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Scott Kikkawa Returns to Postwar O‘ahu with new novel *Sporting Girl*

HONOLULU, HI — 1954, Honolulu. A city of shifting identities and quiet negotiations. To the outside world, it is a mid-century paradise on the cusp of statehood. To Detective Francis “Sheik” Yoshikawa, it is a place where memory and obligations follow you, and where the truth moves slower than the money paid to silence it.

When a woman is found dead in the home of one of Sheik’s closest friends and fellow veterans, the investigation draws him back to Harry “Happy” Tokuda, a slippery grifter Sheik has arrested time and again, though the charges never seem to stick. To clear his friend’s name, Sheik must follow a trail through smoke-filled back rooms and the increasing overlap between Honolulu’s underworld and its respectable circles.

“Only Scott Kikkawa can blend Chaucer with noir... in a rare look at postwar Honolulu through the eyes of a local,” writes author Jennifer K. Morita (*Ghosts of Waikīkī*).

“Complex, diverse, compelling characters and gripping story showcase both the beauty and underbelly of Hawai‘i.”

Kikkawa avoids the easy imagery of the islands, offering instead a look at the lives beneath the surface: veterans, police officers, working-class families, and those fighting to navigate a rapidly changing city. Published by Bamboo Ridge Press, *Sporting Girl* is the fourth novel in Kikkawa’s acclaimed Hawai‘i noir series. The author is available for interviews, readings, and media appearances.

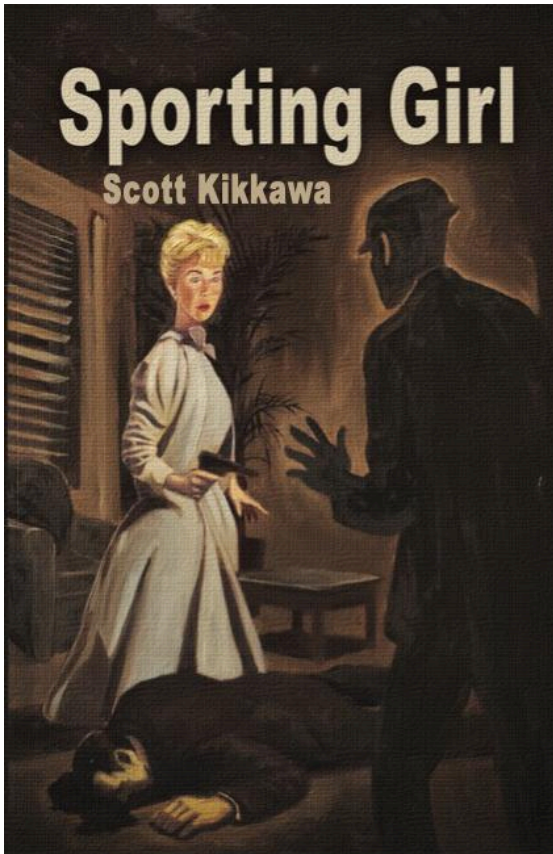
Event Details: Book launch celebration on **Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at da Shop: books + curiosities in Kaimukī**. The author will talk story and sign books.

This project was made possible in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For media inquiries, excerpts, or review copies, please contact us at 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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Sporting Girl by Scott Kikkawa

\$20.00

9" x 6" softcover

280 pages

More info at: bambooridge.org

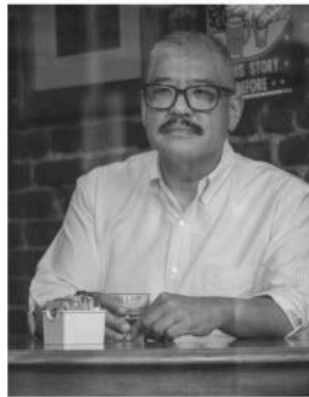


Photo by Brandon Miyagi

About the Author

Scott Kikkawa is the author of a series of noir detective novels set in postwar Honolulu. He has been honored with an Elliot Cades Award for Literature and a crime fiction short story of his was selected as one of the “Other Distinguished Stories of 2021” in the 2022 *Best American Mysteries and Suspense Anthology*. He is a columnist and Associate Editor for *The Hawai'i Review of Books*. He lives in Honolulu. *Sporting Girl* is his fourth full-length novel featuring Francis “Sheik” Yoshikawa.