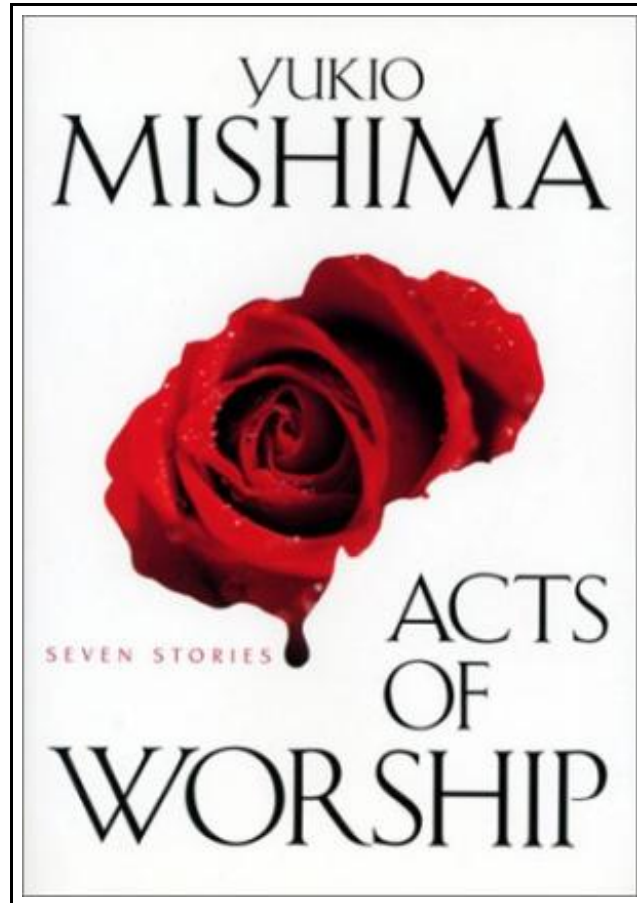


Acts of Worship: Seven Stories



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Reviews

*This book is great. I have go through and so i am confident that i will going to read through once again again in the future. I am just easily can get a satisfaction of looking at a written book.
(Miss Vernie Schimmel)*

ACTS OF WORSHIP: SEVEN STORIES



Kodansha USA, 2002. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: "This beautifully translated collection contains some Mishima's finest stories, none of them previously collected in an English edition. In the moving title story, the loyal, self-effacing housemaid of a solitary professor-poet ferrets out the secret of his lifelong sadness. Jack, in 'Raisin Bread,' a pill-popping failed suicide at 22, his 'sole aim to become quite invisible,' is a 1950s anti-hero who seems very contemporary. A proud youth in 'Fountains in the Rain,' breaking up with his girlfriend, becomes captivated by a splashing fountain, which we see as a symbol of his own flamboyant egotism. 'Sword,' a sweaty plunge into the world of college fencing, pits youth vs. age, animal pleasure vs. mental rigor, muscular prowess vs. meditative rapture. The seven stories vary in tone and subject matter, yet each reveals Mishima's total control, his gift for striking imagery and psychological insight." -Publishers Weekly "The acclaimed Mishima (1925-1970) is the best-known Japanese novelist of the post-war period. Reflecting Mishima's fascination with power through hermetic displays of egotism and machismo, the tightly crafted stories in this collection-published to commemorate the 20th anniversary of his death-appear here for the first time in English. The protagonists are callous adolescent males compelled to dominate their schoolmates and girlfriends. A poignant variation on this theme is played out in the title story, where a plain, middle-aged woman slavishly devotes herself to the whims of her employer, a cold and pretentious literary scholar. This capable translation captures Mishima's strengths and weaknesses as a writer. For collections strong in international or Asian fiction." -Library Journal "Most of the elements in Mishima's novels-homoeroticism, worship of the body, death games-are foretold in this thoughtful new collection." -International Herald Tribune "Beautifully translated . skillfully..."



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