



The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi

By William Scott Wilson

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi By William Scott Wilson

Miyamoto Musashi (1584?1645) was the legendary samurai known throughout the world as a master swordsman, spiritual seeker, and author of the classic book on strategy, the *Book of Five Rings*. Over 350 years after his death, Musashi and his legacy still fascinate us and continue to inspire artists, authors, and filmmakers. Here, respected translator and expert on samurai culture William Scott Wilson has created both a vivid account of a fascinating period in feudal Japan and a portrait of the courageous, iconoclastic samurai who wrestled with philosophical and spiritual ideas that are as relevant today as they were in his time. For Musashi, the way of the martial arts was about mastery of the mind rather than simply technical prowess—and it is this path to mastery that is the core teaching in his *Book of Five Rings*. This volume includes supplemental material on Musashi's legacy as a martial arts icon, his impact on literature and film, and the influence of his *Book of Five Rings*.

↓ [Download The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi ...pdf](#)

The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi

By William Scott Wilson

The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi By William Scott Wilson

Miyamoto Musashi (1584?1645) was the legendary samurai known throughout the world as a master swordsman, spiritual seeker, and author of the classic book on strategy, the *Book of Five Rings*. Over 350 years after his death, Musashi and his legacy still fascinate us and continue to inspire artists, authors, and filmmakers. Here, respected translator and expert on samurai culture William Scott Wilson has created both a vivid account of a fascinating period in feudal Japan and a portrait of the courageous, iconoclastic samurai who wrestled with philosophical and spiritual ideas that are as relevant today as they were in his time. For Musashi, the way of the martial arts was about mastery of the mind rather than simply technical prowess—and it is this path to mastery that is the core teaching in his *Book of Five Rings*. This volume includes supplemental material on Musashi's legacy as a martial arts icon, his impact on literature and film, and the influence of his *Book of Five Rings*.

The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi By William Scott Wilson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #107427 in Books
- Brand: Shambhala Publications
- Published on: 2013-03-12
- Released on: 2013-03-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.49" h x .81" w x 5.24" l, .75 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

 [Download The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Musashi is primarily known in the West as the author of *The Book of Five Rings*, a guide to swordsmanship strategies that became an essential business-strategy manual in the 1980s. Wilson, having translated Musashi's book into English, turns for the first time to biography, with as complete a life of the man behind the sword as possible, given his legendary stature and peripatetic, largely undocumented story. Musashi lived in the 17th century and had his first match at 13 with a *shugyosha* (an older, professional swordsman); only Musashi walked away alive. For three decades, he wandered feudal Japan, moving from patron to patron, taking on opponents in formal and informal matches, teaching others his art and sometimes taking part in clan and regional rivalries. He eventually settled in southern Japan, where his martial art skills led organically to visual art: simple-looking, highly disciplined ink-and-brush painting and calligraphy. Toward the end of his life, Musashi synthesized everything he'd learned into the literary work he is now best known for. Wilson integrates a considerable amount of Japanese history and culture into a short, dense book with lots of specialized information. Although Musashi doesn't become fully dimensional—and given the scarcity of primary source material, he probably can't—Wilson provides an extensive appendix of other materials that have depicted the legendary swordsman over the centuries.

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

"Asked to name the best swordsman ever, most Japanese would pick Musashi, the famous 17th-century samurai turned artist who is the subject of more than 50 movies and dozens of books. But most of those focus on his superior warrior skills. This fascinating new biography by Wilson, an American translator of samurai literature, goes much deeper, seeking to explain what ultimately drove Musashi from sword-fighting to Zen teachings, ink paintings and writing. He literally embodies the adage 'the pen is mightier than the sword.'" -Newsweek International

This is the perfect book to satiate your desire to experience the sacrifices and triumphs inherent to a life lived by the sword. Flaunt

"While Miyamoto Musashi is one of the martial arts world's favorite warriors, relatively little is known about him. Thanks to historian William Scott Wilson, that's about to change. In *The Lone Samurai: the Life of Miyamoto Musashi*, Wilson presents a detailed account of the Japanese swordsman's life and quest for truth, perfection and enlightenment." -Black Belt Magazine

"It's a thoughtful, entertaining work written by a passionate scholar who avoids the pitfalls posed by a host of obscure Japanese names by using vivid descriptions and a fast-paced narrative. Sometimes dense but never dull, the prose is part history lesson, part detective story, as Wilson sifts thorough various conflicting accounts of the time." -The Post & Courier (Charleston, SC)

