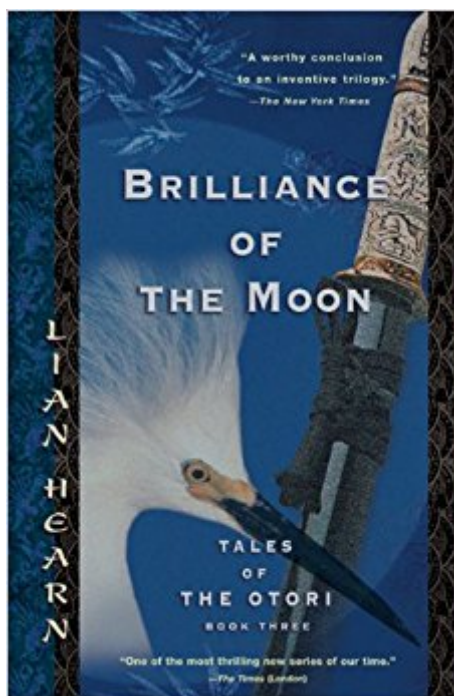


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Brilliance Of The Moon: Tales Of The Otori, Book Three



Synopsis

Brilliance of the Moon is the third book in the Tales of the Otori series by Lian Hearn. Don't miss the related series, The Tale of Shikanoko. A beautiful, haunting evocation of the medieval Japan of Lian Hearn's imagination, this thrilling follow-up to Grass for His Pillow and Across the Nightingale Floor delves deeper into the complex loyalties that bind its characters from birth. Filled with adventure and surprising twists of plot and fortune, this third book in the Tales of the Otori series travels beyond the Three Countries, to the outside influences that threaten to intrude upon this isolated realm.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lian Hearn's third installment in the Tales of the Otori series Brilliance of the Moon brings a mystical and violent conclusion to the saga of Takeo Otori as he fulfills his destiny to reclaim the Otori lands. At the climax of Grass for his Pillow, Takeo's passion for his beloved Kaede was finally realized with their secret and forbidden wedding. As spring approaches, Takeo and Kaede prepare for war and embark on a campaign to reclaim their respective realms. But just when victory seems certain, Hearn characteristically uproots her characters with unseen treachery and the two lovers are again separated. Takeo must summon courage from his conflicted heritage as he marches towards his destiny. The fates of other Otori characters are also determined in a succinct and magical finale. This third chapter in the Otori saga lives up its predecessors. Hearn's mythical ancient Japan is again brought to storybook life. Although the novel's climax comes suddenly and almost

unexpectedly, the afterword hints at another tale to be told by the heirs of Kaede and Takeo's legendary rise. --Jeremy Pugh --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Set in an imaginary medieval Japan, the pseudonymous Hearn's third elegant installment in her epic fantasy (after 2002's *Across the Nightingale Floor* and 2003's *Grass for His Pillow*) is a fragrant blend of romance and martial-arts action. Her warrior hero, Takeo Otori, feels destined to fulfill the potent prophecy of a holy woman: "Your lands will stretch from sea to sea, but peace comes at the price of bloodshed. Five battles will buy you peace, four to win and one to lose." Intrigue, heartaches and battles ensue as Takeo, of mixed blood and conflicting loyalties (to the pseudo-Christian Hidden, the noble Otori clan and the dangerous, supernaturally gifted Tribe), seeks to unite the Three Countries. Desperately in love with Kaede Shirakawa, whom he secretly wed at the end of *Grass for His Pillow*, Takeo must now assist her in reclaiming her lands of Maruyama while balancing his own need to avenge the deaths of his blood father and his adoptive father, Lord Shigeru. The fates of such characters as Kaede's lover, Dr. Ishida, and her nemesis, Lord Fujiwara, who's determined to possess her, provide some cool aftershocks, while the afterword adds another -- that a book four may follow. FYI: Hearn is the pseudonym of Australian children's book author Gillian Rubinstein. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

