

Across The Nightingale Floor Tales Of The Otori Book 1

Forced to betray her lord, a disgraced samurai fights to regain her honor In the fabled land of Naipon, there is no warrior more feared, no samurai more respected than the legendary Tomoe Gozen, whose twin blades can change the course of any battle. After years of service to Lord Shigeno, she is about to renew her oath of loyalty when the sky darkens and a cry of rebellion comes from the hills. Possessed by an evil wizard, the peasants are marching against their master. Tomoe holds off the wave of pitchfork-wielding farmers for as long as she can. Finally, the battle overwhelms her, and the greatest samurai in Naipon falls dead. She awakes in hell, on a slope lined with bloody corpses. After an eternity of fighting, she reaches the summit and finds herself in the chamber of a wizard who restores her to life. She is alive—but now she must do his bidding. Her honor has been shattered, but Tomoe Gozen will do whatever it takes to win it back.

The sequel to the acclaimed novel Shinju again features detective Sano Ichiro as he trails a serial killer stalking feudal Japan. In 1689, an all-powerful shogun controls the state, surrounded by bitter machinations and political intrigues. When an ancient tradition suddenly and brutally reappears, Sano risks everything to bring the killer to justice. “Bundori is terrific. . . . So good you won’t want to put it down, even to get off a plane. . . . [Laura Joh] Rowland hits her stride as a writer who can deal equally well with the pacing of plot and the nuances of character development. . . . Rowland clearly knows how to build suspense and action, a talent that she demonstrates with great skill.”—New Orleans Times-Picayune “Bundori is one of those mysteries in which the itch to find out whodunit recedes before the pleasure of prowling

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through a different world.”—Washington Post Book World “Sano may carry a sword and wear a kimono, but you’ll immediately recognize him as an ancestor of Philip Marlowe or Sam Spade.”—Denver Post “A colorful pictorial style that conveys . . . excitement and . . . danger.”—The New York Times Book Review

Grass for His Pillow is the second novel in Lian Hearn's astonishingly beautiful series inspired by feudal Japan, Tales of the Otori. In the ancient Oriental lands of the Otori, amidst a time of violent war, famine and treacherous alliances, the fate of the young lovers Otori Takeo and Shirakawa Kaede hangs in the balance . . . Takeo, heir to the great Otori clan, has pledged his life to the secret Tribe. His supernatural skills of virtual invisibility and acute hearing make him their most deadly assassin. But he must deny the solemn oath of vengeance he made, his adopted birthright of wealth, land and power - and his love for Kaede. If he does not devote himself entirely to the brutal ways of the Tribe, they will kill him. Whichever path he chooses, it will lead to hardship and sacrifice in the bitter winter of the high mountains, and test him to the limits of his being. Kaede, heiress to vast lands, is now the valuable pawn of ruthless warlords. She must use her intelligence, beauty and cunning to assert her place in a world of all-powerful men - who must never suspect the dangerous secret she hides. 'The beauty, savagery and strangeness of Hearn's gripping tale is heightened by her exquisite, crystalline prose. The second instalment in the Tales of the Otori is, astonishingly, even better than Across the Nightingale Floor' Independent on Sunday

Banned from the school trip for disrupting a performance of Hamlet, Russell and his friends run away to London. But when their plans go wrong, Russell is left alone at Heathrow Airport. Sleeping rough, he finds plenty of time to think about the parallels between his life and

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Hamlet's.

The new beginning and the grand finale of Lian Hearn's celebrated Tales of the Otori is "rivetingly elegant" (Washington Post). Don't miss the related series, The Tale of Shikanoko. Heaven's Net Is Wide is the prequel that reveals the full story of Lord Otori Shigeru—the figure who has presided in both life and death over the entire series, the man who represents the true spirit of the Otori Clan. The first and the last tale, it introduces readers to the strange and beautiful world of the Otori and closes the circle where it opened in Across the Nightingale Floor. Set in a mythical, medieval Japan, this epic historical fantasy of revenge and betrayal, honor and loyalty, beauty, passion, and the overwhelming power of love, has enthralled millions of readers the world over—and now, with the cycle complete, its audience will only continue to grow.

