

Leda and the Samurai

Vol 3

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Leda and the Samurai

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Leda and the Samurai

Vol 3

Guenevere Lee



2019

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Author's Note: This serial is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are either products of my imagination or used fictitiously. All characters are fantastical, and any similarity to people living or dead is purely coincidental.

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Haiku

辞世とは
即ちまよひ
ただ死なん

*Death poems are just
mainly an illusion.
A death is a death.*

杜口
Toko
(1710-1795)

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Acknowledgements

In university I started to get interested in running. Around the same time my older sister Heather had just given birth to twins and was looking for a way to stay fit and healthy. Heather, ever the professional, had all the best books and advice about running. We would often meet up and go for jogs together.

Neither of us run anymore (both of us taken out by knee injuries over the decade), but I think about that time a lot. Running with my sister really gave me a new drive and motivation with my writing. I know that sounds strange, but it's true.

There's something about pushing yourself past the limits you think you have. And the focus and determination to finish that last kilometre, is often the same feeling I have when I just need to finish that last page before my book is done.

Heather teaching me how to run was really her teaching me to be a better writer. The analogy that writing a novel is like running a marathon is apt. So, I just wanted to thank my sister for that.

Thanks, Heather.

Preface

You are about to dive into volume three of *Leda and the Samurai*! I'm putting both the second and third volume out at the same time. This is because I haven't been to a convention since last October, and had no reason to print any new volumes.

Some people wonder why I chose to self-publish *Leda and the Samurai*, when my other novels (from the *Whisperers of the Gods* series) have a more traditional publisher. Well mostly it's because I don't think *Leda and the Samurai* would work being released in the traditional way.

My intention was to always publish it as a serial. I always loved hearing about Dickens serializing his novels, but it became a bit of a lost art. These days a lot of online sites (like Channillo, where *Leda and the Samurai* was first published) are starting to bring serialization back.

Writing *Leda and the Samurai* is really just my hobby, a break from writing the *Whisperers of the Gods*. Being able to release one or two volumes every few months on my schedule is something I can only do through self-publishing.

Thank you so much for picking up this volume. Your support means I can continue this little experiment. If you've come this far, then you must love fantasy and Japanese history as much as I do.

The next volume will be out shortly. If you like my writing, then please check out *Orope – The White Snake*! The sequel, *Pekari – the Azure Fish* is about to be released. Thanks for your support!

-Guenevere Lee
February, 2019

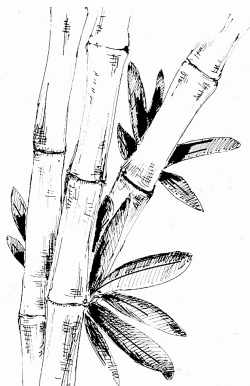
LEDA AND THE SAMURAI

攫われた

Kidnapped

第十一章

CHAPTER 11



Leda struggled to stay focused through the pain in her head. Drake, or whatever his real name was, had stopped strangling her long enough to let her gasp for air. She lay on her futon in stunned fear, unable to move, unsure if this was real.

She thought he was going to murder her, and the shock made her come back to herself. She tried to crawl away, but Drake wasn't alone. Hands clamped around her mouth and she was lifted in the air. The disgusting men who had her now had not been invited to the party. They were the lowly

sailors, the men who did all the dirty work. They had come in secret. Maybe Drake's earlier outburst hadn't been planned, but this had been.

If she tried to struggle too hard, they would choke her until she went limp in their arms. She drifted in and out of consciousness as they carried her from the home.

The next thing she knew she was in a small boat being rowed out to the waiting ships. She tried to move but received a swift kick and a knife pressed against her neck. She was fully awake now, but powerless to do anything. Her mind raced. What in the world did these people want with her?

But there was a feeling worse than the pain and terror she felt, it was the uncertainty. Would Bennosuké abandon her now? She hardly knew him, and he owed her nothing. She was alone, and at the mercy of the British sailors.

Appendix

This is just a quick reference guide for some of the things, people, and places mentioned in *Leda and the Samurai*. For a more in-depth look at the history and mythology surrounding Edo Era Japan, then check out the podcast *Historical Fantasy*.

Bokken 木剣 Wooden practice swords, used in kendo (剣道).

Daimyou 大名 A feudal lord.

Daishou 大小 Literally means big and small, used to describe the long and short swords worn by samurai.

Daté Masamuné 伊達政宗 In 1600 Daté Masamuné founded the city of Sendai, and became the most influential feudal lord in Tohoku.

Daté Terumuné 伊達輝宗 Daté Masamuné's father.

Drake, Francis An infamous British sailor, or pirate, depending on whom you ask. Died of dysentery in 1596.

Dojo (doutjou) 道場 A place to practice fencing or martial arts.

