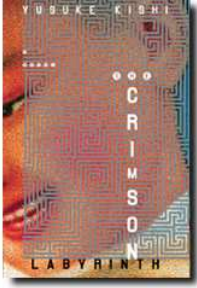


Horror

The Crimson Labyrinth, Kishi Yusuke



About the Author:

He has twice won the coveted Japan Horror Association Award, and boasts bestselling status in Japan.

Book Summary:

A group of travelers are stranded in the desert and fed psychotropic drugs by a media crew that may or may not be the real puppet-master in this psycho-horror knockout.

Now You're One of Us, Nonami Asa



About the Author:

Asa Nonami is the award-winning author of *The Hunter* (Kodansha International). She is the first recipient of the Japanese Mystery and Suspense Award and has won the Naoki Prize (Japanese equivalent of The National Book Award), joining a long and distinguished list of translated Japanese masters of popular fiction.

Book Summary:

It is said that marriage is about compromise, and no one understands this more than newlywed Noriko, who marries into the well-established Shito family. Four generations, eight in-laws—all under one roof—is an untenable proposition, unsettling at best for any bride, but Noriko's new family members are sweet and caring. Living with them is a delight, and Noriko seems to have the perfect marriage. Yet, the appearance of a disheveled man—asking suspicious questions about her new in-laws—plants a seed of doubt in Noriko's mind, while she is hanging laundry one morning. Paranoia grows. The unusual behavior of her new family, which she once perceived as charming eccentricities, now appear to be sinister in nature. Their kind smiles, once filled with warmth, now disguise dark secrets. As Noriko delves deeper into the family's machinations, she awakens to the horrifying reality of “marital compromise.”

Parasite Eye, Sena Hideaki



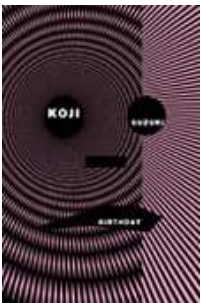
About the Author:

Hideaki Sena holds a Ph.D. in pharmacology and has given numerous lectures on the subject of cell biology as well as the future of the sci-fi genre. *Parasite Eye* became the Japan Horror Novel Award's first winner and the inspiration for a videogame that has sold close to a million copies throughout the world.

Book Summary:

Eve is parasitic mitochondria reproducing itself at alarming speed. Her goal? To take over human evolution. Two manifestations of Eve will work independently to a wild, scientific and absurdly sexual end. The one Eve in a lab is mutating into the form of a perfect woman, the other is growing inside the transplanted kidney of an unhappy teenage girl, waiting to be impregnated by her lab-sample counterpart. In her path are doctors whose fascination with Eve may ultimately lead to her victory.

Birthday, Suzuki Koji



About the Author:

Suzuki Koji is a Japanese writer, who was born in Hamamatsu and currently lives in Tokyo. Suzuki is the author of the *Ring cycle* of novels, which has been adapted into a manga series. His first book, *Ring* (also known as *Ringu*) has been made into a Japanese film, which was remade into a US movie. Fluent in English, he has written several books on the subject of fatherhood.

He is currently on the selection committee for the Japan Fantasy Novel Award.

Book Summary:

The book consists of three short stories occurring each in a different timeframe, and are all related to the *Ring* universe:

Floating Coffin – This covers the last moments of character Mai Takano’s life, which were omitted in the second novel of the series, *Rasen* (published in the United States of America and United Kingdom

under the title *Spiral*). The story is told from her perspective.

Lemonheart – The second story of the anthology, and the basis for the screenplay of film *Ring 0: Birthday* (2000). The majority of it takes place during central character Sadako Yamamura’s time with the Hishio acting troupe at the age of 19. The focus of this story is Sadako's intimate relationship with fellow acting troupe member, Hiroshi Toyama, and her social alienation from the rest of the members. It also reveals the full story of her death and "rebirth" in the cursed videotape.

Happy Birthday – The final story of the anthology. It further develops the storyline of the last novel, *Loop*, while incorporating new information disclosed in the previous two short stories. It depicts the last events taking place in the *Ring* universe chronologically, and is also the conclusion of the series.

Dark Water, Suzuki Koji



Book Summary:

An abusive playboy dumps his pregnant girlfriend on an abandoned island. A callous husband who can’t figure out why his fishing boat won’t run properly will check the pipes and face the horror of his own behavior. A conniving couple will take their unassuming friend out on a yacht to rope him into a pyramid scheme, but the murky waters won’t let them succeed.

Ring, Suzuki Koji



Book Summary:

After four teens mysteriously die simultaneously in Tokyo, Kazuyuki Asakawa, a reporter and uncle to one of the deceased, decides to launch his own personal investigation. His search leads him to "Hakone Pacific Land," a holiday resort where the teens were last together, exactly one week before their deaths. Once there he happens upon a mysterious unmarked videotape. Watching the videotape he witnesses a strange sequence of abstract and realistic footage that ends with the warning "You, who watched this tape, you are going to die in one week from now in this same time. There's only one way to survive. And that is-" but the end of the tape has been taped over by an advertisement. The tape has a horrible mental effect on Asakawa and he doesn't doubt for a second that its warning is true - the only problem is he has no idea how to avert his fate. Returning to Tokyo, he enlists the help of his curious friend Ryūji Takayama, a self-professed rapist who apparently (most likely due to some psychotic defect) has no fear. As soon as Asakawa explains the story Ryūji believes him, and wants nothing other than to see the tape. Asakawa shows it to him, and although Ryūji remains cool and nonchalant he agrees there is a powerful aura around the tape, and asks Asakawa to make him a copy to study at home, which Asakawa does. Now both men share a seven day deadline, and must fight against the clock to unravel the mystery of the tape, Sadako Yamamura, and the potentially life-saving riddle.