China has no special condominium statute in spite of a fast-growing real estate market and the increasing popularity of condominiums. Even though apartments are the dominant form of housing in China, they are still poorly regulated. In the 1990s, while condominium ownership was increasingly important due to the privatization of former public housing, obtaining a private title to an apartment usually proceeded without a proper legislative and institutional framework, and therefore created many difficulties. This book addresses the legal deficiency of Chinese condominium law and maps out an academically rigorous approach to understanding and formalizing condominium law with a critical comparative analysis. The Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act of the US and the Sectional Titles Act of South Africa are the chosen comparative entities for future Chinese condominium legislation. This comparative study helps to establish a uniform condominium statute, in line with Chinese national characteristics and

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compatible with the pace of the country's economic development. Since it is clear that the new Chinese Property Law of 2007 will give a boost to further legislation on condominium law, it is safely predicted that a special statute on the condominium will soon be on the Chinese legislative agenda.

Across the Nightingale Floor is Book 1 in the five-part Tales of the Otori series. More than four million copies have been sold in over 36 countries. 'The best story of magic, love, sex, revenge and suspense to have come this way since Philip Pullman' Independent On Sunday (UK) In his fortress at Inuyama, the murderous warlord Iida Sadamu surveys his famous nightingale floor. Constructed with exquisite skill, it sings at the tread of each human foot. No assassin can cross it unheard. Brought up in a remote village among the Hidden, a reclusive and spiritual people, Takeo has learned only the ways of peace. Why, then, does he possess the deadly skills that make him so valuable to the sinister Tribe? These supernatural powers will lead him to his violent destiny within the walls of Inuyama - and to an impossible longing for a girl who can never be his. His journey is one of revenge and treachery, beauty and magic, and the passion of first love. 'masterful storytelling ... a fantastic read' The Age Coming soon - the spellbinding new TALE OF SHIKANOKO, set 300 years before Otori: THE EMPEROR OF THE EIGHT ISLANDS (Books 1 & 2 in THE TALE OF SHIKANOKO) and THE LORD OF THE DARKWOOD (Books 3 & 4). PRAISE FOR THE TALES OF THE OTORI 'An engrossing fantasy saga of literary quality.' The Age 'Lian Hearn's marvellous storytelling talent ... makes reading these books a moment of pure bliss.' Le Monde 'an enthralling and original work of fantasy' The Times

For the sake of an enchanted sword, Tomoe revolts against her father In all of Naipon, there is

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no samurai more famous than Tomoe Gozen. Her skill with the blade is legendary, her honor unquestioned, and evil men everywhere fear her name. No challenge is too great for Tomoe, but she is not ready for marriage. When her father announces that he has arranged a match for her—one that will mean laying aside her sword—Tomoe responds as she always does when her life is threatened: she draws her twin blades. After fighting her way out of her father's house, Tomoe meets Azo Hono-o, a female samurai who plans to make a name for herself by killing Tomoe Gozen. Tomoe convinces Azo to join forces with her, and together they set out across Naipon in search of a golden sword, which they will use to carve a place for themselves in a man's world.

The mythical world of the Otori is unforgettable. What the critics said: '...an exquisite tale of revenge, love, beauty and honour...' - Australian Financial Review 'A remarkable smooth-flowing triumph of the imagination' - Woman's Day 'Lian's writing sweeps you along and leaves you tingling in anticipation of the final instalment in this epic tale' - The Sydney Morning Herald 'The beauty, savagery and strangeness of Hearn's gripping tale is heightened by her exquisite, crystalline prose' - The Independent on Sunday

Brilliance of the Moon is the third book in the Tales of the Otori series by Lian Hearn. Don't miss the related series, The Tale of Shikanoko. A beautiful, haunting evocation of the medieval Japan of Lian Hearn's imagination, this thrilling follow-up to Grass for His Pillow and Across the Nightingale Floor delves

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deeper into the complex loyalties that bind its characters from birth. Filled with adventure and surprising twists of plot and fortune, this third book in the Tales of the Otori series travels beyond the Three Countries, to the outside influences that threaten to intrude upon this isolated realm.

