

## The Key Junichiro Tanizaki

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[Tanizaki's Fictional Worlds](#) Vintage

Scintillating, elegant, darkly comic, *The Key* is the story of a dying marriage, told in the form of parallel diaries. After nearly thirty years of marriage, a dried-up, middle-aged professor frenziedly strives for new heights of carnal pleasure with his repressed, dissatisfied wife, resorting to stimulants galore for her: brandy, a handsome young lover. During the day, they record their adventures of the previous night. When they begin to suspect each other of peeping into their respective diaries, it becomes unclear whether each spouse's confessions might not be intended for the other's eyes. Translated from the Japanese by Howard Hibbett. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

[The Maids](#) Perigee Trade

A heartbroken American writer starts a story about an ice-cold sombrero that falls inexplicably from the sky and lands in the centre of a small Southwest town. Devastated by the departure of his gorgeous Japanese girlfriend, he cannot concentrate on his writing and in frustration he throws away his beginning. But as the man searches through his apartment for strands of his lost love's hair, the discarded story in the wastepaper basket - through some kind of elaborate origami - carries on without him. Arguments over the sombrero begin, one thing leads to another and before long all hell breaks loose in the normally sleep town. Brautigan's fertile imagination twists and pulls at the ensuing chaos to come up with a tender, moving, surreal and incredibly funny tale that is told by a writer at the very peak of his creative powers.

[A Novel](#) New Directions Publishing Corporation

Transgender indie electronica singer-songwriter Rae Spoon has six albums to their credit, including 2012's *I Can't Keep All of Our Secrets*. This first book by Rae (who uses "they" as a pronoun) is a candid, powerful story about a young person growing up queer in a strict Pentecostal family in rural Canada. The narrator attends church events and Billy Graham rallies faithfully with their family before discovering the music that becomes their salvation and means of escape. As their father's schizophrenia causes their parents' marriage to unravel, the narrator finds solace and safety in the company of their siblings, in their nascent feelings for a girl at school, and in their growing awareness that they are not the person their parents think they are. With a heart as big as the prairie sky, this is a quietly devastating, heart-wrenching coming-of-age book about escaping dogma, surviving abuse, finding love, and risking everything for acceptance. Rae Spoon lives in Montreal, Quebec.

[A Cat, a Man, and Two Women](#) Vintage

*The Maids* concerns all the young women who work--before, during, and after WWII--in the pampered, elegant household of the famous author Chikura Raikichi. Though quite well-to-do, Raikichi has a small house: the family and the maids (usually a few, sharing a little room next to the kitchen) are on top of one another. This proximity allows Raikichi to observe the maids and their daily lives extremely closely, and while the house may be straight from *The Makioka Sisters*, his interest carries with it more than a dash of the erotic, calling to mind Tanizaki's raciest books, such as *Diary of a Mad Old Man* and *The Key*.

[The Cambridge History of Japanese Literature](#) Pushkin Vertigo

This *Perversion Called Love* positions one of Japan's most canonical and best translated 20th century authors at the center of contemporary debates in feminism. Examining sexual perversion in Tanizaki's aesthetic essays, cultural criticism, cinema writings and short novels from the 1930s, it argues that Tanizaki understands human subjectivity in remarkably Freudian terms, but that he is much more critical than Freud about what it means for the possibility of love. According to Tanizaki, perversion involves not the proliferation of interesting gender positions, but rather the tragic absence of even two sexes, since femininity is only defined as man's absence, supplement, or complement. In this fascinating work, author Margherita Long reads Tanizaki with a theoretical complexity he demands but has seldom received. As a critique of the historicist and gender-focused paradigms that inform much recent work in Japanese literary and cultural studies, *This Perversion Called Love* offers exciting new interpretations that should spark controversy in the fields of feminist theory and critical Asian studies.

