

The Rain Player: Unveiling an Ancient Ennin Mystery in 20th Century Japan



In the year 2001, a captivating movie entitled "The Rain Player" emerged on cinema screens, captivating audiences worldwide with its intricate plot and profound exploration of Japanese history and culture. Based on the

acclaimed novel by Japanese author Gishū Nakayama, the film delves into the enigmatic disappearance of a renowned 9th-century Japanese monk named Ennin, known for his arduous pilgrimage to China and his pioneering contributions to Buddhism in Japan.



The Rain Player: An Ennin Mystery #20 by Ben Stevens

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3177 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 12 pages

Lending : Enabled



The Ennin Enigma

Ennin, also known as Jikaku Daishi, was a legendary figure in Japanese history. Born in 794 AD, he embarked on a perilous journey to Tang dynasty China in 838 AD, seeking to deepen his understanding of Buddhism and acquire sacred texts. His travels, meticulously chronicled in his diary, provide invaluable insights into the cultural and religious exchanges between Japan and China during the Heian period.

Upon his return to Japan in 847 AD, Ennin established Enryaku-ji, one of the most important Buddhist temples in the country. However, his life took an enigmatic turn in 864 AD. According to historical records, he vanished without a trace while on a pilgrimage to Mount Hiei, a sacred mountain near Kyoto. His disappearance has remained a tantalizing mystery for centuries.



The Rain Player's Story

"The Rain Player" picks up the threads of Ennin's story in the 20th century. The film follows Shinichiro Takeda, a young Japanese journalist, who stumbles upon a forgotten diary that may hold clues to Ennin's fate. As Takeda delves deeper into his investigation, he finds himself drawn into a labyrinth of ancient secrets and enigmatic characters.

Along the way, Takeda encounters a mysterious antique dealer named Kojima, who possesses a rare scroll that appears to have belonged to Ennin. As Takeda and Kojima decipher the cryptic writings on the scroll, they uncover a hidden message that leads them to a remote island in the Seto Inland Sea.



Unraveling the Mystery

On the island, Takeda and Kojima discover an ancient temple that has been abandoned for centuries. Within the temple, they find a hidden chamber containing a mummified body preserved in an ancient ritual. Takeda's keen deduction leads him to believe that the body is none other than Ennin himself, who had gone into a state of suspended animation during his pilgrimage to Mount Hiei.

Through the use of modern technology, Takeda and Kojima are able to revive Ennin from his centuries-long slumber. The elderly monk, now known as the Rain Player, emerges from the temple with an appearance unchanged since the 9th century.



Cultural and Historical Significance

The Rain Player's reappearance has a profound impact on the world. His return bridges the gap between the past and present, offering invaluable insights into Japan's rich history and Buddhist traditions. The film explores themes of cultural heritage, the passage of time, and the enduring legacy of the past.

Moreover, the Rain Player's presence sparks a resurgence of interest in Ennin's teachings and his contributions to Japanese Buddhism. Through his interactions with modern-day Japan, he shares his wisdom and perspectives, inspiring a new generation to appreciate the value of tradition and the interconnectedness of all beings.

Legacy of The Rain Player

"The Rain Player" has left an enduring legacy as a thought-provoking and enchanting film that transcends the boundaries of time and culture. Its exploration of Japanese history, Buddhism, and the enduring human spirit has resonated with audiences worldwide. The film has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades, including the Golden Bear for Best Film at the 51st Berlin International Film Festival.

The Rain Player continues to captivate and inspire viewers to this day. Its story serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of human history and the transformative power of rediscovering the past. As the film concludes, the Rain Player, standing amidst the bustling streets of modern Japan, embodies the enduring legacy of Japan's ancient traditions and the timeless wisdom that transcends the passage of time.

"The Rain Player" stands as a testament to the power of storytelling to transport audiences to other worlds and explore the depths of human experience. Through its captivating narrative, intricate characters, and exploration of Japan's rich history and culture, the film has woven a spell that continues to enchant viewers. The Rain Player's journey from ancient Japan to the 20th century is a reminder that the past is never truly lost and that its lessons can guide us in the present and inspire us in the future.



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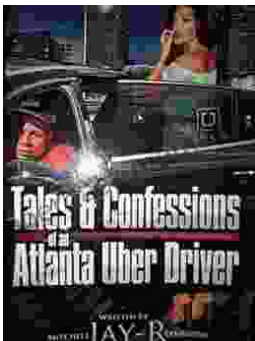
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