

Chapter 1 : Toddler-hunting & other stories (edition) | Open Library

Toddler-Hunting & Other Stories introduces to American readers a startlingly original voice. Winner of most of Japan's top literary prizes for fiction, Taeko Kono writes with a disquieting and strange beauty, always foregrounding what Choice called "the great power of serious, indeed shocking events."

The stories were often open-ended, which are really the best kind of stories; and they were propelled by ordinary details made to seem odd and entirely new, as if the outcome of the story was dictated. The stories in *Toddler-Hunting and Other Stories* were originally written in the 1950s and concerned women and their unstable or uncertain marital relationships. The stories were often open-ended, which are really the best kind of stories; and they were propelled by ordinary details made to seem odd and entirely new, as if the outcome of the story was dictated by the way the characters think through these once-familiar details. In each story, the main character was either a middle-aged female an obsessive, or on the way to becoming one or a couple in a strained relationship. The writer was deconstructing the story through strange deployment of metaphors and symbols circling around a tragic event waiting in the wings or already hinted at even before the story started. The intelligence of these post-war "shock" stories derived from their ability to transgress the boundaries of narrative convention, to attain unpredictability in the mechanical relationship between the sexes. We were somehow given a restrained ending when we were perhaps expecting something earth-shattering, or we were treated to something nauseating when we were bracing for a tame plot development. The uncertain feeling was perhaps summarized by this paradoxical passage from the first story, "Night Journey": That "particular mood" hovered in every story in *Toddler-Hunting*, a mood that either implicated the reader as the guilty party or rendered him hapless victim of the story. A seemingly harmless mood that suddenly turned into a murky plot, twisting along a maze of menace and sick psyche. Her unsparing gaze penetrates the depths of human nature; and she sets forth what she finds there with absolute precision. The blurbs came from the back page of this collection of ten short stories, all translated by Lucy North except for the last, translated by Lucy Lower, and published in by New Directions. However, with only a single collection of hers appearing so far in English, she was certainly under-translated and under-appreciated. Her transgressive short stories, superior in many respects to the ones put out by Murakami Haruki, deserve to be assimilated and widely talked about. They are fleeting stories that leave lasting aftereffects, very like the afterglow of sparklers in "Full Tide": The children set about lighting their sparklers. She had to be careful: Then the darkness suddenly would be ablaze, and transfixed, she would be in another world. The sparkler would make fiery, spitting sounds, fizzling away before her eyes. In those few seconds, though, she knew the sparkler was living for all it was worth - fiercely, keenly, in a beautiful world of color and light. Even when everything became dark and still once more, the girl would be sure that she still saw something there, glowing and fizzling away.

Chapter 2 : Toddler-Hunting and Other Stories: Taeko Kono, Lucy North: blog.quintoapp.com: Books

The stories in Toddler-Hunting and Other Stories were originally written in the s and concerned women and their unstable or uncertain marital relationships. KÅ•no Taeko's genre of writing was classified as transgressive fiction owing to her use of elements of sadomasochism and aberrant behavior.

