



**ADVANCE PRAISE for *Bottled Lightning* by Mark Weeks**

“L. M. Weeks takes us on a journey of underworld violence, boardroom intrigue, and high-tech advances with geo-political implications. Weeks’s combination of nerdish attention to detail and sweeping cinematic plot takes us on a breathless ride akin to his hero’s daring motorcycle escapades. Torn, the lawyer-turned-action hero, as well as other biracial characters in the novel, provide a unique and revealing perspective of life and social interaction in Japan. *Bottled Lightning* is a page turner!”

—**Roy Tomizawa, author of the highly acclaimed 1964 – *The Greatest Year in the History of Japan: How the Tokyo Olympics Symbolized Japan’s Miraculous Rise from the Ashes***

“*Bottled Lightning* is a blistering high stakes story revolving around a cutting-edge energy invention designed to dramatically reduce the earth’s carbon footprint, those working to bring it to the world, and those determined to see that it doesn’t see the light of day. Savvy tech lawyer, Torn Sagara, who heads the Tokyo office of his international law firm, is forced to take matters into his own hands to protect magnetic super-scientist, Saya Brooks, and her world-changing creation. Who is behind the desperate attempts to stop Brooks, and ally Sagara, dead in their tracks—literally? Is it industry or government forces or some combination of the two that wants to bury Saya’s technology? Author L. M. Weeks has written a highly entertaining, engaging, and provocative thriller that will keep you on your toes and guessing the answers until the final page.”

—**Ronald S. Barak, author of the bestselling Brooks/Lotello thriller series**

“This action-packed saga follows Torn Sagara—biracial lawyer, motorcycle maniac, and flawed ladies’ man—on a quest to stop a series of mysterious attacks on his inventor client. As the story escalates into murder and international intrigue, the reader is in for a wild ride from Tokyo to Alaska to the Russian Far East. Fans of Barry Eisler and Barry Lancet will want to jump right in! An impressive and intelligent debut.”

—**Leza Lowitz, author of *Jet Black and the Ninja Wind***

“The heart of this fast-paced and enjoyable novel is its protagonist, Tornait Masao Sagara. Also known as Torn. He’s a high-powered lawyer based in Tokyo. Half American-half Japanese, a passionate motorcyclist, a man with a complicated family and romantic background, Torn’s life is turned upside down when he and his beautiful client are almost killed by a motorcycle gang during a high-speed chase through the streets of Tokyo. The twists and turns of this novel are engaging and cinematic. The behind-the-scenes details about life in upper-class corporate Japan are fascinating. Well done! I can highly recommend L. M. Weeks’s *Bottled Lightning*.”

—**Susan Breen, author of *The Fiction Class* and the Maggie Dove mystery series**

“*Bottled Lightning* reveals both the author’s deep experience and expertise on the book’s many topics and his keen ability to craft and deliver a thrilling, fascinating, and sexy tale of international intrigue. As a fellow American with a long history of living in Japan, I was impressed not only by Mark’s thoughtful and accurate depictions and explanations of Japanese traditions and society, but also of international business transactions, motorcycle culture in Japan, and the inner workings of Japan’s notoriously opaque justice system. Weaving together sophistication, detail, and knowledge into a high-energy story that consistently keeps up the pace set in its opening scenes, *Bottled Lightning* is tightly written with a wide scope of topics all expertly conveyed. Really a joy to read.”

—**Jeff Wexler, producer, Studio Ghibli and Studio Ponoc, and cross-border entertainment and intellectual property lawyer**

“Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought that writing a captivating and page-turning novel about a corporate lawyer in Japan would be possible. *Bottled Lightning* proved me wrong! Pulls you in from the first page and leaves you wanting more. The best part is that *Bottled Lightning* accomplishes this without using the poetic license that other authors so often utilize to make lawyering seem like something it’s not. The author’s bona fides as an attorney who knows Japan are clear. The book manages to draw you in without once straying from the path of authenticity. Reads like a James Bond novel, if (and no disrespect meant) Ian Fleming actually knew something about Japan. Brilliant!”

—**Tony Andriotis, Partner and Head of International Arbitration, DLA Piper, Tokyo**

“Not your father’s legal thriller. L. M. Weeks’s debut novel, *Bottled Lightning*, hurtles the reader from one chapter to the next. The combination of his cinematic writing style and command of details, such as the book’s futuristic technology, motorcycle racing, legal ins and outs of international business, and cultural touchstones of Japan, have enabled Weeks to craft an exhilarating and thought-provoking thriller like none I’ve ever read. Truly a winner!”

—**Larry Bates, General Counsel at Panasonic; former Chief Legal Officer of LIXIL Global; former General Counsel, Japan at GE; former president of The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan**

“*Bottled Lightning* is a novel about Torn Sagara, a biracial lawyer practicing law at the Tokyo office of a global law firm. Events quickly overtake Torn as he attempts to protect his family, his beautiful and brainy client, Saya Brooks, and her paradigm-shifting lightning generation invention from mysterious dark forces threatening them all. The novel takes the reader through the terrific twists and turns into which Torn is thrown but to which he reacts with remarkable effectiveness even though much of the time he is grappling with an unknown foe. Through it all, the author, L. M. Weeks, demonstrates a keen knowledge of modern Tokyo, Japanese language and culture, the modern energy and climate dilemmas, motorcycle riding, intellectual property law and cross-border transactions, and the life of a partner at a global law firm, which he uses to take the reader on a thrilling, and yet believable, rollercoaster ride that doesn’t let up until the last line. I recommend *Bottled Lightning* to anyone looking for a great international legal thriller.”

—**Akihiro Wani, Senior Counselor, Morrison & Foerster; Former Partner, Linklaters; Professor Emeritus, Sophia University Law School**

“There are so many things that *Bottled Lightning*, a thriller by L. M. Weeks, gets right: the international traveling life of a partner at a global law firm, the intellectual property law issues, the high stakes negotiations, the big city motorcycle riding, the description of a start-up and its founder, and the glamorous life of an expat in Tokyo. *Bottled Lightning* shows us a Tokyo you’ve never seen before! As an investment banking friend once said, “Living as an expat in Tokyo is like being in college with money.” Against this backdrop of the life of a Big Law partner running the Tokyo office of a giant law firm flows the riveting all-too-human story of a professionally competent but personally flawed attorney doing his best to protect his client, her climate change problem-solving lightning invention, and his family. The story is fantastic, but believable, and it’s that combination that makes *Bottled Lightning* such a roller coaster-riding pleasure to read. In truth, this story couldn’t have been written by anyone other than L. M. Weeks. He’s seen it, he’s done it, he’s lived it. Now you can read it.”

—**Scott Peterman, Partner, K&L Gates; formerly the first Country Manager for Apple in China and Korea**