



A Quiet Place

By Seicho Matsumoto



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"A master crime writer . . . Seicho Matsumoto's thrillers dissect Japanese society."—The New York Times Book Review

"A stellar psychological thriller with a surprising and immensely satisfying resolution that flows naturally from the book's complex characterizations. Readers will agree that Matsumoto (1909–1992) deserves his reputation as Japan's Georges Simenon.—Publishers Weekly.

While on a business trip to Kobe, Tsuneo Asai receives the news that his wife Eiko has died of a heart attack. Eiko had a heart condition so the news of her death wasn't totally unexpected. But the circumstances of her demise left Tsuneo, a softly-spoken government bureaucrat, perplexed. How did it come about that his wife—who was shy and withdrawn, and only left their house twice a week to go to haiku meetings—ended up dead in a small shop in a shady Tokyo neighborhood?

When Tsuneo goes to apologize to the boutique owner for the trouble caused by his wife's death he discovers the villa Tachibana near by, a house known to be a meeting place for secret lovers. As he digs deeper into his wife's recent past, he must eventually conclude that she led a double life...

Seicho Matsumoto was Japan's most successful thriller writer. His first detective novel, *Points and Lines*, sold over a million copies in Japan. *Vessel of Sand*, published in English as *Inspector Imanishi Investigates* in 1989, sold over four million copies and became a movie box-office hit.

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Editorial Review

Review

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY STARRED REVIEW:

Why would a woman with a serious heart condition risk her health by climbing a steep hill in an area where she knew no one? That conundrum obsesses Japanese bureaucrat Tsuneo Asai, the hero of this stellar psychological thriller from Matsumoto (*Inspector Imanishi Investigates*). Asai, a section chief in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, is on a business trip with his boss when word reaches him that his wife, Eiko, who had a heart condition, has died suddenly in Tokyo. Despite the emotional distance in their relationship, the tragedy is a shock to Asai, though not enough to make him put aside his professional obligations before he arranges travel home. Asai questions the official version of her death—that she suffered a heart attack in the street, and collapsed inside a nearby cosmetics store—and figures out that her fatal collapse was triggered by Eiko overexerting herself elsewhere. His pursuit of the truth becomes all-consuming, building to a surprising and immensely satisfying resolution that flows naturally from the book's complex characterizations. Readers will agree that Matsumoto (1909–1992) deserves his reputation as Japan's Georges Simenon.

About the Author

Seicho Matsumoto: Seicho Matsumoto (1909–1992) did not see his first book published until he was in his forties. He was a prolific author, producing in four decades more than 450 works. He is considered Japan's most accomplished writer of mystery and detective fiction.

Matsumoto's first full-length detective fiction, *Ten to sen* ('Points and Lines'), after running as a newspaper serial from 1957 to 1958, was a big hit as a book in 1958, selling over a million and a quarter copies. In 1961, *Suna do utsuwa* ('Vessel of Sand', 1961, published in English as *Inspector Imanishi Investigates*, 1989) sold four and a half million copies and became a movie box-office hit. 'A Quiet Place' was originally published in Japan in 1971 as *Kikanakatta basho*. This is the first time it has been translated into English. It was written about half way through Matsumoto's writing life.

Louise Heal Kawai: Louise Heal Kawai comes from Manchester. She has spent the past twenty years in Nagoya, Japan, as a translator and teacher. Her published translations include Daido Tamaki's *Milk*, Tendo Shoko's best-selling autobiography *Yakuza Moon*; and most recently *Building Waves*, a novel by Tomioka Taeko.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Wallace Long:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or details even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and advance. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which one you should start with. This A Quiet Place is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Doris Stanford:

Do you certainly one of people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This A Quiet Place book is readable by simply you who hate those straight word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving perhaps decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer associated with A Quiet Place content conveys objective easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different such as it. So , do you continue to thinking A Quiet Place is not loveable to be your top checklist reading book?

Richard Perkins:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book mainly book entitled A Quiet Place your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a reserve then become one contact form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get prior to. The A Quiet Place giving you an additional experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful data for your better life within this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

James McFarland:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got pupils? We believe that that question was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person similar to reading or as looking at become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important and also book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update in relation to something by book. Numerous books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is niagra A Quiet Place.

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