



Spring Snow: The Sea of Fertility, 1

By Yukio Mishima

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Yukio Mishima's *Spring Snow* is the first novel in his masterful tetralogy, *The Sea of Fertility*. Here we meet Shigekuni Honda, who narrates this epic tale of what he believes are the successive reincarnations of his friend, Kiyooki Matsugae.

It is 1912 in Tokyo, and the hermetic world of the ancient aristocracy is being breached for the first time by outsiders — rich provincial families unburdened by tradition, whose money and vitality make them formidable contenders for social and political power. Shigekuni Honda, an aspiring lawyer and his childhood friend, Kiyooki Matsugae, are the sons of two such families. As they come of age amidst the growing tensions between old and new, Kiyooki is plagued by his simultaneous love for and loathing of the spirited young woman Ayakura Satoko. But Kiyooki's true feelings only become apparent when her sudden engagement to a royal prince shows him the magnitude of his passion — and leads to a love affair both doomed and inevitable.

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Spring Snow: The Sea of Fertility, 1 By Yukio Mishima Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

“Perfect beauty. . . . A classic of Japanese literature.”

—*Chicago Sun-Times*

“Mishima was one of literature's great romantics, a tragedian with a heroic sensibility, an intellectual, an esthete, a man steeped in Western letters who toward the end of his life became a militant Japanese nationalist.”

—Jay McInerney, *The New York Times*

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Japanese

From the Inside Flap

The first novel of Mishima's landmark tetralogy, *The Sea of fertility*

Spring Snow is set in Tokyo in 1912, when the hermetic world of the ancient aristocracy is being breached for the first time by outsiders -- rich provincial families unburdened by tradition, whose money and vitality make them formidable contenders for social and political power.

Among this rising new elite are the ambitious Matsugae, whose son has been raised in a family of the waning aristocracy, the elegant and attenuated Ayakura. Coming of age, he is caught up in the tensions between old and new -- fiercely loving and hating the exquisite, spirited Ayakura Satoko. He suffers in psychic paralysis until the shock of her engagement to a royal prince shows him the magnitude of his passion, and leads to a love affair that is as doomed as it was inevitable.

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