I have loved this three book epic for several years, and decided to revisit it through this audio addition. The story is told through the voices of two characters, one a man, one a woman. The author, Lian Hearn, has created a world with an amazing depth of imagination that rivals Middle Earth in terms of beauty, stark reality, and excitement. The Ninja-like skills of the male hero are not overdone at all, but add great interest. It takes place in an invented Japanese-like medieval land. The breadth of the story is magnificent and I consider it to be second only to *Lord of the Rings*. I am puzzled why Peter Jackson or equivalent movie maker has not yet taken this on, although it would take considerable skill to do it well, and in today's market they would probably make 6, 7, or 8 movies out of what has been created as three. The audio addition is a great way to enter this story, because the voices chosen to tell the story are so good, so appropriate; but I also still love reading the books, which I have done at least three times. Suggestion. Skip the follow-up book; it does not live up to the main three. If you areenjoy fantasy novels, tails of warriors, a magnificent love story, or just amazingly good writing, I highly highly recommend *Tales of the Otori*.

Just a the right combination of love and longing, intrigue and betrayal, battle strategies and tactics, spies and assassins. I could not put this book down! Book three, had the most action so far. Stellar series!

Rating System: 1 star = abysmal; some books deserve to be forgotten 2 star = poor; a total waste of time 3 star = good; worth the effort 4 star = very good; what writing should be 5 star = fantastic; must own it and share it with others

STORY: The continuing adventures of Takeo and Kaede as they try to connect with each other at a time when the Tribe is trying to assassinate Takeo, Akida is trying to take over all the known kingdoms and the Otori lords have sent the clan armies to hunt and kill Takeo.

MY FEEDBACK: 1) First off, this was a fairly satisfactory ending to an epic storyline. It didn't have the same level of mystic elements as the first book nor the rising action of the 2nd, but it resolved all the necessary characters and sub-plots well 2) I agree some of the other reviews that the author had an opportunity to exploit some battle scenes but decided in skirting the issue. The author decided to quickly resolve the battles instead of taking the reader through the mayhem and chaos of such events. A missed opportunity in my opinion 3) The emotional bonds between the characters are believable and connecting with the reader 4) I've read a lot of fantasy and whenever "prophecy" is introduced into the story it MAY add to the mystic elements or detract from the story by giving things away too early. I believe this happened here in that some opportunities to increase the suspense of a scene was lost due to me as the reader already knowing that Takeo should win based on the prophecy **OVERALL:** It still flows with the same feel as the previous two books. It was a must read to know how the story ends and made me feel like so much has happened since the first book that I'll soon need to go back and start the trilogy all over again.

I found this book to be a worthy addition to the series, following the intrigue and developments in the clans of 'Japan.' The writing is clear if a little poetic, at times, and the pace holds the attention well without feeling like an action movie. I would like to note that some reviews of the series mention that it clearly isn't Japan and that the series is insulting to Japanese history. My edition clearly states that this is not a historical novel; rather, it is inspired by Japanese culture and history without actually being part of it. I say that's clear enough for me, and that I welcome semi-historical fantasies based in Eastern traditions. Not every fantasy-fiction story has to take place in pseudo-Western Europe.

Lian Hearn is a fantastic writer and any book that I see the name on is MINE! The way this person writes is exactly the way that I hope my books come across to readers. He/She makes you feel that

you are right there, I can smell the smells and feel the same things that the book characters do and this is my new favorite author!

I never get enough of ANY of Lian Hearn's books. This chronicle is fantastic. The way that Lian writes makes me feel that I am actually there in the situation. Smelling the same smells, hearing the same sounds, just so descriptive. I love how he/she describes the simplest things so beautifully. Just a superb writer!

If you start the Tales of the Otori series, reading this book is a natural conclusion! Finding out how Takeo and Kaede's story reaches its conclusion is GRIPPING!! The harsh realities of war, struggling to gain freedom and the costs one pays to do so are very well depicted by Lian Hearn. I truly am excited to read more of Hearn's work!

In her trilogy 'Tales of the Otori' Lian Hearn successfully creates her characters, and they evolve before our eyes. She weaves and develops the principal theme and sub plots with great skill, maintaining interest and action throughout the three volumes-no easy task. There is enough suspense and stirring action to satisfy the most fastidious reader-and it has a happy ending. These volumes are a great 'read' and they have my hearty recommendation.

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