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**Mineko Iwasaki**

**Die wahre Geschichte der Geisha**



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Author: Mineko Iwasaki

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## Description

Mineko Iwasaki war mehr als ein Jahrzehnt Japans berühmteste Geisha. In ihrer Autobiographie enthüllt sie nun als erste Geisha die wahren Geheimnisse ihres Standes. Der ergreifende Bericht einer Frau, die nie eine Kindheit hatte.

## Insightful reviews

Kara: This is Iwasaki's response to [Memoirs of a Geisha](#) which I both read and enjoyed. I picked this up because I thought it'd be great to get the truth behind the story. This fell flat.

The book couldn't decide if it was a memoir or a history of geisha in post-war Kyoto. If a history, it lacked description, and the author inserted too much of her annoying self (more on this later) into the story. If a memoir, the author didn't talk enough about her emotions. For example, she tries to kill herself as a young girl, and the description plus the emotional turmoil she was feeling took up all of three sentences. Yes, three sentences. Iwasaki tried to make this part memoir and part history, and she ended up with poor excuses for either.

There was also something a little off with the description. I don't know if this was the fault of the translation or Iwasaki herself. Here's a passage: "The shamisen is a three-stringed instrument that is played like a viola." I play shamisen. Besides the fact that it has strings and is vaguely shaped like a viola, it's nothing like a viola. You pick it rather than bow it, and it's held like a guitar rather than a viola. I have no idea where this description came from.

But what really, really bugged me about this book is the author's *ridiculous* arrogance. The bulk of the novel is spent discussing how beautiful, talented, and loved she is. She's everyone's favorite except for the people who are just jealous of how wonderful she is. She's gifted at everything she tries: from dance to basketball. She takes this to such a ridiculous level that, at one point, she insists that she doesn't fart. Yes, you read that right. Here's the passage:

The consultant came to examine me and asked if I had passed gas.

"Gas?" I asked.

"Yes, gas. Has any come out yet?"

"Come out? From where?"

"What I mean is, have you broken wind? Have you farted?"

"Excuse me," I replied indignantly. "I don't do things like that."

Apparently, biological rules do not apply to Iwasaki.

Jensownzoo: I enjoyed this peek into a fascinating culture. I read the fictional *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Golden first (which is based on Iwasaki's life) so was looking for some additional background reading when I found this autobiography. Definitely seemed much more like real life than the novel!

David Nicol: I really liked it for the peek inside the life of a meiko/geiko in post war Japan.

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Mineko herself as a child is what we in the West would call a precocious little brat, but is more of a misinterpretation of the class system.

Two things that were negatives for me though were the fact that either Iwasaki or Brown had never seen a Shamisen and/or a Viola. The text states that a Shamisen is played like a Viola.... that I would like to see.

The second thing was Mineko's assertion that she doesn't pass wind, or fart as we call it in these parts. Either it was to save face in front of her doctor, or she actually did believe that she hasn't farted in her whole life. The latter would explain why Toshio wouldn't leave his wife for her, he probably couldn't bear to spend the rest of his life with a woman who was perfect throughout the day, but would blow him across the futon at night with her trumpet bum.

The whole story is pretty much a culture shock. But an enjoyable read if you have an interest in other cultures.

Elizabeth: First, I want to induce somebody who desires to research extra approximately geisha - learn THIS ebook rather than MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA. the writer of that, Arthur Golden, interviewed Mineko Iwasaki and twisted her stories into falsities, making it appear that geisha have been excessive type prostitutes. this isn't the case - oiran, a excessive type courtesan, offered their bodies, now not geisha. In fact, Iwasaki was once tremendous disappointed whilst she learned Golden had twisted her evidence at the lifetime of being a geisha, and made up our minds to put in writing her genuine and lifelike account. Her memoir reads as a stunning stability among her own reminiscences and proof on geisha (or the time period used in particular in Kyoto, geiko) existence within the 60s-70s. I anticipated a beautiful uncomplicated authentic account, yet was once pleasantly shocked by way of Mineko's escapades - hiding within the closet as a kid, operating her toughest to embody her ardour for dancing, chasing down the pervy males who stressed her. positioned straightforward, Mineko Iwasaki is a nasty ass, and that I would like to fulfill her at some point if possible. I hugely suggest this memoir for an individual attracted to own stories, the lives of geisha or how eastern society functioned within the Fifties via 1970s. 4.5/5 stars.

Arlie: 4 stars! I admire examining memoirs - I feel they're the most effective elements of reading: studying from humans you might have by no means met, experiencing part of the area you by no means may otherwise, wonder. I have been desiring to learn this actual memoir for numerous years; ever seeing that I learn 'Memoirs of a Geisha', which involved and enthralled me. after which I did a little research and located out it had a few very severe inaccuracies, and that Iwasaki (whom the writer interviewed) had pressed fees for breach of contract. It was once time to learn a non-fiction portrayal. The geisha are offered as artists in each feel of the note - in how they dress, how they painting themselves to others, their inventive and musical abilities. It used to be rather a really interesting account of an important a part of Jap tradition that constructed and preserved itself for the sort of lengthy time. I got here to truly like Iwasaki - she appeared sincere concerning the benefits and shortcomings of lifestyles in Gion Kobu. She loves the dance and the culture, yet within the end, the principles surrounding behaviour and selection for geisha are too limiting, let alone the institution's loss of ahead pondering and willingness to change. it is a valuable learn if in simple terms to lose many of the

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misconceptions of geisha tradition as an entire - a tradition that's approximately artwork and beauty.

Britni Schoolcraft: I deeply want we have been allowed the choice of 5+ stars. This e-book is wonderful, and that i was once very sorry to arrive the end. i'll preserve studying it forever. Please, in case you get the chance, decide up this book.

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