



Fiji

Lance Morcan, James Morcan

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Fiji is a spellbinding novel of adventure, cultural misunderstandings, religious conflict and sexual tension set in one of the most exotic and isolated places on earth.

As the pharaohs of ancient Egypt build their mighty pyramids, and Chinese civilization evolves under the Shang Dynasty, adventurous seafarers from South East Asia begin to settle the far-flung islands of the South Pacific. The exotic archipelago of Fiji is one of the last island groups to be discovered and will remain hidden from the outside world for many centuries to come.

By the mid-1800's, Fiji has become a melting pot of cannibals, warring native tribes, sailors, traders, prostitutes, escaped convicts and all manner of foreign undesirables. It's in this hostile environment an innocent young Englishwoman and a worldly American adventurer find themselves.

Susannah Drake, a missionary, questions her calling to spread God's Word as she's torn between her spiritual and sexual selves. As her forbidden desires intensify, she turns to the scriptures and prayer to quash the sinful thoughts – without success.

Nathan Johnson arrives to trade muskets to the Fijians and immediately finds himself at odds with Susannah. She despises him for introducing the white man's weapons to the very people she is trying to convert and he pities her for her naivety. Despite their differences, there's an undeniable chemistry between them.

When their lives are suddenly endangered by marauding cannibals, Susannah and Nathan are forced to rely on each other for their very survival.

Fiji Details

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From Reader Review Fiji for online ebook

Cathy says

Again this book is not like most of the books I read but I enjoyed.
Lance Morcan has done a good job in making this a page turner. Job well done.

Beth says

Warning, this will probably read as harsh and snooty:

To be fair, I rarely read things that get the label "romance." VERY rarely. Sometimes if they cross with mystery, I can take it (Iris Johansen in limited doses, the Eve Dallas books, and, yeah, I read the Twilight books). But I'm not a romance person. I'm rarely even a chick lit person. To be fair, I have also been reading REALLY good books lately. But given that I have not yet read EVERY really good book, it is very hard to justify spending time on this one. So much so that I bailed about 10% of the way in. And I also almost never bail on books. I feel it is not fair to judge them unless you know where they are going. I wanted to use this book for one of my Oceania reads in my 6 books, 6 countries, 6 regions challenge, and Oceania books are hard to find at all. But I just couldn't do it. I couldn't.

After reading passages like "*Better the peak of art than the slough of sex. Contrary to the popular notion of his wantonness, the artist, Mother believes, must forget about sex. If he can't, then he's a mere mortal; but he shouldn't be a mere mortal. He should be divine!* Unfortunately, biographies of artists, which are the most important things about artists, teem all too often with the sexual ruses and abuses of their protagonists. They inveigle the reader into thinking that the cucumber bed of pure harmony grows upon the compost heap of sex."

 which is just a randomly selected passage from *The Piano Teacher*,

to then read "*As Susannah continued reading, the forbidden thoughts returned. This time they were even more intense and exciting. Her pulse raced and her breathing became labored as she imagined strong hands caressing her body,*" just doesn't work for me. There have to be better ways to spend my time. Actually, I was already getting skeptical when the authors referred to a Bible "translated from the Hebrew in 1583." Ok, only the first half was ever in Hebrew in the first place. I know I'm being picky, but I was afraid these details would pile up. If you can overlook that the New Testament was in Greek, what else will you gloss over?

And if cultural insight is depicted like this "*Looking into the eyes of the old Fijian, Nathan reminded himself he was looking at the end result of thousands of earlier generations. He wondered what claims to fame the old man's forebears had.*" I'm, again, not feeling really hopeful. I kept feeling like I was reading something written by a good but not truly talented high school student. Again, maybe if you are looking for a steamy island read about a not-so-repressed daughter of a missionary, then maybe this will work for you. I'm looking for something more than that. So I will have to find my next Oceania read somewhere else.

Alice Dinizo says

Authors Lance and James Morcan have taken the history of Fiji in the 19th century and created a well-written, totally absorbing novel. American Nathan Johnson, handsome, tough adventurer, comes to Momi Bay in Fiji to trade his muskets for their sea snails that he'll sell for a fortune in China. He meets English missionary Brian Drake and his lovely daughter Susannah who have come to Fiji to educate the natives. Nathan has had women aplenty but he falls for the innocent Susannah who is quite strong in her beliefs and her ways. Nathan feels that the Fiji natives are ungrateful for the economic prosperity brought by Europeans and sees Fiji as "a melting pot of warring tribes, European adventurers, mutineers, escaped convicts, beachcombers and all sorts of undesirables." But through his associations with brave Fijians as together they chase after the outcast warrior Rambuka and his followers who have kidnapped Susannah, Nathan begins to form friendships with the Fijians and even with an escaped convict, people he once deplored. But will Nathan and Susannah ever unite? Read this story whose characters are believable and historically accurate, whose plot line proceeds with twists and turns to the story's conclusion and find out.

