



MYSTERIOUS CREATURES  
OF JAPANESE FOLKLORE

# THE BOOK of YŌKAI

With original  
illustrations by  
Shinonome Kijin

MICHAEL DYLAN FOSTER



# The Of Yokai Mysterious Creatures Of Japanese Folklore

**Michael Dylan Foster**



## **The Of Yokai Mysterious Creatures Of Japanese Folklore:**

The Book of Yokai Michael Dylan Foster, 2015-01-14 Monsters ghosts fantastic beings and supernatural phenomena of all sorts haunt the folklore and popular culture of Japan Broadly labeled yokai these creatures come in infinite shapes and sizes from tengu mountain goblins and kappa water spirits to shape shifting foxes and long tongued ceiling lickers Currently popular in anime manga film and computer games many yokai originated in local legends folktales and regional ghost stories Drawing on years of research in Japan Michael Dylan Foster unpacks the history and cultural context of yokai tracing their roots interpreting their meanings and introducing people who have hunted them through the ages In this delightful and accessible narrative readers will explore the roles played by these mysterious beings within Japanese culture and will also learn of their abundance and variety through detailed entries some with original illustrations on more than fifty individual creatures The Book of Yokai provides a lively excursion into Japanese folklore and its ever expanding influence on global popular culture It also invites readers to examine how people create transmit and collect folklore and how they make sense of the mysteries in the world around them By exploring yokai as a concept we can better understand broader processes of tradition innovation storytelling and individual and communal creativity

### **The Book of Yokai, Expanded Second Edition**

Michael Dylan Foster, 2024 Revised and expanded this second edition of The Book of Y kai features an all new y kai picture gallery with dozens of stunning color images tracing the visual history of y kai across centuries With additional entries and fifty new illustrations Michael Dylan Foster unpacks the history and cultural context of an even larger cast of y kai interpreting their varied meanings and introducing people who have pursued them through the ages Monsters spirits fantastic beings and supernatural creatures haunt the folklore and popular culture of Japan Broadly labeled y kai they appear in many forms from tengu mountain goblins and kappa water sprites to shape shifting kitsune foxes and long tongued ceiling lickers Popular today in anime manga film and video games many y kai originated in local legends folktales and regional ghost stories The Book of Y kai invites readers to examine how people create transmit and collect folklore and how they make sense of the mysteries in the world around them

*Pandemonium and Parade* Michael Dylan Foster, 2009 Monsters known as y kai have long haunted the Japanese cultural landscape This history of the strange and mysterious in Japan seeks out these creatures in folklore encyclopedias literature art science games manga magazines and movies exploring their meanings in the Japanese imagination over three centuries

*Strange Japanese Yokai* Kenji Murakami, 2023-05-23 Since time immemorial Japan has been inhabited by supernatural creatures spirits monsters and demons Here s your chance to meet them up close and personal Strange Japanese Yokai assembles an extraordinary collection of mysterious creatures in every possible shape and size each with their own unique back story Some are well known others obscure The one thing they share in common is that they are creepy and weird The 122 different Yokai described in this book include The Kappa A dangerous creature who lives in lakes and rivers and attacks passers by The Nurarihyon A mysterious Yokai with a huge head who steals

