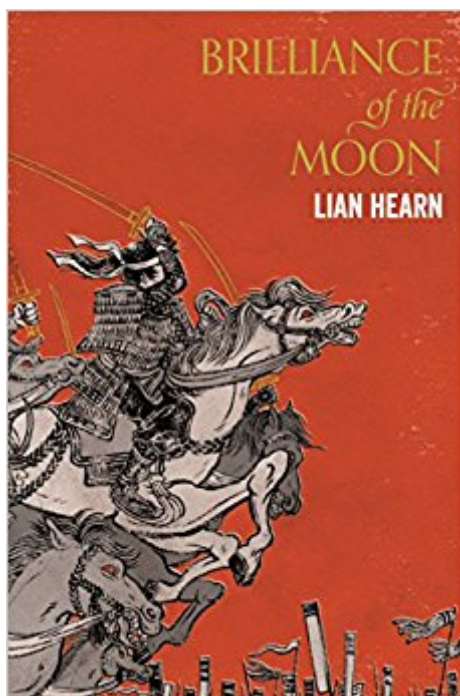


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Brilliance Of The Moon: Tales Of The Otori Book 3



Synopsis

The third title in the compelling Tales of the Otori - the story that began with *Across the Nightingale Floor* and *Grass for his Pillow*, *Brilliance of the Moon* by Lian Hearn is an epic tale of love, power and destiny, set in a mythical world inspired by feudal Japan. Takeo and the exquisite Kaede, still only teenagers, are now married, but the implacable forces of destiny that rule their lives tear them apart. Takeo, a battle-hardened warrior at the head of an army fighting for his Otori birthright, finds his courage and leadership forged in the fire of bloodshed and sacrifice, while his legendary magical powers are tested to their limits against the invisible assassins of the Tribe. Kaede, determined to reclaim her own lands, is treacherously betrayed and forced into marriage. Their love will survive until death - but death, in this savage, beautiful world, is always only a moment away.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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 are enjoy 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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