

the sword of souls

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just a story I've been writeing in my spare time plz tell me what u think ^_^

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1 - chapter 1 :it begins

THE SWORD OF SOULS **THE LEGEND OF MIKO THE WARRIOR** By Gemma Hopkins Edited by Matthew Pammenter Chapter One I am Miko Steel, and I was once a great warrior, but then my life came to a tragic end. I am here to tell the story of my life; to tell of how I lived and how I died. It all started on the 10th of July 1037; the year I was born. My father was disappointed with me; After all, I was a girl! But my mother was over the moon, a little daughter to help with the chores. Sadly, she died when I was five; and my father died a little while after. By the time I was 7, I began to think about what else was out there in the world, and it was soon that I would leave my village to see what the world was really like. On my travels, I came across an old swordsman. He looked at me; "Hello there, little girl" he said. "Who are you calling little!" I said angrily (I've always hated it when people call me little) "What's your name little one?" he said as if he hadn't heard me. Glaring at him, I said "My name is Miko. What's yours old man?" "My name is not important. Do you know how to use one of these?" as he said this he pulled out a long sword. I took a step back staring at it I was shocked to have been asked if I knew how to use a weapon as deadly as this! I was, after all, barely 8! "N... N... N... No, I don't know how to use that," I replied; He smiled a little, and asked "Would you like to learn how to use one of these?" "Yes please," I said with a glint in my eyes, as I looked it up at him. Slowly, he put the sword away... A soft noise of sword in scabbard; and he spoke again "Then follow me." I followed him; and we came to a temple not far down the road. The temple was a series of buildings like dojos in Japan. The gardens were beautiful full of trees and flowers. "This Temple is where all of the greatest swordsmen and women of legend trained to become the best" He said proudly, as he gave me the grand tour of the temple. Somewhat overwhelmed, I asked "Do you think I could be as good as them?" "With the right training you could be even better." He replied " Really you think so," my face lit up "I know so." He said. But he wasn't looking at me, anymore...

2 - chapter 2: training

Chapter Two To start my training I had to run miles through forests and mountains every morning to improve my stamina. After lunch, we moved on to combat training. By the time I was eleven, I was running many miles daily and combat training with weights on my arms and legs. Much time passed; until, one day my master watched while I trained. During one of the rest periods, he came up to me. "You are almost ready for the final test, young Miko." He said, with a weary smile. "What is the final test, master?" I asked, both keen and nervous as to what he would reply. "It is a test of all you have learned here at the temple; though you have but one more skill to prove," he said. He looked proudly down to me. "What skill would that be?" I asked puzzled. "You have yet to demonstrate your skill with the long sword; Go, then, and fetch them." "Yes master." Dutifully, off I went to fetch them; and when I had returned, my master had drawn a large circle in the dust of the sparring ring. He was stretching in the middle. As I returned, he looked up at me. "Good, hand me one. Now, stand in the circle facing me." I did so; then in a flash he made a downward slash! I just had enough time to jump back, and he chuckled to himself. "Good, good... you are quick on your feet. As you should be. Now; attack me." "Yes, master." And as I said this I began to circle my master then I leaped at him with all my strength; he parried it like it was nothing. Swiftly, he counterattacked and I fell to the ground in a heap. "You have much to learn, young one." He said as he helped me to my feet. "Can I ask you something master?" "Go ahead." "Why were you on that road that night?" This, a question I had wanted to ask for a very long time. "The night before I came upon you, a very powerful Seer came to me as I was training and requested that we talk." He paused for breath, "And you had best sit; for it is a long story she told." So I sat, and looked at my master. "Well; here goes" he said; and he began... "The Seer stood across from me, and looked to the ground at her feet. 'I fear that our fate has been placed in the hands of two mere children', she said. 'What do you mean?' I asked; 'Have you heard of the sword of souls?' 'Yes; though I fail to see what that has got to do with anything. It was lost, long ago' She sat down, wearily; 'I had a vision of two young girls setting out on a journey and coming across the sword of souls; though, merely a pair of girls, they did not recognise it. Needless to say, the sword soon fell in to the hands of evil.' She paused, and looked me straight in the eye, 'The vision then showed me the terrible death and destruction that would befall the world if such an event is ever allowed to happen.' 'Why, then, have you come to me? I am but a Warrior' I replied, 'And I do not see what I can do...' 'Tomorrow, one of the girls will be travelling south on the road that passes this place at sundown. I wish only that you would take her in, and train her.' I nodded, grimly. 'I will do what I can. But what of the second girl?' 'I'll see to her training. I will train her in the arts of sorcery.' And with that, she turned and disappeared into the night." "Quite a story, Master" I said in awe. "And, at the time she said, I found you." He whispered; and fell quiet "I've... got to... think about all of this", said I, walking away and leaving him in the sparring room. As I walked about the temple, my mind was whirling. How could I believe what my Master had told me? "How could a young girl like me save anything let alone the world!? I have so much to learn..." Some time later, I returned to the room, to find my master sat where he had been when I had left. "Master... please, train me so I am strong enough." "Alright" he nodded in agreement, "But it's going to get a lot harder from now on. This is no easy task you choose. Do YOU think you can handle it?" he asked, looking at me. "Yes, Master." I bowed to him; and in that moment, I was ready. I was determined to become the very best there ever was.