January 1, Paquita Maria Sanchez Before the review, I wanted to drop in a quick question at the risk of perhaps sounding like some sort of prude: Like part of the suffering Christians say Jesus endured for the sins of all mankind, whipped. Like, draw buckets of blood and leave ghastly scars, whipped. Like, medieval torture, punishment that no human rights embracing nation would ever still have on the books, whipped. So many ladies i Before the review, I wanted to drop in a quick question at the risk of perhaps sounding like some sort of prude: So many ladies in these stories just loooove that shit. I am seriously disturbed by this book, and that is saying a lot. Not "roughly" as in "approximately," but "roughly" as in "violently. The pain of identifying as if you are some sort of wildly astray helium balloon caught in a draft, deflating, wanting nothing more than to just be popped and put to rest. Cultures clashing, the assertive female emerging as some sort of "norm" right along with her confusion and vertigo at having obtained such a standing, wanting nothing more, at times, than to be smacked back down by the comfort of tradition, even if it leaves an actual bruise or draws real, red blood. Oh, and there is much blood and bruising in this book. I should stick my finger up my nose, because I know nothing. Each story creates a world as rich as any novel The lives of women are explored, their relationships, the violence of their longing, the way pain and pleasure mix. A thing of horror can be a thing of beauty. Ban this filth, I want it too much. January 1, Alan read two of these last night, excellent. Limpid, seemingly conventional but with a real subversive bite Still reading on though, this is good stuff, but with caution now and wondering what else will come up. I just need to go and lie down in a corner with another book: Had to revise my star rating up from 4 to 5 because these stories have got under my skin and I keep thinking about them. Out of the blue will come a whip used on the willing woman. More disturbing is the toddler fixation hinted at - no, spelled out - in the title. There is no actual physical or sexual abuse but there is in one story a fantasy sequence which was very disturbing. These things just are, and we have to live with the darkness inside. Strongly recommended but beware can cause nausea. Thanks Jessica for pointing out another great collection. January 1, Rise The stories in Toddler-Hunting and Other Stories were originally written in the s and concerned women and their unstable or uncertain marital relationships. The stories were often open-ended, which are really the best kind of stories; and they were propelled by ordinary details made to seem odd and entirely new, as if the outcome of the story was dictated The stories in Toddler-Hunting and Other Stories were originally written in the s and concerned women and their unstable or uncertain marital relationships. The stories were often open-ended, which are really the best kind of stories; and they were propelled by ordinary details made to seem odd and entirely new, as if the outcome of the story was dictated by the way the characters think through these once-familiar details. In each story, the main character was either a middle-aged female an obsessive, or on the way to becoming one or a couple in a strained relationship. The writer was deconstructing the story through strange deployment of metaphors and symbols circling around a tragic event waiting in the wings or already hinted at even before the story started. The intelligence of these post-war "shock" stories derived from their ability to transgress the boundaries of narrative convention, to attain unpredictability in the mechanical relationship between the sexes. We were somehow given a restrained ending when we were perhaps expecting something earth-shattering, or we were treated to something nauseating when we were bracing for a tame plot development. The uncertain feeling was perhaps summarized by this paradoxical passage from the first story, "Night Journey": That "particular mood" hovered in every story in Toddler-Hunting, a mood that either implicated the reader as the guilty party or rendered him hapless victim of the story. A seemingly harmless mood that suddenly turned into a murky plot, twisting along a maze of menace and sick psyche. Her unsparing gaze penetrates the depths of human nature; and she sets forth what she finds there with absolute precision. The blurbs came from the back page of this collection of ten short stories, all translated by Lucy North except for the last, translated by Lucy Lower , and published in by

