



The Paper Door and Other Stories by Shiga Naoya

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No modern Japanese writer was more idolized than Shiga Naoya. *The Paper Door and Other Stories* showcases the concise, delicate art of this writer who is often called "the god of the Japanese short story." Doyen of Japanese letters Donald Keene ranks some of Shiga's stories "among the most brilliant achievements in this genre by any twentieth-century Japanese writer." Shiga's unique style is concise and simple, with no unnecessary words. With the subtlest of gestures, he evokes the fullness of experience.

Lane Dunlop's masterly translation of seventeen of Shiga's finest stories has provided English readers their first overview of the author's work. Now back in print, the book is augmented by Donald Keene's new preface contextualizing Shiga's awesome literary gifts. Dunlop has chosen stories that aptly represent Shiga's range and virtuosity. With selections spanning forty years, from the fable-like "The Little Girl and the Rapeseed Flower" to the psychologically complex "A Gray Moon," this collection delineates the development of Shiga's rare genius.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Sometimes as delicate as haiku, at others samurai-like in their robustness, these stories cry out for a translator with a sensitive ear and a taste for words. But here the plodding prose, the use and reuse of throwaway phrases, the clumsy dialogue contrive to turn each shyly articulated episode into a banal account and obscure the distinctiveness of the voice and setting. In "The Little Girl and the Rapeseed Flower," when a dying blossom pleads with a child to save its life, or in "Han's Crime," in which a performing knife-thrower, his vision blurred, perhaps accidentally, perhaps willfully, kills the wife with whom he had quarreled, each incident serves as a frame for self-discovery. More complex, "The Paper Door" delineates two vacationing families, and the maidservant of one falls in love with the young master of the other, mistakenly believing that he too is infatuated. The longest of the stories, "Kuniko," again involving a man indirectly responsible for the death of his wife, invites the reader into a Japanese household to observe its customs and wonder at its duplicities. Turbulence lies beneath these smiling surfaces, but inept prose makes the richness hard to find.

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From Library Journal

Drawing often and openly from personal experience, Shiga popularized the first-person "confessional" mode of narration in Japan. These 17 stories date from 1904-45 and reveal, despite a stilted, graceless translation, Shiga's delicate imagination and acute insight into human foibles. Some explore death ("At Kinosaki," "The House by the Moat"), interweaving lyric variations drawn from nature and from human experience. Violence and cruelty ("The Razor," "Han's Crime") testify to the exhaustion of the human spirit. Yet it is in his stories about the artist and adultery that Shiga is at his most tender and most pungent; "Kuniko," which fictionalizes the terrible and inevitable resolution of his adultery, is Shiga's most powerful and gloomy statement about the conflict between life and art. Arthur Waldhorn, English Dept., City Coll., CUNY

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Review

[Shiga wrote] a number of short stories that are nearly perfect in their simplicity, directness, and mastery of subject matter.

(Hiraoki Sato *The New York Times*)

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Quincy Eddy:

The reason why? Because this The Paper Door and Other Stories by Shiga Naoya is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will zap you with the secret that inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I have been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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