



# Sisters of the Sword

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## **Sisters of the Sword** Maya Snow , Helen Hart

Kimi dreams of being a great samurai warrior, but she and her sister, Hana, are young ladies of feudal Japan, daughters of the "Jito" of the province. Her future seems clear: Girls do not become samurai.

Then, betrayal shatters the sisters' world. Their power-hungry uncle murders their father, and their mother and little brother mysteriously disappear. Determined to seek revenge and restore their honor, they disguise themselves as boys to train at a school for samurai. Kimi and Hana are thrown headlong into a life of warrior codes, sharp swords, and shadowy figures--as they work with fierce determination to avenge the brutal wrongs done to their family.

In a flash, life has swept them into a terrible adventure, more heart-pounding than Kimi and Hana ever could have imagined . . . and once it has been set in motion, nothing will ever be the same.

## **Sisters of the Sword Details**

Date : Published June 1st 2008 by HarperCollins (first published January 1st 2008)

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Author : Maya Snow , Helen Hart

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Adventure, Young Adult, Fantasy, Childrens, Middle Grade, Cultural, Asia, Action, Lgbt, Genderqueer

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## **From Reader Review Sisters of the Sword for online ebook**

### **Terry Marine says**

Informative historical description. Detailed technical fight scenes, with traditional names for weapons. Believable characters. Fun to read. I cheered for these tween-age girls, fighting trained soldiers for their lives!

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### **Meera Holder says**

really good read for a tween

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### **Mery says**

I loved this book because the plot's interesting and well-written. Even though too much violence and gory. But still good.  
And I love the way the writer picture the relationship between the sisters.

\*my translation\*

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### **Kenneth says**

I would have given this a five star rating because the main protagonist was spot-on, the pacing was great, the drama was superb, and the supporting characters were interesting enough to keep my attention throughout. However, the book just... ended. It was so abrupt, I felt almost like someone had burned part of the manuscript before sending it out to the printer. Nothing got resolved as far as avenging the father and bringing to justice the uncle. until the last chapter. I really dislike cliffhanger endings.  
I would have loved this novel to be a short, single, compact tale of girl power and feudal glory... but the lack of a real ending brought this down a full star rating.

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### **Julia says**

An enjoyable read; I liked all the martial arts in it. The bloodshed was kind of horrifying at the beginning of the book.

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## Nicole Svare says

My friend recommended this book to me, and after I read the synopsis I immediately borrowed it. The story is about an extremely wealthy noble family in Japan. One day, the father is assassinated by his brother, who also kills two of the children. The family is suddenly being hunted for their lives, and two sisters have to disguise themselves as normal boys living in a dojo, while they try not to let it show that they are skilled in the art of the samurai. My favorite quote in this book is when the two sisters have been accepted into the master's study session, and the master almost sees through their disguise. "His next words sent my heart fluttering. "If someone else had brought me this scroll," he said quietly, "and they did not tell me where it had come from, I would have said that this writing came from the brush of the great Jito himself, Lord Steward Yoshijiro." I stared in horror at the Master. Had he guessed our secret?" I liked this quote because it was very suspenseful and dramatic. The author used a lot of Japanese terms, which I found very cool. I would recommend this book to people interested in the Japanese culture and swords style. It is very easy to read, and it has a good plot.

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## Kaitlyn says

LOVE THIS BOOK!! Everyone really needs to read this ?

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## Johanna says

I liked this book because the plot was interesting but I also liked the Japanese culture which I don't know much about.

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## Angelic Zaizai says

Dapat kehormatan mengintip kerjaan kembaranku, dan sukaa

sudah lama ga baca buku yang bau-bau jepang juga  
ini cerita dua saudara Hana dan Kimi, putri bangsawan yang biasa hidup enak  
nyaman, harus tercerabut dari rumahnya, setelah ayahnya dibunuh  
mereka harus kabur karena dikejar oleh orang yang membunuh ayahnya - pamannya  
sendiri!!!

dan harus menyamar jadi anak laki-laki saat masuk ke sebuah perguruan (aduh lupa  
istilahnya haha) tempat belajar anak-anak bangsawan yang ingin jadi samurai (ada  
sih yang ga bangsawan, tapi dibully abis-lah)

tetep aja bukan berarti udah aman - karena sepupu mereka sekolah di situ  
sepupu yang dulunya baik dan lucu sekarang jadi arogan

meskipun di sana Kimi dan Hana ga diterima jadi murid, tapi sebagai pekerja  
mereka tetap dapat kesempatan untuk berlatih juga - Master Goku-nya baik hihhihi  
endingnya kesel ih

masa Masternya begitu aja \*\*\*\*\* menyebalkaaaaan.... )@)##()@#!

btw gw lebih suka Hana, soalnya kalem tapi menghanyutkan :D :D

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## **Cass - Words on Paper says**

From The Book Depository:

'I once knew little of danger, and nothing of death.' Kimi and Hana's lives of luxury are torn apart with the murder of their family. They must hide as servants and find a way to avenge their father's death. Then the rumours start. Perhaps they weren't the only survivors? What secret will they find beneath the cherry blossoms?

