

HAS KITARO FINALLY MET HIS MATCH

with the almighty Yokai Supreme Commander Nurarihyon? With his greedy frenemy Nezumi Otoko (mostly) on his side, and some help from his father, Kitaro packs a wallop that few yokai are strong enough to survive. But will his wit and magic vest be enough to break the hypnotizing spell of the ghoulish Dracula, stop an evil yokai who turns trespassers into diamonds, and defeat a giant whale shark in an undersea battle? We shall see!

INSIDE! Part two of a full Kitaro history by series translator Zack Davisson and more yokai files! Read the comics that have won the hearts of Japanese children and adults for more than half a century!

PRAISE FOR KITARO "Known as a friend of humanity, Kitaro fights off malicious yokai or disciplines mischievous ones using...the bizarre powers he's inherited...[in these] inspired supernatural adventures."

—SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

"If you haven't experienced Kitaro before, this is a perfect place to start."

—ANIME NEWS NETWORK



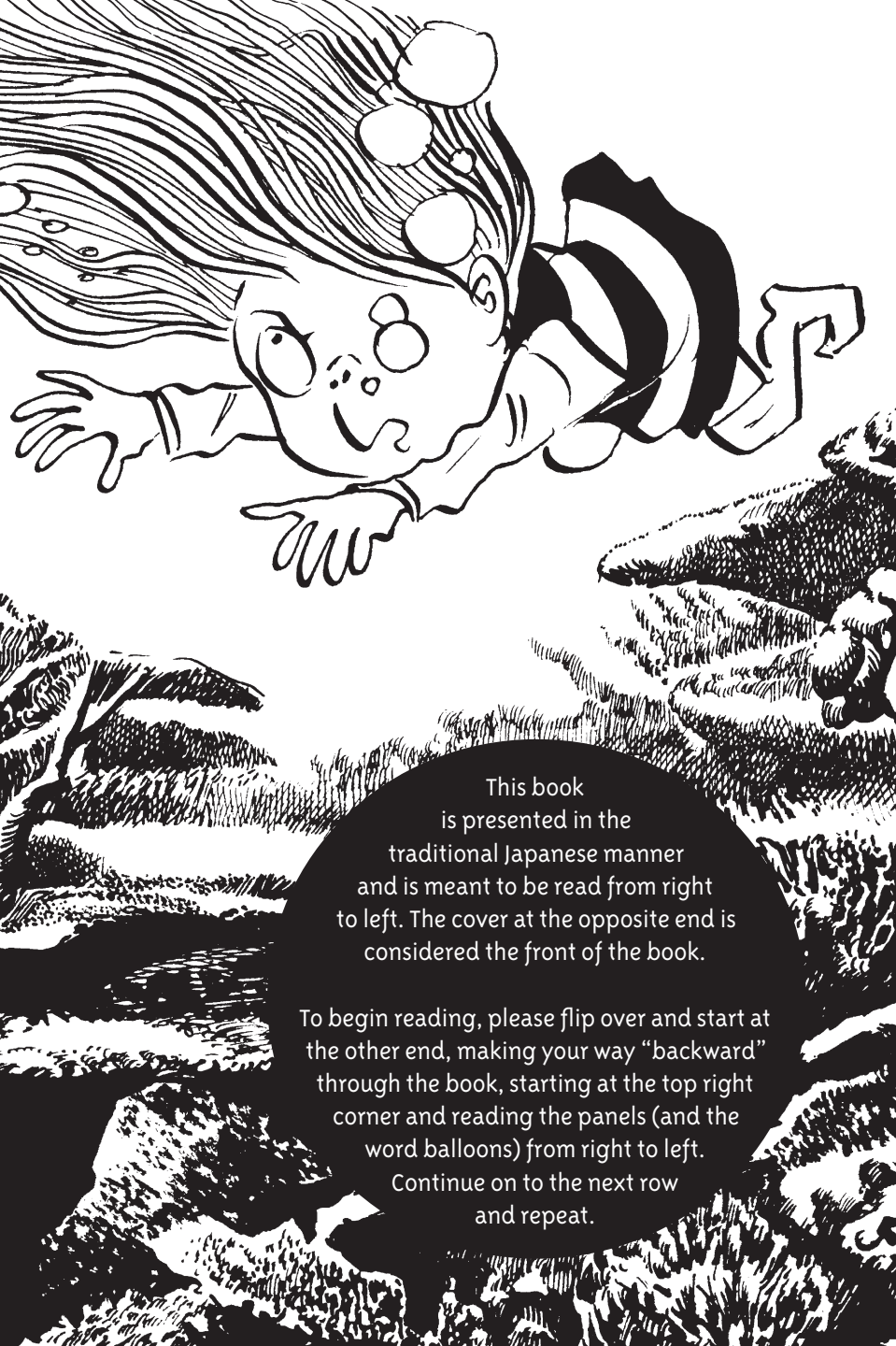
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Photo © 2016 Mizuki Productions

