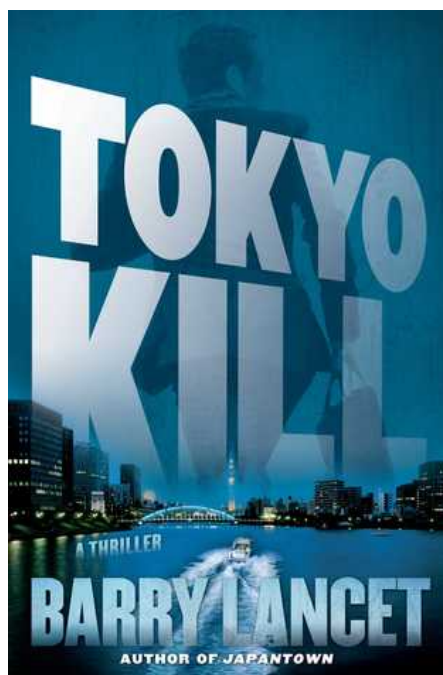




Tokyo Kill

Barry Lancet

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In the second thriller of this new series from “a fresh voice in crime fiction” (Kirkus Reviews), antiques dealer-turned-P.I. Jim Brodie matches wits with an elusive group of killers chasing a long-lost treasure that has a dangerous history.

When an elderly World War II veteran shows up unannounced at Brodie Security begging for protection, the staff thinks he’s just a paranoid old man. He offers up a story connected to the war and to Chinese Triads operating in present-day Tokyo, insisting that he and his few surviving army buddies are in danger.

Fresh off his involvement in solving San Francisco’s Japantown murders, antiques dealer Jim Brodie had returned to Tokyo for some R&R, and to hunt down a rare ink painting by the legendary Japanese Zen master Sengai for one of his clients—not to take on another case with his late father’s P.I. firm. But out of respect for the old soldier, Brodie agrees to provide a security detail, thinking it’ll be an easy job and end when the man comes to his senses.

Instead, an unexpected, brutal murder rocks Brodie and his crew, sending them deep into the realm of the Triads, Chinese spies, kendo warriors, and an elusive group of killers whose treachery spans centuries—and who will stop at nothing to complete their mission.

Tokyo Kill Details

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Author : Barry Lancet

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From Reader Review Tokyo Kill for online ebook

Mal Warwick says

What is it about Americans' hunger for violence? Recently, more than 100 million of us watched the Superbowl, a classic annual gladiatorial display in which huge men appear onscreen appearing to do their utmost to injure one another — and are rewarded with enormous sums of money for doing so. I've never understood why anyone would spend hours mesmerized by flickering images to witness this mayhem. So, when I come across repeated instances of gratuitous violence on the printed page, I cringe. All of which explains why I found it very difficult to read all the way to the end of Barry Lancet's thriller, Tokyo Kill.

So, why did I read this book to the end?

The reason why I drove myself to finish Tokyo Kill is simple: in other respects, it's an excellent piece of work. Lancet writes reasonably well. He is a long-term resident of Japan and clearly has studied a great deal about its history and culture. His novel sparkles with engrossing detail about the country's storied past and with insight about its culture today (although at times the digressions to explain the finer points do become tedious). And he clearly knows how to craft a thriller, creating a deep sense of mystery, suspense, and surprise. None of this bothered me. It was all the guts and gore splashed across the page that had me retching.

Introducing Jim Brodie

The protagonist in Tokyo Kill is Jim Brodie, the central character in what is now a series of three novels. Brodie is a fascinating character. In San Francisco, he owns and runs a small, struggling antique shop specializing in Japanese art and artifacts. He has also inherited a 50% share in Brodie Investigations, a firm his late father founded in Tokyo. Brodie divides his time between the two cities. As he was raised in Tokyo, he is bilingual, and he is proficient in Japanese martial arts. In fact, he is uncommonly tough.

That comes in handy when people try to kill him, which happens with unnatural frequency in the course of the novel. In fact, those attempts, which nearly succeed, subject Brodie to such a degree of physical damage, pain, and suffering that I find it difficult to understand how he could have survived the experience, much less risen from his hospital bed only hours later to seek out more punishment.

