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# The Demon In The Teahouse (Samurai Detective)



## Synopsis

Someone is setting fires in the city of Edo, capital of Japan. The shogun sends samurai Judge Ooka and his newly adopted son Seikei to find the firestarter. The trail leads them to Yoshiwara, the floating world where beautiful geishas perform nightly for rich and powerful men. Seikei must discover secrets in this mysterious place that take him to the brink of a burning roof and death.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8-When several geishas are murdered and fires are set in the Yoshiwara district of Edo, Judge Ooka knows he must act quickly. Based on a real character in 18th-century Japan who was known for his reasoning and his ability to solve crimes, the man comes up with a plan. He strategically places his adopted son, 14-year-old Seikei, in a teahouse frequented by a popular geisha who seems to have some connection to both the fires and the murders, and he tells him to keep his eyes open. Conscientious and clever, Seikei quickly finds a number of clues, but in the process is accused of setting a fire. In and out of trouble, this feisty boy, whose greatest desire is to become a samurai, is almost killed, but in the end, he solves the mystery and learns a bit about what Bunzo, his instructor, told him in the beginning: "A samurai must possess the way of the warrior." This sequel to *The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn* (Philomel, 1999) is a fast-paced mystery with a well-constructed plot that moves quickly and often in dramatic ways. Seikei is a likable hero, a believable detective who encounters characters of all types who add to the rousing adventure and suspense. Barbara Scotto, Michael Driscoll School, Brookline, MA Copyright 2001 Cahners Business

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Gr. 7-9. This second book in a series set in eighteenth-century Japan brings considerable depth to a straightforward mystery plot. First introduced in *The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn* (1999), 14-year-old Seikei, the adopted son of Judge Ooka, one of the shogun's most trusted officials, is once again sent on a compelling mission to be the Judge's eyes and ears. Who is setting fires in Edo? And who is killing geishas in a nearby pleasure town? To learn the answers, Seikei finds employment at the Teahouse of the Falling Cherry Blossoms, where the famous geisha, Umae, captivates her gentlemen guests. There are fires and murders along a winding path that leads toward Umae, and Seikei faces danger at every turn as he valiantly tries to help the judge and prove himself worthy of the samurai mantle he hopes to assume. This is traditional mystery, with a well-conceived plot, authentic clues, and a satisfying conclusion. The hallmark is the atmospheric setting, which makes the intricacies of shogun-era Japan as intriguing as the plot. Ilene CooperCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My 14 year old daughter gives this 5 stars! She loved it and the previous book as well!

My 7th grade students used this book to supplement our reading of the first novel in the series, *The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn*. The Hooblers did a great job creating characters that help readers understand the world of medieval Japan. We even contacted the Hooblers to ask some questions about the books, and they graciously responded.

A fantastic follow up to an amazing original story. Though this story takes place in the pleasure district of ancient Edo in Japan, it does a good job weaving a tight story about love and honor without being seedy in any way. A great read to remind one about what honor is really is.

*The Demon in the Teahouse* is another hit for another hit for Dorothy Hoobler. This series is a wonderful read for both young and old. The students in my fourth grade class love these books!

Its a part of my favorite series, I love the book. I'm very satisfied with my purchase thanks so much.

Interesting plot. Well written.

it was no problems!

The Demon in the Teahouse is a sequel to The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn and both of the mystery stories are set in Japan. Both stories are also written by historian Dorothy and author Thomas Hoobler. The story of The Demon in the Teahouse is set in 18th -century Japan. A fourteen-year-old boy named Seikei who was adopted by Judge Ooka was sent to the Teahouse of the Falling Cherry Blossoms to collect information about the fire cases which had happened in Edo. He also found out about the demon who had killed three geishas in Yoshiwara. While Seikei worked in the teahouse, he become endangered after meeting the suspect who was a geisha named Umae. By the way, Judge Ooka was a real person who was a friend and adviser of a shogun who ruled Japan from 1717 to 1744. I think this made the story more interesting and closer to the real life. I really liked this story. I thought this was a great mystery book. I was attracted by the cover of the book. One side shows a beautiful geishas and in the shade is a guy holding a sword. The suspenseful picture excited me. The book has a huge exciting mystery plot attracts the reader. When the plot seems to get boring, some mysterious would happen which attracts your curiosity to keep reading. You cannot stop until you have finished the story. One of the weaknesses of this book is that it does not have any explanation for the special vocabulary used. For example, words such as seppuku and tayu are not common words used in daily life. If we do not understand the words and the book does not give us an explanation, it may become a barrier for us to understand the story. The other weakness of this book is the plot near the ending. Near the end, there are too many details and it seems boring. The authors describe too much about the conversation between Seikei and the witness and how Seikei took the witness to see Judge Ooka. Although it is an important part of the story, it will be boring if there is too much detail in a part of the story which is not exciting. I think the book will be better if there were pictures of the characters in this book. This may help us get to know how beautiful the geishas were and also what the samurai look liked in 18th -century Japan. I suggest every teenager to this book. You can learn what courage is by reading this book. Even when he is in danger, Seikei still works hard in the teahouse to help Ooka solve the mystery crime. Seikei wants to prove himself worthy of being called a samurai. I think he was brave for a fourteen-year-old boy. This shows that even when things are difficult, if you have determination, you will be successful. You can learn about Japanese traditions, culture and history from reading this book. It is funny to discover new interesting things from countries you have not thought before. For example, after people had died in Japan, their head needed to be shaved and clothed in a white

shroud that hid even the face. A knife must be placed on their lap. This custom allows the dead people to protect themselves against demons who might block their path to the afterlife. This is a chance for you to learn about Japan. Read the book as soon as you can.

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