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Damn--J-Lit Binge #11: The Box Man by Kobo Abe. This is another masterpiece from Kobo Abe. In its sheer metafictional ingenuity, it probably surpasses Nabokov's Lolita, Danielewski's House of Leaves, and other tricksters of modernism. Damn.

[The Box Man by Kōbō Abe — Goodreads](#)

Kobo Abe, the internationally acclaimed author of Woman in the Dunes, combines wildly imaginative fantasies and naturalistic prose to create narratives reminiscent of the work of Kafka and Beckett. In this eerie and evocative masterpiece, the nameless protagonist gives up his identity and the trappings of a normal life to live in a large cardboard box he wears over his head.

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Kobo Abe, the internationally acclaimed author of *Woman in the Dunes*, combines wildly imaginative fantasies and naturalistic prose to create narratives reminiscent of the work of Kafka and Beckett. In this eerie and evocative masterpiece, the nameless protagonist gives up his identity and the trappings of a normal life to live in a large cardboard box he wears over his head.

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• *The Box Man* by Kōbō Abe, translated by E Dale Saunders, is published by Penguin Modern Classics (£9.99). To order a copy go to guardianbookshop.com. Delivery charges may apply

~~The Ruined Map, Secret Rendezvous and The Box Man by Kōbō ...~~

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~~The Box Man eBook by Kobo Abe — 9780307813695 | Rakuten ...~~

by Kobo Abe □ RELEASE DATE: Dec. 1, 1974 Who is that social drop-out withdrawn inside an old refrigerator carton converted into a metaphysical tortoise shell? It begins when the anonymous protagonist uses a rifle to get rid of that strangely disturbing Box Man camped outside his window before he creeps off into the Tokyo night and finds himself pursued by a nurse and her doctor-keeper with his rifle.

~~THE BOX MAN | Kirkus Reviews~~

Kōbō Abe, pen name of Kimifusa Abe, was a Japanese writer, playwright, musician, photographer and inventor. Abe has been often compared to Franz Kafka and Alberto Moravia for his modernist sensibilities and his surreal, often nightmarish explorations of individuals in contemporary society.

~~Kōbō Abe — Wikipedia~~

Kōbō Abe (阿部 公房 Abe Kōbō), pseudonym of Kimifusa Abe, was a Japanese writer, playwright, photographer, and inventor. He was the son of a doctor and studied medicine at Tokyo University. He never practised however, giving it up to join a literary group that aimed to apply surrealist techniques to Marxist ideology.

~~Kōbō Abe (Author of The Woman in the Dunes)~~

Like many of Kobo Abe's works, The Box Man is a Kafkaesque work (in fact, the writer is often considered Japan's answer to Franz Kafka), but this novel is only loosely Kafkaesque. It is also a novel inspired by socialist ideals, anarchistic dreams, and surrealism.

~~Kobo Abe: 3 Must Read Surreal Novels | Books and Bae~~

Kobo Abe was born in Tokyo in 1924, grew up in Manchuria, and returned to Japan in his early twenties. In 1948 he received a medical degree from Tokyo Imperial University, but he never practiced medicine. Before his death in 1993, Abe was considered his country's foremost living novelist, and was also widely known as a dramatist.

~~The Box Man by Kobo Abe, Paperback | Barnes & Noble®~~

Kōbō Abe's The Box Man is an original and bizarrely fascinating Kafkaesque fable about the nature of identity and the place of man in society. Come ready to talk about the book. The Box Man is also available using the Internet Archives', National Emergency Library. The title may be checked out for 14 days.

~~Book Club: World Literature, The Box Man by Kōbō Abe | San ...~~

The Box Man ...Man , avant-garde satiric novel by Abe Kōbō , published in Japanese in 1973 as Hako otoko . A bizarre commentary on contemporary society, The Box Man concerns a man who relinquishes normal life to live in a "waterproof room," a cardboard box that he wears on his back.

~~Abe Kōbō | Japanese author | Britannica~~

The main danger for the character lies in the possibility of his meeting another "box man." Part of the narrative involves intercourse between a true box man and a fake box man, suggesting the literary device of doubling and splitting. As Abe himself said in discussing the novel, "Being no one means at the same time that one can be anyone."

~~Analysis of Kōbō Abe's Novels | Literary Theory and Criticism~~

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Kobo Abe was born in Tokyo in 1924, grew up in Manchuria, and returned to Japan in his early twenties. Before his death in 1993, Abe was considered his country's foremost living novelist. His novels have earned many literary awards and prizes, and have all been bestsellers in Japan.