Tokyo, front and center

Brodie is in Tokyo tending to affairs at the detective agency that bears his name. A middle-aged "salaryman" bursts into the office demanding to speak with him, the man's aging father in tow. The father, it develops, is 96 years old. He was a Japanese officer in Manchuria following Japan's notoriously brutal invasion in 1937. Now, his old comrades are being murdered, one after another, and he fears for his life. Though his son disbelieves the threat, he hires Brodie Investigations to protect the old man. Naturally, additional murders follow. And therein lies the tale.

About the author

Barry Lancet has lived and worked in Tokyo for a long time. He was employed by one of Japan's leading publishing houses for 25 years, "developing books" that were mostly about Japanese culture.

Annett says

Dieses Buch hat mich direkt fasziniert. Schon das Cover ist wie ich finde unglaublich ausdrucksstark und versprach Spannung auf hohem Niveau. Ich muss gestehen, dass ich den Vorgänger von Barry Lancet nicht gelesen habe und so vollkommen unbefangen an diesen Thriller gehen konnte. Im Nachhinein kann ich zudem sagen, dass dies nicht von Nachteil gewesen ist und ich der Handlung auch so sehr gut folgen konnte ohne das vorherige Buch zu kennen.

Der Einstieg ins Buch ist gut, nicht zu abrupt und dennoch geheimnisvoll genug um gleich ins Geschehen eintauchen zu können. Natürlich muss man als Leser auch die Hauptfigur kennenlernen, der Thriller beginnt jedoch mit einer Art Erklärung der Ist-Situation. Die Vorstellung Brodies erfolgt während der weiteren Erzählung und über die Seiten hinweg lernt man ihn immer besser kennen. Ab und an gibt es eine kleine Erwähnung des vorherigen Buches, diese sind jedoch für den weiteren Handlungsverlauf uninteressant. Sie schüren allerdings ausreichend Neugier um mir zu verdeutlichen, dass ich wohl auch "Japan Town" unbedingt lesen sollte.

"Ich rief die findige Lady selbst an, um ihr mitzuteilen, dass wir eine Verabredung mit einem Mann hatten, der mir vier mal angedroht hatte, mich umzubringen. Sie war begeistert."

Zitat S. 250

Der Schreibstil Lancets ist einmalig. Er ist neutral mit der richtigen Würze an Nähe zum passenden Zeitpunkt. Dadurch wurde ich beim Lesen fast unmerklich an die Seite Brodies gezwungen und habe fieberhaft versucht den Killer zu identifizieren. Ein echtes Highlight ist der immer wieder einfließende trockene Humor, der dieses Buch zu einem echten Highlight für mich werden lässt. Kein anderer lässt Leichen und Attentate so gekonnt eiskalt und dabei fast amüsant erscheinen. An mehreren Stellen sind die Beschreibungen derart detailliert, dass das Blut fast von den Seiten tropfen könnte. Doch glücklicherweise ist dem nicht so.

Insgesamt vergebe ich daher für "Tokio Kill" die vollen 5 Sterne. Dieses Buch ist kein Pageturner. Es ist ein gekonnt geschriebener Thriller, der Nervenkitzel und Gänsehaut gepaart mit trockenem Humor bietet. Barry Lancet bietet mit diesem Buch die perfekte Basis für spannende Lesestunden.

Bea Charmed says

I am on a hot streak lately of finding new to me suspense and thriller authors. My newest find is Barry Lancet. His hero lives part-time in Japan and part-time in the US. In Japan, he co-owns and runs his late father's security company while in the US he owns and runs a high-end art and antique store. He's still learning about security work and relies heavily on his employees who are also partners.

"Tokyo Kill" is set entirely in Japan, a country and culture I know little about it. It is a fascinating place, judging by this book, and the author's love and respect for it come through clearly. He takes what is likely a touchy subject, World War II and the part that both Japan and China played in it and makes it the center of the story. Add in the tales of an emperor's lost treasure, love, romance, treachery, and family ties and Lancet gives us a complex, layered, complicated story that never lets up.