In book one of this thrilling quartet, Hana and Kimi are delighted when their heroic uncle, Hidehira, arrives at their palace, along with his dashing army of Samurai soldiers. He is their father's right hand man, a guardian and protector who helps him govern the land on behalf of the Shogun. So when Hidehira and his army slaughter their father and elder brothers, it is a harrowing betrayal. As the palace burns around them, Hana and Kimi have to fight for their very survival. Now the whole country is searching for them - and anyone who helps them will be put to death. The girls must disguise themselves and find somewhere to hide, while working to avenge the brutal wrongs done to their family ...

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## **Izlinda says**

Well, more like middle-school age to me, I felt. Even if the characters are older, I felt the language and emotions shown were a little too simple, even though subjects such a viewing murder, familial betrayal and honor were discussed.

It was a very quick read at around 170 pages (e-book format).

I felt it deserved 2 stars because it really didn't interest me much. Foreshadowing was clearly evident, characters felt too archetypal for me.

Then again, I'm no longer in middle school. I'm sure it would appeal to that age group and maybe I've just grown too cynical for this type of writing.

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## **AthinaB says**

3,5\*

Είναι ένα γρήγορα βιβλίο με πολύ ζωντανές εικόνες μιας άλλης εποχής. Σου δέχνει την Ιαπωνία τον καιρό των σαμουράι, μαζύ με τον κίσμος της δολοπλοκίας καθώς και την δψα για εξουσία. Το μοναδικό μου πρόβλημα ήταν τι οι πράξεις των κύριων ηρώων και ο χαρακτήρας τους δεν αντιστοιχούσε στην ηλικία τους.

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## **Jennifer Wardrip says**

Reviewed by Candace Cunard for TeensReadToo.com

Kimi and her sister, Hana, live a life of luxury as daughters of the Jito, a samurai lord and leader of a strong province in 13th-Century Japan. They do not lead idle lives, however; their father understands the importance of a broad education, and in addition to learning the womanly arts of embroidery and tea-pouring, they are trained in the ways of combat, leading Kimi, the narrator, to wish fervently that she could one day be a samurai, like her father and two older brothers.

Unfortunately, disaster strikes in the form of Kimi and Hana's uncle, Hidehiro. Their father's younger brother, annoyed at their father's growing power, plots to kill their father and wipe out their branch of the family so that he can rule. Kimi, Hana, their mother, and younger brother manage to escape, but their older brothers and their father are brutally slaughtered by Hidehiro.

Separated from their mother and brother, Kimi and Hana disguise themselves as boys and present themselves to a local dojo, where they are taken on as servants by the wise Sensei Goku, who promises to teach them further fighting skills if they comport themselves well. While at the dojo they meet with a boy of peasant background, Tatsuya, who is ridiculed for his low status since most of those training under Goku are nobles. Kimi and Hana's cousin, Ken-ichi, plays the role of small-scale antagonist; although he does not realize his cousins are actually alive and right under his nose, he makes their life difficult.

Kimi and Hana must maintain their disguise while learning the skills of the samurai so they can face their uncle Hidehiro in combat and revenge their father's death once and for all.

I enjoyed the characters, and got a good picture of the relationship between the sisters. The secondary characters, such as Tatsuya and Goku, were well-drawn. An obvious deal of research went into recreating Japanese life in this time period, but the author presents this detail without confusing the reader. The conclusion of the book was satisfying, but leaves room for a sequel that I, for one, would be excited to see.

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## **Renee says**

I loved this book immensely! I could hardly put it down, and read it in two days, and could have read it in one, but I had already read two novels that took up most of my time. The plot, ancient Japan, is one of my absolute favorite story plots, and I have loved Japanese stories since I was a little girl. The ending was satisfying to me, and I am so ready to read the next book in the series! I am still curious as to what will happen in this thrilling series, which kept me on the edge of my seat, and which I believe is a great read!

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## **Terry says**

A good light action book with obvious appeal to younger teen readers. The plot is familiar: twins must hide from the evil responsible for their orphaning and are trained by a wise elder loyal to their dead parent. There's a malicious teen, plenty of hard work, and lots of Bushido trappings.

It did feel a little stiff at times. I wish there had been a little nuance between the sisters. The combat

sequences were good and it moved along quickly. There wasn't the emotional punch of the best YA, but for fans of Japanese culture, this is a fun trifle.

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