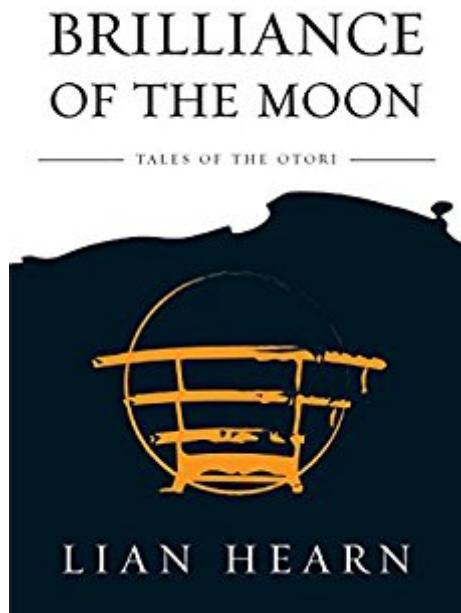


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Brilliance Of The Moon (Tales Of The Otori Book 3)

'One of the most thrilling series of our time.' THE TIMES



Synopsis

FOUR MILLION COPIES SOLD. In 40 languages. One of the most thrilling series of our time. Enter the feudal world of the Otori - filled with magic, treachery and intrigue - inspired by medieval Japan and created by acclaimed Australian author, Lian Hearn.'The best story of magic, love, sex, revenge and suspense to have come this way since Philip Pullman.' INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAYOtori Takeo's future is uncertain. If he is to reclaim his Otori heritage, he must fight for it - but his army is untrained and Takeo, despite his legendary skills as an assassin, knows nothing of warfare. Can he defeat those who seek to destroy him, and so bring peace to the Three Countries?To take what is rightfully his, Takeo must conquer the warlord Arai Daiichi and the nobleman Lord Fujiwara, but every step is fraught with danger for him and his great love, Shirakawa Kaede. Their destinies are determined by forces beyond their control.INCLUDES an extract from THE HARSH CRY OF THE HERON PLUS three chapters of EMPEROR OF THE EIGHT ISLANDS, the first novel in Lian Hearn's spellbinding new Tale of Shikanoko series.'One of the most thrilling series of our time.' THE TIMES'... a world that is rich with character and detail, yet effortless to read' SYDNEY MORNING HERALD'An engrossing fantasy saga of literary quality.' THE AGE'Lian Hearn's marvellous storytelling talent ... makes reading these books a moment of pure bliss.' LE MONDE

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The first book of this trilogy is the best. So rich in detail. Well defined characters. Such a good pace. It made me scour every bookshop I knew looking for the second and third books. When I found them, I got a distinct feeling that something or someone was rushing Ms. Hearn to finish the series...or she got bored with Japan....whatever the reason is it is to the detriment of the plot. You know when an unimaginative/bored person is telling a story? There's a lot of "and then...and then and then...". Hope you get my drift.

Fans of the Tales of the Otori won't be disappointed in Lian Hearn's final installment. *Grass for His Pillow* ended with Takeo repeating the prophecy: "Five battles lay ahead of us, four to win and one to lose." *Brilliance of the Moon* will unwind the truth behind this prophecy, even as there are mysteries that will remain (thus the suggestion that there might be another book). Questions about Takeo's past will be resolved, and so will be matters of loyalty. The battles are reminiscent of those in the 'Lord of the Rings', but the scope is exclusive: again, the focus will be on the two main characters, Takeo and Kaede, and the love between them. We see the culmination of Kaede's struggle against the prejudices against her gender, although there are harsh obstacles that she will meet. While she is heir to both Shirakawa and Maruyama domains, she has to fight for her inheritance. Meanwhile, Takeo wages a desperate attempt to unite his strikingly different backgrounds: the skills and cunning of the Tribe, the 'Christian' way of the Hidden, and the noble blood and realms of the Otori. Even from '*Grass for His Pillow*', it is evident that Lord Fujiwara, Lord Arai, and the Kikuta clan will figure in the battles to come. The action in *Across the Nightingale Floor* and *Grass for His Pillow* will pale in comparison. Finally, we see how the little details in '*Across*' and '*Grass*' will affect the outcome of events in '*Brilliance*'. I suggest that you read the two books again before reading '*Brilliance*' for fuller appreciation and enjoyment. I won't give spoilers to the many who anticipate this book. just read it and witness the '*Brilliance of the Moon*' - the brilliance of Lian Hearn who has enchanted me with her tale.

The Bad: The books leave you on the verge of reading bliss. You are constantly waiting to cross that line where a great book becomes spectacular, but it doesn't happen. The 3 books combine into an excellent epic story, but the ending seems compact and contrived compared to the amazing depths of detail the author goes through in the first two books. I would have preferred the author to keep the detail and make the third book 1000 pages instead of the 320 or so that just is not long enough. The battles are rushed and while reading I felt like the important detail was wasted on parts of the story I

found myself less interested in (only wasted in that the possible 1000 pages of material was condensed to only 320). The Good: That being said, the books, as a series, are some of my favorites! I would certainly purchase them again and they are definitely worth reading! I highly recommend them to anyone who enjoys the kind of Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter - esq books, though these are a bit more real in content and only dabble in magic and fantasy. Its true, I would have liked the series to have a little more detail in the last book, but these are still books that you get addicted to, reading at stop lights and long into the night. The story sucks you in and never lets you go. People actually got mad at me for neglecting my responsibilities while I finished up the series... Conclusions: Go get these books! They are worth your time!

After reading the two previous books in this trilogy, I have found that this is one of my favourites, with it being full of excitement, tension and has many ways to please your needs as a reader. Being unable to leave the book for under five minutes, I was often reading late into the night and early in the morning, regardless of the time. The story continues after Lord Otori Takeo's marriage to his lover, Lady Shirakawa Kaede, and he now endeavours to have his adoptive fathers domain returned to him after finding that he is legally an Otori as well as being adopted by Lord Otori himself. His wife, also attempting to inherit the country of Maruyama as the original Lady of this domain had promised. However they are hindered by warlords, angered by Takeo's and Kaede's marriage, and by Takeo being of the tribe he is unwilling to return to them and is often attacked in their desperate attempt to erase their shame of being disobeyed yet again as his father had done. But Takeo is driven on wondering if he is ever likely to be caught off guard, yet the words of the blind fortune tellers prophecy still allow him to continue onward in his constant struggle and plight to return to his true home. He is certain that with Kaede, his friends and allies by his side he likes to think himself almost unstoppable. Be prepared to read of love, revenge, triumph, fear and betrayal as well as many other emotions as you view the final exhilarating part of The Tales of The Otori. Review By Steph Brown.

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