~~The Box Man : Kobo Abe : 9780241454596~~

Kobo Abe Juliet Winters Carpenter (Translator) In anticipation of a coming nuclear apocalypse, Mole has converted a huge underground quarry into an 'ark'. While searching for his crew, he falls for the tricks of a wily insect dealer and his friends.

~~Kobo Abe — Penguin Books~~

Kobo Abe, the internationally acclaimed author of *Woman in the Dunes*, combines wildly imaginative fantasies and naturalistic prose to create narratives reminiscent of the work of Kafka and...

Kobo Abe, the internationally acclaimed author of *Woman in the Dunes*, combines wildly imaginative fantasies and naturalistic prose to create narratives reminiscent of the work of Kafka and Beckett. In this eerie and evocative masterpiece, the nameless protagonist gives up his identity and the trappings of a normal life to live in a large cardboard box he wears over his head. Wandering the streets of Tokyo and scribbling madly on the interior walls of his box, he describes the world outside as he sees or perhaps imagines it, a tenuous reality that seems to include a mysterious rifleman determined to shoot him, a seductive young nurse, and a doctor who wants to become a box man himself. *The Box Man* is a marvel of sheer originality and a bizarrely fascinating fable about the very nature of identity. Translated from the Japanese by E. Dale Saunders.

'A spellbinder from beginning to end, an edgy masterpiece' Chicago Sun Times 'This is the record of a box man'. Anonymous and alone, the box man peeps out of his cut-out eyeholes and watches the world from

behind his four cardboard walls. At first repulsed by the strange phenomenon of people who have decided to abandon society and live in boxes on the Tokyo streets, he has found himself drawn into the anonymity and voyeurism of their life. As he becomes obsessed with spying on a young nurse, his identity slips away, in Kobo Abe's eerie, disorienting and seductive masterpiece of unease. 'Funny, sad and destructive ... an invention with its own crazy pull, it gnaws at the reader ... a stunning addition to the literature of eccentricity' The New York Times

Of all the great Japanese novelists, Kobo Abe was indubitably the most versatile. With *The Ruined Map*, he crafted a mesmerizing literary crime novel that combines the narrative suspense of Chandler with the psychological depth of Dostoevsky. Mr. Nemuro, a respected salesman, disappeared over half a year ago, but only now does his alluring yet alcoholic wife hire a private eye. The nameless detective has but two clues: a photo and a matchbook. With these he embarks upon an ever more puzzling pursuit that leads him into the depths of Tokyo's dangerous underworld, where he begins to lose the boundaries of his own identity. Surreal, fast-paced, and hauntingly dreamlike, Abe's masterly novel delves into the unknowable mysteries of the human mind. Translated from the Japanese by E. Dale Saunders.

As a jump-shoe salesman searches for his wife in a sinister underground hospital, his fascination with the hospital's strange inhabitants, including a girl whose bones are gradually liquefying, causes him to barely notice his wife's unspeakable circumstances. Reprint. 10,000 first printing.

An ordinary man finds himself caught in the power of bizarre and unpredictable forces when he discovers one morning at breakfast that radish sprouts have begun to grow out of his shins

Horribly disfigured in an accidental lab explosion and rejected by and alienated from the rest of society, a scientist develops a perfect mask, one that provides a new identity that even his wife cannot penetrate. Reprint.

In the aftermath of World War II, Kuki Kyūzō, a Japanese youth raised in the puppet state of Manchuria, struggles to return home to Japan. What follows is a wild journey involving drugs, smuggling, chases, and capture. Kyūzō finally makes his way to the waters off Japan but finds himself unable to disembark. His nation remains inaccessible to him, and now he questions its very existence. *Beasts Head for Home* is an acute novel of identity, belonging, and the vagaries of human behavior from an exceptional modern Japanese author.

Abe Kobo (1924–1993) was one of Japan's greatest postwar writers, widely recognized for his imaginative science fiction and plays of the absurd. However, he also wrote theoretical criticism for which he is lesser known, merging literary, historical, and philosophical perspectives into keen reflections on the nature of creativity, the evolution of the human species, and an impressive range of other subjects. Abe Kobo tackled contemporary social issues and literary theory with the depth and facility of a visionary thinker. Featuring twelve essays from his prolific career—including "Poetry and Poets (Consciousness and the Unconscious)," written in 1944, and "The Frontier Within, Part II," written in 1969—this anthology introduces English-speaking readers to Abe Kobo as critic and intellectual for the first time. Demonstrating the importance of his theoretical work to a broader understanding of his fiction—and a richer portrait of Japan's postwar imagination—Richard F. Calichman provides an incisive introduction to Abe Kobo's achievements and situates his essays historically and intellectually.

A collection of works including such stories as "An Irrelevant Death," "The Dream Soldier," "Dendrocalia," "The Special Envoy," and "The Crime of S. Karma"

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