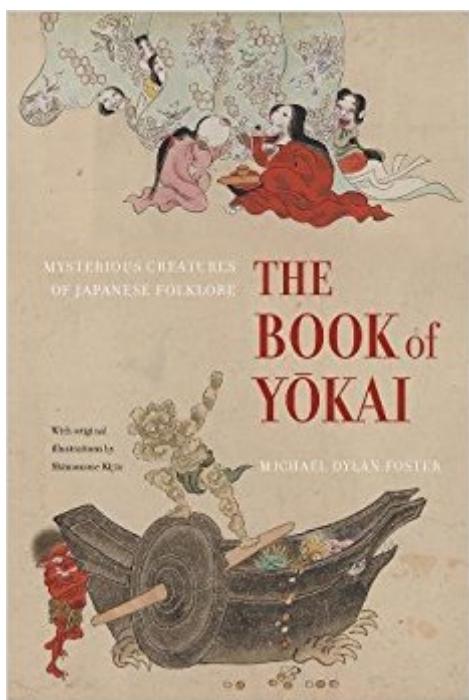


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# The Book Of Yokai: Mysterious Creatures Of Japanese Folklore



## Synopsis

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. 

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Foster creates engagingly rich portraits of yokai . . . Kijin's illustrations draw on Japanese artistic traditions to depict each creature's personality and visual quirks, making this field guide a delight for researchers, enthusiasts and the uninitiated alike . . . Seen this way, even the most horrific yokai seems beautiful." (Morgan Giles The Times Literary Supplement

2015-05-13)"Michael Dylan Foster, associate professor of folklore at Indiana University and a yokai expert, analyses and catalogues hundreds of yokai and tells many stories . . . The book is enhanced by witty illustrations by Shinonome Kijin . . . A fascinating and charming compendium." (Lesley Downer Literary Review 2015-02-24)"I highly recommend this book. . . . A fascinating read . . . This will be on my personal bookshelf for years to come. " (Michelle Breckon Reference Reviews 2015-09-01)"The Book of Yokai is a fascinating and enormously informative study... Foster's narrative is smooth and often humorous. The book is easy to read, and at the same time immensely informative on the complicated and varied ways yokai have existed throughout Japanese history." (Noriko T. Reider Western Folklore 2016-06-01)

"Overflowing with great stories of Japan's fantastical monsters, spirits, and other creatures of the collective imagination, The Book of Yokai is filled with solid information, a variety of new perspectives, and the kind of richness of detail that will enhance any reader's enjoyment of Japan's monstrous folk traditions." Dr. Bill Tsutsui, President of Hendrix College and author of *Godzilla on My Mind* "Foster's yokai are living beings, real in their own way: they migrate from the woods and ponds of rural prefectures to books, games, anime, and the toy stores of Tokyo. With writing that flows like water and a fluid command of yokaiology, Foster produces a complete picture for any fan interested in knowing more." Paul Manning, Trent University

While I have not finished the book yet, I will say I fully enjoy it. I am very interested in Japanese culture and also the various stories/myths/etc.. Also as an artist always looking to learn more about the legends and creatures of different cultures. This book is more of the academic. If you are looking for something with just a bunch of stories of youkai and pictures, then this isn't exactly the book for you. The first part of the book gives a nice look into the history of the youkai in Japanese culture, their evolution, and so on. The second part of the book has a few illustrations and a listing of various youkai with descriptions and mentions some of the tales surrounding them. I would say if you are someone who has been interested in the subject and are looking to learn more about how these various entities appear and evolved in Japanese culture you might enjoy it. If you are looking for a quick summary of youkai, or a more illustrated piece, then you may be disappointed. For me, I gave it 5 stars because I find it quite enjoyable and interesting. Although, that is just my opinion.

Both fun and scholarly, this is a great resource for those interested in learning about the traditional aspects of yokai, as well as how those roots have evolved into contemporary times. I really enjoyed

this well-researched book and the author's passion for the subject matter shines through.

Choose it!

This is a great book for expanding knowledge of Japanese yokai. I especially like the authors thorough research and references to contemporary pop culture.

This is a fun and insightful book recommended to me. It is a good start to understanding Yokai by combining scholarship and culture. Love the organisation of the book.

Fine book. If you're looking for a bunch of pretty pictures, this is not the book. There are some illustrations but this is generally a textbook on Yokai. Had some great Shinto myth and creature tales. If you have a little knowledge of yokai and want to know a good bit more, this is a great book. Could be heavy for a beginner on the topic.

A must-read book for anybody interested in yokai or Japanese folkloric traditions. Can be used for academic purposes but isn't dry. Michael Dylan Foster is one of the big names in English version Japanese folklore, and you'll find that the majority of somewhat intelligent yokai books are his contribution. For a more casual read, try Yokai Attack.

Fun reading and thoughtful insights into a culture's myths and legends. The illustrations were top notch, too! Found this book in the library, and after reading it, I knew I needed my own copy.

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