



Run, Melos! and Other Stories

Osamu Dazai, Ralph F. McCarthy (Translator)

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Run, Melos! and Other Stories Details

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Author : Osamu Dazai , Ralph F. McCarthy (Translator)

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From Reader Review Run, Melos! and Other Stories for online ebook

Emiko Miyasato says

I took about 65 minites to read this book.

Summary

Melos, weding, frind, wait, go, back, happy

Discussion Questions

1 In this story, Melos visites to the city. Which do you like living in the city or country side?

I like living is the country side, becaouse there is very quiet. We can live comfatable.

2 In this story, the sister of Mello married. When do you want to marry

I want to marry in the age about 28, becouse I want to enjoy the work too!

Fredriksson Aaron says

Some of theese stories are so queer, that you would think it was a dream he had written down. The one i came for & the one i stayed for, was "Run Melos Run".

Ah— an alike story like the old greek original, but made into a childrens tale of trust and gladness. It is one of my most favourite books and will always be, so i suggest you take your time, to get into Osamu's mind of wonders and thoughts. For as all of them, were next told by his wife, wich were to hear all of theese every night before bed- her husband was very depressed as u could tell- and told the best stories of his century. If u read it and don't like it, then you don't understand it.

As simple as that i would say.

Andrew says

Ignore the title story-- a somewhat cute bit of hero worship (Dazai worshipping Schiller worshipping Greeks)-- and lap up how glorious everything else is. Osamu Dazai doesn't get read much outside his native Japan, it seems, which is damn foolish. These are some high-water marks of Japanese short fiction, especially "Schoolgirl," which (somehow) got published as a separate book despite its 40-page length. If you can track a volume of this edition down, which isn't the easiest task outside Japan, apparently, it's well worth it.

Nina says

I actually read a little bit of ????? before, but I didn't finish it. I learned that it is very famous in Japan when I

was watching Japanese TV shows after that, so I want to finish reading it. To me it is like a fable or fairy tale because it told a story about believing that might be too beautiful to be true. I don't think anyone can believe in someone else so firmly like ??? and his friend, but this is exactly the reason why all of us (not only people who study Japanese) should read this story.

????? reminds me of an old Chinese story. A young man called Wei Sheng had a promise with a girl to meet under a bridge on a river, but the girl didn't come. And then it began to rain. It rained so heavily that the water of the river got more and more, but Wei Sheng wouldn't leave because he wanted to keep their promise. He wanted to wait till the girl show up. The girl didn't show up however, and Wei Sheng was drowned in the river. Wei Sheng and ??? both believed in someone else and kept their words even though others thought they are idiots. Maybe if we all be more like them, some day people can really trust each other, and the world will be without lies.

Gertrude & Victoria says

Run, Melos! and other stories by Dazai Osamu is a wonderful collection of short stories. This book is published in Japan and may be difficult, if not impossible, to get in other countries. The title story *Run, Melos!* is adopted from Friedrich Schiller's story of *Damon and Pythias*, which was originally taken from Greek myth.

It is a story of lasting friendship between Melos and Selinuntius. Melos has to save his friend from a tyrant king by returning to his native land before three days, so that Selinuntius is not put to death. He gathers all his earthly strength as he is put through many hardships. Melo's determination to endure the trials of weather and land for his friend is inspiring. The story ends jubilantly with a triumphant pardon for Melos and Selinuntius.

Here, Dazai, with wit and grace, so endearingly tells this timeless tale. His style most fittingly complements this classical theme. A moral of universal appeal is given through this story of friendship which is as precious as life itself.

Koki Komura says

Publisher Ladder series

Time 60min

Discussion question

Do you have the best friend?

I have the best friend who is from same high school and now same university.

Have you ever betray promise with your friend?

Maybe I sometimes did.

Most case, I have been late.

This story is really famous in Japan.

I was impressed Meros's mind and character!

Tatevik Najaryan says

Dazai's style is a little different from other Japanese writers' styles. But yet, really satisfying books. I enjoy every bit of it.

Iori Kawasaki says

This book report is for Sohie's class(Tue,1 period)

Title: Run, Melos, Run.

Publisher: IBC Publish

Reading Time: 60min

Seven words Summary: capture, execution, promise, trust, run, return, reconciliation

Discussion Question 1: If you were require to act as a substitute, can you do it?

My answer: It is very difficult question for me, but maybe I can. if someone who is my friend were in trouble, i wanna be a help for him.

Discussion Question 2: If someone do something tyrannically, can you stop him from doing that?

My answer: If he is someone who is superior to me, I hesitate to stop him, but I will try.

Mastugae Kiyoaki says

delicate innocence.

Takaya says

November 26

7 words summary

run,tyrant,spirit,give up,lifeblood,reform,happy

Discussion question

1,What is lifeblood for you?

-I think my lifeblood is sleeping. Even if I am very tired, I can get well because of the sleeping.

2,What is your biggest adversity?

-I fall Shiga university. It is my adversity

Yuki-o says

1. IBC Publishing/level1

2. 90min

3. lowest human being, furious, kill, bride, hit, doubt

4a. Strong, honest Melos turned red in the face.

4b. He turned red, even though he is a hero who protected a country and the citizen. I thought he was just human like us.

5. I learned important thing from this book. Personal trust has good and bad aspects. This means that trust can happen happy thing or happen serious problem.

