

# **Aloha Rose**

Lisa Cox Carter

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When Laney Carrigan sets out to find her birth family, her only clue is the Hawaiian quilt--a red rose snowflake appliqued on a white background--in which she was found wrapped as an infant. Centering her search on the Big Island and battling fears of rejection, Laney begins a painstaking journey toward her true heritage. Kai Barnes, however, is determined to protect the people he's come to regard as family. He thinks Laney is nothing more than a gold digger and blocks every move she makes toward her Hawaiian family. As their conflict escalates, it puts at risk the one thing that Kai and Laney both want most--a family.

#### **Aloha Rose Details**

Date : Published November 2013 by Abingdon Press

ISBN: 9781426752735 Author: Lisa Cox Carter

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Genre: Christian Fiction, Contemporary, Romance, Fiction, Inspirational

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## From Reader Review Aloha Rose for online ebook

#### Nancee says

Photographs of a Hawaiian baby quilt posted on the Internet brought results in Laney Carrigan's search for her biological family. Laney had been left with her adoptive family on the mainland as an infant, wrapped in the traditional Hawaiian appliqued quilt. Once the connection was made with Laney's biological family she traveled to Maui to meet the family she had never known. With issues of abandonment Laney was hesitant about the meeting. Her Aunti Teah's foster son, Kai Barnes had suspicious concerns about Laney's interest in the family, and made his point clear. Kai's pernicious mindset stemmed from a tour in Afghanistan as a search and rescue specialist suffering from PTSD. Consequently Laney's introduction to her family of origin was a bumpy ride filled with stress and vexation. How would she ever fit in with this mix of family members with whom she has nothing in common aside from Hawaiian roots? Will she and Kai be able to spend time on the same property with any sense of respect or friendliness? With endless questions and concerns Laney decided to give herself a day at a time to see which direction this relationship with her "family" would go, with the return plane ticket kept close if she felt the need to retreat back to the states and her career as a free lance writer.

Aloha Rose is a multi-layered story with subplots paralleling the main plot. There is a lot of activity and a bit of chaos as the story begins, and I felt a bit like Laney, wondering if I had landed in the right place at the right time. Several characters are introduced into the story, Laney and her adoptive family, and on the island of Maui, her Hawaiian family. Descriptions of the beauty that is Hawaii were well done and educational. The diversity of the island was described in a way that I felt the atmosphere of the island without having been there. Lisa Carter's descriptive talents brought Maui to life. Numerous issues were broached through this book, such as abandonment, adoption, PTSD, Alzheimer's disease, dysfunctional family matters and issues of faith. The author imports numerous emotions throughout the book leading the reader from anguish to humor, hate to love, fear to faith. I enjoyed the story of the quilt, Hawaiian customs and terminology, the relationships that develop throughout, and surprises at the turn of a page. Not entirely believable, but who ever said that fiction has to be realistic? I found this to be an entertaining book!

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy of this book from Wynn-Wynn Media in exchange for my honest review. All opinions expressed are my own, and no monetary compensation was received for this review.

## Victor Gentile says

Lisa Carter in her new book, "Aloha Rose" Book Twelve in the Quilts of Love Series published by Abingdon Press brings us into the life of Laney Carrigan.

From the back cover: Will conflict with one man keep Laney from her dream of a loving family?

When Laney Carrigan sets out to find her birth family, her only clue is the Hawaiian quilt—a red rose snowflake appliquéd on a white background—in which she was found wrapped as an infant. Centering her search on the Big Island and battling fears of rejection, Laney begins a painstaking journey toward her true heritage.

Kai Barnes, however, is determined to protect the people he's come to regard as family. He thinks Laney is nothing more than a gold digger and blocks every move she makes toward her Hawaiian family. As their conflict escalates, it puts at risk the one thing that Kai and Laney both want most—a family.

It must be difficult to know that you were abandoned as a baby, that your own family didn't want you. It is a heartbreaking foundation for Laney's life. Yes, she was raised in a loving family but she has always felt alone. Now her real family has sought her out and she goes to Hawaii to meet them. Of all the family she meets Kai, her foster-brother, is the one she really falls in love with and he with her. The problem is Laney's foundation is keeping her distant from him while his background is remarkably similar and he is doing the same. If they are ever to have a real romance these two are going to have to heal from their pasts and the only way this will happen is if they allow God to do the work. Laney and Kai are really great characters that we fall in love with and feel as though they are friends that we do not want to leave when the book is finished. I would like to see another story that continues the adventures for them. It is really that good.

