



East Wind, Rain

Caroline Paul

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

East Wind, Rain

Caroline Paul

East Wind, Rain Caroline Paul

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Gutsy Girl* comes this provocative, compelling novel of irrevocable consequences for people thrust unwittingly into a devastating war of nations and American identity—based on a little-known true event.

December 1941. The inhabitants of Niihau lead a simple life. Mostly Hawaiian natives, they work the ranch of Niihau's eccentric *haole* owner, who keeps his island totally isolated from the outside world, devoid of cars, phones, and electricity. But then a plane crash-lands there, and although the villagers rescue the pilot, they have no idea that he has just attacked Pearl Harbor. War has now come to Eden, slowly undoing its tranquillity, widening the cracks in the already troubled marriage of Irene and Yoshio Harada, the island's only Japanese-American couple. It will test everyone's loyalties and all they believe in . . . as Paradise, once within reach, slowly falls victim to its own isolated innocence.

East Wind, Rain Details

Date : Published April 25th 2006 by William Morrow (first published 2006)

ISBN : 9780060780753

Author : Caroline Paul

Format : Hardcover 272 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, War, World War II

 [Download East Wind, Rain ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online East Wind, Rain ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online East Wind, Rain Caroline Paul

From Reader Review East Wind, Rain for online ebook

Susy says

At a charming bookstore in the town of Hanapepe on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, I asked the owner if he carried books about the islands or written by local authors. He offered me this book and said it's like nothing he'd ever read.

I am so glad to have found this spare story set on the mysterious island of Niihau in the days following The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Paul has taken a true event not known to many and brought the residents of the island community to life. She also introduces us to Aylmer Robinson, the largest landowner on Kauai & owner of the entire island of Niihau. The Robinson name is legendary on Kauai - not necessarily in a favorable way. He has demanded the Niihau residents and all his employees follow his beliefs and remain in isolation on the island.

So what happens when a Japanese Zero pilot crashes on their island and survives. The residents await Robinson's visit to no avail as the military has restricted any water traffic between islands. Loyalties are tested & lives are changed.

This was a tender rendering of just one of the too many casualties of war and provides great insight into the blended cultures of native Hawaiians.

Helen says

I do not remember the attack on Pearl Harbor, I wasn't born until the following year, but the situations arising from it were very present in my childhood and later. There were no Japanese children in my elementary classes and when I moved to a small coastal village in the mid fifties there were two Japanese families in the high school, both of which had been interned during the war. We have lived with the need for apology, the settling of accounts with the government and finally an awareness of the contributions made by the nissei and sensei as well as the original immigrant families to the life of our coast. To go back to "the time before" is always difficult but Caroline Paul has given us a very good attempt.

Niihau is a good example of a culturally isolated population, a privately owned island a few sea miles away from Pearl Harbor, a place with no electricity or motor vehicles, no radio or newspapers, and the language is Hawaiian at a time when the native language was fading fast on the other islands. The Robinson family deliberately kept their island isolated to protect the people from the contamination of modern life.

There were only three Japanese living here alongside the 130 or so native people and they appear, according to Paul, to have been accepted as neighbours by the Hawaiians, although there were some local things about which they weren't told, things like the location of hidden water springs. The Japanese family appear to have been a little reticent and the wife fearful of rejection. The husband had wanted to come to the island because he had had very unpleasant experiences in California and felt there would be less rejection among the people of colour on Niihau.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked Niihau was not aware and they were also unaware of the war that had been sweeping Europe and parts of Asia for some time so when a Japanese Zero crashed on the edge of a field they didn't know what to make of it. Loyalties come immediately to the fore, the pilot's his military tie to his unit and the emperor, the Japanese couple to America, and the Hawaiians to Mr. Robinson (the owner) who will come and sort it all out. Everything becomes misunderstanding on top of misunderstand after that. The

pilot doesn't speak English and cannot understand how apparently Japanese people could not have vital ties to the emperor, the Sun of Heaven. Yoshio Harada and his wife were born in Hawaii and a generation away from Japan so they are initially American in their reactions. They shift to a pragmatic view that if the Japanese have invaded they should be alright as being obviously Japanese speaking and Japanese in appearance so they should help the pilot, as well as Yoshio hoping to regain self respect in his wife's eyes. The Hawaiians are bemused by what they see as strange responses to their offers of shelter - offers colored by their fear of "what Mr. Robinson will say" about an outsider being allowed onto the island. The cultural and linguistic misunderstandings become more and more complex with no one completely honest with the others. The Hawaiians revert to earlier faith practices, the pilot doesn't say anything about his determination to commit suicide once he's destroyed his plane and documents, and Yoshio and Irene are not honest with either each other or anyone else. These misunderstandings can only end badly, although not as badly as they might have, but I don't agree with those who blame this incident for the interning of the Japanese. The incident is indicative of the American attitude toward Asians certainly, but I don't imagine the Canadian government was aware of events on Niihau when they created our own internment camps. This was a fascinating and thought provoking book and while it is properly a novel, so much of it is exactly what happened that it can be read almost as history.