[Some Prefer Nettles](#) University of Michigan Press

[The Cambridge History of Japanese Literature](#) provides, for the first time, a history of Japanese

literature with comprehensive coverage of the premodern and modern eras in a single volume. The book is arranged topically in a series of short, accessible chapters for easy access and reference, giving insight into both canonical texts and many lesser known, popular genres, from centuries-old folk literature to the detective fiction of modern times. The various period introductions provide an overview of recurrent issues that span many decades, if not centuries. The book also places Japanese literature in a wider East Asian tradition of Sinitic writing and provides comprehensive coverage of women's literature as well as new popular literary forms, including manga (comic books). An extensive bibliography of works in English enables readers to continue to explore this rich tradition through translations and secondary reading.

[The Key](#) University of Michigan Press

This volume presents 18 eighteen essays, written by scholars from six countries, on Tanizaki Jun'ichiro (1886–1965), one of the great writers of the 20th century. The essays were originally prepared for a landmark international symposium in Venice in 1995, at which 22 speakers addressed an audience of about two hundred students and scholars in the Aula Magna of the University of Venice. Topics include Tanizaki's fiction, plays, and film scenarios; his aesthetics; his place in Japanese intellectual history; his depiction of the West; his use of humor; and film adaptations of his works. In 1964 Tanizaki was elected to honorary membership in the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, the first Japanese to be so honored; and it is widely believed that he was being considered for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

[Diary of a Mad Old Man](#) Stanford University Press

A son looks back on the family history that shaped him and led to his father's leading role in a brutal dictatorship.

[The Makioka Sisters](#) Vintage

Four friends, Julia, Chantal, Helen, and Philippa, discuss their sexual experiences, but increasingly veer off into fantasy

[The Sailor who Fell from Grace with the Sea](#) Vintage Books

Finally back in print, a frighteningly lucid feminist horror story about marriage *The Dry Heart* begins and ends with the matter-of-fact pronouncement, "I shot him between the eyes." Everything in between is a plunge into the chilly waters of loneliness, desperation, and bitterness—and as the tale proceeds, the narrator's murder of her flighty husband takes on a certain logical inevitability. In this powerful novella, Natalia Ginzburg's writing is white-hot, fueled by rage, stripped of any preciousness or sentimentality; she transforms an ordinary dull marriage into a rich psychological thriller that might pose the question: why don't more wives kill their husbands?

[A Tanizaki Feast](#) Arsenal Pulp Press

Jun'ichiro Tanizaki is one of the most eminent Japanese writers of the twentieth century, renowned for his investigations of family dynamics, eroticism, and cultural identity. Most acclaimed for his postwar novels such as *The Makioka Sisters* and *The Key*, Tanizaki made his literary debut in 1910. This book presents three powerful stories of family life from the first decade of Tanizaki's career that foreshadow the themes the great writer would go on to explore. "Longing" recounts the fantastic journey of a precocious young boy through an eerie nighttime landscape. Replete with striking natural images and uncanny human encounters, it ends with a striking revelation. "Sorrows of a Heretic" follows a university student and aspiring novelist who lives in degrading poverty in a Tokyo tenement. Ambitious and tormented, the young man rebels against his family against a backdrop of sickness and death. "The Story of an Unhappy Mother" describes a vivacious but self-centered woman's drastic transformation after a freak accident involving her son and daughter-in-law. Written in different genres, the three stories are united by a focus on mothers and sons and a concern for Japan's traditional culture in the face of Westernization. The longtime Tanizaki translators Anthony H. Chambers and Paul McCarthy masterfully bring these important works to an Anglophone audience.

[A Memoir](#) Cambridge University Press

As a jump-shoe salesman searches for his wife in a sinister underground hospital, his fascination with the hospital's strange inhabitants, including a girl whose bones are gradually liquefying, causes him to barely notice his wife's unspeakable circumstances. Reprint. 10,000 first printing.

