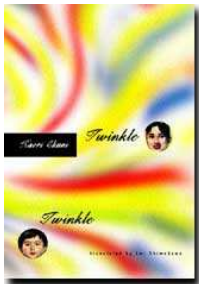


Fiction

Twinkle Twinkle, Ekuni Kaori (Fiction/ Gay Themes)



About the Author:

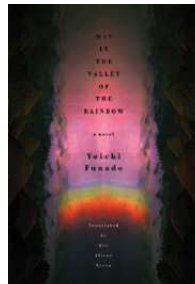
Twinkle Twinkle established Ekuni at the forefront of young women writers. It sold 500,000 copies, won the Lady Murasaki Literary Award, and was made into a film. *Twinkle Twinkle* is Ekuni's first work to appear in English.

Ekuni received the high-profile Naoki Award in 2003.

Book Summary:

Appearances are deceptive. Mutsuki and Shoko appear to everyone, including their overbearing parents, to be just a typical Tokyo husband and wife. But each has a deep, dark secret, and their marriage of convenience only *appears* to be the solution each one needs. Mutsuki is strictly gay and has a boyfriend. Shoko is a clinical case of emotional instability and drinks too much. At first this mismatched pair provides support for each other, but soon they only seem to bring each other down. In *Twinkle Twinkle* a modern marriage unravels, and it takes modern thinking to piece it back together.

May in the Valley of the Rainbow, Funado Yoichi



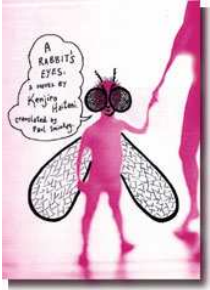
About the Author:

Yoichi Funado is the reigning monarch of the contemporary political thriller in Japan. No Japanese novelist is better acquainted with independence and resistance movements currently active around the world. Funado has received various awards from the Japan Adventure Writing Association, Japan Mystery Writers Association, and a Yoshikawa Eiji Prize and Yamamoto Shugoro Prize for suspense writing. He has translated Dashiell Hammett and has written original script for the popular manga series *Golgo 13*.

Book Summary:

His real name is Toshio Manahan, but everyone calls him "Japino" because he's half-Japanese, half-Filipino. Japino reveals the troubling world of adolescence we are all familiar with. The setting is Garsaponga, a rural village in the tropical mountains of the Philippines, where guerrilla warfare rages and corruption reigns.

A Rabbit's Eyes, Haitani Kenjiro



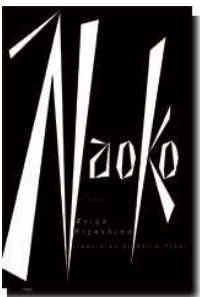
About the Author:

Haitani's love for children is not only sincere, but grounded in experience. The background for *A Rabbit's Eyes* is his 17 years of teaching in an elementary school. Though he does not have a family of his own, he considers his students the promising future of a world that doesn't deserve one. When *A Rabbit's Eyes* came out in 1974, Japanese readership surprised him with their endorsement of his love, which is equal parts compassion and criticism, making it not only a bestseller but a constant reference for what the public school system in Japan can aspire to. To this day, *A Rabbit's Eyes* and Haitani are cornerstones of popular Japanese fiction for believers in children.

Book Summary:

Ms. Kotani believes in her ill-behaved and ill-kempt students, especially the nearly autistic one with an obsession for flies. *A Rabbit's Eyes* is a touching novel about a young and idealistic first-year elementary school teacher, her hardscrabble class of outcasts, and the reward for her belief in them. A call to action, from Japan's schoolteachers' favorite author.

Naoko, Higashino, Keigo



About the Author:

Higashino's debut work, a collection of stories called *After School*, won the prestigious Edogawa Rampo Award for best horror/mystery, and *Naoko* has been turned into a blockbuster film ("Himitsu" or *Secret* in Japanese)

Book Summary:

Naoko, a major bestseller and film in Japan, is a poignant and wily take on gender relations from a master of the detective story. Expertly and seamlessly interweaving the real and the unreal, *Naoko* involves a regular guy whose world is rocked when his wife dies in a bus accident. His young daughter survives, but seems to be inhabited by her mother's personality.

Boy, Kitano Takeshi

(Fiction/Literary/Short Stories)



About the Author:

TAKESHI KITANO is the recipient of the Golden and Silver Lion Prizes, Venice Film Festival, for *Hana-bi* and *Zatoichi*. He is also the author of many prose works ranging from memoirs and fiction to social criticism and interview collections. Before he achieved worldwide fame he was one of Japan's most popular television personalities, which he continues to be, thanks to his sharp eye and irreverent sense of humor. *Boy* is the first literary work by Japan's "Renaissance man" to be translated into English. Mr. Kitano lives and works in Tokyo.

Book Summary:

The three stand-alone tales take place at early, middle and late adolescence. In "The Champion in a Padded Kimono," two brothers—one a bookworm and the other a jock—learn a lesson or two about

hope and desire on Sports Day. “Nest of Stars” features a different pair of brothers for whom stargazing becomes a poignant way of life. In “Okamesan,” a very young history buff goes on his first solo “field mission” to Kyoto where he runs into a girl from the wrong side of the tracks. Tender and funny, *Boy* is a perfect introduction to Kitano’s world and a must-read for fans of the artist.

