

IN PRAISE OF SHADOWS

Junichirō Tanizaki

Read by **David Rintoul**

Translated by **Thomas J. Harper** and **Edward G. Seidensticker**

'Were it not for shadows, there would be no beauty.'

In Praise of Shadows is an eloquent tribute to the austere beauty of traditional Japanese aesthetics. Through architecture, ceramics, theatre, food, women and even toilets, Tanizaki explains the essence of shadows and darkness, and how they are able to augment beauty. He laments the heavy electric lighting of the West and its introduction to Japan, and shows how the artificial, bright and polished aesthetic of the West contrasts unfavourably with the moody and natural light of the East. Dreamy, melancholic and mysterious, *In Praise of Shadows* is a haunting insight into a forgotten world.



David Rintoul has recorded around 200 audiobooks. He has worked in many of Britain's major theatres and has played Mr Darcy in the BBC's *Pride and Prejudice* and the title role in ITV's *Doctor Finlay*. Films include *My Week with Marilyn*, *The Iron Lady* and *The Ghost Writer*.

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