"Wilson, a veteran translator and a longtime student of Japanese language and literature, shows clearly the influence of Zen on Musashi's thinking art, and writing. Appendices document Musashi's role as a Robin Hood-like folk hero in Japanese literature and film. Excellent notes and glossary provide context for the swordsman's life. A fascinating glimpse of a central figure in traditional Japanese culture." -Kirkus Reviews

"Wilson turns his talents to Musashi's turbulent life as a swordsman and teacher, crisply retelling, with background for Western readers, the story known to so many Japanese. A particular contribution of this study is Wilson's account of how Miyamoto's life became legend in later centuries?in the last 100 years there have been 43 films about him! . . . Lively and balanced, it will please those looking for a readable but serious presentation of medieval Bushido and samurai culture." ?Library Journal

"Wilson, having translated Musashi's book into English (The Book of Five Rings), turns for the first time to biography, with as complete a life of the man behind the sword as possible." -Publishers Weekly

"The author combines many antidotes about Musashi with excerpts from his writings to imbue him with a vibrancy lacking from more sedate treatments of this complex individual. Wilson is as skilled with wordplay as Musashi was with the sword, and he has exhaustively researched his subject. The book is a compelling journey through seventeenth-century Japanese society, replete with numerous footnotes and a glossary to aid the reader with the referenced Japanese terms and locales. Anyone interested in the martial arts or Japanese history will enjoy this superb biography of the 'lone samurai' who owed allegiance to no man, but only to his adventurous spirit." -ForeWord Magazine

"Wilson has scoured all available Japanese sources to create a highly readable account of this iconoclastic samurai, who not only contributed to the practice and philosophy of swordsmanship but also made his mark in all Zen-related arts: monochrome ink painting, calligraphy, poetry, sculpture, the tea ceremony, architecture, and Noh theater. . . . Highly recommended." -Choice

"William Scott Wilson's newest book offers up the most expansive English-language biography of Musashi to date. This lively and informative treatment is the product of a careful sorting and weighing of earlier works, in search of, as Wilson puts it, 'the single, consistent life within.' Wilson unravels and reweaves his material into a sometimes surprising narrative that significantly enriches our knowledge of Musashi and the legends surrounding him." -Journal of Asian Martial Arts

In *The Lone Samurai: the Life of Miyamoto Musashi*, William Scott Wilson draws upon his considerable expertise as a preeminent translator of classic samurai texts to write an original biography of the legendary Japanese swordsman who lived and fought in the 17th century feudal Japan . . .

Enthusiastically recommended reading, *The Lone Samurai* is a superlatively written biography of a truly remarkable man. Midwest Book Review

"Asked to name the best swordsman ever, most Japanese would pick Musashi, the famous 17th-century samurai turned artist who is the subject of more than 50 movies and dozens of books. But most of those focus on his superior warrior skills. This fascinating new biography by Wilson, an American translator of samurai literature, goes much deeper, seeking to explain what ultimately drove Musashi from sword-fighting to Zen teachings, ink paintings and writing. He literally embodies the adage 'the pen is mightier than the sword.'" -Newsweek International

This is the perfect book to satiate your desire to experience the sacrifices and triumphs inherent to a life lived by the sword. Flaunt

"While Miyamoto Musashi is one of the martial arts world's favorite warriors, relatively little is known about him. Thanks to historian William Scott Wilson, that's about to change. In *The Lone Samurai: the Life of Miyamoto Musashi*, Wilson presents a detailed account of the Japanese swordsman's life and quest for truth, perfection and enlightenment." -Black Belt Magazine

"It's a thoughtful, entertaining work written by a passionate scholar who avoids the pitfalls posed by a host of obscure Japanese names by using vivid descriptions and a fast-paced narrative. Sometimes dense but never dull, the prose is part history lesson, part detective story, as Wilson sifts thorough various conflicting accounts of the time." -The Post & Courier (Charleston, SC)

"Wilson, a veteran translator and a longtime student of Japanese language and literature, shows clearly the influence of Zen on Musashi's thinking art, and writing. Appendices document Musashi's role as a Robin Hood-like folk hero in Japanese literature and film. Excellent notes and glossary provide context for the swordsman's life. A fascinating glimpse of a central figure in traditional Japanese culture." -Kirkus Reviews