The Guin Saga, Kurimoto Kaoru

About the Author:

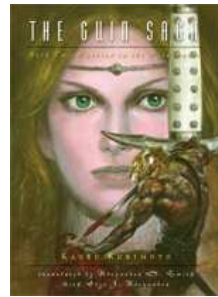
Kaoru Kurimoto is the pen name of **Sumiyo Imaoka**, an award-winning Japanese novelist. Imaoka also uses the pen name **Azusa Nakajima** to write criticism. She is best known for her record-breaking 123-volume Guin Saga series, which has been translated into English, German, French, Italian and Russian. In her early twenties, she won the Gunzo Prize for New Writers (Criticism), as Azusa Nakajima, in 1977, and the Edogawa Rampo prize in 1978. This spectacular introduction to the literary world drew a lot of attention, especially as she was the youngest ever winner of the Edogawa Rampo prize. Her use of two pen names was also discussed, and shortly after she won the Rampo prize the magazine *Heibon Panchi* featured a conversation between the 'two' writers.

Book Summary:

The Guin Saga is Japan's top heroic fantasy series. While the main story spans over a hundred books, *The Guin Saga* is equally beloved for the dozens of *gaiden* side stories wherein sorcery is a potent and prominent force. This three-volume manga, based on the first of the lush side stories, is the first-ever adaptation of the mega-hit franchise to comics form.

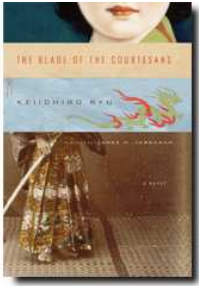


The Guin Saga, Book 1: The Leopard Mask - is a disturbing and dramatic fantasy of a deadly war between ancient kingdoms. The only surviving royalty of the losing kingdom are rescued by a creature with a man's body and a leopard's head, a being who remembers nothing of his past except for his name - Guin. It is Guin's search for his identity and destiny that leads to an exciting political intrigue and an evolving, exhilarating journey of discovery.



The Guin Saga, Book 2: Warrior in the Wilderness - Guin, the mysterious warrior with the leopard's head, leads his allies into the dangerous wilderness of Nosferus, away from the pursuing Mongauli armies. The twin orphans of Parros, Rinda and Remus, struggle to keep up, but are still young teens. Joined by the mercenary Istavan and the little Sem girl called Suni, they battle the beasts of Nosferus until their luck runs out and they are again captured by the Mongauls. Taken before General Amnelis, they soon learn of the Mongauls other mission: to take the Nosferus lands and eradicate all who stand in their way, including the Sem. How can this small band possibly stand against the Mongaul horde before them? With "Warrior in the Wilderness", the saga picks up speed and delivers an action-packed episode that ends with a cliffhanger. Kurimoto's simple storytelling style seems to make this more of a young adult fantasy, but the dark and fantastic world where the story takes place fascinates and lures the reader onward.

The Blade of the Courtesans, Ryu Keiichiro



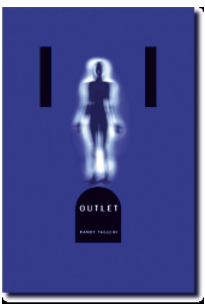
About the Author:

Nominated for a Naoki Award, *The Blade of the Courtesans*, late-blooming novelist Keiichiro Ryu's debut work, instantly made him a doyen of historical fiction. An influential voice, Ryu is especially credited for bringing unprecedented numbers of younger readers into the rich folds of the samurai drama.

Book Summary:

Raised by the late legendary Miyamoto Musashi and mysteriously sent to the capital by him, the innocent but lethal Matsunaga Seiichiro bears a secret that is hidden even from himself: he is of the imperial family. Having barely survived as ruthless purge by Tokugawa minions as an infant thanks to Musashi, the youth is now more than ready to stand his own against forces that stubbornly seek his death. But the infamous Yagyu clan that serves the shogun includes ninja as well as daylight warriors among its ranks.

Outlet, Taguchi Randy



About the Author:

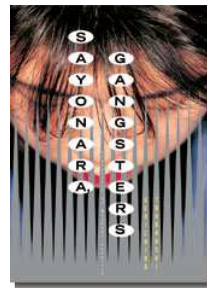
Randy Taguchi became famous through word of mouth as an Internet columnist in her native Japan,

where *Outlet* became a bestseller along with its sequels, *Antenna* and *Mosaic*. She lives in Yugawara, Japan, near Atami.

Book Summary:

Where would a shaman fit into modern society? Are trance states to be dismissed simply as fits of madness? Is the buffoonery of psychic hotlines all that the modern world has left of spiritual intuition? Randy Taguchi's upbeat riff on modern spirituality, her first novel, is a psychological detective story that seeks to answer these questions.

Sayonara, Gangsters, Takahashi Genichiro



About the Author:

Also a literary critic, he is the author of *The Maybe-It's-Not-Literature Syndrome* and other popular collections. Winner of the Mishima and other coveted literary awards, Takahashi has been the best-kept secret of readers of Japanese... until now. *Sayonara, Gangsters* is his first full-length work to be published in English. *Sayonara, Gangsters* took the literary establishment by storm and remains at the summits of postmodern writing in Japanese or any other language.

Book Summary:

The narrator is a poetry teacher named "Sayonara, Gangsters" – he's named after a gang that's been knocking off U.S. Presidents one after another in the novel's facetious near-future. Unfolding through short sketches that often read like poetry or philosophical meditations, *Sayonara, Gangsters* is a hilarious and inventive postmodernist novel about language, expression, and the creative process.

