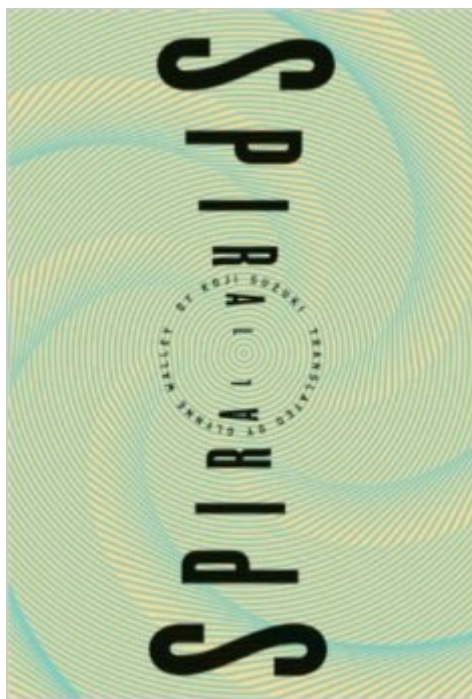


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Spiral (Ring Series, Book 2)



Synopsis

Dr. Ando who has yet to recover from his son's death at sea, conducts an autopsy on an old friend who has died under unusual circumstances. The corpse, that of cynical philosophy professor Ryuji Takayama, has something to tell him. And Ryuji isn't the only one who chooses to make a reappearance in this story. You don't know what the RING is yet. The terms of the curse of the videotape undergo a jaw-dropping reconfiguration in this novel, the horror master's stunning reinvention of his own bestselling tale. *Spiral* is written as a stand-alone work; for Ring fans, it's a sequel that redefines the word.

Book Information

Paperback: 283 pages

Publisher: Vertical; First Paperback Edition edition (August 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1932234160

ISBN-13: 978-1932234169

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (36 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,303,837 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #361 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Asian > Japanese](#) #29542 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Horror](#) #75648 in [Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery](#)

Customer Reviews

In *Spiral*, the sequel to Suzuki's *Ring*, we are to discover that the hoped for (if uncomfortable) resolution we promised at the end of *Ring* is not to come to pass. Instead we discover that there is a whole layer below Sadako's efforts at vengeance and that a darker and more haunting motive drives the story - one that threatens more than just those who watched the videotape. Dr. Mitsuo Ando is haunted by the horrible accident that killed his son and destroyed his marriage. Still unable to make sense of his own life, he is called on to perform the autopsy of his friend Ryuji Takayama, who played a vital role in *Ring*. What he finds is that death was caused by a coronary blockage and that there are signs of a smallpox like viral infection. Odder is that the body seems to expel a piece of the newspaper used to fill out the thoracic cavity. Ryuji and Dr. Ando used to be addicted to ciphers, and a string of numbers on the paper can be decoded to spell R I N G. Ando is drawn to Mai, Ryuji's student and lover, who suddenly disappears. As he investigates Ando discovers for

himself that all of the victims of the videotape died similarly - all deaths seemingly by a viral infection and exposure to a videotape. Spiral thus introduces another, more unnerving idea. The Spiral is DNA and the theme of the book is mutation or, in broader terms, change. This book is every bit as solid as Ring, but it pulls the rug out from under the reader by shifting from Ring's story of curses and ghosts to hard science fiction with just a dash of mysticism. As readers, we often have trouble shifting gears like that - stories that suddenly become something else take us out of our comfort zone.

I almost never read fiction. I'm pretty much hooked on real-life biographies and events that really happened. I am however a huge fan of horror films and I heard so much about the original Japanese "Ring" movies (4 in all, all with English subtitles) that I just had to get them on DVD. While I enjoyed the original Japanese "Ringu" movie very much, I really enjoyed best of all the first sequel "Rasen", which I believe translates into "Spiral". It turns out that, unlike the American movie version or "Ring" the first 2 Japanese movies are very faithful to the novels. So as soon as it was translated into English I bought the first "Ring" novel and was hooked. Truly enjoyable. And for us Americans it also gives a bit of a glimpse of what contemporary Japanese life is like, although I'm sure the author never even thought of that while he was creating his works. It's just a nice side-product of the actual story. "Spiral" I also pre-ordered. And much like the movie "Rasen" it offers a scientific basis for the mystery of how the virus actually works. You can almost believe it the way Mr Suzuki uncovers the scientific basis for the virus. You also get to find out what happens to the main characters who remained alive at the conclusion of "Ring", so it's recommended to read that one first. Not at all content to simply rehash the same old story with some new characters who don't know anything about the video and resulting virus, this takes the story to an entirely new level. I was glued to this book and was sad to see it end. In the back of the hardcover edition it states that next year the 3rd and final book in the series by Mr Suzuki, "Loop" will be published.

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