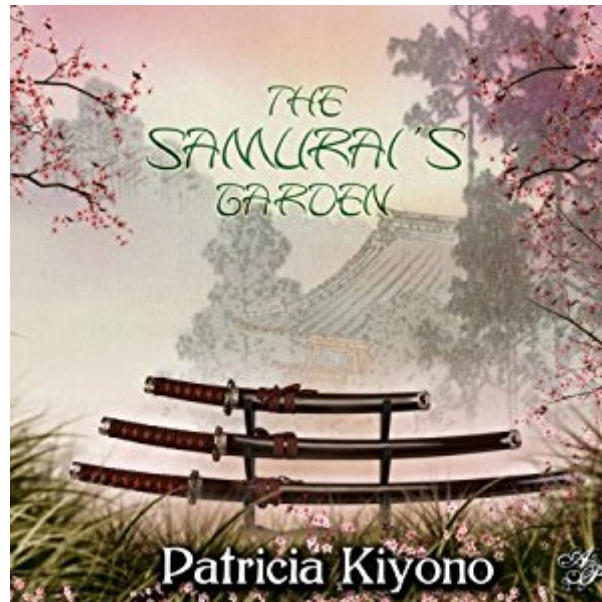


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# The Samurai's Garden



## Synopsis

Hiro Tanaka prepared for a life as a samurai warrior. But his world changed when Japan's feudal system was abolished by the Emperor. Now, he must find a new vocation. Disillusioned with fighting and violence, he travels alone, going north to the island of Hokkaido. Many other samurai wander through the country and are known as Ronin. Some have forsaken their honorable way to prey on the less fortunate. Hanako Shimizu experienced first-hand the devastation caused by these disreputable wanderers. The previous winter, they raided her farm and killed her husband. Now, she needs to rebuild but has no money and no prospects - except for the dubious intentions of the town merchant. When Hiro, tired of his wandering, encounters Hanako in the market, arguing with the merchant, he poses as her late husband's cousin then offers to help her on the farm in exchange for a place to stay. Working on the land, Hiro finally finds the peace he has been seeking. But the reappearance of the rogue Ronin, led by an unscrupulous leader from Hiro's past, forces him to take up his swords again. But now, the stakes are higher. This time, he's fighting from the heart.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is so well written, with adequate research of old Japan, and the story is unusual for these times. The writer's attention to detail concerning the hard times the heroine endured, yet her contentment with any little progress makes you wonder why we feel the need for so many gimmicks these days. As a late night read before bed I found I slept easier and it put me in a restful uncluttered frame of mind, helping me realise that simplicity is a reward in itself. To be able to appreciate life on a natural level, glad of what little one has and a gratitude for what nature gives us

is a lesson we all could benefit from. The heroine endured many years of severe hardship, labouring dawn to night, hunger, loneliness, without complaint, and from a lowly start never lost the love of simple pleasures. As and when circumstances improved bit by bit, she did not become a spoiled person but took each blessing with delight and lasting pleasure. This concerns our sense of values. And perhaps how to still an over-active mind.

I have just finished reading "The Samurai's Garden" and loved the book. It isn't a time period I usually read, but after reading excerpts on the author's page, I had to buy this one. The action takes place in the late 19th Century when big changes came to Japan as the samurai class struggled with a drastic change in their way of life. The author did a beautiful job of capturing the emotions of the characters as well as the mood of the time and the descriptions of the landscape - I could picture myself in that little hut along with the characters, and held my breath along with the heroine when her husband went off to Tokyo without her.

"The Samurai's Garden" revolves around two people, a former samurai named Hiromasa (Hiro) Tanaka and a young farm girl named Hanako (whose name means "Flower Child") Shimizu, and takes place during a period in Japan's history known as the Meiji Restoration. It was during this time when the emperor Meiji abolished the samurai or warrior class. As a result, Hiro is left jobless and chooses to wander north to find work. When he arrives at Furano on Hokkaido, the northernmost of Japan's four main islands, he meets Hanako, and his real journey begins... Patricia's story is very memorable. It was very fun to read. The characters and the scenes were easy to picture in my mind, and the story flowed very smoothly from beginning to end. I really liked Hanako because she worked very hard to make ends meet despite the situation in which she found herself after ronin (samurai with no lord or master) devastated her farm and murdered her husband. She never gave up, even after meeting Hiro. I recommend buying this book if you enjoy reading romance novels. As I mentioned earlier, the story takes place during the Meiji Restoration, so if you're interested in Japanese history and culture like myself, don't pass up the opportunity to buy this novel.

It is not a tragedy book. It is heart warming but I was so engulfed in the story... that I cried for that which I know only exists in this book, and not in real life. I'll have to re-incorporate to this world gently.... for the characters and their development are as real and palpable that they'll be missed.... I wonder.... if there are people like this out there.... I hope so.... reality has to be better than fiction, else we are quite screwed HAHHAHAHAHAH but once in a while, comes a story from another secret

world, that moves the ground underneath and makes you soar high into the stars and dream.

Well written, it is basically a love story with limited action. I enjoyed reading it even though I prefer lots of sword fighting.

Not a bad book. Well worth reading. It is not a memorable book but it is an enjoyable story.

What beautiful, calming story. The story starts off as a weary, broken Samari warrior travels far and wide after his friend is told to commit unnecessary hari cari. During his travels he assists a woman to buy some goods because the supplier did not want to help her. The lady is a widow and a poor farmer. The warrior offers to help her out and eventually they fall in love. There is only a minor love scene and is so tastefully done which adds to the quality of writing. Highly recommended

I found this a moving tale at a time of great change in Japan when samurai were banned and had to find some other vocation. Flowers are a strong theme in this book, you can almost smell them. Life can be about gruelling back-breaking work. Bit is does not mean anything without love and kindness. There is great power in this story.

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