
Gail Tsukiyama

Straat van de duizend bloesems



Title: Straat van de duizend bloesems

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Description

Japan, 1939. Nadat hun ouders zijn omgekomen groeien twee broers op bij hun liefdevolle grootouders. Zij inspireren de jongens te dromen over een toekomst die diep in tradities is geworteld. De oudste jongen, Hiroshi, heeft talent voor sumo-worstelen, terwijl Kenji gefascineerd is door de kunst van het maken van theatermaskers. Maar door het uitbreken van de Tweede Wereldoorlog zijn de broers gedwongen hun dromen tijdelijk opzij te zetten. Na de oorlog moeten zij hun oude bestaan weer oppakken in een nieuw Japan. Straat van duizend bloesems is een overweldigend en ontroerend verhaal over tradities en verandering, over verlies en vernieuwing, maar bovenal over de blijvende kracht van familiebanden tijdens een keerpunt in de moderne geschiedenis van Japan.

Insightful reviews

Fran: Gail Tsukiyama's generational saga follows two sets of families in Japan prior to World War II, through the war, and through the mid-60s. Two young men's parents are killed in a boating accident and they are raised by their grandparents. One becomes a famous sumo wrestler and the other a Noh mask maker. Two sisters, daughters of a sumo master, lose their mother and the book primarily entertwines between these two families. I had a hard time getting into this book, but once I did, I literally couldn't put it down. It moves from the viewpoint of each character, their life choices, and the changing Japan after the war and the American occupation. I can easily see this book being made into a film.

Sumi: The one thing that stopped me from really liking this book was the fact that the main characters, who I will define as Hiroshi and Kenji, never get the happy ending that I prefer. They attain career success and a certain amount of happiness here and there in their personal lives, but are generally denied something they want or have the rug pulled out from under them. The book itself ended with Hiroshi thinking positively about his chances for future happiness which was not enough to satisfy me.

I reserve the right to increase (or even decrease) my rating if the author writes a sequel. The main characters are still relatively young in the scheme of things and achieving personal happiness is not beyond hope.

Word of Warning: Don't listen to the audio version if you know any Japanese. The mispronunciations will annoy you. Hearing grandmother called aunt all the time nearly drove me over the edge. It was nice that the audio book company wanted somebody with an Asian ancestry to read the book, but I would have preferred someone who could pronounce the words correctly, regardless of ancestry.

Heather Clawson: This book is about two brothers growing up in pre- and post-WWII Japan and some of the people that they interact with. The storylines were interesting enough, however, the style of the book was VERY abrupt and fragmented....it did not flow very well at all. Many of the chapters (which were very short to begin with) were fragmented into separated blocks of text that would be anywhere from a paragraph or two, to two pages. In most literature, the use of

separations like this in chapters usually signifies a change in the focus of the story. A chance for the writer to move from one scene with certain characters to a different location with different people. However, Tsukiyama constantly employs this technique two or three times in a chapter, even though the entire chapter is focusing in on the same characters in the same location discussing the same thing. It was very distracting and it made it difficult to become immersed within the story lines or the plot.

Dana: The ebook starts off in a suburb of Toyko in 1939. boys who've been orphaned live with their grandparents. Their grandparents love their grandsons and need them to discover their passions. The elder brother, Hiroshi is turning into particularly strong on the nationwide obsession, sumo wrestling. simply because the battle starts off he's accredited for education at a facility run by way of Sho Tanaka. the more youthful brother is extra inventive and drawn to carving mask for the Non theater. World battle II intervenes. Tsukiyama paints this type of vibrant photo of the warfare years during this suburb; the shortages, starvation, domestic entrance police bullies and the grim air raids. all of the brothers is affected. Hiroshi's education is stopped or particularly by no means particularly starts off and Kenji's sensei or grasp finally disappears. This ebook covers a span of approximately thirty years. It bargains with either the warfare and the profession and eventually the americans leaving Japan. It bargains with the brothers and the expansion in their passions and their look for how they healthy into the normal Japan and the publish warfare sleek Japan. The brothers and their loves, their sorrows and joys and triumphs are rather well portrayed and taken to life. I enjoyed this publication and how Tsukiyama defined life. It felt so real. the lifestyle for sumo wrestlers and the traditions and quantity of labor thinking about the Non masks carving have been super interesting.

Sueheartist: amassing my recommendations approximately this ebook used to be interesting. the tale occurs in Japan within the 40's. The storyline outlines the lives of 2 orphan boys who turn out residing with their grandparents in the course of the war. The characters round those boys supply us an excellent investigate the lifetime of a sumo wrestler and a masks maker. nice info with many information within the making of those very attention-grabbing arts evolving from early life to an complete wrestler/mask maker. The aged grandparents upload knowledge with many antidotes. we're taking a look into eastern tradition from such an intimate place. but the writing remained during the booklet relatively monotoned no longer enticing the reader enough. Too undesirable as I have been watching for interpreting this book. the opposite element i might prefer to make is the confusion with names that jap cultures have. somebody frequently has many names which i discovered performed into the authenticity yet was once demanding to stick with at times. If i used to be extra engaged possibly at each one interpreting consultation i might be extra enthused approximately remembering the names.

Slygly: This one used to be OK, yet disappointing in comparison to Tsukiyama's prior books. and extremely long, so approximately midway via i spotted I wasn't going to like it, yet i could not give up simply because I had already invested quite a bit time in it. So i used to be stressed and conscious about the big stack of books ultimate for me to learn after this one. The booklet used to be set in Japan spanning approximately 30 years round WWII. The conflict half was once nice yet now not a lot occurred all the different years. The half that truly aggravated me used to be the prologue--everything used to be given away! you recognize who dies through who's no longer mentioned! Bah! and a few of the various tale traces did not look rather

resolved through the end. One advantage of it- the timing used to be perfect. completing the booklet coincides with my journey to Seattle this week, and i'm overjoyed to hit the sushi restaurants.

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