



## In Darkness, Death

*Dorothy Hoobler , Thomas Hoobler*

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Samurai Lord Inaba has been murdered in his sleep. To make matters worse, the crime took place under the protective eye of the Shogun himself. This is a case for Judge Ooka, Japan's own real-life Sherlock Holmes. And, of course, for his 14-year-old apprentice, Seikei. Their only clue-a bloodstained origami butterfly-leads them on a journey filled with mysterious shape-shifting ninjas, vengeful peasants, and a power-hungry killer you might never suspect. If Seikei is to help solve this crime, he must first survive.

Edgar Award finalists Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler drench this story with drama and suspense in this, their third mystery featuring the famous magistrate Ooka and his young samurai apprentice.

## **In Darkness, Death Details**

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## From Reader Review In Darkness, Death for online ebook

### Ira Booklover says

Tuan Inaba terbunuh secara misterius. Sebuah kupu-kupu kertas ditemukan di samping mayat. Shogun memerintahkan Hakim Ooka untuk melakukan penyelidikan, bersama anak angkatnya, Seikei dan seorang ninja bertampang pengemis bersama Tatsuno.

Hakim Ooka memerintahkan Seikei dan Tatsuno untuk menyelidiki asal si kupu-kupu kertas dan mencari tahu siapa musuh tuan Inaba. Perjalanan Seikei dan Tatsuno penuh dengan bahaya. Terutama disebabkan oleh Seikei yang masih muda dan mempunyai hati yang murni. Tatsuno terpaksa harus menyelamatkan Seikei. Hal ini membuat Seikei sadar bahwa Tatsuno ternyata jauh lebih hebat dari penampilannya. Dan meskipun sebal, Tatsuno juga terkesan dengan kemurnian hati Seikei.

Berhasilan mereka menemukan pembunuh Tuan Inaba? Sementara penyelidikan mereka mengarah bahwa si pembunuh adalah seorang ninja. Dan kalau ninja tersebut hebatnya seperti Tatsuno, entah bagaimana cara menangkapnya.

Hmmm, terbukti hati yang murni -- walaupun biasanya terkesan bodoh -- selalu berakhir dengan baik. Awalnya sempat ngadat membaca buku ini karena gaya bahasanya sedikit sulit diserap. Tapi setelah beberapa lama untungnya jd terbiasa. Sempat was-was juga karena buku ini ternyata berseri dan yang saya baca adalah buku ketiga. Untungnya ceritanya independen, jadi bisa diikuti walaupun belum membaca awalnya. Dan akhirnya juga tidak menggantung walaupun ada lanjutannya.

Saya suka dengan Seikei, oleh karena itu 3 dari 5 bintang untuk buku ini. I liked it.

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### Aiden Kimball says

The book was okay but not the best. It was a story mystery book about a guy named Samurai Lord Inaba getting murdered in his sleep. Made it worst because the only clue they had was a bloodstained origami butterfly. My favorite character is the judge because he's witty and he has the choice of the whole case and who goes to jail or not. The butterfly lead a trail to a shifting ninja, vengeful peasants and the killer who will stop at nothing to keep his real identity from anyone. Well to be honest this book kinda sucks and base in japan and probably kids from over there might like it, I think my friend told me to read it because how bad it is. It was fun to read a new book based in a different country though but overall the book wasn't that good it was mostly cheesy and I don't recommend anyone to read this."How did he get in? There is only one door, one way in and one way out. Tell me how he got in undetected?" I like this because it's the quote about the samurai lord being murdered.

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### Christopher Stilson says

One usually doesn't expect to see books intended for the under-twelves in the mystery genre, but one should always be ready to be pleasantly surprised. This isn't a very complicated mystery (in fact it barely qualifies, being more of an adventure story), and in places it is over-westernized, but only in ways that would irritate linguists or people who actually know Japanese (it's a bit bizarre to read an otherwise solid piece of cultural

fiction referring to 'ninjas,' rather than 'ninja' being both singular and plural... and the fact that samurai not only refer to ninja at all, but do so quite casually, is somewhat jarring).

