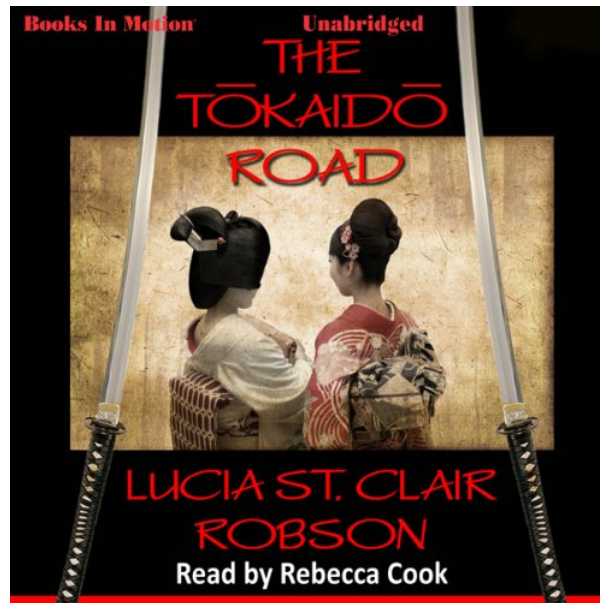
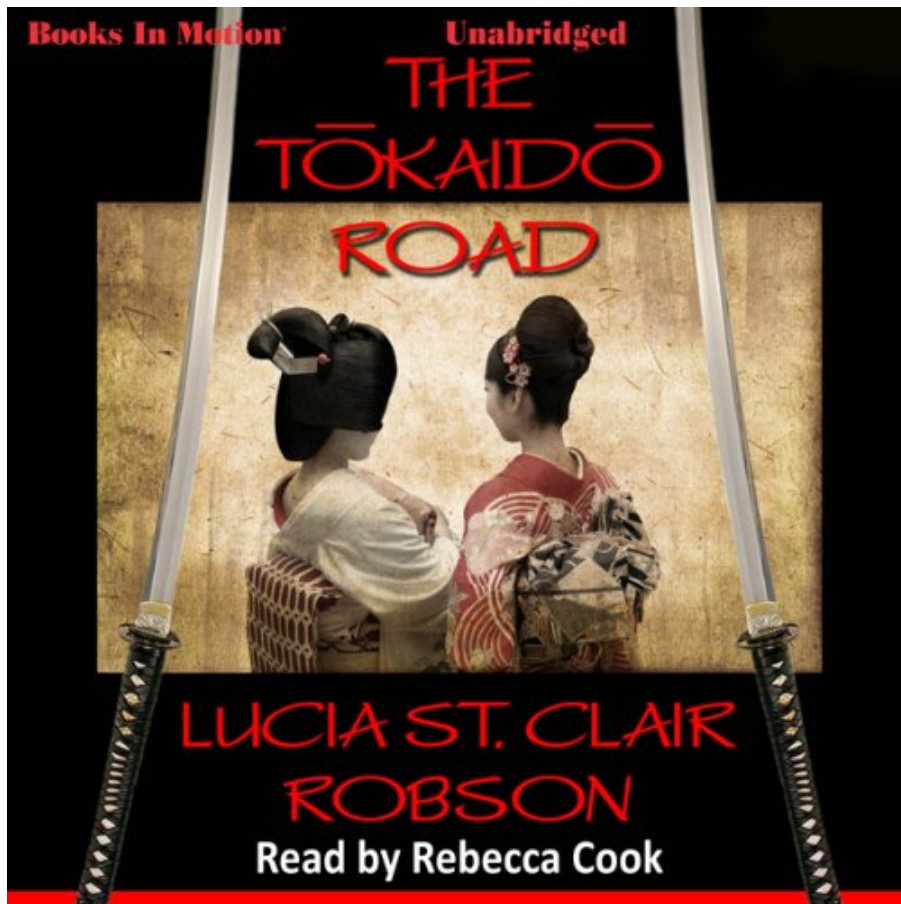


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**The Tokaido Road By Lucia St. Clair Robson.** In undergoing this life, lots of people consistently try to do and also obtain the very best. New understanding, encounter, lesson, and every little thing that could boost the life will be done. However, many individuals sometimes really feel puzzled to obtain those points. Feeling the restricted of experience and sources to be better is among the does not have to possess. Nevertheless, there is a quite basic point that can be done. This is what your teacher constantly manoeuvres you to do this. Yeah, reading is the answer. Reviewing a book as this The Tokaido Road By Lucia St. Clair Robson as well as various other recommendations could enrich your life quality. Exactly how can it be?

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After the execution of her father, the young and beautiful Lady Asano is in grave danger from the powerful Lord Kira. In order to save herself Asano must find Oishi, the leader of the fighting men of her clan. She believes he is 300 miles to the southwest in the imperial city of Kyoto. Disguising her loveliness in the humble garments of a traveling priest, and calling herself Cat, Lady Asano travels the fabled Tokaido Road. Her only tools are her quick wits, her samurai training, and her deadly, six-foot-long naginata. And she will need them all, for a ronin has been hired to pursue her, a mysterious man who will play a role in Cat's drama that neither could have ever imagined.

