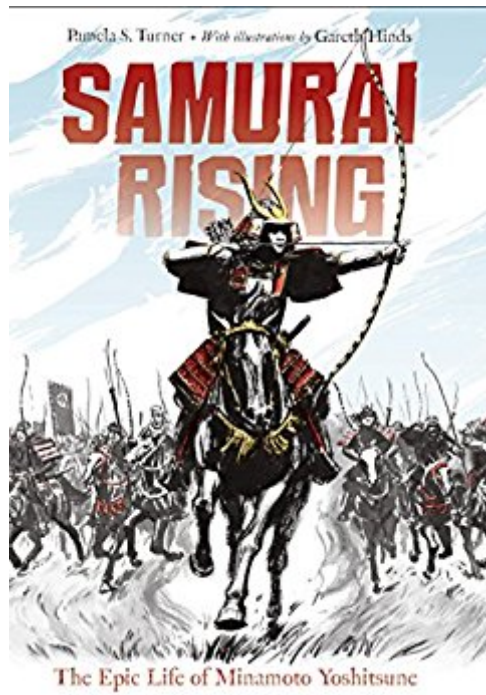




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Samurai Rising: The Epic Life Of Minamoto Yoshitsune



Synopsis

Minamoto Yoshitsune should not have been a samurai. But his story is legend in this real-life saga. This epic warrior tale reads like a novel, but this is the true story of the greatest samurai in Japanese history. When Yoshitsune was just a baby, his father went to war with a rival samurai family and lost. His father was killed, his mother captured, and his surviving half-brother banished. Yoshitsune was sent away to live in a monastery. Skinny, small, and unskilled in the warrior arts, he nevertheless escaped and learned the ways of the samurai. When the time came for the Minamoto clan to rise up against their enemies, Yoshitsune answered the call. His daring feats and impossible bravery earned him immortality. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

This is a solid historical book about a huge change in Japanese social and government structure. It deals with the famous war between two clans that led to Japan's de facto government being headed by the shogun or military leader rather than by the emperor. Of course the emperor was still viewed

as a kind of god and therefore nominally in charge, but the shogun actually ran the country. A number of famous Japanese military leaders are in this book. Yoshitsune, one of the great military leaders, is the hero. His half brother Yoritomo, who ended up as the shogun, is also a major player. A cousin, Kiso Yoshinaka, is a major player too. In essence the Heike and Minamoto clans were engaged in a fierce civil war. But the winning Minamoto clan had its own internal conflicts involving Yoshitsune, Yoritomo, and Kiso Yoshinaka. Yoritomo was the eventual victor in both the internal Minamoto struggle and the larger national struggle against the Heike. Overall a very fast-paced book with interesting facts about all of the protagonists plus the emperor and retired emperor. It shows the evolution of Japanese government from an aristocracy to a military dictatorship with the samurai class gaining enormous power that they did not have in earlier times.

Grandson loves book....

Exciting read.

I absolutely loved the book. It was amazing.

I enjoyed the book

Sort of an interesting tale but it is very unimaginatively written with lots of modern-day clichés. Recommend you look elsewhere for information on this man's life

I bought this book for my college student grandson, but wanted to read it first to check it. I am glad I did. I already knew about Yoshitsune [the samurai of the title]. I was very disappointed by this book. It is poorly written, and talks down to its readers. It has various inaccuracies. As an example: assuming Yoshitsune had blackened teeth, as men very rarely blackened their teeth, and not warriors; it was mostly married women who did it. There are various comments about Yoritomo that imply he was just a nasty man. This is silly. He was certainly pitiless. He had seen the danger of letting your enemies live, since he and his brothers had risen against Taira no Kiyomori who had been merciful to them. In his own family there were several examples of murdering half brothers. However, he was a great administrator, and laid the foundations of a system of government that lasted till the Meiji revolution in the XIXth century. The samurai caste started with him. I gave 2 stars instead of one because the illustrations are pretty good.

I am not at all into murder and mayhem, but I loved the book and could not put it down. I should confess that I purchased the book because the artist is a friend and also because another friend is writing a book connected to 19th century Samurai. I was thoroughly delighted with this book and have shared scans of the cover with several other friends.

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