



The Gate of Sorrows

Miyuki Miyabe , Jim Hubbert (Translation)

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A series of murders shocks Tokyo's Shinjuku ward, but Shigenori, a retired police detective, is instead obsessed with a gargoyle that seems to move. College freshman Kotaro launches a web-based investigation of the killer, and comes to find that answers may lie within an abandoned building in the center of Japan's busiest neighborhood, and beyond the Gate of Sorrows. In this New Adult sequel to Miyabe's *The Book of Heroes*, you will meet monsters from other worlds and ordinary horrors that surpass even supernatural threats.

The Gate of Sorrows Details

Date : Published August 16th 2016 by Haikasoru (first published January 15th 2015)

ISBN : 9781421586526

Author : Miyuki Miyabe , Jim Hubbert (Translation)

Format : Hardcover 600 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Mystery, Cultural, Japan, Young Adult, Urban Fantasy

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From Reader Review The Gate of Sorrows for online ebook

Esmerelda Weatherwax says

This was pretty different, I'm not a huge fan of urban fantasy, but I'm trying to pick up new things this year, and a translated book from a female Japanese fantasy author sounded too good to pass up, and I was not left unsatisfied.

It does sort of lean YA, but not glaringly so, and that's because this is actually the second book set in this world, bUT a stand alone - the first book was YA, and this one was supposed to be more adult in tone.

Elana says

I love Asian horror because it is not as moralistic as its Western counterpart. No black-and-white good and evil; no innocent victims and monstrous victimizers; no Puritanical punishment of sexy women in the name of "family values". Asian horror is quietly creepy rather than physically shocking. And it is also wildly imaginative. This novel is a perfect example. It is not even horror, exactly, but a wild mix of detective story, allegory, fantasy and metafiction, with monsters, demons, gargoyles and karma thrown in for a good measure. The amazing thing is that works better than any Stephen King lookalike.

Pamela Okano says

I'd give this 4.5 stars. Japanese author Miyuki Miyabe writes a lot of mysteries, but this one is different because it blends fantasy fiction into a whodunnit. Normally I would shy away from such books, but Miyabe (with excellent translation by Jim Hubbert) does it very well indeed. Someone murders the popular founder/CEO of a web monitoring company. Is it the apparent serial killer who has been murdering others and chopping off body parts? Meanwhile, an elderly woman dies after reporting seeing a decorative gargoyle on a building move. Kotaro, a college student who works part-time at the web monitoring firm, joins forces with retired detective Shigenori to solve these mysteries.

T. K. Elliott (Tiffany) says

This is definitely Young Adult fiction - but it has a distinct lack of romance (let alone a love triangle featuring the protagonist) and a refreshingly low angst quotient. And at 600 pages or so, it's about twice as long as your typical YA novel. I found myself wondering whether this book was unusual, or whether that's just the way Japanese YA writers write. If the latter, Japanese Young Adults are very fortunate.

The Translation

I found the translation pretty good: there was only one instance in which an obviously wrong word was used (people don't 'audit' a lecture unless they're doing some kind of quality control, despite the fact that the root of 'audit' means 'to listen'). Furthermore, the translation seemed to me to have kept the 'Japaneseness' of the setting and the people.

The Characters

Once again, this story is different from the general run because our hero (Kotaro) is just an ordinary 19-year-old student who gets involved in paranormal goings on. He's not some kind of superhuman 'chosen', and he doesn't have amazing powers. Nor is he the only one who can save the world. This means that the scope of the story is somewhat smaller, but it's more realistic. Kotaro is dealing with issues that ordinary people deal with - although most people don't get the paranormal angle.

Another interesting difference between this and many other YA books is that in this one, the adults aren't all stupid and/or oblivious. People are people: they have their own concerns; they make decisions - good and bad; they live with the consequences. Kotaro is the main character, but he moves in a web of associations - friends, family, colleagues. It all felt refreshingly *normal*.

