



Stormdancer: The Lotus War Book One

By Jay Kristoff

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***Stormdancer* is the first in the epic new fantasy series *The Lotus War*, introducing an unforgettable heroine and a stunningly original dystopian steampunk world with a flavor of feudal Japan**

The Shima Imperium verges on the brink of environmental collapse; an island nation once rich in tradition and myth, now decimated by clockwork industrialization and the machine-worshippers of the Lotus Guild. When hunters of Shima's imperial court are charged by their Shogun to capture a legendary griffin, they fear their lives are over. Any fool knows the beasts have been extinct for more than a century, and the price of failing the Shogun is death. Accompanying her father on the Shogun's hunt, the girl Yukiko finds herself stranded: a young woman alone in Shima's last wilderness, with only a furious, crippled griffin for company. Even though she can hear his thoughts, even though she saved his life, all she knows for certain is he'd rather see her dead than help her. But together, the pair will form an indomitable friendship, and rise to challenge the might of an empire.

"An intoxicating joyride into steampunklandia with a magical dose of mythology, the supernatural, violence, dystopian themes, and a top-notch brassy heroine who rivals Katniss Everdeen of *The Hunger Games*." –*Huffington Post*

"With airships, demons, and lashings of revolutionary swordplay, this chi-fueled vision of a steampunk feudal Japan will blow your split-toed socks off." -Scott Westerfeld, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Leviathan*

"Kristoff is the master of unique and intense plots and huge twists. This book has it all ? and a nice little bow to tie it all up with. There are swords, action, friendship, a conspiracy, grief and hope. It's going on my "Amazing Reads" shelf, and I urge you to pick it up." –USAToday.com

"[A] fast-paced, fantastical adventure...sharp as a Shogun's sword." –*The LA Times*

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up-Set in feudal Japan, *Stormdancer* is a steampunk fantasy with richly drawn mythical creatures and a tough female protagonist. Yukiko and her father are sent to the hinterlands to capture a Thunder Tiger, which is rumored to exist there. Dogged by disaster from the start, Yukiko fights to take a stand against corrupt political systems and personal betrayal. Along the way, she discovers the truth behind her family history and dreams of redemption for herself, her homeland, and the crippled Griffin, with whom she makes an alliance. While this first book in the series paints a descriptive backdrop, casual readers may find themselves overwhelmed by the sheer volume of original terms and concepts they'll need to digest. The plot is similarly dense, packed full of surprising twists and turns, nonstop action, and intense dialogue. Committed readers will enjoy the original and genre-bending world that the author creates, but it will take time and effort.-
Sunnie Sette, New Haven Public Library, CT(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

A cruel, selfish shogun sends a father-daughter team on a seemingly impossible task: to capture the near-mythical Arashitora, half white eagle and half white tiger. Daughter Yukiko succeeds in snaring the beast, only to discover that they share a bond that will ultimately take them on a larger quest to dethrone a shogun and lead his people out of slavery and addiction. This steampunk series opener set in feudal Japan is a skillful example of world building, although the denseness of the description may discourage some readers early on. Kristoff thoughtfully includes several glossaries and a few maps to support his imaginary world. Those who stay with it will be well rewarded with compelling characters—particularly Yukiko, the Arashitora Buruu, and the artificer Kin—a strong environmental message, and a thrilling battle setting the stage for the sequel. Offer this to fans of Scott Westerfeld's *Leviathan* trilogy or Philip Reeve's *Hungry City Chronicles*. Grades 9-12. --Cindy Welch

Review

“Kristoff's imaginative debut, the first in a series, presents the feudal, dystopian Shima Empire, a menacing Japanese-inspired setting... The innovative setting, fast-moving plot, vivid descriptions, and thrilling action scenes make this a refreshing addition to the steampunk canon.” *?Publishers Weekly, starred review*

“Soars higher than the arashitora Kristoff writes about; superb.” *?Kirkus, starred review*

