



A Cat, A Man, and Two Women (New Directions Paperbook)

By Junichiro Tanizaki



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A novella and two short stories reveal Tanizaki at his best and most bizarre

The three pieces in this collection—the novella “A Cat, A Man, and Two Women” and two shorter pieces “The Little Kingdom” and “Professor Rado”—are lighthearted and entertaining variations on one of Tanizaki’s favorite preoccupations: dominance and submission in relationships, complicated even further here by customs, public opinion, and comic grotesqueries. In the title piece, the bumbling Shozo is caught in the middle of an ongoing struggle between his ex-wife and her younger successor. Shozo would prefer to stay out of it and be peacefully left alone with his elegant tortoiseshell cat Lily, but he keeps getting dragged back into the battles and arguments. The result is an oddball love triangle centered around Lily, the only true object of Shozo’s affections—“one of the finest pieces of literature concerning cats ever written” (Choice).

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A Cat, A Man, and Two Women (New Directions Paperbook) By Junichiro Tanizaki Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"A masterpiece.... Don't miss this piece of brilliant drollery." -- *Washington Post Book World*

"Even his lighter-hearted fictions ... make us hold our breath, and the endings don't let us quite exhale."--
John Updike, *The New Yorker* -- *The New Yorker*

"Not only Japan's greatest twentieth-century writer but also one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century."--*Los Angeles Times* -- *Los Angeles Times*

"Tanizaki at both his best and most bizarre."--*Boston Globe* -- *Boston Globe*

"The title story is one of the finest pieces of literature concerning cats ever written."--*Choice* -- *Choice*

"World-class." -- *Christian Science Monitor*

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Japanese

About the Author

Author of *The Makioka Sisters*, *In Praise of Shadows*, and *A Cat, a Man, and Two Women*, Junichiro Tanizaki (1886–1965) is arguably the greatest Japanese writer of the twentieth century.

Paul McCarthy, Professor of Comparative Culture at Surugadai University in Japan, has translated work by Jun'ichiro Tanizaki, Takeshi Umehara, Zenno Ishigami, and Atsushi Nakajima.

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