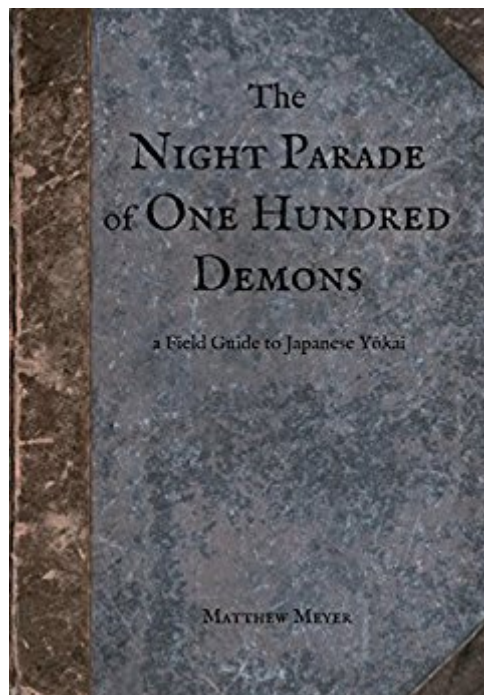




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The Night Parade Of One Hundred Demons: A Field Guide To Japanese Yokai (Yokai Series Book 1)



Synopsis

From the mists of prehistory to the present day, Japan has always had stories of fantastic monsters. There are women with extra mouths in the backs of their heads, water goblins whose favorite food is inside the human anus, elephant-dragons which feed solely on bad dreams, baby zombies, talking foxes, fire-breathing chickens, animated blobs of rotten flesh that run about the streets at night, and the dreaded hyakki yagyo: "the night parade of one hundred demons" – when all of the yokai leave their homes and parade through the streets of Japan in one massive spectacle of utter pandemonium. What are yokai? Put simply, they are supernatural creatures of Japanese folklore. The word in Japanese is a combination of yo, meaning "bewitching," and kai, meaning "strange." The term encompasses monsters, demons, gods (kami), ghosts (bakemono), magical animals, transformed humans, urban legends, and other strange phenomena. It is a broad and vague term. Nothing exists in the English language that quite does the trick of capturing the essence of yokai. This field guide contains over 100 illustrated entries covering a wide variety of Japanese yokai. Each yokai is described in detail – including its habitat, diet, origin, and legends – based on translations from centuries-old Japanese texts. This book was first funded on Kickstarter in 2011 and then revised in 2015.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I first heard about this book when I visited the author's website. Upon seeing Mr. Meyer's work, I knew I had to get this book. I just received it and I'm already a quarter of a way through! It's such a fun book to read and the illustrations..... !!!! I love it.

This book, the product of the author's "yokai a day" art blog, has gorgeous illustrations, and enough information into its subjects to satisfy the yokai enthusiast. While navigating online in search of new and exotic Japanese monsters can be a lesson in hunting wild geese, this book collects together both the popular and obscure residents of Japan's folkloric worlds into a simple, highly readable, and well laid out encyclopedia perfect for the scholar or layman. I used this book in preparation for a yokai panel at Nekocon 2013, and it more than succeeded in filling out the gaps in my slides with both information and inspiration on monster choices. It's right up there with Matt Alt's "Yokai Attack," or any of Mizuki Shigeru's indices.

Okay, full disclosure: Matt did the cover for my first novel. However, the reason I approached him to do my cover in the first place was because I loved his artwork so much. Matt's illustrations perfectly captures the look of classic yokai ukiyo-e (many of his works even have faint impressions of wood grain, a common feature of actual block-printed ukiyo-e) while still possessing a style unique to him. He's clearly put hundreds of hours into researching even the most minute details of the yokai he presents, making this one of the definitive guides to Japanese monsters. I particularly like that this book presents the creatures "in scene" rather than isolating them on a white page as many field guides to monsters often do. You get a sense of how they would actually look and behave as actual creatures in the countryside of Japan. The only small quibble I have is that the cover of the book is rather plain and the words a bit hard to read. I get that Matt wanted it to look like an old bound tome-- something you might dig out from a pile of moldy tatami mats in the back of a forgotten temple. But if I saw this cover in a store, I would probably breeze right by. Again, though, that's a very, very small complaint about a gorgeous, well written encyclopedia of yokai lore.

Fun read. I lived in Japan for five years, loved hanging around the temples and shrines. My wife and

I were married in a Shinto shrine. I experienced Yokai on a few occasions, believe it or not!!! I'm not faulting Mr. Meyer for my one complaint. Editing, reading over one's own work again and again can become nauseating, that's why we have editors/friends... Too many silly little misplaced words for such an otherwise excellent piece of work... Both of my sons also read and enjoyed the book. Some friendly argument about waiting to see the illustration after reading the description or skipping straight to the awesome illustration first... Anyhow, if this type of stuff floats your boat, don't hesitate, buy it now! You won't be disappointed....

It seemed pricy when I saw it listed but I must have all books on this subject. Turns out to be illustrated in full color, so not pricy after all, and packed with fascinating information.

I love this book. very clear and concise and clearly a lot of effort was put into it. its just awesome

This book is great! I was first introduced to Yokai through Anime. I then became obsessed with them. After reading some things online that recommended this book, i bought it. It shipped quickly and I read it cover to cover after opening it for the first time. The illustrations are beautiful and it explains all the different types of yokai. I am looking forward to Matthew Meyer's next book!

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I love Japanese mythology, and was very excited to see that this book existed. I was a little leery of the price tag, but the illustrations are beautiful. Such interesting spirits and creatures! If I could've helped fund this in kickstarter, I would have. If you are a fan of those strange Japanese spirits called yokai, you will not regret having this book.

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