"Wilson turns his talents to Musashi's turbulent life as a swordsman and teacher, crisply retelling, with background for Western readers, the story known to so many Japanese. A particular contribution of this

study is Wilson's account of how Miyamoto's life became legend in later centuries?in the last 100 years there have been 43 films about him! . . . Lively and balanced, it will please those looking for a readable but serious presentation of medieval Bushido and samurai culture." ?Library Journal

"Wilson, having translated Musashi's book into English (The Book of Five Rings), turns for the first time to biography, with as complete a life of the man behind the sword as possible." -Publishers Weekly

"The author combines many antidotes about Musashi with excerpts from his writings to imbue him with a vibrancy lacking from more sedate treatments of this complex individual. Wilson is as skilled with wordplay as Musashi was with the sword, and he has exhaustively researched his subject. The book is a compelling journey through seventeenth-century Japanese society, replete with numerous footnotes and a glossary to aid the reader with the referenced Japanese terms and locales. Anyone interested in the martial arts or Japanese history will enjoy this superb biography of the 'lone samurai' who owed allegiance to no man, but only to his adventurous spirit." -ForeWord Magazine

"Wilson has scoured all available Japanese sources to create a highly readable account of this iconoclastic samurai, who not only contributed to the practice and philosophy of swordsmanship but also made his mark in all Zen-related arts: monochrome ink painting, calligraphy, poetry, sculpture, the tea ceremony, architecture, and Noh theater. . . . Highly recommended." -Choice

"William Scott Wilson's newest book offers up the most expansive English-language biography of Musashi to date. This lively and informative treatment is the product of a careful sorting and weighing of earlier works, in search of, as Wilson puts it, 'the single, consistent life within.' Wilson unravels and reweaves his material into a sometimes surprising narrative that significantly enriches our knowledge of Musashi and the legends surrounding him." -Journal of Asian Martial Arts

In *The Lone Samurai: the Life of Miyamoto Musashi*, William Scott Wilson draws upon his considerable expertise as a preeminent translator of classic samurai texts to write an original biography of the legendary Japanese swordsman who lived and fought in the 17th century feudal Japan . . .

Enthusiastically recommended reading, *The Lone Samurai* is a superlatively written biography of a truly remarkable man. Midwest Book Review

"Asked to name the best swordsman ever, most Japanese would pick Musashi, the famous 17th-century samurai turned artist who is the subject of more than 50 movies and dozens of books. But most of those focus on his superior warrior skills. This fascinating new biography by Wilson, an American translator of samurai literature, goes much deeper, seeking to explain what ultimately drove Musashi from sword-fighting to Zen teachings, ink paintings and writing. He literally embodies the adage 'the pen is mightier than the sword.'" -Newsweek International

This is the perfect book to satiate your desire to experience the sacrifices and triumphs inherent to a life lived by the sword. Flaunt

"While Miyamoto Musashi is one of the martial arts world's favorite warriors, relatively little is known about him. Thanks to historian William Scott Wilson, that's about to change. In *The Lone Samurai: the Life of Miyamoto Musashi*, Wilson presents a detailed account of the Japanese swordsman's life and quest for truth, perfection and enlightenment." -Black Belt Magazine

"It's a thoughtful, entertaining work written by a passionate scholar who avoids the pitfalls posed by a host of obscure Japanese names by using vivid descriptions and a fast-paced narrative. Sometimes dense but never dull, the prose is part history lesson, part detective story, as Wilson sifts through various conflicting accounts of the time." -The Post & Courier (Charleston, SC)

"Wilson, a veteran translator and a longtime student of Japanese language and literature, shows clearly the influence of Zen on Musashi's thinking, art, and writing. Appendices document Musashi's role as a Robin Hood-like folk hero in Japanese literature and film. Excellent notes and glossary provide context for the swordsman's life. A fascinating glimpse of a central figure in traditional Japanese culture." -Kirkus Reviews

"Wilson turns his talents to Musashi's turbulent life as a swordsman and teacher, crisply retelling, with

background for Western readers, the story known to so many Japanese. A particular contribution of this study is Wilson's account of how Miyamoto's life became legend in later centuries?in the last 100 years there have been 43 films about him! . . . Lively and balanced, it will please those looking for a readable but serious presentation of medieval Bushido and samurai culture." ?Library Journal

"Wilson, having translated Musashi's book into English (The Book of Five Rings), turns for the first time to biography, with as complete a life of the man behind the sword as possible." -Publishers Weekly

