



ADVANCE INFORMATION
PORTUGUESE PROGRAM



J A P A N E S E
L I T E R A T U R E
P U B L I S H I N G
P R O J E C T

TITLE
A Burden of Flowers
(*Hana o Hakobu Imoto*)
AUTHOR
Natsuki Ikezawa

P-001-5

Translator:

Jefferson José Teixeira

Fiction Genre:

**Contemporary
Literature**

Originally Published by:

**Bungei Shunju (2000)(hc)
(2003)(pb)**

KEY POINTS

- **A masterpiece novel which won the 2000 Mainichi Prize, Daily Publishing Culture Award**
- **Suspense of whether the brother facing the death penalty for possession of illegal drugs can escape his desperate situation**

SYNOPSIS

Tetsuro Nishijima, who showed his talent for painting from early childhood and left his home right after he graduated from high school, has become a popular illustrator. In Thailand, Tetsuro meets a German woman, Ingeborg, who seduces him and introduces him to drugs: He then gets arrested and imprisoned in Bali for heroin possession. He faces the death penalty on charges of trafficking and possession of a large amount of heroin, which was a crime he did not commit. Tetsuro's sister, Kaoru, who is five years younger than Tetsuro, comes back to Japan from Paris and flies to Bali to bail out her brother. Perplexed by the heat of Asia that she has never experienced in Europe, Kaoru struggles hard to rescue her brother by negotiating with the consulate and lawyers.

The story consists of those chapters that are about the struggle of Kaoru, and the other chapters about Tetsuro's reflection on his earlier days when he left his family in conflict with his father, and on his journeys in Asia after that. These two different

settings are described alternately in the novel. Tetsuro had already been on the verge of desperation even before he was arrested because of deep remorse. He met a boy, Tain, in Vietnam, and the image of Tain's mother, Anne, was in his heart when, using heroin by a river where he saw a drowning child he let the child die in front of him because he was under the influence of the drug. Both the brother and the sister have been far away from Japan, Tetsuro in Asia and Kaoru in Europe. Meeting again in Bali the Nishijimas find that they relate to each other deeply while going through thrilling turn of events in their struggle to avoid the death penalty, and both will be awakened to start a new chapter in their life.

This epic story sheds light on the clash between Europe and Asia, life and death, and desperation and salvation. This is a cosmopolitan novel that depicts the homecoming and reclamation of a man who once was on the verge of catastrophe. *Hana o Hakobu Imoto* (A Burden of Flowers) received the Daily Publishing Culture Award, in 2000.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Natsuki Ikezawa (1945-) is a poet, translator, and novelist. After he dropped out of the Saitama University of Science and Engineering, he became a translator as he traveled around the world. After returning to Japan, he published his first poetry book, *Shio no michi* (The Road of Salt). Then he made his debut as a novelist in 1984 with the short story *Natsu no asa no seisou-ken* (The Stratosphere in the Summer Morning). Since then he published numerous novels as he journeyed through Okinawa, Hokkaido, and France.

AWARDS

1988 Akutagawa Prize, for *Sutiru raifu* (Still Life)
2000 Daily Publishing Culture Award, for *Hana o hakobu imoto* (A Burden of Flowers)
2001 Ministry of Education Award for Art, for *Subarashii shinsekai* (Wonderful New World)
2007 Medal with Purple Ribbon

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

After 4 years of Japanese language studies in Rio de Janeiro's Japan-Brazil Japanese Culture Association, Jefferson José Teixeira studied Japanese language and literature at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. He received a Japanese government scholarship to pursue graduate studies in Japan (Economics). He translated Jun'ichiro Tanizaki's *The Key and Naomi*, Haruki Murakami's *Norwegian Wood*, Hitomi Kanehara's *Snakes and Piercings* and Ryu Murakami's *In the Miso Soup*, among others.

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J A P A N E S E
L I T E R A T U R E
P U B L I S H I N G
P R O J E C T

TITLE
Ghosts and
Lower-class Samurai,
and Other Stories

(Yukensho)

AUTHOR
Hideyuki Kikuchi

P-002-5

Translator:

Leiko Gotoda

Fiction Genre:

**Mystery/Horror/
Short stories**

Originally Published by:

Kadokawa Shoten (2001)(hc)
(2004)(pb)

KEY POINTS

- A collection of supernatural ghost stories depicting the pathos of lower-class samurai who live for swordsmanship
- A masterpiece collection of historical ghost stories, with which the author, a leading horror novelist, broke new ground

SYNOPSIS

Hisama Sakakibara had been identified as a prodigy of swordsmanship from a very young age, but lost the position as the sword master for thrashing a young lord in an iai (sword drawing) lesson. His friend who visited him found that his place was also kept clean and tidy. "Sakakibara has got a woman at his place!" He did indeed have a woman at his place, named Sayo, a daughter of a townsman, but she had already been killed by a street murderer in the autumn before last. The female ghost of Sayo came to Hisama because she placed confidence in his swordsmanship. She said that she would curse and ruin each and every member of Hisama's family unless he took revenge for her. However, as it turned out, the murderer and his followers were all much better swordsman than Hisama... (Kage Nyoubou (Shadow Wife)).

Genbei Chitsugi had outstanding skill as a treasury official. He was stubborn and never made up to his superiors, nor hesitated to correct the wrong. As a result, he was shunned by others and banished for embezzlement to which he would not admit. A punitive force was sent against Genbei. He was slashed down and disappeared, leaving only a spray of blood. Hada, one of Genbei's old friends, confronted the ghost of Genbei which crept stealthily toward his feet before cutting off his feet at his ankle with the sword in a flash of lightning and went away leaving a ferocious gust of wrath. Hada fully realized the depth of the grudge of Genbei, who had been forced to die unjustly for an unacceptable reason... (Haizuri (The Crawler)) This is a masterpiece collection of historical ghost stories, depicting the pathos of lower-class samurai who are the captive of the sword and live for swordsmanship.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hideyuki Kikuchi (1949-) is a SF and horror novelist from Chiba. He graduated from the Aoyama Gakuin University of Law. As a college student he was chairman of the Mystery Novel Study Club. He became a freelance writer, and then in 1982 he debuted with *Makai toshi* <Shinjuku> (Devildom City Shinjuku), which made him a champion in the field of supernatural novels in Japan, equal to Baku Yumemakura. He has published many series such as *Makai toshi* (Devildom City), *Kyuketsu Hanta D* (Vampire Hunter D), and so on. Besides novels, he has also published many guide books for horror movies.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Leiko Gotoda was Born in São Paulo, Brazil, in 1941. In her childhood, she took Japanese language lessons at home with parents since there were no Japanese schools in São Paulo then. She graduated from the Associação Alumni Translators and Interpreters Course, and specialize in Literary Translation. She started translating English works, but soon she realized that there were no Japanese-Portuguese translators in her country. So she translated Eiji Yoshikawa's *Miyamoto Musashi*. Her translation works includes *Caçando Carneiros (Hitsuji o meguru boken)* and *Kafka à Beira-Mar (Umibe no Kafka)* by Haruki Murakami, *Diário de um Velho Louco (Futen rojin nikki)* and *As Irmãs Makioka Vol. 1 (Sasameyuki)* by Jun'ichiro Tanizaki.

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