Lancet keeps the pace rolling with neither the reader nor the hero, Jim, having much time for a breather. Despite the fast-pace, Lance doesn't lose sight of his characters as people. The story may be action driven but there are also tender moments with Jim's daughter, a potential girl friend and even his employees. He has a strong sense of justice, loyalty, and compassion. Those drive much of his actions and decisions during the

story and it's a hard shock for him when he discovers that those beliefs and emotions have been used against him. There are so many twists and turns, and layers, that sometimes I had trouble keeping up but it was worth the effort. I loved that Lancet took some standard cliches and tropes such as Triads and ninjas and made them fresh. He also isn't afraid to kill people off and one death in particular saddened me despite the fact that we really didn't see all that much of him while he was alive.

Take a chance on Lancet, you won't regret it. "Tokyo Kills" is compelling, original story telling with remarkable characters that will keep you reading until the end.

Mary Ann says

I won this on Goodreads, will let you know what I think. Finished the book, my 1st for this author, it is an interesting story, many twists and turns. A lot of violence and historical insight to WWII.

G.P. Hutchinson says

A mesmerizing and meticulously constructed tale that whisks the reader away to some of the most shadowy and fascinating corners of Tokyo—and then down the rabbit hole. Masterfully crafted. Even better than *Japantown*. Barry Lancet does honor to the Japanese tradition of single-minded devotion to one's art.

In *Tokyo Kill* we again meet protagonist Jim Brodie, expert in Japanese art and antiquities and heir to his father's Tokyo-based private detective agency. I find Brodie to be a very likeable and capable protagonist, not only due to his impressive knowledge, skill, and intuition, but also owing to his admirable moral compass. Brodie is a man who holds himself accountable for his own decisions, for better or for worse. He exhibits selfless devotion to his family, his staff, his clients, and his colleagues in the world of Japanese artifacts—devotion that often lands him in dire circumstances, face to face with danger, with death only a breath away.

Tokyo Kill presents the reader with layer upon layer of mystery and intrigue. The novel plunges Brodie into "a vast collective of overlapping networks" reflective of Tokyo itself. Guilt-ridden World War II veterans and their offspring. Chinese Triads, spies, and expatriates. Practitioners of traditional Japanese arts. And seemingly ordinary people who prove to be much more than they first appear to be on the surface. Barry Lancet skillfully pits Jim Brodie against an array of ambitious, cruel, and relentless foes. The connections are often surprising but—much to the reader's delight—they're always plausible.

I was pleased that Lancet gave the hero a love interest in this second Jim Brodie novel. It will be interesting to see where this promising cross-cultural relationship goes in future installments of Brodie's story.

While *Tokyo Kill* takes on serious themes, some of which entail sensitive issues regarding Japan's national psyche, it comes off as neither discouragingly heavy nor as flippantly shallow. These thoughtful themes are woven into the fiber of the story in such a way that they deepen and enrich both plot and characterization without slowing the pace a bit. Consequently, *Tokyo Kill* comes off as quality, enjoyable entertainment—entertainment with an agreeable balance of substance and fancy.

Tokyo Kill's style is at times gutsy—a shade away from gritty. Graphic enough without giving in to sensationalist gore. Dialogue is very tastefully done.

My only real criticism of *Tokyo Kill* is that I am not a big fan of scenes in which the antagonist gives a full soliloquy explaining what he did and why he did it. Overall I don't consider the one such scene in *Tokyo Kill* to have ruined the sequence, much less the entire book. I would simply have preferred to find out some of that information through the hero or one of his colleagues.

I was glad to have a day off when *Tokyo Kill* came out. I didn't want to put the book down and I finished it the day after I got it. An even more telling indicator of its effect on me is that I did not want the story to end. I wanted to remain in Jim Brodie's world a while longer. To me, that's a mark of a truly good read.

Kudos again to Barry Lancet!

Harvee says

Exciting and intriguing premise: treasures of gold, jewelry, porcelain and art given to the Last Emperor of China, Pu Yi, by the Japanese in Manchuria are sought today by persons unknown who will go to extreme lengths to get it. Full of action, plot twists, history. And lots of interesting facts about Japanese kendo, judo, and the Japanese sword or koto.

