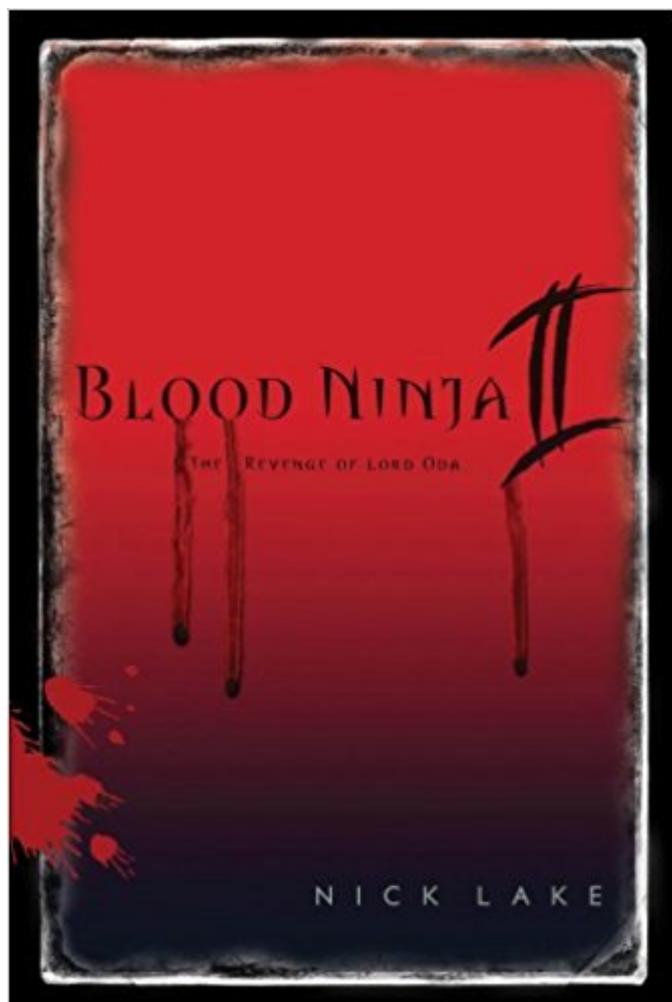


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Blood Ninja II: The Revenge Of Lord Oda



Synopsis

Now that the vile Lord Oda is dead, Taro and his friends are safe in the mountain lair of the ninjas. Or so they think. When a homing pigeon arrives with news of Taro's mother's whereabouts, Taro sets out for the Tendai monastery - without stopping to consider why the pigeon, which was given to his mother months ago, took so long to arrive. Soon, Taro, Hana and Hiro find themselves in a trap, as strange new creatures invade their lives and familiar enemies surround them - and the most deadly enemy of all is their old friend Yukiko. In the end, despite his vampire abilities, Taro is helpless to prevent the death of his mother. Furious and grief stricken, haunted by her mute and beseeching ghost, he determines to recover the object which Lord Oda was so desperate to procure before he died: the Buddha Ball, source of limitless power. There are just two problems: first, Lord Oda is not dead. And second, the Buddha Ball is not where Taro thought. If Taro is to fulfill his destiny, he must face his arch enemy on an equal battlefield - for Lord Oda is a vampire now too. And then, to make peace with his mother, and recover the Buddha ball, Taro must go to hell and back...

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 920 (What's this?)

Series: Blood Ninja

Paperback: 416 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (December 6, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416986308

ISBN-13: 978-1416986300

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.3 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #412,783 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Teens > Literature

& Fiction > Sports > Martial Arts #47 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Asia #125

in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Martial Arts

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Fans of Blood Ninja (2009) no doubt loved the plentiful gore, swordplay, light romance, and the

premise that all ninjas are vampires. This sequel spends much time recapping the plot of the first title, then adds even more twists, turns, and travels. Two new concepts, ghosts and Zen Buddhist philosophy, add a surprising and sometimes effective depth to the story. The abrupt ending leaves no doubt that at least one more book is on its way, as reluctant vampire Taro edges closer to his predicted fate (shogun), with trusty sidekick Hiro and his now-girlfriend Hana by his side. Grades 7-11. --Debbie Carton --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Fans of Blood Ninja (2009) no doubt loved the plentiful gore, swordplay, light romance, and the premise that all ninjas are vampires. This sequel . . . adds even more twists, turns, and travels."--"BOOKLIST", December 15, 2010"The night has a new hero."--Darren Shan, author of the Cirque Du Freak series

