



????? [Shinigami no seido]

K?tar? Isaka , ?? ???

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????? [Shinigami no seido] Details

Date : Published 2008 by ??? (first published June 28th 2005)

ISBN : 9784167745011

Author : K?tar? Isaka , ?? ???

Format : 345 pages

Genre : Mystery, Asian Literature, Japanese Literature

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?? Xin-Xin says

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MameYakko says

Title: Accuracy of Death

By Kotaro Isaka

This is one of my all time favorite novels.

This is about a Death who sent to the earth to determine if those humans who are on the "Death list" should really be dead. The death is not a human, so he has no mercy, but he is learning how to speak like a human, and the conversations between humans and him are so funny.

I like Isaka's choice of words. It's a shame that none of his works has been translated into English yet.

Zombiecide. says

[In order to do this, he observes the person for a week while impersonating a human and in his case, building a relationship with the human. (He generally chooses human males to impersonate, hence 'he'.)]

Only, while he observes the human in question, he does not understand what he observes. The result is often touching, funny, at times quite bizarre.

(hide spo

suzie says

????????????????????????????????XD

Lei says

Alyssa says

This is only the third book I've read from this author, but he's definitely getting into my very short "favorite authors whom I have absurdly high expectations for" list. **I honestly had no idea what I was getting into when I picked this book, but I'm glad I did because it was so good, I loved it.**

Here's the thing. (Please, skip ahead to the next paragraph if you don't care.) There's someone I... *know* who often sometimes mentions that Isaka Kotaro is his favorite author, which is the main reason I've been picking the very few books of this author to have been translated here (not that anyone cares, but that means to French). Except for ????? / Pierrot-la-Gravité that I knew and read before because it's one of his numerous books that had been adapted to screen. I was genuinely curious because this author is pretty much unknown here, despite us importing/translating an awful lot of works from around the world (as opposed to certain other supposedly powerful countries). However, I had a hard time evaluating ????????? / La prière d'Audubon / Audubon's Prayer because I most definitely enjoyed reading it (even if it took me a while because digital and not physical reading), but I could never figure out how to put into words what I actually thought about it (which is why I never wrote a review for it). But after reading this third book, I now fully understand the feeling. (And now, Isaka Kotaro-san is in team "high expectations". Please don't fail me.)

Back to the point.

First, I admire how Isaka-san tries very different literary genres in his many books and comes out with brilliant pieces each time, each in their own individual way. Pierrot was more of a thriller, while Audubon was kind of a... reflectional one? This one would be like... slices of life with a bit of a humorous side, I guess. Something like that. And from the movie adaptations I've seen of ????????????? and ???????, these are both yet again something else.

This book actually presents itself as a series of independent short stories, but all of them having in common this protagonist: a *shinigami* aka. a god of death that we follow in his work duties. Well, actually, I'm saying "independent", but some of them loosely tie up to one another with ?? reminiscing some of the past stories. ((view spoiler)) Spoiler alert: if you've read and/or watched Death Note, this shinigami is nothing like the apple-addict one. Although in some way, there's something very similar in both representations and their dominant traits (aka. detachment from human deaths and a very human-like addiction (Ryuk was apples, this one (actually *these* ones since it apparently applies to all of them in this book) is music)).

Although I've read a translation, there at least one part of the writing still that filters through: the humor. The many absurd conversations (mostly based on the shinigami's lack of knowledge about humans concepts - which actually reminded me of that (also Japanese) movie that came out last year: ?????? / Before We Vanish (and its aliens trying to understand human concepts (view spoiler))), or even just the fact that it's written as from the POV of the shinigami (with all the stupid things about us that he does *not* understand at all) made the book very easy to read.

Finally, what's interesting about this book is how, deep down, it's not actually about this shinigami doing his job (much more seriously than his colleagues), but rather about all these slices of life of many different people (from this shy harassed woman, to this yakuza, to this handsome guy in love with a neighbor but too shy for his own good, to that murderer, to that little hairdresser lady...) and how their acts may lead to their death or just how they (or their entourage) deal with the closeness of death. **At the end of the day (or the week, I guess), each story is touching in its own way.**

Long story short, I unequivocally recommend it. And for a book dealing with death, it's actually a lighthearted reading. Heck, just take it on vacations with you, I swear it won't kill the mood !

Okay, one last note. Since the French publisher seems to acquire rights and translate this author's books super very randomly, but ?????????? / Remote Control has been translated to English, I guess I'm gonna pick up this one soon (even if I hate how expensive hardback copies are). So, see you guys around within the next few months... or weeks more likely. I'm kind of an addict when it comes to my favorite authors so I need a regular fix.

jgagnon says

It's a reread, because I like this author so much.

Lim SK says

Lieutenant Retancourt says

Chiba, fonctionnaire-dieu de la Mort est chargé d'enquêter sur les humains qui vont mourir non naturellement, d'un accident ou d'un meurtre,. Appliquant une procédure rodée, dépendant de supérieurs hiérarchiques, il a une semaine pour déclarer la personne destinée à mourir "apte" ou "ajournée". Étranger au monde des humains, insensibles à la douleur, au sommeil, au froid ou même aux émotions mais fasciné par la musique, Chiba va suivre le chemin de ces différentes personnes et découvrir qui ils sont, ce qu'ils ont fait...et s'ils sont "aptes" à mourir.

Narration épurée, ambiances urbaines ou citadines, huis-clos meurtrier, cavale d'un jeune en recherche de réponses, vieux, jeunes, meurtriers, vendeur de vêtement romantique, pluie, vieille coiffeuse hantée par un secret, neige; héros insaisissable, Chiba traverse des tragédies humaines sans en comprendre les enjeux mais le lecteur le sait. Chaque nouvelle est une vie entière...qui rappelle que la mort sera la fin de toutes ces existences.

Chroniques de la Mort mais en fait de la Vie: la mort des personnes ne nous est jamais montrée... nous sommes laissés avec ce qu'on a appris d'eux et ce sentiment diffus, qu'au contraire de Chiba, nous nous sommes attachés à eux...et peut être les recroisera-t-on mais nous n'arriverons jamais à percer tous leurs secrets puisque nous ne sommes, comme Chiba, que de passage.

Wenqi says

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“????????‘????’?????????” ??????????

??? says

Jean-Gui Sunglasses says

J'ai beaucoup aimé, rigolo !

Olwee says

Superbe roman.

On se laisse facilement entraîner dans les différentes histoires. On suit le fil des pensées du Shinigami sur les humains qu'ils rencontrent, leurs habitudes qui le laissent souvent perplexe. Mais on sent bien parfois une certaine curiosité et un désir d'apprendre chez lui. Malgré tout, il conserve son attitude un peu froide et détachée. À travers sa vision, on parvient à s'attacher aux personnes qu'ils rencontrent.

Vraiment, j'ai énormément aimé ce roman.

Nattapan says

3.5 stars. This book gives you a thing or two to ponder about.

Overall, it shows you that "sometimes, a change of perspective is all it takes to see the light." (Dan Brown)

Yujie Jiang says