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## Autumn Princess, Dragon Child

Book 2 in the Tale of Shikanoko  
by Lian Hearn

Price: \$14.00(Paperback)  
Published: June 07, 2016

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From the Publisher:

Shikanoko has been humbled by failure, and his once clear destiny has become clouded . . .

The Autumn Princess and the boy who is the true emperor are fugitives in the forest, alone and unprotected . . .

In the mountain sorcerer's hut a new generation of the Old People is born—the Spider Tribe, not quite human, not quite demons, and quickly coming of age . . .

One clan is in retreat, the other holds the capital, and natural disasters follow one upon another. Will Heaven ever be placated?

In *Autumn Princess, Dragon Child*, the old order has come unsettled and the weave of destiny has become unpredictable as it is pulled tighter, sharper, faster, by the instincts for vengeance and redemption, loyalty and survival. The battle for the Lotus Throne has begun in earnest. In this medieval Japan of Lian Hearn's peerless imagination...

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### About The Author

Lian Hearn

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## What We Say

The best-selling author of the "Tales Of The Otori" adventures has another four-part winner in "The Tale Of Shikanoko." Call it a Japanese "Game Of Thrones" and you'll get a vague idea of the fun on tap here. While George R.R. Martin's cycle draws upon the epic fantasy of Tolkein, writer Lian Hearn harkens back to the classical models of Japanese works like "The Tale Of The Soga Brothers." Martin is looser, rawer and more sprawling. Hearn is more formal and rooted in the ethos of honor familiar to fans of filmmaker Akira Kurosawa. But here's the really good news for "GoT" fans: Hearn has written a 1000+ page epic, it's been split into four parts and they come out one after another, with Volume 1 arriving now, Volume 2 in June, Volume 3 in August and Volume 4 in September. So no waiting. Believe me, I've read the first two and once you start you'll think that's not soon enough. In the first two books -- "Emperor Of The Eight Islands" and "Autumn Princess, Dragon Child" -- we begin with a lord who (Lear-like) creates turmoil by demanding his eldest take the wife of the second-born son, sending the latter off to a rival clan. He's determined the family will survive the coming civil war one way or another. Needless to say, it proves disastrous. The characters come tumbling out, especially our hero Shikanoko, who tumbles from one home to another, first targeted by a jealous uncle, then coming under the sway of a mountain sorcerer, later learning the wily ways of a thief and finally becoming the servant of yet another master. Taking center stage at one point or another are royalty, commoners, men of magic and women of cunning, monkeys, demons, and the true Emperor who must go into hiding when a usurper takes the throne. It's tremendous fun, with Hearn taking the point of view of a particular character for each chapter. To her credit, the people who seem like villains (and sometimes truly are), become complex, full-bodied people we can have empathy for even when they do terrible things. There's magic here, but just as GoT is mostly a realistic spin on the War of the Roses, this story has the feel of a classical fable. I loved the movie "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and am very frustrated the series of works that movie drew upon have never been translated into English. Indeed, even most of the classic tales Hearn references are available only in dry academic versions if at all. (Just as we await a truly thrilling English language translation of the Chinese Monkey King stories.) With meticulous attention to detail for the period, along with a bone-deep appreciation for Japanese culture, Hearn's homage to those masterpieces is as close as we're going to get for the moment and tremendously entertaining in its own right. "The Tale Of Shikanoko" has romance, intrigue, fantasy, passion, betrayal, sacrifice and the suspense of truly having no idea what will happen next, who will survive and who will triumph...not to mention wondering whether triumph will mean the characters we root for must become characters we don't recognize anymore. Now where the heck are Volumes 3 and 4? -- Michael Giltz

## What Others Say

âIn *Autumn Princess, Dragon Child*, Lian Hearn's mythic Japan fully unfurls, expansive and engrossing, rendered in crystal-clear prose that reads like the translation of a book from outside of time. This kind of story, written with this kind of craft, has become rare. There are fugitive royals and evil monks; there is forest magic and high politics. The swords all have names. Thereâs a name for this genre, even if you donât see the label stuck to shelves much anymore. The word for The Tale of Shikanoko is: adventure!â âRobin Sloan, author of *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore*

âLian Hearn has written a one-of-a-kind epic series brimming with spirits, demons, and warriors. The story is as deeply imagined and immersive as it is addictive. One doesnât know whether to give in to the desire to turn the pages as quickly as possible or to linger and savor Hearnâs crystalline prose and striking emotional observations. Hearnâs characters grab you by the hand on page 1 and whisper, âFollow me.â Itâs a pleasure to obey.â âKelly Luce, author of *Three Scenarios in Which Hana Sasaki Grows a Tail*

Praise for *The Tale of Shikanoko*  
â[*Emperor of the...*

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