You can find "Aloha Rose" at a discount at http://www.deepershopping.com/item/ca...

If you would like to listen to interviews with other authors and professionals please go to www.kingdomhighlights.org where they are available On Demand.

To listen to 24 hours non-stop, commercial free Christian music please visit our internet radio station www.kingdomairwaves.org

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Litfuse Publicity Group for this review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

## Cat Juggler says

At first this book was really annoying!

...worse than gagging on a fur-ball.

Hellooo, I had the impression she couldn't cram any more words into each sentence even if she'd FOLDED THEM IN HALF!

There is a fifty-two word sentence in the first chapter!

"Laney followed the trail of his finger where pulsating veins ranging from papaya to burnt umber thrummed and percolated across the moon-barren landscape of the lava desert. Spurting streams diverging from flaming rivers gushed and cascaded like atomic hot rapids of a searing inferno."

"For a moment it seemed as if time stopped and they hung suspended.

But in a rush, her stomach dropped as she and Kai hurtled through space as time sped up once more, free falling as if they were in the chopper. ...she jettisoned her body to the surface."

"Treading water with one arm, ...he stepped forward."

Ohhhh, the descriptions of Kai; rainbows and Disney birds. ...and hot lava.

But in all seriosity folks, I began to enjoy this book.

I played their referenced songs on Youtube and enjoyed a mini island vacation. So give it a chance.

P.S

Adoption and PTSD are subjects entrenched in the story-line.

## Teresa Snyder says

To say I enjoyed this book would be a understatement! I LOVED it. This was my first Lisa Carter book. It will not be my last. In fact, I order her other book before I finished this one.

I enjoyed reading and learning about some of the Hawaiian culture. It was a little annoying trying to under stand some of the Hawaiian words - flipping back and forth to Laney's Hawaiian Dictionary - but they were necessary given the books sitting in Hawaii.

I love cowboys, a book with a ex army SAR, coffee growing, ranch owing, Hawaiian cowboy even better. Kai was awesome, in a arrogant, walled off heart, kind of way. He has lost so much in his life, the arms length approach to woman was understandable.

Laney was equally lovable. And full of spunk and hidden self doubt. She could give as good as she got. Her love for Kia was swoon worthy.

Kia and Laney had mega chemistry! Almost from the moment they set eyes on each other. The question was, what to do about it? Kia was determined to run; Laney was determined not to let him. But she took nothing from him or anyone else.

I'm so going to miss all of the characters in this book. They feel like friends. Family.

I love the Quilts of Love books.

#### **Iola says**

Laney Carrigan is visiting the Big Island of Hawaii to meet her birth family for the first time. She has come into contact with her Hawaiian family when they recognised a photograph of the quilt she was left wrapped in when she was abandoned as a baby. Her adoptive father was in the military and her adoptive mother is now dead, so she's never felt at home anywhere, and her career as a travel journalist hasn't given her the opportunity to set down roots.

Kai Barnes was raised by Laney's birth family as a foster child, after his mother was murdered. He forms an instant dislike of Laney—he's convinced she's simply out to get what she can, and is determined to protect his foster family from this interloper.

Aloha Rose didn't meet expectations for me. I'm not sure why. It's the second book I've read by Lisa Carter,

and all I can say is that something doesn't gel between the way she writes and the way I read. The beginning was very fast, too many characters were introduced too quickly, and although I got the instant attraction between Laney and Kai, I didn't see their relationship progress beyond that attraction. I suspect there was too much focus on showing us the interaction between the couple, and too little on showing us their deeper feelings. Good characters and an interesting concept, but something about the writing just didn't work.

Thanks to Abingdon Press and NetGalley for providing a free ebook for review.

## Lisa Johnson says

Title: Aloha Rose Author: Lisa Carter

Pages: 240 Year: 2013

Publisher: Abingdon

As threads come together to complete the masterpiece the seamstress envisioned, so to the various threads of this novel come together to form a perfect story. I sat down to read a novel that I knew involved a quilt, but that isn't all there is to the story at all. In fact, there was no way I could see before the plethora of each character's story becoming one in the end. What an amazing novel!