3 - chapter 3: fairwell

Chapter Three

By the time I was fifteen I had gained many new skills. I had learned how to use a bow and arrow and how to use a sword and shield. I learned how to be stealthy; and how to mend clothes and how to treat my own wounds. Most important I learned how to catch my own food; and how to cook. My master said that I wouldn't last long if I didn't know how to be self-sufficient. "Miko..." Said my master one day, as we finished dinner. "You are almost ready to start your journey." "What do you mean master?" I asked; But I knew exactly what he meant. I just wanted him to say it. "It is almost time for you to leave this temple, and to seek the sword of souls." He replied calmly. I looked to the floor. "Yes, Master... I just don't think I am ready yet; that's all." "Miko! You are more than ready; and you know all that I can teach. Now, once you have finished your dinner go fetch the long swords and meet me in the arena." He told me. He sounded serious. "Yes master." I nodded, meekly. When I'd finished, I went to get the swords, and just like last time my master had drawn a circle on the ground and was stretching in the middle. "Ah, there you are. As you know, to finish your training you must beat me." he said, without pausing from his stretches. I entered the circle, and handed him one of the swords. "I know." I said with determination. We began to circle each other; then I took a sweep at his legs! He jumped clear easily and lunged, trying to stab me in the stomach. I rolled away and jumped to my feet; then charged at him, but he simply sidestepped and tripped me. I got up, and thrust for the heart; but he parried and spun my sword out of my hands. I flipped back and caught my sword in midair. "You'll have to do better than that to beat me." My master said, a little out of breath. "Oh, I'm just warming up." I said then I threw up my sword and as my master watched it I punched him in the stomach and kicked him in the head, he fell to the ground heavily. He rolled and jumped up to face me as I caught my sword. Again we circled each other I jumped up and swung down at my master's head. Again he blocked me and kicked me in mid-air, and I tumbled across the circle and staggered to my feet. I began to gather my strength my master looked at me puzzled then he understood what I was doing and raised his sword to strike me down before I gathered my strength but he was too late as he struck I charged forward screaming a battle cry knocking him and his sword to the ground. I stood over him and said breathlessly, "did I do well?" The look of shock on his face changed to a smile "You did wonderfully, my student." He chuckled and I helped him to get up. "That was a very strong last attack." He said as we walked away from the arena "Really." I said "Yes and I want to know is where you got all that strength from." He asked "I don't know all I know is that I was determined to beat you." I replied "Interesting, very interesting..." he said, thoughtfully "Well... it is time for you to start your quest for the Sword of Souls." He said, with a sad look. "I knew this day would come. But master; when you told me the story about why you were on that road so many years ago you mentioned another girl who would join me on my quest." I said He chuckled, "I did, didn't I... yes that is why you must go to the temple on top of Mount Angel." "What a funny name for a mountain." I laughed "Don't mock the name it's said that god named that mountain so it's a holy place." My master said, suddenly serious and with a frown. "Yes, master. I'll get my things ready to leave." As I walked to my sleeping quarters, my mind raced. And as I started to pack my stuff, I couldn't believe that I had to leave! I loved it here at the temple. I saw no point in leaving, just because some seer had a vision about me and some other girl saving the world! In the end, after much thought, I decided to go anyway, partly as a favour to my master for training me; and partly for the adventure. What an opportunity! I headed to the gates and, hearing footsteps, I turned to see my master coming towards me. "Master; is some thing wrong?" I asked nervously. "No, no... Nothing is wrong, Miko. I just came out to say farewell, and to give you these." As he spoke, he handed

