



Dream of a Spring Night

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In the tempestuous closing years of the twelfth century, the fourteen-year-old Oba Toshiko, daughter of a provincial warlord, enters the women's quarters of Emperor Go-Shirakawa, her body bartered for favor at court. Toshiko's talent as a singer of popular songs and her innocence excite the emperor's lust and the dangerous jealousy of Lady Sanjo. An accidental and forbidden meeting with the noble physician Yamada Sadahira tempts Toshiko's heart and tests her loyalty to her family. When her enemy strikes, she flees the palace to be with Sadahira.

Dream of a Spring Night Details

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From Reader Review Dream of a Spring Night for online ebook

Richard says

I J Parker really has a way with the older historical Japanese settings. This trilogy is a wonderful venture into this era. If you like ancient Japan, you won't want to miss this. The central female protagonist, Toshiko, is likeable and strong. A somewhat intimate story set against a backdrop of political turmoil. I suggest you buy all 3 volumes of "The Hollow Reed" series at once because the first two are sort of cliff-hangers: the trilogy really is a single 3-volume novel.

Macpudel says

Toshiko, the 14-year old protagonist was not sympathetic or well-developed enough to compel me toward the next book in the series. She's basically sold by her family to the Emperor as part of her father's plan to better the family's rank. As part of his cunning plan, his father has Toshiko taught the songs and dances that are normally the specialty of courtesans, because he knows that's what the emperor likes. But her mother, in charge of teaching her what's required of women, apparently fails to mention anything about the bedroom arts, because Toshiko lays there like a fish and does not make the most of the emperor's interest in her. Toshiko is at turns rebellious and passive, but to me it seemed like inconsistent characterization rather than adolescent indecision. Great Japanese milieu, but overall weak characters.

Juliette says

The writing in this book seemed undeveloped, as if this was the author's first attempt at writing. It also seems unfinished, and while it is the first of a trilogy, I am not really interested in reading the next book.

Jenny says

Free kindle book. You get what you pay for. I wasn't very impressed. I understand this is part of a trilogy but if the first was to induce me to read the remaining two, it failed in that regard. This is the story of a very young Japanese courtesan and her experiences at the court of a retired emperor. In my opinion, the characters are shallow and the predictable plot develops slowly before coming to a very abrupt end. For light reading over a weekend or two this will do, but don't expect anything like Memoirs of a Geisha. You'll be disappointed.

Ann Taylor says

I liked this ok, but it just ended too abruptly.

S.T. Iovino says**not worth the time!**

Superficial and predictable story. Characters developed minimally. disappointing , , Ending like a Cinderella story-- not believable or even possible as conclusion .

Jane says

Meh. Not as good as the detective series by a long shot, but still, I love the details of life, custom, dress, and etiquette. This felt like it needed more fleshing out, plus a more dramatic plot trajectory.

Diane says

I liked this book for its protagonist, Oba no Toshiko, and a few other compelling characters. The rigid social structure, though, was disturbing to my twentieth- and twenty-first-century self: not just the compartmentalization by gender, class, urban/provincial dichotomy but the willingness of the Oba family to sacrifice their daughter to advance agendas of the rest of the family was distasteful. Toshiko's independence and strength of character ultimately lead to a satisfying conclusion.

Bluejay44 says

Enjoyed this book greatly. Most interesting to learn a bit about life in an emperor's palace in Japan from the perspective a a young country girl. Having been told by her mother that whatever happened to her was simply her karma and must be accepted. Also to pray for the strength to forget herself and simply to serve future generations.

Such an isolated, lonely life in spite of her luxurious surroundings, Toshiko only has one friend among the other ladies of the court, until a chance meeting with the Doctor when he loses his way among the palace buildings.

Chris says

It's not bad, I just found it difficult to care about any of the characters, with the exception of the evil woman who was actually the most engaging. I did finish it.

Susan McDuffie says

An interesting, evocative story of life in this distant era.

Therese says

\$0.0

Toni Osborne says

The Hollow Reed trilogy volume 1

Ms. Parker creativity has sparked once more and has provided us with another exciting and very captivating historical fiction. This time a trilogy that tells the stories of human beings caught in the terrifying events that shook a nation. The first installment brings us to the closing year of the twelfth century Japan with Go-Shirakawa as its emperor. At the time there is growing unrest between factions forcing a minor vassal, Oba no Hiramato to sell his fourteen year old daughter Toshiko to the emperor in exchange for favors. Toshiko submits to the will of her father but little did she know she will soon fall into the treacherous world of concubines vying for Do-Shirakawa's attention.

At the same time, Yamara Sadahira works as a physician among the poor and is occasionally called to the palace to treat the imperial cooks. One day, he takes a wrong turn and ends up in the forbidden women's quarters where he meets Toshiko and falls deeply in love with her.....and debuts a passionate tale of love.....

Ms. Parker's prose is rich and elegant. She excels in portraying emotional depth in her characterization and her tale vividly comes alive with passion and with tradition. Even if the action may seem to slow down at times there are surprising turns of events to captivate us while this wonderful adventure unfolds. Like any good trilogy we are left hanging and wanting for more, this one is no exception. I enjoy this new tale and looking forward to the second volume.
