

as a sadomasochistic dance between the hero and the wife of his enemy arrowroot though set in the twentieth century views an adult orphan s search for his mother s past through the translucent shoji screen of ancient literature and myth both works are replete with shocking juxtapositions severed heads become objects of erotic fixation foxes take on human shape an aristocratic lady loves and pities the man she is conspiring to destroy this supple translation reveals the full scope of tanizaki s gift his confident storytelling luminous detail and astonishingly vital female characters

The Key

1971

a seductive psychological thriller about obsession jealousy and deceit and a japanese classic sonoko kakiuchi is a cultured osaka lady in an uninspiring marriage when she decides to take an art class in town she meets the extraordinary mitsuko a woman as beautiful and charismatic as she is cunning they begin a passionate affair and sonoko soon finds herself infatuated by mitsuko and ensnared in a web of sex humiliation and deceit with an introduction by kristen roupenian author of cat person



2010-01-01



The Key

2003-03-11

no japanese writer was more obsessed with desire than tanizaki jun ichiro 1886 1965 over a career that spanned half a century he explored with both joyful fascination and ruthless insight the dazzling varieties of sexuality the complementary attractions of exoticism and nostalgia the human yearning for mastery over others and the tense relationship between fantasy and the exterior world his fiction is filled with portrayals of desire in all its violence irony pathos and comedy in one of tanizaki s novels a young engineer fascinated with the west sets out to transform a japanese bar girl into his very own version of mary pickford he succeeds to such an extent that the girl growing tired of his immutable japaneseness begins to take foreign lovers cuckolded and humiliated though his is the engineer is unable to leave his fantasy come to life and resigns himself to enslavement in another novel a westernized japanese finds himself gradually drawn to the past specifically he is attracted to his father in law s companion a young woman who has been trained and costumed to play the part of an old fashioned mistress though this woman is no more a flesh and blood embodiment of tradition than a bunraku doll the protagonist contemplates a life with someone like her a life defined by the pursuit of abstract dehumanized cultural ideals visions of desire locates such novels in the shifting discourse on cultural identity and cultural aspiration that permeates japanese life ito argues that tanizaki s novels do not merely end in the reification and contemplation of cultural ideals but rather problematize the desire behind such ideals he finds in the writer s fiction a subtle understanding of cultural aspiration as a process riddled with subversions influenced by patterns of mediation and circumscribed by the lonely efforts of individual subjectivity he discovers in tanizaki s fables about the male effort to transform women into cultural icons a clear awareness of the sexual and class hierarchies that make such transformation possible visions of desire is the first book in english on a writer who is possibly modern japan s greatest novelist ito has written for both the specialist and the general reader setting his argument in a discussion both of tanizaki s times and of the life of a writer who believed in living out the fantasies that fueled his fictions

The Grand Old Man and the Great Tradition

2010-06-16

a fully illustrated beautifully produced edition of junichiro tanizaki s wise and evocative essay on japanese culture we find beauty not

in the thing itself but in the patterns of shadows the light and the darkness that one thing against another creates were it not for shadows there would be no beauty the slim book you are holding is in fact a portal opening it you will be led by junichiro tanizaki's light touch into a mysterious and tranquil world of darkness and shadows where gold flashes in the gloom and a deep stillness reigns if you are accustomed to equate light with clarity the faded with the worthless and the dim with the dreary prepare for a courteous but powerful realignment of your ideas in praise of shadows is a poetic paean to traditional japanese aesthetics in a free ranging style that moves from architecture to no theatre and from cookery to lighting tanizaki teaches us to see the beauty in tarnished metal the sombre dignity in unglazed pottery the primacy of organic materials that bear witness to the regular touch of human hands it is also astonishingly prescient offering a gentle warning against the quest for airbrushed perfection and reminding us that too much light can pollute and obscure our natural world in this special edition the text is accompanied by images carefully chosen by vintage creative director suzanne dean to complement tanizaki's reflections and further illustrate the pattern and beauty of shadows

The Secret History of the Lord of Musashi and Arrowroot

1991-07-01

set against the modernization of japan and world war ii the personal diary of jun ichiro tanizaki's early years offers a moving look at one of japan's modern novelists

Quicksand

1981

diary of a mad old man is the journal of utsugi a seventy seven year old man of refined tastes who is recovering from a stroke he discovers that while his body is decaying his libido still rages on unwittingly sparked by the gentle kindly attentions of his daughter in law satsuko a chic flashy dancer with a shady past pitiful and ridiculous as he is utsugi is without a trace of self pity and his diary shines with self effacing good humor at once hilarious and of a sadness diary of a mad old man is a brilliant depiction of the relationship between eros and the will to live a novel of the tragicomedy of human existence translated from the japanese by howard hibbett copyright libri gmbh all rights reserved



2019-11-07

in osaka in the years immediately before world war ii four aristocratic women try to preserve a way of life that is vanishing as told by junichiro tanizaki the story of the makioka sisters forms what is arguably the greatest japanese novel of the twentieth century a poignant yet unsparing portrait of a family and an entire society sliding into the abyss of modernity tsuruko the eldest sister clings obstinately to the prestige of her family name even as her husband prepares to move their household to tokyo where that name means nothing sachiko compromises valiantly to secure the future of her younger sisters the unmarried yukiko is a hostage to her family's exacting standards while the spirited taeko rebels by flinging herself into scandalous romantic alliances filled with vignettes of upper class japanese life and capturing both the decorum and the heartache of its protagonist the makioka sisters is a classic of international literature

Visions of Desire

1988

a hilarious story of one man's obsession and a brilliant reckoning of a nation's cultural confusion from a master japanese novelist when twenty eight year old joji first lays eyes upon the teenage waitress naomi he is instantly smitten by her exotic almost western appearance determined to transform her into the perfect wife and to whisk her away from the seamy underbelly of post world war i tokyo joji adopts and ultimately marries naomi paying for english and music lessons that promise to mold her into his ideal companion but as she grows older joji discovers that naomi is far from the naïve girl of his fantasies and in tanizaki's masterpiece of lurid obsession

the author of naomi a cat a man and two women and the makioka sisters made accessible in english by the expertise of translators
anthony h chambers and paul mccarthy the stories in the gourmet club vividly explore an array of human passions in the children
three mischievous friends play sadomasochistic games in a mysterious western style mansion the sybaritic narrator of the secret
experiments with cross dressing as he savors the delights of duplicity the two acolytes evokes the conflicting attractions of spiritual
fulfillment and worldly pleasure in medieval kyoto in the title story the seductive tastes aromas and textures of outlandish chinese
dishes blend with those of the seductive hands that proffer them to blindfolded gourmets in mr bluemound tanizaki who wrote for a
film studio in the early 1920s considers the relationship between a flesh and blood actress and her image fixed on celluloid which one
memorably degenerate admirer is obsessed with and finally manganese dioxide dreams offers a tantalizing insight into the author s
mind as he weaves together the musings of an old man very like tanizaki himself chinese and japanese cuisine a french murder movie
chinese history and the contents of a toilet bowl these beautifully translated stories will intrigue and entertain readers who are new to
tanizaki as well as those who have already explored the bizarre world of his imagination

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2015

Key

1986

The Tattooer

2010-04-13

The Makioka Sisters

2001-05-24

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2017-01-03

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A Cat, a Man, and Two Women

Naomi

Some Prefer Nettles

The Gourmet Club

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