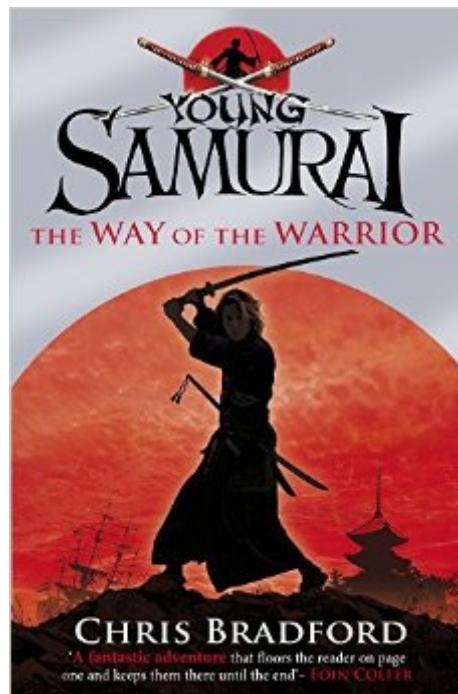


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Young Samurai The Way Of The Warrior



Synopsis

August 1611. Jack Fletcher is shipwrecked off the coast of Japan - his beloved father and the crew lie slaughtered by ninja pirates. Rescued by the legendary sword master Masamoto Takeshi, Jack's only hope is to become a samurai warrior. And so his training begins. But life at the samurai school is a constant fight for survival. Even with his friend Akiko by his side, Jack is singled out by bullies and treated as an outcast. With courage in his heart and his sword held high, can Jack prove himself and face his deadliest rival yet?

Book Information

Series: Young Samurai (Book 1)

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Puffin; 1St Edition edition (August 26, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0141324309

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.9 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (81 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #210,634 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Martial Arts #1738 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Overall, a solid read. First, the cons: The book isn't very imaginative. The plot is nothing special; half the plot points seem to come from *The Last Samurai*. A lot of narrative, which can be seen as a con because it slows the pace of the read. The pros - I, however, loved the vivid descriptions, no matter how long they were. Descriptions of Tokaido Road and the cherry blossom garden and the ivory sword of legend. The author does an excellent job of conveying the serene beauty of ancient Japan. The biggest strength of the story? Its authenticity. Bradford is clearly very familiar with Japanese culture and history. As a student of world history and of Japanese culture myself, I was able to appreciate the little details (small cultural customs) Bradford included, that would have escaped me had I read it several years ago. Everything is authentic; the mannerisms, history (the

Portuguese in Japan), customs (from the concept of forgiveness to the noisy slurping of noodles), the language - everything. The martial arts details are also authentic. The fight scenes are solid, but in an unusual way. They are not breathtaking and gripping, true, but they are enjoyable nonetheless for any samurai buff. Akiko and Matsumoto are flat characters, but Jack and Yamato are more interesting in their development. By far my favorite character was Sensei Yamada (brought Mr. Miyagi to mind), but I still felt the author could have done more with him. His "pearls of wisdom" were hilarious, I wish there had been more of them. Overall, nothing extraordinary, and perhaps for those uninterested in Japanese culture or history, this won't make for a great read. Basically, just go in with the right expectations and you'll enjoy it.

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