



Some Prefer Nettles

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Junichiro Tanizaki

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Reliure: Broché

Revue de presse

“Tanizaki writes with an unabashed sensuality.”

—John Updike

“Japan’s great modern novelist, [Tanizaki] created a lifelong series of ingenious variations on a dominant theme: the power of love to energize and destroy.”

—*Chicago Tribune* Présentation de l'éditeur

Junichiro Tanizaki’s *Some Prefer Nettles* is an exquisitely nuanced exploration of the allure of ancient Japanese tradition—and the profound disquiet that accompanied its passing.

It is the 1920s in Tokyo, and Kaname and his wife Misako are trapped in a parody of a progressive Western marriage. No longer attracted to one another, they have long since stopped sleeping together and Kaname has sanctioned his wife’s liaisons with another man. But at the heart of their arrangement lies a sadness that impels Kaname to take refuge in the past, in the serene rituals of the classical puppet theater—and in a growing fixation with his father-in-law’s mistress. *Some Prefer Nettles* is an ethereally suggestive, psychologically complex exploration of the crisis every culture faces as it hurtles headfirst into modernity.

Quatrième de couverture

TRANSLATED BY EDWARD G. SEIDENSTICKER

'Tanizaki is a master of ambiguity and the subtle flavour of his work is skilfully preserved in this translation'
The Times

The marriage of Kaname and Misako is disintegrating: whilst seeking passion and fulfilment in the arms of others, they contemplate the humiliation of divorce. Misako's father believes their relationship has been damaged by the influence of a new and alien culture, and so attempts to heal the breach by educating his son-in-law in the time-honoured Japanese traditions of aesthetic and sensual pleasure. The result is an absorbing, chilling conflict between ancient and modern, young and old.

See also: *The Makioka Sisters*

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