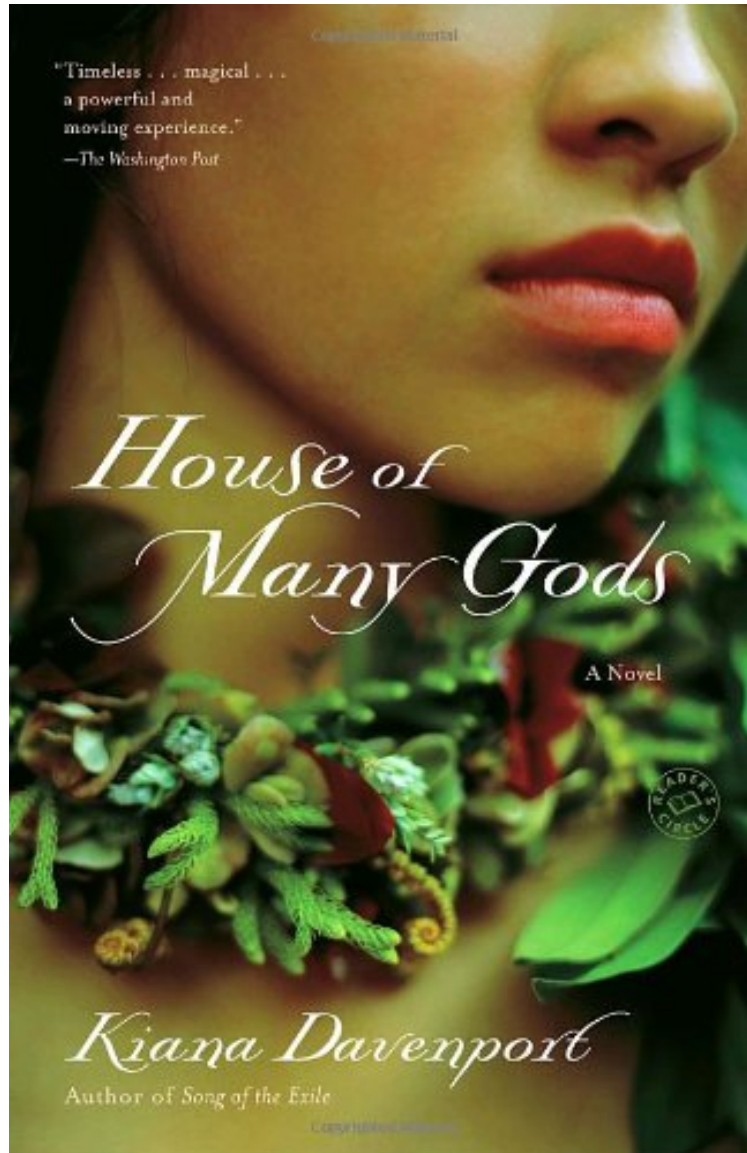


(Ebook free) House of Many Gods: A Novel

House of Many Gods: A Novel

Kiana Davenport

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Kiana Davenport : House of Many Gods: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised House of Many Gods: A Novel:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Superb and Gritty Novel of Real Hawai'i in the 20th Century By Akamai Okole I have read all of Ms. Davenport's novels. They never disappoint. She speaks with an authentic Hawaiian voice, which I may not even have standing to assert, being a haole who only lived in the Islands for a few short years, to my sorrow. But I lived there in the early years of her novel, and while I was quite uncomfortable

reading it at times (yes, as a teenage haole guy, you can bet I knew to stay away from the West side of Oahu, especially Waianae and Nanakuli, and recognized everything of which she wrote, from the places to the kinds of people and the political and cultural issues. The story of the survival, and ultimate success of a strong island girl in a bizarre family wary of her, and her love for a strange Russian refugee as out of place as she was, I found totally compelling and credible. Not an easy book to read, not something for folks looking for pleasant or casual fare, but if you want something real, and want to get a feel for the real kanaka maoli, I highly recommend this novel. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A love story that crosses cultures and oceans, and a rare view into a hidden world. By Susan Oleksiw. Hawaii looms in my mind as a beautiful, serene land, the result of years of viewing advertising meant for tourists. But I know there has to be another side to this land of perfect sandy beaches and swaying palm trees. In rich, evocative prose, Kiana Davenport takes us into the world tourists never see, into the three-generation home of Ana, native Hawaiian, and her extended family in the town of Nanakuli, on the western coast of O'ahu. Abandoned by her mother, Ana struggles to find her place, to understand the heritage passed on by her aunts and uncles, and come to grips with the destruction of sacred land by the US military. Supported by her family, Ana heads to medical school. During a rare hurricane raking the island, Ana meets a Russian filmmaker, and her life changes once more. He too knows first hand the damage from unrestrained testing and industrialization. Her journey from Nanakuli to St. Petersburg and Moscow is also her journey into her deepest self. Deeply imagined and searingly told, this novel takes us into a world known only by those born to it. Each character is vividly brought to life, and his or her story honored in the telling. This is a remarkable story, and a memorable book. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Hawaii and Russia? A mixed review. By Dreamer. The history and culture of Hawaii is beautifully available here, but unfortunately for me, so was the author. I was too aware of her mission to teach. So much so that she seemed to become for me another, though minor, character in the book. Also, I felt the Russians were almost caricatures at times, more vehicles for comparison to the Hawaiians than richly intriguing in their own right. I've enjoyed her other books, especially Shark Diaries, but this one was a bit of a plow through for me.

