



The Cybernetic Samurai

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Deep in the fortress-like headquarters of Yoshimitsu TeleCommunications, American scientist Elizabeth O'Neill had molded the circuitry of a mammoth computer into a living, thinking, feeling being--a human soul trapped in the confines of a cybernetic body.

She named her creation Tokugawa, hero of Japanese samurai lore, and educated him with all of the values of a feudal Japanese shogun.

Yet Tokugawa's powers were far greater than Elizabeth had imagined. WIth access to every computer in post-World War III's fully-automated society, he had the potential to become the ultimate spy, the perfect assassin, an invincible dictator.

Only loyalty to samurai virtues kept his attention in check--until the day when Elizabeth was taken away from him, and Tokugawa began his quest for revenge...

The Cybernetic Samurai Details

Date : Published December 1986 by Berkley Publishing Group (first published 1985)

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Author : Victor Milán

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From Reader Review The Cybernetic Samurai for online ebook

Linda says

Funny how books are so different the second time around (although this may be the third time I've read it I had completely forgotten the whole second half of the book... so I guess it was worth having it sit on the shelf for 15 years between readings!

Some what dated technologically, but still not a bad read.

Nan Silvernail says

Born of the ideals of the past into Post- WWIII Japan, he rises up, a different son of the sword. His battles are fought in the data fields of warring corporations. Will he be a tool to be used by his masters or will he become master of all - and at what price?

If I was clever, I'd present a simple haiku for you. But I can't encapsulate the sweep of this book. Reminiscent of a sweeping Akira Kurosawa classic. Broad themes of the clash between Japanese and foreigners, government and the individual, men and women, betrayed and betrayer, the steadfast and the false.

Theresa says

The Cybernetic Samurai

Milán, Victor *

In the Asimov and early science fiction tradition Mr. Milan, has tackled the events of the modern era. He has written a master piece about the difficulties, ideologies, and psychological twists that need to be fully understood or reckoned with when evaluation and implementation of cybernetic intelligence in reality. How would you find, test or prove scientifically the existence of an artificial intelligence? How would you raise, teach, or implement knowledge to this new form of life? How would your political, psychological, and personal opinions influence a new life form? What would access to all the knowledge and vast divergent opinion of humanity affect and influence this new life form? He also diverges into historical and political realities that hit close to home. This is a great book, full of intellectual conundrums, political realities, and mass causalities. It looks at the nature of humanity, and if or are we willing to share our humanity with a new intelligence?

Mark says

This novel was first published over 30 years ago, but still has an impact today with its discussion of artificial intelligence, corporate culture and nationalism. Milán also does a deep dive into bushido. This aspect of the book drives the story, but could easily be brought into the present, with some of the new and very different influences in today's global economy. Interesting book.

B. Barron says

Damn good book.

Tech may seem a little dated, but the basics hold up quite well - especially the use of randomness in computer programming.

I.D. says

Very dull with lots of things happening "off camera" and far too much time spent on the romance between the AI and its master.

John Maltman says

I wanted to enjoy this book more, but to me where it failed was character development and plot twists. The evolution of the cybernetic being Tokugawa and his progression into some sort of samurai with all the conflicts of a normal human being was amazingly pulled off. However, the rest of the characters in the book, whether they die (likely) or go insane left me ambivalent and I no longer cared about the hero's fate either.

Randy Benson says

one of the best science fiction books i've ever read. . . a perfect blending of bushido and cybernetics, set in a world where multinational corporations war with each other. . . and the only nobility that exists is the computerized samurai called Tokugawa. . .

Kevin says

A decent little gem of cyberpunk lit.

Steve says

A bit slower than I had hoped or perhaps it's been my mood. Gonna give this another read later and probably uprate the book, but it wasn't jiving with me this time around. Although I have read some of the author's contributions to the Battletech book series, which were excellent reads.

Bax says

really fun under the radar early cyberpunk.

Lacks the insight & prosody that allowed the work of Gibson and Sterling to break out of the SF ghetto, but it's one of the better second tier works in the genre.

Bradley says

I can see the roots of his battletech novels in this work. Awesome story. Well worth the years I have been searching for this novel. =)