Beth says

This is the second of the Morcans' novels I've had the pleasure of reading and I have to start immediately by saying I was not disappointed. After reading the Ninth Orphan, Fiji certainly seemed like a completely different type of tale and this was certainly true but it was equally enjoyable and well written.

Described as a "swashbuckling, historical, adventure-romance set in 19th century Fiji" I really did not know what to expect and thoughts of Pirates of the Caribbean did come to mind although there is nothing pirate-related in this novel and once I got into it, I was hooked. Particularly interested in the history and social anthropology of the Fijian tribes, I was extremely pleased to find out lots that I would never have known previously without having to read some dry non-fiction account. The ability to combine interesting historical fact with a tense and fractious plot line is a skill which these writers employ liberally and made this novel even more enjoyable for me.

The two lead characters, Nathan and Susannah both worked well for me, I particularly enjoyed the characterisation of Susannah and her inner struggle as her natural feminine instincts take over her Christian teachings and how she battles against them. However, I found the Fijian characters much more likeable and interesting, even 'the Outcast' Rambuka was a character I enjoyed reading.

The speed of the narrative quickens as the worst of the events unfold and the writers manage to tie in the thrill of the battle and action packed bloodlust with commonplace romance between two individuals, both wondering where the other may be and what the other really thinks of them and combination of these two works extremely well.

This novel was a total surprise to me, unlike The Ninth Orphan but definitely as enjoyable, I'm pleased to hear that a feature film of Fiji is being developed as I can already see how well it would play out.

Beth Townsend - The Kindle Book Review

Roy Murry says

Fiji
A Novel

LANCE & JAMES MORCAN

Reviewed by Roy Murry, Author

Fiji is an island adventure where the west meets natives that have little in common on the surface. Underneath the limited verbal communication, people are mostly the same when it comes to loyalty, friendship, and the fight against evil.

The Drakes (Rev. and his daughter) are missionaries and an industrious trader named Nathan arrive on a Fiji island where cannibals wait in the background. A group of them attacks the somewhat civilized natives which the westerners are coming to meet.

The visitors seem to have chewed more than what they bargained for when they decided to go to this particular island - Nathan to trade guns for a precious item and the Drakes to spread the word.

All placed in a battle for survival they want to get through fast. A love story is a part of the struggle and a key to why Nathan does what he does, putting his life on the line for the good of the natives and Susannah.

The prose and the background are so enjoyable that the reader will feel the drums, follow the action, and feel for the natives with waiting eyes. It is a short read of a long narrative, well done.

Purchase: <https://amzn.to/2OErN7P>

Angie ~aka Reading Machine~ says

Sina of the Qopa tribe in Momi Bay was kidnapped by the Outcast Rambuka three months before the new missionaries from England arrived. Reverend Brian Drake and his daughter Susannah are coming to Momi Bay to convert the natives to Christianity. Reverend Drake has many plans for converting the natives. Susannah believes in what her father is doing yet she finds that she has feelings for Nathan Johnson. Nathan Johnson is only interested in making a profit by any means necessary. Nathan cannot stop thinking about Reverend Drake's daughter much to the Reverend's dismay. Nathan won't try to have a relationship with Susannah no matter what she is feeling right now. Iremaia is ratu of the Qopa tribe knows fighting the outcasts is deadly. Iremaia's son Joeli wants to defend Qopa tribe but doesn't think having muskets that Nathan Johnson brought with him can help his people. What is Rambuka's next move? Will Iremaia use muskets? What will become of Reverend Drake and his daughter? Is Nathan willing to change? Will Sina be returned to the Qopa tribe? Your answers await you in Fiji: A Novel.

