



The Kizuna Coast

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When an earthquake triggers a tsunami that floods Japan's northeast coast, amateur sleuth Rei Shimura is pushed into her most rugged adventure yet.

It starts with an SOS from Rei's beloved elderly friend, the antiques dealer Mr. Ishida, who's trapped among thousands on the ravaged Tohoku coast. Rei rushes from Hawaii to blacked-out Tokyo, where she discovers Ishida Antiques may have been burglarized and its cuddly watchdog, Hachiko, needs a caregiver.

Rei and Hachiko board a bus full of disaster volunteers headed to the damaged town of Sugihama. Once there, they learn about the disappearance during the tsunami of Mr. Ishida's antiques apprentice, Mayumi, a troubled young woman from a famous lacquer-making family.

Making use of her volunteer friends, as well as her knowledge of Japanese manners and antiques, Rei investigates Mayumi's suspicious disappearance. Complicating the situation is a police force overwhelmed by counting the dead, and a stalker who's set his or her own sights on Rei.

The Kizuna Coast Details

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From Reader Review The Kizuna Coast for online ebook

Noora says

Vaikka olikin ihan mukava lukea Rein kuulumisia pitkästä aikaa, ei tämä kirja mikään maata mullistava lukukokemus ollut. Juoni ei ollut aiempien Shimura-kirjojen veroinen ja Rei itse oli ihan yhtä ärsyttävä kuin ennenkin. Lisäksi Rein olisi pitänyt kyllä päätellä tarinan konna reilusti aiemmin. Ihan jees, mutta ei todellakaan mikään kummoinen kirja.

Salla Erho says

Ihan kiva oli tavata pitkästä aikaa Rei Shimura, mutta ehkä muistan ne edelliset dekkarit parempina kuin olivatkaan tai sitten Masseyn olisi vain kannattanut pysyä päätöksessään ja antaa Rein olla. Massey sijoittaa tarinan vuoteen 2011, maanjäristyksen ja tsunamin koettelemaan Japaniin. Hedelmällinen maaperä dekkaritarinalle, mutta se ei vain kulje. Tämä solahtaa kategoriaan ok välipala, joka unohtunee muistista hyvin pian.

Linda says

3.5 stars

I had thought the Rei Shimura series ended several years ago. But the author was inspired by the events of the 2011 tsunami in Japan to revisit the characters. I'm glad she did.

Rei and her husband Michael are living in Hawaii, not long after their marriage. When the earthquake and tsunami strike Japan, Rei is worried about her friends and family there, particularly her elderly mentor, Mr. Ishido, whom she learns was injured and is trapped in one of the worst-hit areas. Rei travels to Japan and joins volunteers to the disaster area to search for Ishidosan and help with the clean-up and rescue efforts. There, she learns her mentor's young employee is missing, along with heirloom lacquer pieces from her family which were worth a small fortune. Of course Rei cannot let a mystery go uninvestigated, and she searches for the girl and missing treasures as she deals with the tragedies large and small of the tsunami.

The story was a worthwhile and enjoyable revisit to what was a very good series. I loved the chance to see Rei and some of her friends and family again. The real draw to the series then and now, though, was the wonderful peek into Japanese culture, and the backdrop of the tsunami made it all the more interesting and poignant.

I understand the author has written some stories set in India. If she weaves insights about local culture and customs in to those as she has with the Rei Shimura series, it will be well worth checking out.

Betty says

I have read all the Rei Shimura mysteries. This one was long overdue.

The rating of 3 is because the series is forever entertaining. The writing superb. It is nice to have familiar characters, Aunt Norie, Cousin Tom, Mr Ishida, husband (finally) Michael, Richard and Enrique.

Moving the story to familiar territory (Japan) allows the cast of characters to all be involved. Rei is in her comfort zone. I don't want to post any spoilers so I will refrain from comments surrounding the "missing persons". For long time mystery readers the words "too easy & obvious" come to mind. Book 11 the reader should have to work harder.

I suggest new readers start with Book 1 The Salaryman.

Kim Kash says

What I enjoy most about all of Sujata Massey's books is the careful explanations they offer of the art, food, and culture of Japan (and India, too, in *The Sleeping Dictionary*.) *Kizuna Coast* finds Rei Shimura investigating a suspicious death right in the middle of the overwhelming devastation following Japan's 2011 earthquake and tsunami. It's a clever plot, involving a collection of antique lacquerware and a rebellious blue-haired artist. Fans of Rei Shimura will find themselves in happily familiar territory with Massey's descriptions of the contents of Japanese antique shops and auction houses. That said, the plot feels a little more pared down than in some of Rei's other outings--and I think that's as it should be. The book is full of descriptions of the region hardest hit by the tsunami, and the rescue and cleanup efforts, which were aided by volunteers who showed up by the busload. The mystery is expertly woven through plenty of very real and specific details about what life was like in the aftermath of the disaster. Massey does a great job of unfolding this fictional mystery within an excruciating moment in history.

Katja says

It was very nice to return to Rei and her adventures! I don't know how but I had actually missed the news that Massey had written one more Rei book, and find out only when the Finnish edition was published this summer.

