

LOST IN PARADISE

small figures waiting for him. A little boy and his sister. They played together for the rest of the morning—swimming, building sand castles, holding their breath as they waited for the tide. And then, holding hands and cheering as they hopefully launched their boats made of twigs and shells. And he would remember the feel of the small boy's hand in his as they said good-bye. And the look of friendship and trust in the sister's eyes as she bashfully kissed his cheek in parting.

The traditional feast of the islands—the luau—would remain in David's heart as well as in his memory. The glow of brotherhood and friendship reigned supreme that night as he and the other guests helped themselves to the delicious food set before them. The glow from the fire seemed to enter his soul as he sat and talked to his newly-made friends. A hope that somehow this feeling of brotherhood and peace and contentment would someday be everywhere grew stronger that evening.

Then there would be the other memories of the people he met; the long walks in the forest or on the beach, feeling his spirits rise with each breath of fresh air; the daily swims in the cool waters of the Pacific; and, also, the sadness on the last day, knowing it was time to go.

BEGINNINGS LAST FOREVER

But, as he watched the islands become smaller through the window of the plane, the sadness was slowly replaced by eagerness to return home again. David had been in paradise a short week but he had so much to show for the time in Maui.

The knowledge that Nature would survive and go on to please and bring life to the world. And that nothing could ever replace the wonder and innocence of a small child and, for a few fleeting moments, seeing the world once more through a child's eye. He also knew now more than ever before that love and peace is in every man's heart. There to share with his fellow man, if given the chance.

He was leaving his paradise but he would return. This was just the beginning for him—the wonders to see, the pleasures to enjoy, the lessons of life's wonders to learn. And as he returned each time to Maui, these beginnings would last forever because they would always come back to him—as he lost himself once more in the wonder of his paradise.

