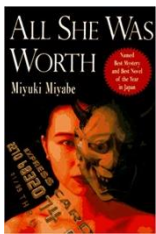
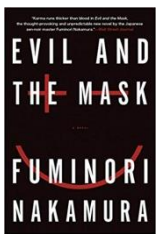
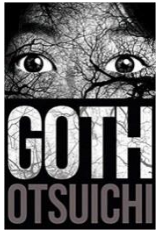
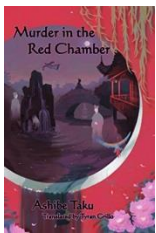
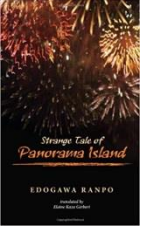
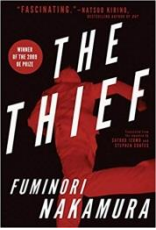


The Japan Foundation, Toronto Library books from JFT's Book Club.

The Japan Foundation, Toronto Library Book Club

Books discussed during JFT Book Club – Mystery Book Club (October 10, 2019)

| | Title | Author | Call no. | Item no. |
|---|--|--------------------|----------------------|----------|
|  | All she was worth | Miyabe, Miyuki | 895.635 M59 A44 1996 | 00004899 |
| | <p>“Here is a deftly written thriller that is also a "deep and moody" (NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW) journey through the dark side of Japan's consumer-crazed society. Ordinary people plunge into insurmountable personal debt and fall prey to dangerous webs of underground creditors-so dangerous, in fact, that murder may be the only way out. A beautiful young woman vanishes, and the detective quickly finds she is not whom she claims to be. Is she a victim, a killer, or both? In a country that tracks its citizens at every turn, how can two women claim the same identity and then disappear without a trace?”</p> | | | |
|  | Evil and the mask | Nakamura, Fuminori | 895.635 N34 2013 | 00024159 |
| | <p>“When Fumihiro Kuki is eleven years old, his elderly, enigmatic father calls him into his study for a meeting. "I created you to be a cancer on the world," his father tells him. It is a tradition in their wealthy family: a patriarch, when reaching the end of his life, will beget one last child to cause misery in a world that cannot be controlled or saved. From this point on, Fumihiro will be specially educated to learn to create as much destruction and unhappiness in the world around him as a single person can. Between his education in hedonism and his family's resources, Fumihiro's life is one without repercussions. Every door is open to him, for he need obey no laws and may live out any fantasy he might have, no matter how many people are hurt in the process. But as his education progresses, Fumihiro begins to question his father's mandate, and starts to resist.”</p> | | | |
|  | Goth | Otsuchi | 895.635 O87 G67 2015 | 00024908 |
| | <p>“Morino is the strangest girl in school—how could she not be, given her obsession with brutal murders? And there are plenty of murders to grow obsessed with, as the town in which she lives is a magnet for serial killers. She and her schoolmate will go to any length to investigate the murders, even putting their own bodies on the line. And they don't want to stop the killers—Morino and her friend simply want to understand them.”</p> | | | |
|  | Murder in the Red Chamber | Ashibe, Taku | 895.635 A83 2012 | 00022787 |
| | <p>“<i>Murder in the Red Chamber</i> is set in the world of the original <i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i>, the masterwork of eighteenth-century Chinese fiction by Cao Xueqin... During an evening gathering, one of the young maidens of the Garden is brutally murdered in plain sight. This spectacle sets off a series of mysterious deaths. Lai Shang-rong, a local magistrate and Chief Inspector in service to the Jias, is specially commissioned to investigate the root of the evil that has darkened this otherwise idyllic setting. Bao-yu, however, has designs of his own.... As luck would have it, Bao-yu is soon assigned as an assistant to Shang-rong.... Yet as time goes on and more murders are committed right under his nose, Shang-rong begins to suspect that Bao-yu may in fact be behind them all... [Shang-rong] must face a difficult choice: point the finger at his exalted sidekick, or crack the case before imminent dangers destroy him.”</p> | | | |

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|--|--|--------------------|------------------|----------|
|  | Strange tale of panorama island | Edogawa, Ranpo | 895.635 E36 2013 | 00024192 |
| <p>“Ranpo’s panorama island is filled with cleverly designed optical illusions: a staircase rises into the sky; white feathered “birds” speak in women’s voices and offer to serve as vehicles; clusters of naked men and women romp on slopes carpeted with rainbow-colored flowers. His fantastical utopia is filled with entrancing music and strange sweet odors, and nothing is ordinary, predictable, or boring. The novella reflected the new culture of mechanically produced simulated realities (movies, photographs, advertisements, stereoscopic and panoramic images) and focused on themes of the doppelganger and appropriated identities: its main character steals the identity of an acquaintance. The novella’s utopian vision, argues translator Elaine Gerbert, mirrors the expansionist dreams that fed Japan’s colonization of the Asian continent, its ending an eerie harbinger of the collapse of those dreams.”</p> | | | | |
|  | The thief | Nakamura, Fuminori | 895.635 N34 2012 | 00022808 |
| <p>“The Thief is a seasoned pickpocket. Anonymous in his tailored suit, he weaves in and out of Tokyo crowds, stealing wallets from strangers so smoothly sometimes he doesn’t even remember the snatch. Most people are just a blur to him, nameless faces from whom he chooses his victims. He has no family, no friends, no connections.... But he does have a past, which finally catches up with him when Ishikawa, his first partner, reappears in his life, and offers him a job he can’t refuse. It’s an easy job: tie up an old rich man, steal the contents of the safe. No one gets hurt. Only the day after the job does he learn that the old man was a prominent politician, and that he was brutally killed after the robbery. And now the Thief is caught in a tangle even he might not be able to escape.”</p> | | | | |

**Book descriptions from Amazon.ca*