



Disciple of the Wind

Steve Bein

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LETHAL JUSTICE

When Tokyo falls victim to a deadly terrorist attack, Detective Sergeant Mariko Oshiro knows who is responsible, even if she doesn't have proof. She urges her commanding officers to arrest the perpetrator—an insane zealot who was just released from police custody. When her pleas fall on deaf ears, she loses her temper and then her badge, as well as her best chance of fighting back.

Left on her own, and armed with only her cunning and her famed Inazuma blade, Mariko must work outside the system to stop a terrorist mastermind. But going rogue draws the attention of an underground syndicate known as the Wind. For centuries, they have controlled Japanese politics from the shadows, using mystical relics to achieve their nefarious ends—relics like Mariko's own sword and the iron demon mask whose evil curse is bound to the blade. Now the Wind is set on acquiring Mariko.

Mariko is left with a perilous choice: Join an illicit insurgency to thwart a deadly villain, or remain true to the law. Either way, she cannot escape her sword's curse. As sure as the blade will bring her to victory, it also promises to destroy her....

Disciple of the Wind Details

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Author : Steve Bein

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From Reader Review Disciple of the Wind for online ebook

Cathy says

I love love Mariko's story and would put up with a lot to be able to read that so even if the historical part wasn't going anywhere it wouldn't matter too much. But I dig the historical part too, even though it tends to be a little slower for me. And it was definitely faster paced this book than previously for some reason, I think I was almost as caught up in Daigoro's historical fiction part of the story this time as I was with Mariko's police procedural tale in modern Japan. Even though the connection between them was kind of thin. Yes, they're both stories that at their foundation have the swords in them, and the mask, and now the knife too, but they're not significant factors in the stories. Or maybe it's more that they're pivotal but not significant when it comes to how much time they appear in the stories. Anyway, the connection between the past and present seems tenuous so far other than affirming that Mariko isn't crazy for thinking that the mask or weapons have some supernatural properties, which I think probably wouldn't take half of three books to affirm. And now The Wind is also a tiny part of Daigoro's story and a larger part of Mariko's story. So I'm sure there is going to be a stronger connection at some point but we'll see, maybe the next book will focus more on The Wind and their obsession with the weapons. I'm pretty much taking it on faith throughout most of this that the connection between this interacting historical story and this super modern story is going somewhere eventually because the writing is really enjoyable and I don't have any reason at all to think the author would lead me wrong. Plus the part about loving reading about Mariko, I mentioned that, right?

Michael says

Good sequel to the series. Love the two timelines. Nice twist in both eras. Modern setting very apt. Hope he writes more.

Reem says

Exciting follow up and the quality didn't drop. However, a personal desire: if the author considers a sequel, I hope it would feature new set of characters.

Great series in general.

The FountainPenDiva, Old school geek chick and lover of teddy bears says

Absolutely non-stop badass! THIS ladies and gents is how GOOD urban fantasy is supposed to be written. Notice the heroine isn't decked in a corset and stilettos and posed in some manner better suited to a layout in Vogue magazine. No, this heroine looks plenty ready to kick major ass. And NOTICE that she's Japanese. On the cover. The world didn't come to an end.

I had Disciple of the Wind on my Amazon wish list for an entire year and was chomping at the bit. I seldom pre-order books but I most certainly did this one. This is a brilliant fusion of Japanese history, mythology

and gritty police procedural. Mariko is one of my favourite all-time heroines. I thought poor Jane Tennison of Prime Suspect had it bad with the odious sexism, but Mariko deserves a medal for all the fuckwittery she has to endure. Yes, I understand how patriarchal Japanese culture can be, but that still doesn't make it easy to take, especially because Mariko keeps putting life and limb on the line.

Yes, this series needs to be a miniseries.

Sean Goh says

Ties things up very satisfyingly, and ups the magic quotient some.

These girls were raised on Facebook and Twitter. They had no sense of privacy, nor even any sense that privacy was desirable. Their lives were open to the world.

Of all the wondrous inventions of mortal man, he'd never imagined a soft, clean, warm, dry bed was foremost among them. Life as a samurai could never have taught him that; he could learn it only as a fugitive.

"You don't owe me anything."

"True. A ronin swears oaths to no one and no one swears oaths to him. He's alone in this world except for his friends. I don't owe you friendship. But you have it from me anyway."

