

Park's modernist story *If You Live in a Small House* is an important and beautiful chronicle of American lives too little known to us.
—Min Jin Lee, author of *Free Food for Millionaires*

June 12, 2010

Dear Editor/Producer,

Sandra Park's novella, *If You Live in a Small House*, takes place in Hawaii in the early 1950s during the Korean War. Although historical figures such as General MacArthur and Norman Vincent Peale (*The Power of Positive Thinking*) occasionally appear, the heart of the story lies with a large, multigenerational Korean-American family living under one roof.

The tenor of the story is one of war fatigue bearing down on a desire to think positively, to walk on the sunny side of the street, to be a good American. In WWII, Hawaii residents enlisted in record numbers, including the all-Japanese 442nd combat regiment ("Go for broke") sent to the European front, known as the most decorated unit in U.S. military history. Hawaii's soldiers in the Korean War fought against an enemy who physically resembled themselves—Chinese, Japanese, Koreans—but in U.S. uniforms. The story is a miniature—house, island, world. In spite of public messages of optimism, this Korean-American family is sagging under the weight of daily necessity, missing the coattails of the American Dream.

An excerpt of this novella appeared in *The Iowa Review* as a fiction award runner-up. Park's work has appeared in the *St. Petersburg Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *New American Writing*, *Five Fingers Review* and in two anthologies, *Honolulu Stories* and *Oakland Out Loud*. She received an AWP Fellowship in Prague, Czech Republic and SLS Scholarship in St. Petersburg, Russia. Born and raised in Hawaii, she now lives in northern California.

I look forward to your coverage. Please let us know if you are interested in an interview or feature on this emerging writer who has received generous advance praise for her book—in recognition of universal themes of longing and homesickness.

Aloha,

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