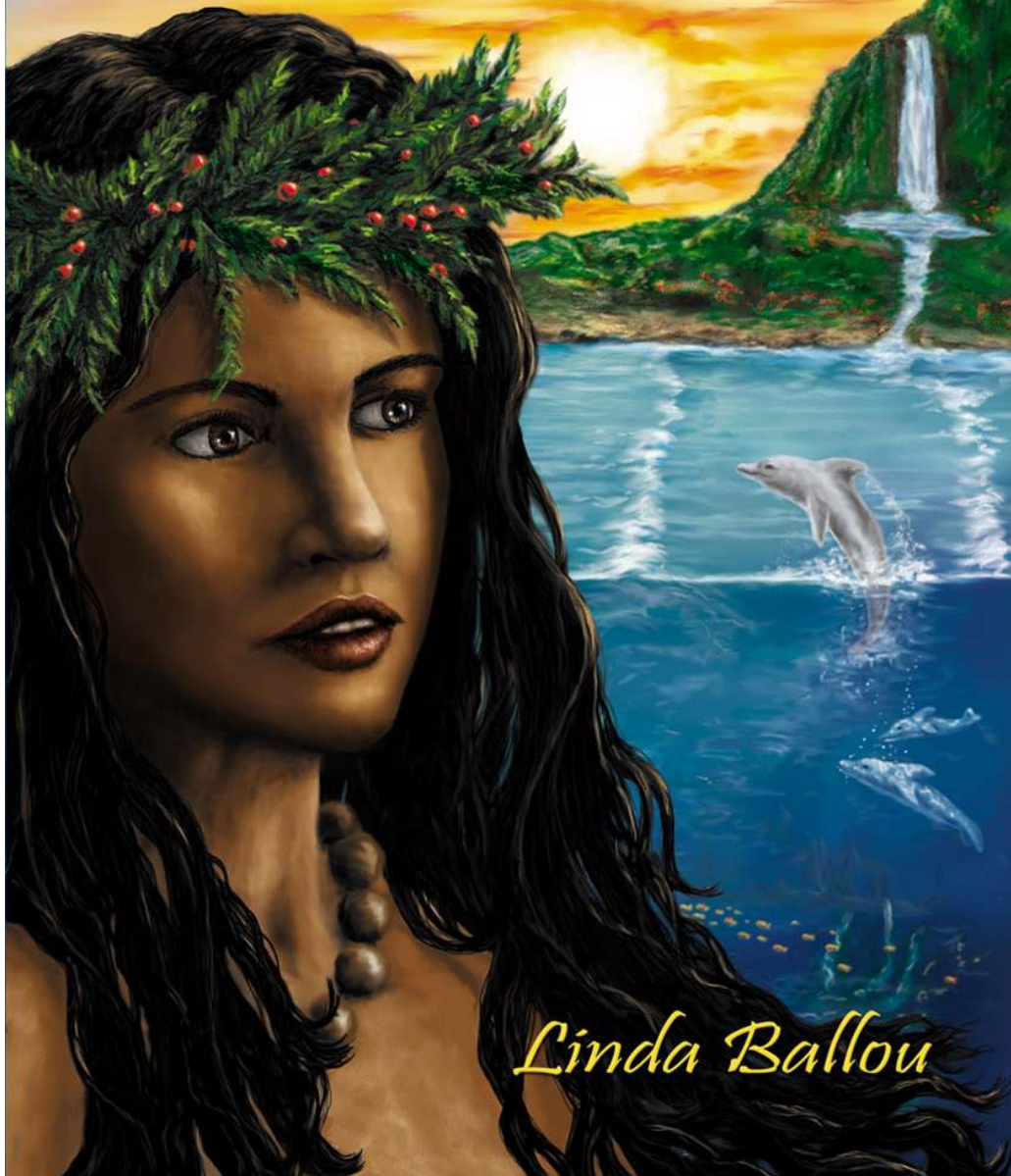


Wai-nani

High Chiefess of Hawai'i

Her Epic Journey



Cover art by TC McMullen, StarPublishLLC



MEDIA KIT

FOR

WAI-NANI:
HIGH CHIEFESS OF HAWAI'I

—
HER EPIC JOURNEY

by
Linda Ballou

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Author available for speaking engagements in her regional area.

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Dear Reader,

Wai-nani: High Chiefess of Hawai'i – Her Epic Journey is an historical novel couched in magical realism set in pre-contact Hawai'i. Wai-nani's character is inspired by the personage of Ka'ahumanu, the favorite wife of Kamehameha the Great, who was responsible for ending the 2,000-year-old Polynesian "kapu system." The turbulent romance of these Hawaiian icons is set against the backdrop of Hawai'i's most dynamic period between 1740 and 1820. Captain James Cook arrived in 1778. Cook's visit triggered change that facilitated forces already set in play by Kamehameha (Makaha), the warrior prophesied at birth to bring the splintered Island people under one rule. Precocious Ka'ahumanu, always the center of controversy, is revered by some as the loving "Mother of the people" and by others as the "flaw that brought down chiefdom."

