



Yurei: The Japanese Ghost

Zack Davisson

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"I lived in a haunted apartment." Zack Davisson opens this definitive work on Japan's ghosts, or *yurei*, with a personal tale about the spirit world. Eerie red marks on the apartment's ceiling kept Zack and his wife on edge. The landlord warned them not to open a door in the apartment that led to nowhere. "Our Japanese visitors had no problem putting a name to it . . . they would sense the vibes of the place, look around a bit and inevitably say 'Ahhh . . . *yurei ga deteru*.' There is a *yurei* here."

Combining his lifelong interest in Japanese tradition and his personal experiences with these vengeful spirits, Davisson launches an investigation into the origin, popularization, and continued existence of *yurei* in Japan. Juxtaposing historical documents and legends against contemporary *yurei*-based horror films such as *The Ring*, Davisson explores the persistence of this paranormal phenomenon in modern day Japan and its continued spread throughout the West.

Zack Davisson is a translator, writer, and scholar of Japanese folklore and ghosts. He is the translator of Mizuki Shigeru's *Showa 1926–1939: A History of Japan* and a translator and contributor to *Kitaro*. He also worked as a researcher and on-screen talent for National Geographic's TV special *Japan: Lost Souls of Okinawa*. He writes extensively about Japanese ghost stories at his website, hyakumonogatari.com.



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