[The Secret History of the Lord of Musashi](#) Random House

Jun'ichiro Tanizaki's *In Black and White* is a literary murder mystery in which the lines between fiction and reality are blurred. The writer Mizuno has penned a story about the perfect murder. His fictional victim is modeled on an acquaintance, a fellow writer. When Mizuno notices just before the story is about to be published that this man's real name has crept into his manuscript, he attempts to correct the mistake, but it is too late. He then becomes terrified that an actual murder will take place—and that he will be the main suspect. Mizuno goes to great lengths to establish an alibi, venturing into the city's underworld. But he finds himself only more entangled as his paranoid fantasies, including a mysterious "Shadow Man" out to entrap him, intrude into real life. A sophisticated psychological and metafictional mystery, *In Black and White* is a masterful yet little-known novel from a great writer at the height of his powers. The year 1928 was a remarkable one for Tanizaki. He wrote three exquisite novels, but while two of them—*Some Prefer Nettles* and *Quicksand*—became famous, *In Black and White* disappeared from view. All three were serialized in Osaka and Tokyo newspapers and magazines, but *In Black and White* was never published as an independent volume. This translation restores it to its rightful place among Tanizaki's works and offers a window into the author's life at a crucial point in his career. A critical afterword explains the novel's context and importance for Tanizaki and Japan's literary and cultural scene in the 1920s, connecting autobiographical elements with the novel's key concerns, including Tanizaki's critique of Japanese literary culture and fiction itself.

[The Key](#) Random House LLC

Tanizaki's last novel - written during his final illness, echoes his own life. Moving and powerful, it takes the form of an old man's diary, where he records his struggle with his self-image, and the manifestations of age, and his growing desire for his b

[Devils in Daylight](#) Columbia University Press

The prize-winning debut mystery from one of Japan's best-loved crime writers *The K Apartments* for Ladies are occupied by over one hundred unmarried women, once young and lively, now grown and old—and in some cases, evil. Their residence conceals a secret connecting the unsolved 1951 kidnapping of four-year-old George Kraft to the clandestine burial of a child's body in the basement bath-house. So, when news comes that the building must be moved to make way for a road-building project, more than one tenant waits with apprehension for the grisly revelation that will follow. Then the master key is lost, stolen and re-stolen—and suddenly no-one feels safe. Fiendish intrigue, double identity and an ingenious plot make this a thriller worthy of comparison with the work of P.D. James.

[The Key](#) Random House

In "The Reed Cutter", the narrator meets a strange man who tells him a story of obsession; and a tenth-century Kyoto minister demands and receives his rival's wife during a drunken party in "Captain Shigemoto's Mother"

[Two Novellas](#) Canongate Books

A pair of sophisticated novels by one of Japan's most important novelists of the twentieth century tells the stories of an ancient Japanese warrior obsessed with severed heads, and of two friends who journey into a mountain region cloaked in legends. Reprint. 12,500 first printing.

[Secret Rendezvous](#) Stanford University Press

An irresistible mix of imagination, satire, and humor, these stories by acclaimed Japanese author

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Yasutaka Tsutsui imagine the consequences of a world where the fantastic and the mundane collide. The opening story, "The Dabba Dabba Tree," details the hilarious side effects of a small conical tree that, when placed at the foot of one's bed, creates erotic dreams. In "Commuter Army," a sly commentary on the ludicrousness of war, a weapons supplier becomes an unwilling conscript in a war zone. "The World is Tilting" imagines a floating city that slowly begins to sink on one side, causing its citizens to reorient their daily lives to preserve a semblance of normality. And in the title story, we see how obscenely absurd the environment on Planet Porno appears to a group of scientists. The stories in Salmonella Men on Planet Porno winningly combine madcap hilarity and a sharp eye toward the insanities of contemporary life.

The Grand Old Man and the Great Tradition Random House

The story of a dying marriage, told in the form of parallel diaries. After nearly 30 years of marriage, a dried-up, middle-aged professor frenziedly strives for new heights of carnal pleasure with his repressed, dissatisfied wife, resorting to stimulants galore for her. During the day, they record their adventures of the previous night.

The Dry Heart Vintage

Four daughters of an old merchant family unknowingly face the end of a gentler way of life in Osaka, Japan in 1938.