



Diary of a mad old man (UNESCO collection of representative works. Japanese series)

By Junichiro Tanizaki

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Diary of a Mad Old Man is the journal of Utsugi, a seventy-seven-year-old man of refined tastes who is recovering from a stroke. He discovers that, while his body is decaying, his libido still rages on -- unwittingly sparked by the gentle, kindly attentions of his daughter-in-law Satsuko, a chic, flashy dancer with a shady past. Pitiful and ridiculous as he is, Utsugi is without a trace of self-pity, and his diary shines with self-effacing good humor. At once hilarious and of a sadness, Diary of a Mad Old Man is a brilliant depiction of the relationship between eros and the will to live -- a novel of the tragicomedy of human existence.

Translated from the Japanese by Howard Hibbett

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Diary of a mad old man (UNESCO collection of representative works. Japanese series) By Junichiro Tanizaki Bibliography

- Rank: #5952373 in Books
- Published on: 1965
- Number of items: 1
- Binding: Hardcover
- 177 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"The diarist [is] an absolutely convincing creation ... funny and ultimately appealing." -- The Atlantic

"[A] lean, taut book ... excellently put into English."

-- Saturday Review

Language Notes

Text: English, Japanese (translation)

From the Inside Flap

Diary of a Mad Old Man is the journal of Utsugi, a seventy-seven-year-old man of refined tastes who is recovering from a stroke. He discovers that, while his body is decaying, his libido still rages on -- unwittingly sparked by the gentle, kindly attentions of his daughter-in-law Satsuko, a chic, flashy dancer with a shady past. Pitiful and ridiculous as he is, Utsugi is without a trace of self-pity, and his diary shines with self-effacing good humor. At once hilarious and of a sadness, Diary of a Mad Old Man is a brilliant depiction of the relationship between eros and the will to live -- a novel of the tragicomedy of human existence.

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