

A WISHING SHELF BOOK REVIEW

11th August 2021

TITLE: Tokyo Zangyo, A Tokyo Mystery

AUTHOR: Michael Pronko

Star Rating: 5

CATCHY QUOTE

‘A skillfully plotted, fast-paced mystery. Highly recommended!’ A ‘Wishing Shelf Book Review

REVIEW

For me, the most important aspect of a good mystery (or thriller) is the pacing. It's vital the novel gets going from the first page and keeps you gripped all the way to the very end. The author, Michael Pronko, seems to understand this, offering the reader a complex mystery, fast pacing, and a cast of charismatic (and often gritty) characters.

Set in Tokyo, the complex setting is superbly described and explored by the characters. The plot too is excellent. It's a multilayered mystery but, thankfully, not too complex, exploring the culture of this fascinating city, in particular the toxic workplace through the eyes of the flawed and charismatic Hiroshi. Although this is a very atmospheric story, it's not the gritty Tokyo setting that stands out. It's the characters. The author's very good at exploring the minds of his protagonists, particularly Detective Hiroshi. In fact, it's his ability to offer such interesting and diverse characters to the reader that brings this novel alive.

There is an intensity to this novel which, I feel, is the result of the author's knowledge of Japanese culture. So, even if you don't happen to be a fan of the genre, the novel also offers a gripping, often jaw dropping, insight into the goings on of the big Japanese corporations.

I always like to end with a ‘what struck me the most’ comment. Well, ‘what struck me the most’ about this novel was the author's knowledge of character. He knows

the mystery/thriller genre very, VERY well and this shows in the depth of the characters he created.

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