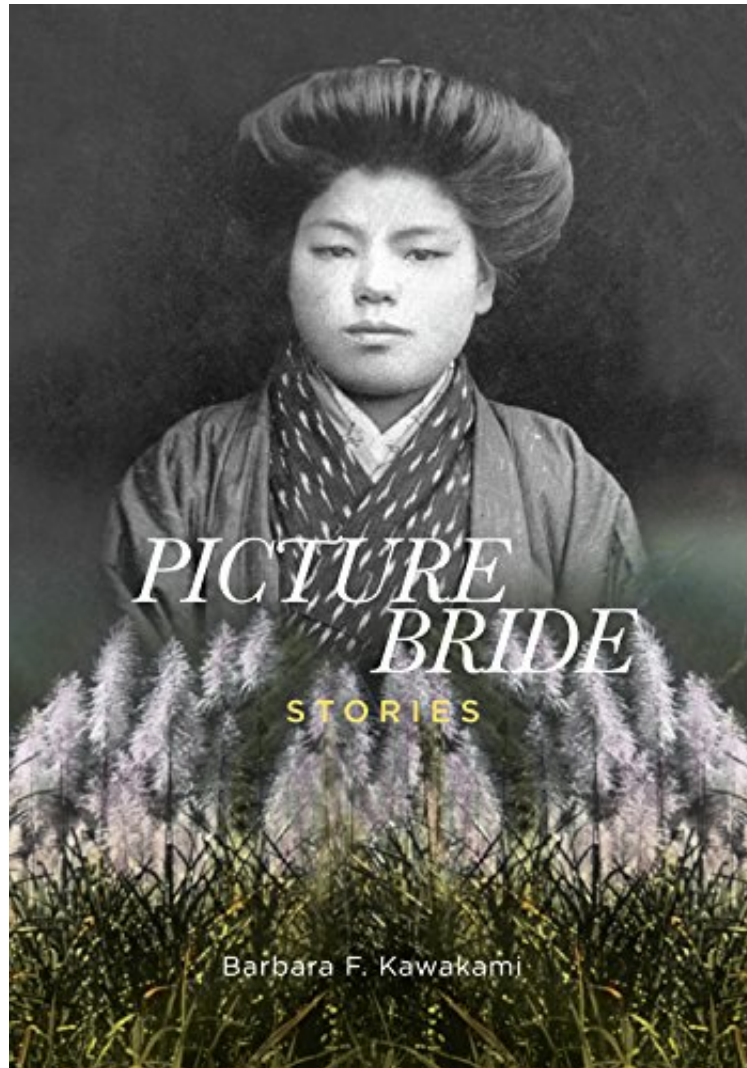


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## Picture Bride Stories

*Barbara F. Kawakami*  
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**Barbara F. Kawakami : Picture Bride Stories** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Picture Bride Stories:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy HeeiaExcellent book. This is part of many of us in Hawaii so it hits close to home.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My other obaachans where I grew up....By chanceWonderful women I had the pleasure to grow up with..."Hana but ta days"! I've a better respect of their strength and endurance to overcome...0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy GrammyThe information in this book will be helpful to me in the writing of my novel.

During the 1885 to 1924 immigration period of plantation laborers from Japan to Hawaii, more than 200,000 Japanese, mostly single men, made the long journey by ship to the Hawaiian Islands. As it became apparent that they would never return to Japan, many of the men sent for brides to join them in their adopted home. More than 20,000 of these "picture brides" immigrated from Japan and Okinawa to Hawaii to marry husbands whom they knew only through photographs exchanged between them or their families. Based on Barbara Kawakami's first-hand interviews with sixteen of these women, *Picture Bride Stories* is a poignant collection that recounts the diverse circumstances that led them to marry strangers, their voyages to Hawaii, the surprises and trials that they encountered upon arriving, and the lives they led upon settling in a strange new land. Many found hardship, yet persevered and endured the difficult conditions of the sugarcane and pineapple plantations for the sake of their children. As they acclimated to a foreign place and forged new relationships, they overcame challenges and eventually prospered in a better life. The stories of the issei women exemplify the importance of friendships and familial networks in coping with poverty and economic security. Although these remarkable women are gone, their legacy lives on in their children, grandchildren, and succeeding generations. In addition to the oral histories the result of forty years of interviews the author provides substantial background on marriage customs and labor practices on the plantations.

This engrossing book continues Kawakami's exploration of this part of the American story to include a group not much previously noticed. She carries out her research and presentation with a courageous, individualized, and sensitive attention to amazing variations within this particular ethnic group. Highly recommended.--R. B. Lyman Jr. "CHOICE" By letting her subjects, all issei (first-generation immigrant) women, tell their stories in their own words, taken from 250 hours of interviews she recorded with them, Kawakami gives voice to the silence-riddled history of picture brides in Hawaii and the reader feels an instant connection to them. . . . *Picture Bride Stories* is a scrapbook of memory and a treasure of local Japanese history. Along with their voices, the legacies of these women endure in these pages.--Misty-Lynn Sanico "Honolulu Star-Advertiser" This engrossing book continues Kawakami's exploration of this part of the American story to include a group not much previously noticed. She carries out her research and presentation with a courageous, individualized, and sensitive attention to amazing variations within this particular ethnic group. Highly recommended. (R. B. Lyman Jr. CHOICE) By letting her subjects, all issei (first-generation immigrant) women, tell their stories in their own words, taken from 250 hours of interviews she recorded with them, Kawakami gives voice to the silence-riddled history of picture brides in Hawaii and the reader feels an instant connection to them. . . . *Picture Bride Stories* is a scrapbook of memory and a treasure of local Japanese history. Along with their voices, the legacies of these women endure in these pages. (Misty-Lynn Sanico Honolulu Star-Advertiser) Barbara Kawakami's lifelong work in documenting the heartwarming and often heartbreaking stories of Hawaii's picture brides is wonderfully chronicled in *Picture Bride Stories*. Barbara weaves together the first-person voices of the courageous Issei women with her remarkable knowledge of the history of Japanese immigration to Hawaii. Her book is a significant contribution to the documentation and preservation of the untold stories of Japanese women pioneers who, along with their families, were an important part of Hawaii's tapestry. *Picture Bride Stories* has significance not only to the history of Hawaii, but to the historic relationship between the United States and Japan that endures today. (Irene Hirano Inouye, President of the U.S.-Japan Council)