Todd Simpson says

Thoroughly Entertaining from start to finish. This is a great carry on from the first book in the series 'World Odyssey'. Both Authors take us on such an amazing adventure around the world with a group of very diverse character, and an interesting plot. Sina didn't have a chance when she was grabbed by the much stronger Rambuka, and especially when he decided that he wanted to take her back to his tribe. Being taken by an Outcast back to the land of Red Rain wasn't the ideal outcome for her. Rambuka became an outcast after he tried to kill his half-brother Joelil. Before Joelil was born, Rambuka was first in line to become the Raut – Chief of the village. However since his mother wasn't of royal blood, and Joelil's was, he was relegated to a common warrior, which certainly upset him. Now he was doing everything in his power to build up his own

tribe and seek his revenge. Susannah and her father Brian finally made it to Fiji of 6 months of travelling on the ship. They met up with Nathan Johnson in Levuka, who was also on his way to Mobi Bay. However he wasn't going there to be a missionary like Susannah and her father, but to trade muskets for sea cucumbers. Something the Chinese were crazy for and prepared to pay a lot of money for. Like most men Nathan was very taken with Susannah's beauty. As with all Europeans they are quite shocked with some of the Fijian customs, and how cheaply they value someone's life. They don't bat an eye lid to sacrifice themselves for the great good of the tribe. Then there are the cannibals to be aware of. Rambuka and the Outcast's attack the village with muskets and it's only Nathan's quick thinking to get his muskets off the ship that saves the village from being wiped out. Rambuka does manage to steal the tribe's most prized possession, the Golden Tabua. Which is the tooth of a sperm whale, which is meant to bring the owners good luck. They all thought the fight was over until Nathan was struck by a spear in the chest by one of the Outcast's that was hiding. Then the unthinkable happens and Rambuka abducts Susannah in front of Nathan, and he's going to do everything he can to get her back. Escaped convict Jack Halliday might be able to help, as he's made his way to Fiji. This was such an easy and enjoyable book to read, and so well written. Well worth a read.

Sylvia says

[Fierce and violent tribal rules, where even cannibalism is common.

I loved the struggle between the two leading characters, who love one another but don't dare to admit it. Although the book is sometimes a little predictable, it kept me reading on and on and I enjoyed it. I can't tell if the historical setting of the book is right, but the way the characters t

Theophilus (Theo) says

A wonderful story. I'm not a romance novel reader, but this story is well disguised as an adventure story. An American soldier of fortune, hoping to make a profit trading muskets to Fiji islanders for dried shellfish to sell in China meets an irresistible woman, who just happens to be the daughter of a missionary taking over an abandoned mission on the same island. Can she resist his worldly charms? Can he resist her seemingly pious demeanor and continue on his greedy path to riches with no regard for the human lives he wrecks in the process? That's the romance story. Throw in inter-tribal warfare with a band of outcasts from the "civilized" tribes that includes eating the losers, ritual human sacrifice, and a little shamanistic spell-casting and you have a great story that appeals to most any reader. A really interesting South Pacific adventure. Don't compare it with Michener or Clavell and you will enjoy it for its own values.

Stephanie Heuerman says

This was a thoroughly enjoying read! I loved it! Thus far, my only reading about Fiji had been written in a completely different style and genre, but nonetheless made me all the more curious about Fiji, as well as other islands in the Pacific. I love the way that stereotypes are tackled throughout the story. First impressions are not always the correct ones, and our own filters often skew what we see. I loved the growth of many of the characters within the story as well.

Sonali says

First of all, I would like to thank the author Mr. Morcan for giving me an opportunity to read and review this book. I received a free copy of the book from the author to review it for my blog.

The plot is written in the historical setting of 1800's South Pacific. The year is 1848 and the story starts with the abduction of a beautiful Fiji maiden Sina. *That's right!* This story starts with a bang! And not just the plot. You read the first para and you *know* you are going to love it. Take for instance, the visual prologue:

A Fijian maiden stooped to pick up a shell as she walked along a white sand beach at Momi Bay, on the western side of Fiji's main island of Viti Levu. Sina had a natural island beauty. Lithe and graceful, her dark skin glistened in the tropical sun. She wore a traditional grass skirt and shawl made from tapa, or bark cloth. The beach was bordered by a grove of coconut trees and the turquoise waters of the bay. Tropical birds filled the sky—among them Kingfishers that dived into the sea, competing for fish

Reading into the book, we come across the missionary father-daughter duo, Brian Drake and his lovely daughter Susannah, who have come to Fiji (specifically the Qopa tribe in Momi Bay) to educate the natives on the ways of the new god. We see Susannah struggling between her spiritual self and sexual self and trying to find a balance between the two. It was right here when the readers are introduced to Nathan Johnson, an American adventurer and trader. He too is going to Momi Bay to trade with the Qopa people.

