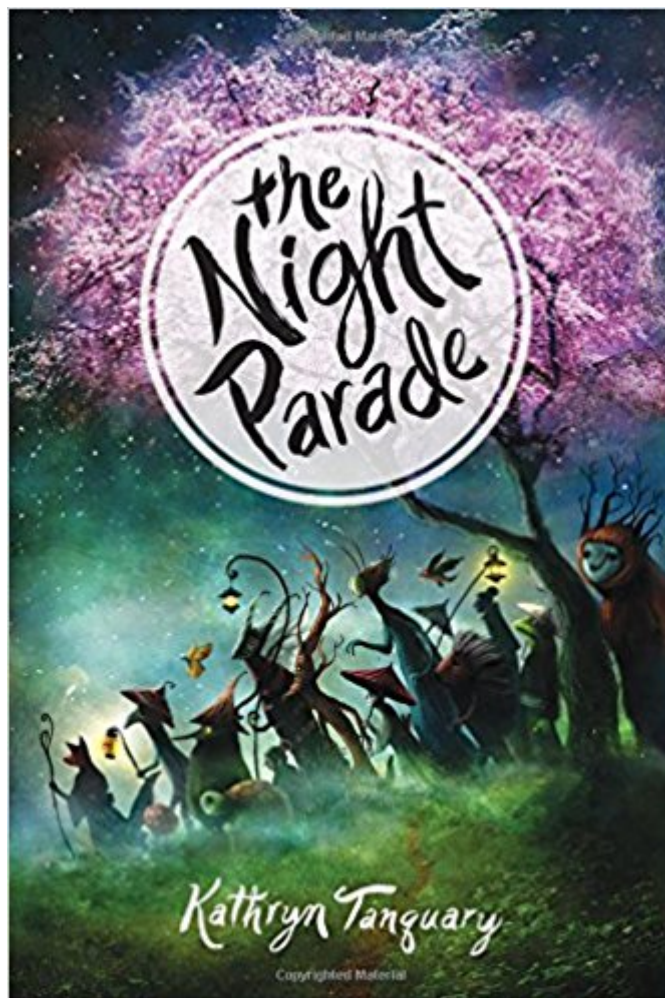


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The Night Parade



Synopsis

"I thought you might sleep through it." The creature smiled. Saki's voice was little more than a whisper. "Sleep through what?" It leaned over. She stared into its will-o'-the-wisp eyes. "The Night Parade, of course." The last thing Saki Yamamoto wants to do for her summer vacation is trade in exciting Tokyo for the antiquated rituals and bad cell reception of her grandmother's village. Preparing for the Obon ceremony is boring. Then the local kids take interest in Saki and she sees an opportunity for some fun, even if it means disrespecting her family's ancestral shrine on a malicious dare. But as Saki rings the sacred bell, the darkness shifts. A death curse has been invoked...and Saki has three nights to undo it. With the help of three spirit guides and some unexpected friends, Saki must prove her worth or say goodbye to the world of the living forever...

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 8

Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8 • A young teen learns to appreciate tradition and think more of others than herself after some unsettling interactions with magical beings. Nascent mean girl (or at least uncaring follower) Saki would much rather hang out with her "friends" in Tokyo than accompany her parents and younger brother to her grandmother's tiny mountain village during summer vacation, but she has no choice. Almost

immediately, she falls in with the wrong crowd, who goad her into a disrespectful act at her family's ancestral shrine, which, combined with lazy, uncaring preparations for the Obon ceremony, gets her in deep trouble with the spirits. Now Saki has three nights to undo the death curse she's brought down on her family. Her guides in the Night Parade include an untrustworthy four-tailed fox, a feathered tengu (a heavenly doglike creature), and a mischievous tanuki (a subspecies of raccoon dog) in the shape of a furry teapot. Saki has adventures of all sorts—funny, scary, dangerous, disgusting—and ultimately prevails, though not without whining, backsliding, giving up, and then starting over again and again. She is smug, sarcastic, and basically unlikable at the start but in the end is potentially nicer and more respectful, both of herself and others. VERDICT An entertaining mix of Japanese folklore and teen angst, suitable for larger collections. —Mara Alpert, Los Angeles Public Library --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Wonder and imagination abound in Tanquary's debut, a fantasy set in a contemporary Japanese mountain village; filled with respect and admiration for cultural tradition, it evokes both Grimm's fairy tales and Miyazaki's films...Vivid details and realistic situations ensure accessibility, and subtle teaching moments are wrapped in wide-eyed enchantment. " - Publishers Weekly, starred review

"An entertaining mix of Japanese folklore and teen angst" - School Library Journal

"A suspenseful middle-grade fantasy debut evocative of Neil Gaiman's *Coraline* and classic films like Jim Henson's *Labyrinth* and Hayao Miyazaki's *Spirited Away*...This dark adventure serves as a terrific introduction to Japanese legends, with the weird and wondrous on full display. " - Shelf Awareness

"This adventurous story perfectly mixes Saki's tech-savvy tendencies with ancient Japanese customs, nicely illustrating the connections between the past and the present." - Bookish.com