food tobacco and alcohol The Yadokai A mischievous former monk who wanders at night vandalizing and being a pest The Ohaguru A scary Yokai with black teeth who looks like a beautiful woman from afar until she gets closer smiles and reveals herself And over 100 more Yokai expert Kenji Murakami identifies each Yokai explains the history where they commonly appear and their strange powers The book is illustrated with hundreds of full color drawings showcasing the fascinating features of these strange creatures Every monster here no matter how disgusting is part of the rich cultural legacy of Japan Recommended for readers ages 14 up Japanese Yokai Handbook Masami Kinoshita,2023-10-17 This book is your ultimate guide to Japan s scariest creatures Yokai come in every imaginable shape and form from frightening ghosts and cruel demons to cute fairies and enchanted animals They can be evil monsters harmless tricksters or prophets of doom depending on their inclination This book profiles 100 of the most fascinating Yokai including Tengu A powerful Yokai that often takes human form with wings and a large nose who lives in mountains and forests Kappa A deadly Yokai that lives near rivers and drags passersby into the water to drown Peroritaro A grotesque Yokai that looks like blubbery child and has an appetite for greedy children Baku A monstrous Yokai with an elephant s head a bear s body a rhino s eyes an ox s tail and a tiger s legs that aids humans by devouring their nightmares And many more Yokai expert Masami Kinoshita has been documenting Yokai in folklore and in real life for many years This book presents her most interesting findings and has over 175 full color illustrations that vividly depict the appearances of these weird creatures No matter their origins each Yokai has a strange and wonderful story that is sure to amaze you **The Book of Yokai, Expanded Second Edition** Michael Dylan Foster,2024-10-22 Significantly expanded and updated a lively excursion into Japanese folklore and its increasing influence within global popular culture Monsters spirits fantastic beings and supernatural creatures haunt the folklore and popular culture of Japan Broadly labeled y kai they appear in many forms from tengu mountain goblins and kappa water sprites to shape shifting kitsune foxes and long tongued ceiling lickers Popular today in anime manga film and video games many y kai originated in local legends folktales and regional ghost stories The Book of Y kai invites readers to examine how people create transmit and collect folklore and how they make sense of the mysteries in the world around them Revised and expanded this second edition features fifty new illustrations including an all new y kai gallery of stunning color images tracing the visual history of y kai across centuries In clear and accessible language Michael Dylan Foster unpacks the cultural and historical contexts of y kai interpreting their varied meanings and introducing people who have pursued them through the ages **The Book of Japanese Folklore: An Encyclopedia of the Spirits, Monsters, and Yokai of Japanese Myth** Thersa Matsuura,2024-04-30 Welcome to The Book of Japanese Folklore a fascinating journey through Japan s folklore through profiles of the legendary creatures and beings who continue to live on in pop culture today From the sly kitsune to the orgrish oni and mischievous shape shifting tanuki learn all about the origins of these fantastical and mythical creatures With information on their cultural significance a retelling of a popular tale tied to that particular yokai and how it s

been spun into today's popular culture this beautifully illustrated tome teaches you about the stories and histories of the beings that inspired characters in your favorite movies, anime, manga, and games. Adventure, mystery, and amazing tales await in *The Book of Japanese Folklore*. [Ultimate Guide to Japanese Yokai](#) Zack Davisson, 2024-06-18. A modern-day Lafcadio Hearn is picking up his ghostly torch. Zack Davisson is the author, translator, and folklorist following in Hearn's footsteps. [tofugu.com](#). Mysterious demons, ghosts, and monsters have haunted Japan for centuries. *The Ultimate Guide to Japanese Yokai* presents 100 of the strangest creatures you have ever seen, from evil demons and terrifying monsters to mythical ghosts and enchanted beasts. In this book, Yokai expert Zack Davisson explains how Yokai are highly elusive and yet, without understanding them, you will never truly know Japan. The Yokai profiled in this book include Amabie, a mysterious half-fish, half-bird creature said to heal any affliction merely by gazing upon its image; Tofu Kozo, a harmless Yokai that appears like a young child dressed in a fancy kimono with a straw hat carrying a plate of wobbly tofu; Kyokotsu, the pitiful spirit of a person who was thrown down a well and died with pale skin and a shock of white hair growing from a bleached white skull; Akaname, a disgusting Yokai who skitters about licking the scum from filthy bathtubs; Kanibozu, massive crabs who shapeshift into human form, disguising themselves as monks asking riddles but killing anyone who fails to answer correctly. And many more. Packed with interesting facts and entertaining stories, this book is richly illustrated with over 250 color woodblock prints and paintings that reveal the fascinating world of the Yokai.

**Japanese Yokai and Other Supernatural Beings** Andreas Marks, 2023-04-11. Superb Yokai images from the world's leading museums and private collections. Japan's vast pantheon of supernatural creatures includes demons, yokai, monsters, ogres, oni, ghosts, yurei, and magicians, mythical beings from folklore and popular culture which continue to thrill readers of traditional stories and manga today. This richly illustrated book by Andreas Marks, the leading authority on Japanese woodblock prints, presents authentic illustrations and descriptions of 100 different creatures, including Bakeneko (monster cats in human form who lick lamp oil and prey on humans born in the year of the Rat), Han'nyā (female demons with sharp and pointed horns, metallic eyes, and a smirking smile), Hihi (large ape-like monsters who live in the mountains and have superhuman strength enabling them to kidnap and kill humans), Mikoshi nyūdō (Yokai with an enormously extended necks who appear only at night), and many more. The striking visual examples in this book are drawn from the rich canon of early Japanese prints, books, and paintings sourced from leading museums, libraries, and private collections worldwide. They show the original forms and appearances of the creatures which form the basis for all subsequent depictions. Also included are two long handscrolls from the Minneapolis Institute of Art: *A Collection of Monsters* and *Night Parade of One Hundred Demons*, which are reproduced here for the very first time. Prints and paintings sourced from the following list of museums, libraries, and private collections: Art Institute of Chicago, Christie's, London, New York, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Kyoto University Main Library, Library of Congress, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Minneapolis Institute of Art, National Museum of