A self-assured warrior stumbles into a game of Go that turns fatal. An ambitious lord leaves his nephew for dead and seizes his lands. A stubborn father forces his son to give up his wife to his older brother. A powerful priest meddles in the succession to the Lotus Throne. A woman of the Old People seeks five fathers for her five children, who will go on to found the Spider Tribe and direct the fate of the country. As destiny weaves its tapestry in Lian Hearn's Tale of Shikanoko series, an emotionally rich and compelling drama plays out against a background of wild forests, elegant castles, hidden temples, and savage battlefields in Lord of the Darkwood. "Brutally thrilling historical fantasy"- Herald Sun The Tale of Shikanoko, Book One: Emperor of the Eight Islands (April 2016) The Tale of Shikanoko, Book Two: Autumn Princess, Dragon Child (June 2016) The Tale of Shikanoko, Book Three: Lord of the Darkwood (August 2016) The Tale of Shikanoko, Book Four: The Tengu's Game of Go (September 2016)

The film editor can make or break a film. What ends up on the cutting room floor, and why? 16mm Film Cutting is a step-by-step guide to film cutting which shows

you how to achieve professional results. The practical side of the editor's job is clearly described and illustrated; breaking down rushes and making a simple join, identifying shots, first assembly, avoiding errors, preparing special effects, instructing the labs, compiling sound tracks and all the other stages in producing the final film. 16mm Film Cutting is an indispensable aid to editors and assistants working in all areas of 16mm film production.

An ambitious warlord leaves his nephew for dead and seizes his lands. A stubborn father forces his younger son to surrender his wife to his older brother. A mysterious woman seeks five fathers for her children. A powerful priest meddles in the succession to the Lotus Throne. These are the threads of an intricate tapestry in which the laws of destiny play out against a backdrop of wild forest, elegant court, and savage battlefield. Set in a mythical medieval Japan inhabited by warriors and assassins, ghosts and guardian spirits, Emperor of the Eight Islands by Lian Hearn is a brilliantly imagined novel, full of drama and intrigue – the beginning of an enthralling, epic adventure: The Tale of Shikanoko. Adopted by an Otori Lord, orphan Takeo rises to become a closely held member of the Tribe and finds his love for Maruyama heir Shirakawa Kaede challenged by dissembling clans and fractured allegiances. Reissue.

The first book in the Otori trilogy is a tale of war, intrigue, love and betrayal set in

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an imaginary ancient Japanese society and tells the story of Takeo, a young man born to a spiritual people known as the Hidden. Unbeknown to him, his father was a celebrated assassin.

'For readers who want to be entertained, but not at the cost of good writing, The Storyteller and his Three Daughters is the best kind of novel - exquisitely crafted prose, fully developed, believable characters, well-researched historically - and above all, a gripping plot' The Sydney Morning Herald TOKYO 1884: Sei has devoted his life to storytelling, captivating audiences with his tales. But now he is starting to wonder if the new world has left him behind. Just when he thinks he will never write again, his own life and the lives of the people around him begin to spiral out of control - providing the inspiration for the greatest story he has ever told. A story of love, jealousy, intrigue, and betrayal. Set against the background of Japan's first incursions into Korea, Sei offers a wise and witty reflection on the nature of storytelling, its perils and delights, its lies and, ultimately, its truth.