"Tanquary excels at creating a world where both Japanese beliefs and cosmic mythology are real and co-exist" - TeenReads

"This has significant shades of Hayao Miyazaki's *Spirited Away*, and it will appeal especially to readers with an interest in adventure stories and Japanese folklore." - Booklist

"[A] marvelous original debut novel, inspired by Japanese mythology and spookily reminiscent of Neil Gaiman's terrifying *Coraline*." - The Buffalo News

"This story will be a hit for those who are fans of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Alice in Wonderland*, with its interesting characters and creative plot" - School Library Connection

I adore the premise of this book, which the author's agent described as "Studio Ghibli-esque" (what magic words!) and I set down to devour *The Night Parade* as soon as it was released. It is truly a

wonderful read, especially for fans of Japanese folklore and Shinto Buddhism. I'm looking so forward to what the author pens next!

A beautifully told story of a young girl who gets caught up in a Japanese legend. Reminded me a bit of Spirited Away to begin with and then took off in another direction. Would love if she wrote another book about Saki and her new friend, Maeda. The artwork by Alexander Jansson is beautiful, as usual.

The book was very well written and held my interest until the very end. I would purchase this book for gifts and would love to see it in the school libraries throughout the country.

I would like to thank Sourcebooks Jabberwocky for providing me with a free ARC of this book via Netgalley in exchange for an open and honest review. Unfortunately this book was not for me. It held a lot of promise from the blurb and cover but I found it a rather slow paced and long winded tale that took a long time to actually get on with the story. To give it to the book some positives as it deserves them I did love the setting, story concept and plot. It was well written and painted a vivid picture for the reader. It was just a slow read for me. I do wonder if the fault lay with this particular reader? As much as I enjoy YA work perhaps this was a little too young for me and that is where the main fault lies? Then again, I can't see my almost eleven year old enjoying the book either as the paces was very slow and I feel she would grow bored of it and not finish. I could be wrong, but to me the slow pace really killed it for me. From the amount of positive reviews others have given this book, I really do feel I just didn't gel with it as much as I hoped and do hope others get more out of it if they choose to read it. Would I recommend this book to others? Possibly. Because of the unique setting and theme I know a lot of young girls my eldest daughter's age who might like to give it a read as they enjoy a lot of the old Japanese tales. But I would worry they would give up half-way through as it takes so long to get anywhere so not too sure. Would I buy this book for myself? Sadly no. It held a lot more promise than what it actually delivered. I commend the author and publisher for producing such a unique tale but I just wish it wasn't so sluggish in its pace. In summary: A well written, if not slow paced story. Possibly better suited for a younger mind as the setting, plot and descriptions deserve a big thumbs up. This book was just not for me.

Thank you to NetGalley for providing an ARC to me in exchange for an honest review. The Night Parade by Kathryn Tanquary is a fun book for young readers in the middle grades. Our main character, Saki, is a typical teen who does not appreciate nature or traditions and is used to the big city life of Taiwan. When her family drives into the mountains to visit her grandmother in a small village, her life shifts into a new and different reality as she discovers, first hand, the world of the spirits and the importance of tradition and respect. The story was a bit difficult for me to piece together at first. About half way through I started to wonder what Saki's day life had to do with the night adventures she was experiencing. I started wondering if her nightly excursions were just fanciful dreams that had no hold on her real world. I kept waiting for Saki to wake up and realize it was all just a dream - so... I started to get a bit bored; however, I stuck it out and I am so glad that I did. Kathryn Tanquary was able to tie together the entire story, both day and night, in the last few chapters bringing the entire book into perspective. Everything that happened to Saki immediately made sense and I realized that the story held a real life lesson within it. By the end, I felt like the entire book had a purpose and that this purpose was wonderfully portrayed and summed up. I would definitely recommend this book for young middle grade readers and everyone else who is young at heart. A great read on a rainy afternoon. Happy Reading!

I received this book for free from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. Saki behaved the way I'd expect a 13 year old girl to act, when dragged out into the middle of nowhere and forced to leave her friends behind. Which is to say, she was an almost unlikeable little brat. Which while realistic, wasn't much fun to read about. Luckily, once the curse came into play, she started to grow up a bit. I loved the kitsune the best of the three spirit guides Saki met. And I liked the tanuki the least. Which was kind of amusing because the kitsune tells Saki that everyone likes the third spirit (the tanuki) the best once they've met them. I didn't dislike him, I just liked the kitsune and the tengu better. I also really liked Saki's grandmother. Her parents and brother didn't speak to me one way or the other, but the grandmother made me wish we'd gotten to know more about her. The various spirits Saki meets were interesting, and I loved that there were a number of different types. From Kappa and Ogres, to objects that had been around long enough to earn themselves a soul. I liked Saki by the end of the book, and I'm glad she managed to make a human friend. Though I do wonder what happened with her friends back in Tokyo. There was a plot thread that never did get resolved there. There were a lot of Japanese folklore and myths that came to life in this

book. Nothing I hadn't heard of before, but I'm also a folklore addict. For those of you who aren't, there will most likely be quite a few things new to you in this book. 3.5 Stars (cross-posted to my blog)

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