



Guardian of Paradise

W.E. Lawrence

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Beware of strangers bearing gifts---Guardian of Paradise---The captivating story of a young woman determined to preserve the vast riches of her adopted island home---and the worldly young doctor who would awaken fantastic inner desires she never knew any woman could possess.

Orphaned at the age of twelve, Kira Wall had obtained a limited yet intensely skeptical view of the world outside this exotic tropical paradise. Her resolve to defend this land would be tested when a majestic tall ship arrived led by the ruthless Captain Darcy Coleman and his crew of cunning merchant marines. But, the ship also carries one interloper, the handsome and charismatic British physician, Dr. Trevor Marshall who is determined on wooing the beautiful island girl.

At first, Kira is suspicious and uncertain, but Trevor's flamboyant side gives way to tenderly reveal erotic pleasures they will soon share. As they explore magnificent and mysterious parts of the island never seen before as well as each other. Kira finds herself falling in love. But would fate and the evil intentions of the coldhearted invaders set on stealing the island's considerable treasures tear them apart---and take away the love that came to mean more to her than she ever dreamed.

Guardian of Paradise Details

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Author : W.E. Lawrence

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From Reader Review **Guardian of Paradise** for online ebook

Heena Rathore P. says

Note: I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Guardian Of Paradise by W.E. Lawrence is a action-packed historical read.

I really enjoyed reading this book especially because of the beautiful setting of this story. The fitting descriptions made the island's beauty come to life and I was left cravin gfor more.

I'm not a Historical Fiction fan, but there are a few authors who really write this genre well, and W.E. Lawrence is definitely one of them. I liked the romance bit too. It was the main theme, but thankfully the author did not overburden the story with mindless romance.

The adventurous undertones and the well written plot were really engaging. The writing was really simple and easy to follow, making this book a really breezy read. I was hooked right from the begining to the very end. And the characterization was also good. I didn't feel a very strong connection with the leads, but considering that it's not one of my favourite genres, I cared enough about the charaters to want to know what happens next - and it was good enough for me.

Despite a few minor flaws (lacking justification of some of the actions of the islanders and a few odd loose ends) I liked reading this book and I'd recommend it to anyone who wants to read a moderate-paced and light-hearted Historical novel.

You can also read this review at **The Reading Bud.**

Char ? Denae says

I have to admit, when I first agreed to read and review, *Guardian of Paradise*, I was afraid I wasn't going to enjoy it. The synopsis tells a tale of a doctor/botanist from England who has come to an isolated island in search of plants and roots for use in medicine. He's traveling with a captain of questionable intent but gains the trust of the island inhabitants, regardless. My first thought was that it didn't sound terribly exciting. Boy, was I wrong!

I made myself begin reading one evening and literally had to force myself to stop to go to bed. Once you begin this journey, it's very difficult to take a break. It's not a very complex story, in fact, it's a pretty simple tale, but the way W.E. Lawrence tells it, it's like watching a movie in your mind. The setting unfurls in living color with people you could actually know, in the form of island natives. Island natives who've adopted the young daughter of missionaries, as one of their own. They welcome outsiders with anticipation, and eagerly embrace modern technologies and gadgets. They accept these goods, in exchange for natural island produce, which they grow and harvest. Their everyday life is as normal and complex as any human community, including a variety of personalities, ages, and opinions. Except for the questionable captain, everything seems honky-dory, until the missionaries' daughter shows up.

Naturally inquisitive and distrustful, she is skeptical from the beginning. When no one agrees with her

mistrust, she takes matters into her own hands to find out what the captain and, by association, the doctor, are really there for. There's mystery, intrigue, danger, romance; everything you could want in a story. This is definitely a book, and author, that deserves more attention.

Boundless Book Reviews says

Kira Wall is living my dream! She lives on a beautiful island, eating fresh fruit every day, and has a pet bird that talks to her! I instantly loved her character; she's strong, independent and takes no sh*t from anyone.

The writing is excellent; the characters are well developed, the traditions on the island are explained perfectly and in just the right place, the native English is used in a way to allow readers to understand the dialog, and the imagery described the island beautifully, I want to live there! The story is suspenseful, dramatic, funny and romantic all at the same time.

