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Stormdancer: The Lotus War Book One

By Jay Kristoff

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Stormdancer: The Lotus War Book One By Jay Kristoff

The first in an epic new fantasy series, introducing an unforgettable new heroine and a stunningly original dystopian steampunk world with a flavor of feudal Japan.

A DYING LAND

The Shima Imperium verges on the brink of environmental collapse; an island nation once rich in tradition and myth, now decimated by clockwork industrialization and the machine-worshippers of the Lotus Guild. The skies are red as blood, the land is choked with toxic pollution, and the great spirit animals that once roamed its wilds have departed forever.

AN IMPOSSIBLE QUEST

The hunters of Shima's imperial court are charged by their Shogun to capture a thunder tiger – a legendary creature, half-eagle, half-tiger. But any fool knows the beasts have been extinct for more than a century, and the price of failing the Shogun is death.

A HIDDEN GIFT

Yukiko is a child of the Fox clan, possessed of a talent that if discovered, would see her executed by the Lotus Guild. Accompanying her father on the Shogun's hunt, she finds herself stranded: a young woman alone in Shima's last wilderness, with only a furious, crippled thunder tiger for company. Even though she can hear his thoughts, even though she saved his life, all she knows for certain is he'd rather see her dead than help her.

But together, the pair will form an indomitable friendship, and rise to challenge the might of an empire.

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Stormdancer: The Lotus War Book One By Jay Kristoff Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up-Set in feudal Japan, *Stormdancer* is a steampunk fantasy with richly drawn mythical creatures and a tough female protagonist. Yukiko and her father are sent to the hinterlands to capture a Thunder Tiger, which is rumored to exist there. Dogged by disaster from the start, Yukiko fights to take a stand against corrupt political systems and personal betrayal. Along the way, she discovers the truth behind her family history and dreams of redemption for herself, her homeland, and the crippled Griffin, with whom she makes an alliance. While this first book in the series paints a descriptive backdrop, casual readers may find themselves overwhelmed by the sheer volume of original terms and concepts they'll need to digest. The plot is similarly dense, packed full of surprising twists and turns, nonstop action, and intense dialogue. Committed readers will enjoy the original and genre-bending world that the author creates, but it will take time and effort.-
Sunnie Sette, New Haven Public Library, CTα(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

A cruel, selfish shogun sends a father-daughter team on a seemingly impossible task: to capture the near-mythical Arashitora, half white eagle and half white tiger. Daughter Yukiko succeeds in snaring the beast, only to discover that they share a bond that will ultimately take them on a larger quest to dethrone a shogun and lead his people out of slavery and addiction. This steampunk series opener set in feudal Japan is a skillful example of world building, although the denseness of the description may discourage some readers early on. Kristoff thoughtfully includes several glossaries and a few maps to support his imaginary world. Those who stay with it will be well rewarded with compelling characters—particularly Yukiko, the Arashitora Buruu, and the artificer Kin—a strong environmental message, and a thrilling battle setting the stage for the sequel. Offer this to fans of Scott Westerfeld's *Leviathan* trilogy or Philip Reeve's *Hungry City Chronicles*. Grades 9-12. --Cindy Welch

Review

Praise for *Stormdancer*

Named one of *Kirkus Reviews*' best Teen Books of 2012

"Kristoff's imaginative debut, the first in a series, presents the feudal, dystopian Shima Empire, a menacing Japanese-inspired setting... The innovative setting, fast-moving plot, vivid descriptions, and thrilling action scenes make this a refreshing addition to the steampunk canon." —*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

"Soars higher than the arashitora Kristoff writes about; superb." —*Kirkus*, **starred review**

"With its geisha girls in gas masks and canvas blimps spewing black exhaust as they chug across the sky, *Stormdancer* paints a vivid picture of a decrepit, steampunk Japan. It's startling to witness a country that so reveres nature presented in such an environmentally compromised position, as it is in the kickoff to Jay Kristoff's "The Lotus War" series. But it's this inventive juxtaposition that makes *Stormdancer* such a thrilling addition to the increasingly tired yet continuously expanding dystopian scene.... [A] fast-paced, fantastical adventure [that] is sharp as a Shogun's sword." —*The LA Times*

"What's that? You say you've got a Japanese Steampunk novel with mythic creatures, civil unrest, and a strong female protagonist? I'm afraid I missed everything you said after "Japanese Steampunk." That's all I really needed to hear." –**Patrick Rothfuss**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Name of the Wind* and *The Wise Man's Fear*

