

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2023

“HAWAI’I NOIR WRITER, SCOTT KIKKAWA, RELEASES THIRD NOVEL IN MYSTERY SERIES”

(HONOLULU) Bamboo Ridge Press announces the release of *Char Siu* (*Bamboo Ridge* Issue #123), third in a series of noir novels by real-life law enforcement officer Scott Kikkawa. It follows his Small Press Distribution fiction bestsellers *Kona Winds* and *Red Dirt*, both featured in *HONOLULU Magazine’s* list of “Essential Hawai’i Books You Should Read” published in 2022.

Meticulously researched, the mystery series is set in 1950s Territorial Hawai’i and features Honolulu Police Department’s only Japanese American homicide detective, World War II veteran Francis Hideyuki Yoshikawa. See attached for full synopsis and book info for *Char Siu*. Review copies and eGalley’s available on request. Scott Kikkawa is open to interviews and appearances.

The book will launch with a reading and signing on **Saturday, May 20, 2023, 2:00 PM at da Shop** in Kaimuki. This event is free and open to the public.

Praise for Scott Kikkawa’s Hawai’i Noir series:

“A gifted new voice in crime fiction, Scott Kikkawa delivers 1950s noir from a never-seen-before perspective with lead characters whose sparkling chemistry illuminates every page. Rich in culture and showcasing a neglected history with sensitivity and nuance, this is a series for our times.”

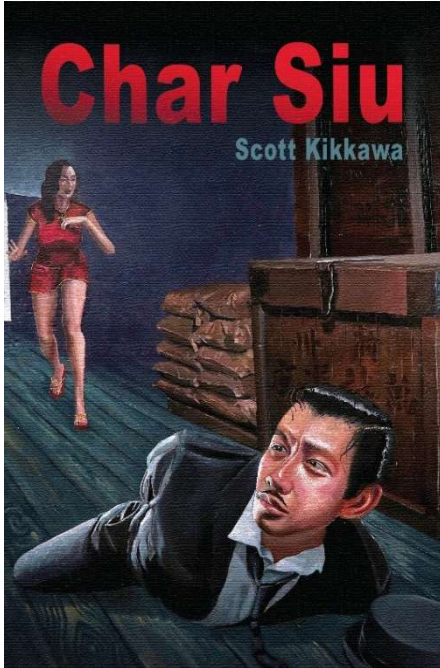
—Ausma Zehanat Khan, author of the Khattak/Getty crime series

* This project was made possible in part by support from the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses (CLMP) and the Poetry Foundation.

**For more information, call 808.626.1481,
e-mail read@bambooridge.org or visit www.bambooridge.org.**

Bamboo Ridge Press was founded in 1978 to publish literature by, for, and about Hawai’i’s people. It publishes two volumes a year: a literary journal of poetry and fiction featuring work by both emerging and established writers, and a book by a single author or an anthology focused on a special theme. Bamboo Ridge Press is an independent non-profit, tax-exempt corporation supported through book sales, subscriptions, private donations, and grants.

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262 pages / 6 x 9 softcover
ISBN: 978-1-943756-09-4
\$20.00

January 1954. Honolulu. Chinatown.

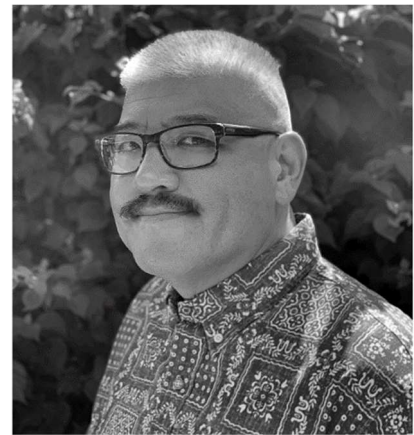
Honolulu Police Department Homicide Detective Sergeant Francis “The Sheik” Yoshikawa finds himself a reluctant stand-in bagman, extracting protection money from gambling and brothel racketeers. When a routine collection run turns into a bloody nightmare, Sheik loses a material witness but gains back his true purpose. As he navigates his way through the dens of iniquity and the body count rises, he is caught in the crosshairs of organized crime and disorganized law, between his extortionist police patrons and a special investigation bent on rooting out corruption in the department. A reckoning is due, and this time Sheik feels the squeeze.