PRAISE for the Tales of the Otori books and Blossoms and Shadows, also by Lian Hearn: 'a tour de force of pure storytelling' The Sydney Morning Herald 'intelligent, accomplished, audacious and finely written' The Age 'uniquely charming, flowing and seductive' The Courier-Mail 'beautifully crafted' The Herald Sun

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This second volume of a trilogy, beginning with 'The Second Bridegroom' and ending with 'Captivity Captive', tells the story of an English missionary's epic journey through remote parts of nineteenth-century Australia, her charismatic husband and his band of followers. Author has written six other novels, including the Miles Franklin award-winning 'Just Relations', and is currently chairperson of the Australia Council. The new novel from Sunday Times bestselling author Josephine Cox – the master storyteller.

An international bestseller, *Across the Nightingale Floor* is the first book in the *Tales of the Otori* series by Lian Hearn. Don't miss the related series, *The Tale of Shikanoko*. In his black-walled fortress at Inuyama, the warlord Iida Sadamu surveys his famous nightingale floor. Constructed with exquisite skill, it sings at the tread of each human foot. No assassin can cross it unheard. The youth Takeo has been brought up in a remote mountain village among the Hidden, a reclusive and spiritual people who have taught him only the ways of peace. But unbeknownst to him, his father was a celebrated assassin and a member of the Tribe, an ancient network of families with extraordinary, preternatural skills. When Takeo's village is pillaged, he is rescued and adopted by the mysterious Lord Otori Shigeru. Under the tutelage of Shigeru, he learns that he too possesses the skills of the Tribe. And, with this knowledge, he embarks on a journey that will lead him across the famed nightingale floor—and to his own unimaginable destiny...

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FOUR MILLION COPIES SOLD. In 40 languages. One of the most thrilling series of our time. Enter the feudal world of the Otori - filled with magic, treachery and intrigue - inspired by medieval Japan and created by acclaimed Australian author, Lian Hearn. 'The best story of magic, love, sex, revenge and suspense to have come this way since Philip Pullman.' INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY In his fortress at Inuyama, the murderous warlord Iida Sadamu surveys his famous nightingale floor. Constructed with exquisite skill, it sings at the tread of each human foot. No assassin can cross it unheard. Brought up in a remote village among the Hidden, a reclusive and spiritual people, Takeo has learned only the ways of peace. Why, then, does he possess the deadly skills that make him so valuable to the sinister Tribe? These supernatural powers will lead him to his violent destiny within the walls of Inuyama - and to an impossible longing for a girl who can never be his. His journey is one of revenge and treachery, beauty and magic, and the passion of first love. INCLUDES an extract from GRASS FOR HIS PILLOW PLUS three chapters of EMPEROR OF THE EIGHT ISLANDS, the first novel in Lian Hearn's spellbinding new Tale of Shikanoko series. 'One of the most thrilling series of our time.' THE TIMES ' ... a world that is rich with character and detail, yet effortless to read' SYDNEY MORNING HERALD 'An engrossing fantasy saga of literary quality.' THE AGE 'Lian Hearn's marvellous storytelling talent ... makes reading these books a moment of pure bliss.' LE MONDE In a novel set in a land much like feudal Japan, a young boy named Takeo becomes a

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pawn in the ceaseless battles between rival warlord clans in a culture ruled by codes of honor and formal rituals.

FOUR MILLION COPIES SOLD. In 40 languages. One of the most thrilling series of our time. Enter the feudal world of the Otori - filled with magic, treachery and intrigue - inspired by medieval Japan and created by acclaimed Australian author, Lian Hearn. 'The best story of magic, love, sex, revenge and suspense to have come this way since Philip Pullman.' INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY Lord Otori Takeo and his consort Kaede have ruled for over sixteen years. The Three Countries are rich, peaceful and prosperous. The sacred birds, the Houou, nest at Terayama and a fabled creature, the Kirin, has appeared on their shores. Heaven seems to smile on them. Yet their very success has drawn them to the attention of the distant Emperor and his general, the warlord Saga Hideki, who covet the wealth of the Three Countries, especially Takeo's heir, his eldest daughter Shigeko, now of marriageable age. At the same time, the renegade Tribe family, the Kikuta, seek revenge on Takeo for the murder of their leader. Everything Takeo and Kaede have achieved is threatened. INCLUDES an extract from HEAVEN'S NET IS WIDE PLUS three chapters of EMPEROR OF THE EIGHT ISLANDS, the first novel in Lian Hearn's spellbinding new Tale of Shikanoko series. 'One of the most thrilling series of our time.' THE TIMES '... a world that is rich with character and detail, yet effortless to read' SYDNEY MORNING HERALD 'An engrossing fantasy saga of literary quality.' THE AGE 'Lian Hearn's marvellous

