

Logline:

When you are born in a land your ancestors have stolen, who are you?

Synopsis:

Tropical memories, dark family secrets, and the harsh legacy of colonialism collide in *Fiji Time*, the fascinating account of an 82-year-old woman's emotional return to the exotic land of her birth. Searching for remnants of her past, Jean faces a severe crisis of identity, as her idealized memories of a colonial childhood clash with her radical politics and the fractured political and cultural present of Fiji, a country rocked by a series of coups. As she travels across the beautiful island on her quest, she reveals the sinister tale of her great-grandfather, G.H. Lee, whose sense of adventure, exploitation and arrogance, culminated in the committing of a terrible crime. Ultimately going beyond one family's story, *Fiji Time* reveals the larger story of Fiji through its current inhabitants and examines how colonialism fractures and disrupts the identities of both the colonized and the colonizer.

Longer Summary:

*Fiji Time* tells the history of colonialism in Fiji and its aftermath through the prism of one British colonial family's experience. Jean Bish, an 82-year-old woman, who hasn't returned to her native Fiji for over 40 years, searches for remnants of her past; a past that only seems to exist in her memory. We follow Jean as she experiences highs, such as meeting a long-forgotten childhood friend, and painful lows, such as finding her beloved family home reduced to rubble.

As she travels across the tropical island on her personal journey, Jean not only narrates her own experience of growing up in the well-manicured world of British colonialism, but she also introduces us to the darker stories of the Bish family history. The scenes of Jean returning to the island are interwoven with the story of G.H. Lee, Jean's great-grandfather, who arrived in Fiji in 1870 to make his fortune. Jean is drawn to G.H.'s story both as compelling family history, but also as emblematic of the larger story of colonialism: a story of adventure, exploitation, and arrogance.

As the film interweaves these two stories, it contextualizes them within the larger history of Fiji and the present-day legacy of England's entanglement with the island. Through this history, we see the legacy and impact of colonialism on all of Fiji's inhabitants: colonials, Fijians and East Indians. By interweaving the past and the present, the personal and the historical, *Fiji Time* creates a rich and nuanced understanding of an island often little known outside of its immediate horizons. The three stories inform each other, allowing the viewer a deeper understanding of not only Fiji, but the way in which colonialism inserts itself into a culture, takes hold of all parties and doesn't let go.