The story itself is relatively straightforward and entertaining, if short. It doesn't talk down to its target audience (which admittedly would have been difficult considering its subject matter) and the cultural details that aren't sacrificed in the name of story sense are most interesting. The character of Seikei is a trifle dumber than he ought to be by rights, due to the need to explain things to the reader when there are only two characters present, but otherwise the characterization is also consistent and believable.

On the whole, a decent if simplistic historical mystery/adventure, and a light enough read to whittle away a few minutes here and there.

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## **cindy says**

Kisah Seikei Konoike #3

Ok, ada polanya di sini, buku 1 ttg Kabuki, buku 2 ttg Geisha, sedangkan buku ke-3 ini tentang Ninja(!).

Lebih seru dan kompleks dari kisah-kisah sebelumnya, karena di sini Seikei bukan hanya mengalami penyelidikan, ia juga keluar dan menjalani petualangan. Ditemani seorang Ninja, Seikei ditugaskan pergi ke Shinano, di ujung utara kekaisaran, untuk menyelidiki sehelai kertas yang petunjuk dalam kematian seorang Daimyo. Dalam perjalanannya, Seikei belajar tentang kehormatan seorang Samurai, kehidupan rakyat, dan seni bertahan hidup seorang Ninja. Keberadaan lantai yang bisa bernyayi (nightangle floor) serta kehidupan seorang Ninja lebih mendetail lebih tertuang dalam trilogi Otori-nya Lian Hearn, terutama Across the Nightingale Floor, tetapi sebagai kisah detektif, buku ini cukup menghibur. Penuh lika-liku (tapi tidak membingungkan) dan akhir yang tak diduga (meski tidak mengejutkan).

Nb: Ada thread di GRI tentang sampul buku <http://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/4...>, mau ngaku... baca 3 buku ini gara-gara covernya yang menarik sekali, seperti sampul manga, tapi lebih halus dan detail. Ada bonusnya lagi pembatas buku unik, seperti pada buku ini, berbentuk kupu-kupu, cantik!! ^)^

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## **Alex Criddle says**

When Lord Inaba is found murdered in his own bedroom, Judge Ooka is immediately sent to investigate. With his adopted son and young apprentice, Seikei, the judge begins finding clues in the palace both physically and verbally from servants. When Seikei discovers a bloodstained origami butterfly in Lord Inaba's room, Judge Ooka begins to suspect who the killer may be. The judge sends Seikei with Tatsuno, a ninja, to discover where the paper was made and who purchased it. Along his journey, Seikei learns more about ninjas, his own abilities as a blossoming samurai, and the value of friendship. This detective story introduces readers to an exciting in-depth look at culture in eighteenth century Japan—traditions, clothing, samurai beliefs, and much more.

I enjoyed this novel. I think that because it is the third novel in the series, I was a little lost, but I connected with the characters nonetheless. It was very interesting to read about the culture in Japan during the eighteenth century. I think that this would be a great novel to read in a history class because the students would be able to get a glimpse into a culture that is very different. Seikei was a very relatable character and I really liked his humor. It was also interesting to see Seikei's character develop in such a short time. The mystery in this novel was intense. The plot moved well and the clues that were given helped me to figure out

who the culprit was. I would warn students that because of the culture, they may feel a little offended or shocked by what is said about what happens to some of the characters in the novel.

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### **Nathan T says**

This book was very interesting and told an incredible story throughout. It gave super strong imagery and always seemed to take a turn. But my favorite part of the book was the merchants son "Seikei" becoming a man and finding his way through life throughout the book. He found his chosen path throughout the story and it was very cool to see and read. With a complex plot and more action packed pages it was a very good read. Just not my first genre choice. I would recommend this book.

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### **Gaby says**

#### Synopsis:

Samurai Lord Inaba is murdered in his sleep while under the protection of the Shogun. Judge Ooka and his adoptive son, Seikei, attempt to investigate with a bloodstained origami butterfly as their sole clue. Judge Ooka enlists the aid of a "retired" ninja, Tatsuno, to accompany Seikei as he travels across Japan searching for the maker of the origami butterfly.

