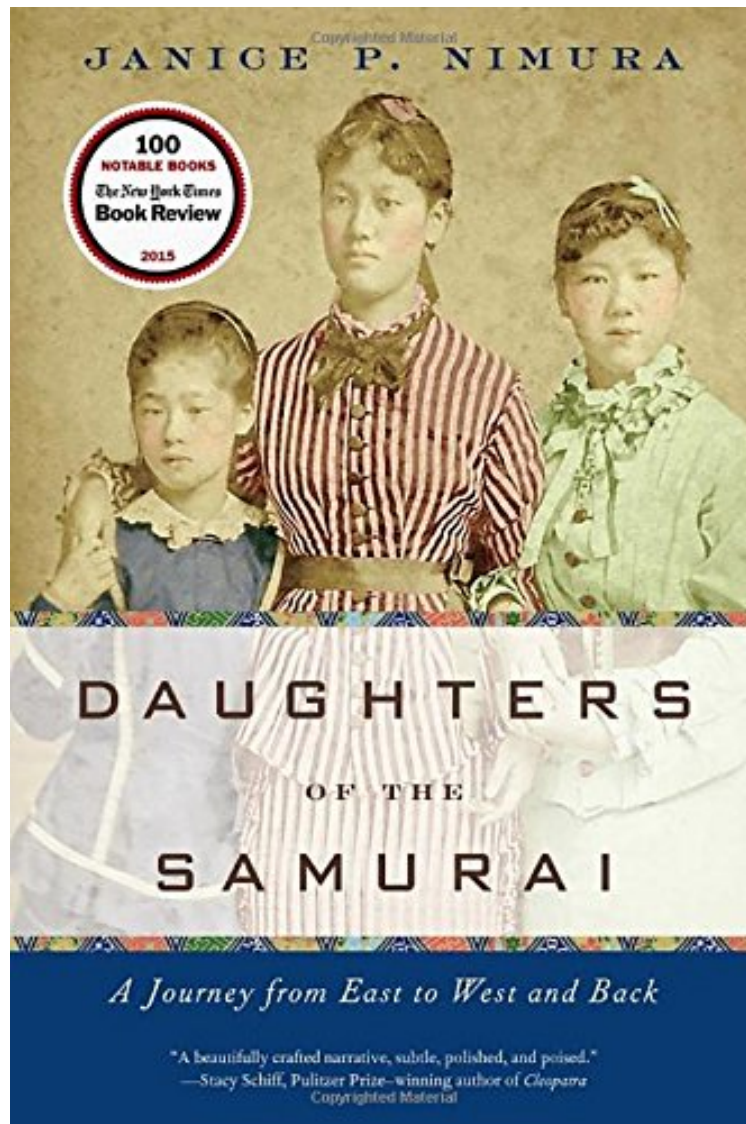


(Free) Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back

## Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back

Janice P. Nimura

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#58870 in Books Nimura Janice P 2016-05-17 2016-05-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.30 x .90 x 5.50l, .0 #File Name: 0393352781336 pagesDaughters of the Samurai A Journey from East to West and Back | File size: 55.Mb

**Janice P. Nimura : Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Incredible StoryBy Angela PhillipsJanice P. Nimuras wonderful book opens in 1871 with the empress of Japan dispatching three clueless girls - Sute-matsu Yamakawa, age eleven;

Shige Nagai, ten; and Ume Tsuda, six - to the United States. Their task was an almost impossible one: to learn the ways of the West so that their knowledge could be passed on to other Japanese women. Their journey lasted ten years. Nimura paints vivid portraits of each of the girls - the smart, overachiever Sutematsu, the arty Shige, the spoiled Ume. Two of the three end up at Vassar, with Sutematsu becoming the first Japanese woman to earn an American college degree. But back in Japan, they found a world turned upside down. They were each of them, purebred daughters of the samurai, the author writes, they became hybrid by nurture, not at home in America or their native Japan. I cannot tell you how I feel, Sutematsu said upon stepping foot in her native country, but I should like to give one good scream. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. How young girls changed their world. By Virginia. Fascinating story about a time and place that is not well known. Very well written. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Captivating and absorbing. By Russell F. Adams. History is brought to life through the lives of people and these women were remarkable. A storyline reading like a novel, yet true. Thanks to the writer for uncovering such a gem and bringing it to light.

"Nimura paints history in cinematic strokes and brings a forgotten story to vivid, unforgettable life." Arthur Golden, author of *Memoirs of a Geisha*. 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

Beautifully written. In Nimura's deftly interwoven account, the three girls emerge as contrasting types, like Chekhov's 'Three Sisters.' - Christopher Benfey, *New York Times Book Review*. You'd be hard-pressed to find a novelist who is as deft at portraying relationships and inner thoughts. [Nimura] skillfully bridges Japanese and American cultures, using the seemingly small story of three young people to tell a much larger tale of another time. - Becky Krystal, *Washington Post*. Janice P. Nimura achieves the elusive dream of the historian, producing a work that will engage and satisfy academic and non-specialist audiences alike. The author offers both sets of readers a magnificently and meticulously detailed account of three women whose lives epitomize key features of the changing landscape of late 19th and early 20th century Japan. - Miriam Kingsberg, *Los Angeles Times*. This remarkable and beautifully written story is often as riveting as a page-turning novel, is both scholarly and accessible to non-specialists. - Wingate Packard, *Seattle Times*. As immersive as any work of fiction, heartwrenching in its depiction of these cultural orphans turned pioneers. - Julia Pierpont, *Oprah.com*. Reads like a novel about the meeting of East and West and how it transformed the lives of three extraordinary young women. - Elizabeth Bennett, *Dallas Morning News*. You won't welcome intrusions while reading this unprecedented, true story . . . memorably illuminating. - Terry Hong, *Christian Science Monitor*. This is feminism for Japanese women in its infancy, and Janice P. Nimura enhances the reality of the entire experience with this superb historical nonfiction account. - Historical Novel Society. At a reform-minded moment, Japan dispatched five young girls to be educated in America. Patiently, vividly, Janice P. Nimura reconstructs their Alice in Wonderland adventure. A beautifully crafted narrative, subtle, polished, and poised. - Stacy Schiff, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Cleopatra*. A riveting story of three remarkable girls, caught in the maelstrom of one of the strangest culture clashes in modern history, *Daughters of the Samurai* is history writing at its finest and required reading for anyone interested in Japan. - Ruth Ozeki, author of *A Tale for the Time Being*. Nimura brings the girls and their late nineteenth-century exploits to life in a narrative that feels like an international variation on Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, so very appealing and delightful. - Booklist, Starred review. About the Author. Janice P. Nimura is a book critic, independent scholar, and the American daughter-in-law of a Japanese family. She lives in New York City.