



Kaiulani: The People's Princess, Hawaii, 1889

By Ellen Emerson White

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In their hope to restore Hawaii's toppled monarchy and the Hawaiian way of life the people of Hawaii turn to Princess Kaiulani, who is only a young girl. Acclaimed author Ellen Emerson White makes her debut on the Royal Diaries list with this compelling narrative of the tumultuous years following Hawaii's forced annexation to the United States, skillfully rendering the voice of the young princess and the unrest of a people.

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Kaiulani: The People's Princess, Hawaii, 1889 By Ellen Emerson White Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Ellen Emerson White's contribution to the fictionalized Royal Diaries series portrays the short life of Hawaiian princess Kaiulani Cleghorn. The daughter of a European merchant and a Hawaiian princess, Kaiulani was a direct heir to the Kalakaua dynasty, and third in line for the Hawaiian throne. In her diary, she details her lavish wardrobe, her pet peacocks, and her unusual friendship with the shy, sweet writer Robert Louis Stevenson. When she leaves her beloved islands to attend boarding school in 1889, Kaiulani makes the best of it, noting: "I go off not for myself, but for all of the Hawaiians I will someday lead." Sadly, that was never to be. While Kaiulani was overseas, the Hawaiian monarchy was overthrown by American Reformers, mostly businessmen interested in cashing in on Hawaii's sugarcane and teak industries. Kaiulani immediately left Europe to plead her country's case to President Cleveland and other American dignitaries. But her efforts were in vain--Hawaii was annexed to the United States by 1898. Kaiulani died a year later at the age of 23, many believe of a broken heart. This tragic chapter in American history is relatively unknown, and while the origins of Hawaii's statehood will no doubt intrigue many young readers, it is Kaiulani's determined and hopeful voice that will stay with them long after the last page is turned. Emerson White concludes the diary with an epilogue, historical notes, a diagram of the Kalakaua family tree, six pages of photographs, and a glossary of Hawaiian words. (Ages 9 to 14) --*Jennifer Hubert*

From School Library Journal

Gr 4-8-This fictional journal covers a period of four years in the short life of Princess Victoria Kaiulani of Hawaii. Beginning in 1889, the 13-year-old starts recording her thoughts before she is sent to school in England. As heir to the royal Hawaiian throne, she must learn the poise and composure befitting a future monarch, a role she takes very seriously. In the earlier years of the journal, the overall tone is lighthearted, but Kaiulani frequently alludes to the political difficulties confronting the monarchy, which is plagued by exploitative American business interests. As the problems mount, the diary entries become sparse and filled with the princess's personal worries, with mentions of her failing health. The quotidian writing style is often self-conscious and frivolous, maturing along with the teen. The easy-to-read diary format will appeal to young audiences. The epilogue and historical notes that follow are essential for understanding the historical context of the story. The final sections of the book have several pages of photos and a glossary of Hawaiian words that appear in the text. This book provides an effective way of spreading the story of a dignified and courageous young woman. While it is not as well written as some other titles in this series, it is still a worthy addition to collections carrying the "Royal Diaries."-Be Astengo, Alachua County Library, Gainesville, FL

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-8. From the Royal Diary series, this purports to be written by Princess Kaiulani of Hawaii. The story begins in 1889, when the 13-year-old princess learns that she will soon be leaving for England to complete her education. She records her pleasures in her home and her family, her joy at befriending Robert Louis Stevenson, and her anxiety about her journey. The diary continues over the next four years as she travels to England, studies and matures, then returns to America to plead the case for her country's independence to America's people and their president. White sticks close to the facts in this fictional account of Kaiulani's life. Readers who enjoy this "diary" may also want to read Sharon Linnea's *Princess Kaiulani: Hope of a*

Nation, Heart of a People (1998). Back matter includes an epilogue, a historical note, a family tree, a section of photos, and a glossary. A good, accessible addition to a popular series. *Carolyn Phelan*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alma Driver:

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David Smith:

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