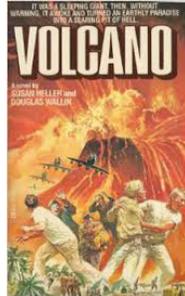
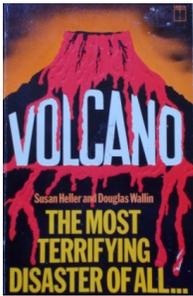


# VOLCANO

By Susan Heller & Douglas Wallin



# VOLCANO

*When clouds of fire rise  
over the earth's pulse,  
blood pours from the  
corners of her mouth.  
Goddess tongue unfurls and  
captures our children.*  
-- Brooke Stewart

Disaster with an occult twist, as the Hawaiian volcano Mauna Kai, begins to awaken. The result of cold, geological fact or the outworking of the enraged fire goddess Madam Pele?

The answer is viewers' choice as the drama builds and both elements come into play. In this adventure thriller, which draws heavily upon local legends and traditions as well as factual state of the art technology, three adversaries--a geologist, a national park ranger, and a corrupt politician--make their own choices in the war between modern science and cultural tradition.

At the spectacular Volcano National Park nestled against the slopes of Mauna Kai, campers hike up to watch the show put on by the world's only "drive-in" volcano. Peering into its magma-filled craters, these visitors to Mauna Kai are confident they are safe. One man, geologist Dr. Bradley Reiser of the Volcano Institute, believes otherwise, but his theory of eruption prediction based on fluctuating magnetic anomalies has yet to be definitively proved.

An apparition of an old woman is seen haunting the mountain, a crevasse suddenly appears swallowing up several campers and Reiser is called in to consult with Chief Ranger Mark Latham, a man he detests.

The sightings of the mysterious apparition continue and soon Reiser's worst fears are confirmed as Mauna Kai erupts, its lava flow threatening the economic hub of the island, the city of Kohana. Reiser persuades the army to experiment with a new method of lava diversion: dropping large explosive charges to stem the river of lava.

As apparitions continue to appear, scores of locals insist that Madam Pele is angered and will have her revenge. Politician Peter Wiley, and his land-development partners ridicule such a notion while Reiser, as a man of science, fears only the reality of geology.

But an ancient figure wreathed in ghostly white prowls restlessly in the night. A trickle of lava silently breaks through a crack in the earthen barrier, the trickle becomes a river moving swiftly, overcoming the men standing guard before they can give warning to the city. Heralded by earthquakes and a rain of black fire from the sky, a rift shears open on Mauna Kai's northeast slope creating a curtain of fire seven hundred feet wide and seven miles long.

By the time the alarms are sounded the entire barrier has been compromised, threatening Kohana. Reiser's wife Marjorie, rushes to rejoin her husband at the Institute, unaware that he is embarking on the most dangerous journey of his life.

Armed with new knowledge about Pele and Mauna Kai, Reiser descends into the bowels of the volcano to attempt the impossible. He must find a way to release billions of cubic miles of lava onto the inhabited far side of the mountain.

In the billowing smoke and vapors, a pair of dark eyes awaits his approach.