Wai-nani embodies all that was good in ancient Polynesian society. Athletic, assertive, and brave she stands beside her warrior-king husband sharing in his joys and sorrows for forty years. Like all Hawai'ians, she is a water baby—finding strength, solace and wisdom in the sea. Her greatest pleasure is swimming with her wild dolphin friend, Eku. Throughout her life, she rails against the "kapu system" that calls for human sacrifices, separate eating-houses for men and women, and severe penalties for the slightest infractions of laws imposed upon the common people by ruling chiefs and priests vested with the power of gods.

My research included living on Kauai for a year, extensive reading and many subsequent visits to the Islands to walk in the footsteps of the ancients. I have come to know the rich poetic expression of a sensual people inspired by the beauty of their natural surroundings. Even though the old Hawai'ians were a generous people they were also fierce and given to tribal wars. Inbreeding among royals was encouraged and resulted in a statuesque, handsome race of giants. They had a distinct class system assigned by bloodline. Commoners tended to the land, fished and provided for the high chiefs and their courts. Wai-nani shows us that even though many have called the ways of long ago harsh, even savage, the beauty of the land and the mighty ocean washed through the hearts and minds of the ancients who were a deeply spiritual people.

Linda Ballou

<http://www.lindaballouauthor.com/>





ABOUT LINDA BALLOU

My appreciation for nature took me to Kauai, the most luscious of all the Hawaiian Islands with pleated cliffs and treacherous seas fending off newcomers. It is believed by Hawaiians that a mantle of mana (spiritual power) protects the island from harm. It is here that I listened to wind voices and the seed for my historical novel *Wai-nani: High Chiefess of Hawai`i – Her Epic Journey* took root in my heart. This story inspired by the powerful personage of Ka`ahumanu, the favorite wife of Kamehameha the Great is a poetic rendering of the ancients with tales of heroes and heroines doing supernatural deeds of mythological proportions. The people of old Hawai'i were connected to nature, played freely, loved passionately and communed with gods that dwelled in every tree, rock and flower. This book is written in the name of Wai-nani with great Aloha.

My quest today is to get to as many naturally beautiful places as I can before they are no more! I have hiked, biked, kayaked and ridden on horseback through some of our most precious wilderness areas. My travel articles and photos have appeared in numerous national publications. My essays have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* and various literary journals. "Look Both Ways on Small Islands" was included in the *I Should Have Stayed Home* anthology published by RDR Books. Please go to my website www.LindaBallouAuthor.com where you may view many of my articles and photos. If you look closely your reward will be to discover the Secret to Youth.



Endorsements

"From the very first chapter, Ballou'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. I admire Wai-nani's strength and determination."

~ Scott Hillenbrand – Feature Film Director/Producer

"Linda Ballou takes you to a different place where suddenly life is more vital. Her characters are painted with such intense feeling, it makes the reading an obsession! I heartily recommend this book - great read!"

~ Carol Wood, editor www.HazelSt.com

"How I love a book like Wai-nani. One I learn something from! One that stays with me long after I turn the last page."

~ Carolyn Howard-Johnson, award-winning author of *This Is the Place*

"Ballou might have been Wai-nani in another life, so richly imbued with lush description and native language and lore is her historical novel that follows the life of the strong and beautiful chiefess whose gentle power influenced the people and path of Hawaiian history."

~ Denise Cassino-[Long Story Short](#) E-zine for Writers

"Travel writer and photographer Linda Ballou delivers a generous slice of Hawaiian history with details of land and sea so vivid, it is almost better than being there."

~ Barbara Milbourn-Author and Editor



Synopsis

Wai-nani – High Chiefess of Hawai`i Her Epic Journey

Wai-nani, like all Hawaiians is a “water baby” finding strength, solace and wisdom in the sea. Throughout her life, she rails against the “kapu system” that calls for human sacrifice and severe penalties for the slightest infractions of laws imposed upon the common people.

As a young woman she rebels against her chieftain father’s supreme authority, plunges into the surf and swims away from her home on Maui with her dolphin playmate, Eku. Her journey takes her to the island of Hawai’i where she is befriended by Makaha. A romantic bond is born when they meet the challenge of the sea together. Their honeymoon is cut shore when Makaha’s mentor arrives to tell Makaha that his uncle, Lako, the high chief of Hawai’i, has called him back to lead the warriors in the campaign against Pano, the ruler of Maui. Makaha leaves Wai-nani with his mentor who tells her that even Makaha does not know that he is the illegitimate son of Pano. Determined to be reunited with Makaha, she enters the surf once more and swims to the village of Kealakekua. She re-enters the culture she fled, but now she is an outsider claiming to be the wife of the village chief’s best warrior. She is befriended by Lako’s daughter, high chiefess Hauli, and wins the hearts of the village by performing marvelous surfing feats with Eku. Makaha returns from the mountains and proclaims that she is indeed his wife.

