

Yurei: The Japanese Ghost

By Zack Davisson



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"I lived in a haunted apartment." Zack Davisson opens this definitive work on Japan's ghosts, or *yurei*, with a personal tale about the spirit world. Eerie red marks on the apartment's ceiling kept Zack and his wife on edge. The landlord warned them not to open a door in the apartment that led to nowhere. "Our Japanese visitors had no problem putting a name to it . . . they would sense the vibes of the place, look around a bit and inevitably say 'Ahhh . . . yurei ga deteru.' There is a *yurei* here."

Combining his lifelong interest in Japanese tradition and his personal experiences with these vengeful spirits, Davisson launches an investigation into the origin, popularization, and continued existence of *yurei* in Japan. Juxtaposing historical documents and legends against contemporary *yurei*-based horror films such as *The Ring*, Davisson explores the persistence of this paranormal phenomenon in modern day Japan and its continued spread throughout the West.



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Editorial Review

Review

"... Zack Davisson takes us on a wild and spooky ride through an oft-ignored aspect of Japanese history and culture. Along the way, he gives us lots of thrills and chills, but valuable insights and chuckles, too. Kudos to the author, and to Chin Music Press for such a delightful book." --Frederik L. Schodt, author of "Professor Risley and the Imperial Japanese Troupe: How an American Acrobat Introduced Circus to Japan--and Japan to the West"

"Zack's writing breathes new life into Japan's undead!"--Matt Alt, co-author of "Yurei Attack! The Japanese Ghost Survival Guide"

"Yurei -- ghosts, souls, spirits, or consciousness -- are not just a subset of Japanese monsters (yokai) and Zack Davisson's new book makes that clear. Informative, well written and nicely illustrated, Yurei: The Japanese Ghost explores the many aspects of Japanese religion and folk beliefs as they relate to life, death and everything in between."--*Ronald Morse, original translator of Legends of Tono (Tono Monogatari)*

"For decades I've been a fan of the Japanese ghost and horror tales retold by Lafcadio Hearn and Bernhardt J. Hurwood. And now, thanks to Zack Davisson, I finally understand the historical and cultural significance of Japan's y?rei."--Douglas Draa, online editor Weird Tales Magazine

"... a modern day Lafcadio Hearn is picking up this ghostly torch. Zack Davisson is the author, translator, and folklorist following in Hearn's footsteps."--*tofugu.com*

"The pages of "Yurei" seem to turn themselves -- whether with the assistance of a ghostly hand, I'd really rather not know." - *Mark Schilling, The Japan Times*

"This is a book of many layers. immensely enjoyable ... a lively journey through history, culture, and religion." - *Fortean Times*

About the Author

Zack Davisson is a translator, writer, and scholar of Japanese folklore and ghosts. He is the author of YUREI: THE JAPANESE GHOST, THE GHOST OF OYUKI, and THE SECRET BIWA MUSIC THAT CAUSED THE YUREI TO LAMENT from Chin Music Press. He contributed articles to WEIRD TALES MAGAZINE, JAPANZINE, and the comic book WAYWARD from Image comics. As a manga translator, he was nominated for the 2014 Japanese-US Friendship Commission Translation Prize, and is the translator of the Eisner Award winning and Harvey nominated Shigeru Mizuki's SHOWA: A HISTORY OF JAPAN. For Drawn and Quarterly, Davisson translates and curates the famous folklore comic KITARO. For Dark Horse, he translates Satoshi Kon's work, including OPUS, SERAPHIM: 266613336 WINGS, and THE ART OF SATOSHI KON. He was also a researcher and on-screen talent for National Geographic's TV special OKINAWA: THE LOST GHOSTS OF JAPAN, has appeared as a commentator on Chinese news network CCTV, and maintains the popular Japanese folklore website HYAKUMONOGATARI.COM. He currently resides in Seattle, Washington, with his wife, Miyuki, their dog Mochi, cats Bagheera and Sheer Khan, and several ghosts.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angela Hampton:

This Yurei: The Japanese Ghost book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This specific Yurei: The Japanese Ghost without we comprehend teach the one who reading it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't always be worry Yurei: The Japanese Ghost can bring when you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even telephone. This Yurei: The Japanese Ghost having excellent arrangement in word and layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

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Maria Blanco:

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Rhonda Kirby:

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