Guardian of Paradise is a wonderfully fun read; I absolutely loved it and rate it with 5 Boundless Stars! I look forward to more books from Lawrence....Beth

<http://www.boundlessbookreviews.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/BBReviews>

Melissa (Mel's Bookshelf) says

2.75 Stars

I enjoyed this historical fiction island story. I am not the biggest Historical fiction fan, but the story appealed to me, probably because of the romance. I'm a bit of a sucker for a good romance. Unfortunately there are a few things that fell short for me, but overall it was an enjoyable read.

Kira lives on a pacific island, isolated from the rest of the word. She has been there since she was a young girl. Her parents were taken by a tidal wave years earlier and she has been living alone with the natives ever since. A merchant Australian ship arrives and Kira is apprehensive. What do they want from the small island and the trusting natives? And can she trust the handsome doctor working on the ship?

The story starts out well. The scene of this beautiful island is set and Kira is introduced, along with her friendships with some of the locals. After the ship arrives and she is attracted to the handsome doctor Trevor, the romance progresses along quite well. There are some lovely moments and a few hot scenes... However there is a lot going on with Kira attempting to discover what the nasty captain and his crew are really doing on the island. And then eventually the story starts to dwindle and become quite long winded. Even the romance and romantic scenes were getting too much by the end of it. They started to become unbelievable and a bit corny. I feel the entire book could have been a bit shorter.

Although I wasn't the biggest fan of Kira's character, I enjoyed the strong female lead and the unique predicament she was in being the only non native living on the island. She knew what the merchants and other settlers were like, even if she had only experienced them in Australia as a child. I didn't mind Trevor, I

did enjoy some of the banter between them. I didn't enjoy reading the slang that a lot of the locals used, and the written Australian accent attempt. I found them both inconsistent at times.

I wasn't the biggest fan of the ending. Religion or belief in a higher power had not really been explored much throughout the book and so when they started talking about what God wanted for them, I was thinking "Where is this coming from?". It felt out of place, kind of like the author just wanted to throw it in there at the end.

Would I recommend it?

Despite my criticisms, I still enjoyed it. There were a few good funny moments and the author did create a beautiful island atmosphere. The romance had some touching moments and the central storyline was entertaining. I would recommend it to historical romance fans. And only for readers aged 18+ as it was very raunchy at times.

Many thanks to Book Publicity Services for a copy of *Guardian of Paradise* in exchange for my honest review.

For more reviews check out my blog

www.booksbabiesbeing.com

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W.E. Lawrence says

I've always liked stories of strong, intelligent, kick-ass women, but at the same time being a bit naïve and vulnerable about romantic relationships.

From "Kirkus Reviews":

A fiendish merchant-ship captain is more invested in taking precious material from a South Pacific island than trading with locals in Lawrence's debut adventure novel.

In the late 19th century, an Australian merchant navy ship lands at the island of Alofa. Islander Kira Wall is wary because previous traders who'd visited were greedy men who carelessly trampled through fields of plants and fruits. She doesn't trust Capt. Coleman in the slightest. He seems too eager to offer bountiful goods, as if he were trying to distract the natives. Sure enough, Coleman is secretly scouring Alofa for diamonds that a pirate said he'd discovered on the island. The normally standoffish Kira struggles with her newfound affection for the handsome Dr. Trevor Marshall, the ship's civilian physician and botanist, and they both look for a way to avoid a conflict between the crew and islanders. Meanwhile, Coleman tries to force Kira into revealing the diamonds' location by kidnapping her best friend. Despite the tropical-paradise setting, this romance doesn't dawdle. Instead, it follows two people falling in love while immersed in suspenseful scenes and the occasional action sequence. Kira is a laudable but bewildering protagonist. Her distrust of outsiders, for example, is odd as she herself is the daughter of missionaries who came to Alofa. But she more than holds her own, boasting a thorough knowledge of the island's interior and proving a

formidable adversary in scuffles with men. Lawrence conveys the developing relationship between Kira and Trevor primarily via sex scenes, but the duo still has emotional resonance. As a villain, the captain is a worthy opponent (he even uses dynamite) with an ever-present arrogance, while the few loyal crew members who stand by him are really just extensions of his corruption. The final act, in which Coleman targets Kira's loved ones and inevitably faces off against her, could be trimmed, but it maintains momentum and delivers a satisfying finale.

Lawrence blends romance, action and beautiful scenery into an alluring concoction. – "Kirkus Reviews"

Lillian ? Cloud 9 Books ? says

**** 3.5 Stars ****

Kira is a strong independent woman living with a tribe on an island. The people accepted her as their own when her missionary parents died, and she worked hard to help her new family.

