



Seven Japanese Tales

By Junichiro Tanizaki

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Seven Japanese Tales By Junichiro Tanizaki

Junichiro Tanizaki's *Seven Japanese Tales* collects stories that explore the boundary at which love becomes self-annihilation, where the contemplation of beauty gives way to fetishism, and where tradition becomes an instrument of voluptuous cruelty.

A beautiful blind musician exacts the ultimate sacrifice from the man who is both her disciple and her lover. A tattooist turns the body of an exquisite young girl into a reflection of her predatory inner nature. A young man is erotically imprisoned by memories of his absent mother. Shocking in its content and lyrical in its beauty, these stories represent some of the finest work of one of Japan's greatest modern writers.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Tanizaki was meticulous in language, scandalously cautious about sexual politics, masterful in storytelling.”

—*The Nation*

“At once strange and intimately moving, unfamiliar and yet filled with unmistakable emotions. It would be hard to exaggerate the sensuous beauty which pervades these stories.”

—*Newsweek*

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Japanese

About the Author

Junichiro Tanizaki was born in Tokyo in 1886 and lived in the city until the earthquake of 1923, when he moved to the Kyoto-Osaka region, the scene of one of his most well-known novels, *The Makioka Sisters* (1943-48). The author of over twenty books, including *Naomi* (1924), *Some Prefer Nettles* (1928), *Arrowroot* (1931), and *A Portrait of Shunkin* (1933), Tanizaki also published translations of the Japanese classic, *The Tale of Genji* in 1941, 1954, and 1965. Several of his novels, including *Quicksand* (1930), *The Key* (1956), and *Diary of a Mad Old Man* (1961) were made into movies. He was awarded Japan's Imperial Prize in Literature in 1949, and in 1965 he became the first Japanese writer to be elected as an honorary member of the American Academy and the National Institute of Arts and Letters. Tanizaki died in 1965.

Users Review

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