Wai-nani confides in the priest Koa that she has been unable to conceive. Fearing the woman too strong to live within the confines of the kapu system, Koa gives her a potion that nearly kills her. Hauli nurses her back to health. Their friendship is severely tested when Koa whispers Wai-nani’s concerns to Lako. The old chief decrees that Makaha will have Hauli as his sacred bride to ensure an heir of the highest blood caste.

The warriors leave to meet Pano. Makaha’s seed has found fertile ground in his new bride. Wai-nani finds solace in a friendship with a fisherman named Mau. Hauli fears she will not be strong enough to survive the birth of Makaha’s child. Wai-nani and Mau comfort her by taking her to the water and her dolphin friends. She serves as midwife for the birth of her son Nohea. Wai-nani loves the child as her own, and she and Hauli agree to be twin mothers to the new chief.

All is well until the white sails of Lono, the wandering god, appear upon the horizon. Eager to receive the long-awaited god, the people gather food and prepare a welcome feast. But, Lono is in reality the British Captain, James Cook, who allows the Hawaiian people to think him a god. When one of the “gods” dies, the Hawai’ians realize the illusion, and their awe turns to anger. The visit ends in Cook’s death, and the British leave the village in shambles and Makaha armed with weapons he will eventually use to destroy Pano.



Makaha, now a fierce figure of absolute authority, fathers many children with many more wives. Wai-nani persists in a secret affair with Mau, even though Makaha proclaims it a deadly offense for anyone to join her on her sleeping mat. Koa informs Makaha of her betrayal. Wai-nani swims for the Place of Refuge. Makaha chases her in his outrigger. He finds her there, and he is about to kill her on the sacred spot when she divulges his lineage to him. He buckles under this revelation; she is softened by his suffering.

Makaha proceeds to annihilate his enemies. He declares Wai-nani to be his favorite wife, and she travels with him island-wide. Wai-nani still inwardly rails against the ancient kapu system that Makaha has lived his life defending, but her love for him keeps her quiet while he is alive. Makaha recognizes that his son, Nohea, is not as strong and wise as Wai-nani and decrees that she is to rule beside the young chief with equal weight when he dies.

When Makaha does pass into the underworld the island falls into anarchy. Koa takes this opportunity to slip poison into Wai-nani's poi and hires a priest to pray her to death. Hauli orders the killing priest to destroy those that tried to kill Wai-nani. Wai-nani orders a feast and invites Nohea to join his twin mothers. He does. This act marks the beginning of the end of the tottering kapu system. Wai-nani orders the wooden images of harsh gods torched. The islanders destroy the last vestiges of their fearsome religious rites. Wai-nani becomes the most powerful woman in old Hawai'i.



Three topics Linda may elaborate on in Speaking Engagements:

How traditional Hawaiian Values are being applied today.

As interest in pre-contact Hawaii blooms, many native healers have begun publicly teaching and practicing the ancient forms –lomilomi- the loving touch, ho’oponopono- the talking out of things and laau lapaau-holistic medicines. All are finding good results in the modern world. especially in work with young people trying to find their way.

Everything you ever wanted to know about the ancient Hawaiian culture, but didn’t know to ask.

- (1) Is it true that Hawaiians only had a one-way ticket from Tahiti to Hawaii in early migrations?
- (2) Is it true that the Hawaiians attacked Captain James Cook and stabbed him in the back?
- (3) Were women second class citizens?
- (4) What about human sacrifice?
- (5) Did the Hawaiians engage in incest?
- (6) Were the Hawaiians cannibals?
- (7) What is mana?
- (8) Were people killed for walking on the shadow of a royal?
- (9) Did Hawaiians have slaves?
- (10) What are places of refuge?

Is This a True Story?

- (1) Is it true that Ka’ahumanu married Kamehameha when she was thirteen?
- (2) Is it true that Ka’ahumanu’s mother was a paramour of Kahikili the Moi of Maui and life-long enemy of Kamehameha?
- (3) Is it true that Kamehameha was the illegitimate son of Kahikili?
- (4) Is it true that Ka’ahumanu lived in Hana, Maui and swam to meet Kamehameha in the Kau district of Hawaii with her pet dolphin?
- (5) Is it true she swam with dolphins?
- (6) Did Ka’ahumanu surf with Kamehameha?
- (7) How big a part did sorcery play in ancient Hawai’i?
- (8) Does the story follow the actual chronology of historical events?

Talking points for interviews and speaking engagements.

