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Waking Up in Eden: In Pursuit of an Impassioned Life on an Imperiled Island

By Lucinda Fleeson

Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. Paperback / softback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Waking Up in Eden: In Pursuit of an Impassioned Life on an Imperiled Island, Lucinda Fleeson, Like so many of us, Lucinda Fleeson wanted to escape what had become a routine life. So, she quit her big-city job, sold her suburban house, and moved halfway across the world to the island of Kauai to work at the National Tropical Botanical Garden. Imagine a one-hundred-acre garden estate nestled amid ocean cliffs, rain forests, and secluded coves. Exotic and beautiful, yes, but as Fleeson awakens to this sensual world, exploring the island's food, beaches, and history, she encounters an endangered paradise-the Hawaii we don't see in the tourist brochures. Native plants are dying at an astonishing rate-Hawaii is called the Extinction Capital of the World-and invasive species (plants, animals, "and" humans) have imperiled this Garden of Eden. Fleeson accompanies a plant hunter into the rain forest to find the last of a dying species, descends into limestone caves with a paleontologist who deconstructs island history through fossil life, and shadows a botanical pioneer who propagates rare seeds, hoping to reclaim the landscape. Her grown-up adventure is a reminder of...



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