

herself to a koumara, which she ate delicately, looking at Hinemoa with a strange half-smile expanding over her face. 'I eat it for that reason' she said. 'I eat it because it is blue.' 'Yes' said Hinemoa, breaking the bread in her white fingers. (pp57-62)

NOTES

¹An uncertain reading.

²The narrative breaks off here, though the same situation is explored further in another, longer piece to be published later in this series.

³The original opening of this piece, crossed out, reads: 'The first one was Vera Margaret. She was just 10 – a tall thin child with commonplace features, a great braid of light brown hair and a rapt, intensely good expression in her hazel eyes and eager ...'

⁴Monkey Brand Bon Ami: the proprietary name of a white domestic cleaner in block form.

⁵KM has crossed out this piece with a single stroke through each page. Its content is important, however, as also is the fact that it is more worked than most of the pieces in this notebook.

⁶The spelling of this name (given by KM variously as 'Hinemoa', 'Hinemoi', and 'Hinemoia') I have standardized to 'Hinemoa'.

⁷'Hinemoa' seems to have been written here instead of 'Marina', but this passage remains obscure.

⁸The kumara (mis-spelt by KM) is the New Zealand sweet potato which often has a bluish tinge when cooked.