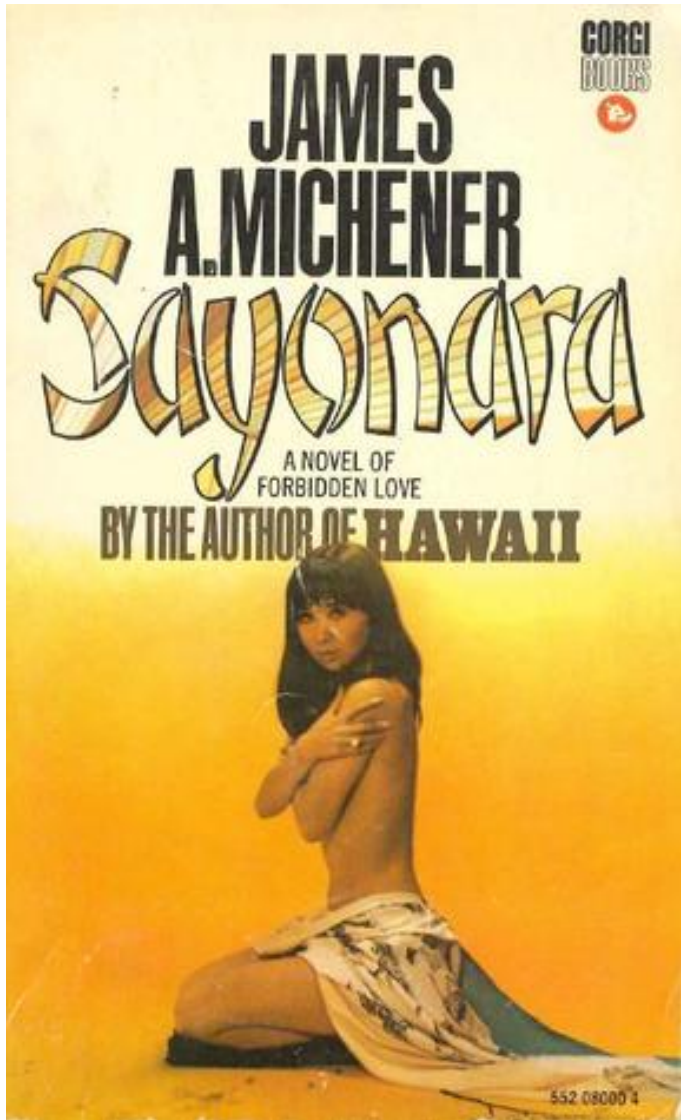

James A. Michener

Sayonara



Title: Sayonara

Author: James A. Michener

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Description

A brilliant tale of love and war, SAYONARA tells the story of Major Lloyd Gruver, son of an army general stationed in Japan, dating a general's daughter, and happy with his life. He didn't understand the soldiers who fell in love with Japanese girls. Then he met Hana-ogi. After that nothing mattered anymore. Nothing but her....

Insightful reviews

Fred Lichtenberg: This is a real classic and racism at it's worst. A short book for Michener--I think his first--but a must read.

Fredrick Danysh: The anti-war Michener unfolds a story in which an American major stationed in Japan and engaged to a general's daughter does understand the American attraction for acquiring Japanese wives until he falls for a Japanese girl.

