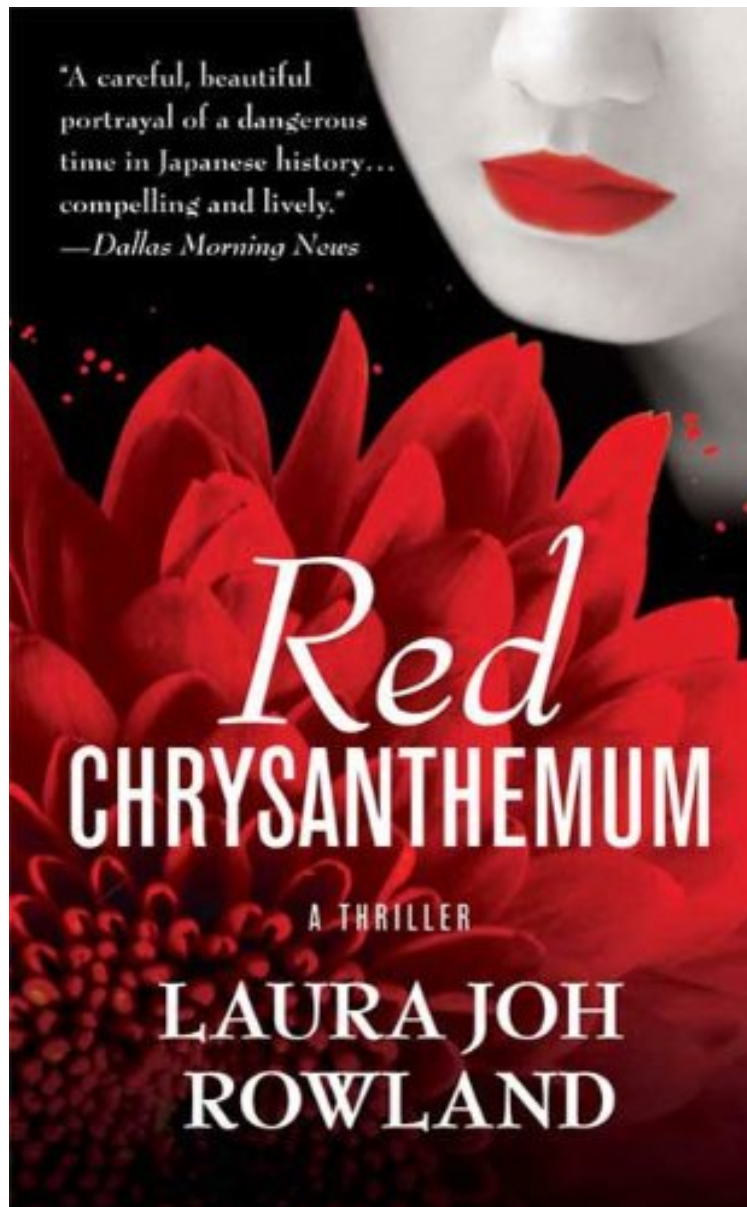


(Mobile book) Red Chrysanthemum: A Thriller (Sano Ichiro Novels)

Red Chrysanthemum: A Thriller (Sano Ichiro Novels)

Von Laura Joh Rowland

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #361803 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2007-10-02Erscheinungsdatum: 2007-10-02File Name: B003L1ZZGY | File size: 37.Mb

Von Laura Joh Rowland : Red Chrysanthemum: A Thriller (Sano Ichiro Novels) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Red Chrysanthemum: A Thriller (Sano Ichiro Novels):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Murder, Political Intrigue, Detection, and Martial ArtsVon Donald MitchellRed Chrysanthemum is the first book I've read in

