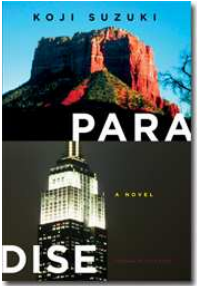


Love & Lust

Paradise, Suzuki Koji



About the Author:

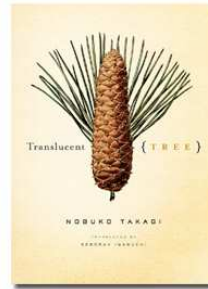
He is a Japanese writer, who was born in Hamamatsu and currently lives in Tokyo. Suzuki is the author of the *Ring cycle* of novels, which has been adapted into a manga series. His first book, *Ring* (also known as *Ringu*) has been made into a Japanese film, which was remade into a US movie. Fluent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

In the arid badlands of prehistoric Asia, a lovelorn youth violates a sacred tribal taboo by etching an image of his beloved. When the foretold punishment comes to pass, the two must embark on a journey across the world, and time itself, to try to reclaim their destiny. A mysterious spirit guides them towards a surprise destination that readers may indeed find quite close to home.

Translucent Tree, Takagi Nobuko



About the Author:

She won the prestigious Akutagawa Prize when she made her debut in 1984. *Translucent Tree* not only won the Tanizaki Award, granted to the best literary novel of the year, but also garnered further acclaim as a successful feature film. She has been the recipient of the Women's Literature Award and the Minister of Culture Award.

Book Summary:

Chigiri, a divorced single mother, lives in the countryside town where she grew up, caring for her sword-smith father whose trade and health are failing. Her life seems to be going nowhere. When a documentary filmmaker who worked on a piece about her father many years ago revisits the town, Chigiri, who was still a high school student back then, begins to feel like one again. Yet feelings aren't where it ends when a half-serious offer of prostitution is floated between the financially desperate Chigiri and Go, the visitor, who has since become successful in Tokyo.