

## The Kwaidan Collection: An Illuminated Edition

**Lafcadio Hearn**

**Kent Williams, Illustrator**

Beehive Books (Apr 4, 2023)

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This exquisite book collects horrifying and supernatural Japanese folk tales, enhancing them with haunting artwork.

Lafcadio Hearn was an American transplant in Japan. He married there and changed his name to Koizumi Yakumo; he published several books related to its ghost stories. This volume collects stories that he first retold in print over one hundred years ago, here illuminating them with Kent Williams's tense, unforgettable illustrations.

Featuring Hearn's explanatory footnotes, as well as essays by filmmaker Darren Aronofsky, professor and translator Kyoko Yoshida, and Bon Koizumi, Hearn's great-grandson and an academic himself, this volume contains enough background information to satisfy scholars and nonscholars alike. Its main attraction, however, is its stories. Their styles are elegant and unpredictable. Herein, ants live out the dreams of people, and human souls are bound to the fates of willow trees. While there are elements of evil present in some stories, they are often presented as part of the natural order, making them even more mysterious and affecting.

Boasting an attractive, embossed slipcase and dazzling interior art, *The Kwaidan Collection* is a beautiful compendium of Japanese supernatural tales.

PETER DABBENE (May / June 2023)

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