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**Catherynne M. Valente**

**Yume No Hon: The Book of Dreams**



Title: Yume No Hon: The Book of Dreams

Author: Catherynne M. Valente

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## Description

In the mind of Ayako, an old woman in exile on a mountain in medieval Japan, nothing is certain, and nothing holds a familiar shape for long. This is a map of a psyche exalted and destroyed by solitude, and on its contorted surface Shinto philosophy, Greek mathematics, Hawaiian goddesses, Egyptian legend, quantum physics, and Babylonian myth meet and merge... In Catherynne M. Valente's second novel since the critically acclaimed *The Labyrinth*, language and myth construct a strange new geography of the self. This is *The Book of Dreams*: open it and walk the shadowy paths of this extraordinary landscape.

## Insightful reviews

Amanda : Another Catherynne Valente book, as I've moved into trying to buy up and read through all the pieces I haven't gotten from back at her beginnings. I love how this one moves slowly upward through tiers, through consciousness, through a background story of the universe.

More fluid than a lot of her other stories, with blended and blurred consciousness, which I might advise both for and against depending on who was considering it. I really loved it, like I love all of her things though.

Nikki: *Yume No Hon* is a beautiful, poetic, mythic, dreamlike book. It has very short chapters, following the calendar of the Heian era, which follows the year with titles to do with what plants and animals are doing at that time of year.

It doesn't have a plot, as such -- though several become discernible, or certainly there's several threads to follow, it's not the important thing to me. I don't normally read books without clearly defined plots and characters, but *Yume No Hon* is worth it. It's prose-poetry, essentially, with a beautiful flow and rich imagery. Almost too rich, at times: for some reason, I have in my head the image of a tree so weighed down with its own fruit that it's struggling to live. But beautiful, anyway.

Also, I love the way she uses mythology. Valente has an interesting way of looking at it -- I'm not sure I can see it the same way again.

Story: I am honestly uncertain what to say about this book, other than it is haunting. Having recently read *The Labyrinth*, I can see *Here* in Valente's earlier work her voice developing. That was a delight.

Takim Williams: Valente's novellas usually think longer than they're simply because they're so rich, each sentence thick with metaphor and symbolism, and searching extra like a line of poetry than a clause in a story. So I take my time together with her books, savoring the attractive prose as a lot if no more so than the plot. *Yume No Hon* used to be no different, however it flowed far better than her different novellas, most likely as the super brief chapters create a gentle rhythm. The ebook of goals contains a few theoretical physics besides the mythology of some assorted

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cultures, all included into the desires of an outdated eastern girl in a pagoda at the aspect of a mountain, who's uncertain if she is dream herself. It felt like an epiphany whilst i started to appreciate the connections among Ayako's dreams.

Therese: there is not any denying Catherynne M. Valente's ability by way of writing lyrical prose that would take your breath away, yet i discovered the free narrative of Yume No Hon: The ebook of goals maddening at times. It took me without end to get via it, however it was once certainly worthy it within the end.

Kara: contemplating my center identify is Ayako, i think obligated to learn it. (Also, there is point out of Hawaiian goddesses...being from Hawaii, i am curious as to how this goes.)

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