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In his palace at Inuyama, Lord Iida Sadamu, warlord of the Tohan clan, surveys his famous nightingale floor. Its surface sings at the tread of every human foot, and no assassin can cross it. But sixteen-year-old Otori Takeo, his family murdered by Iida's warriors, has the magical skills of the Tribe - preternatural hearing, invisibility, a second self - that enable him to enter the lair of the Tohan. He has love in his heart and death at his fingertips . . . Lian Hearn's stunningly powerful bestseller, *Across the Nightingale Floor*, is an epic story for readers young and old. Set in a mythical, feudal, Japanese land, a world both beautiful and cruel, the intense love story of two young people takes place against a background of warring clans, secret alliances, high honour and lightning swordplay. The first novel in the epic *Tales of the Otori* series, *Across the Nightingale Floor* is followed by *Grass For His Pillow* and *Brilliance of the Moon*.
A FREE ebook exclusive short story, including a personal letter to readers, by the bestselling Australian author of *TALES OF THE OTORI*, Lian Hearn. The publication of my new series, *THE TALE OF SHIKANOKO*, sees me celebrating a career that has spanned fourteen years and nine novels. *ACROSS THE NIGHTINGALE FLOOR* was published in 2002 and I'm delighted that new readers are still discovering the *Tales of the Otori*. I'm very grateful to all my readers - many of you who've stayed with me from the beginning. To show my gratitude I'm making available this very short story, *HIS KIKUTA HANDS* (first published by Ragnarok in their anthology *Blackguards*). It takes

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place behind the scenes of BRILLIANCE OF THE MOON, the third Otori novel. I'd always wanted to expand these pages where a lot happens in a short space of time: Otori Takeo has come to Maruyama, the furthest city to the west in the Three Countries, to confront the Tribe families and secure what is his by right. The Tribe don't believe he possesses the requisite ruthlessness of a competent ruler. They will be proved wrong. I also hope you will enjoy this early extract from my new novel, EMPEROR OF THE EIGHT ISLANDS, set 300 years before Otori. Lian Minamoto Yoshitsune should not have been a samurai. But his story is legend in this real-life saga. This epic warrior tale reads like a novel, but this is the true story of the greatest samurai in Japanese history. When Yoshitsune was just a baby, his father went to war with a rival samurai family—and lost. His father was killed, his mother captured, and his surviving half-brother banished. Yoshitsune was sent away to live in a monastery. Skinny, small, and unskilled in the warrior arts, he nevertheless escaped and learned the ways of the samurai. When the time came for the Minamoto clan to rise up against their enemies, Yoshitsune answered the call. His daring feats and impossible bravery earned him immortality.

In his black-walled fortress at Inuyama, the warlord Iida Sadamu surveys his famous nightingale floor. Constructed with exquisite skill, it sings at the tread of

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each human foot. No assassin can cross it unheard. But Otori Takeo, his family murdered by Iida's warriors, has magical skills that allow him to enter Samadu's lair.

