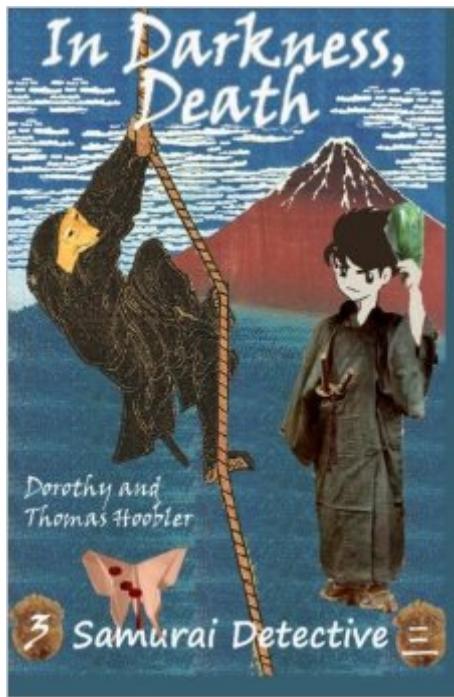


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# In Darkness, Death



## Synopsis

In his most exciting adventure yet, Seikei has to chase a shape-shifting ninja to the sacred mountain that is his lair. He has only one weapon: a mysterious stone given to him by another ninja--who may or may not be trusted. The 2005 Edgar award-winner for best YA mystery.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #237,652 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 inÂ  Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Asia #2008 inÂ  Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Mysteries #8100 inÂ  Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction

## Customer Reviews

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 win 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 daiymo 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.

I'm not a Young Adult but got this because it was an Edgar Winner. I'm no longer using that as a serious criteria. Not a bad little book but I suspected the murderer early on and wasn't sympathetic to the young protagonist who did not seem worthy of becoming a Samurai. The feudal setting in Japan was of interest and it's a quick read. I gave it to my young teen great-nephew of the video game generation and I'm eager to learn if he actually reads it and, if so, his thoughts.

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.

Just like the other books in the series In Darkness, Death is a must read! I use the Hoobler's Samurai Series in my 7th grade classroom to teach ancient Japanese culture. The books are highly entertaining while being also highly educational. I recommend them for public, private, and home-schools.

The third in the series takes a different path from the first two books to show a different path to true honor. In this story, the main character is a samurai in training, but learns that the way of the ninja has its own set of honor. This leads to him understanding that honor is based on the man and not what his title or class is.

I remember reading this while in middle school, it's the book that got me into the samurai detective series. It's a highly recommended book especially if you're into japan, samurai, and great mysteries.

Good story, but be aware the CreateSpace edition of this (and other books in the series) are seriously ugly and appear to have been typed up by someone who barely knows how to do basic formatting in Word.

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