



The Sleeping Dragon

Miyuki Miyabe , Deborah Iwabuchi (Translator) , ?? ???

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With *The Sleeping Dragon*, Miyuki Miyabe, Japan's #1 best-selling mystery author, returns to the spare, hard-boiled style of her debut book in English, the cult classic *All She Was Worth*. Add in a touch of the paranormal, and this noir tale of suspense is on track to garner reviews as glowing as those she's received in the past -- Land to win her a legion of new readers.

A fierce typhoon strikes Tokyo one night, flooding the city streets. Someone has unlawfully removed a manhole cover, and a little boy out searching for a lost pet goes missing, possibly drowned in the sewers. Is it murder or accidental? These events bring together a struggling journalist named Kosaka, who is grappling with the ghosts of his past, and two young men who may or may not have psychic powers. The three form an unwilling team not only to search for the lost boy, but also to solve a second mystery involving Kosaka's former fiancée.

Kosaka's career and personal life have stagnated since his breakup with Saeko a few years earlier, and locked him in an emotional impasse. Each of his two reluctant comrades--Shinji and Naoya--is struggling to come to terms with his unique powers ("the dragon within"). While Shinji wants to use his abilities to help others, Naoya seeks to hide his. Kosaka, meanwhile, doubts the young men's ability, all-too-clearly aware that such claims of psychic knowledge of the crimes could in reality mask a criminal culpability. But then all three are forced into an unsteady alliance to try to save the life of someone close to Kosaka.

The Sleeping Dragon Details

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Author : Miyuki Miyabe , Deborah Iwabuchi (Translator) , ?? ???

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From Reader Review The Sleeping Dragon for online ebook

writegeist says

Kept me reading with a fluid style. There is a simplicity to the story that makes it easy to slip into. I don't know if some of the things I found bothersome (like some of the dialog seemed a little hokey) is a cultural issue or not. I have also noticed that in the Japanese fiction I've read there is the same use of short, terse sentences. Description is kept to a minimum. I don't see that as a negative thing; just an observation.

The supernatural aspects of the story were kept low-key, which made the plot believable. Characters dealt with the supernatural not as gee-whiz, but as real people probably would: as a burden rather than a prize (like winning the lottery; we think it would solve all our problems, yet it introduces other ones).

Gerald Kinro says

A typhoon strikes Tokyo one night, flooding the city streets. Someone has unlawfully removed a manhole cover, and a little boy out searching for a lost pet is missing. Is it murder or accidental? While driving in the storm, Kosaka, a journalist, assists a young boy, Shinji, who may have psychic powers. Another possible psychic, a young man, Naoya, enters the scene, and the three form an awkward team to solve the case of the missing boy and to solve the mystery of Kosaka's former fiancée, Saeko, who disappears.

Kosaka's career and personal life have been in a rut since his breakup with stagnated since his breakup with Saeko. Meanwhile, the two clairvoyants are struggling with their powers in their own ways. Kosaka does not believe in clairvoyance, but is forced to go along to save the life of Saeko.

This is a dark, well-structured, well-plotted work. At times the pace slows but picks up to make this a good read.

Kylie Sparks says

I had read "All She Was Worth" by Miyabe and found it promising: with this book I fell in love with the author. I felt pulled into this mystery in the first few paragraphs, and didn't want to put it down. The characters are likeable and interesting, and the mystery kept me guessing until the end. I really enjoy this author's writing style. She is great at creating atmosphere and building tension. Her mysteries are serious, smart, psychological and deep, but they are not depressing.

Mark says

Note: This review is for the JAPANESE version of the book, not any translations, so I can't comment on the quality of any other versions.

This is probably the best Japanese novel I've read in the past year. It has amazing pacing, tons of suspense, great/interesting characters, and a wonderfully clear, straight-forward writing style. I couldn't put this down and couldn't wait to see where the story was going to go. It was an extremely satisfying read with a lot of impact, and I loved it. Miyuki Miyabe is an excellent author!

I have one huge complaint (and one I saw from other Japanese reviews) and that's the awful romance. Both of the characters involved in the romance are fine, and a romance between them would be fine if it were developed, but it's not--they basically meet all of 2 times and chat for a bit, and then the next time they see each other, BAM, suddenly they're making out, totally in love, and basically live together from that point on in the book. When everything else in the book was meticulously put together and well written, this really stood out in a bad way. It felt like a huge waste, and I almost thought the book would've been better off without it at all.

Caroline says

If you like dark Japanese thrillers, this is one to pick. A journalist picks up a teenage hitchhiker in the pouring rain and drives over a manhole cover that's been removed. Upon stopping, he gets out, finds a little yellow umbrella and then comes upon an elderly gentleman looking for his young grandson who had run out to look for a pet. After the teenager claims to have ESP and to know not only that the man's grandson is dead but also the identity of the people who removed the manhole cover, the journalist meets another young man who claims to have stronger powers than the teenager and warns him against him.

In the meantime, the journalist has also been the recipient of strange anonymous letters at the office.

Is there a link to all this? Is he being played by the two young men? What do they want with him? Do they have anything to do with the strange letters and why was there a reference to his ex-girlfriend?

The thriller does not appear to have suffered from being a translation and the reader is taken on a rollercoaster ride of unexpected twists and turns throughout the book.

Daphne Vogel says

Dithering between three and four stars, because it seems as though this lost a little something in translation. It was an interesting and unique mix of domestic drama, suspense and the paranormal - people motivated by the comparisons with Stephen King's Firestarter might be disappointed, and I don't think it's fair to place the two side by side based upon their most obvious similarities. The descriptions of early 1990s Tokyo are intriguing, calls to mind the industrial cinema of the time. Indeed, I'm pretty sure the author refers to Shinya Tsukamoto at one point...but maybe I'm just reaching.