"With airships, demons, and lashings of revolutionary swordplay, this chi-fueled vision of a steampunk feudal Japan will blow your split-toed socks off." –**Scott Westerfeld**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Leviathan*

"Jay Kristoff pushes the steampunk genre exactly where it needs to go, away from Victorian London's over-trodden lanes and into the great wide world. With its rocketing action, eccentric and convincing characters, and deep immersion in heroic Japanese culture, *Stormdancer* slammed my head into an updated vision of the great *chanbara* films of Kurosawa and Kobayashi. I'll be waiting for more from Mr. Kristoff." —**K.W. Jeter**, author of *The Kingdom of Shadows*

"Set in a complex and richly imagined world, *Stormdancer* draws on inspirations as widespread as epic fantasy, steampunk, and Japanese mythology, effortlessly piecing them together into an alternate history that is as vibrant as it is disturbing. Yukiko is an admirable heroine, made of compassion and courage, but it's the remarkable friendship forged between Yukiko and the majestic thunder tiger, Buruu, that readers will find truly unforgettable. In this breathtaking debut fantasy, Kristoff has given us an adventure teeming with impossible quests and betrayals, rebellion and murder, jealousy and harbored secrets. I eagerly look forward to seeing where his imagination takes us next." –**Marissa Meyer**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Cinder*

"Jay Kristoff's Yukiko and her indomitable thunder tiger's entertaining adventures have just sent steampunk gloriously Asian." --**Stephen Hunt**, internationally bestselling author of *The Kingdom Beyond the Sea*

"Kristoff's debut is a lyrical triumph of chainsaw swords and thunder tigers that steampunk fans and mythology buffs will devour." –**Kevin Hearne**, author of *The Iron Druid Chronicles*

"*Stormdancer* is an intoxicating joyride into steampunklandia with a magical dose of mythology, the supernatural, violence, dystopian themes, and a top-notch brassy heroine who rivals Katniss Everdeen of *The Hunger Games*. Yes, I did say that!" –**Huffington Post**

"...the plot takes off when the mythical arashitora (literally 'stormtiger') forms a strong bond with the heroine, Yukiko. Her relationship with the griffin-like creature is especially poignant in light of the personal losses she reveals as the story unfolds... it's the bonds of family and friendship that feel the truest, with heartwrenching effect."–**Romantic Times**

"Japanese Steampunk unafraid to engage with the dark side of the subgenre. The Lotus must bloom!" –**SF Signal**

"If you enjoy rich detail and sensual writing, you'll dig it.... Bristling with energy and enthusiasm, this is the start of what should be a deservedly popular series." –**Library Journal**

"Think *Lassie*, if Kurosawa had been the director and Lassie had been three tons of angry mythical demon-shredding sass bent on pushing Timmy down the well... A colorful cast of supporting characters and thoughtful plotting add further to *Stormdancer's* appeal, but, really, Kristoff has the reader at "girl meets griffin." The captivating backdrop, graceful prose and army of mechanized samurai are all just added bonuses." –**Shelf Awareness**

“Compelling characters—particularly Yukiko, the Arashitora Buruu, and the artificer Kin—a strong environmental message, and a thrilling battle setting the stage for the sequel. Offer this to fans of Scott Westerfeld’s *Leviathan* trilogy or Philip Reeve’s *Hungry City Chronicles*.” --***Booklist***

“A steampunk fantasy with richly drawn mythical creatures and a tough female protagonist.... Packed full of surprising twists and turns, nonstop action, and intense dialogue.” --***School Library Journal***

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Banks:

Do you have favorite book? In case you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim as well as goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They can be reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Why not the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, person feel need book once they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you'll have this Stormdancer: The Lotus War Book One.

Patricia French:

Here thing why this kind of Stormdancer: The Lotus War Book One are different and trusted to be yours. First of all reading a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as tasty as food or not. Stormdancer: The Lotus War Book One giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any e-book out there but there is no reserve that similar with Stormdancer: The Lotus War Book One. It gives you thrill reading through journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your approach home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of Stormdancer: The Lotus War Book One in e-book can be your choice.

Holly Hughes:

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book mainly book entitled Stormdancer: The Lotus War Book One your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unknown for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a e-book then become one form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get previous to. The Stormdancer: The Lotus War Book One giving you one more experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful data for your better life in this particular era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Helen Richards:

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