Their travels lead Seikei and Tatsuno to meet impoverished farmers, wary monks, and powerful daimyos. While Tatsuno attempts to warn Seikei to rein in his idealistic fervor, Seikei's code of honor wins Tatsuno's respect. In the end, Seikei must flee from false imprisonment and face a dangerous and powerful ninja to find the truth behind the assassination.

#### Review:

In Darkness, Death introduces another interesting character in the series. Tatsuno, the "retired" ninja is cynical and resists having to accompany the young Seikei. Though Tatsuno could have abandoned Seikei numerous times, we find that Tatsuno follows a strict code of honor of his own. I enjoyed learning about Tatsuno and the lives of ninjas during the 1700s, their relationship to the monks and to the local farmers. This adventure shared the wonderful balance of action and insight into Seikei's personality. His slow realization of the plight of the farmers, the power of the daimyo and the role of the Shogun and his officials was sad but very interesting. The dilemmas that he faced added further depth to fourteen year old Seikei's character.

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### **Ben says**

"How did he get in? There is only one door, one way in and one way out. Tell me how he got in undetected?".....The samurai lord has been murdered in his sleep under the eye of the shogun, who turns to the famous judge Ooka- and his fourteen year old apprentice to investigate. Their only clue is a bloodstained paper butterfly. They try to find out who the killer is before the killer gets anyone else. Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler's In Darkness, Death caught my attention, I got hooked with the first couple of pages. The style of the author is quite intriguing, it is dramatic n yet mysterious. As they think they are getting closer to the end, more clues come up and turns out to lead to other characters, yet each one holding useful information about the murder.

Seikei is a smart boy. Using his instincts and detective skills he tries to find the killer. He is obedient and loyal to judge ooka. Judge ooka tries to keep his intimidating ways. Though he wants to smile and laugh at the things seikei does he tries not to. Even though he notices thins about his investigations he leaves things out just so seikei can have a word in about it.

It is a modern age in japan. No cars no planes, just there feet and the horses they have. Honor is everything and if they fail then then the samurai lord will be dishonored and everyone will see him in a different way. This book could relate to the real world because if you kill someone then you will be prosecuted. Overall this is a good book, out of all the books i read so far this is the book i like.

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### **R-Qie R-Qie says**

Tuan Inaba, salah seorang Daimyo yang sedang berada di bawah perlindungan Shogun di kota Edo ditemukan tewas di kamarnya sendiri. Sebuah origami kupu-kupu yang ditinggalkan si pembunuh menjadi satu-satunya petunjuk. Seikei dengan bantuan seorang ninja bernama Tatsuno diperintahkan Hakim Ooka untuk melakukan penyelidikan ke wilayah kekuasaan Tuan Inaba. Dan petualangan Seikei pun kembali dimulai.

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Sebelum buku ini, saya telah membaca seri pertama Detective Samurai. Tanpa membaca seri kedua, saya tidak begitu kesulitan mengikuti seri ketiga ini karena tiap seri selesai per kasus. Masih menggunakan sudut pandang orang ketiga subyektif, kisah Seikei dalam memecahkan misteri bersama Hakim Ooka amat memikat. Sejak awal puzzle misteri telah disusun dan menggugah rasa penasaran hingga tak sabar membuka halaman selanjutnya. Seikei belajar banyak tentang ninja dan memiliki pengalaman berharga agar tidak lagi bertindak ceroboh dengan hanya mengandalkan keberanian dan keinginan kuat menegakkan keadilan. Hakim Ooka, dengan caranya tersendiri mampu menguak misteri dengan mudah tanpa perlu bersusah payah. Ia mengutus Seikei untuk melakukan penyelidikan meski sudah tahu siapa sang pembunuh, sepertinya bertujuan untuk mengajari Seikei menghadapi permasalahan di lapangan dan menemukan jalan keluar. Lima bintang.