Shigeru Mizuki (1922–2015) was one of Japan's most respected artists ever. An artistic prodigy, he lost an arm in World War II. After the war, Mizuki became one of the founders of Japan's latest craze—manga. He invented the yokai genre with GeGeGe no Kitaro, his most famous one-eyed character who has been adapted for the screen several times, as anime, live action, and video games. A new anime series has been made every decade since 1968 and has captured the imagination of generations of Japanese children. A real-life ghost hunter, Mizuki travelled to over sixty countries to engage in fieldwork based on spirit folklore. In his hometown of Sakaiminato, one can find Shigeru Mizuki Road, a street decorated with bronze statues of his Kitaro characters.



This book
is presented in the
traditional Japanese manner
and is meant to be read from right
to left. The cover at the opposite end is
considered the front of the book.

To begin reading, please flip over and start at
the other end, making your way “backward”
through the book, starting at the top right
corner and reading the panels (and the
word balloons) from right to left.

Continue on to the next row
and repeat.

Also available from Shigeru Mizuki's Kitaro series: *The Birth of Kitaro* (2015)

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UMI ZATO are giant water spirits who look like the ghosts of blind biwa players, strolling across the ocean waves. They are generally seen in northern Japan near Iwate prefecture, and appear near the end of each month. Umi Zato attack fishermen and ships at sea. They are sometimes big enough to swallow whole ships in one bite!



WANYUDO are the spirits of monks who have fallen from the righteous path. After death, they are cursed into the shape of an oxcart wheel. They roll through the streets of Japan on certain nights of the year, dragging to hell anyone unlucky enough to cross their paths.





NURARIHYON, a slippery spirit whose true nature is hard to pin down, is the self-styled “Supreme Commander of the Yokai.” He is an urban yokai with a mysterious air of authority. Nurarihyon comes into your house and orders you around, acting like an important guest. He drinks all your best tea, eats all your best food, then struts out the door. Only after he is gone and the spell is broken do you realize you have been a victim of Nurarihyon.



ODORO ODORO hide their terrifying faces under long hair, and only come out when they are ready to strike. They use their hair like long straws to drink people’s blood. A rare yokai created by science, the Odoro Odoro was accidentally conjured by a greedy man trying to invent a cure for baldness.



ONI are as old as Japan, and come in many shapes and sizes. The oldest Oni were invisible spirits that caused disease and disaster. In the sixth century, contact with India and monsters called Rakshasa influenced Oni—they gained bodies with red skin and horns. Modern Oni work various jobs in hell. They can be naughty or nice, depending on their moods. Watch out if you ever meet one! You never know what you’ll get!



SARA KOZO is one of the many species of Japanese water spirits called kappa. Sara Kozo are dangerous monsters. They are covered in hair and have a mouthful of sharp teeth like a saw. Their most powerful weapon is their plate-like head, which can be fired in attack or used as a lens.

DATSUI BABA blurs the line between common yokai and deities. She is a guardian of hell, and one of the servants of Emma-O, the dreaded king of hell and judge of the dead. Datsui Baba guards the Sanzu River, where the dead cross into the afterlife. With each new arrival, Datsui Baba strips their clothes and weighs them. If the person was poor, they cross a bridge over the river. But if they were rich, they have to struggle across where the river is deepest.



DRACULA IV is a western yokai who comes from Hungary, and is the fourth descendent of the famous bloodsucker, Dracula. He is over three hundred years old, and fled to Japan on a false passport after he was revealed as a vampire in his home country.



FUNA YUREI are ghosts of people who died at sea. They appear at night, during rain and heavy fog, and try to drag people under the water to join their ranks. Funa Yurei often ask for a wooden spoon, and if you give them one, they fill up your boat to drown you. The best way to escape from them is to give them a spoon with holes in it so they can't ladle water into your ship.



JAKOTSU BABA is also known as the Old Snake-Bone Woman, and is a mysterious yokai from Funkan-koku, China. Legend says when her husband died, Jakotsu Baba transformed into a yokai to stand guard over his grave. Jakotsu Baba is terrible to behold. A blue snake slithers in her right hand and a red snake in her left. Nobody knows exactly what she wants, only that she is one dangerous yokai!



WHAT ARE YOKAI?

You'll meet many different kinds of yokai in the pages of *Kitaro*, but it's not easy to describe exactly what that means. The word is difficult to translate, meaning something like "mysterious phenomenon." Yokai as a term encompasses monsters, spirits of rivers and mountains, deities, demons, goblins, apparitions, shape-changers, magic, ghosts, animals, and all manner of mysterious occurrences. There are good yokai and bad yokai, and some that are in between.

