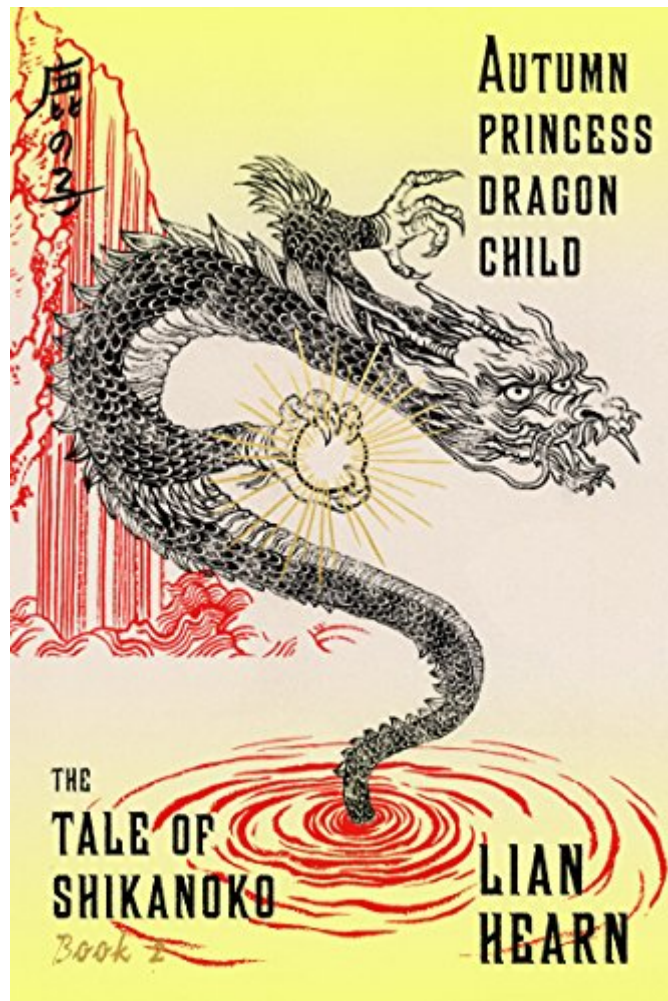


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Autumn Princess, Dragon Child: Book 2 In The Tale Of Shikanoko (The Tale Of Shikanoko Series)



Synopsis

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 Autumn Princess, Dragon Child. 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)

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Customer Reviews

I like this book a lot. Things to be aware of however... This (like the first volume) is a complicated story with lots of characters and several threads. Names are all Japanese and some are similar but

there is a table of the characters at the beginning of the book which gives names and relationships.

I really like this series, but the plot and characters are a little difficult to keep track of. While reading these books if I got a little lost, I just forged ahead, hoping that later events will clarify them. [They usually do.]

^Autumn Princess, Dragon Child^™ is the second of four novels in Lian Hearn^™s ^The Tale of Shikanoko^™ series. If you have not already read the first novel (^Emperor of the Eight Islands^™), stop now. ^Emperor of the Eight Islands^™ sets the scene for the entire series, and understanding the scene (or scenes) is critical. If you are still reading, I^™ll assume that you^™ve read ^Emperor of the Eight Islands and know who Shikanoko is. In the first novel, Shikanoko is reacting to events and circumstances. He is acquiring knowledge and power but is not in control. His world is changing rapidly. In ^Autumn Princess, Dragon Child^™ Shikanoko is beginning to understand (and sometimes to control) the power he has acquired. But there is much he cannot control, and the external world is full of betrayal, surprises and danger. The betrayals involve a number of different people and impact on many more. Shikanoko^™s journey is not an easy one, and his treatment of the Autumn Princess sets in train a number of consequences as does his failure to take some of the advice given to him. In this book, Ms Hearn continues to add depth to Shikanoko^™s world. The hidden child emperor may be safe for now, but the world is not. I finished this novel keen to pick up the third novel (^Lord of the Darkwood^™). As she did in ^Tales of the Otori^™, Ms Hearn has created a world which seems so complete that it becomes real. I want the world to be brought back into balance, I want Shikanoko to reach his potential, and the hidden child emperor to assume his rightful position. I want to keep reading, but I don^™t want the story to end. Yet. Note: My thanks to Farrar, Straus and Giroux and NetGalley for providing me with a free electronic copy of this novel for review purposes. Jennifer Cameron-Smith

Hearn picks up here right where the first book concluded. Dropping the reader right and keeps the story going at a fast pace. Unlike the first novel, this one doesn't have to take the time to set the stage and this can be a little confusing even in the short time between my reading. The front character glossary could be your friend as it was mine. But I quickly recovered my familiarity with the various characters, their situations and their goals. Though a short novel, this moves quickly and covers a lot and sets the stage nicely for the next installment without ever feeling like a simple bridge. As always with Hearn, lots of things happen and fates shift rather quickly and in some cases

surprisingly. All with the perfect marriage of epic and emotionally personal in the portrayal of characters and motivations. Bring on the third book!

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Autumn Princess, Dragon Child: Book 2 in the Tale of Shikanoko (The Tale of Shikanoko series)
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