In the Japanese emperor's court, the hypocrisy of status-hungry officials threatens Uguisu, the modest, young flute player who wins the emperor's heart. When Uguisu is superseded, as in the original fairy tale, by a bejeweled wanton, Lady Hinata, the emperor's cat (and familiar of a goddess) comes to her rescue. A novel of the thirteenth-century Mongolian warrior, and the women who surrounded him, that offers "a panoramic view of the charismatic leader" (Library Journal). In 1167, in the harsh homeland of Mongol tribes, a child was born who was to change the course of human history. His father named him Temujin, but the world knows him as Genghis Khan. Set amid the barbaric splendor of the Mongol hordes, Ruler of the Sky tells the tale of the warrior who forged one of the greatest and most terrifying armies the world had ever seen, and conquered the world from Peking to Persia. Not only is this the story of Genghis Khan, it is also the story of those who were closest to him, especially the women who played such an important role in his life. From the windswept plains of Mongolia to the opulence of the Chinese court, Ruler of the Sky is unforgettable. Every so often a novel appears wholly unlike anything that has appeared before.

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Across the Nightingale Floor is such a novel. The first book in The Otori Trilogy, it is a brilliantly imagined, seductive tale of war and intrigue, the intensity of first love, and the tragedy of betrayal. Set in an imaginary, ancient Japanese society, it is the story of Takeo, a young man born to a spiritual people known as the Hidden. Unbeknownst to him, his father was a celebrated assassin and a member of the Tribe, an ancient network of families with extraordinary, preternatural skills. When his village is pillaged, Takeo is rescued and adopted by the mysterious Lord Otori Shigeru. Under his tutelage, Takeo learns that he too possesses the skills of the Tribe, and with this knowledge he embarks on a journey that will lead him across the nightingale floor and to his destiny within the walls of the black-walled fortress at Inuyama. Overcome by the intensity of first love and conflicted by split loyalties and his own divided nature, Takeo realises that he must make his own way on this journey of revenge and treachery, honour and loyalty, betrayal and love.

When beautiful, wealthy Yukiko and low-born artist Noriyoshi are found drowned together in a shinju, or ritual double suicide, everyone believes the culprit was forbidden love. Everyone but newly appointed yoriki Sano Ichiro. Despite the official verdict and warnings from his superiors, the shogun's Most Honorable Investigator of Events, Situations, and People suspects the deaths weren't just a

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tragedy -- they were murder. Risking his family's good name and his own life, Sano will search for a killer across every level of society -- determined to find answers to a mystery no one wants solved. No one but Sano... As subtle and beautiful as the culture it evokes, Shinju vividly re-creates a world of ornate tearooms and gaudy pleasure-palaces, cloistered mountaintop convents and dealthy prisons. Part love story, part myster, Shinju is a tour that will dazzle and entertain all who enter its world. BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Laura Joh Rowland's *The Shogun's Daughter*.

An epic four-volume adventure in mythical medieval Japan: a world of warriors and assassins, demons and spirits In *The Tengu's Game of Go*, the final book of Lian Hearn's epic *Tale of Shikanoko*--all of which will be published in 2016--the rightful emperor is lost; illness and murder give rise to suspicions and make enemies of allies. Unrest rules the country. Only Shika can end the madness by returning the Lotus Throne to its rightful ruler. As destiny weaves its rich tapestry, a compelling drama plays out against a background of wild forests, elegant castles, hidden temples, and savage battlefields. This is the medieval Japan of Lian Hearn's imagination, where animal spirits clash with warriors and children navigate a landscape as serene as it is deadly. *The Tale of Shikanoko, Book 1: Emperor of the Eight Islands* (April 2016) *The Tale of Shikanoko, Book 2: Autumn*

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Princess, Dragon Child (June 2016) The Tale of Shikanoko, Book 3: Lord of the Darkwood (August 2016) The Tale of Shikanoko, Book 4: The Tengu's Game of Go (September 2016)

Formal entranceway - Veranda - Screening devices - Tatami mats - Sliding doors - Alcove - Tea ceremony - Lighting - The bath - Japanese way of sitting.

