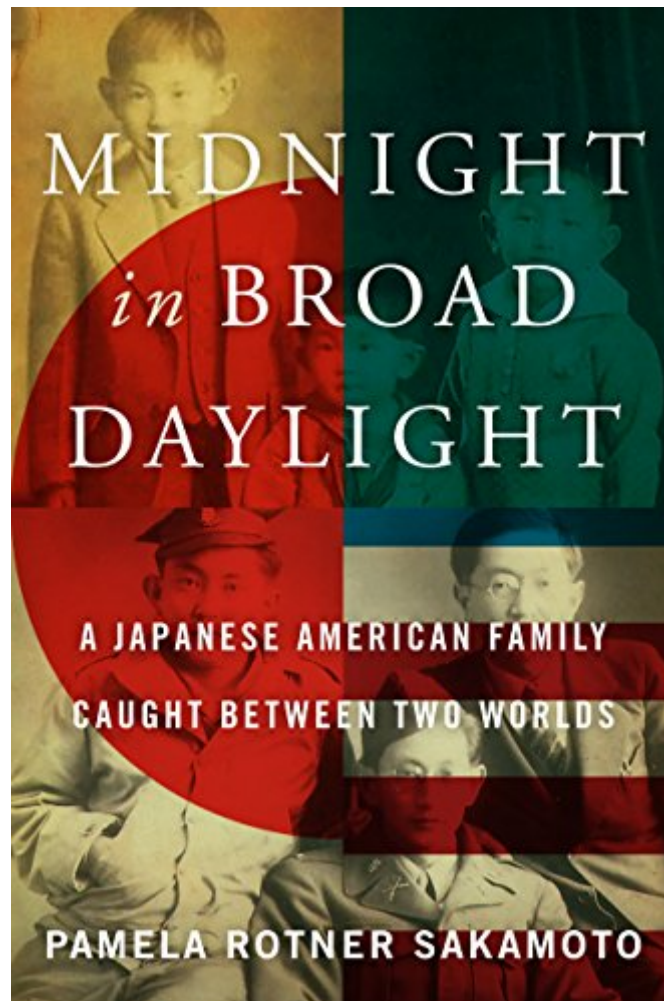


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# Midnight In Broad Daylight: A Japanese American Family Caught Between Two Worlds



## Synopsis

Meticulously researched and beautifully written, the true story of a Japanese American family that found itself on opposite sides during World War II "an epic tale of family, separation, divided loyalties, love, reconciliation, loss, and redemption" this is a riveting chronicle of U.S.-Japan relations and the Japanese experience in America. After their father's death, Harry, Frank, and Pierce Fukuhara "all born and raised in the Pacific Northwest" moved to Hiroshima, their mother's ancestral home. Eager to go back to America, Harry returned in the late 1930s. Then came Pearl Harbor. Harry was sent to an internment camp until a call came for Japanese translators and he dutifully volunteered to serve his country. Back in Hiroshima, his brothers Frank and Pierce became soldiers in the Japanese Imperial Army. As the war raged on, Harry, one of the finest bilingual interpreters in the United States Army, island-hopped across the Pacific, moving ever closer to the enemy "and to his younger brothers. But before the Fukuharas would have to face each other in battle, the U.S. detonated the atomic bomb over Hiroshima, gravely injuring tens of thousands of civilians, including members of their family. Alternating between the American and Japanese perspectives, *Midnight in Broad Daylight* captures the uncertainty and intensity of those charged with the fighting as well as the deteriorating home front of Hiroshima "as never told before in English" and provides a fresh look at the dropping of the first atomic bomb. Intimate and evocative, it is an indelible portrait of a resilient family, a scathing examination of racism and xenophobia, an homage to the tremendous Japanese American contribution to the American war effort, and an invaluable addition to the historical record of this extraordinary time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a brilliant combination of history and biography written in stylish prose that captures the reader from the start. Many of the editorial reviews have already stated that this is "riveting in its alternating American and Japanese perspectives, and a fresh look at the dropping of the atom bomb over Hiroshima, this story is inspirational as well as educational." This is truly an epic tale. You are taken on a family journey; portrayed with style and grace. I was captured and entranced from the outset. Ms. Sakamoto should be highly praised for discovering this heartbreaking, heartrending story, and praised for the detailed research that went into the preparing this complex story. I loved taking the journey, enjoyed the format, and the entwining of history and biography. I agree with others that it is "a richly textured narrative history. . . . A beautifully rendered work wrought with enormous care and sense of compassionate dignity." You will discover that you have much to learn about the Japanese-American experience during WWII. As with all good history and biography, there are many lessons applicable to modern day discourse. This book has challenged many of my present day views. Good! That's a sign of a superb historian! As one reviewer has noted, this is an intimate and evocative portrait of a family, "an indelible portrait of a resilient family, a scathing examination of racism and xenophobia, an homage to the tremendous Japanese American contribution to the American war effort, and an invaluable addition to the historical record of this extraordinary time." I agree wholeheartedly. You will not be disappointed. I hope the book receives the awards it justly deserves. Timely and beautifully written. This should be a top ten book on any reviewers list.

This is a truly wonderful book. It is an inspiring story--about family, about loyalties, about endurance and optimism. And Pamela Rotner Sakamoto has told it so very well. Although it is exceptionally researched, the book is an easy and engrossing read. But the book is so much more than the story of Harry and his family. It is really a tale for our times -- focussed on the damage that xenophobic reactions to "others" can cause, as well as the personal harm and suffering that come from blind

allegiance to ideology. I had known before I read the book that the Japanese had suffered greatly through the war because of their unwillingness to surrender (The World War II museum in New Orleans makes the point very well), but this book brings it home at a very personal level. It would be wonderful if we could learn the lessons today that Harry's story and this book teach.

Engrossing book. Non-fiction that reads like a good novel. Sakamoto captures the sense of loss and righteous confusion felt by the Fukuharas over their situation. The reader can empathize with all members of the family and feel their pain and yet be in awe of their firmly-held belief that things will be OK and that they can endure their suffering in the present because there is light at the end of the tunnel. One of the best books (fiction or non-fiction) I have read in a long time!

I have read many, many books on WWII based from the war with Germany. But this is the first I have read about Japan. I was shocked, horrified and puzzled by many parts of this book. I will be reading it again soon because I am certain there are parts that I didn't understand in the beginning that I finally understood more about when ending the book. It wasn't just a few people willing to die for their country it was ALL of the people were willing to die for their country! And the US didn't understand how a second generation person born in the US could and would serve faithfully. The camps they were placed in weren't much better than what Germany was doing with the Jews and other undesirables. I received this book for free from a Goodreads Giveaway but that did not influence my rating of this book. I will be reading more about this time in history in Japan.

Set mostly in Hiroshima, Japan or San Francisco, CA. A true story of a Japanese American family during WWII & their family separations, love, reconciliation, loss, & the future of some of them to carry on. I did not receive any type of compensation for reading & reviewing this book. While I receive free books from publishers & authors, I am under no obligation to write a positive review. Only an honest one. A very awesome book cover, great font & writing style. A very well written WWII era Japanese family Autobiographical memory book. It was very easy for me to read/follow from start/finish & never a dull moment. There were no grammar/typo errors, nor any repetitive or out of line sequence sentences. Lots of exciting scenarios, with several twists/turns & a great set of unique characters to keep track of. This could also make another great Japanese memoir WWII era movie, college power point presentation, mini TV series or documentary (A & E, History channel). There is no doubt in my mind this is a very easy rating of 5 stars. Thank you for the free Goodreads; Harper/Collins Publishers; UCP; paperback book Tony Parsons MSW (Washburn)

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