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Island Jewel

Island Jewel
Sequel to AMERICAN NOMAD

FRANK PICKARD

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Second novel in the AMERICAN NOMAD series. Jewel and his family board the 1950’s luxury liner Lurline for the continuation of their journey to Territorial Hawaii and island living; first at Hickam Air Force Base on the banks of Pearl Harbor, then into the suburb of Pearl City before moving to the lush sugar cane fields of Aiea Heights. Jewel learns to surf Waianae and Barber’s Point, roams the bustling streets of Waikiki and struggles when his beloved brother moves to a boarding school on another island.

I loved this book and could not put it down. The story brought back so many memories I almost felt like I took a trip back in time. Now I am motivated to write the story of my own life when my father was transferred to Hickam four years earlier than Jewel.

The writing is simply compelling pulling the reader along for the journey of Jewel’s coming of age. At moments I identified so closely with dysfunctional family struggles, the magnetic attraction flipped pushing me to put the book down. But even with the book closed the author’s strong voice and imagery call for you to bravely glimpse back into the alcoholic fueled family arc. A sad
joyful journey I would recommend for all.

I so enjoyed reading Island Jewel. I grew up in the same time period that this book was written about, so I really enjoyed the adventures of this family. I read American Nomad before reading Island Jewel, so it was so interesting to read the rest of the story when the family got to Hawaii. Frank was very descriptive in his writing. Have read 3 of Frank Pickard's books so far and am currently reading another of his books. Frank is a great author and I look forward to more of his books.

This story of young Frank's life growing up in Hawaii will tug at your heartstrings. It is a story of unimaginable determination and resourcefulness of a boy who seemed to possess wisdom beyond his years. The author writes with vivid description so you can't help but feel the raw emotion of life in the Pickard household. As with Frank's other books, I didn't want the writing to end.

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