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### **Buchdrache says**

Ja, gut, es existiert halt. Wenn man sonst nichts zu lesen hat, kann man das Buch mal an einem Abend lesen und dafür ist es wirklich gut geeignet. Wortwörtlich kurze Kurzweil, nicht allzu langweilig, aber auch nichts besonderes. Okay halt. Auch wenn es der dritte Band einer Reihe ist, kann er super unabhängig von den anderen gelesen werden, da er in sich geschlossen ist und kein Vorwissen benötigt wird.

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### **L.A. James says**

This is book 3 in the Samurai Detective series.

It is a great story, and I gotta tell you that the cover does not do it justice, and it frustrates me that it is even on the book. The writing of the book is well done. Don't let the cover hinder you.

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## Ardani Subagio says

Kalo harus ngasih ulasan secara singkat, buku ini bagus dan layak baca. Ngambil kisah sekitar tahun 1700an di Jepang, tempat yang masih penuh sama samurai, ninja, daimyo, dan para petaninya. Juga satu pekerjaan lagi yang jarang aku liat di kisah2 tentang Jepang; hakim.

Tokoh utama di sini, Seikei Ooka, adalah anak angkat dari hakim Ooka. Hakim yang sudah sangat terkenal, diperintah oleh shogun secara langsung untuk mengatasi berbagai kasus yang kelihatannya tidak terpecahkan. Di buku ini Seikei dan ayahnya harus memecahkan kasus meninggalnya seorang Daimyo ketika dia sedang berkunjung ke Edo. Tidak ada yang melihat pembunuh datang, tidak ada yang melihat dia pergi, yang ditinggalkan hanya kamar yang berlumuran darah dan sebuah origami kupu2.

Kisah detektif bersetting Jepang kuno, kayanya ga salah kalo dibilang baca buku ini serasa baca buku Sherlock Holmes, dengan setting dan karakter yang berbeda. Kita mengikuti cerita dari sudut pandang Seikei yang mengikuti sang hakim, menginterogasi orang dan mencari petunjuk, sama seperti Dr. Watson mengikuti Holmes memecahkan kasusnya. Walo bedanya disini pengarang pake sudut pandang orang ketiga, bukan orang pertama kaya di SH.

Satu lagi yang mirip dengan SH adalah deskripsi yang minim dari pengarang. Baik deskripsi fisik tiap karakter, maupun tindakan2 mereka. Seringkali waktu awalnya Seikei sedang disambut di ruang depan, tanpa ada deskripsi atau narasi sama sekali mereka sudah duduk dan menikmati hidangan di ruang tamu. Buat beberapa orang, ini mungkin bisa njengkelin, tapi aku cukup menikmati perubahannya. Mungkin awalnya sedikit kaget karena kurang terbiasa, tapi lama2 ga ada masalah.

Dan buat mereka2 yang ga segitu ngerti sama istilah2 bahasa ato buaya Jepang, di buku ini juga ada banyak catatan kaki yang njelasin tiap istilah2 yang mungkin masih dirasa aneh sama beberapa orang. Aku ga seberapa masalah sih, toh catatan kakinya juga pendek banget. Cukup dibaca sedikit, trus bisa lanjut lagi sama ceritanya. Sama sekali ga mengganggu.

Dan aku juga suka sama tiap karakternya, juga perasaan kalo buku ini masih bisa dilanjutkan walo kisahnya cukup tuntas di satu buku ini aja. Wajar sih, seperti kebanyakan cerita detektif, satu buku cukup buat satu kasus. Tapi rasanya menarik melihat perkembangan sifat Seikei lebih lanjut. Bagaimana dia nantinya bisa lebih cakap menuntaskan kasus. Dan bagaimana hubungannya dengan Michiko berlanjut nantinya.

Dan satu tambahan terakhir, haiku (puisi Jepang) buatan Seikei cantik banget deh. Sayang cuma sedikit di buku ini.

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## Karissa says

This is the third book in the Samurai Mysteries series; there are six books in this series. I think this was the best book in this series so far. There is more adventure and the plot is more complex.