“Scott Kikkawa’s *Char Siu* grabs you by the throat right away and doesn’t ever let go. Kikkawa has accomplished the masterful feat of immediately embroiling the reader in a fascinating time and place. Frankie Yoshikawa is a flawed, complex, and ultimately sympathetic protagonist whose view of the world keeps things interesting. He has plenty to examine—not only vice and murder, but a mixture of different cultures. If traditional noir is what you’re missing, *Char Siu* will take you on the ride you’re looking for!”

—Frank Zafiro, author of the River City series

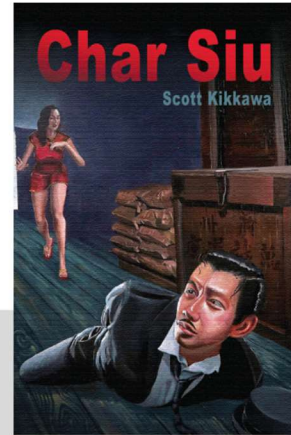
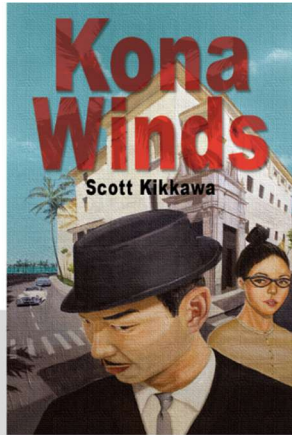
About the Author

A product of Hawai'i Kai in East Honolulu, Scott Kikkawa writes noir detective stories set in postwar Hawai'i, featuring 442nd veteran Nisei Detective Sergeant Francis "Sheik" Yoshikawa. His critically acclaimed debut murder mystery, *Kona Winds* (Bamboo Ridge Press), was released at the end of 2019 and spent six months on the Small Press Distribution Fiction Bestsellers List. *Red Dirt*, his second full-length novel, was published two years later. Both were featured in *HONOLULU Magazine's* list of “Essential Hawai'i Books You Should Read” (published in 2022).



Winner of an Elliot Cades Award for Literature and honored with a selection for one of the “Other Distinguished Stories of 2021” in the 2022 *Best American Mystery and Suspense* anthology, the New York University alumnus is currently a federal law enforcement officer and lives with his family in Honolulu. He serves as a columnist and an Associate Editor for *The Hawai'i Review of Books*.

SCOTT KIKKAWA'S HAWAII NOIR SERIES



***Kona Winds* (2019)**

ISBN: 978-1943756025

288 pages / 6 x 9 softcover/ \$20.00

This debut novel by Japanese-American author Scott Kikkawa, is a hard-boiled noir murder mystery set in Honolulu in 1953, when Hawai'i was evolving from a racially stratified, near-feudal plantation colony, to the multi-ethnic 50th State.

Honolulu Police Department Detective Sergeant Frankie "The Sheik" Yoshikawa, a Nisei veteran of World War II, is assigned the case of a young local Japanese woman whose body is found in Honolulu Harbor under a pier. His investigation uncovers dark motives tied to a recent dock and sugar strike and a forbidden relationship between the scion of a prominent kama'aina haole family and a young woman from a growing immigrant community.

***Red Dirt* (2021)**

ISBN: 978-1-943756-06-3

262 pages / 6 x 9 softcover/ \$20.00

Street smart, literate, and haunted by memories of his military service in the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Detective Sergeant Francis "Sheik" Yoshikawa must solve a murder case that begins with the discovery of a burned and dismembered body found in a sugarcane field. Investigating the victim's life to see who would have wanted him dead leads to a local communist study group that's being hunted down by the federal government.

***Char Siu* (2023)**

See page 2, synopsis and book information.