Nathan and Susannah oddly find themselves attracted to each other and the chemistry between them is undeniable. As they reach Momi Bay, they find themselves in the middle of the tribal war between the Qopa and the Outcasts. The Outcast leader, Rambuka, kidnaps Susannah; Nathan along with the Qopa warriors goes after him and we find ourselves right there in the middle of all the awesome action! And personally I think Lance and James Morcan strength lies in their action writing. Every action sequence was written in exquisite detail and I loved it because I could really visualize what was happening.

To say that this was Nathan and Susannah's story would be wrong. There were so many people's lives and everyday dramas merged into each other's situation that each and every character made an integral part of the story. What I really liked was how the authors have given every character a chance to express his/her point of view.

I found the old traditions of the Fijian people fascinating and just as great as they are crude and gruesome. In keeping with the authentic tone throughout, we come across scenes of ritualistic slaughter and cannibalism. The novel touches on most of these now extinct practices in mad detail and it's AWESOME!

So overall, this book has *a perfect plot, flawless writing and a consistent storyline with no kinks or glitches throughout.* It was gritty and raw and nerve wracking. It keeps you turning each page wanting to know - what next?

Chrissie says

This book was a real struggle for me. It is entirely my own fault. First of all I “purchased” a free kindle book and then I insisted that once I started it I would finish it. So I am a cheapo, I admit that. I will probably make the same mistake again. In my own defense, if you don’t put yourself out on a limb once in a while you will miss opportunities! And some books do actually improve at their end. This book remained a struggle for me from start to finish.

When I chose this book my hope was that I would learn about Fiji, its physical qualities and its cultural traditions. This is a book of fiction; hopefully I would be served an engaging story. Hopefully the characters would be three dimensional. Hopefully I would empathize with at least one or two characters. Me, I dislike stereotypical figures and cinematic writing; unfortunately this is what I got.

It is true, cultural traditions are mentioned. Here is an example:

To the wild beating of drums, warriors preformed a cibi, or war dance, to demonstrate their superiority over their captive. With clubs and spears raised high, they danced aggressively, only inches away from him. He looked up at them fearlessly and laughed openly at their efforts. This incensed one warrior, who kicked him in the face, dazing him and drawing more blood. Another warrior urinated over him.

The drumming softened and the warriors were pushed aside by a dozen near-naked maidens who performed a wate, or dance aimed at sexually humiliating their captive. To the cheers of the onlookers, the nubile maidens left nothing to the imagination as they simulated intercourse and performed other crude gestures in front of and over their captive. This age-old insult was too much even for him, and he closed his eyes to try to escape this ultimate disgrace. (at 52%)

Then follows further methods of torture and the prisoner’s response:

The captive spat in Joeli’s direction; “Eat shit, you dog!” (52%)

The fantastic hairstyles of the chiefs are described. That is true too. They are pigmented in bright colors and they are huge. The bigger and the flashier the better. But how many times do we need to be told. The chiefs are jealous of each other’s “hairdos”. However, there is no author’s note specifying what practices are real and which could be imaginary.

Perhaps the real problem is that I have a hard time taking any of this seriously, given the style of writing. Tell me; didn’t the captive’s response above surprise you? Later the American yells, “Holly shit!” Many times the words used feel inappropriate. But of course in a movie it might be effective, given contemporary audiences. Look at the excerpts I have given you; what do you think of that word “connectivity” used below?

This is an action adventure story and romance. I am not a big consumer of either. Maybe you are. For me the sexual fantasies of the two main characters, a swashbuckling American and a missionary’s daughter, are pathetic. I mean, are we supposed to be titillated? I wasn’t!

What else bothers me? That the Fijian natives believe in magic, that is not strange, but that one woman slave with “the gift” is able to curse Susannah, of whom she is insanely jealous, well this is just too contrived.

The authors think the bad boy must become good:

He felt very little connectivity between the self centered man he was when he arrived and the man he was now. And, he knew, that change was due entirely to Susannah. From the moment he’d first seen her, he’d

been unable to think of anything or anyone else. She'd drawn out his real self from deep inside him – a side he never knew existed. Because of her, he felt more alive than ever before. (at 53%)

Just too soppy. And at the same moment, Susannah is praying to God. BTW, isn't there a dash between self and centered?

The story is cinematically constructed. The characters are stereotypical. What they do is unbelievable. I don't like the words the authors use. I am not even sure if the cultural facts are correct. Oh, and the ending is so corny.

No, this is not a book for me. You must decide if it is for you. Many others have liked this book.