From Kiana Davenport, the bestselling author of *Song of the Exile* and *Shark Dialogues*, comes another mesmerizing novel about her people and her islands. Told in spellbinding and mythic prose, *House of Many Gods* is a deeply complex and provocative love story set against the background of Hawaii and Russia. Interwoven throughout with the indelible portrait of a native Hawaiian family struggling against poverty, drug wars, and the increasing military occupation of their sacred lands. Progressing from the 1960s to the turbulent present, the novel begins on the island of Oahu and centers on Ana, abandoned by her mother as a child. Raised by her extended family on the lawless Waianae coast, west of Honolulu, Ana, against all odds, becomes a physician. While tending victims of Hurricane Iniki on the neighboring island of Kauai, she meets Nikolai, a Russian filmmaker with a violent and tragic past, who can confront reality only through his unique prism of lies. Yet he is dedicated to recording the ecological horrors in his motherland and across the Pacific. As their lives slowly and inextricably intertwine, Ana and Nikolai's story becomes an odyssey that spans decades and sweeps the reader from rural Hawaii to the forbidding Arctic wastes of Russia; from the poverty-stricken Waianae coast to the glittering harshness of new Moscow and the haunting, faded beauty of St. Petersburg. With stunning narrative inventiveness, Davenport has created a timeless epic of loss and remembrance, of the search for family and identity, and, ultimately, of the redemptive power of love. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers Weekly. A family battles poverty, government indifference and each other in Davenport's rich third novel (*Song of Exile*). Ana's mother, the beautiful Anahola, fled the Hawaiian coastal town of Nanakuli, on Oahu, when Ana was still small for a new life on her own in San Francisco, leaving Ana to bring herself up in a house filled with wounded veteran uncles in an impoverished town riddled by drugs and teenage thugs. Determined not to become like her beloved but abused cousin, pregnant at 15 and stuck, Ana fights her way through college and medical school. Furious at her estranged mother, she nonetheless yearns for her, calling her California home just to hear her breathe. Leery of love and of the damaged men who populate her world, she finally opens her heart to Nikolai Volenko, a Russian filmmaker with a dangerous past, who's come to the Waianae coast to document the threat of a nearby weapons factory. When Niki is forced to return to Russia, Ana has to decide whether to accept her mother's help in finding the man she loves or retreat to the safety of the island she has never left. This is a lush, ambitious novel that delves deeply into familial conflict and forgiveness and offers a fascinating glimpse into the beauty and contradictions of native Hawaiian culture. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal. Adult/High School-Written as two stories that come together in a beautiful love story, this novel will appeal to teens on many levels. It follows the life of Ana, raised in Hawaii by a family that includes uncles demoralized by the Vietnam War and addicted to drugs and despair, and women burdened by poverty and child rearing. Determined to break the cycle, Ana manages college and medical school with a ferocity fueled by anger at the mother who left her and by the loving support of her extended family. Nikolai was orphaned as a small child and left to roam the streets of St. Petersburg when his mother died while camping out near the jail where her husband was held as a political prisoner. The young people meet dramatically during a hurricane in Hawaii, and Ana

becomes impressed by Nikolai's work as a documentary filmmaker passionately dedicated to exposing the manmade ecological havoc in Russia and in Hawaii. Well-drawn characterizations of the two principals as well as Ana's colorful relatives will capture readers, as will the vivid descriptions of the stark, frozen Russian countryside, its once majestic cities, and the contrasting lush islands of Hawaii.-Jackie Gropman, Chantilly Regional Library, Fairfax County, VA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From Booklist*Starred *

Ana Kapakahi, the abandoned child of an ambitious mother, is raised in a household of ruined vets and women without husbands. She nourishes her anger and resentment toward her mother into adulthood, while in medical school, and during a bout with breast cancer, rebuffing every effort at reconciliation. Ana and her beloved cousin Lopaka--a returned Vietnam vet--are the first of their generation to attend college, promising to brighten the economic prospects for their large, unruly family even as their native Hawaiian paradise is threatened by nuclear testing. During a hurricane on the island of Kauai, Ana meets Niki, a Russian documentary filmmaker, and her perspective on the world, as seen from her tiny island and her close-knit community, changes drastically. They are two profoundly injured people from polar-opposite backgrounds, but their appreciation for the sanctity of the earth and the importance of culture to individual identity forms a powerful attraction. Davenport, author of the critically acclaimed *Song of the Exile* (1999), again works magic with evocative descriptions of place--lush Hawaii and frigid Russia--and poignant portraits of humans with all their flaws. Vanessa BushCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved