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Way Of The Sword, The (Young Samurai, Book 2)



Synopsis

After being shipwrecked in Japan, adopted, and taught the Way of the Warrior at samurai school, Jack is ready to embark on the next chapter of his training: the Way of the Sword. His lessons involve fighting blindfolded, using a b-o staff, and finding messages in origamiâ "all while withstanding the constant pressure of being a foreigner. The stakes are raised even higher when the school holds a contest. The winners will learn the great samurai Masamoto-sama's secret martial arts technique.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I teach high school and purchased this series for my classroom library. Since then, I've had to acquire another set of the books because they are so popular! My guys - including ESOL guys! - are tearing through this series awfully fast. The action in the books is fast-paced, the characters sympathetic, the lessons supplied in koans. I find the series highly entertaining myself (I've read them all as well), and broadly historically accurate. The author runs an accompanying website where fans can do puzzles and games related to the books. The series is quite violent, but not graphically so. Would recommend for any classroom library. Would recommend for active boys or

girls, 12+

I know this is a teen novel and I am going on 30, but this really sucked me in. LOL. Perhaps it is because I am a martial artist and have a thing for martial art related novels, but I found this to be well written. The plot, though fairly simple, has side plots, which I find quite nice. The main character faces many trials and tribulations in this book, a bit of bullying and typical teen angst. Oh, and of course, there is his arch-nemesis "Dragon Eye" who wants him dead (and he also wants to take something valuable Jack has)! I also like that it is an easy read so I can sort of zonk out and not have to really "focus" on what I am reading. I'd say it's worth a read if you are looking for a fantasy teen novel.

Good novel. I really enjoy historical Japanese culture, and so have been enjoying this book as such. This is a book very much focused on fights and martial arts, combined with the spiritual aspect of the way of the Sword / bushido. I am now reading the next book in the sequel.

You know how it is when you find a book you really love, you pick up the sequel and you so hope it's as good as the first one. You just pray you're not going to be disappointed. The Way of the Sword was every bit as good as The Way of the Warrior. If you are into martial arts or Eastern culture I think you'll love these books. I found I could totally relate to the main character, Jack Fletcher. Like the first book, once I started I just couldn't put it down. Even when I had homework to do I found myself sneaking in a chapter or two because I just had to know what happened next. I'm so in love with this series. Can't wait to start book three!

I am giving this book 5 stars on behalf of my son who started reading this series when he was around 12 and absolutely devoured the books, all of which have been read multiple times. You can't ask for more than that!

I thought the first book, The Way of the Warrior, was good, but somewhat predictable. However, this 2nd book, the Way of the Sword and the 3rd, the Way of the Dragon were fantastic, and I'm in my 50's (I'm reading this with my 10 year old son). The last two books I read in just one weekend. Could not put it down. My son and I not only had fun as we rooted for the characters and became excited at the adventures together, but also talked about what it means to be a person of integrity, etc. Don't miss this series.

British author Chris Bradford continues his action-packed saga of samurai and ninja in the second installment of The Young Samurai series: The Way of the Sword. Jack Fletcher, shipwrecked, orphaned by ninja pirates, and then adopted by a samurai in 17th century Japan, has completed his first year of samurai school. His problems are not over, however; his classmates still taunt him as a "gaijin" (barbarian foreigner), anti-Christian sentiment is spreading, and worse yet, the evil ninja Dragon Eye is still after Jack and his father's rutter, which contains the secret routes to navigate the world's oceans. Once every three years, the samurai students have a chance to compete in the ancient ritual of the Circle of Three, testing their mind, body, and spirit. Those who pass this test will be allowed to learn Two Heavens, a secret martial art technique. Selection trials are held, and only the top five students progress to the Circle. Readers will not be surprised that Jack is among this elite group, as is his female friend, Akiko, and Kazuki, his arch-enemy at school. But will Jack be able to survive the competition? I would not advise reading these books out of order; readers might be confused without the background from the first book in the series. Highly recommended and fun action-packed story, great for fans of Japanese culture.

The Way of the Sword is a wonderful follow up to the Way of the Warrior. As a Martial Artist and Martia Arts Instructor it was nice to see a story about a hero who has to struggle much like the rest of us real people. Too often authors create characters that have things come too easily to them. Here we see in Jack a boy who has to work hard and endure failure and frustration. The best part is that he doesn't give up. I have decided to make this book and The Way of the Warrior required reading for my students at Centennial Taekwon-Do because it teaches a valueable martial arts ethic, that of patience and perseverance. I want my students to read this book because it is fun and exciting, (very hard to put down), but also I want them to see a character with real experiences to be motivated and inspired. Mr. Bradford continues to paint a beautiful picture of Japan in the 1600's and it's unique culture (a culture well worth learning about!) I would recommend this book and Way of the Warrior to anyone of any age. I am anxiously waiting for the release of The Way of the Dragon here in the States!

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