Jonathan Briggs: Ohhhh, it sez "forbidden love" on the cover, I'm all for that!!! Awww, it's just a little interracial action. The Korean War is on, and the Ugly American is overrunning Japan. Air Force flying ace Lloyd Gruver is pretty disgusted by the way his fellow servicemen are fraternizing with the former enemy and even, ugh, marrying Japanese girls. Then he sees a stage performance by Hana-ogi, an actress who specializes in playing male roles, and he falls immediately hopelessly obsessively in love (I'll leave the psychosexual ramifications of that for someone else to ponder). Hana-ogi wants nothing to do with him, but Lloyd Lloyd all null and void confronts her with a truth that she cannot avoid, Lloyd. He will not be refused. In the '50s, they called this love at first sight. Today, we call it stalking. Persistence pays off for Lloyd. Without so much as a single conversation in a common language, the happy couple move in together, and Lloyd learns the important lesson that Japanese people are just as good as Americans despite their wacky heathen customs. "Sayonara" was written in the '50s, and it might have been daring and controversial stuff when World War II was fresh in readers' memories, but it has aged horribly. Michener's condescending and smugly superior attitude toward Asian culture is gratingly ignorant, and he perpetuates stereotypes while preaching tolerance. The Japanese women are praised for being so docile and demure and subservient. "Golden" and "yellow" are Michener's favorite go-to adjectives, and there's this tender bit of loveplay: "She caught me in her arms and cried, 'Oh, Rroyd, I rub you berry sweet.' I was unprepared both for her emotion and her pronunciation and for one dreadful moment I almost laughed and then I looked down at her dear sweet slanted eyes and saw that they were filled with tears." Yea, he's a roid, all right. Maybe I should cut Michener some slack. I'm sure his intentions were good, and he's not alone in literature's long history of clueless/racist portraits. But even if it had been properly sensitive, "Sayonara" would be a lousy and dated novel. The only reasons I finished it were that it's short and I wanted to see how it compared with the movie (Marlon Brando looks sleepy and vaguely irritated to be starring in it).

Beth: This booklet may be fascinating to debate in publication club. I comprehend why the govt had the various ideas that it did. It was once the time they have been in. Japan has this type of

varied culture. i actually cannot comprehend the relationships that have been built established in simple terms on a woman's beauty. What approximately equality, intelligence and communication? i actually do not get it.

Philip: staring at SOUTH PACIFIC the opposite night acquired me within the temper to come to at least one of my favourite authors. James A. Michener is perhaps best-known for his multi-generational sagas similar to HAWAII, THE SOURCE, and CENTENNIAL, yet he additionally wrote a couple of shorter works within the 1950s, earlier than the blockbusters, while he used to be best-known because the writer of stories OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC - SAYONARA is a kind of works, a poignant novel concerning the alterations in American-Asian family members after international battle and Korea. From many of the reviews i have learn right here it really is visible that readers basically accustomed to his later panoramic epics locate this booklet slightly disappointing.8/22/10: In U.S.-occupied Japan following WWII, hundreds of thousands of yank army males fell in love with eastern women, yet regulations on the time prohibited them from bringing their other halves again to the united states in the event that they have been shipped home. As with such a lot of elements of lifestyles again then, it really is challenging to think that folks taken care of one another so shabbily; yet simply open your newspaper or activate the inside track and you may see that we are nonetheless doing so, and lots more and plenty worse. Michener does an outstanding activity of describing post-war Japan, every little thing from the crowded streets to the cherry blossoms and a bar that is so small there is simply room for 4 clients and hostesses! He additionally does an excellent activity of illustrating the disdain and suspicion with which jap ladies have been appeared at this time, throughout the eyes of Lloyd Gruver, who's remodeled via his love for the dancer/actress Hana-ogi. SAYONARA doesn't finish fortunately - of the 2 the radical focuses on, one elements forever, and the opposite commits hara-kiri instead of be parted (the actors who performed those roles within the film, purple Buttons and Miyoshi Umeki, received aiding Oscars for his or her performances, yet there have been evidently adjustments from web page to screen, because the Buttons personality is all of nineteen years previous within the novel). Gruver, for all that he has visible and experienced, will go back to his army existence and marry the good American lady he was once speculated to all along. yet we all know that he will by no means rather be at liberty (the movie model has a unique ending). Michener's personal Japanese-American love tale had a happier finishing - he met Mari Yoriko Sabusawa - an American-born eastern who were interned in the course of international conflict - at a luncheon in 1954 and married her in 1955 - they remained a faithful couple till her demise in 1994, which left Michener devastated.

Laura Barmby: Have learn this a number of instances and wish to discover it at ask yourself Books because it is out of print. an exceptional story. Early Michener prior to the massive particular epic novels he grew to become so renowned for. an exceptional story.

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