When visitors came to the island to trade, Kira knew there was something wrong. She especially didn't trust Captain Coleman. The doctor on the ship asked Kira if she could help him around the island to discover new plants for his research. She agreed to guide him because she thought it would be a good way to find out why these men really came to the island.

Kira and Doctor Trevor had a strong attraction for each other. She was a virgin. He was an experienced man. The story overall was good, but I didn't feel connected with the characters. It was also very repetitive. Whenever a friend got involved, the entire story got told over and over again. I found it frustrating and tiring, and it ultimately took a toll on my enjoyment.

Regan Walker says

3 and ½ Stars - A fun romp on a Pacific island.

Set in the Pacific on imaginary island of Alofa northeast of Australia in 1888, this is the story of Kira Wall, the surviving daughter of missionaries killed in a tsunami. Though she could have gone to Australia, Kira decided to stay with the natives where she made friends.

One day, an Australian merchant ship arrives at the island. Kira immediately mistrusts Captain Coleman who she sees as evil (apparently she is the only one on the island who thinks so). With the captain is Dr. Trevor Marshall, a medical doctor and a botanist, who is looking for plants for new cures and medicines. The island

intrigues him as the natives are very healthy and strong.

Based on her hunch about the captain, Kira warns Chief Ariki not to trust him, but the chief refuses to listen. To see what the visitors are doing, she takes the job of guide for Trevor, but that leaves the two of them alone in the woods. Then an explosion occurs and, again, Kira is the only one who suspects Captain Coleman.

The premise of the story is a good one, but there were a few distractions. At the very start, I found the natives' accent made reading the story difficult whenever they were speaking. I also thought the story had a modern feel, in part due to some words and phrases. Others seemed odd for the character. (I just couldn't see a London-educated doctor in the Victorian era saying "Blimey" and "Crikey", but maybe it's just me. It sounded more like the language of a dockworker.)

The story is fairly simple: bad guys want what the good islanders have and the only white girl on the island saves them while being attracted to the good English doctor. A fun romp on a Pacific island with a few surprises along the way.

Becky Cox says

Kira, our heroine, is a strong female character who is beautiful and loyal to a fault. She is naive as child in a lot of ways even though she is actually in her twenties, but she is skilled in life lessons learning from her parents before they passed and from the islanders. She loves the islanders as her family and will do anything to protect them and their beautiful home.

Trevor Marshall is a handsome and wholesome young man who is on the adventure of his life getting to explore the island for plants for treatments of disease. He sees the world as good and is a bit clueless as to the bad people in the world. He is passionate about his profession. The local children fall in love with him and he with them.

Their romance is sweet and a little steamy. It is definitely an adventure with mystery and deception all in a beautiful setting. This was a fun adventurous read.

For the most part the story flowed nicely and kept me turning pages. I became frustrated with Kira and her juvenile thought processes at times but understood the environment she was raised in and how it effected her maturity level in certain areas. There are several supporting characters that add humor and substance to the story which I enjoyed.

I was provided a copy for an honest review.

Reviewed by Becky for Jo&IsaLoveBooks
<http://joandisalovebooks.com/>
<http://joandisalovebooks.blogspot.co.uk/>

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

4.5 Jungle Lady Stars

Mild Spoilers

This book was so good! It had a very sweet romance, but it also had a great, adventurous plot that pulled me in, and had me dying to find out what would happen next. I read the whole book in one day. I didn't even put it down to eat .(I just held the book with one hand and shoveled my food with the other.) Now I just hope there will be a follow up book, because I want more of Kira and Trevor!

What this book is about

Kira Wall is the daughter of missionaries that came to the island of Alofa when she was a small child. She falls in love with the Island and the natives, who are like family to her. So when her parents die, She stays, feeling this is where God wants her. It's her home, and her calling to help the people of Alofa. The Island has had visiting merchant ships come that were not trustworthy, Failed to take good care of the land, and were unfair to the natives. So when a merchant ship with Captain Coleman showed up, she was leery. When he was overly friendly, offering a extravagant amount of gifts and goods to be able to harvest the fields , she knows her suspicions are right. Now she just has to prove it to the overly trusting locals. As if she didn't have enough to deal with, there is this handsome Doctor that makes her feel all kinds of new things. Not knowing if she can trust Dr. Marshall ,and fighting her growing feelings, will she be able to protect the Island and the natives from being taken advantage of or worse?

