



## The Kaisho: A Nicholas Linnear Novel

By Eric Van Lustbader

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### **The Kaisho: A Nicholas Linnear Novel** By Eric Van Lustbader

From *New York Times* bestselling author Eric Lustbader, the suspense mastermind behind the smash bestsellers featuring Robert Ludlum's™ Jason Bourne, comes a blockbuster thriller of one man's debt of honor—and his ultimate destiny.

Years ago, Nicholas Linnear, a.k.a. “the Ninja,” made a promise to his father: If a man named Mikio Okami ever sought his help, he would respond without question, no matter the cost. Now the time has come to fulfill his pledge. Okami is the Kaisho—the boss of bosses of the Yakuza, the Japanese underworld—and in his Venice headquarters, he realizes that he has been marked for death. But the identity of the assassin and the inexorable compulsion that drives him are shrouded in mysticism and madness. Honor bound to protect Okami, Linnear is prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice: a descent into a chasm of knowledge so potent, of dangers so unfathomable, that even if he survives, he will emerge changed forever.

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## **The Kaisho: A Nicholas Linnear Novel** By Eric Van Lustbader Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #860890 in Books
- Published on: 2015-02-03
- Released on: 2015-02-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 1.20" w x 5.31" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 560 pages

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Ninja Nicholas Linnear infiltrates the Japanese underworld in Lustbader's fast-paced thriller.

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From Kirkus Reviews

Lustbader--Master of the Orient!--returns stronger than ever with the fourth of the Nicholas Linnear novels (The Ninja, 1980; The Miko, 1984; and White Ninja, 1990), with a fifth promised. Lustbader's dense approach to storytelling lets rich backgrounds support incredible plots and high-tension martial-arts battles. Here, he lavishes even more care than usual on bringing Tokyo, Venice, Paris, and Washington to a ringing life against which his stereotypes leap superhumanly and unload tons of Eastern expertise. Nicholas Linnear, co-owner of the Japan-based Tomkin-Sato electronics corporation, fights the recession by trying to expand the firm's base in Vietnam, where he hopes to make his phenomenal T-PRAM computer chip (it's based on the human brain structure) while being hit with attacks from McCarthy-like investigations by Senator Rance in Washington. Meanwhile, his wife, Justine, takes a passionate distaste for the Japanese following the death of their child and a miscarriage. In the middle of all this, the Kaisho (or Godfather of Japanese criminals) calls upon Nicholas to repay a moral debt incurred by his late father, who--when on General MacArthur's staff following WW II--enlisted the Kaisho's aid in jump-starting democracy in Japan. The Kaisho has moved in on the American Mafia--but an even superior Japanese criminal organization wants to kill the elderly Kaisho while forming a worldwide underworld conglomerate. The Kaisho trusts no one among his own people: Nicholas must find and destroy the assassin, despite his scorn for Yakuza. The assassin, the death-loving Du Doc--a mind-reading Vietnamese of fabulous fighting ability and access to occult areas of martial arts that Linnear himself must now master if he is to meet Du Doc head-on--is one of Lustbader's best villains, his wickedness woven with an erotic mastery that melts all women. Plunging melodrama and poppy dreams of supersex. Superior hokum. -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

About the Author

Eric Lustbader is the author of nearly forty novels, including the *New York Times* bestseller *The Ninja*, which introduced Nicholas Linnear, one of modern fiction's most beloved and enduring heroes. In 2004, Mr. Lustbader was chosen by the estate of the late Robert Ludlum to continue the Jason Bourne novels, and has published eight international bestselling works to rave reviews. He is also the author of two successful and highly regarded series of fantasy novels, *The Sunset Warrior Cycle* and *The Pearl Saga*. He and his wife Victoria are residents of the South Fork of Long Island.

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**Samuel Tapp:**

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