



Makena's Shadow

By Monica K.K. Lee

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"Lee does a commendable job capturing the voice of a disaffected teenage boy. Gabe's struggles come across as authentic and true to life... vibrant depictions of Hawaiian culture and language—vital to the characters' lives—are skillfully blended into the story... a worthwhile glimpse into a colorful culture." --Kirkus Reviews

"Lee deftly presents teenage angst and the feelings of being uprooted from home and dropped in a completely new environment. Her portrayal of Hawaiian culture is honest and straightforward... Employing a realistic writing style, Lee authentically describes how many people deal with grief and change. This comedic and fast-paced coming-of-age story is engaging...A great title for those looking to add diverse works to their collection." --School Library Journal

Everything in Gabriel Kane Foster's life is shady: his family's move from California to Hawaii immediately after his sister Makena dies, his parents' strange relationship with the relatives, and the fact that his deranged Mother is constantly carrying his sister around in a bottle.

And then there are the secrets. So many family secrets. Can Gabe stay strong while adjusting to his new life without Makena?

"Makena's Shadow" is a Young Adult novel that takes place in Pupukea on the famed North Shore of O'ahu. It is a coming of age story written from the point of view of a thirteen (and-a-half) year-old boy who, born and raised in the mainland, is forced to immerse himself in the culture of his ancestors. Without his older sister beside him, or his grieving parents to guide him, he finds himself lost, angry, and alone in a world that doesn't make sense.

When Gabe's cousins challenge him, he takes them on and discovers the depth and beauty of his heritage, the calm that the ocean brings, and the excitement of the sport of outrigger canoe paddling.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—Gabriel Kane Foster's world is turning upside down faster than he can handle. After the death of his sister Makena, he and his parents suddenly move from California to Hawaii. As his mother and father retreat together to mourn, Gabriel must face his mother's unfamiliar family in a territory and language he cannot understand. Will he ever fit in? Lee deftly presents teenage angst and the feelings of being uprooted from home and dropped in a completely new environment. Her portrayal of Hawaiian culture is honest and straightforward. Readers living on Oahu or those who have visited the vibrant island will recognize place names and feel at home in the atmosphere Lee creates. Employing a realistic writing style, Lee authentically describes how many people deal with grief and change. This comedic and fast-paced coming-of-age story is engaging, and though teens not familiar with Hawaiian culture and lingo may find themselves a little disoriented at first, they will eventually feel at home in the narrative, just as the protagonist does in his new home. **VERDICT** A great title for those looking to add diverse works to their collection.—DeHanza Kwong, Wahiawa Public Library, Hawaii

About the Author

Multi-ethnic (Kanaka Maoli / Asian / Apache / Caucasian) writer MONICA K.K. LEE is the author of a poetry book, and Fricken Kids, a novel. Her short stories and poetry have been published in several literary journals. She was born and raised on Oahu where she graduated with her BA in English. She lives, breathes, and paddles outrigger canoes in Hawaii with her soulmate and their keiki.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Martin:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled Makena's Shadow the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a e-book then become one web form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get ahead of. The Makena's Shadow giving you another experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful information for your better life within this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Ettie Hardcastle:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this Makena's Shadow reserve written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written inside good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still uncertainty Makena's Shadow as good book not merely by the cover but also with the content. This is one reserve that can break don't assess book by its deal with, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your studying sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Brooke Fisher:

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