Trevor Marshall is very serious about his work, and not so much about the ladies he dates. A bit of a playboy, no woman has been able to grab and hold his interest, until Kira. Trevor has a very cute, playful personality. I loved the part in the book where he was playing ball with the local kids and had this Charlie Brown like ball fumble and landed on his backside. He was a very well rounded and likable character.

Kira Wall made the book for me. She was strong, brave, and sassy! She is protective of those she loves, and does what she thinks is right, no matter what it may cost her. Wise in many ways , she was naive when it came to love and men. She had a very sweet innocence about her, and vulnerability when it came to Trevor. I loved the way she comes out of her shell and becomes a sexually confident woman.

I loved Malana, and Archie Cooper. The parts of the book when you get to see their deep respect and friendship with the main Characters is touching. Trevor and Kira are captivating ,and charming together. The tender, passionate moments in this book are very romantic. I truly enjoyed this book. The only reason I didn't

give it a full 5 stars is because I would have liked more at the end. I liked their HEA, but I would have liked to have had a epilogue. Just a small glimpse into their future together. Other than that this was a great read and I would recommend this book to anyone who loves Historical Romances!

<http://jessicasoverthetopbookobsessio...>

Anne Conley says

This is a marvelous debut historical romance from a new author I will be sure and stalk from now on. I'm calling it historical romance, because that's what it was to me, but it is genre-bending. It is unique in that the setting is not typical of a historical romance, more of an adventure. And adventure certainly abounds in this story. Mr. Lawrence does an exceptional job of setting up conflict and tension as well as arcing the story so that it is easy to get wrapped up in.

There were a few issues I had with the telling of the story, but nothing so dire as to give it a poor review, but I will mention them. There is a lot of repetition that makes the pacing lag a bit, especially toward the end when I just wanted to find out how they caught the bad guy. The author's spelling out of different dialect also made it difficult to read at times. These were the only things that really took me out of the story.

The writing itself is stale in some areas, where it could use more showing emotions through action and inference, instead of telling me what every character is feeling. Like I said though, this didn't take too much away from the story itself, and I really enjoyed it.

Jessica says

One look at this cover and I was very intrigued. Then, I saw that it was a historical romance and I could not wait to read the story inside.

Ever since her parents died in a tsunami as missionaries on an island, Kira Wall has made a life for herself among the natives of the island. But when a ship of "merchants" shows up, Kira is wary about their motives for helping the natives. The chief of the island refuses to believe Kira's warnings about the men and welcomes them to their island. Kira needs to uncover what the men really want, but that's kind of hard with the tall and handsome Dr. Trevor Marshal who is on the island to study the plants for medicinal purposes. Showing Trevor around the island stirs up feelings that Kira never thought she could feel for a man, but can she really trust Trevor?

The premise of this book was so promising. I mean, it's 1888 and there is a hunky doctor and a mystery to solve before Kira's island succumbs to the danger. Unfortunately, I couldn't really connect with Kira and got tired of her inexperienced background when it came to the opposite sex. Literally every time she became even close to being intimate with Trevor, she would bring up how she's never felt that way before, how she can't feel that way, and how scared she was of feeling that way. I got it the first three times and it just got old after awhile.

Not only was the romance lacking, but I found myself skimming through the last bits of the book because I was just over the whole mystery of what the men were actually doing on the island. The story seemed to draw out much more than it needed to and we learned what the men were really after about halfway through the book, which meant that I lost interest in the whole plot line a little bit after that.

Overall, this book just didn't do it for me. While it did have romance and started out pretty interesting, it lacked a relatable character and relied too heavily on the inexperienced virgin trope. Also, the mystery/danger of the story didn't entice me and went on for far too long. If you want a thrilling, passionate historical romance, you won't find it with this one.

Dianne says

Get ready to set sail into the past to a beautiful tropical island, unmarred by outsiders, where the natives live in love, peace and harmony. Will the merchant ship in their cove bring them more goods for trade or are their exorbitant gifts a smoke screen for more nefarious plans?

Kira came to the island of Alofa as the child of missionaries and stayed on long after her parents' deaths. Beautiful, brilliant and mistrustful of these sailors, she realizes questions as to their intent, but the trusting tribe chief believes in the goodness of all hearts. Accompanying the evil captain, who has the charm of a snake, is a young doctor intent on searching for rare plants to be used medicinally. As his guide, Kira finds Trevor handsome, charming and he is getting under her skin with his good intentions, so at odds with the captain.

