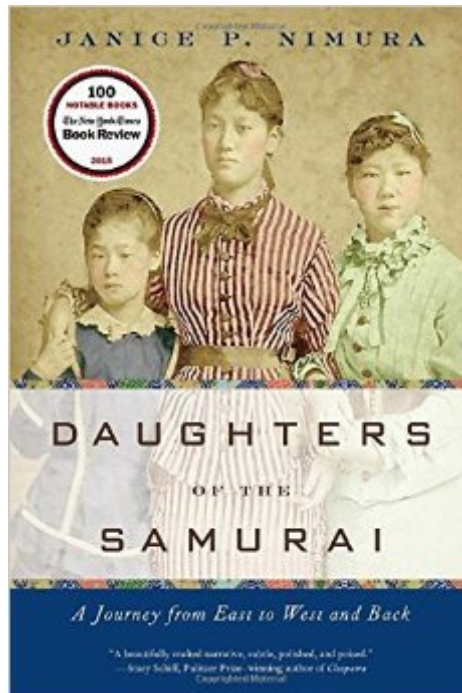


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Daughters Of The Samurai: A Journey From East To West And Back



Synopsis

Janice P. Nimura paints history in cinematic strokes and brings a forgotten story to vivid, unforgettable life. In 1871, five young girls were sent by the Japanese government to the United States. Their mission: learn Western ways and return to help nurture a new generation of enlightened men to lead Japan. Raised in traditional samurai households during the turmoil of civil war, three of these unusual ambassadors—Sutematsu Yamakawa, Shige Nagai, and Ume Tsuda—grew up as typical American schoolgirls. Upon their arrival in San Francisco they became celebrities, their travels and traditional clothing exclaimed over by newspapers across the nation. As they learned English and Western customs, their American friends grew to love them for their high spirits and intellectual brilliance. The passionate relationships they formed reveal an intimate world of cross-cultural fascination and connection. Ten years later, they returned to Japan—a land grown foreign to them—determined to revolutionize women's education. Based on in-depth archival research in Japan and in the United States, including decades of letters from between the three women and their American host families, *Daughters of the Samurai* is beautifully, cinematically written, a fascinating lens through which to view an extraordinary historical moment. Map; 8 pages of illustrations

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Customer Reviews

A hundred years before globalization and multiculturalism became the goals of every corporation and curriculum, three Japanese girls spanned the globe and became fluent in two worlds at once—other to everyone except each other. —Janice P. Nimura, Author

Notesâ "location 6132I donâ t dare begin raving about this book for fear I wonâ t be able to stop. I loved it. Interesting, engaging, and illuminating; itâ s now one of my all time favorite reads. Can I give it six stars?Let me begin by lifting a quote from the goodreads/publisherâ s synopsis that absolutely nails it for me: â œâ |Daughters of the Samurai is beautifully, cinematically written, a fascinating lens through which to view an extraordinary historical moment.â •Born a samurai, raised an American teenager, she died a Japanese princess. Sutematsu Yamakawa was born in 1860, in feudal Japan, into a family of the samurai class who were soon to find themselves on the losing side in Japanâ s transformational, civil upheaval. [Emperor replaces Shogun, samurai class diminished/eliminated, liberalization/reform reigns (at least for a little while).] She would grow up to become the first ever Japanese female to attain a four-year college degree: A graduate of Vassar College, class of 1882.Less than thirty years after Perryâ s gunboat diplomacy had proffered our pacific overture for open trade to Japan.DAUGHTERS OF THE SAMURAI: A Journey from East to West and Back, by Janice P. Nimura, is largely Sutematsuâ s story; the story of two other girls of Japan, Shige Nagai and Ume Tsuda, who also spent the years 1872-1882 in America, learning the ways and whyfors of the hairy barbarians; and so much, and some many, more.

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