



Taken from the Paradise Isle

The Hoshida Family Story

Edited by Heidi Kim, Foreword by Franklin Odo

“From the Obatas to Hatsuko Mary Higuchi, Japanese American artists depicted their lives in American concentration camps as they sought to express the sorrows engendered by incarceration. All this and more is captured by Heidi Kim’s marvelous selection of George Hoshida’s artwork and correspondence in Taken from the Paradise Isle, which poignantly documents George’s desperate attempts to keep his family intact.”

—Lane Ryo Hirabayashi,
Asian American Studies, UCLA

Crafted from George Hoshida’s diary and memoir, as well as letters faithfully exchanged with his wife Tamae, *Taken from the Paradise Isle* is an intimate account of the anger, resignation, philosophy, optimism, and love with which the Hoshida family endured their separation and incarceration during World War II.

George and Tamae Hoshida and their children were an American family of Japanese ancestry who lived in Hawai’i. In 1942, George was arrested as a “potentially dangerous alien” and interned in a series of camps over the next two years. Meanwhile, forced to leave her handicapped eldest daughter behind in a nursing home in Hawai’i, Tamae and three daughters, including a newborn, were incarcerated at the Jerome Relocation Center in Arkansas. George and Tamae regularly exchanged letters during this time, and George maintained a diary including personal thoughts, watercolors, and sketches. In *Taken from the Paradise Isle* these sources are bolstered by extensive archival documents and editor Heidi Kim’s historical contextualization, providing a new and important perspective on the tragedy of the incarceration as it affected Japanese American families in Hawai’i.

This personal narrative of the Japanese American experience adds to the growing testimony of memoirs and oral histories that illuminate the emotional, psychological, physical, and economic toll suffered by Nikkei as the result of the violation of their civil rights during World War II.

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Heidi Kim is assistant professor of English and comparative literature at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has published essays on the food policies of the Japanese American incarceration camps and the legacy of *Korematsu v. United States* and regularly teaches courses devoted to the history and literature of Japanese American incarceration.