- Sales Rank: #97250 in Audible
- Published on: 2013-03-25
- Format: Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Running time: 1248 minutes

Most helpful customer reviews

21 of 22 people found the following review helpful.

A Walk Through Feudal Japan

By Bill Sims

All the research that Lucia St. Clair Robson has done for this book pays huge dividends for her readers. The journey down "Tokaido Road" is a page-turning adventure, a good read; but the real thrill is that the author pulls the reader into feudal Japan in an unforgettable historical experience.

I was so taken with the novel that I followed up by looking for other things written by Lucia St. Clair Robson and came across "Ride the Wind," the story of Cynthia Ann Parker, a woman raised by a Comanche tribe. It was another incredible culture experience. I learned more about Plains Indian culture in "Ride the Wind" than in all my other combined experiences about Indians.

While I read "Tokaido Road" several years ago, my memories of it are still crystal clear, a sure sign that this is one of the best books I've ever read.

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

glorious road

By Amazon Customer

Lucia St. Clair Robson is back! This time she's a long, long way from her Indian romances. She's in feudal Japan and is telling the story of Cat, a daughter of a betrayed man and her quest to stay alive, avenge her father and just maybe, if it doesn't interfere with her duty, find love.

Once again, as she did in *Ride the Wind* and *Walk in My Soul* this talented author takes a real incident or person and weaves a fictionalized account that is so good that even if it didn't happen that way, it should have. The story of the 47 samurai who avenge their master is filtered through the eyes of Cat, an exceptionally brave, beautiful and tough young woman and the magnificent man who comes to love her.

If you love ancient Japan, if you love soaring, tragic romance, or if you buy anything that Lucia St. Clair Robson writes this new book is for you.

8 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Exquisitely Beautiful Road Trip to Revenge

By Scott Schiefelbein

"The Tokaido Road" is, at first glance, a road trip wrapped around a tale of revenge . . . and a beautiful one, at that.

Lady Asano, nicknamed "Cat," is a gorgeous, refined daughter of a samurai lord who was betrayed and forced to commit suicide. We first meet Cat, who has been forced to work as a courtesan thanks to her family's disgrace, as she stares at a dead "client," who died eating a poisoned dish meant for her. Within moments, Cat uses her ingenuity to escape her brothel and begin her journey down the Tokaido Road, which shall end with her death -- either by her failure, or by her own hand after her success.

Along the way, Ms. St. Clair Robson throws the reader back into feudal Japan, untarnished by Western influence (although there is an entertaining scene where the Japanese vie to catch a glimpse of the "orangutans," which were the red-headed Dutch traders who had very limited access to the Japanese mainland). Robson does a masterful job of putting the reader inside the Asian mind, where poetry transcends all, and the mournful beauty of a landscape can be the transcendent moment of a lifetime.

Other writers would have been tempted to make "The Tokaido Road" into a chop-socky action piece. To be sure, Cat is an expert with the Japanese sword/spear, the naginata, and we see her use it to lethal effect. We also see the ronin, Hanshiro, swordsman extraordinaire, mete out lethal justice with "Barber." But it is a mark of Robson's appropriate restraint that Hanshiro's most powerful demonstration of swordsmanship is used to prevent a swordfight, rather than win one.

Hanshiro is one heck of a character, by the way. A masterless samurai, Hanshiro is charged by the holder of Cat's courtesan contract to track Cat down. Initially convinced that this is just another hum-drum assignment, the noble Hanshiro eventually sees through the fog of Cat's various disguises and counterfeits to see the steel-strong will and razor-sharp mind behind the gorgeous facade, and he falls in love with Cat even before they have their first conversation. As unbelievable as this poorly written review makes that plot line, Robson pulls it off masterfully, again by placing us so well inside the thoughts, values, and motivations of these characters.

We also get to meet Kasane, the peasant girl who latches on to Cat with a zeal that is at first annoying, but soon is cherished. Kasane's home-spun simplicity is charming, and her love-letter romance with the star-struck Traveler brings any number of smiles.

Structured around the journey along the Tokaido Road, the major highway in Japan, the book undeniably has an episodic feel, as minor characters make brief appearances and depart, but most leave quite an impression.

Robson also shows the harsh world of feudal Japan, where peasants and farmers live on a razor's edge between sustenance and starvation, and samurai are always struggling to maintain honor when disgrace is always lurking. Robson is unflinching in her depiction of this long-lost Japan, and this unyielding focus creates moments of great sadness as well as great triumph.

This story is a parallel story to the famed "47 Ronin" story, in which forty-seven ronin plotted to avenge their betrayed lord, and, in one night, killed their lord's betrayer and then committed ritual suicide. In "Tokaido

Road," Cat's father is the betrayed lord, and Cat's plot of vengeance runs parallel to that of the 47 ronin. In perhaps the only weak point of the book, Cat is ultimately more of an observer to the act of vengeance rather than a participant. After all this woman has been through, she deserved to take it herself.

But, as one of the wiser characters in the book says, courage means living when it's time to live and dying when it's time to die. For Cat, the answer to that question denies her certain opportunities, but opens up others.

Cat is not a character to be forgotten, and "Tokaido Road" is a book that should be read.

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