Sisa Wang says

Loved it. What a satisfying end to a great series! It kept me on the edge of my seat, and the two story lines were beautifully converged by the integrity of the main characters. Fair warning: it definitely didn't shy away from the gruesome. But if you're looking for shootouts, sword fights, and action/adventure, you've come to the right place. It kept up a great pace and was rife with references to Japanese culture. The author's writing is witty too, with clever synonyms that remind me of *Memoirs of a Geisha*. I want more. ^____^

Debbie Lester says

Steve Bein's Fated Blades series, continues with Disciple of the Wind. This is really, really good Urban Fantasy. It combines a police procedural with mythology and Japanese history and also has a streak of magic in it, complete with mystical Japanese swords. Bein's lead character Mariko defies stereo-types and kicks some serious butt. Be it cop or rogue, she is one amazing heroine! Readers who enjoy urban fantasy will love it and if you're new to it, this is a good place to start.

What I liked:

I don't even know where to start with what I liked about this one, there is simply so much that I could talk about. First of all, I read a lot of urban fantasy, though that is not the prevailing theme of my blog, it is one of my favorite genres for personal reading. Urban fantasy is different from Paranormal Romance, because there

is often no romance at all or very little. The focus is on the paranormal more so than romance. It is a lot about strong characters with magical influences, strong themes and tends to be a little darker and more edgy. Steve Bein's is a writer who understands those differences and uses them to his complete advantage.

In *Disciple of the Wind* readers get a gritty, raw reading experience that takes things like magic and mythology and makes them more accessible and realistic than a book based on romance does. I quite frankly, haven't read too many urban fantasy titles that are based in the Japanese culture and I was completely sucked in by this one. I loved everything from the cover, to the blurb on the back. Bein uses a deft hand with his characters and he blends the past a present in a way that makes sense to me as a reader. It shows the importance of history and how that history can affect the present. Just an amazing use of historical background!

Mariko is a heroine like few others I have ever read. She is driven, hot tempered and the wielder of a magical sword that would be the envy of any superhero. She has a strong sense of duty and what is right and wrong. Being a cop she has to deal with a lot of politics about what she can and can't do. Being a rogue she still has to worry about outside influences that can pollute her quest for justice. She was magical in every way. She kicked butt and took names all in the name of fighting terrorism in present day Japan. An amazingly written character that readers will not soon be able to forget.

The parts of Mariko's story that deal with the imminent attack on Tokyo are largely written like a police procedural. Those can get a little boring at times in my opinion but not this one. I loved all of the discussion about the Wind and how their form of justice was different from Mariko's ideas. Good stuff! The action is fast paced and never lets up. But the reader gets a breather when the author goes back to the past with the quest of Diagoro and his mission to find the mystical sword. The Japanese history and legends that Bein tells the reader about give this book a feeling of being on a hero's journey. I am a big fan of history and legends and this part really sang to my soul. Very well written and with exceptional attention to detail. Everything worked so well together and past and present blurred in a sense. Great writing!

Bottom Line:

This was just a fantastic book! One of my favorites of the year in this genre. Can't say enough good things about it. Excellent characters, remarkable use of blending the past and present, an urgency that pervaded the book, but with sequences that slowed it down just enough. So much that I loved about this one. I didn't want this one to end, but the ending was so well crafted that I wanted to skip to the back just to experience it. How many books can you say that about? Wow! That's about the best way to sum it up. I want more, quickly...lol!

Shelley says

Source Library

Genre Fantasy

Rating 4.0

My Thoughts

Disciple of the Wind is the third installment in author Steve Bein's *Fated Blades* series. It follows *Year of the Demon* (10/13) and *Daughter of the Sword* (10/12). The stories in this series alternate between the years 2010 and 1588. The series features a heroine in 27-year old Mariko Oshiro who grew up in Illinois, before

moving to Japan where worked her way up the ladder in the Tokyo Metropolitan Police. She's a Detective Sergeant (Narcotics) who follows the Bushido Code.

Full Review Posted @ Gizmos Reviews 06/13/2017

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

Published April 7th 2015 by Roc Trade

Jacqie says

This book's got a good concept. The main character is a female detective working in Tokyo. Her enemy is a cult leader with some supernatural powers apparently conferred by an iron demon mask that he wears.

There's a lot of action and the pace is fast. The author also inserts a story of feudal Japan, about a powerful mystical sword (which also shows up in the present, along with the mask) and the politics that surround it and its wielder.

While the ingredients for a good story are all there, I never really warmed to Mariko. She didn't quite feel like a real person to me. The same for the feudal characters, especially the women. In the flashback part of the book, many pages are taken up by infodumps about the political situation, feudal Japanese culture, and characters' backstory. It wasn't very smoothly done, and it made me impatient. Plus the villain is gay, or at least willing to pleasure the emperor sexually, and it feels like his sexual orientation is thrown in there to make him seem more villainous-not cool.

