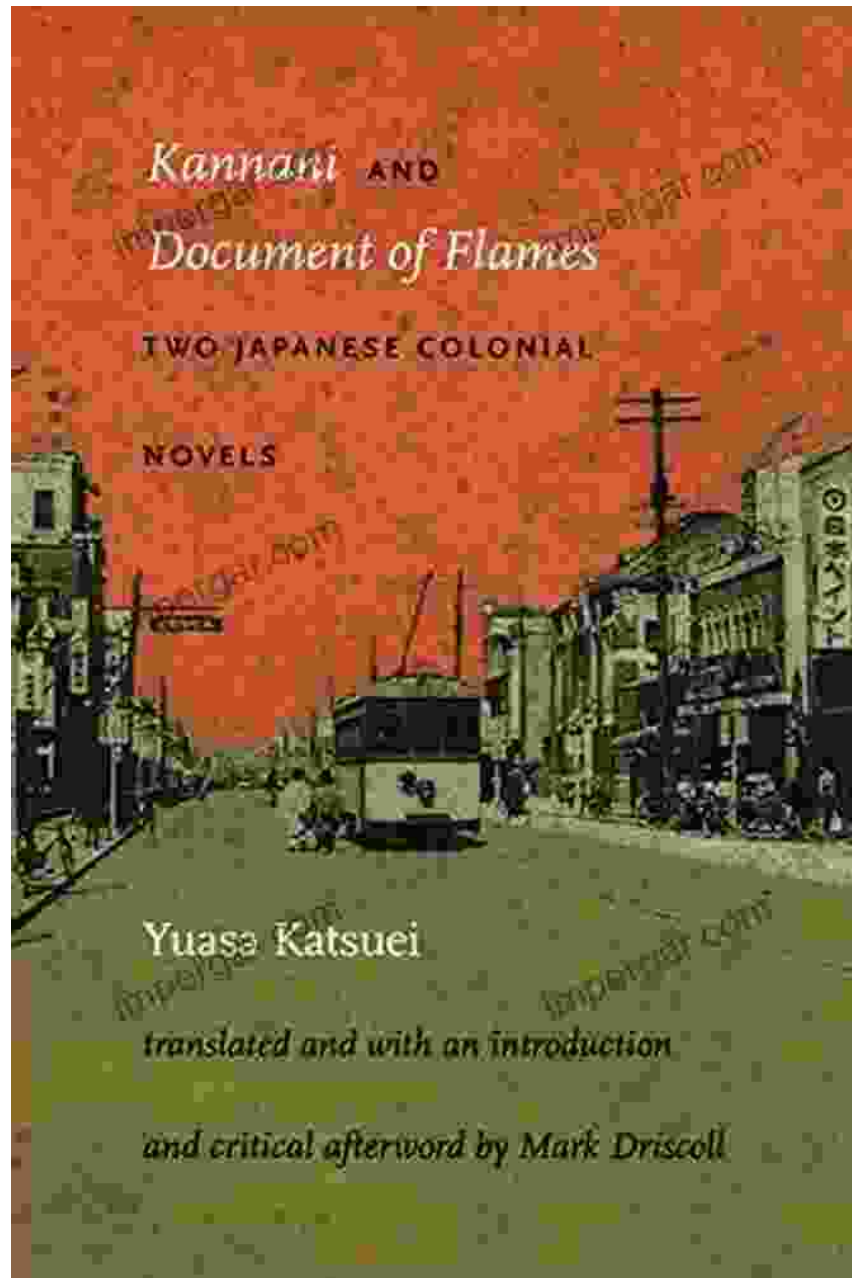
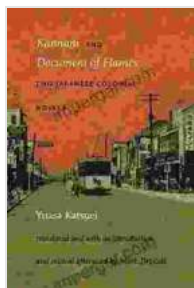


Two Japanese Colonial Novels: Unraveling the Complexities of Colonization



The Japanese colonial era in Taiwan (1895-1945) left a profound impact on the island's history, culture, and literature. During this period, Japanese authors produced a significant body of work that reflected their experiences

and perspectives on the colonial encounter. Two such novels, "Umi no Mukō, Yama no Mukō" ("Beyond the Sea, Beyond the Mountains") by Naoya Shiga and "Aru Taiwan Bannenki" ("A Record of a Certain Year in Taiwan") by Riichi Yokomitsu, offer unique insights into the complex relationship between colonizer and colonized.



Kannani and Document of Flames: Two Japanese Colonial Novels by Yasushi Inoue

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 640 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 210 pages



"Beyond the Sea, Beyond the Mountains" by Naoya Shiga

Published in 1939, "Beyond the Sea, Beyond the Mountains" is a semi-autobiographical novel that follows the experiences of a young Japanese doctor, Shunsuke, who is sent to work in a remote village in Taiwan. Shunsuke is initially filled with a sense of adventure and excitement, but he soon encounters the harsh realities of colonial life. He witnesses the poverty and oppression faced by the Taiwanese people, and he grapples with his own feelings of guilt and complicity.

Shiga's novel is a powerful indictment of Japanese colonialism. He portrays the colonial government as corrupt and exploitative, and he shows how the Taiwanese people are treated as second-class citizens in their own land.

However, Shiga also avoids simplistic portrayals of good and evil. He shows that the Japanese colonizers are not all heartless monsters, and that some of them are genuinely trying to do good.

"Beyond the Sea, Beyond the Mountains" is a complex and nuanced novel that explores the human cost of colonialism. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of Taiwan and the impact of colonialism on its people.

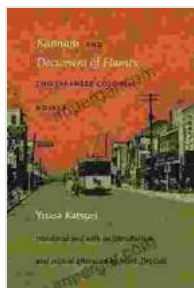
"A Record of a Certain Year in Taiwan" by Riichi Yokomitsu

Published in 1942, "A Record of a Certain Year in Taiwan" is a more experimental and challenging novel than "Beyond the Sea, Beyond the Mountains." It follows the experiences of a group of Japanese intellectuals who travel to Taiwan in the early years of the colonial period. The intellectuals are seeking to escape the stifling atmosphere of Japan and to find a new sense of purpose in Taiwan. However, they soon become disillusioned with the colonial project and with their own roles in it.

Yokomitsu's novel is a complex meditation on the nature of colonialism and the search for meaning in a colonial world. He explores the psychological effects of colonialism on both the colonizers and the colonized, and he shows how the colonial experience can lead to alienation and despair.

"A Record of a Certain Year in Taiwan" is a challenging but rewarding novel that offers a unique perspective on the Japanese colonial experience. It is a must-read for anyone interested in colonial literature and the history of Taiwan.

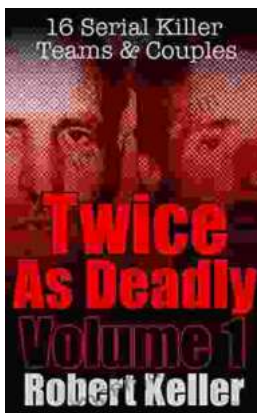
"Two Japanese Colonial Novels" by Armando Salvatore is a valuable contribution to the study of colonial literature and the history of Taiwan. Salvatore provides insightful analysis of two important novels that offer unique perspectives on the Japanese colonial experience. His work is essential reading for anyone interested in these topics.



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