J. says

Begins as a plausible Japanese mystery novel, on a dark and stormy night. The normal elements start to fall into place-- the protagonist is a newsman who hasn't had luck in love, sleeps little, and is trying to quit smoking for the fourth time. Fine, ultra generic, but let's go; maybe some cultural wrinkles will appear to

make this different...

Atmosphere is gritty and the story unfolds mysteriously enough, but all isn't well. After a bit, we're treated to an unusual character who is both teenaged and psychic. Worse still, there are signs that his family tree has also been home to other, *gifted* practitioners. The first dealbreaker in the book appears when we find our original psychic teen has a friend. And unfortunately for us, the author has opted to make the friend a psychic as well. A sidekick psychic.

The uncanny and the seemingly impossible do battle for the next few chapters, and finally the dagger is plunged in, to the hilt. The Sidekick Psychic can do tricks. Major tricks, even beyond the usual mindreading hijinks. The sidekick can *teleport*.

And this is the moment, on page 132 of 301, where this book ends. At least for this reader, and anyone else over the impressionable age of about twelve. What was most annoying about all this is the tell-tale presence of that staple of Young Adult writing, the sensitive, emo-loner teen with *paranormal powers*. I'm a mystery reader, I've read hundreds of detective novels --- why didn't I detect that ?

When you have misunderstood, hyper-intuitive teenagers mooning all over the place, and then someone teleports ... make no mistake-- you're in a YA Pulp Novel. And if you're beyond middle school age, you'd better get out of there instantly. Your brain is at stake.

I did, but I could use a cigarette.

Pamela Okano says

Entertaining mystery by well-known Japanese author Miyuki Miyabe. Someone is trying to frighten magazine writer Shogo Kosaka and his ex-fiancee. In the meantime, a young boy dies when he is swept into a sewer during a typhoon because someone has removed the manhole cover. Two mysterious teens know more than they care to admit. Miyabe's twists and turns make for an engrossing read.

Sam Wong says

Good start to hype things up but the story started off with an accident which sort of had no relevance but just to prove that the kid is really psychic. The whole kidnapping part is pretty bull and i don't get why these kids cant just tell the police or the protagonist ahead. Overall pretty disappointing twist like the devil's whisperer. I was hoping for more than some stupid kidnap plot staged by two lustful couple.

reQi says

ibland äre förvirrande ånte läsa baksidor utan gå på känslor genrer å titlar. förväntade mig en saga om en drake och den dök som aldrig upp.

Jessica says

3.5 stars

Cindy says

I loved this book. It is the first book by Miyuki Miyabe that I have read and I have fallen in love with her writing style and real characters. I would love to read more of her books but only 4 teen books are available on kindle and goodreads doesn't even list the books like "crossfire", "all she was worth" and "the Devils Whisper"!!!! My library (small that it is only has the sleeping Dragon!) What absolute torture to not be able to get my hands on another of her books and what a shame that more people cannot have access to them!

winnie says

this is Miyabe's 5th novel translated into English. though i've read all 5, her first one is still the best "All She Was Worth" and is one of my fave novels to date. she's a master at writing mysteries and often times combines supernatural theories into her stories, such as this one. this particular story deals w/ ESP and its use in solving a specific kidnapping case. however she weaves an intricate story-line amongst the cast of characters long before the kidnapping occurs.

Karen says

On the cover of THE SLEEPING DRAGON, Miyuki Miyabe is noted as Japan's Number 1 bestselling Mystery Writer, known for her ability to write strong suspense novels. Which made this particular book an interesting prospect, even allowing for the inclusion of an ESP sub-thread which isn't often something I'm particularly comfortable with.

But I am very comfortable with something that has a strong sense of place, and a strong sense of the culture that it comes from. Even allowing for the novel being translated, there remained something quintessentially Japanese about this book. Considered, subdued even, the story of THE SLEEPING DRAGON is told in a sparse, careful and thoughtful manner, particularly given the central premise of the book - whether or not a careless or even reckless act is murder, whether or not you know who did it.

The book is telling a complicated story. The disappearance of a little boy, the identification of who moved the manhole cover, their reactions and everyone's belief about culpability. The pairing of an older, life-worn journalist Kosaka, and the young psychic teenager Shinji. The relationship between Shinji and Naoya, and Naoya's struggle with his own psychic ability. Intertwined friendships, the past returning to affect the present, love lost, good and bad new relationships, and the whole catastrophe.

Despite the complications of the various sub-threads throughout the book, there is a stately progression, more than a thriller style ride. The whole book does not, however, concentrate on the "mystery" or the loss of the little boy. There are other aspects to the people within the story that frequently take centre stage. Because of

that, this is not a "traditional" mystery in which a crime is committed, an investigation undertaken, and a resolution arrived at. This is a book which resolves a mystery, and looks deep into the consequences of that mystery, and to the fall out in the lives of the people involved. Within this context, the ESP sub-thread is really more about the battle that somebody with a different "gift" in life has in dealing with the consequences of that gift.

I doubt very strongly that this would be a book that dedicated fast paced thriller fans are going to find exactly their cup of tea. I suspect that fans of the crime straight through to resolution style of mystery fiction may also find it a little disappointing, but I must admit I thoroughly enjoyed THE SLEEPING DRAGON. I found the style of storytelling very engaging, the intricacies of the lives that the book looked at absorbing, the moral dilemmas raised, addressed or never resolved realistic and quite challenging. The style of the book felt Japanese to me, but the characters within the story, and the battles that they fought, essentially very human and realistic.

<http://www.austcrimefiction.org/revie...>

Josh Yates says

A twist on the journalist detective story.

Full Review:

<https://ianjoshyateswriting.blogspot....>