Sabrina Kammer says

Der Klappentext beschreibst sehr gut, um was es in diesem Buch geht - daher verzichte ich auf eine kurze Zusammenfassung an dieser Stelle.

Ich wusste nicht, bis das Buch bei mir eingetroffen ist, dass es sich hierbei um einen zweiten Teil handelt. Auf die Gefahr hin, mich selbst zu spoilern, habe ich Tokio Kill dennoch gelesen, ohne den ersten Teil zu kennen - und das funktioniert ganz gut. Es wird zwar zwei - drei Mal auf die Ereignisse im ersten Teil angespielt, aber nicht detailliert und es war für dieses Buch meiner Meinung nach nicht von Bedeutung. Daher kann man dieses Buch auch gut unabhängig vom ersten Teil lesen.

Die Geschichte an sich fand ich wirklich sehr interessant. Es war mein erstes Buch, dass in Japan gespielt hat und generell mit der asiatischen Kultur zu tun hatte. Das fand ich sehr spannend und ich habe einiges gelernt (viele (geschichtliche) Dinge im Buch entsprechen Fakten, wie man später vom Autor aufgeklärt wird). Leider hat es bis zur Hälfte des Buches gedauert, bis es für mich richtig spannend wurde. Ich hätte mir mehr Action erhofft, aber für mich kam es ein wenig zu kurz. Es gab zwar sehr interessante Szenen, aber die hielten sich leider in Grenzen. Was mir gut gefallen hat, sind gewisse Wendungen am Ende des Buches - damit hätte ich zum Teil wirklich nicht gerechnet.

Der Schreibstil war sehr angenehm zu lesen und ich kam gut voran, nachdem ich mich eingelesen hatte. Der Autor versteht es, mit einfachen Worten eine ganz angenehme Atmosphäre zu verbreiten.

Charaktere

Die Charaktere waren trotz der guten Geschichte für mich leider nicht richtig greifbar. Mir hat die Tiefe gefehlt - was einerseits daran lag, dass das Buch aus Jims Sicht geschrieben wurde. Dadurch werden die anderen Personen leider nicht genug beleuchtet. Aber auch er war für mich nicht fassbar, zu unnahbar. Das

fand ich wirklich sehr schade, denn das hat mir gefehlt.

Cover

Das Cover passt unheimlich gut zur Geschichte und gefällt mir auch sehr gut.

Fazit

Ein guter Thriller für Zwischendurch. Daher bekommt das Buch von mir 3 1/2 Sterne.

Betty says

Although this is one of a series, it is a stand-alone. Jim Brodie is an antiques dealer turned private investigator. He's just arrived in Japan for a little relaxation when he's approached by an elderly WWII survivor who has quite a story involving Chinese Triads, murder and treachery. Jim takes on the case and so begins a heart-thumping, page-turning story! Jim is a great addition to the private investigator books and he's quite likable, imperfections and all! Full disclosure: I received an advance copy of this book from The Reading Room in exchange for an unbiased review.

Gail Bagniet says

This second book in Barry Lancet's Jim Brodie series is even more action packed than Japantown. The author's eye for detail and ever-rising suspense make these thrillers entertaining as well as educational.

monsieurschlaubsen says

4,5?

Elizabeth says

OMG what can I say about this that hasn't already been said but here goes once again I have to say I loved how from the ever start it just pulled me in the pages, and once that started I could stop reading , had to know what happened next, had to find out all the Secrets and Lies that was been told and kept, who was trying to kill Jim and his friends, loved how Mr. Lancet mixed in the background of Japanese culture along with Chinese and the history of both that I didn't even know, it made every thing more real some how. I also loved how once again the main character Jim Brodie reminded me of my all time Japanese and Chinese detective movies like Great Charlie Chan Detective Mystery ,Mr. Wong, Detective just to name a few, would love to say thanks to Barry Lancet, Elizabeth Breeden as well as to Simion & Schunster for giving me a chance at win a copy of this book and letting me read once again a great story,if you love Mystery, Thriller & Suspense?, non stop action, then you have to pick it up , because its all of that and more , not once did it let me down at all it delivered everything I love in a really great Mystery, Thriller & Suspense novel. five stars all the way