The book is full of details about Japan and the way of life there which I obviously love. I only wish the mystery hadn't relied so heavily on coincidences. Rei investigated things but didn't do much solving, she just got lucky.

Jo says

I was a fan of the Rei Shimura series and didn't notice there was an 11th book until just now! So obviously I had to read it - though I couldn't remember the original books at all anymore.

This was a nice, light, and enjoyable read, I loved the mystery of having several suspects and lots of things going on.

It wasn't very realistic how Rei kept stumbling onto the right answers by accident or how eager she was to solve everything herself, flying to another continent and picking locks. But that's ok, there are lots of illogical books out there with Mary Sue-ish characters.

What I found disturbing, however, was the clumsy dialogue and the large amount of typos, continuity errors and other mistakes. Sentences were missing words or had them double. And so on. Wasn't there an editor?

For example,

-a meeting was made for 7 pm. When it happens, it's 6 pm

-Mr Kimura says something and later Rei says it was the Mrs who said it

-Rei had an omelette and later it had turned into a pizza

-Hanauma Bay was misspelled as Hanama Bay

-there was talk about Audrey Hepburn dying very young, but she was actually over 60 when she died (which is unfortunate and, yes, young if compared to a centenarian, but not what they meant in this context)

I mean, sure, these are little things. But when these small mistakes keep repeating on every other page, it distracts you.

So, how many stars? A tough one. Entertainment: 4 stars. Readability: 3 stars.

Would I read one of Sujata's other books? I'm not convinced.

Larry H says

I've been a big fan of Sujata Massey's series of mysteries featuring danger-prone antiques dealer Rei Shimura for quite some time now. In 2008, when I read the 10th book in the series, *Shimura Trouble*, it certainly sounded as if Massey was finished spinning stories about her heroine, and I was rather upset, so when I found out that Rei had returned to the literary world, I was very excited to spend time with her and her compatriots once again.

When *The Kizuna Coast* opens, Rei and her new husband, Michael Hendricks, are settling into their lives in Hawaii. But newlywed bliss is short-lived once the couple learns that a powerful earthquake has rocked the northeast coast of Japan, followed by a devastating tsunami that left enormous death and destruction in its wake. Although Rei is relieved to find out that her family members living in Japan are all safe, when she receives a distressed phone call from her mentor and former boss, antiques dealer Mr. Ishida, who has been injured and displaced by the storm, she promises to go to Japan to help him.

Getting to Japan shortly after such a disaster proves challenging (not to mention upsetting to her husband), and once she arrives, in order to get to the city where Mr. Ishida is, she must offer her services as a disaster

relief volunteer. But before she arrives in Tohoku, she visits Mr. Ishida's shop, only to discover it may have been burglarized. And when she finally is reunited with him, she finds that while he is concerned about his shop, he is most concerned about the whereabouts of his employee, Mayumi, who unexpectedly met him in Tohoku on the day of the tsunami, but seems to have disappeared.

At first, Rei doubts just how devoted of an employee Mayumi is, but then she starts to uncover more information about the tumultuous life this young girl led. And as she finds herself trying to help find out what happened to Mayumi, and get Mr. Ishida back to his shop, she is also overwhelmed by the destruction, both physical and emotional, that the tsunami caused. To top it off, her worries begin to grow about her husband as well, whose job sends him near the Fukushima nuclear reactor, which was damaged during the storm.

Reading *The Kizuna Coast* is like being reunited with old friends. Rei's character hasn't changed, although she has gotten a bit more mature at times, but her doggedness and her compassion remain the same. While this book dealt more with her experiences in the tsunami-stricken area, it was still good to see the return Mr. Ishida, as well as her close friend and former roommate, Richard; her aunt, Norie; and her doctor cousin, Tom. The plot is a little predictable but it doesn't matter, because Rei is a warm, fascinating character and Massey does such a great job making you care about her and those with whom Rei is dealing. And as always, there's even some fascinating information about Japanese antiques thrown in for good measure.

If you're a mystery fan, I'd definitely encourage you to pick up a book in Massey's Rei Shimura series. They're fun and compelling, and they've really taught me a great deal about Japanese culture I probably wouldn't have learned otherwise. Plus, you now have 11 books to read in the series, so hopefully if you get hooked, by the time you're done, Massey may write another!

See all of my reviews at <http://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com>...

Kerrie says

Sujata Massey says

Because of the real framework of the 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster, this book could probably qualify as a modern historical novel within the Rei mystery series.

As Rei Shimura ventures to the Tohoku coast in search of her mentor Ishida-san as a Helping Hand volunteer vivid description builds of the impact of the tsunami on coastal towns and villages, and of the way the Japanese community works together to rebuild lives. There is an authentic feel to the narrative which told me things about the tsunami that I had no way of knowing: the pervading smell of the rotting fish left behind as the water retreated, the stories of people who survived while those with them were washed away, the aftershocks that continued for days, and so on.

Against this background Massey has woven the story of the search for Mayumi who disappeared after the earthquake, and then of Rei's search for justice.