Revised and Expanded Edition - Includes CD-ROM with Custom Design Software For the past ten years The Passive Solar House has offered proven techniques for building homes that heat and cool themselves, using readily available materials and methods familiar to all building contractors and many do-it-yourself homeowners. True to this innovative, straightforward approach, the new edition of this best-selling guide includes CSOL passive solar design software, making it easier than ever to heat your home with the power of the sun. Since The Passive Solar House was first published, passive solar construction expert James Kachadorian has perfected user-friendly, Windows-compatible software to supplement the design process explained in the book by allowing homeowners/designers to enter the specifications of their design and see how changing a variable will affect its energy efficiency. This is the building book for a world of climbing energy costs. Applicable to diverse regions, climates, budgets, and styles of architecture, Kachadorian's techniques translate the essentials of timeless solar design into practical wisdom for today's solar builders. Profiles of successful passive solar design, construction, and retrofit projects from readers of the first edition provide inspiration to first-time homebuilders and renovators alike.

From the author of the phenomenal and bestselling TALES OF THE OTORI series comes a

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stand-alone historical novel set in 19th century Japan. Japan, 1857 For centuries Japan has been on its own, isolated by choice from the rest of the world. But the Western powers are now at its shores, its government is crumbling and revolution is building. The age of the samurai is ending and in its place a new Japan will be born. Into this turmoil steps a young woman. Tsuru expects to marry a man of her parents' choice but her life is taken over by the beliefs of the new age and by the passionate men around her. Their slogan is sonnojoji (revere the Emperor, expel the foreigners), their preferred method is violence. BLOSSOMS AND SHADOWS is a compelling and beautiful tale of love and war, women and men, and the rise of modern Japan. ****INCLUDES** an extract from EMPEROR OF THE EIGHT ISLANDS, the first novel in Lian Hearn's spellbinding Tale of Shikanoko series****** 'a fascinating historical epic' Sunday Telegraph 'all births are bloody and the characters in this strong novel pay a high price for living in interesting times' Sunday Age

A magical retelling of "Beauty and the Beast" set in a fairytale Japan. A companion title to Zoe Marriott's critically acclaimed Shadows on the Moon. There is a monster in the forest ... Everyone in Hana's remote village on the mountain knows that straying too far into the woods is a death sentence. When Hana's father goes missing, she is the only one who dares try to save him. Taking up her hunting gear, she goes in search of the beast, determined to kill it - or be killed herself. But the forest contains more secrets, more magic and more darkness than Hana could ever have imagined, and the beast is not at all what she expects ...

A self-assured warrior stumbles into a game of Go that turns fatal. An ambitious lord leaves his nephew for dead and seizes his lands. A stubborn father forces his son to give up his wife to his older brother. A powerful priest meddles in the succession to the Lotus Throne. A woman of

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'If David Sedaris had got married and had kids, he would have been Reservoir Dad. Fall-on-the-floor funny, sharp, witty and just a little bit sexy.' Kerri Sackville, Best Australian Blog 2013 judge A sharply funny, fresh and irreverent chronicler of real life in today's parenting trenches, Reservoir Dad is a stay-at-home dad whose award-winning blog has already won hearts and minds all over Australia and beyond for telling it like it is and making us laugh out loud – and sometimes cry, but in a good way. Whether he's making us choke with laughter, 'scrisper' (a scream, tempered by a whisper – vital to surviving the unexpected joys of being in charge of four little boys under seven on a plane, train,

The Harsh Cry of the Heron is the fourth book in the Tales of the Otori series by Lian Hearn. Don't miss the related series, The Tale of Shikanoko. A dazzling epic of warfare and sacrifice, passionate revenge, treacherous betrayal, and unconquerable love, The Harsh Cry of the Heron takes the storytelling achievement of Lian Hearn's fantastic medieval Japanese world to startling new heights of drama and action. Fifteen years of peace and prosperity under the rule of Lord Otori Takeo and his wife Kaede is threatened by a rogue network of assassins, the

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resurgence of old rivalries, the arrival of foreigners bearing new weapons and religion, and an unfulfilled prophecy that Lord Takeo will die at the hand of a member of his own family. The Harsh Cry of the Heron is the rich and stirring finale to a series whose imaginative vision has enthralled millions of readers worldwide, and an extraordinary novel that stands as a thrilling achievement in its own right.

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