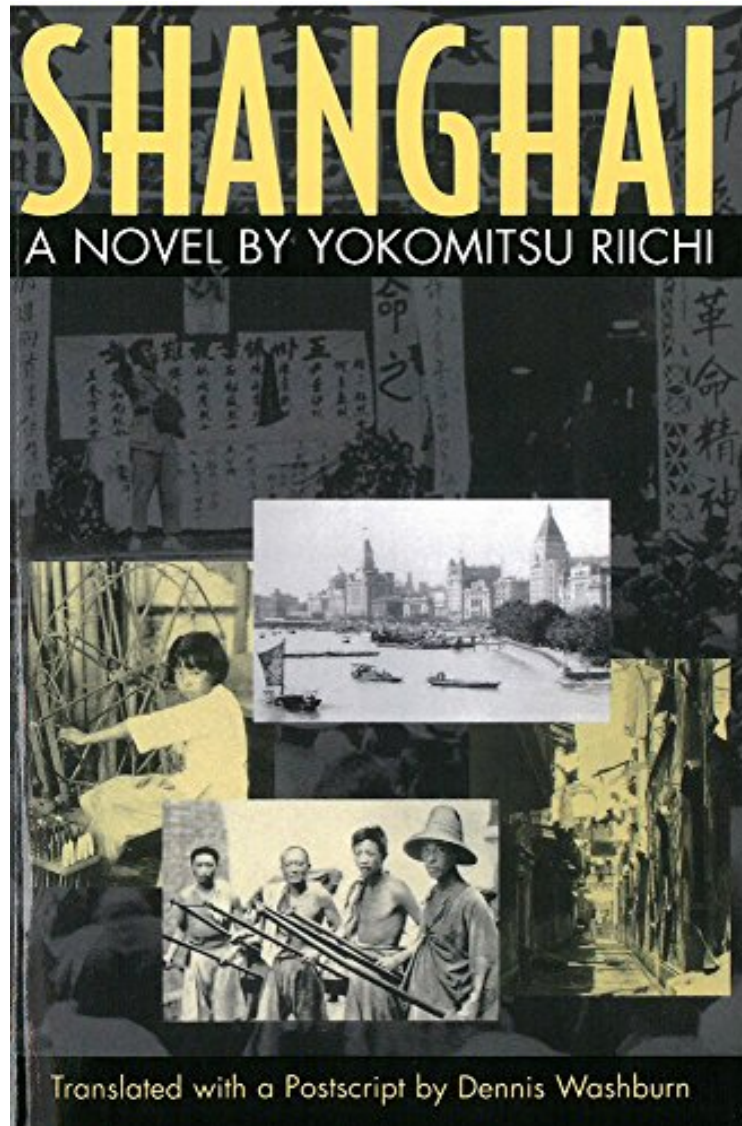


[Download] Shanghai: A Novel by Yokomitsu Riichi (Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies)

## Shanghai: A Novel by Yokomitsu Riichi (Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies)

*Riichi Yokomitsu*

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**Riichi Yokomitsu : Shanghai: A Novel by Yokomitsu Riichi (Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shanghai: A Novel by Yokomitsu Riichi (Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Wow!By KyaWhat a book. The story packs a punch!! It is certainly not dated even though written in 1928 (story takes place in 1925 Shanghai). Written by a Japanese writer with a very

modern voice. It is an "outsider" type novel in all respects. Japanese in China; Japanese alienated from Japanese, Japanese alienated from Chinese, Japanese alienated from time and place. It helps to be aware of sino-Japanese politics and economy tied to the period, but not essential. Very stark story in which the Japanese protagonist expresses the need for China to ally with Japan in a political and economic sense as opposed to allying with the Western powers, yet his contempt for the Chinese underlies his emotional response to circumstances involving the Chinese. He falls in love with a Chinese revolutionary which comes to nothing. I recommend this excellent book unreservedly. Also has a short piece on the author which showcases his philosophy and life.

Published serially between 1928 and 1931, *Shanghai* tells the story of a group of Japanese expatriates living in the International Settlement at the time of the May 30th Incident of 1925. The personal lives and desires of the main characters play out against a historical backdrop of labor unrest, factional intrigue, colonialist ambitions, and racial politics. The author, Yokomitsu Riichi (1898-1947), was an essayist, writer, and critical theorist who became one of the most powerful and influential literary figures in Japan during the 1920s and 1930s. He looked to contemporary avant-garde movements in Europe -- Dadaism, futurism, surrealism, expressionism -- for inspiration in his effort to explode the conventions of literary language and to break free of what he saw as the prisonhouse of modern culture. Yokomitsu incorporated striking visuality into a realistic mode that presents a disturbing picture of a city in turmoil. The result is a brilliant evocation of Shanghai as a gritty ideological battleground and as an exotic landscape where dreams of sexual and economic domination are nurtured.

From Publishers Weekly Japanese novelist and essayist Yokomitsu Riichi (1898-1947) first published *Shanghai* serially between 1928 and 1931. Filled with beautiful and disturbing imagery, it focuses on the lives of a group of Japanese expatriates living in Shanghai, a veritable cauldron of political and social unrest. In a time of strikes and riots, idealism and despair, people of various cultures (from sullen prostitutes to sketchy businessmen, including a man who exports human skeletons) try to make sense of life and love in their shifting, chaotic world. Dennis Washburn's graceful translation is augmented by an insightful afterword. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.