
Yukio Mishima

Confessions of a Mask



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Author: Yukio Mishima

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Description

Confessions of a Mask is the story of an adolescent who must learn to live with the painful fact that he is unlike other young men. Mishima's protagonist discovers that he is becoming a homosexual in polite, post-war Japan. To survive, he must live behind a mask of propriety.

Christopher Isherwood comments—"One might say, 'Here is a Japanese Gide,'....But no, Mishima is himself—a very Japanese Mishima; lucid in the midst of emotional confusion, funny in the midst of despair, quite without pomposity, sentimentality or self-pity. His book, like no other, has made me understand a little of how it feels to be Japanese. I think it is greatly superior, as art and as a human document to his deservedly praised novel, **The Sound of Waves**'

Insightful reviews

Alex: Este libro fue la primera novela de Mishima y, considerando el contexto histórico en el que se publicó, creo que es muy audaz. No obstante, Los Colores Prohibidos es un libro todavía más audaz en el que Mishima presenta la homosexualidad de manera más explícita y profunda. Creo, de hecho, que los dos libros están conectados por la estética tan corpórea de Mishima, por el fatalismo d'après guerre japonés y por la exploración del tema de la homosexualidad y la búsqueda de la identidad y la comprensión de la belleza en una sociedad tradicional.

En este libro aprecié mucho la manera en que Mishima supo describir y recrear la angustia de ser diferente de los demás y la lucha por aceptar que uno es diferente y es necesario portar una máscara detrás de la cual escondemos la persona que realmente somos. Me identifiqué mucho con la lucha interna del personaje principal por convencerse que puede amar a una mujer y también desearla... Al final, el libro no resuelve el conflicto de estar dividido entre dos mundos: no solo los de la orientación sexual sino también los del amor físico y el espiritual. Tal vez eso es paranoia wagneriana pero eso me hizo pensar en Tannhauser...

En fin, muy recomendable el libro. No el mejor de Mishima, pero sí excelente!

Chaitra: Unsatisfied by this. It was probably the wrong book to start Mishima with. The whiny central character talks about a mask he's been wearing ever since he can remember. Yet, he does nothing fruitful whatsoever, except for wishing that he was dead. Does he even try to find others like himself? He's 21 in 1945 in Japan, I cannot think that men preferring men were totally unheard of at that point. I could handle his guilt, his shame. What I couldn't handle was his douchiness (it should be word, if it's not). At one point he convinces himself he's in love with an innocent girl of 18. He then jilts her because obviously he doesn't care for her sexually. Also, because he never thought that he might actually have to marry the girl, he was hoping a bomb would fall on him before that. Doesn't happen and the girl goes on to marry someone else. Then he suddenly thinks he might actually be in love with her again? After she's married he continues to meet her, respectably, supposedly. When she asks why they didn't marry, he has nothing to say to her except that hey, I was too young and you married while I was hesitating.

I'm aware that being sexually different can be crippling, but this guy was a wanker. What pissed

me off is that he continually thinks of life an experiment. One he can escape because he may die. Then he's surprised that he's not dead and he has to face consequences, and there's some other convenient out for him. The title is right, in a way, I never really got the feeling that I was reading about something genuine, that there was something to the guy I was reading about. I'm wondering if Mishima did a big disfavor to the gay community, I can't think that anyone might want to identify with this guy. He's morally skewed, he even admits it. He loves (it's all very poetic) young men from afar, his favorite twisted fantasy is of a naked man in the throes of bloody death. Is that not all the clichés of homosexuality come true?

I recognize the craft, and the language. I just wish it was something better than this story of a mask.

Hend: this novel is unusual ,shocking ,very strange....

i feel sympathy for this tragic protagonist Kochan and all his mixed feelings and struggle against himself,and his own emotions being torned between his desire to be straight and his true feelings...his

fascinations and fantasies of death ,his self confidence that seems nearly in existent because of his naturally weak body

his Questionable love to Sonoko ,he being

Jealous from her that she could have such pure and true love that he simply cant give to any woman ...

the sense of victory that he had when he felt he could seduce a woman....

very miserable soul....