Edo 江戸 The Japanese time period between 1603-1868, marked by the rise of the shogun Tokugawa Iéyasu.

Futon 布団 A thin mattress, usually laid out on tatami mats.

Hakama 袴 A type of trousers tied around the waist and worn over a kimono.

Hamon 刃文 The wave-like pattern left on a Japanese sword as the blade hardens.

Hirose River 広瀬川 A 45km long river that winds through Sendai.

Honshu 本州 The largest of the four largest islands of Japan (the other three being Hokkaido, Kyushu, and Shikoku).

Kanji 漢字 Chinese characters adopted into Japanese writing.

Katakana カタカナ A phenetic writing system adopted from kanji, usually used for foreign words.

Katana 刀 A traditional curved blade around 60~75cm long.

Kimono 着物 A gown of two or three layered silk robes, tied at the waist by a thick, stiff sash called an obi.

Matsushima 松嶋 One of the three most beautiful views in Japan, with over 260 pine-covered trees dotted around the bay.

Obi 帯 A thick, stiff sash used to secure a kimono or yukata at the waist. Prostitutes tie their obi in the front for easy access.

Reda レダ The katakana reading of Leda.

Samurai 侍 A class of nobles who serve a daimyou.

Sensei 先生 A teacher. Also used as a term of respect for scholars and doctors.

Sendai 仙台/千代 The largest city in Tohoku, founded in 1600 by Daté Masamuné.

Shougun 将軍 The traditional leader of the emperor's army, and the head of state during the Edo Era.

Tanabata 七夕 A festival traditionally held on the seventh day of the seventh month, where two mythical lovers are allowed to cross the sky and be together.

Tanuki 狸 A Japanese racoon dog, related to neither dogs nor racoons. In Japanese folklore they can transform into humans.

Tatami 畳 Traditional mats made from weaving rice straw.

Tokugawa Iéyasu 徳川家康 The shougun who united Japan in 1603, bringing stability for over 200 years.

Wakizashi 脇差 A traditional curved blade around 30~60cm long.

Yonezawa 米沢 Found on the north west of Japan. The birthplace of Daté Masamuné.

Yukata 浴衣 A gown of one or two layered cotton robes, tied at the waist by a thick, stiff sash called an obi.

Notes

I've taken a few liberties in how I write out Japanese in romaji (the alphabet). Generally when Japanese is written out in romaji, what are seen as confusing or redundant vowels get cut (i.e. arigatou becomes arigato). I have never liked this, since the presence of that extra vowel at the end does in fact change the pronunciation, and sometimes even the meaning of a word. Sometimes this vowel is replaced with an h or an accent, both of which are limited because they don't indicate which vowel was taken out. I have kept all vowels intact, as it were (so words like arigatou are written as arigatou). That being said, I have kept the shortened version of proper nouns (Tokyo instead of Toukyo). This is just to avoid confusion. I included accents on some vowels to indicate that the vowel should be pronounced (for example, Daté is pronounced "DA-tay and not like the English word "date").

Within the text words spoken in *italics* are being spoken in Japanese. A sentence in italics following a Japanese quote is the English translation.

Same as above, words spoken in **bold** are being spoken in Spanish.

The symbol used in the scene breaks, the large circle surrounded by eight smaller circles, is one of Daté Masamune's sigils, or *mon*(紋). It is inspired by the navagraha, or nine celestial bodies. It is sometimes called the nine-planets by the people of Sendai.

References

Kaufman, Stephen F. (1994) **Musashi's Book of Five Rings**. Singapore: Tuttle.

Glossary

Abunai 危ない Danger.

Arigatou ありがとう Thank you.

Chan ちゃん See San

Chigau 違う Wrong.

Desu です The regular/formal way to end a sentence.

Gomen ごめん Sorry.

Hai はい Yes.

Hanko 判子 A stamp or seal.

Ike 行け Go! (Battle-cry)

(O)Jou お嬢 A very respectful term when speaking to someone else's daughter.

Ka か Said at the end of a question.

(O)Kaasan お母さん Mother.

(O)Kaeri おかえり Welcome back.

Kami 神 God.

Kochi こち Over here/This way.

Kun 君 See San

Ne ね Right?

Nyan ニャン A pun combining the sound a cat makes (nya) with the suffix chan.

Oni 鬼 Demon.

Sama 様 See San

San さん(**Sama/Kun/Chan**) Suffixes added to the end of a name to be more polite.
Sama is the most polite, kun is used for young boys, and chan for young girls.

Sou desu そうです That's right.

Tadaima ただいま I'm back.

(O)Tousan お父さん Father.

Yakitori 焼き鳥 Chicken skewers.

Yo よ Said to add emphasis at the end of a sentence.

Yokatta 良かった I'm glad.

Un うん Yes.

