



Shogun, Part 2

James Clavell

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Shogun, Part 2 Details

Date : Published 1975 by Atheneum

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Author : James Clavell

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Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Cultural, Japan, Classics

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From Reader Review Shogun, Part 2 for online ebook

Peter says

James Clavell is a fantastic writer when it comes to the setting of Asia. Much of the book is based on actual historical events, as are the characters so the story has an authentic feel.

Clavell goes into fantastic depth in every aspect and the characters are very well developed. It has an addictive plot and is very hard to put down, though the 1000 pages may be daunting at first if you're one who likes to get started on new books. I couldn't say anything other than I loved it and recommend it to anyone who enjoys Japanese history, war, and maritime fiction. The reason it is 4 stars and not 5, is that I wanted it to be relative to another of Clavell's novels *Tai-Pan*

Velin says

Definitely more war-orientated than the 1st part and therefore a bit harder to read and understand.

Mitzis says

I love historical fiction, and this book provided a deep and satisfying exploration of ancient Japanese culture, which I believe provides great insight into more modern experiences with Japan - WWII and even today. I loved, loved, loved learning about ancient Japan; their culture and perspective is fascinating! I enjoyed how the book begins from Blackthorne's perspective and ends with Toranaga's. I didn't give the book 5 stars for several reasons. Although the reader is obviously talented, I found his "Blackthorne" voice annoying. And, I found the ending to be rather anti-climatic. After listening for 50+ hours to a very detailed explanation of everything Japanese, I felt a bit cheated at the end with the rushed finale and the vague lack of resolution. That said, I would recommend it to any and all readers - if only to learn more about truly exquisite people.

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

Un livre divertissant et agréable à lire.

Jason McCuiston says

This is actually a review of Parts I and II, as they are one singular story and not a novel and its sequel. In fact, I'm so glad that my copy of Part II came in the day after I finished Part I because the first volume doesn't really end. It just stops.

At any rate, this is an epic in every sense of the word with action, adventure, intrigue, romance, heroism, villainy, cruelty, faith, and almost every other conceivable facet of the human experience. And, if you are so inclined, it can even teach you conversational Japanese. There is so much information contained within and

threaded throughout this story that the reader cannot help but learn a great deal about this era in Japanese and world history. I love this book so much it took me longer to read than it should have, as I started dragging my feet when I saw how few pages remained.

If I had one complaint, it is that the ending feels summarized rather than told as part of the narrative, but this is just because I would have loved to read another 500-1000 pages of *Shogun*. I believe that this title has usurped the role of My Favorite Book, held until now by the triumvirate of Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Dumas's *Twenty Years After*, and Yoshikawa's *Musashi*.

Long may it reign.

Holly says

James Clavell is clearly a gifted writer. His *Shogun* books have taken me on a journey to far away lands where I've learned about samurai, ninja, ladies of The Willow Word, geisha, karma, daimyos and seppuku, honor and traitors. Clavell's writing casts a spell over his readers and draws them into long and complicated tales full of so many dually named characters that it can make your head spin. His books take a commitment to read.

I enjoyed these first two books of the *Shogun* series. That said, I didn't love them. I attribute Clavell's art of writing as the reason that I never reached a point where I wanted to give up and put them down for good. I have to respect that when all is said and done.

Yona says

One amazing book.

Cat says

I loved this book from the start! So detailed and wonderful characters! The plot was fabulous and sets amazing. I was so worried when the made for tv event in 1980 came out. BUT_ wonder of wonders! Hollywood did it right! Just that much better to enjoy the story! (But I still love the book more!)

Katie Hass says

A wonderful historical fiction and beautifully written. James Clavell explores this time period in such exquisite detail. If you are looking for an adventure and want an epic one , this is your book.

Ami Toben says

An absolute masterpiece. One of the best books ever written!

Cheryl says

If you want to get a sense for Japanese history, culture and thinking, this epic is ideal. Be prepared for 1100 pages (parts 1 and 2 together) of intrigue and mystery, a clash of cultures all with a bit of romance thrown in. This is my second read after at least 30 years, I pulled it off the shelf in preparation to a trip to Japan. I was not disappointed to dive into the world of Anjinsan, Toronagosan and Marikosan yet again.

Vanessa Jones says

'Yes, that was all my fault and I'm truly sorry, but that was a mistake, not a deliberate choice on my part. It is. So nothing can be done about it. A moment ago we were all almost dead. So all that worry and heartache was a waste, wasn't it? Karma. Yes, I know karma now.' This book centers around the character's karma. I recall a debate in college in regards to religion, and the discussion that religion can be a crutch that people may use so they don't have to deal with reality (i.e 'God's will is what will happen, etc.) It brings to mind the repeated use of karma throughout the book. Karma is the answer to everything. Loyalty is another strong force. The loyalty to one's leader, to one's parents. If one dishonors in the slightest way, they beg seppuku- to commit a suicide to preserve their honor. How little their own lives mean, that is quite astounding. Another lesson learned is to become quiet, how to listen to rocks grow. Things that are quite foreign, but some interesting concepts for sure.

Alex says

James Clavell is an incredibly gifted author who manages to capture what I think is the soul of Japan in this book - Bushido. The story flows naturally and intelligently and the character development is incredibly well done. The descriptions are so vivid that they transpose the reader to the world of Medieval Japan and it makes you feel like you're right next to Anjin-san in the thick of the story.

Wish that I had read it sooner... Heartily recommended to all readers out there!

Dean Haywood says

Always have thought this was one of the finest books I have ever read. and I've read it 3 times and still think the same.

Barry says

Seriously epic.

Dora Mihayova says

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Henri Fortier says

D'une réalité fracassante , on croirais y etre!

Krisztina says

An enjoyable epic and a brilliant one!

Clavell does an excellent job of leading the reader towards seeing the Japanese way, the culture, tradition, way of life and mentality. He succeeds to portray Japanese culture through the lens of a Western explorer and to show how completely one's opinion of a culture can change after exposure and thought.

The reader gets into the head of everyone and the story will be deep in the head of one character, hearing their emotions, dreams, perceptions, and then it will be just as deeply focused on another character a few paragraphs later, so you can never get bored of one voice ?.

Despite the long-winded writing, I couldn't put it down, the pages flew by for me and I found myself wishing my baby would sleep more so I could read more as well.

It's worth reading, surprisingly compelling.

Thomas Rydder says

Shogun is set in medieval Japan, in the time of warlords and endless battles. The samurai were the "knights" of their day, and reigned supreme in their land. A Lord's ranking and status dictated how many samurai he had at his disposal, and his army would gladly die - sometimes at their own hand - to serve him. The land was divided into provinces and the shifting of power was an endless tide of blood and deception.

Into this world walks an English pilot, John Blackthorne, whose ship and crew are marooned by shipwreck and are now at the mercy of Lord Toranaga, in whose province they have come ashore. The rest of his crew suffer the indignities of wartime criminals, but Blackthorne is singled out by Toranaga because of his intelligence and quick thinking. He eventually melds into the Japanese community, and is immersed in the waves of deceit and deception, a pawn in the constant struggle for control.

This book is an absolute MUST read to anyone interested in feudal Japan. The historic accuracy is

unparalleled, and once you pick it up, you will not put it down.

Yigal Zur says

read it years ago great novel and reserch
