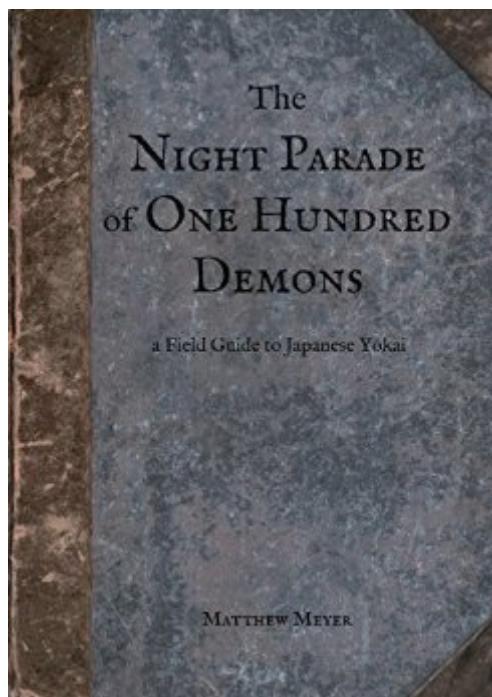


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The Night Parade Of One Hundred Demons: A Field Guide To Japanese Yokai (Yokai Series Book 1)



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"â "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 detailâ "including its habitat, diet, origin, and legendsâ "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

Splendid introduction to some of the best-known Yokai, Japanese entities that we (in the West) call monsters/ghosts/spirits/gods - or some combination of all of the preceding. The book is softcover, with full-page, original illustrations of each Yokai following their description, and clever, artistic "touches" throughout to make the book appear old (faux foxing, yellowing/discolouration on margins, "mould spots" that are actually printed on the page). These little touches never interfere with the writing or the pictures, appearing only in margins and "gutter space." The pictures are wonderful, bright, clear and lively. They're all coloured pictures in the Western style, with strongly depicted central characters, but settings and backgrounds deliberately reproduce traditional Japanese styles; lots of misty watercolour-like effects, trees, mountains and water with stylised designs and patterns. Most of the human (or once-human) characters depicted look Japanese. The text is generally clear, with a little bit of humour gleaming through. Some of the Yokai are funny, to say nothing of absurd! The sections are neatly arranged and easy to follow, with the "header" on each page listing the Yokai's vital statistics (Translation, Alternate Names, Habitat and Diet) helping the reader determine what (or who) they're looking at. The divisions of the book seem natural, not forced, and the introductory material (Contents, Map of Japan, Language Notes and Introduction) is all very helpful in the effort to understand the mindset of the creators, the time and place in which they lived.

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