If you're not worried about characters as much as plot and don't mind big infodumps about feudal Japan, you can probably just enjoy the action. While the action was perfectly fine, I needed a bit more to really enjoy the book.

Matt Braymiller says

I have thoroughly enjoyed this series. Now that I have finished book three, I see the ending has been left open for another book. I surely hope there will be a fourth novel.

I've greatly enjoyed the jumps back in time, looking at the Azuchi–Momoyama period of Japanese culture. Steve Bein has done his research well and has a real gift for drawing the reader back to the time of the Samurai and the code of Bushido.

The story of Daigoro reaches a conclusion that I won't spoil. His brush with the wind and encounters with the Inazuma blades help set the stage for the present age crisis in which Mariko finds herself embroiled. In this volume, she faces off again against Joko Daishi, but without some of the resources she has had in the past.

She faces some very difficult moral choices and her decisions make for some exciting reading. This is smart urban fantasy at its best, with just a touch of magic to spice things up. Mariko is one of the best heroines I've read in a long time, and these three books are at the top of the heap of books I've read this year.

I knew nothing about Japanese history when I started this series, and I have enjoyed looking at the rich and storied path of honor at its heart.

One final note, I have enjoyed all three of these books in audiobook format. Allison Hiroto's reading has been excellent. Had I read them either in ebook or paper-bound format, My unfamiliarity with the pronunciations might have lessened my enjoyment. Her reading was consistently good, and only added to my enjoyment.

Vinchi Cuyegkeng says

Need more fast! Excellent read for fans of Japanese culture and history

Excellent plotted urban fantasy(?) mythology set in modern day Japan. This is third instalment (all are stand alone) continues the authors meticulously plotted and researched American raised female cop heroine as she races to stop essentially Japan's deadliest urban terrorist.

The interplay between Japan's historical past frames the action in the present with the actual actors driving the story to be almost sentient swords.

Part of the fun is in the historical section trying to separate fact from fiction. More Mariko soon please.

Mike Trevors says

Fantastic. I'm saddened to know that this was the last book in the series. I really do hope the author will return to this universe

Robert says

I really enjoyed the first - couldn't get the 2nd so skipped it. The third, possibly as a result, felt like had strayed too far into mysticism and over-state views.

SO while still held me, and liked the last 3rd wrap up, was not as good as recall the first.

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy.

You know you've read a really good book when you finally put it down and want to re-read it right away just to be immersed in the world again. DISCIPLE OF THE WIND is one such book. DISCIPLE OF THE WIND has everything you'd want in a thriller from frantic chases, diabolical city destroying plots, and compelling characters you want to root for. I especially liked the fact that it is set in Japan as it was great to read a novel set in a place I don't read about much in urban fantasy. You learn a little about the geography of Japan, its

history, and even the language throughout this story. The glossary of Japanese terms used in this book was also very enlightening and helpful as I found myself going back to it many times.

The modern day part of the story has the completely badass, take no prisoners Mariko who has to deal with police bureaucracy while racing to defeat a man who has an enchanted mask and is bent on destroying Tokyo. I love her and her gumption and grit and ability to show up the men in her police department. Also, her magical sword usage and fighting skills are pretty awesome. While the chapters that take place in the 21st century come off like a police procedural, the part that take place in Japan's past are a sort of hero's quest for Daigoro as he goes in search of a mystical sword that plays a big part in Mariko's story in the present. The evolution of the connection of past and present was really well done. I liked taking a small break from the fast pacing of modern Japan and seeing a bit of Japanese history and mythology with Daigoro.

The thing about this book is that with a cursory glance its light on the fantasy but the magic and fantastical are there guiding the story constantly. There are magical swords that are very important role in the end and while they aren't used a ton when they are the effect is startling. There is a ton of mythology behind these blades that has been slowly and carefully built up over the series and boy do these blades do amazing things that normal swords only wish they could. DISCIPLE OF THE WIND is a seriously well written, intensely researched, and exhilarating thriller with a vein of magic in it.

Sexual content: N/A

Troy says

I never pre-order books. However after reading the first two novels in this series, I simply had to show my support for this author and his work in the hopes that he will continue to produce more novels in this universe.

I absolutely love how he pulls the reader into Japanese culture, both in present times and in the far past. Mariko is an amazing heroine as a member of the Tokyo Police, and Daigoro is awesome in his story in the past. Each time it would switch points of view I'd be excited and disappointed at the same time.

Plenty of action and a great plot knocked this one out of the park for me.

Don't let us down Steve, please write another!