The Plot

There were at least two intertwining plot strands - the murders, and the school troubles of Kotaro's younger sister's friend. Both of these were very much in service to the book's overall message: the power of words and communication, for good or for evil. There were definitely times that the author seemed to be speaking directly to the reader - which is one reason this is definitely pegged as Young Adult, in addition to the age and situation of the protagonist. That said, the author did put together an interesting plot - and I found that the pace definitely picked up in the last 25% of the book, as things start to come together. This is a long, slow read - but rewarding.

The Conclusion

Definitely a Young Adult book, rather than 'adult' as it's labelled on Goodreads. However, refreshingly free from angst, and rather more thoughtful and less dramatic than most.

Am I glad I read it? Yes, definitely - although YA isn't a genre I enjoy as a rule. Would I read anything by this author again? Yes, if I can find an adult book translated into English.

Definitely several hours well-spent. :-)

Johnny Guerrero says

I thought this novel was good but not as good as the first one was

Rachelle says

A great murder mystery thriller with a splash of fantasy. It was a spellbinding read from start to finish, kept turning the pages.

Kim says

The danger of obsessions.

I did not read The Book of Heroes before this book, which did not hinder me from understanding the plot of The Gate of Sorrows, but might have made the sudden appearance of a certain character or two more

understandable. This is the story about college student Kotaro who investigates after a coworker investigating the disappearance of several homeless people disappears himself. Along the way he meets a retired detective investigating a gargoyle that moves and a little girl that won't talk and gets involved in a middle school bullying situation, a string of murders, and with a creature that is real but doesn't exist. I enjoyed the book as a whole--it dragged a bit around midway but then kicked up again. (About 3.75 goodreads stars).

Meg Hendry says

The Gate of Sorrows by Miyuki Miyabe, is as good as the first book, *The Book of Heroes*. *The Gate of Sorrows* followed different characters, with an appearance of characters from the first book. The two books are very different from each other, but both are good. *The Gate of Sorrows* is a good mystery. It's much darker than the first book. An adult book rather than young adult. The book was long, but didn't drag. The story kept moving and both points of view were good. As with the first book, all of the characters were well written and had a strong voice. Both main characters added something to the plot. Though I did like Shigenori more than Kotaro.

James says

It's hard to classify this novel, it's not your typical urban fantasy, it's more like a coming of age novel (minus large helpings of teen angst) mixed in with a detective novel along with a classic heroic journey. College student Kotaro is drifting a bit when a mentor recommends becoming a cyber patroller, he starts investigating various internet crimes, murders occur and a friend goes missing. A retired detective makes an appearance and together they meet a beast with its own agenda. It was a fun page turner that managed to avoid the typical fantasy cliches and could be read by adults and teens.

Serena W. Sorrell says

Words we use, spoken, typed, thought, stay with us throughout our lives and become our karma. Good or bad the words are ours to bear.

That's the message in *The Gate of Sorrows*, a followup novel to *Book of Heroes* (recurring characters, but works as a standalone as well).

The message is profound and well presented throughout the body of the novel. In Miyabe's usual style you're in for a slow burning read that picks up at just the right times, and then eases off again to let you think, to make you feel.

tGoS is a favorite for sure. The translator did a fine job with the work and maintained individual voices, which are also present in the original Japanese novel. So, if you want a story that makes you evaluate your own, *The Gate of Sorrows* is for you.

(A handful of typos were found in the hardcover; 1st edition and all reported to the publisher, who said they'd be fixed in later editions.)

Elizabeth Rose says

A beautiful kick to the gut with words. I loved every single page of this book- the characters, the setting, the world, the philosophy... I can't wait to delve into more of Miyabe's work!

Francine Chu says

Really original plot; Miyabe weaves the ordinary with fantasy to lure unsuspecting readers

Jon Chaisson says

Miyabe follows up her YA story 'The Book of Heroes' with an adult sort-of sequel. It's a much darker and more sinister affair, but just as mindbending and gripping. [Note: Yuriko from the first book does make an appearance here as a secondary character.]