me a map and a sword, a bow and a quiver of arrows. "Thank you, master. I will never forget you." I took them, and bowed to him respectfully. As I turned, I started to cry, turned back to him for a quick hug. Then, I turned out of the gates to start my quest. Onward, to Mount Angel.

4 - Chapter 4: the seeress

Chapter Four The mountain wasn't that far away well it didn't look that far any way it took me at least five days to get there and on my way I saw lots of wild life and tried new things but the one thing I saw lots of was trees lots and lots of trees. The ground that I slept on wasn't bad but when I woke up each morning it had rained so I was wet every time. I loved every moment of it, it was the best time I had had in my fifteen years of life. I came up to the mountain that my master had pointed out to me and I began to climb. ok this isn't so hard I said as I was climbing then I slipped and fell down a bit the landed on a over hang ouch ok concentrate I begin to climb again and after about a hour I reached the house of the seer my master told me about. HELLO IS ANYONE HERE I called a girl about my age came out of the house she wore a white robe and she had dark brown hair almost black can I help u she asked nicely yes um ..Im here to find the seeress I was a little shy of this girl something about her said that Ive met her before I just cant remember where. follow me please she walks to the house umm sorry have we met before I asked as I ran to catch up sorry not that I recall she replied humm ok I smiled at her and she smiled back she opened a door and stepped in some one to she u mother she said as she entered sitting on the floor was a woman of about 40 her hair was mouse brown with a little grey at her temples she also wore a robe but hers was edged in gold come in miko Ive been waiting for u she said softly the girl went over to the woman and kissed her forehead then sat in the corner watching. hi I was told to come here and speak with u by my master I stood there unsure of myself right yes please come sit with me all will be answered soon the woman smiled at me and I smiled back u will be staying in the spare room for tonight you are staying the night arent u yes please thank you I replied good then I will explain every thing tomorrow she stood up and walked over to a desk that was on the other side of the room she opened the draw. She turned and walked back to me holding a gem stone on a chain this will protect u on your journey miko so keep it close at all times she handed it to me and I just stared at it in wonder I cant take this its to beautiful I couldnt except it was probably worth hundreds of gold corns she laughed its ok u can have it I have no use for it anymore she just smiled at me and folded my fingers over the gem its yours no take care of it tears started to form in my eyes I flung my arms around her neck thank you I was happy no one had ever given me anything like this before your welcome now go get ready you have a long way to go tomorrow she turned to the girl in the corner Chloe please show our guest where she is staying yes mother Chloe stood up and walked to me please follow me to your room I nodded my head and followed her down the hall to the spare room this is your room my room is next door if u need anything she turned to leave thank you Chloe I said still thinking I had met her before your welcome sleep tight she left and closed the door behind her. I sat on my bed for a little while thinking about what lies ahead of me then I started to think of that gem the seer had given me I stared at it was such a nice pale blue colour with silver and edged with gold it looked so beautiful I put it around my neck it felt weightless its amazing I whispered I couldnt take my eyes off it then I decided to look around the room. On side of the room was a desk next to it was a wardrobe I went over to the desk and tried to open the draws but they were locked I then went to the wardrobe but it was empty well that was eventful I murmured to my self after that I ly down and went to sleep. Chapter Five