



# The Wild Geese

By Ogai Mori

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## The Wild Geese By Ogai Mori

**Written in 1913, this modern classic was the source for the highly acclaimed film, *The Mistress***

In *The Wild Geese*, prominent Japanese novelist Ogai Mori offers a poignant story of unfulfilled love, set against the background of the dizzying social change accompanying the fall of the Meiji regime. The young heroine, Otama, is forced by poverty to become a moneylender's mistress. She is surrounded by skillfully-drawn characters—her weak-willed father, her virile and calculating lover (and his suspicious wife), and the handsome student who is both the object of her desire and the symbol of her rescue—as well as a colorful procession of Meiji era figures—geisha, students, entertainers, unscrupulous matchmakers, shopkeepers, and greedy landladies.

Like those around her, and like the wild geese of the titles, Otama yearns for the freedom of flight. Her dawning consciousness of her predicament brings the novel to a touching climax.

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## **The Wild Geese By Ogai Mori Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"*The Wild Geese* is a spare, yet intricate, read. The narrative moves quickly, and the characters are developed in a way that successfully reveals their passiveness and internal weaknesses. It is a good book that clearly has paved the path for later writers, and for those seeking the early inspiration for the great Japanese Masters that filled the 20th Century, Ogai Mori is not a writer to overlook." —***BlogCritics.com***

#### About the Author

**Ogai Mori** (1862-1922) stands in the foremost rank of modern Japanese novelists. His professional success as an army surgeon was outstripped by his even more brilliant ascent in the literary world of the Meiji and Taisho eras. His work is characterized by a strong humanistic element, a romantic quality effectively tempered by realism, and a lucid style that often rises to lyric intensity as in the closing passages of *The Wild Geese*. Written in 1913, *The Wild Geese* enjoyed such success in Japan that it was made into a film, shown abroad as *The Mistress*.

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##### Stephanie Bush:

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