

STAFF PICK

TOKYO UENO STATION

NOVEL BY MIRI YU

Seen through the memories of a ghost in Ueno Park, this book is about a man who, while alive, moves to Tokyo to find employment in the run-up to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. While the country sees a rapid economic growth, he goes through a series of personal tragedies including the death of his young son. He retires to his hometown of Fukushima, but finds himself unable to remain. He then spends his final days filled with regrets and grief in a homeless

“village” near Ueno Station in Tokyo. The inequalities of society and rift between the rich and the poor are brought out into the open. Miri Yu tells the story through dense layers of calm poetic narrative. It is filled with sorrow, despair and longing. I wasn’t sure if I could finish the book so devastating, but the last sentence of the book took my breath away. The passage below, which is given on the first page, summarizes what this book is all about.

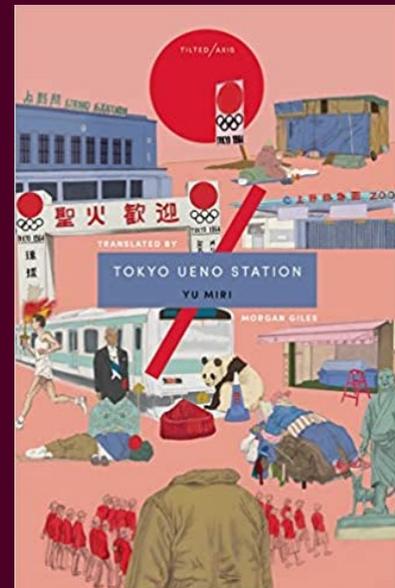
— Ayumi, Library Manager
May, 2020

I used to think life was like a book: you turn the first page, and there’s the next, and as you go on turning page after page, eventually you reach the last one, but life is nothing like a story in a book. There may be words, and the pages may be numbered, but there is no plot. There may be an ending, but there is no end.

ABOUT AUTHOR

Miri Yu (柳 美里) is one of Japan’s most critically acclaimed and best-selling writers. She has published numerous short stories, plays, screenplays and essays as well as novels. She earned the Akutagawa Prize, Japan’s top literary honour, in 1997 for her short story “A Family Move”. She is a current bookstore owner and former radio host. Her English debut novel *Gold Rush* was published under “Miri Yu”. She is based in Fukushima.

— from Publisher



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