"The author combines many antidotes about Musashi with excerpts from his writings to imbue him with a vibrancy lacking from more sedate treatments of this complex individual. Wilson is as skilled with wordplay as Musashi was with the sword, and he has exhaustively researched his subject. The book is a compelling journey through seventeenth-century Japanese society, replete with numerous footnotes and a glossary to aid the reader with the referenced Japanese terms and locales. Anyone interested in the martial arts or Japanese history will enjoy this superb biography of the 'lone samurai' who owed allegiance to no man, but only to his adventurous spirit." -ForeWord Magazine

"Wilson has scoured all available Japanese sources to create a highly readable account of this iconoclastic samurai, who notonly contributed to the practice and philosophy of swordsmanship but also make his mark in all Zen-related arts: monochrome ink painting, calligraphy, poetry, sculpture, the tea ceremony, architecture, and Noh theater. . . . Highly recommended." -Choice

"William Scott Wilson's newest book offers up the most expansive English-language biography of Musashi to date. This lively and informative treatment is the product of a careful sorting and weighing of earlier works, in search of, as Wilson puts it, 'the single, consistent life within.' Wilson unravels and reweaves his material into a sometimes surprising narrative that significantly enriches our knowledge of Musashi and the legends surrounding him." -Journal of Asian Martial Arts

In *The Lone Samurai: the Life of Miyamoto Musashi*, William Scott Wilson draws upon his considerable expertise as a preeminent translator of classic samurai texts to write an original biography of the legendary Japanese swordsman who lived and fought in the 17th century feudal Japan . . . Enthusiastically recommended reading, *The Lone Samurai* is a superlatively written biography of a truly remarkable man. Midwest Book Review

"Asked to name the best swordsman ever, most Japanese would pick Musashi, the famous 17th-century samurai turned artist who is the subject of more than 50 movies and dozens of books. But most of those focus on his superior warrior skills. This fascinating new biography by Wilson, an American translator of samurai literature, goes much deeper, seeking to explain what ultimately drove Musashi from sword-fighting to Zen teachings, ink paintings and writing. He literally embodies the adage 'the pen is mightier than the sword.'" -Newsweek International

This is the perfect book to satiate your desire to experience the sacrifices and triumphs inherent to a life lived by the sword. Flaunt

"While Miyamoto Musashi is one of the martial arts world's favorite warriors, relatively little is known about him. Thanks to historian William Scott Wilson, that's about to change. In *The Lone Samurai: the Life of Miyamoto Musashi*, Wilson presents a detailed account of the Japanese swordsman's

From the Publisher

THE TRUE STORY OF JAPAN'S GREATEST SAMURAI SWORDSMAN AND THE AUTHOR OF
THE BOOK OF FIVE RINGS

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Andre Botsford:

The book The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave a very important thing like a book The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi? Some of you have a different opinion about book. But one aim in which book can give many info for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, it is possible to give for each other; you can share all of these. Book The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi has simple shape however you know: it has great and large function for you. You can search the enormous world by available and read a guide. So it is very wonderful.

Johnnie Lewis:

As people who live in often the modest era should be update about what going on or info even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era which can be always change and make progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what kind you should start with. This The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Robert Lindsey:

Typically the book The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi has a lot associated with on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of help. The book was published by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research just before write this book. That book very easy to read you can find the point easily after scanning this book.

Dale Fain:

Beside that The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi in your phone, it could give you a way to get more close to the new knowledge or data. The information and the knowledge you can got here is fresh from your oven so don't become worry if you feel like an previous people live in narrow community. It is good thing to have The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi because this book offers for your requirements readable information. Do you oftentimes have book but you rarely get what it's exactly about. Oh come on, that will not end up to happen if you have this in the hand. The Enjoyable blend here cannot be questionable, including treasuring beautiful island. Use you still want to miss that? Find this book along with read it from today!

**Download and Read Online The Lone Samurai: The Life of
Miyamoto Musashi By William Scott Wilson #CN4M8J20SQI**

Read The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi By William Scott Wilson for online ebook

The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi By William Scott Wilson Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi By William Scott Wilson books to read online.

Online The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi By William Scott Wilson ebook PDF download

The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi By William Scott Wilson Doc

The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi By William Scott Wilson Mobipocket

The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi By William Scott Wilson EPub

CN4M8J20SQI: The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi By William Scott Wilson