Under the guise of helping the natives, the captain's crew is searching for buried treasure, not gold doubloons, but a rare and exotically beautiful stone, worth more than its weight in gold. But will they destroy the beauty of the island and the trusting nature of the islanders in the process? Is the budding romance between Kira and Trevor a ruse to keep her out of the way? When push comes to shove, both Kira and Trevor must make a stand, but will they stand alone against rape of the island or will the islanders and an active volcano come to their aid?

Two worlds, one scarred by greed, one filled with the beauty of contentment and trust clash in W.E. Lawrence's **Guardian of Paradise**. From the wonderfully described island scenes to the smell of the ocean, one can almost hear the swish of swaying palm fronds. W.E. Lawrence has created a world of paradise on Earth on this tiny island, including the touch of a breeze as his world comes to life with each page. And the evil? Enter the heavy pounding of organ music, the sneering lies of the captain behind his jovial façade. Let's not forget the romance, wonderful, warm and very tentative in its beginnings, all well done by W.E. Lawrence.

I received this copy from W. E. Lawrence in exchange for my honest review.

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Reviewed for: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to author W.E. Lawrence.)

“We are happy to greet anyone who comes to our island in peace.”

This was an adult historical romance, set on an island.

Kira was a woman who seemed to care for everybody on the island where she lived, and she was a bit wary of strangers. She seemed to like Trevor though, and they seemed to get along pretty well.

“I think we know each other well enough for you to call me Trevor from now on.”

The storyline in this was about a boat full of men approaching the island where Kira lived, and asking if they could harvest some of the food grown on the island. I did find the pace in this quite slow though, and to be honest I kept wanting to put this down and not pick it up again.

“This is the richest soil I’ve ever laid eyes on.”

There were a few other storylines going on, but there was also a romance between Kira and Trevor. I can’t say I really enjoyed the romance in this though. I’m not sure why, maybe it’s because I didn’t really warm to Trevor, but there was just something lacking for me, and I didn’t enjoy the sex scenes either unfortunately. I just didn’t feel like they fitted in with the rest of the book, and Trevor was a little rough with Kira considering that she was a virgin.

The ending to this was okay, but to be honest I was glad to finish the story. Maybe this was just a case of wrong person, wrong book, but I didn’t really enjoy this one much. It does look like I’m very much the odd one out with regards to this book though.

A generous - 6 out of 10 - just because I think that other people will like this one.

Sophia says

I've always loved the adventure-style romances and I looked forward to one set on a jungle island full of natives with a feisty heroine and solid hero. This one had a nice blend of adventure and romance. I found the naive, yet stubbornly strong heroine who grew up on the island with the islanders intriguing and I really liked the hero who could see past the surface and appreciate her.

The story opens in 1888 when Kira Wall and the natives of the South Seas' island, Alofa, spot an Australian Merchant Navy ship coming into the cove. Kira is a missionaries' daughter who stayed on the island after her parents died. These are her people and she mistrusts the traders who come with big smiles and big gifts from the start. Unfortunately, the chief doesn't see the danger of kindly welcoming trade and letting the captain and his men loose on the island. Kira's verbal attacks toward the Captain and her temper lose her the chief's ear even as the smug captain goes about his secretive doings. Kira and a friend watch and impatiently wait to see what the captain is really up to.

Dr. Trevor Marshall accompanies the ship as their doctor and as botanist in order to pursue his studies to find new plants that might lead to new medicines. He has been a non-committting type when it comes to women, but he is intrigued from the moment he encounters the fiery Kira. Kira is suspicious because he is there with odious Captain Darcy Coleman. Trevor doesn't like him, but so far the man hasn't done anything wrong. Kira takes Trevor around the island and he is amazed at the lush growth, the health of the natives, and more than amazed by a new plant that Kira uses on a hurt islander to show it has strong healing properties. It could be exactly what he is looking for as a medical break through. In the meantime, his overtures to start something up with Kira are rebuffed because she may be attracted, but she wants something long-term and he's not planning on staying. That said, he doesn't stop trying when it comes to the beautiful, talented woman.

The pair are at cross purposes, but it is the revelation of Captain Coleman's plotting that heats things up for Kira, Trevor, and the dormant volcano. Things are about to blow and it's a race whether it will be the angry islanders, the conniving Captain, or the attraction between Kira and Trevor.

