



Tales from a Mountain Cave
Stories from Japan's Northeast
Hisashi Inoue, translated by Angus Turvill

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/ Short Stories (single author)

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Description

A collection of short stories – many humorous, some sad – that draw on traditional folklore and give impelling insights into the lives of people of Tohoku before and during the Second World War.

A young man, dissatisfied with life at university in Tokyo, finds a job in a mountain tuberculosis sanatorium in Iwate Prefecture. One lunch-time he hears a trumpet from across the valley and, enjoying the music, seeks to find its source. He finds a cave from which appears the head of the trumpeter, an old man, who invites him inside. The young man takes to visiting the cave every lunch-time to listen to the old man's stories of his life in the region. Spanning the 1920s to the 1950s, the stories – many humorous, some sad – draw on traditional folklore and give impelling insights into the lives of people of the district before and during the Second World War. Features the short story "House up the River", recipient of the British Comparative Literature Association John Dryden Translation Competition 2013 Commendation.

Readership: Readers with an interest in Japan, especially after the terrible events of 2011, those with an interest in literary translations and short stories in general.

Contents

In the Pot; House on the River; Pheasant Girl; Horse; Fox; Story Seller; Lake; Eel; Fox Hole

About the Author

Hisashi Inoue (1934–2010) is an award-winning Japanese scriptwriter, playwright and novelist, and winner of the Kishida Kunio Stage Drama Award (1972), the Minister of Education Award for New Artists (1972), the Naoki Prize (1972), the Japan SF Grand Prize (1981), the Seiun Prize (1982) and the Tanizaki Jun'ichiro Prize (1991).

Angus Turvill is an award-winning translator who currently teaches at Durham University, UK. Prize-winning and published translations include work by Ekuni Kaori, Ikezawa Natsuki, Mukoda Kuniko, Nomura Kiwao, Shigematsu Kiyoshi, Dazai Osamu and Yotsumoto Yasuhiro.

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