Ismael Galvan: Confessions of a masks is Yukio Mishima's moment novel that is regarded as seriously biographical and won him reputation as terrific younger writer. the tale facilities on Kochan, a boy transforming into up in Imperial Japan in the course of WWII. From a tender age he realizes he's a gay but forces himself to move as a heterosexual within the Right-wing militaristic society. Kochan has a perverse fascination with death. From a tender age he fantasizes approximately how he'll die. As he turns into a tender grownup those fantasies tackle a darkly erotic tone that interweaves demise and sexuality. The fight of struggling with his actual nature leads to a deeply agitated mind set which Mishima conveys masterfully. nearly all of the tale performs out within the backdrop of Japan's ultimate years earlier than the atomic bombs bring about the unconditional surrender.This is a seriously mental e-book that's enthusiastic about death, eroticism, well mannered society, emotional secretiveness, and internal conflict. the tale is advised as a completely written confession within the kind of an extended letter. The powerful emphasis on isolation and use of inside monologue jogged my memory of J.D Salinger's Catcher within the Rye. Mishima's exploration of human sexuality and isolation is tuned at a fever pitch that many writers have by no means reached of their works. There are a couple of memorable statements concerning the absurdity of war, but i wouldn't say there's an anti-war theme. The nervousness of warfare is gifted sincerely in lives of the entire characters involved.I suggest this booklet to someone attracted to books that push the bounds of literature and societal norms. This publication is easily no longer a simple going read. it's a irritating novel

that might agitate even pro readers. Mishima's use of language is impressive. every one note is punctiliously chosen to create a written kind that's direct, profound, and confronts the reader unwaveringly. this is often the 5th ebook I've learn from Mishima and i've but to learn whatever that hasn't left a long-lasting imprint in my mind. i might move as a ways to claim individual may well opt for any of Mishima's works, blind folded, with excellent self assurance of choosing a literary treasure.

Imogen: it is fascinating how a lot of Mishima's event being a queermo within the first 1/2 the 20th century resonates with my event of being a queermo like 80 years later: the unintended denial, the mopeyness, the obsession, the self-consciousness, y'know. He positioned a host of stuff into phrases that i would by no means even thought of *trying* to place into words. So yeah, that blew my mind. Still, it is all mannered and sluggish and reflective and the entire un-viscerally-exciting issues you would (well, I'd) count on from the period of time and from this type of complex obsession with decorum. in particular in Japan. Also, hey, should you have been wondering, it truly is 100 percent moping and obsessing and 0% scorching homosexual sex- he jacks off a lot, however the a part of the tale the place he begins boning plenty of well-hung thugs occurs after the final page. that really felt form of candy to me, during this outdated timey way. So yeah. This little fella does a great task describing what it used to be wish to be queer for me in highschool and never to grasp it.

Louise: it is a first individual fictional narrative describing the advance of the sexual id and character of Kochan, a gay male. It was once written at a time whilst such an orientation was once secret, and while open was once reviled. It was once written in Japan the place even this present day revealing own details of less import continues to be off limits. The first half is usually interior, dealing the narrator's formative years and his pre-sexual observations. he's thinking about the night-soil man, with paintings facing loss of life and ache of men akin to knights and St. Sebastian and with a classmate, Omi. He indicates how he develops a masks in order that nobody will recognize what he relatively thinks and feels. One rather shrewd permanent ruse is proven in speaking with pals a few girl bus driver. His schoolmates come away with the sensation that he's not just a heterosexual, yet an skilled one. In the second one part, "the mask" makes an attempt to like a feminine as either a functionality of holding itself and Kochan's extra actual try and be heterosexual. whereas the nature is seamless, the narrative is stylistically different. it's extra descriptive of occasions and has extra dialog. Here, the fascination with dying takes a distinct turn. Kochan, at first, doesn't think about the place this courting will lead because the war, or his personal suicide, will most likely finish it. It's been it slow considering that i have learn John Nathan's Mishima: A Biography, yet as I bear in mind it, the occasions of Kochan's lifestyles fit these of Mishima's. He was once raised through domineering grandmother who separated him from different boys, went to an particular tuition and used his rural residency as a draft strategy. Mishima's father beat him for writing which isn't purely parallel with Kochan's father, it truly is noteworthy on its own, in view that this can be Mishima's first novel. After over 60 years this novel continues to be clean and relevant. i think it's going to proceed to face the try of time.

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