



Sisters of the Sword

By Maya Snow

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Sisters of the Sword By Maya Snow

I see you blink with surprise. A girl? you are thinking. Surely a girl cannot be asamurai. But you are wrong.

Kimi dreams of being a great samurai warrior, but she and her sister, Hana, are young ladies of ancient Japan, daughters of the Jito of the province. Her future seems clear: Girls do not become samurai.

Then, a murderous betrayal shatters the sisters' world. Suddenly, Kimi and Hana are thrown headlong into a life of warrior codes, deadly swords, and dangerous enemies. Life has swept them into an adventure more heart-pounding than the sisters ever could have imagined . . . and once it has been set in motion, nothing will ever be the same.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5–8—As daughters of a 13th-century Japanese feudal lord, Kimi and Hana have been trained in the arts of self-defense. Though Kimi dreams of becoming a great samurai warrior, she knows it is a future she could never realistically achieve. One fateful day, her life is turned upside down. Called to their home for a visit, Kimi's uncle betrays her father, murdering him in order to seize power. The sisters escape, determined to find their mother and younger brother, and to eventually exact revenge on their callous uncle, they disguise themselves as peasant boys and travel to a samurai school run by their father's old friend, Master Goku. They gain entry as servants, but are allowed to continue their training. Filled with battles and bloodshed, this exciting story is placed against a strongly depicted historical setting evoked through everyday details and descriptions of cultural practices. Kimi and Hana are vividly drawn characters, and their emotions ring true, from their terror and shock in the aftermath of the murders to their dedication to restoring their family honor. Youngsters will stand in awe of these two talented, steadfast, and remarkably brave young women, and the cliff-hanger ending will have readers impatiently awaiting the next installment.—*Caryl Soriano, New York Public Library*

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From [Booklist](#)

This rousing new series (Sisters of the Sword) starts off with a bang, or more accurately, the silent thrust of a sword. Set in 1216 in Japan, the novel features narrator Kimi and her sister, Hana, daughters of a feudal overlord. Both girls dream of being samurai, an impossibility for females. Then their once-beloved uncle shows his true self, murdering their father and brothers, and forcing the remaining family to flee. Kimi and Hana, disguised as boys, eventually find themselves in the samurai school of master Goku, where their uncle's pugnacious son is also a student. There's plenty of action, some quite bloody, but the strong underpinning of the story—the horrific loss endured and witnessed by the girls and their constant fear—is somewhat alleviated by Goku's recognition of the girls' true identity. A dangerous finale smoothly leads into another book. In the epilogue, Kimi explains how she hoped that her courage would restore the honor of her family: How could I have known what tragedies awaited us? Grades 6-9. --Ilene Cooper

Review

“Vivid characters, intriguing conflicts...a suspenseful, satisfying read.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“This rousing new series starts off with a bang, or more accurately, the silent thrust of a sword...the dangerous finale smoothly leads into the next book.” (ALA Booklist)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Russell Love:

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