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Young Samurai The Way Of The Warrior



Synopsis

Jack Fletcher is shipwrecked off the coast of Japan, his beloved father and the crew lie slaughtered by ninja pirates. Rescued by a legendary master swordsman and brought under his wing, Jack begins the grueling physical and psychological training needed to become a samurai. Life at Samurai school is fraught with difficulty for Jack who is bullied and treated as an outcast. With his friend the remarkable, beautiful Akiko at his side and all the courage he can muster, Jack has to prove himself. Will he be able to face deadly rivals and challenges that will test him to his very limits?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Debut author Bradford comes out swinging in this fast-paced adventure set in medieval Japan, the first in the projected Young Samurai trilogy. Twelve-year-old Jack Fletcher has gained a reputation aboard a British merchant vessel as an agile rigging monkey. But after Japanese ninja murder the entire crew, including his father, Jack is left alone and injured to cope with strange customs and indecipherable language. When he shows his fortitude and cleverness, however, a powerful samurai adopts him and sends him to learn the ways of Japan's warrior class. Jack's story alone makes for a page-turner, but coupling it with intriguing bits of Japanese history and culture, Bradford produces an adventure novel to rank among the genre's best. The intricate and authentic descriptions of martial arts contests will hold readers spellbound. Just as potent for many readers, though, are the outright hatred and prejudice Jack faces as a gaijin, or foreigner,

while he attempts to master an elaborate code of honor. This book earns the literary equivalent of a black belt. Ages 10 and up. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

In 1611, a British merchant ship bound for the Japanese is attacked by ninjas, and the lone survivor, 12-year-old Jack Fletcher, is taken into the home of a revered samurai. After dispensing with Jack's initial sense of being lost in a new culture, the story dives directly into what teenaged boys will be looking for: fighting, and lots of it. The action comes fast, and Bradford writes with the authority of a black belt which he happens to be and a genuine respect for the subject. The minutiae of Jack's samurai training are conveyed with clarity and plenty of bravura, and while the central conflicts in Jack's path tend to be shallow and fairly telegraphed, the clashes they lead into are deeper and more satisfying. Employing a wide range of Japanese terms will have the dual effect of drawing readers intrigued by Japanese culture into the story, while dispelling the interest of those less enthusiastic. But it's hard to fault an author for authenticity, and this first historical adventure in what promises to be a series shows definite promise. Grades 6-9. --Ian Chipman

Okay, so the Young Samurai is Harry Potter with an historical setting and a couple hundred fewer pages. YA readers won't care. The story is every adventure loving kid's fantasy. Set in Shogun era Japan of the late 1500's, Jack is a rigging monkey on his father's ship. When the ship is attacked by pirates, Jack ends up in the Sea of Japan, is rescued by a samurai and sent to an elite samurai training school. Of course, it turns out the pirate attack wasn't random, Jack has something the pirates are desperate to find, and the samurai training Jack has been receiving from Japan's greatest master swordsman comes in very handy. Like Harry Potter, Jack is an outsider who endures harassment and finds two friends, who help him adjust to this strange new culture, and vow to be his allies. Well, actually one friend and ally, the other can't decide if he wants to be Jack's friend or enemy. The historical details are rich, fascinating and extremely accurate. In a surprise twist - the evil antagonists are ninjas. All readers will be swept up in the adventure and history of the Young Samurai, even the most reluctant readers.

I enjoyed reading Way of the Warrior. It seemed intriguing at first and it hooked me. I am almost done reading the entire series. The only problem was that it was a bit predictable in the rising action of the story. But this book was still worth it and I would read again.

I read this whole book in one sitting. I just couldn't put it down! This book as well as the entire series follows historical events and places fairly accurately making research into the people and places in the book twice as interesting. I started these books 2 weeks ago and I'm on book 6 now! I can't say enough about the series, characters, places and the author who must have spent countless hours weaving this story and his characters into the history and the spirit of feudal Japan. I'm a 25 year old guy and in love with this series. It can captivate young and old audiences alike. Arigatou gozaimashita Chris Bradford!

I may be an all-round Japanese-culture freak fan but worry not, for I never let those things bias my reaction, if not tolerance, to a novel. And I have to say this book didn't even need a bias boost. Well written with believable and lovable (not always in the cute "aww" way) characters, I quickly became an addict to this series and was a click away from greedily buying book #6 before I realized I should give the writer some kudos and fame. The writer had a mission and it was well-executed in this book. One of my favourite aspects are the challenges and fight scenes; descriptive but easy to follow and the author obviously did his history research. And even if the most base form of the plot does not sound 100% original this novel makes it its own train track. Enjoy.

This book series is well written, thought out and even has a couple of my favorite Samurai plot lines in it. This has been one of my favorite reads on Kindle at this time. Yeah it may seem like Harry Potter with ninjas yet it is so much more than that. It has impressed in every way while the story evolves.

I was skeptical in the beginning of this book because just by looking at it I thought that it was a typical samurai book. I can't explain what I'm talking about very easily, but I think that everyone knows what I'm talking about. As the story progressed, however, I was drawn into this book. It may have been the interesting concept of a foreigner being stranded in a land that he has no knowledge whatsoever. The author created an interesting conflict between Dragon Eye, the skilled ninja, and Jack, the young English boy.

Second time reading this book in one sitting, extremely good read! I would recommend for all, old and young alike.

Enjoyed the rangers apprentice series, moved on to this. Very informative and well written. Also very entertaining to read. Great!

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