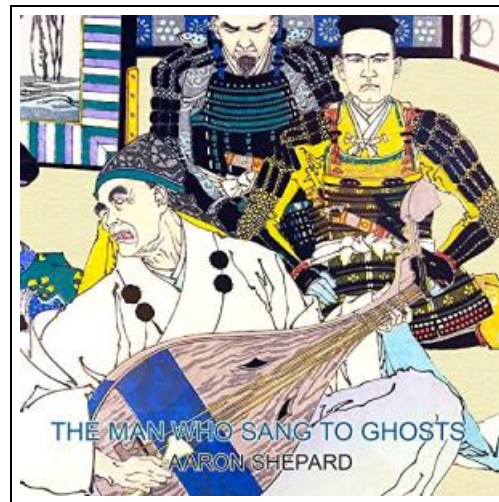


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 ////////////////////////////////// Aaron Shepard is the award-winning author of The Baker s Dozen, The Sea King s Daughter, Lady White Snake, and many more children s books. His stories have appeared often in Cricket magazine, while his Web site is known internationally as a prime resource for folktales, storytelling, and reader s theater. Once a professional storyteller, Aaron specializes in lively retellings of folktales and other traditional literature, which have won him honors from the American Library Association, the New York Public Library, the Bank Street College of Education, the National Council for the Social Studies, and the American Folklore Society.   
 ////////////////////////////////// SAMPLE  
 Hearing something, Hoichi stopped his playing and listened. Through the night came footsteps, measured by a steady CLANK, CLANK -- the sound of armor. A samurai coming to the temple, thought Hoichi. What could he want at this hour? The footsteps moved through the back gate of the temple and across the garden. CLANK, CLANK. They were coming straight toward him! As the young man s heart beat faster, the footsteps halted before the veranda. Hoichi! Sir! replied the young man. Then he added, Please, sir, I am blind. I cannot see who you are. You have nothing to fear, said the voice. My master, a lord of high rank, is lodging nearby. He came to visit Dan-no-ura, the scene of the...

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