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Moribito II: Guardian Of The Darkness



Synopsis

In the marvelous sequel to the novel (and Cartoon Network series) MORIBITO: GUARDIAN OF THE SPIRIT, Balsa returns to her native land to fight a corrupt ruler and face her own demons. Balsa returns to her native Kanbal to clear the name of Jiguro, her dear mentor, who saved her life when she was six years old. But what should be a visit of truth and reconciliation becomes a fight for her life when she learns that Jiguro had been a member of King Rogsam's personal bodyguard. After Jiguro fled Kanbal with her, Rogsam sent the other bodyguards after them one by one--Jiguro's best friends, whom he had to kill to protect Balsa. Now, with the help of two Kanbalese children, Balsa must unwind the conspiracy surrounding Jiguro and the mystery of the Guardians of the Dark.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 830L (What's this?)

Series: Moribito (Book 2)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

I enjoyed reading the first volume in this series - Guardian Of The Spirit (Moribito) - but as a fan of the anime version, I couldn't help comparing the author's original story to the expanded and sometimes rearranged narrative of the anime. This second volume suffers no such distraction. We now follow Balsa to her native Kanbal, where she hopes to clear the name of her deceased guardian and teacher, Jiguro. King's Spear Jiguro had abandoned his position, his family, his country to protect her from assassins sent to eliminate the last dangling threads that might unravel

the truth behind the death of a king. This much we learned in the first volume. Balsa's return threatens the status quo, which has been built on the lies that ambitious and powerful men wove to cover their crimes and obscure their plans for the future. Balsa might take the practical route and retreat back to her life in New Yogo, but those events from her childhood have disrupted more than just the political future of Kanbal...The narrative unfolds nicely, revealing new allies and antagonists, interconnections, mystical creatures, and another daunting ceremony that resonates with the release of the egg in the first volume. The writing flowed much more smoothly for me in this volume, partly because I was no longer distracted by comparisons to the anime. The story is deep and satisfying, layering new truths and revelations onto what we learned in "Guardian of the Spirit".

This second book of the MORIBITO series follows female bodyguard Balsa as she returns from the land of New Yogo to her ancestral homeland of Kanbal, a land she has not seen since she was a young child. At the age of six, Balsa's father discovered a plot to murder the current king of Kanbal, and as a result, her father was murdered and his best friend fled the country with the young Balsa. This man, Jiguro, was responsible for protecting and raising Balsa from childhood into adulthood, eventually dying of an illness under Balsa's care. Although Balsa only intends to return in order to find personal peace, her entry into Kanbal sets off a series of events destined to plunge Balsa back into the same kinds of plotting that led to her father's death years before. Balsa quickly learns that, during her long absence from the land, her mentor Jiguro has been wrongfully accused of great crimes. His younger brother, Yuguro, has become a hero for supposedly killing Jiguro and returning the symbolically important golden spear rings that Jiguro was framed for stealing. The new king is entirely under Yuguro's control. And once again, it's up to Balsa to work her way through the deception and trickery in order to save her homeland before it's too late. GUARDIAN OF THE DARKNESS adds new depth to Balsa's character by allowing the reader to see her in a new setting, one that is both familiar to her and strangely foreign. Her own inner turmoil about the death of Jiguro and the lies that have been spread about him provide the novel with its emotional power. As with the first volume in the series, Uehashi's worldbuilding is stunning.

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