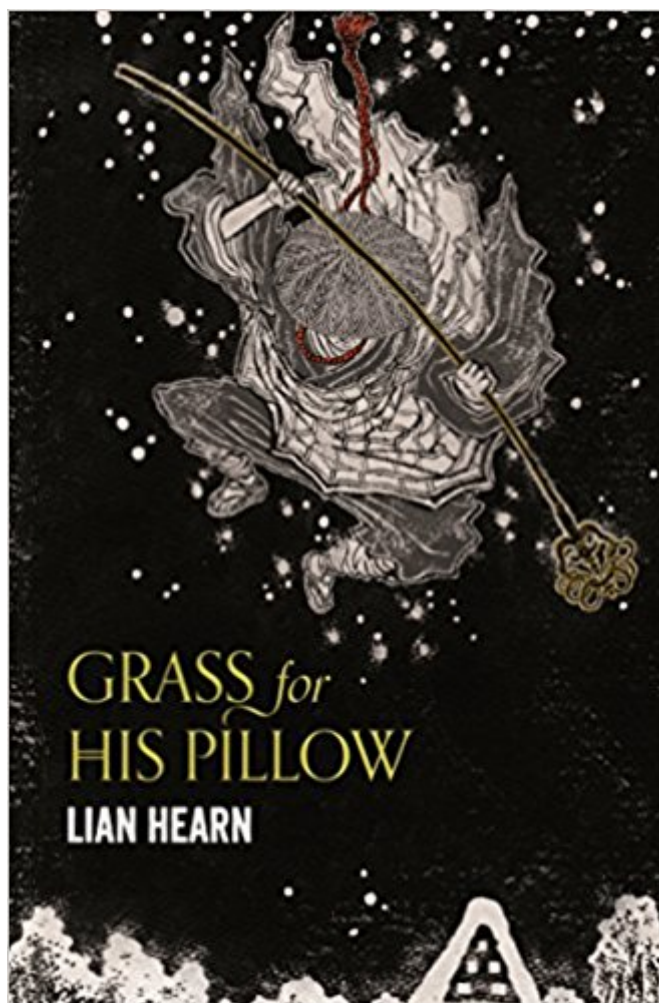


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Grass For His Pillow: Tales Of The Otori Book 2



Synopsis

Grass for His Pillow is the second novel in Lian Hearn's astonishingly beautiful series inspired by Feudal Japan, Tales of the Otori. In the ancient Oriental lands of the Otori, amidst a time of violent war, famine and treacherous alliances, the fate of the young lovers Otori Takeo and Shirakawa Kaede hangs in the balance . . . Takeo, heir to the great Otori clan, has pledged his life to the secret Tribe. His supernatural skills of virtual invisibility and acute hearing make him their most deadly assassin. But he must deny the solemn oath of vengeance he made, his adopted birthright of wealth, land and power - and his love for Kaede. If he does not devote himself entirely to the brutal ways of the Tribe, they will kill him. Whichever path he chooses, it will lead to hardship and sacrifice in the bitter winter of the high mountains, and test him to the limits of his being. Kaede, heiress to vast lands, is now the valuable pawn of ruthless warlords. She must use her intelligence, beauty and cunning to assert her place in a world of all-powerful men - who must never suspect the dangerous secret she hides. 'The beauty, savagery and strangeness of Hearn's gripping tale is heightened by her exquisite, crystalline prose. The second instalment in the Tales of the Otori is, astonishingly, even better than Across the Nightingale Floor' Independent on Sunday

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grass for His Pillow is the continuation of the Tales of the Otori series about young Takeo. This book resumes where Book One, Across the Nightingale Floor ends. Thankfully, the story continues. The vivid descriptions, the mental portrayal of the scenery in which young Takeo & the heroine, Lady Kaede Shirakawa, find themselves, is vibrant and real. Lian Hearn takes a known world (Japan) and crafts another world just like it in which to set his story. There are many wonderful moments in this story and to tell them here would only lessen the experience. If you love detailed, well worded and unique character portrayal, please enjoy this title today!

I love the author and have read the entire Otori series. Fantastic, I can actually feel I'm in that time period and smelling the cherry blossoms. Excellent writer. Lian Hearn actually pushed me to write my own book and publish it. Thanks Lian!

This second book starts slow, like breathing in preparation for meditation but it abruptly ends. It left me yearning for more of Hearn's beautiful and tragic narration of love lost and found. I couldn't help but think that the amazing and most terrible moments of Kaede and Takeo's journey are all packed in book three.

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: From back cover: "Takeo has now been claimed by the Tribe; held by them against his will, he is condemned to work as an assassin. Meanwhile, Shirakawa Kaede must try to unify the domain she has inherited, while fighting off would-be suitors and hoping that Takeo will return to her."

MY FEEDBACK: 1) You don't really need to read the first book to understand this story because the author does enough reflection and backstory to get a reader up to speed. BUT...it is so much better if you do read Across the Nightingale Floor first. 2) The characters of Takeo and Kaede are explored more and we as readers continue our bond and love for them. Kaede plays a much larger role in this book than the first. 3) This second/middle book doesn't seem to suffer from middle-book syndrome but continues with the same strength as the first. The first book resolved enough without having to read this book, but this book definitely sets the stage for interesting events to happen in the 3rd book. Very little is resolved in this book. This book

was truly the rising action of the series making you feel that the climax is just around the corner and me as a reader anxious to get there.4) The same actors come back to this book to do the voices in this unabridged representation of the book. The acting is very well done and enjoyable throughout.OVERALL: Fantastic continuation. I can't wait till the end of the trilogy!

I love this series. I am deeply touched by the love story that grows as strong as steel and is truly forged through adversity, betrayals, intrigues, ancestral expectations. Stellar series!

I simply stand in awe of Lian Hearn's prose and ability to tell a story. The characters are so engaging, so sympathetic, and the suspense so pervading it is very hard to put the book down.

This is the second book in the superb 4 book series, Tales of the Otori. The whole series is completely engaging, with complex characters set in a slightly magical medieval Japan. Takeo Otori has to come to terms with his triple heritage, as a child raised by the Hidden, a Christian-like sect; a member of the tribe, a sinister ninja-like group specializing in intrigue and assassination; and as the adopted heir to the Otori, lords and warriors. The only other author who does this kind of thing as well is Guy Gavriel Kay with books like the Sarantine Mozaic (set in Byzantium) or Under Heaven (set in Tang dynasty China).

At this point, I've read all five of these books: the TALES OF THE OTORI trilogy as well as its epilogue and prequel. I read them contiguously and without pause--making sure that, before I finished one book, I had the next in hand. I would recommend the OTORI series for anyone who 1) has a modicum of interest in Japan, 2) likes a breath of magic, 3) enjoys surprise, 4) looks for the quality of nobility in characters, and 5) loves a good read. What's not to like!

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