Sean O'Hara says

Mizuki Nomura was right -- Osamu Dazai is far funnier than people give him credit for. This is a guy who attempted suicide five times -- three of them double suicides, two of which left his partner dead and one of which left him dead -- and whose most famous book is about a guy who spends two hundred pages talking about his existential angst before committing suicide, so it's understandable that people tend to think of him as a Gloomy Gus. But as Nomura points out in her novel Book Girl and the Suicidal Mime, this is an incomplete portrait, a mere caricature of Dazai. In truth Dazai managed to be happy at many points in his life, and it's reflected in his works.

Of the seven stories in this volume, four qualify as comedies -- some more than others, but all definitely on the humorous side -- and a fifth is whimsical.

The collection is book-ended by two stories that are little more than jokes. The first is an amusing anecdote about a woman whose husband is temporarily impotent due to a surgery, and will certainly bring a smile to your face as you start the book. The last, however, is rather like the best man at a wedding getting up to give a toast only to let out a loud, smelly fart. The story plays out like something profound is going to happen, building up and up to a tender moment of emotional revelation, but when we get there Dazai pulls the rug out from under us and stands there laughing. Normally the author and reader conspire together to laugh at the characters; seldom does the author make the reader feel like the butt of the joke, but that's exactly what Dazai manages.

The title story is probably the most famous, a tale of a condemned man who receives leave to attend his sister's wedding if a friend will stand as a hostage to be executed if the man fails to return in three days. All goes well until the man has to return for his execution and suddenly finds himself beset by everything from a hangover, to a flooded river, to bandits. It's cute, it's fun, but I'm not sure it stands up to its reputation.

"One Hundred Views of Mount Fuji," is a play on all the various collections of woodprints of Mount Fuji, but Dazai begins by undercutting his subject, complaining that the artists always depict Fuji with a sharp, acute peak, when in reality it's an obtuse 120 degrees, something the average Tibetan would consider bland and unremarkable. Dazai goes on to describe various views he's had of Mount Fuji throughout his life. One of the first he mentions is a dingy apartment he used to live in where he could see Fujisan through his bathroom window every morning when he went to take a leak. Most of the views in the story come from a

sabbatical he took in Misaka Pass, where his work was constantly disturbed by tourists coming through to catch a glimpse of the mountain.

The wistful story, which may be a ghost story or it may not, is a sweet tale about a young woman trying to make her terminally ill sister happy in her last days. It's very sweet, but the is-it-a-ghost thing feels a little forced.

Of the non-humorous stories, we have "Eight Views of Tokyo," which is a brief biographical sketch detailing Dazai's various suicide attempts up till that point in life. In many ways this seems to be a rough draft of *No Longer Human*, though with none of the fictional touches. Given the lack of biographies of Dazai in English, this is well worth reading for the details of his life, even if it does end a decade before his death.

The other serious story is "Schoolgirl," which I'm glad I found here since it's also available in a grossly overpriced standalone edition. The story's set during World War II and follows a schoolgirl through her daily life, from the moment she wakes up in the morning to when she crawls into bed at night. Yes, you may have thought the Japanese obsession with the lives of schoolgirls was something unique to anime, but in fact it has much deeper roots. Nothing really happens in the story, and despite the time frame in which it's set, most of the protagonist's worries are things that are still relevant today.

Sadly, this book isn't published in the United States, or any other Anglophone country for that matter. No, it's put out by Kodansha Japan as a way of helping Japanese speakers learn English. It's not a pure bilingual edition, but the last forty pages are devoted to endnotes comparing the English text to the original and explaining various idioms. But thanks to Amazon, there are plenty of used copies available in the US.

10001010001 says

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I think I just wrote a review in Japanese. Didn't know I can do that.

Taka says

Uneven--

J-Lit Being #10: *Run, Melos!* and Other Stories

Out of the nine stories from Dazai's middle period included in this collection, the famous title story and "An Urgent Appeal" (a revisionist story a la Borges about Judas' love-hate relationship with Christ) are really worth reading.

The rest are just meh.

Most of his stories are autobiographical. "Eight Views of Tokyo" is pretty much an early draft of his *No Longer Human* and the last two stories are accounts of Dazai going home, and though interesting in themselves, they aren't really fiction and I felt a little cheated. Also, "One Hundred Views of Mt. Fuji" is pretty much nonfictional, recounting his time on the Misaka Mountain in Yamanashi.

"Das Gemeine" is also mediocre in that nothing really happens, and the most painful read was probably, "Schoolgirl" which was in stream-of-consciousness and lacked any sort of story (though it's impressive how Dazai could portray so well a girl's psychological makeup, it was still a painful read nonetheless).

"Run, Melos!" is definitely a modern masterpiece, a retelling of a Greek legend recounted by Schiller, about a man who promises to come back and be executed with the condition that if he doesn't make it in time, his best friend will be executed instead. Dazai's psychological portrayal is quite compelling and the story is awesome. Definitely worth the read.

Overall, two really good stories, a few pretty good ones.

Shouta Takao says

1 hour 20 minutes

Seven Words:Melos, friend, trust, run, sister, wedding, arrived

Questions

Q:If you became hostage for your friend, can you trust your friend's return until just before your execution ?

A:Of course, I can trust my best friends, but if I faced my execution, perhaps I doubt my friends for an instant.

Q:Do you have a friend who you can trust him(her) and become hostage for him(her)?

A:Yes. I can trust and become hostage for my junior high school friends. I think that they are my best friends in my life.