New Directions. However, with only a single collection of hers appearing so far in English, she was certainly under-translated and under-appreciated. Her transgressive short stories, superior in many respects to the ones put out by Murakami Haruki, deserve to be assimilated and widely talked about. They are fleeting stories that leave lasting aftereffects, very like the afterglow of sparklers in "Full Tide": The children set about lighting their sparklers. She had to be careful: Then the darkness suddenly would be ablaze, and transfixed, she would be in another world. The sparkler would make fiery, spitting sounds, fizzling away before her eyes. In those few seconds, though, she knew the sparkler was living for all it was worth - fiercely, keenly, in a beautiful world of color and light. Even when everything became dark and still once more, the girl would be sure that she still saw something there, glowing and fizzling away. January 1, Katie Excited to have discovered these stories. Will someone please translate more of her work, please? January 1, Ha Nguyen As expected from a Japanese female writer, delicate and its disturbingness is somehow stronger thanks to being halfway instead of full-blown. These stories which feature women who, for different reasons, are out at sea, whether by abandonment or unfulfillment. Though the stories often contain similar elements, their vocabularies express different forms of alienation. How this ties in to a perverse enjoyment of little boys and hatred of little girls another theme I am not entirely sure for now. But there always seems to be a cry never realized in these stories, a dream deferred So many bits and pieces seemed important to me as I passed them by while reading on the train with some jackass playing his shitty music out loud. Something like, oh, I dunno, a trembling which would cause a hairline fracture in the moment which was to be revealed as a massive fissure the next. Despite all of the references to sadomasochist thoughts and practice, all in all it is the monotony which is overwhelming in these stories. When we think of miracles, we tend to think of the unimaginable. Yet, what if the true miracle is the monotony everyday life? January 1, Brittany This book was the subject matter for the best paper I ever wrote in college, or perhaps EVER, on the appeal of sadomasochism to Japanese women Either way, it is a very interesting read, not only for Toddler-Hunting the short story where all of this takes place , but the other stories as well, in which various forms of sexual sadism or masochism are used in quite interesting, and yet normative ways. January 1, Nikmaack Creepy and weird literary stories. Sometimes satisfying, sometimes not. They often contain a sadomasochistic aspect. These details are offered up with a casualness that is chilling. The title story itself is particularly powerful and weird. While some stories just left me baffled -- those cultural differences perhaps, getting in the way -- other stories were disturbing for their cold madness. Only the last story seemed dull. The rest were all deamy little nightmares. I would read more by this au Creepy and weird literary stories. I would read more by this author. January 1, Marie Kos This is my favorite short story collection of all time. Kono Taeko is a ghastly, frank poet, though her amazingly translated prose is not the most lyrical. The writing has a haunting poise; it drapes around you like a black net of a shawl. The subject matter carves out and exposes dark female desires in chunks, leavi This is my favorite short story collection of all time. The subject matter carves out and exposes dark female desires in chunks, leaving gaping wounds that Her work should be slapped with "trigger warnings" for people who believe in such things. Pedophilia, masochism, ultra violence, all here. I believe utterly in the goodness of humanity. The topics of these stories are grim, but Kono writes about them with candor, ferocity, and a healthy dose of fear and anxiety. This is a great collection of stories for a female horror enthusiast. Kono accomplishes so much with each story in an impressively small page count. Six out of five stars. I actually tossed this book in the trash because I was so disturbed by it but fetched it out for the sake of Mrs. Jividen, my eighth grade English teacher, who admonished us to give books a chance to absorb us into their narrative world. I bought it at a thrift store because it was Japanese fiction, and therefore, I figured, must be interesting, and it was interesting all right, in the way seeing half dead animals on the road is interesting. It occurs to me that the very things about this book that I find repugnant may be things that would recommend the book to people who tastes run in that direction. However, I get a sense of how dead the characters are since they seem to need to experience or inflict pain in order to feel that they are alive. Back in the trash it goes. January 1, George Ilsley Savoured this collection over several weeks. Each story has some additional twist or complication that is completely unexpected. The back cover uses the word "transgressive" and some well-known Japaneses writers male of course describe Kono as the best female writer. I think Kono the writer deserves higher praise. January 1,

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Tracy Robertson While a few of the things in here were a little too disturbing, I have to give the book 5 stars overall for the character building and the plots. For the characters jumping off the pages and making me feel like I knew them well, and was right there watching them. Hard to put down! All the references to rough sex come to seem cliché after a while. January 1, Hesper You know that Joker quote?

Chapter 3 : Book Review: Toddler-Hunting and Other Stories by Taeko KÅ•no | Mboten

Toddler Hunting and Other Stories Fiction by Kono Taeko Winner of Japan's top literary prizes (the Akutagawa, the Tanizaki, the Noma, and the Yomiuri), Taeko Kono writes with a strange beauty: her tales are pinpricked with disquieting scenes, her characters all teetering on self-dissolution, especially in the context of their intimate relationships.

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Auto Suggestions are available once you type at least 3 letters. Use up arrow (for mozilla firefox browser alt+up arrow) and down arrow (for mozilla firefox browser alt+down arrow) to review and enter to select.

Chapter 6 : Toddler-hunting & other stories (eBook,) [blog.quintoapp.com]

Written By: Taeko Kono, Lucy North In the title story, the protagonist loathes young girls, but compulsively buys expensive clothes for little boys so that she can watch them dress and undress.

Chapter 7 : 'Toddler-Hunting and Other Stories' is feminist fiction at its most disturbing | The Japan Times

Toddler-Hunting & Other Stories by Kono Taeko, Lucy North Toddler-Hunting and Other Stories. Reviews of Toddler-Hunting & Other Stories Write [PDF] The War In Paraguay: With A Historical Sketch Of The Country And Its People And Notes Upon.

Chapter 8 : Toddler Hunting: And Other Stories | Heights Libraries

"Toddler-Hunting and Other Stories" is a superb collection of short stories written in the s by one of the most significant feminist writers of postwar Japan.

Chapter 9 : Taeko Kono - Wikipedia

Get this from a library! Toddler-hunting & other stories. [Taeko KÅ•no; Lucy North; Lucy Lower] -- Ten tales whose protagonists are modern Japanese women in today's urban setting, usually sexually unsatisfied and with a penchant for the sado-masochistic.