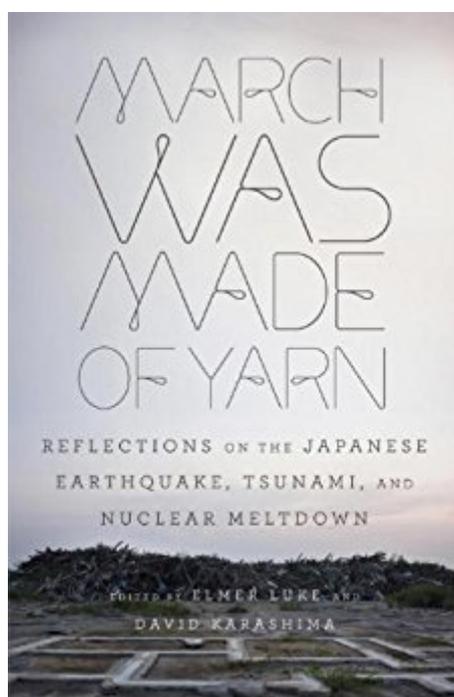


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March Was Made Of Yarn: Reflections On The Japanese Earthquake, Tsunami, And Nuclear Meltdown



Synopsis

In time for the one year anniversary of the 2011 earthquake in Japan, a collection of essays and stories by Japanese writers on the devastating disaster, its aftermath, and the resolve of a people to rebuild. On March 11, 2011, a massive earthquake occurred off the northeastern coast of Japan, triggering a 50-foot tsunami that crushed everything in its path—highways, airports, villages, trains, and buses—leaving death and destruction behind, and causing a major radiation leak from five nuclear plants. Here—eighteen writers give us their trenchant observations and emotional responses to such a tragedy, in what is a fascinating, enigmatic and poignant collection.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An excellent collection of quite a few stories, this book takes its central tragedy seriously without losing sight of the triumphs that also come with disasters. Ryu Murakami, perhaps the most famous author to Western audiences, meditates on how far Japan has come, while others grapple with how far all of Japan must still go in handling the fallout from Fukushima. Particularly striking in a diverse collection of tales were "God Bless You, 2011," a meta-narrative about the way even a simple picnic can change (and not change), "Boxes," a strange meditation on loneliness and insufficiency, and

"the Charm," about the wide-ranging effects of a truly national tragedy. Other stories, like "Lulu," "Sixteen Years Late, in the Same Place," and "Hiyoriyama" deal with the immediate sights and feelings of the survivors. Some delightfully odd, others bracing, and still others deeply sad, all are moving narratives of ultimate resilience.

I have been interested in Japan since I was a teen and have lived in earthquake prone countries all my life. I liked the variety in these short stories and the surprising quality of the prose after translation.

Within this book is a wondrous collection of short stories that are beautifully crafted reflections of the creative magical spirit of the People of Japan. Heartfelt and lovely prose imbued with chilling reminders of the hazards of nature and manmade threats to the environment via nuclear power. Stories that bring tears and solace and are pure pleasure to read. I did not want this book to end.

I purchased this book thinking that it would be a wonderful collection of short stories to better understand the events of Japan's triple disaster. The book is a set of short stories - both fiction and nonfiction - but some were so far out there and disconnected from the disaster that I had a hard time appreciating them. One story is about a bear who goes for a walk with a neighbor (human) after the disaster; another is about an imaginary dog who helps children recover from the disaster by taking on their ailments. I recognize that these stories reflect a cultural element, but much of the book is creative fiction with little commentary on the disaster events - "Hiyoriyama", for example. There are a few gems within this book, but overall it is a bit of a disappointment.

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