This monograph offers a compelling exploration of Japanese detective fiction as a lens through which to examine the nation's complex encounter with Western modernity. Through close readings of selected works by pioneering Japanese crime writers, this work demonstrates how detective fiction transcends the boundaries of popular literature to become a rich archive of social, cultural, and ideological transformation. Situating these texts at the intersection of modernity, urbanisation, gender, and shifting cultural identities, the study challenges Eurocentric narratives of literary modernism and foregrounds Japan's distinctive negotiation with the modern world. Combining literary analysis with historical and cultural inquiry, the book illuminates the detective genre as a vital record of changing social realities and intellectual currents in twentieth-century Japan. Thought-provoking and meticulously researched, this volume will be of interest to scholars and students of Japanese literature, comparative literature, postcolonial studies, modernism, cultural studies, and the history of crime fiction.

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MYSTERY AND MODERNITY Debottama Ghosh

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Detective Fiction in Twentieth-Century Japan

1920s–1960s