“With its geisha girls in gas masks and canvas blimps spewing black exhaust as they chug across the sky, *Stormdancer* paints a vivid picture of a decrepit, steampunk Japan. It's startling to witness a country that so reveres nature presented in such an environmentally compromised position, as it is in the kickoff to Jay Kristoff's "The Lotus War" series. But it's this inventive juxtaposition that makes *Stormdancer* such a thrilling addition to the increasingly tired yet continuously expanding dystopian scene.... [A] fast-paced, fantastical adventure [that] is sharp as a Shogun's sword.” *?The LA Times*

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feudal Japan will blow your split-toed socks off.” ?*Scott Westerfeld, New York Times bestselling author of Leviathan*

“Jay Kristoff pushes the steampunk genre exactly where it needs to go, away from Victorian London's over-trodden lanes and into the great wide world. With its rocketing action, eccentric and convincing characters, and deep immersion in heroic Japanese culture, *Stormdancer* slammed my head into an updated vision of the great *chanbara* films of Kurosawa and Kobayashi. I'll be waiting for more from Mr. Kristoff.” ?*K.W. Jeter, author of The Kingdom of Shadows*

“Set in a complex and richly imagined world, *Stormdancer* draws on inspirations as widespread as epic fantasy, steampunk, and Japanese mythology, effortlessly piecing them together into an alternate history that is as vibrant as it is disturbing. Yukiko is an admirable heroine, made of compassion and courage, but it's the remarkable friendship forged between Yukiko and the majestic thunder tiger, Buruu, that readers will find truly unforgettable. In this breathtaking debut fantasy, Kristoff has given us an adventure teeming with impossible quests and betrayals, rebellion and murder, jealousy and harbored secrets. I eagerly look forward to seeing where his imagination takes us next.” ?*Marissa Meyer, New York Times bestselling author of Cinder*

“Jay Kristoff's Yukiko and her indomitable thunder tiger's entertaining adventures have just sent steampunk gloriously Asian.” ?*Stephen Hunt, internationally bestselling author of The Kingdom Beyond the Sea*

“Kristoff's debut is a lyrical triumph of chainsaw swords and thunder tigers that steampunk fans and mythology buffs will devour.” ?*Kevin Hearne, author of The Iron Druid Chronicles*

“*Stormdancer* is an intoxicating joyride into steampunklandia with a magical dose of mythology, the supernatural, violence, dystopian themes, and a top-notch brassy heroine who rivals Katniss Everdeen of *The Hunger Games*. Yes, I did say that!” ?*Huffington Post*

“...the plot takes off when the mythical arashitora (literally ‘stormtiger’) forms a strong bond with the heroine, Yukiko. Her relationship with the griffin-like creature is especially poignant in light of the personal losses she reveals as the story unfolds... it's the bonds of family and friendship that feel the truest, with heartwrenching effect.” ?*Romantic Times*

“Japanese Steampunk unafraid to engage with the dark side of the subgenre. The Lotus must bloom!” ?*SF Signal*

“If you enjoy rich detail and sensual writing, you'll dig it.... Bristling with energy and enthusiasm, this is the start of what should be a deservedly popular series.” ?*Library Journal*

“Think *Lassie*, if Kurosawa had been the director and Lassie had been three tons of angry mythical demon-shredding sass bent on pushing Timmy down the well... A colorful cast of supporting characters and thoughtful plotting add further to *Stormdancer's* appeal, but, really, Kristoff has the reader at “girl meets griffin.” The captivating backdrop, graceful prose and army of mechanized samurai are all just added bonuses.” ?*Shelf Awareness*

“Compelling characters--particularly Yukiko, the Arashitora Buruu, and the artificer Kin--a strong environmental message, and a thrilling battle setting the stage for the sequel. Offer this to fans of Scott Westerfeld's *Leviathan* trilogy or Philip Reeve's *Hungry City Chronicles*.” ?*Booklist*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Annette Puente:

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