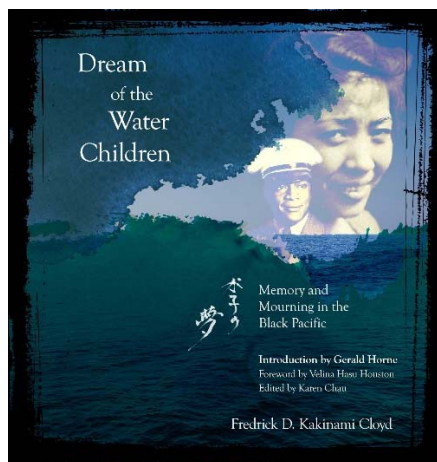


Dream of the Water Children Memory and Mourning in the Black Pacific

by Fredrick D. Kakinami Cloyd



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Fredrick D. Kakinami Cloyd



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Introduction by Gerald Horne
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Contact: Gabrielle David
gdavid@2leafpress.org
646.801.4227

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DREAM OF THE WATER CHILDREN, MEMORY AND MOURNING IN THE BLACK PACIFIC is a lyrical and compelling memoir about a son of an African American father and a Japanese mother who spent a lifetime being looked upon with curiosity and suspicion by both sides of his ancestry and the rest of society. Cloyd begins his story in present-day San Francisco, reflecting back on a war-torn identity from Japan, U.S. military bases, and migration to the United States, uncovering links to hidden histories. DREAM OF THE WATER CHILDREN tells two main stories: Cloyd's mother and his own. It was not until the author began writing his memoir that his mother finally addressed her experiences with racism and sexism in Occupied Japan, which helped Cloyd make better sense of, and reckon with, his dislocated inheritances. Tautly written in spare, clear poetic prose, DREAM OF THE WATER CHILDREN delivers a compelling and surprising account of racial and gender interactions. It tackles larger social histories, helping to dispel some of the great narrative myths of race and culture embedded in various identities of the Pacific and its diaspora. Cloyd's debut work is a one-of-a-kind "non-fiction" inter-disciplinary evocation that will appeal to not only those interested in Black and Asian relations and mixed-race Amerasian histories, but also a wide general audience that will move readers through emotional depths

This is a mature book that moves fluidly, as the mind moves, untroubled by traditional distinctions between writing considered to be academic vs. creative, memoir vs. personal essay, sure-footed in unexpected ways.

—Patricia Mushim Ikeda
Buddhist teacher / activist, Oakland, California

Can be read as a ghost story, a meditation on how to disassemble the heartbreak machines; a catalog of copious tears and small comforts. This is a challenging example of personal bravery and filial love.

—Leonard Rifas, Ph.D
Communications, University of Washington

Fredrick Douglas Kakinami Cloyd has written a profoundly moving and thought-provoking book. . . a master story-teller who honors and respects memory.

—Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, historian and writer

Dream of the Water Children is a meditation on the condition of a Black Japanese diaspora born of war and U.S. imperialism as much as it is a personal story of love, loss and spiritual redemption. Written in multiple voices, Cloyd lets his ghosts speak.

—Grace M. Cho, author of
Haunting the Korean Diaspora: Shame, Secrecy and the Forgotten War

About the Author

FREDRICK D. KAKINAMI CLOYD is a scholar, writer and artist. Cloyd, who received his Masters in postcolonial cultural anthropology from the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco, has published in *Kartika Review*, *In Your Ear: Oakland Word*, *The Pacific Reader*, and *Nikkei Heritage (Japanese American Historical Society Journal)*. He presents at academic as well as artistic and literary venues, and has been interviewed for numerous articles, and on radio and television. He is currently developing "Dream of the Water Children" into a multimedia project.

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