It is always a delight to discover an author and enjoy your first read so much. It is like making a new friend.

KatRi says

I find this difficult to review: after eleven books, I consider Rei as my dear, comforting friend. This time the themes were a shade darker, but Rei kept me entertained. Perfect summer read for fans!

Penny Watson says

I missed this series so much!

This is one of my favorite mystery series, with a really appealing main character who is half-Japanese and half-American. Sujata Massey masterfully blends art, history, and culture with compelling storylines (devastation of the Japanese tsunami and its after-math) and fascinating characters. Rei pulls us into her life straddling two cultures and gives us touching insights about both. The details about life in Japan--including food, art, cultural differences--bring these books alive. The mystery in this book was satisfactory, but once again it was the characters and the horror of the tsunami event that made me fall in love with this book.

Another winner. Loved it.

Grade: A

Linda says

Sujata Massey's latest in the Rei Shimura series is more somber and stars a more mature heroine. Rei returns to Japan to help the victims of the horrendous earthquake/tsunami aftermath of 2011 when her mentor Mr Ishida calls upon her. His current apprentice Kimura Mayumi is missing and he fears the worst. Rei immediately embarks on a harrowing mission enlisting help from her husband Michael and various Japanese relatives and friends. Ms Massey does a respectful job of describing the devastation, the relief efforts and "kizuna" all while providing another culturally informative mystery. I, for one, am pleased to see the series continue with a more mature Rei. I hope Ms Massey has more Rei adventures planned (along with more new Indian-based books) for her fans. In the meantime, arigato, Ms Massey!

Jenni says

Reading this was a weird experience. I read most of the Rei stories in my teens when she was a good decade older than me and there was some thrill in her adventures. In this book she is the same age as me (though obviously this is set to 2011 and not this year) and I feel like because of that I judged her actions and frankly naive behavior a lot more than earlier. I mean, I should've been able to relate to her better now, right? And yet.

That being said, I found the story itself okay. I remember the news about the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. (I was on a study exchange, the first days of it actually, and some of my classmates were Japanese. It wasn't exactly an uplifting point of conversation.) This book does a decent job describing it all, the aftermath, the destruction, in a way you don't often come across in fiction. There are some too-good-to-

believe parts, but I guess there were miracle survivors and all that. But yes, the stories of those who survived and those who didn't, the apathy and helplessness, the kizuna spirit are well very depicted.

However, the actual mystery in this one is rather weak. It's quite easy to figure out what's happened and who most likely did it from the get go, and the motives are all too clearly spelled out too. I admit I don't remember much from the earlier books (man, now I kind of want to do some rereading) so I can't say if the mystery is on par with them. The way things are unravelled is a bit... comical even, at times. If you can overlook the main plotline of this book and focus on what happens on the side, then this is pretty nice.

Some of the characters are awfully stereotypical, but I did like the descriptions of Japan and the culture and while at times it felt some things were explained in painful detail, in general most of those parts of this book worked really well. So, while this wasn't all that great, it was nice to return to something familiar.

Shomeret says

After reading *The Widows of Malabar Hill*, the first in a 1920's India mystery series by Sujata Massey, I discovered that there was this novel from her Rei Shimura mystery series that I hadn't previously noticed. I decided that *The Kizuna Coast* would be my last read of 2018.

There was so much to like about this book. Most notably, the concept of kizuna. From what is said about it in this book, I would call it a combination of compassion and generosity particularly in an emergency situation. So New Yorkers could be said to have shown kizuna toward each other post 9-11. Kizuna was definitely on display in the context of the earthquake and tsunami that occurred in Japan just before the events of this novel.

Like Rei, I initially disliked Ishida's new apprentice, Mayumi, who died in suspicious circumstances. Mayumi lacked an ethical compass, but she did become more sympathetic as we discovered more about her. She turned out to be a very interesting character.

I couldn't give *The Kizuna Coast* five stars because the perpetrator became obvious before the big reveal. Nevertheless, I was glad to have read it. I think it's one of the better Rei Shimura novels.

For my complete review see <https://shomeretmasked.blogspot.com/2018/12/the-kizuna-coast.html>

Richard says

This book takes place during an "interesting" period immediately after the Fukushima disaster in Japan, when the protagonist (Rei Shimura) goes there from Hawaii to volunteer and search for her mentor, who has disappeared. His assistant, a young woman, has also disappeared. Mystery ensues, amid a backdrop of utter civil chaos.

Aside from enjoying the protagonist as I always do, I found the book to contain a lot of local color, imparting a good feeling for the extent of the disaster and various personal tragedies of the characters she comes in contact with. Oh... Some of my favorite passages were the painting scene, the haircut scene, and the bathtub scene.

Ms Massey's writing is clear and flows well, as always. I've read the entire Rei Shimura series, of which this is number eleven, and I've enjoyed them all.

After the first nine books were traditionally published, the author apparently went solo for this and the previous volume. This one is self-published -- "Ikat Press" (Baltimore) has no web presence -- so I'd consider it an indy. The formatting and editing are top-notch, aside from a handful of typos.