Paul Clayton says

I enjoyed this book very much. I went to my local library looking for something good and different; East Wind, Rain lived fit the bill nicely. What caused me to pull the book off the shelf was the title. Then, the story itself, based on a real life incident: the tale of a Japanese Zero pilot who crash lands on a small Hawaiian island after participating in the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor that killed 3,000 American servicemen on December 7th, 1941.

The island NishiKaichi puts his plane down on, a small one in the Hawaiian chain, called Niihau, was owned by Alymer Robinson, a Christian landowner who insisted that the Hawaiians that lived and worked on his island, live in a primitive and Christian state. There were none of the modern conveniences available in 1940 (jeeps, two way radios, refrigerators, radios, etc.) on the island. So the workers were pretty much ignorant of the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, an event which precipitated America's entry into WWII. As the pilot sat, strapped unconscious in his downed Zero, he was rescued and 'taken into custody' by one of the Hawaiian bosses on the island, Howard Kaleohano. Howard, the only Hawaiian on the island that could read English, was vaguely aware of the rising tensions between Japan and America, having on occasion read some news articles on the old newsprint used to wrap supplies sent to the island. He was immediately suspicious about the pilot but, per his orders, decided to wait the return of Mr. Robinson who had gone to the neighboring island of Kauai to get supplies. The other major players in this drama are the Haradas, a Nisei couple who eventually join up with the Zero pilot to ensure the victory of the Japanese forces they were sure would soon arrive.

The book is compelling and very well written. I admire Caroline Paul for tackling a touchy subject for her novel and making it all work. My only criticism is that none of the characters stand out memorably. There is no Scarlett O'Hara (Gone With the Wind), no Private Robert E. Lee Prewitt, (From Here to Eternity). The incident itself stars in this tale. And it all works.

Connie says

"East Wind, Rain" was the code the Japanese used for the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. After being hit during the attack, a Japanese Zero crash landed on the small Hawaiian island of Niihau. The native Hawaiian people were kept very isolated by the owner of the small arid plantation, preventing unrest and disease transmission, but also shielding them from news about the second world war. The white owner of Niihau was away on business so the islanders had to deal with the Japanese pilot. There was only one Japanese man and a Japanese-American couple who were able to communicate with the pilot. He tells them that Japanese invaders will be on Niihau soon to rescue him so they should meet his demands.

This is a book about loyalties, prejudice, traditions, fears, and national identity. The book is based on a real incident on Niihau on Pearl Harbor Day. The author was not granted permission to visit Niihau by the owner that still keeps the workers isolated, so the account of the harrowing week following the December 7th bombing is partly a product of Caroline Paul's imagination. The author shows the reasons for each character's actions over the next seven days as the peaceful island changed into a place of terror. 3.5 stars.

B. Morrison says

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, a Japanese Zero, its gas tank hit, crash-lands on the small island of Niihau. The Hawaiians who live there know nothing of the outside world, unaware even that a war is going on. Although they are only a few miles from Kauai, the paternalistic haole owner of the island, Aylmer Robinson, carrying on his father's tradition, has forbidden newspapers, telephones, radios and visits from the outside world. He even discourages literacy and the English language in an attempt to protect the islanders, childlike and innocent in his view, from the wickedness of the outside world.

Therefore, the Hawaiians welcome the young pilot, patching his wounds and singing for him, though Howard Kaleohano, the man who found him, has, almost accidentally, removed the pilot's gun and papers. While they fear his anger at finding a stranger on Niihau, they want only for the godlike Mr. Robinson to come and deal with the intruder. In mutual incomprehension, the pilot and the islanders crowded into Howard's house talk past each other, until the elderly Japanese beekeeper, Shintani, is fetched. He listens to the pilot speak, but backs away saying that he does not understand the dialect.

Read more at <http://bmorrison.com/blog/297/east-wi...>

Christine says

A Japanese pilot crashes his plane on a rural Hawaiian island during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The island he crashes on is run by a wealthy man who keeps the inhabitants of the island isolated from technology, news, and most things modern.

The islanders first welcome the pilot as a guest, as they know nothing about Pearl Harbor. Things turn ugly when the owner of the island doesn't return and the islanders are forced to decide what to do with the Japanese soldier. And, a Japanese couple is forced to choose sides - side with their countryman who promises them safety, or with the islanders who don't even know a war is going on?

The prose in this story is beautiful. I can imagine myself baking in the intense, dusty heat with the islanders. Where this story stalls is that she takes us into the heads of the characters for too long. The longest chapters are the most uninteresting, and felt like the story dragged. Then, story picks up considerably in the last 50 pages so much that I couldn't put it down.

Amber Berry says

I suppose I'd rate this 2 1/2 stars. It was better than okay, but I can't say I liked it very much. The only reason I've recalled having read the book is that my mother informed me that she is currently reading it.