Alright, so this set up to be an exciting jungle island adventure romance. It was a familiar situation when modern greed discovers untapped natural resources. I liked how the islanders are portrayed. They are honorable, hardworking, open, but not stupid. And not every member of the crew is out to fleece them though those in control definitely are.

The story is more action plot, but it's pacing is right and doesn't lag.

The description of the island and the people makes me wish I could go there. From lush fruits, colorful tropical flora, the gorgeous scenery including the waterfall lagoon. Sounds fantastic.

The characters are all engaging, too. A few of the islanders are distinguished and they are fun and solid people. And the bad guys with Captain Coleman in the lead are less described, but they do their job creating conflict.

The main character and narrator is Kira. I had mixed feelings about her. Kira loves the people and understands them for the most part, but she is not really one of them having lived in Australia the first ten years of her life so she straddles both worlds. She feels it is her calling to protect the islanders who are innocent to the world away from the island and keep the island's abundant natural resources from being stripped. Kira, herself, has skills and intelligence, a huge heart, but she knows just enough to be dangerous. I had to constantly remind myself just how isolated and innocent she was even if she had an inflated opinion of her own power. She meant well, but thought somehow she was fine to go up against several ruthless men who were armed all because her dad taught her self defense and she knew the island better than the Captain

and his group. It wouldn't have been so frustrating, but she was stubborn about it and grudgingly grateful when she had to have help from Trevor or her best friend.

Trevor is the second main character and had a portion of the narration. He was a good sort, but he wasn't as strong-willed as Kira and this made for an interesting dynamic. He had plans and dreams. He liked Kira and respected her, but he knew that his time with her wasn't permanent. He tried to help, but Kira kept things back so he had to operate in the dark at times and act as sidekick. He didn't seem to mind this other than her stubborn-stupid moments that almost got her and others killed.

The romance was sweet and I liked these two together. Not to say things didn't heat up, but it took its time because of all the other stuff going on and because this was Kira's first time experiencing attraction and dealing with the possibility of a romantic relationship. Kira was innocent and a virgin, but the fire in her lit up when Trevor was around. Because of her naivete, I was a smidge uncomfortable with their first time together. I wasn't entirely sure she understood what was happening before they were in the middle of things. But she was a strong willed person and could have said no so that's what relieved me somewhat. At the end, I wasn't surprised about the solution to the issue of their conflict of interest. However, I did find it problematic for the long term because one had to give in on dreams and it didn't set well with me.

The final big scenes were exciting and I loved not knowing how Kira and the others would get out of the dire trouble they found themselves in after the captain's plotting was revealed.

All in all, it was exciting, passionate, and the setting was perfect. Those who enjoy the exotic jungle island adventure romance type stories should consider this one.

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

Erin says

Find this and other reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot....>

I owe my interest in W.E. Lawrence's *Guardian of Paradise* to the artist who designed the jacket. I'm well aware one shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but in today's market it is impossible to deny the importance of eye-catching imagery. Much as I loathe admitting it, I wouldn't have stopped long enough to read the description on *Guardian of Paradise* without the richly colored graphic that graces its cover and I admire the author for recognizing its marketing potential when self-publishing his work.

Moving into the narrative itself, I have to admit that I found Lawrence's setting unique. His story unfolds on an isolated island in the South Pacific in the late eighteen hundreds. It's not a time and place that are paired often and I found the exotic nature of the island, its people, and their lifestyle easy to indulge in.

That said, I wasn't overly impressed with Lawrence's cast and couldn't help being bored with the author's generic character designs. Heroine, Kira Wall, is beautiful, intelligent, and genuinely good. Hero, Trevor Marshall, is handsome, astute, and kind. They are a golden couple who are ideally suited to one another, but they lack complexity, intrigue, and depth. They're stock characters and I found little to appreciate in the make-up.

The novel suffers pacing issues and I wasn't sold on historic elements of the plot. *Guardian of Paradise* is a

romance, but I think it would have read more strongly if the author had invested more in both character development and period detail.

Would I recommend the book? Yes and no. The book has its moments, but pales next to volumes like Alan Brennert's *Moloka'i*. *Guardian of Paradise* is a lighter piece, the kind of thing I might take to the beach, but at the end of the day, I'd have difficulty suggesting it to hardcore fans of historic fiction.