Japanese History Princeton University Library Rijksmuseum Amsterdam Smithsonian Libraries      **The Book of Yokai**  
Michael Dylan Foster, 2015-01-14 A lively excursion into Japanese folklore and its ever expanding influence on global popular culture through the concept of yokai Monsters ghosts fantastic beings and supernatural phenomena of all sorts haunt the folklore and popular culture of Japan Broadly labeled yokai these creatures come in infinite shapes and sizes from tengu mountain goblins and kappa water spirits to shape shifting foxes and long tongued ceiling lickers Currently popular in anime manga film and computer games many yokai originated in local legends folktales and regional ghost stories Drawing on years of research in Japan Michael Dylan Foster unpacks the history and cultural context of yokai tracing their roots interpreting their meanings and introducing people who have hunted them through the ages In this delightful and accessible narrative readers will explore the roles played by these mysterious beings within Japanese culture and will also learn of their abundance and variety through detailed entries some with original illustrations on more than fifty individual creatures The Book of Yokai invites readers to examine how people create transmit and collect folklore and how they make sense of the mysteries in the world around them By exploring yokai as a concept we can better understand broader processes of tradition innovation storytelling and individual and communal creativity      *Exploring the Macabre, Malevolent, and Mysterious*  
Matthew Hodge, Elizabeth Kusko, 2020-09-28 In this unique volume a number of scholars spanning diverse areas and backgrounds offer fresh insight into how perceived concepts of horror and dark subject matter influence cultures and societies around the world The contributions here explore how topics considered disturbing mysterious or fascinating are found not only in works of fiction and entertainment but also in the cultural fabrics belief systems artistic creations and even governmental structures of societies Topics discussed in this book include witchcraft voodoo zombies spiritualism serial killers monsters cemeteries pop culture entertainment and the sublime in transcendental experiences As the academic study of horror becomes more mainstream collections such as this are instrumental in realizing just how much it impacts our lives past present future and imaginary Thus this volume of intriguing and profound topics offers scholars students and lovers of learning a much needed fresh and innovative intellectual exploration of the horror genre and the cultural fascination with the mysterious unknown      **Merpeople** Vaughn Scribner, 2024-11-12 A wide ranging beautifully illustrated history of mermaids and mermen from the classics to cosplay People have been fascinated by merpeople and merfolk since ancient times From the sirens of Homer s Odyssey to Hans Christian Andersen s The Little Mermaid and the film Splash myths stories and legends of half human half fish creatures abound In modern times mermaiding has gained popularity among cosplayers throughout the world In Merpeople A Human History Vaughn Scribner traces the long history of mermaids and mermen taking in a wide variety of sources and using 117 striking images From film to philosophy church halls to coffee houses ancient myth to modern science Scribner shows that mermaids and tritons are and always have been everywhere      **Slender Man Is Coming** Trevor J. Blank, Lynne S. McNeill, 2018-09-21 The essays in this volume explore the menacing

figure of Slender Man the blank faced long limbed bogeyman born of a 2009 Photoshop contest who has appeared in countless horror stories circulated on and offline among children and young people Slender Man is arguably the best known example in circulation of creepypasta a genre derived from cospypasta which in turn derived from the phrase copy paste As narrative texts are copied across online forums they undergo modification annotation and reinterpretation by new posters in a folkloric process of repetition and variation Though by definition legends deal largely with belief and possibility the crowdsourced mythos behind creepypasta and Slender Man suggests a distinct awareness of fabrication Slender Man is therefore a new kind of creation one intentionally created as a fiction but with the look and feel of legend Slender Man Is Coming offers an unprecedented folkloristic take on Slender Man analyzing him within the framework of contemporary legend studies creepypastas folk belief and children s culture This first folkloric examination of the phenomenon of Slender Man is a must read for anyone interested in folklore horror urban legends new media or digital cultures Contributors Timothy H Evans Andrea Kitta Mikel J Koven Paul Manning Andrew Peck Jeffrey A Tolbert Elizabeth Tucker