Deborah Gebhardt says

I received this book through a Goodreads' Giveaway. This was a good fast read. Jim Brodie has received notoriety/celebrity since the solution of the Japantown murders. He is on a combination buying trip/vacation with his daughter in Tokyo, when Brodie Security is approached by a WWII Japanese army officer and his son. The old man was part of a Chinese occupation unit. The unit's survivors and their families are being murdered and he's requesting protection. Brodie Security takes the job and the client's son is brutally tortured and murdered that evening. As the search for the perpetrators continues, one of the Brodie Security employees is murdered and Brodie is attacked. The more they investigate, the stranger the case is, Brodie meets a WWII Chinese survivor, who witnessed massacres, a Chinese super-spy, the treasure of China's last emperor and some really bad men.

J. F. says

Book Review: Japantown (Book 1) and Tokyo Kill (Book 2), Jim Brodie series by Barry Lancet

As a student of Japanese culture who actually lived in Japan, I had high expectations that perhaps these books may be where one would find fresh perspectives from a "gaijin" writer - a thriller writer at that, juxtaposed against the subtle delivery and stellar quality of novels of the Murakami and Ishiguro variety.

I really wanted to like both books, but it just wasn't to be.

The first novel is interesting enough - about "shadow powerbrokers". Japantown is in reference to a San Francisco neighborhood, not in the streets of Japan, and indeed much of the story takes place in the U.S.A., with the finale staged in Long Island, NY.

References to Japan are studied, caricatured and contrived, not natural. The protagonist's elaboration of the adoption of Chinese kanji into the Japanese language is quite a bit off. There are indeed well-researched cultural references to Japanese art, handicraft, history, even dark culture - tsuba, tansu, washi, Lord Hideyoshi, Sengakuji, 47 ronin, Tokugawa "Dog Shogun", nedayashi.

The villains' safe harbor in the story, Soga-jujo, is not a place that would realistically exist. Giving Western names to some of the main killer-villains baffles, these being Japanese individuals.

The "James Bond" wannabe protagonist cannot be defeated in hand-to-hand combat, won't be killed by bullets, but yet has the temperament of an adolescent, frequently losing his cool. "What the hell are you doing?", says the martial arts zen master in protest to a Japanese speaker.

The second book is a bit more readable with an interesting plot about lost WWII treasures and a few good lessons in East Asian history. But again much of the action occurs outside of Japan with a generous share of stereotype pop culture concepts that the Japanese are going to be all about karate chops, Kendo sticks and brutal Yakuza types.

The final battle in this second book is also removed from Japan - in Miami and the Caribbean.

Review based on advance reading copies provided by NetGalley and Simon & Schuster.

Janet Martin says

I received an advance copy of this new thriller--absolutely loved it due to the sense of place, well-defined and growing characters, and the nonstop action. While the plot is complex and unexpected, the book is still character driven and Lancet's knowledge of Japan, its history, personality, culture, and art, is a terrific enhancement. I would have loved to wait for the audio, but this book was too good to age on my shelves until then!

Gloria Feit says

Jim Brodie made his initial appearance in “Japantown,” an action-packed thriller and the series debut. He now returns in a novel which is no less filled with derring-do and lots of exotic descriptions of Japanese culture and history. Brodie inherited a half-interest in Brodie Security, founded by his late father and headquartered in Tokyo, and also operates an art dealership, which he claims is his main profession, in San Francisco.

In Tokyo seeking a rare painting, Brodie is approached by a 90-year-old veteran of World War II asking for protection because members of his military detachment in Manchuria during the war-time occupation by Japan were being murdered. After he supplies a security detail, events take over the course of the rest of the novel, as Brodie investigates the possibility of Triads, Chinese spies and others as the culprits. And that takes on a life of its own.

The author has lived and worked in Japan for more than a quarter century, and the flavor and information about the country permeates with authenticity throughout the novel. His description of various types of martial arts practiced in Japan is a further exhibit of his expertise. Powerfully written, “Tokyo Kill” is a very enjoyable read, and this reader is looking forward to additions to the series.

Recommended.