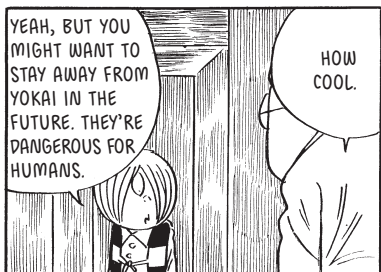
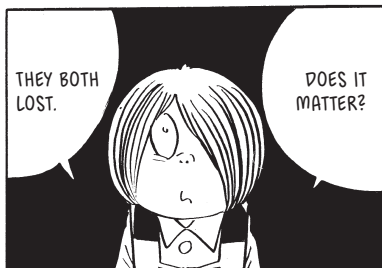
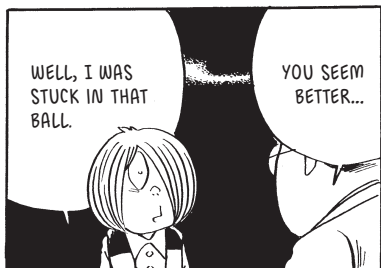


Some yokai are very old, with histories longer than civilization. Some are young, and have only appeared in the past couple of years. Some were once human beings who fell under a curse or otherwise changed, while some—like Kitaro and his father Medama Oyaji—were born yokai and have always been yokai.

Many are from Japan, but others are from China, Korea, India, or countries like Romania, the UK, Canada, the USA—or even outer space. Yokai can be legendary figures from folklore or urban legends, or characters from books or movies. They can come from anywhere. They can look like anything. Yokai can be giant monsters, unnatural plants, winds, or earthquakes. They can be visible or invisible.

Perhaps the best definition is to say that anything that can not readily be understood or explained, anything mysterious and unconfirmed, can be yokai.

YOKAI FILES
BY ZACK DAVISSON





THE TWO MONSTERS
LUNGE AT EACH OTHER
WITHOUT A MOMENT'S
HESITATION.



EQUALLY MATCHED, THE
TWO STRUGGLE VIOLENTLY
FOR TEN MINUTES,
THEN FALL SILENT.



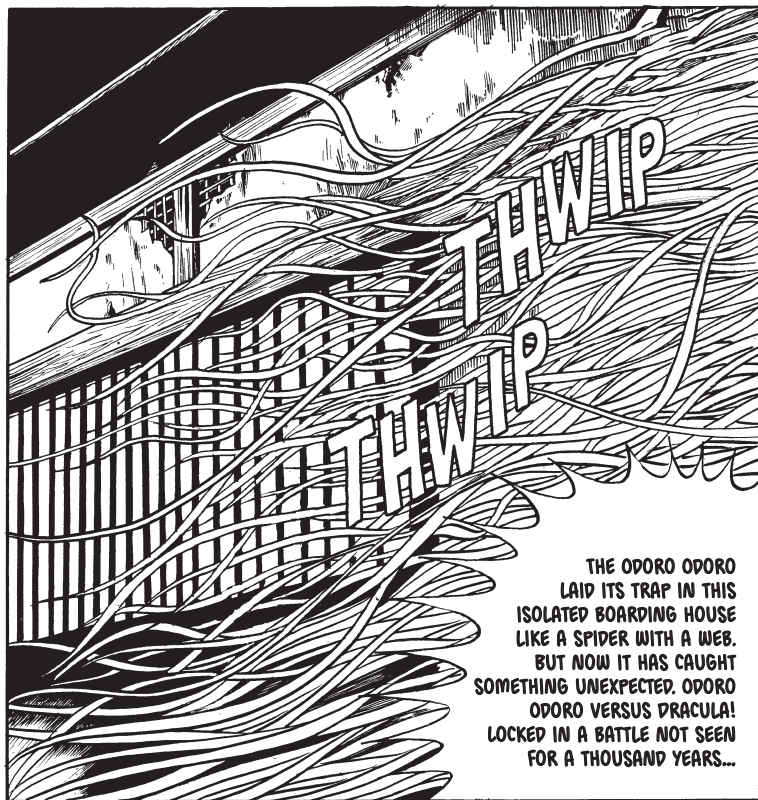
*KER
WHAM*



WHO
WON?



WRAPPED
TIGHT IN
A PERFECT
BALL.



THE ODORO ODORO
LAID ITS TRAP IN THIS
ISOLATED BOARDING HOUSE
LIKE A SPIDER WITH A WEB.
BUT NOW IT HAS CAUGHT
SOMETHING UNEXPECTED. ODORO
ODORO VERSUS DRACULA!
LOCKED IN A BATTLE NOT SEEN
FOR A THOUSAND YEARS...

AND WHAT WILL
BECOME OF POOR
KITARO'S SOUL,
FLOATING AWAY
IN THE SKY...