**Ghost in the Well** Michael Crandol, 2021-05-20 Ghost in the Well is the first study to provide a full history of the horror genre in Japanese cinema from the silent era to Classical period movies such as Nakagawa Nobuo s Tokaido Yotsuya kaidan 1959 to the contemporary global popularity of J horror pictures like the Ring and Ju on franchises Michael Crandol draws on a wide range of Japanese language sources including magazines posters and interviews with directors such as Kurosawa Kiyoshi to consider the development of kaiki eiga the Japanese phrase meaning weird or bizarre films that most closely corresponds to Western understandings of horror He traces the origins of kaika eiga in Japanese kabuki theatre and traditions of the monstrous feminine showing how these traditional forms were combined with the style and conventions of Hollywood horror to produce an aesthetic that was both transnational and peculiarly Japanese Ghost in the Well sheds new light on one of Japanese cinema s best known genres while also serving as a fascinating case study of how popular film genres are re imagined across cultural divides

**Japanese Legends and Folklore** A.B. Mitford, 2019-03-26 Japanese Legends and Folklore invites English speakers into the intriguing world of Japanese folktales ghost stories and historical eyewitness accounts With a fascinating selection of stories about Japanese culture and history A B Mitford who lived and worked in Japan as a British diplomat presents a broad cross section of tales from many Japanese sources Discover more about practically every aspect of Japanese life from myths and legends to society and religion This book features 30 fascinating Japanese stories including The Forty Seven Ronin the famous epic tale of a loyal band of Samurai warriors who pay the ultimate price for avenging the honor of their fallen master The Tongue Cut Sparrow a good hearted old man is richly rewarded when he begs forgiveness from a sparrow who is injured by his spiteful greedy wife The Adventures of Little Peach Boy a tale familiar to generations of Japanese children a small boy born from a peach is adopted by a kindly childless couple Japanese Sermons a selection of sermons written by a priest belonging to the Shingaku sect which combines Buddhist Shinto

and Confucian teachings An Account of Hara Kiri Mitford's dramatic first person account of a ritual Samurai suicide the first time it had been reported in English Thirty one reproductions of woodblock prints bring the classic tales and essays to life These influential stories helped shape the West's understanding of Japanese culture A new foreword by Professor Michael Dylan Foster sheds light on the book's importance as a groundbreaking work of Japanese folklore literature and history

**Tango in Japan** Yuiko Asaba,2025-02-28 Why do Japanese people love tango Starting with this question which the author frequently received while working as a tango violinist in Argentina Tango in Japan reveals histories and ethnographies of tango in Japan dating back to its first introduction in the 1910s to the present day While initially brought to Yokohama by North American tango dancers in 1914 tango's immediate popularity in Japan quickly compelled many Japanese performers and writers to travel to Argentina in search of tango's origin beginning in the 1920s Many Japanese musicians dancers aficionados and the wider public have since then approached tango as a new vehicle of expression entertainment and academic pursuit The sounds of tango provided comfort and a sense of hope to many during the most turbulent years of the twentieth century carving out distinctive characteristics of contemporary Japanese tango culture Bypassing the West East axis of understanding cultural transmission Tango in Japan uncovers the processes of attraction rejection and self transformation illuminating the tension of cosmopolitan endeavors away from the Euro American West Based on Asaba's field and archival work undertaken in both Japanese and Spanish languages in Japan and Argentina across two decades and drawing on her own background as a tango violinist who performed as a member of tango orchestras in both countries the discussions move between historical and ethnographic narratives offering a comprehensive account of tango culture as it emerged in the history of a Japan Argentina connection Serving as the first in depth work on the Japan Argentina musical relationship Tango in Japan tells a story that reflects the modern transformations of Japan and Argentina and the global historical backdrops surrounding both countries *Japanese Horror and the Transnational Cinema of Sensations* Steven T. Brown,2018-02-05 Japanese Horror and the Transnational Cinema of Sensations undertakes a critical reassessment of Japanese horror cinema by attending to its intermediality and transnational hybridity in relation to world horror cinema Neither a conventional film history nor a thematic survey of Japanese horror cinema this study offers a transnational analysis of selected films from new angles that shed light on previously ignored aspects of the genre including sound design framing techniques and lighting as well as the slow attack and long release times of J horror's slow burn style which have contributed significantly to the development of its dread filled cinema of sensations World Observation Matthew Mullane,2025-09-04 World Observation explores the archives and architecture of It Ch ta 1867 1954 the eminent architectural thinker of the Japanese empire who traveled across Asia Europe and North America to create the first world history of architecture in Japanese from a truly global set of encounters In his mission to integrate Japan into existing world histories legitimate Japanese colonial expansion and train observers to see the world in the way that he did It theorized new kinds of observation



kansatsu in writing and drawing that strategically blended epistemological values from European science philosophy and anthropology with Japanese Buddhism folklore and naturalism World Observation presents close readings of It s writings sketches and designs to cast new light on a key figure in the architectural history of Imperial Japan and situate his contributions within the sweep of global architectural history across the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries

**Living with Monsters** Yasmine Musharbash, Ilana Gershon, 2023 For every generic type of monster ghost demon vampire dragon there are countless locally specific manifestations with their own names traits and appearances Such monsters populate all corners of the globe haunting their humans wherever they live Living with Monsters is a collection of fourteen short pieces of ethnographic fiction and a more academically inclined introduction and afterword presenting a playful spirited and engaging look at how people live with their respective monsters around the world They focus on the nitty gritty dos and don ts of how to placate spirits in India how to domesticate Georgian goblins how to live with aliens how to avoid being taken by Anito in Taiwan while simultaneously illuminating the politics of monster human relations In this collection anthropologists working in fieldsites as diverse as the urban Ghana the rural US remote Aboriginal Australia and the internet present imaginative accounts that demonstrate how thinking with monsters encourages people to contemplate difference to understand inequality and to see the world from new angles Combine monsters with experimental ethnography and the result is a volume that crackles with creative energy flouts traditions of ethnographic writing and pushes anthropology into new terrains Yasmine Musharbash is Senior Lecturer and Head of Discipline Anthropology at the School of Archaeology Anthropology at the Australian National University She conducts participant observation based research with Warlpiri people in Central Australia with a particular focus on relations among Warlpiri people on the one hand and between them and non Indigenous people fauna flora the elements and monsters on the other She is the author of Yuendumu Everyday Aboriginal Studies Press 2008 and of a number of co edited volumes including two about monsters that she co edited with GH Presterudstuen Monster Anthropology in Australasia and Beyond Palgrave MacMillan 2014 and Monster Anthropology Ethnographic Explorations of Transforming Social Worlds through Monsters Routledge 2020 Ilana Gershon is the Ruth N Halls professor of anthropology at Indiana University and studies how people use new media to accomplish complicated social tasks such as breaking up with lovers and hiring new employees She has published books such as The Breakup 2 0 Cornell University Press 2012 and Down and Out in the New Economy University of Chicago Press 2017 and has edited two other volumes of ethnographic fiction on work and animals She has been a fellow at Stanford s Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Notre Dame s Institute for Advanced Study and is currently a visiting professor at the University of Helsinki She is presently writing a book how working in person during a pandemic sheds light on the ways workplaces function as private governments

**Women of Myth** Jenny Williamson, Genn McMenemy, 2023-02-21 Get inspired with 50 fascinating stories of powerful female figures from mythologies around the world From heroines and deities

to leaders and mythical creatures this collection explores figures of myth who can inspire modern readers with their ability to shape our culture with the stories of their power wisdom compassion and cunning Featured characters include Atalanta Greek heroine and huntress who killed the Caledonia Boar and joined the Argonauts Sky Woman the first woman in Iroquois myth who fell through a hole in the sky and into our world Cl dna Queen of the Banshees in Irish legend and La Llorona a ghostly woman in Mexican folklore who wanders the waterfront Celebrate these game changing attention worthy female characters with this collection of engaging tales

## Unveiling the Power of Verbal Beauty: An Mental Sojourn through **The Of Yokai Mysterious Creatures Of Japanese Folklore**

In a world inundated with monitors and the cacophony of instantaneous connection, the profound energy and emotional resonance of verbal artistry often fade into obscurity, eclipsed by the continuous assault of noise and distractions. Yet, nestled within the musical pages of **The Of Yokai Mysterious Creatures Of Japanese Folklore**, a charming work of literary splendor that impulses with fresh emotions, lies an unique trip waiting to be embarked upon. Published by way of a virtuoso wordsmith, that enchanting opus instructions visitors on an emotional odyssey, softly exposing the latent possible and profound affect stuck within the intricate internet of language. Within the heart-wrenching expanse with this evocative analysis, we shall embark upon an introspective exploration of the book is key styles, dissect its charming writing type, and immerse ourselves in the indelible effect it leaves upon the depths of readers souls.

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### **The Of Yokai Mysterious Creatures Of Japanese Folklore Introduction**

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