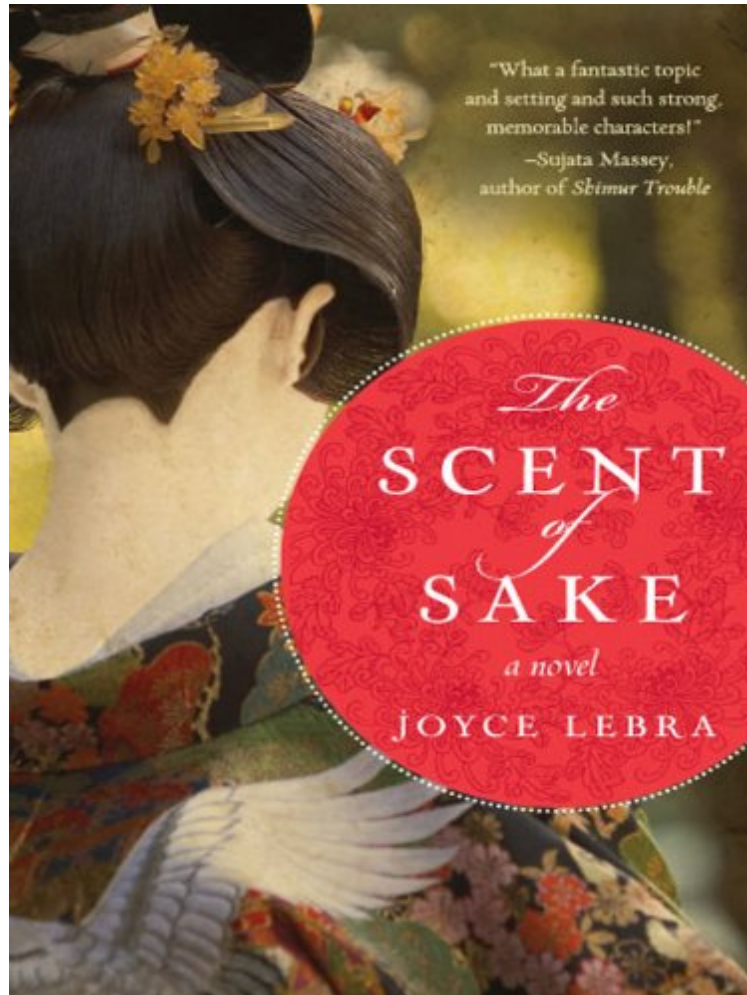


(Ebook pdf) The Scent of Sake

## The Scent of Sake

Von Joyce Lebra

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**Von Joyce Lebra : The Scent of Sake** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Scent of Sake:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "Loyalty can never be called into question. It is absolute" (3.5\*)Von WombatsbooksJoyce Lebra is a professor emerita for Japanese History and has lived in Japan for more than ten years. She has authored ten non-fiction books on Japanese and Indian topics such as "The Indian National Army and Japan". "The Scent of Sake" is her third historical novel.Lebra's novel on a dynasty of sake brewers is set in Kobe between 1825 and approximately 1900. Her main character is the daughter of a prominent sake brewery house who wishes nothing more than to devote her live to sake brewing but is forbidden to do so openly because of traditions. Even though the main character Rie holds the reigns in her hands until she dies, she can never openly be head of the house of Omura..."The Scent of Sake" is a novel on

loyalty and tradition. It is wonderfully rich in detail on sake-brewing, Japanese traditions and daily life during the Edo era and the difference between *honne* (one's wishes and desires) and *tatemae* (behavior and opinions displayed in public), the downfall of the shogunate and the Meiji Restoration period - a fascinating blend. It is also full of dull characters, however. Although Rie is strong, she is one-dimensional. The complementary characters are either black or white, no shade in between and there is literally no character development. What a pity! If the blend between historical detail and character development had been more balanced, "The Scent of Sake" would be a prime read. The way it is, as a novel it has major flaws, but is still an interesting read, if you are as fascinated by Japanese traditions and/or history as I am.

**Kurzbeschreibung** She was taught to submit, to obey . . . but she dreamed of an empire. The sole heir to the House of Omura, a venerable family of Kobe sake brewers, nineteen-year-old Rie hears but cannot heed her mother's advice: that in nineteenth-century Japan, a woman must "kill the self" or her life will be too difficult to bear. In this strict, male-dominated society, women may not even enter the brewery and repressive tradition demands that Rie turn over her family's business to the inept philanderer she's been forced to marry. She is even expected to raise her husband's children by another woman, a geisha, so that they can eventually run the Omura enterprise. But Rie's pride will not allow her to relinquish what is rightfully hers. With courage, cunning, brilliance, and skill, she is ready to confront every threat that arises before her, from prejudice to treachery to shipwrecks to the insidious schemes of relentless rivals. In her bold determination to forge a magnificent dynasty...and to, impossibly, succeed. An epic and breathtaking saga that spans generations as it sweeps through the heart of a century, Joyce Lebra's *The Scent of Sake* is a vivid and powerful entry into another world...and an unforgettable portrait of a woman who would not let that world defeat her.

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**Synopsis** In the early 1800s, Japan's sake was brewed by a select few family dynasties. Rie, the daughter of the house of Omura, has always been fascinated by her family's sake business, even though it is considered unwomanly to take an interest in male concerns and especially bad luck for a woman to even enter a sake brewing house. Her job is to marry well so that her parents can pass down the business to another generation. But, when her chosen husband is more interested in fathering many children with the town's Geishas than in keeping the business alive, Rie must take matters into her own hands or risk losing the business that is her life. She makes a radical decision that may cost her everything.