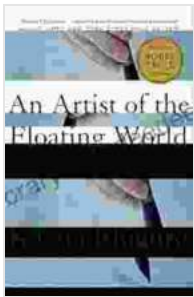


An Artist of the Floating World Vintage International: A Review

An Artist of the Floating World is a masterpiece of historical fiction by Kazuo Ishiguro. The novel tells the story of Masuji Ono, an elderly Japanese artist who reflects on his life and career during the tumultuous years of World War II. The novel explores themes of memory, loss, and the nature of art.



An Artist of the Floating World (Vintage International)

by Kazuo Ishiguro

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 3521 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 239 pages



Plot summary

The novel is set in post-war Japan, in the autumn of 1948. Masuji Ono is an elderly artist who is living in a small apartment with his wife, Setsuko. He is a widower, and his only daughter, Noriko, is married and living in America. Ono is a successful artist, and his work has been exhibited in museums around the world. However, he is now in his late seventies, and his health is declining.

One day, Ono is visited by a young journalist named Kuroda. Kuroda is writing a book about the lives of Japanese artists during the war, and he wants to interview Ono. Ono reluctantly agrees to talk to Kuroda, and the two men begin to meet regularly.

As Ono tells his story to Kuroda, he reflects on his life and career. He remembers his early days as an artist, when he was a young man full of ambition and promise. He recalls his relationships with his wife and daughter, and he thinks about the sacrifices he has made for his art.

As Ono's story unfolds, it becomes clear that he is a complex and contradictory character. He is a talented artist, but he is also a flawed human being. He is capable of great love and compassion, but he is also capable of selfishness and cruelty.

The novel ends with Ono reflecting on the meaning of his life and art. He realizes that his art is not merely a product of his own talent, but also a reflection of the times in which he lived. He understands that his art is a way of preserving the memory of the past, and he hopes that his work will continue to inspire and move people long after he is gone.

Themes

An Artist of the Floating World explores a number of complex themes, including:

- **Memory and loss:** Ono's story is a meditation on the nature of memory and loss. He reflects on his past, and he tries to come to terms with the things he has lost. The novel explores the idea that

memory is not always reliable, and that it can be shaped by our own desires and fears.

- **The nature of art:** Ono's story is also a reflection on the nature of art. He believes that art is a powerful force for good, and that it can help us to understand ourselves and the world around us. However, he also recognizes that art can be used for evil, and that it can be a source of pain and suffering.
- **The sacrifices we make for our art:** Ono's story explores the sacrifices that we make for our art. He gives up his family and his health in order to pursue his career. The novel asks us to consider whether these sacrifices are worth it, and whether we can ever truly find happiness in our art.

Characters

The novel features a number of complex and memorable characters, including:

- **Masuji Ono:** Ono is the protagonist of the novel. He is a talented artist who is reflecting on his life and career during the tumultuous years of World War II. He is a complex and contradictory character, capable of great love and compassion, but also of selfishness and cruelty.
- **Setsuko Ono:** Setsuko is Ono's wife. She is a kind and supportive woman who has stood by her husband through thick and thin. However, she is also aware of the sacrifices that Ono has made for his art, and she sometimes resents him for it.
- **Noriko Ono:** Noriko is Ono's daughter. She is a married woman who is living in America. She is close to her father, but she also understands

the sacrifices that he has made for his art.

- **Kuroda:** Kuroda is a young journalist who is writing a book about the lives of Japanese artists during the war. He is a kind and compassionate man who is genuinely interested in Ono's story. However, he is also a journalist, and he is ultimately responsible for getting Ono's story out to the world.

Style

An Artist of the Floating World is written in a clear and concise style. Ishiguro uses simple language to tell a complex and moving story. The novel is divided into short chapters, which makes it easy to read and digest.

Ishiguro also uses a number of literary devices to create a sense of atmosphere and mood. For example, he uses flashbacks to tell Ono's story, and he uses foreshadowing to hint at the events that are to come.

Reception

An Artist of the Floating World was met with critical acclaim upon its publication. The novel won the 1989 Man Booker Prize, and it was shortlisted for the 1990 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

The novel has been praised for its complex characters, its moving story, and its beautiful prose. It is considered to be one of Ishiguro's finest works, and it is a must-read for anyone interested in historical fiction or the nature of art.

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themes of memory, loss, and the nature of art. It is a complex and moving story that is sure to stay with you long after you finish reading it.

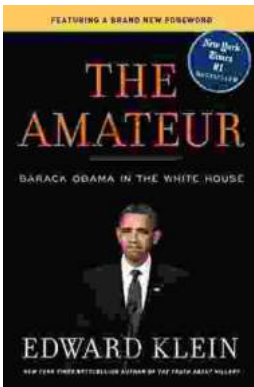


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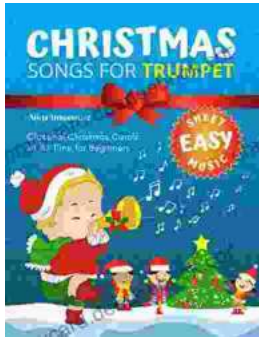
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