I think this is a re-imagined event. I hesitate to put much credence on the events happening as described.

Others may disagree and I wasn't alive in the 1940s, so what do I know?

Ni'ihau is an island that prohibits outsiders, so it's interesting to read about what their lifestyle was like and how they spoke. But still, a lot of what is told may be conjecture. I think the most troublesome part of the book for me was some of the dialogue. I have met people from Ni'ihau and something about the way they are portrayed in the book doesn't feel exactly aligned.

The whole idea of this incident (a Japanese plane crash in Dec. 1941) is intriguing and a reason to delve into the book for the story - a story that was not very well told. There is an incident concerning a submarine coming ashore on Oahu (windward side, opposite Pearl Harbor side and still a military property) which may provide background for another tale of the period.

Maria says

Interesting historical event. Worth reading.

Ruby says

A Japanese pilot, who had just bombed Pearl Harbor, lands on a remote Hawaiian island where the inhabitants are completely unaware that WWII is happening.

Will Byrnes says

Caroline Paul - image from Heroine.fm

Based on an actual event, this is a very different view of Pearl Harbor. A Japanese pilot is forced to land on the isolated island of Ni'ihau. This is a place run like a personal kingdom by an old white man, but is inhabited by a mix of native Hawaiian and nisei. As Mister Robinson, the local top guy, is off-island and there is almost no communication with the outside world, the islanders must decide what to do with the fallen pilot. Loyalty, ethnic identity, and personal character are all confronted in this moving, beautifully written story. The sadness of the tale is exceeded only by the skill of the characterizations. A good read, an

excellent book club item.

Phoebe says

Imagine living a life without modern technology; all the luxuries we enjoy daily are nonexistent. No tv, radio, telephones, newspapers, air conditioning, cars, computers, etc... The people of the island Naihoo live this kind of life. Their island is isolated from the rest of the world with the only means of communication as sea/boat or through their landlord, who doesn't even reside on the island. His goal is to keep Naihoo safe from the outside world. Due to this disconnect, the Naihooians are clueless of what to do when a Japanese pilot crashes onto their land. They have no idea he just bombed Pearl Harbor. The only Japanese couple on the island are at a crossroads; do they disclose what this pilot has just done or do they hide this fact until their landlord comes to handle the situation?

I enjoyed reading this book. It was a really good storyline. I kept thinking to myself, "gosh, how do they live without technology?" And then I remember that that is where we all started; all our ancestors lived that way. I'm just glad that we've come such a long way that we don't have to continue living that life style. I mean, how could I possibly live without books?!?!? LOL

I felt that there was a bit too much of what the characters were all thinking and contemplating. I found myself skimming through those parts a lot. I kind of felt that there were certain parts that weren't necessary and it really dragged on.

Mark says

On my recent visit to see family on Kauai I returned to a favorite spot on the island, Talk Story Bookstore, the furthest west independent bookstore in the U.S. located in the historic section of the town of Hanapepe. I headed straight to the shelves displaying books about Hawaii or written by Hawaiian authors. East Wind, Rain by Caroline Paul was on display directly at eye level. I read the back cover and headed straight to the cash register.

This historical fiction about the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the intentional grounding of his Zero by a young Japanese pilot on the isolated private island of Niihau brings the reader into a world unknown to most. We meet the native Hawaiian and Japanese American inhabitants who know nothing of the outside world. What unfolds as the pilot is taken captive and the islanders engage with him over the week following the bombing is a history that emanates from a culture intentionally created by the island's owner, Mr. Robinson, and the 130 people he allowed to live there.

The historically accurate tensions between Christianity and native religion, immigrant and American, islander and me a mai ka 'aina 'e are revealed through the very real figures that Paul brings her creative fiction to their character and actions. For many of us who were born a couple decades distant from these world events, the week we spend with Paul's characters on the island of Niihau let's us gain greater access to the actions and the repercussions of a nation drawn reluctantly into a second world war.

I felt both the harshness of the island and the routine, but not simple, lives of the those who called Niihau home. Paul's writing helps us feel the blowing sand and leaves us sweating under the baking sun. It's almost as if the book had been intended for me. An excellent read.

Eileen says

This is a quick read, but a very interesting fictionalized account of a little known fact in WW II History. After Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, one of the Japanese bomber pilots crash-landed his plane on Ni'ihau, a small private island off the coast of Kauai'i, where the Native Hawaiian residents still live in the old ways. With beautiful language, the author brings the characters to life, while exploring the moral ambiguity of conflicting loyalties during this difficult time.

Sara says

I liked it; it was a personal perspective of a historical event. Very enlightening.

Peter says

The story concept is a good one. The author creates some very interesting characters, although I had a hard time feeling for them until the end, but then one would feel for any series of characters who were innocently destroyed by war. I kind of wish I had gotten to know the pilot and one or two islanders a little better.