One thread has a young woman named Rose who was adopted as a baby now crossing the ocean to meet her biological family. Another colored thread was an elderly matriarch struggling with Alzheimer's who remembers more about her family's past than some realized, especially Rose. There is a young man who picks Rose up at the airport though none too happy about it because he fears she comes with ulterior motives. There is so much to relish from the pages of this book. Being reminded about some of God's characteristics and truths about Him we so often forget. How God can bring together various broken pieces of the past in order to restore hope for the present and future of those He loves is amazing. In one of the characters, I could see how quick tempered and tongued at times may aid her as a journalist who traveled into combat areas, but with these different new people this may or may not have aided her in finding the home she so longed for. There is much to touch the heart, mind and soul of those who sit down to read Aloha Rose. If I were to share all that I gleaned out of it, it might taint your own journey of discovery in the pages and I want you to find your own treasures. At the time when I started reading the story and it contained an elderly person with Alzheimer's, I wanted to stop reading it because in some ways it mirrored what I am really going through now. Yet, I am glad I continued to the end. There was so much more to the story than this one aspect of Alzheimer's. The reminders of the God who loves me and will see me through all my tomorrows is a theme. I sure hope you make time to curl up and read a tale with adventure, romance, faith and surprises! You'll love it!

My rating is 5 stars.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Other reviews can be read at http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspo... . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...

#### **Chris Gifford says**

Set on the big island of Hawaii, a family has found their grandaughter, Laney who was given up when her mom hits rock bottom. Laney is encouraged by her adopted father to post a picture of her baby quilt on line. Her family has been searching for her for many years, but time is running out. Laney's grandmother has dementia. So she puts her journalism career on a short sabatical to go to Hawaii.

Her aunt is supposed to pick her up but no one is there. Then a man shows up looking for her. Turns out Kai, who is adopted by her aunt comes to pick her up and he is very attractive. At first Laney ignored him, but when he can't find her he circles back to the exit and finds out se is the one he is there for. This begins a fledgling romance between them. But Laney has not been told everything, which leds to betrayal. Will Laney and Kai make it through?

## Alice Bola says

I picked this novel from NetGalley because I have a fascination (bordering on obsession) with Hawaii. It is a place I have never visited yet know that in my heart of hearts I will one day live. Everything I have seen or read about it cements that resolve. It is paradise, and yes I know it is very expensive. Aloha Rose is my first venture into Hawaiian fiction. I was looking forward to seeing if the sense of family or ohana translated on the pages. One thing I did not anticipate was the darkness. Aloha Rose touched on a lot of subjects that went beyond the typical boy meets girl romance novel fodder. It deals with adoption, the death of a parent, Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, and Alzheimer's disease. This is definitely not a light-hearted, feel-good story.

We spend a lot of time with Laney, who traveled to Hawaii in search of her birth mother to fulfill the dying wish of her adoptive mother. This journey is one Laney does not want to take. As someone accustomed to running and avoiding, she's ill-equipped to handling this.

I liked Laney. At times she was stubborn to the point of frustration. Kai was no prize either. Would it have killed the man to be open about his feeling just once? Sheesh. I didn't particularly feel a great love between them, but the lack of actual romance was okay with me because it was the depth of the subplots that really carried this story.

Aloha Rose is Christian Fiction. I have a confession. If I had known that before hand, I know I would not have read it. Ms. Carter did a wonderful job of encompassing faith into the novel without having Christianity being the first thing that jumps out at you. There were parts in Aloha Rose that were a little bit hard from me to read, but that is strictly because of my (lack of) faith lately. Her words struck a chord, my eyes welled with tears and I felt that burning in my chest. It was a reminder of what I have been missing.

Overall, I enjoyed this novel. It teaches us that ohana, ho'oponopono (forgiveness) and love are everything. Mahalo.

## **Tess says**

Just the type of book to read, to give myself a break from all the mysteries that I read.

Truthfully, I guess this is a mystery, but a very light one. Given up at birth, a young lady has finally found her birth family, in beautiful Hawaii no less. But sadly her birth mother has passed away, as has the woman that Alana always felt was her mother, and her hard-nosed father has remarried and doesn't seem to have time for her now. Taking a break from her job as a newspaper reporter, Alana finds that she's not sure if she can return to that part of her life, or should she stay here with her ohana.

## Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

I had a hard time staying interested in this one. The two main characters had no chemistry, instead treating each other with contempt and squabbling like siblings. The dialogue was disjointed and didn't flow. It seemed like physical attraction is the main thing that contributed to their relationship. The "mystery" of Laney's birth family was revealed in a quick and confusing manner at the beginning of the book, so as I read, there wasn't really a continuing plot to keep me invested. I liked the setting of the novel and the descriptions of the scenery were beautiful, but the Hawaiian words the characters used were often not easily understood or explained.

