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The Woman Next Door

MUKŌDA Kuniko

Translated by A. Reid Monroe-Sheridan

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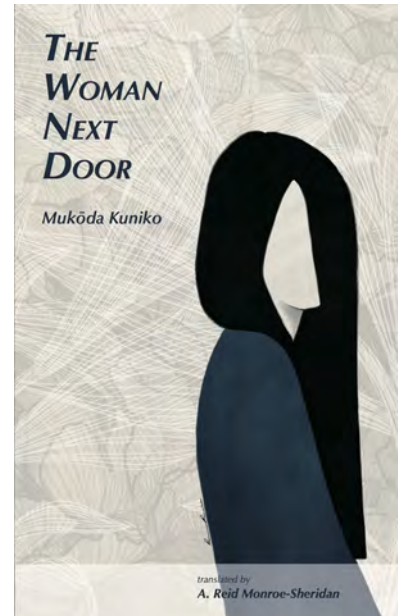
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Lonely people trapped in webs of their own design, seeking hope, love, forgiveness, validation... Five stories reveal the innermost hopes and fears of ordinary women, and men, facing the demands of others and of themselves in cool marriage and cold betrayal, exploring new avenues through new encounters.

Mukōda, renowned for her piercing depictions of loneliness, family, and inner turmoil, examines the roles of women and the 'man of the house,' whether husband, father, or even daughter. Her work explores the pain lurking in unmet expectations of family and love, and the resilience of women and men in finding purpose where none is forthcoming.

Mukōda Kuniko (November 28, 1929–August 22, 1981) was born in Tokyo. After graduating Jissen Women's Educational Institute, she began work at film publicity company Ondori Company in 1952. She quit in 1960 to write for the screen and radio, winning the 1980 Naoki Prize for her short stories "Hanano Namae", "Kawauso" and "Inugoya." She died unexpectedly in an aircraft disaster.

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