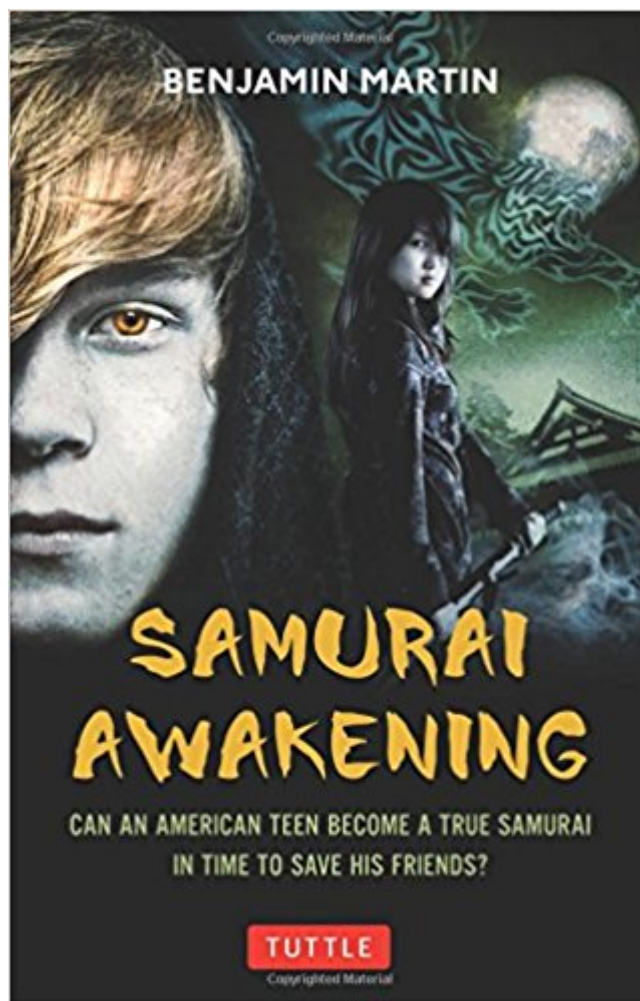


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Samurai Awakening: (Samurai Awakening Book 1)



Synopsis

****Winner of the 2013 SCBWI Crystal Kite Award****David Matthews is having a rough time. Being a teenager is bad enough, but when he picks up and moves to Japan for a year, with barely any knowledge of the language or social behaviors of Japanese teenagers, things go from bad to worse. Until one day, David attends a temple ceremony and finds himself possessed by a Japanese god. Suddenly, he can understand and speak Japanese. He has unbelievable new powers, including the ability to shift into a tiger, and a powerful sword he can materialize at will from its sheath—his body. But nothing comes for free, and these changes bring David face-to-face with the most terrifying creatures of Japanese legend—vengeful okami, demonic oni and terrifying ghostly yurei. Trained by his host family, famous sword-makers and the keepers of an ancient secret entrusted to their family by the first Emperor of Japan, David must fight desperately to save his host sister from a hoard of Japanese monsters. Evil has returned to Japan, and David must overcome his own insecurities if he is to save her and become a True Samurai—the protector of Japan.

Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing (October 18, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804847371

ISBN-13: 978-0804847377

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.9 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,383,324 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

"David is an engaging character whom readers will easily identify with as he struggles to overcome his own fears and doubts to find his inner strength. Although the book culminates in David saving a

damsel in distress, Martin creates a strong female counterpart to David in the character of a female warrior. An imaginative take on the triumph of the underdog." [Booklist](#)"When a typical American boy spends a year in Japan on an exchange program, he's expected to have his mind opened to new experiences. In *Samurai Awakening*, young David Matthews achieves that and more [for a price](#). A new entry in the young adult paranormal category, Benjamin Martin uses Japanese culture and history to build quite a compelling tale." [McClatchy News Service](#)"Due to the author's firsthand experience as an American living in Japan, David's feelings of isolation as he attempts to adjust to new surroundings ring true, as do the details of school life. Dialogue printed in Japanese characters adds a pleasing note of authenticity, and the novel's rural setting will appeal to readers who seek to know Japan beyond Tokyo." [School Library Journal](#)"Martin scrupulously details the elements of David's apprenticeship, and his familiarity with Japanese customs and myth lends verisimilitude [[Review](#)] Martin's writing is richest when conveying David's initial disorientation as an outsider in a new environment." [Publishers Weekly](#)"Youngsters who enjoy exciting adventures based on Japanese legends and folklore will undoubtedly like reading this book. The book moves rather slowly for a time, but the ending is certainly action-packed." [HomeSchoolBlogger.com](#)

Originally from Arizona, Ben Martin currently lives in Japan. He was a semi finalist in the 2011 Breakthrough Novel Contest with the manuscript for *Samurai Awakening*, which placed in the top 1% in the Young Adult category.

The story was simple and straightforward with no surprises. I was constantly being distracted by grammatical and typographical errors in the text. There were even occasions where the characters had their names spelled incorrectly. I was constantly questioning whether the book even had an editor. I would assume the text was written for an audience still in High School with the intent of educating them on social mores in Japan. With that said, I enjoyed the story - though I enjoy most stories. So read it, if you will. Though be aware that you will not get that time back.

Samurai Awakening is a great novel. Any teenager reading this book should really enjoy it. The only gripe I have with the novel is the chapter titles give away too much about the coming up chapter. I have never been a big fan of chapter titles. It starts out a little slow but then the actions just increase and the fun begins. I am looking forward to the next two books.

This is a manga book. I didn't realize that when I ordered it. I accidentally clicked "Buy" instead of "More" when I was looking at it and allowed the purchase to go through because it was only 99¢. When I found out it was a manga book I deleted it from the device. I guess it might be OK if you are into manga. Otherwise I have no opinion on the book.

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