

Palm Of The Hand Stories By Yasunari Kawabata

this masterpiece from the nobel prize winning author and acclaimed writer of thousand cranes is a powerful tale of wasted love set amid the desolate beauty of western japan kawabata s novels are among the most affecting and original works of our time the new york times book review at an isolated mountain hot spring with snow blanketing every surface shimamura a wealthy dilettante meets komako a lowly geisha she gives herself to him fully and without remorse despite knowing that their passion cannot last and that the affair can have only one outcome in chronicling the course of this doomed romance kawabata has created a story for the ages a stunning novel dense in implication and exalting in its sadness

nobel prize winner the successful writer oki has reached middle age and is filled with regrets he returns to kyoto to find otoko a young woman with whom he had a terrible affair many years before endlessly provocative and original the new york times otoko is now a painter living with a younger woman as her lover otoko has continued to love oki and has never forgotten him but his return unsettles not only her but also her young lover this is a work of strange beauty with a tender touch of nostalgia and a heartbreaking sensitivity to those things lost forever

a young woman in historic kyoto grapples with secrets from her past in this lyrical work of japanese literature from a nobel prize winning author set in the traditional japanese city of kyoto the old capital tells the story of chieko the adopted daughter of a kimono designer takichiro and his wife shige as chieko discovers the true facets of her past she becomes bewildered and troubled by longing the start of a poignant journey that captures the beauty of old japan with the ethereal tone and aesthetic styling characteristic of kawabata s prose the old capital is one of the three novels cited specifically by the nobel committee when they awarded yasunari kawabata the nobel prize for literature in 1968

from the nobel prize winning author and acclaimed writer of thousand cranes comes the luminous chronicle of a match of the japanese game go played between a master and a younger more modern challenger that serves as a suspenseful elegy for an entire society go is a game of strategy in which two players attempt to surround each other s black or white stones simple in its fundamentals infinitely complex in its execution go is an essential expression of the japanese spirit and in his fictional chronicle of a match played between a revered and heretofore invincible master and a younger more modern challenger yasunari kawabata captured the moment in which the immutable traditions of imperial japan met the onslaught of the twentieth century the competition between the master of go and his opponent otaké is waged over several months and layered in ceremony but beneath the game s decorum lie tensions that consume not only the players themselves but their families and retainers tensions that turn this particular contest into a duel that can only end in death luminous in its detail both suspenseful and serene the master of go is written with the poetic economy and psychological acumen that brought kawabata the nobel prize for literature translated from the japanese by edward g seidensticker

from the nobel prize winning writer and acclaimed author of snow country comes a beautiful rendering of the predicament of old age about an elderly tokyo businessman who must face the failures of his memory and the sudden upsurges of passion that illuminate the end of a life a rich complicated novel of all modern japanese fiction kawabata s is the closest to poetry the new york times book review by day ogata shingo an elderly tokyo businessman is troubled by small failures of memory at night he associates the distant rumble he hears from the nearby mountain with the sounds of death in between are the complex relationships that were once the foundations of shingo s life his trying wife his philandering son and his beautiful daughter in law who inspires in him both pity and the stirrings of desire out of this translucent web of attachments kawabata has crafted a novel that is a powerful serenely observed meditation on the relentless march of time translated from the japanese by edward g seidensticker

three surreal erotically charged stories from nobel prize winner yasunari kawabata in the three long tales in this collection yasunari kawabata examines the boundaries between fantasy and reality in the minds of three lonely men piercing examinations of sexuality and human psychology and works of remarkable subtlety and beauty these stories showcase one of the twentieth century s great writers in any language at his very best

the power of love and illusion shape the lives of a young geisha and a rich tokyo dilettante

collection of short stories written over the entire span of kawabata s career these stories he felt represented the essence of his art and reflect his abiding interest in the miniature the wisp of plot reduced to the essential adapted from publisher description

a luminous story of desire regret and the almost sensual nostalgia that binds the living to the dead from the acclaimed nobel prize winner and author of snow country a stunning economy delicacy of feeling and a painter s sensitivity to the visible world the atlantic while attending a traditional tea ceremony in the aftermath of his parents deaths kikuji encounters his father s former mistress mrs ota at first kikuji is appalled by her indelicate nature but it is not long before he succumbs to passion a passion with tragic and unforeseen consequences not just for the two lovers but also for mrs ota s daughter to whom kikuji s attachments soon extend death jealousy and attraction convene around the delicate art of the tea ceremony where every gesture is imbued with profound meaning

the stories of yasunari kawabata evoke an unmistakably japanese atmosphere in their delicacy understatement and lyrical description like his later works first snow on fuji is concerned with forms of presence and absence with being with memory and loss of memory with not knowing kawabata lets us slide into the lives of people who have been shattered by war loss and longing these stories are beautiful and melancholy filled with kawabata s unerring vision of human psychology first snow on fuji was originally published in japan in 1958 ten years before kawabata received the nobel prize kawabata selected the stories for this collection himself and the result is a stunning assembly of disparate moods and genres this new edition is the first to be published in english

this first full length and long overdue study of kawabata japans first nobel laureate for literature and the most widely known for his novels snow country 1960 and sound of the mountain 1970

available in english for the very first time a powerful poignant novel about three half sisters in post war japan from the nobel prize winning author of snow country with the second world war only a few years in the past and japan still reeling from its effects two sisters born to the same father but different mothers struggle to make sense of the new world in which they are coming of age asako the younger has become obsessed with locating a third sibling while also experiencing love for the first time while momoko their father s first child haunted by the loss of her kamikaze boyfriend and their final disturbing days together seeks comfort in a series of unhealthy romances and both sisters find themselves unable to outrun the legacies of their late mothers a thoughtful probing novel about the enduring traumas of war the unbreakable bonds of family and the inescapability of the past the rainbow is a searing melancholy work from one of japan s greatest writers a vintage original

a fascinating discovery kawabata s unfinished final novel dandelions is a great master s last word a fascinating discovery dandelions is kawabata s final novel left incomplete when he committed suicide in 1972 beautifully spare and deeply strange dandelions explores love and madness and consists almost entirely conversations between a woman identified only as ineko s mother and kuno a young man who loves ineko and wants to marry her the two have left ineko at the ikuta clinic a mental hospital which she has entered for treatment of somagnosia a condition that might be called seizures of body blindness although her vision as a whole is unaffected she periodically becomes unable to see her lover kuno whether this condition actually constitutes madness is a topic of heated discussion between kuno and ineko s mother kuno believes ineko s blindness is actually an expression of her love for him as it is only he the beloved she cannot see in this tantalizing book kawabata explores the incommunicability of desire and carries the art of the novel where he always suggested more than he stated into mysterious and strange new realms dandelions is the final word of a truly great master the first japanese winner of the nobel prize

in this masterpiece kawabata his brush dipped in silver renders all the excruciating anguish and beauty of post war japan edmund white with the second world war only a few years in the past and japan still reeling from its effects two sisters born to the same father but different mothers struggle to make sense of the new world in which they are coming of age asako the younger has become obsessed with locating a third sibling while also experiencing love for the first time while momoko their father s first child haunted by the loss of her kamikaze boyfriend and their final disturbing days together seeks comfort in a series of unhealthy romances and both sisters find themselves unable to outrun the legacies of their late mothers a thoughtful probing novel about the enduring traumas of war the unbreakable bonds of family and the inescapability of the past the rainbow is a searing melancholy work from one of japan s greatest writers translated by haydn trowell

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