-nani, High Chiefess of Hawai'i-Her Epic Journey*. It was like giving birth to an elephant that was ten years over due.

Now I am in my soaring sixties and the view from this lofty vantage point is exhilarating. Bringing *Wai-nani* into the world forced me to blossom on many levels. I had to come out from behind my computer to give talks and to learn how to do radio interviews. With the help of my webmaster, I built a platform on the internet with my articles, and photos. It has been a very heady and exciting ride. Empowered by these successes, I have published my travel collection *Lost Angel Walkabout-One Traveler's Tales*. Now I'm off to explore more of our blue-green planet. There is no question that the last half of life is the best half for me.