The quest for the Buddha ball continues in Nick Lake's follow up to his debut novel (Blood Ninja). Male protagonist, Taro, born and raised as a peasant in a fishing village, continues to come to grips with the fact he is now not only a ninja vampire, but also the lost son of Lord Tokugawa, the most powerful daimyo of 16th century Japan. Accompanied by his most loyal friend, Hiro, and the beautiful wakizashi wielding princess, Hana, daughter of Lord Oda, the second most powerful daimyo, Taro continues on his quest to find his mother and beat the evil Lord Oda at retrieving the all-powerful Buddha ball. In a literary world of YA that is so clearly dominated by female protagonists and female readership, I applaud Mr. Lake for putting out something for the guys. With abundant violence, plentiful swordplay, and more blood than both volumes of Kill Bill combined, BN II is an action-packed read. Fans of the increasingly popular anime graphic novels will find the Blood Ninja series a worthwhile read--plenty of anime-esque fun yet with more substance. Not a teen male? Don't despair. Fans of paranormal romance should find enough to be happy about even though these vampires don't sparkle in the sunlight. Mr. Lake has successfully created main characters I actually care about, who struggle internally with the choices they make and the violence surrounding them. And I must confess...I like the bad guys too. Add in a budding romance between a peasant boy and a princess and two female characters that can wield a sword as well as any man? I'm so there. I anxiously await the release the next book. Type quickly, Mr. Lake. And allow me to officially cast my ballot for a happy ending.

Good product as described.

The book looked good, felt good, reads even better. It shipped quickly too! Really couldn't ask for more. There really isn't anything I can say bad about this. All things considered though, I wish I could have found it at a bookstore.... Guess it just really isn't that popular.

A worthy read. Good price, easy download and son enjoyed reading it very much. Would recommend it to teenager who enjoys fantasy and/or sci-fi.

The book was received in very good condition. my 5th grade son was very interested in the first book and i hope to continue his interest in the second.

Another good read

Review:I find Japanese culture and way of life quite fascinating. Having learned the language and being adequately familiar with their culture are also the catalyst for me to always have interest and to at least check out books that take place or revolve around Japan, especially YA books since there is so few with a Japanese setting or plot elements. This is, actually, a real shame since there are endless possibilities to explore and write about. Luckily, there are some YA books already published or will be in the future, so I'm almost satisfied. For now.Blood Ninja II is the second book in the Blood Ninja trilogy. As the title suggests, it's an action-packed book with a familiar but still quite a unique premise - ninja vampires in historical Japan. What the book promises it also delivers, I was a big fan of the first book and the second has upped its game and leaves no space to hesitate. It's bloody, full of adventure and deadly situations, the setting of medieval Japan is detailed and perfectly created, it feels alive. The legends, folklore, traditions, etc. are all perfectly woven together with the plot and characters to form a fantastic and exotic historic YA read that not only young adults can enjoy. As much as I liked the book I would have liked to see more some humor or more lighthearted moments between the characters and a bit of breathing room. Everyone is constantly overly serious, which they of course have every reason to be, and there is constant action. I understand that fun and comedy doesn't always have a place in every book and Blood Ninja II is a book that means business and all the grave situations don't really seem a commonplace for humor, but there is nothing wrong in wishing there is. Nevertheless, this is a really minor issue I had while reading.Characters:Taro is a great hero. Despite being a vampire, he still managed to be vulnerable and possessed characteristics that don't make him anything but human. Feeling unsecure, fear, jealousy and on the other side being brave, self-sacrificing, determined. Taro's a

relatable realistic; he fights for and is loyal to his friends and mother. I liked how through all the hardships and circumstances he questions himself and his limits, without seeming like nothing fazes him and is overly confident and reckless, like a lot of YA male protagonists, but still in the end Taro always remains steadfast and comes through. It was slightly hard to grasp at times that he was brought up as a simple fisherman's son but could accomplish all the feats that he did, but in the context of the book it worked and he came across special and believable. Hana and Hiro fulfilled their role as loyal and helpful support for Taro perfectly. They weren't really anything remarkable in comparison with other characters and served the purpose of the love interest and the best friend, but their parts were satisfying and there was a lot going on in the book for me to notice or mind their one-sidedness. I felt really bad for Taro's mentor Shusaku since he goes through so many troubles selflessly and the blows just keep coming. I hope he finds peace eventually. Lord Oda and Lord Tokugawa - the two giants who make up the two warring sides to the power struggle for total control over Japan. Allies on the surface but, in reality, anything but that. They really seem larger than life, wiser and more cunning than anyone, like puppeteers planning their steps years in advance, willing to sacrifice whatever necessary - in every way deserving to occupy the seats of the two powerhouses in the trilogy. Even though Lord Oda falls slightly short next to Lord Tokugawa in tactics and sneakiness, he makes it up with brutality and ruthlessness. I personally prefer Lord Tokugawa more since he is more composed and cunning, giving out an appearance that doesn't exactly coincide with his grand ambitions and cruelty, with Lord Oda you get what you see. Overall: A worthy sequel for a promising and exciting first book of the trilogy that met my expectations and more. I just got the last book a couple of days ago and I can't wait to start to see where all the edge-of-your-seat action ends up!

Sometimes the second book in a series can drag on with "boring middle parts". That didn't happen here. There was no "made up drama" like friends getting into huge fights because they just don't talk to each other. My favorite part was the progression of a secondary character--Kenji Kira. The author was very clever with Kenji Kira. I don't want to give spoilers, but it was awesome and well deserved! If you haven't read it yet, start with the first book in the series: *À Blood Ninja*

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