the Sano Ichiro series. Obviously, a lot happened leading up to this book but it was reasonably easy to catch onto the book's main context. So if you haven't read any other books in the series, you can feel comfortable starting with this one. This book almost defies genre because there are both mystery and thriller elements, and the book is set in 1698 Japan. The historical and national perspectives strongly permeate the book. If you don't know the series, Sano Ichiro is a very clever fellow . . . a samurai who has been a detective. His success in that role has brought him to heights of power. The Shogun normally rules in name only and Sano is his chamberlain, a sort of prime minister. Lord Matsudaira actually wields power and is Sano's primary patron. But powerful figures seek all that power for themselves. Sano's wife, Reiko, is pregnant with their second child but continues to seek ways to help women in need and to solve mysteries. That activity leads both Sano and Reiko into dangerous peril in this action-filled thriller. As the book opens, Reiko is discovered nude and covered with blood in the bed chamber of the dead Lord Mori who lies castrated beside her. She cannot remember how she got there. The clamor immediately begins for her execution for the murder of Lord Mori. Mori's wife stoutly contends that Mori and Reiko had been lovers. Sano begins his investigation and quickly finds that the price of his own survival may be the death of his wife and unborn child. As the investigation continues, his political enemies see their chance to take him down. Before long, both Sano and Reiko are in mortal peril from the Shogun and Lord Matsudaira. In the investigation we learn that Reiko had been approached by a poor woman, Lily, who had sold her son, Jiro, to Lord Mori for a night of pleasure. When Lily came to pick Jiro up the next day, the guards sent her away. Reiko agreed to help and became friends with Lady Mori so she could check out what was going on. On the night of the murder, she had sneaked away to spy on Lord Mori when she passed out . . . only to awaken in a death chamber. The story has several strengths. You'll learn a lot about medieval Japan and especially the relations between classes. That strangeness makes the story fresh and allows for surprises that a contemporary thriller could not accomplish as easily. Ms. Rowland has a wonderful sense of pace. She knows how to create tension in the reader by moving the plot along rapidly with new perils. I also thought that her portrayals of Sano, Reiko, and Hirata were interesting. These are fresh and original characters. The book has some weaknesses, too. The solutions often seem to be just a little too fortuitously timed. I would have enjoyed the book more if the "miracles" had been a little more realistic. For example, the martial arts description in a major scene felt over the top to me. All but the three characters are pretty thin which makes the book a lot less interesting than it might have been. There's also a lot of blood and child abuse; you'll need a strong stomach to enjoy the book. But if you want to take an unconventional and fast-paced walk in old Edo, you could do a lot worse than *Red Chrysanthemum*.

Kurzbeschreibung July 1698. Sano Ichiro, the samurai detective who has risen to become the shogun's second-in-command, is investigating rumors of a plot to overthrow the ruling regime. When the investigation brings Sano's deputy Hirata to Lord Mori's estate, he is shocked to find Lord Mori murdered and grotesquely mutilated in his own bed, and Sano's pregnant wife, Reiko, lying beside him. The only solid clue is a chrysanthemum soaked in blood. Reiko's account of her actions is anything but solid. She insists that she went undercover to Lord Mori's estate in order to investigate claims that he molested and murdered young boys. But when Sano inspects the crime scene, he finds no trace of what Reiko described. And every other witness tells a different story: Lady Mori alleges that Reiko was Lord Mori's scorned mistress and murdered him for revenge. And Lord Mori himself, speaking through a medium, claims his murder was part of Sano's plot to overthrow the shogun! Unless Sano can prove his wife's unlikely claims, both he and Reiko and their unborn child face execution for treason. Sano fights desperately to save his family and his honor, as Laura Joh Rowland draws on the tradition of the classic film *Rashomon* to bring us a masterful tale of intrigue and treachery, in *Red Chrysanthemum*. From Publishers Weekly Starred . Rowland's 11th 17th-century Japanese historical (after 2005's *The Assassin's Touch*) is even more of a page-turner than its predecessors. Sano Ichiro has risen through the ranks from his position as the shogun's special investigator to the powerful station of chamberlain, but the shift in his duties has not shielded him from political opponents. He faces his greatest crisis yet when his terrified pregnant wife, Reiko, is discovered naked and blood-covered beside the corpse of a nobleman suspected of treason. Aided by his friend and successor, Hirata, the dogged and principled samurai sleuth must probe both personal and political motives for the crime, even as he entertains doubts about his beloved's innocence. Rowland matches her talent for storytelling with her ability to render convincing historical detail in this long-running but fresh series. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Pressestimmen "A page-turner... Rowland matches her talent for storytelling with her ability to render convincing historical detail." - Publishers Weekly (starred review) "Rowland has a painter's eye... [and] a politician's ear for intrigue." - The New York Times Book "