Delaine says

Finally, I've finished Fiji: a novel! I wasn't sure what to expect from this book at all. But what I got was an extraordinary tale of friendship, love, betrayal, death and personal growth.

I was slow to respond to this novel only because of one detail, the time. I have a weird dislike for stories that are set in a time that's earlier than when I was born. But I think I'm evolving as a reader, especially since some authors have requested that I read their novels, whether they would like my feedback or simply to get me to just read their work.

Upon finishing the book, I felt immense gratitude towards Lance and James for granting me a free ebook copy of their novel. It proved to be worth the time I spent sitting down to read it.

The only thing I personally did not like, which caught my attention midway through to the ending of the book was how some aspects were repetitive - such as Susannah wondering if Nathan felt the same way about her, or Nathan wondering if Susannah felt the same way about him. I did, however, enjoy the way the two were united in the end.

Another thing I didn't particularly like was the description of how someone would be watching another character but they were totally in the dark. For example, Nathan would be watching Susannah and then one would read "but he wasn't aware of Selaima watching him" or something along those lines. That just irritated me, but didn't affect how much I enjoyed the story.

One thing that shocked me about the book was the sexual detail that was included. As I stated in the beginning, I didn't know what to expect when I started reading this novel. But when I came across Susannah's turmoil in the beginning between her faith and her desires and continuously encountered it throughout the book, I was pleasantly shocked. I enjoyed this the most because I've always wondered if religious women ever struggled with temptation and how they powered through it. Although what Susannah went through might not be what happens in reality, it was nice to get at least that perspective.

Overall, this novel was definitely a great read. It was challenging for me in the beginning, but I always like a good challenge!

Lia Burres says

Fiji: A Novel is a wonderful book.

This book is filled with action, love, loyalty, and many other things.

Susannah Drake and her father set out to do missionary work at a tribe in Momi Bay. When they are out the night before leaving for Momi Bay, Susannah meets a tradesman named Nathan. She can't figure out why she can't get him out of her mind, and he can't figure out why he can't get her out of his mind.

When the village is attacked the second time, Susannah's dad is killed in the middle of her abduction. Nathan will not give up until he rescues her.

Maryann says

It took me ages to read this book, thanks very much to all the Uni distractions!! I barely had time to read a chapter before I was bombarded with a whole lot of assignments and all the other ammunition education uses on us helpless victims of the system.

I finally had the sense to download the e-book into my phone, and life sitting idly in the bus or throne of thought was graced with some reading entertainment.

The novel caught my eye firstly because the novel title was, "Fiji." I thought, hey! I just happened to live in Fiji! Look at that!

At first, I thought it was some sort of biography of a dead dictator, or cannibal, or chief maybe. I was surprised to find out, this was a historical adventure fiction!

With a 19th century Fiji as a setting, the plot launches with the introduction of our heroes; the missionary and the musket trader. Oh the contradiction there, what a team!

Susannah Drake and her father Drake Snr are taking the word of God to a village in Momi Bay, meaning to save all their souls and instilling Christianity into the village people.

Now, we aren't talking rainbows, sunshine and peace village people. We're talking, a village full of reformed cannibals who require human sacrifices for any little accomplishment they've made.

As a Fijian, I find the old traditions of our people fascinating and just as great as they are crude and gruesome. The novel touches on most of these now extinct practices, in mad detail and it's AWESOME! (However, do a little research after reading...you'll be surprised at what you'll find.)

Then of course, I'm sorry I got carried away. Then, we have Nathan, the musket trader. He is more of a prick than a hero, at the beginning of the novel. The people of Fiji were all just a bunch of primitives, uncivilized in their ways and ignorant of their own resources. This was Nathan's point-of-view. How he had gone so far without getting eaten, is a mystery to me.

He just happens to be going to Momi Bay, and just happens to be on the same boat as dear Sussannah. DUN DUN DUN....

Momi Bay villagers themselves were facing an on-going war with the *rebels*, who were kidnapping women to grow their own brood of..um...rebels. Sussannah and Nathan, strangers torn by faith and culture, connected by their barely suppressed sexual chemistry, are thrown into this war and forced to take sides.

Obviously, the rebels are the bad guys.

Racial prejudice, religion, culture and family, I thought, were the underlying messages that the story carried with it.

The adventure, fast-paced and nail biting was a real page turner. The romance, sizzling, exciting, forbidden.

It was definitely well worth the read, and I give it my 5 stars because that's the maximum amount of stars we're allowed to give...