Seikei is helping Judge Ooka to solve the mystery behind the murder of a samurai lord. In order to cover ground quicker Judge Ooka sends Seikei on an adventure with a ninja Tatsuno to track down the maker of some mysterious paper left at the scene of the crime. Seikei will learn many things on the journey but mostly he will learn that a samurai's honor is not as black and white as he had believed.

This book was a bit different than the other ones in that Seikei faces some very interesting moral decisions. He goes on more of an adventure than in the previous books and gets put into more dire situations than ever before.

Each of these books has focused on some aspect of Japanese history and for this book that was the way of the ninja. Seikei learns how ninjas think, he learns some of their tricks, and he learns what drives them. Along the way Seikei also learns some hard lessons about samurai. Not all of the samurai are the noble heroes he expects them to be.

As with the previous books the writing style is nothing special. This book is definitely aimed at kids, so the syntax and words used are dumbed down some (more than I think they need to be for this age group). As I have mentioned with previous books in this series I think that the writing could be more complex and then these books would be absolutely wonderful. In this book the story does get more complex, so that was nice.

Overall I enjoyed the book and the look into historical Japan. I will definitely be reading the rest of the books of this series because I find them very interesting.

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### **Rosa Fibrianti says**

Buku yang memenangkan The Edgar Allan Poe Award ini bercerita tentang Seikei Konokei, seorang anak saudagar teh yang diangkat oleh hakim terkemuka di Edo yang juga seorang samurai – Hakim Ooka. Seikei pun dilatih untuk menjadi seorang samurai oleh ayah angkatnya. Hakim Ooka tertarik mengangkat Seikei menjadi anak angkat setelah Seikei membantu memecahkan kasus pencurian permata di Jalan Tokaido. Menjadi anak angkat keluarga samurai adalah sebuah kehormatan besar, namun sungguh tidak gampang menjadi samurai. Samurai harus menguasai cara berpedang, tetapi juga harus menguasai seni dengan baik, seperti menulis syair dan merangkai bunga.

Suatu ketika terjadi sebuah pembunuhan. Seorang Daimyo yang baru datang ke Edo – Tuan Inaba, dibunuh ketika sedang mengadakan pesta di rumahnya. Tak ada seorangpun yang tahu siapa pembunuhnya karena semua tamu yang hadir di pesta tertidur bahkan termasuk samurai yang bertugas menjaga Tuan Inaba. Hakim Ooka diperintahkan oleh Shogun yang berkuasa untuk menemukan pembunuhnya. Hakim Ooka mengajak Seikei untuk berpetualang mencari pembunuhnya. Satu-satunya petunjuk mengenai pembunuhnya adalah origami kupu-kupu yang ditinggalkan oleh pembunuh. Hipotesa sementara pembunuhnya adalah seorang ninja. Dan perjalanan akan menunjukkan apakah ninja yang bertanggung jawab atas kematian tuan Inaba atau bukan. Seikei ditemani oleh Tatsuno, seorang pensiunan ninja, dari Tatsuno lah seikei banyak tahu tentang ninja.

Saya suka sekali buku ini, karena saya jadi tahu tentang Jepang di zaman lampau dalam sebuah cerita petualangan. Setting tempatnya nyata, benar-benar ada di abad ke 18-an. Hakim Ooka-pun adalah tokoh yang memang benar ada. Namun tokoh Seikei dan ceritanya hanyalah fiksi semata. Saya sih tidak menemukan kekurangan yang bermakna dalam buku yang ditulis oleh sepasang suami istri ini. Rasanya wajar saja jika buku ini memenangkan The Edgar Allan Poe Award. Quote yang paling saya suka dari buku ini adalah –Akan selalu ada anjing yang menggonggong dan jika kau hidup untuk membunuh semua anjing yang menggonggongimu, usiamu akan habis untuk membunuh mereka.--

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## **Megan says**

I love seeing Seikei -the son of a merchant that has been adopted by a samurai judge - grow into a considerate young man and begin to find his path in life.

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