(ARC provided via Netgalley for unbiased review)

#### Diana says

Romance Hawaiian Style!

In her lovely descriptive prose, Lisa Carter awakens our senses to a wonderful Hawaiian adventure...laden with the fragrant aroma of exotic jasmine, ginger, and birds-of-paradise, cascading waterfalls, colorful rainbows, and emerald green valleys. However, amidst the alluring beauty of Hawaii lie long buried secrets, deep seated emotional pain...and hearts that need healing.

Laney Carrigan reluctantly arrives in Hawaii to reunite with her biological family at the dying request of her adoptive mother. Left on a doorstep many years ago wrapped in a lovely Hawaiian quilt, Laney becomes acquainted with her new family and learns the significance of the quilt and the heartbreaking demise of her birth mother. Living in the old plantation manager's ranch house close by is the handsome Kai Barnes, a cowboy and former Army pilot who flew SAR medevacs.

Amidst the mysterious beauty of this exotic island, Kai and Laney's attraction begins to grow stronger, although it seems as if every negative force comes against them to sabotage their newfound romance. Laney learns of a web of deceit surrounding her that only seeks to add to her feelings of rejection, and Kai

withdraws from her because of long buried secrets and major issues with PTSD. Will both accept God's healing for their broken lives?...and will Laney find the love of family she so desperately craves? Does she finally learn the true meaning of the word "Aloha?"

This is the first book I have read by this author, but I can assure you it won't be my last. Lisa Carter is an expert at descriptive imagery and I felt like I was actually seeing the magnificent isle of Hawaii for the first time right alongside Laney! The characters were very realistic and fleshed out, with serious problems such as Alzheimers and PTSD that were not sugar-coated, but portrayed with beauty, compassion, and dignity to the sufferers. With a lot of twists and turns, a strong spiritual thread throughout, and a very climactic conclusion make sure to put "Aloha Rose" at the top of your wishlist! ALOHA!

## Tahleen says

After finally finding her birth family thanks to them recognizing the photograph of a quilt she was found in when she was a baby, Laney flies to the Big Island of Hawaii to meet them, hoping to find a place she can call her forever home. What she doesn't expect is the news that her birth mother is dead, or the attraction she feels for Kai, adopted into the family after a turbulent childhood of his own. Laney looks for family and acceptance, all while trying to ignore her growing feelings for Kai, who is doing his best to ignore his own feelings for Laney.

This was not the best written book I've ever read, for sure, but if you like the Love Inspired series from Harlequin, this would be a good series to try. It's Christian fiction so there is a lot of that, which I like, but I know not everyone does.

The romance was a bit unbelievable for me; it felt like they fell for each other way too fast, and I would have liked less of the internal monologue of sappiness from both main characters.

Toward the end we got a few nice twists and some action, which were much needed, so all in all it wasn't too bad. I don't think I'll be reading anything else in the series anytime soon, however.

Recommended to fans of Christian fiction, romance, and the Love Inspired series from Harlequin.

## **Susan Heim says**

I loved the characters in this book, especially Kai and Laney. Despite their attraction to each other, they both find it difficult to commit due to abandonments in their past. Laney had been given up for adoption by her birth mother, which left her feeling unloved and unwanted despite having wonderful adoptive parents. And Kai, as a child, had witnessed the murder of his mother by his father, and ended up in the foster care system before being taken in by his permanent family. Their insecurities were very realistic and believable, and I was rooting for them to find peace with their pasts and learn to accept love. The depth of these characters takes this book beyond a simple romance to an exploration of personal identity, family dynamics, and overcoming trauma.

## Nancy H says

Quick, predictable, and fun, this story takes place in Hawaii when Laney Carrigan goes there to find her birth family. She finds much more, as well as romance and some surprises along the way.

## Cindy says

WOW! Yes I know I use that word a lot, but it is a good word to describe how you feel about a book! I have never read this author before and this book just was a great story. I cried, I laughed, I got mad, just like the characters did. I felt like I was part of the story, it drew me in so deep. I wanted to knock some sense into the leading man. But the author straightened him out for me. LOL I did love this book, a great read. I also loved the quilt story. And I had figured out something (no spoilers) that was very important to the story, way before it was revealed. Yes there is a bit of unknown through the story, things that make you wonder. Great read, do not miss this book!! 5 stars