



Snow Country & Thousand Cranes

Yasunari Kawabata , Edward G. Seidensticker (Translator) , Kazuo Ishiguro (introduction)

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This book presents English translations of two short novels by the 1968 recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature. *Snow Mountain* is a nuanced love story involving a discouraged urbanite (Shimamura) and a rural geisha (Komako). Shimamura is tired of the bustling city. He takes the train through the snow to the mountains of the west coast of Japan, to meet with a geisha he believes he loves. Beautiful and innocent, Komako is tightly bound by the rules of a rural geisha, and lives a life of servitude and seclusion that is alien to Shimamura, and their love offers no freedom to either of them. *Thousand Cranes* is another love story. This melancholy tale uses the classical tea ceremony as a background for the story of a young man's relationships to two women, his father's former mistress and her daughter.

Snow Country & Thousand Cranes Details

Date : Published 1986 by Penguin Books Ltd (first published January 1st 1977)

ISBN : 9780140181180

Author : Yasunari Kawabata , Edward G. Seidensticker (Translator) , Kazuo Ishiguro (introduction)

Format : Paperback 204 pages

Genre : Fiction, Asian Literature, Japanese Literature, Cultural, Japan, Classics, Literature

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From Reader Review Snow Country & Thousand Cranes for online ebook

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Milena says

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Heather says

This book makes me wish I knew Japanese so I did not have to read the translated version. Beautiful imagery paints a wonderland-like setting in the reader's mind. Subtle character development leaves the reader to finish the stories in their own minds. Excellent read.

Diane says

Synopsis of Snow Country from product description: To this haunting novel of wasted love, Kawabata brings the brushstroke suggestiveness and astonishing grasp of motive that earned him the Nobel Prize for Literature. As he chronicles the affair between a wealthy dilettante and the mountain geisha who gives herself to him without illusions or regrets, one of Japan's greatest writers creates a work that is dense in implication and exalting in its sadness.

Synopsis of Thousand Cranes from product description: With a restraint that barely conceals the ferocity of his characters' passions, one of Japan's great postwar novelists tells the luminous story of Kikuji and the tea party he attends with Mrs. Ota, the rival of his dead father's mistress. A tale of desire, regret, and sensual nostalgia, every gesture has a meaning, and even the most fleeting touch or casual utterance has the power to illuminate entire lives--sometimes in the same moment that it destroys them.

Anna says

It's shocking I had actually read Yuriguni (yes,I am more used to say it in romaji) I a long time ago in Chinese, and I haven't realized it.I pretty much like Japanese books, of the reveal of humanity and the poetic beautiful language, despite the fact I couldn't speak Japanese.

Matt says

Two short novels in one collection - both stories of misbegotten romantic entanglements, so topically not really what I go for, but the prose and storytelling style is noteworthy and certainly different from what American novels tend to offer.

Travis James says

It was a very detailed book that really captured my attention in the later pages. The ending still left me a little upset but in a good way.

Layla Chkhetiani says

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Sissi says

One of my very special books.

Levan Tsutskiridze says

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[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Vivienne says

The two novellas contained within are exquisitely written and embody the Japanese ideal within art and literature of *mono no aware*, the beauty of sadness.

I was fascinated by Zen when I was young and especially by the tea ceremony, which features in Thousand Cranes.

Haunting and melancholic.

Georgia says

What is it about tradition that inevitably drives our lives? For better or worse we are the ghosts of our parents, their habits and their heartaches lie close to the surface of who we've become despite our running from that truth. In the end these elevated traditions define us and turn the mundane into the infinite, ceaselessly emptying and filling our collective cup with misery and joy. Kawabata skillfully defines this truth using the tea ceremony. Our lives remain untouched by the beauty that surrounds us for it is the ugliness that transforms us, inevitably marking everything that we rise against and bow down before. What nourishes us from the cup transforms us into the vapor forever stirred by the bamboo whisk.

Luka Qiria says

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katy says

Intricate details of the Japanese tea ceremony provide the backdrop to this novel which features a young man trapped by his deceased father's complex relationships with three women. The young man lacks the will to escape repeating his father's behavior, but one of the women finally lets him go.
