



# All She Was Worth

By Miyuki Miyabe

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Here is a deftly written thriller that is also a "deep and moody" (NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW) journey through the dark side of Japan's consumer-crazed society. Ordinary people plunge into insurmountable personal debt and fall prey to dangerous webs of underground creditors-so dangerous, in fact, that murder may be the only way out. A beautiful young woman vanishes, and the detective quickly finds she is not whom she claims to be. Is she a victim, a killer, or both? In a country that tracks its citizens at every turn, how can two women claim the same identity and then disappear without a trace?

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## All She Was Worth By Miyuki Miyabe Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #607628 in Books
- Published on: 1999-05-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .68" w x 5.50" l, .66 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 296 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Amazon.com Review**

Recovering from a leg injury, a 43-year-old Tokyo police inspector named Shunsuke Honma realizes how out of touch he has become when a relative asks him to make some private inquiries into the disappearance of his fiancée. While he wasn't paying attention, it seems that everyone in the country but Honma has been caught up in a consumer feeding frenzy--going into heavy debt and declaring bankruptcy at a snowballing rate. This engrossing story of the search for happiness through shopping marks the first appearance in English of one of Japan's leading writers.

### **From Publishers Weekly**

The horror in this beautifully fashioned tale of stolen identity lies not in the cold-blooded crimes but in the motive?a desperate hunger for consumer goods. Shunsuke Honma, a widowed 43-year-old Tokyo police inspector with a 10-year-old son, is on disability leave. The boring cycle of idleness punctuated by painful physical therapy sessions comes to a halt when a nephew asks for Honma's help in finding his missing fiancée, whom he knows as Shoko Sekine. As Honma's search intensifies, he realizes the fiancée had actually assumed Sekine's identity and possibly killed her. For the American reader, the jewel in this enormously compelling novel is the portrait of working- and middle-class Japanese getting caught in a cycle of astronomical personal debt in order to enjoy the good life. Also eye-opening is Japan's elaborate registry system for keeping track of its citizenry. In order to become Shoko Sekine, the impostor had to perpetrate an ingeniously elaborate series of hoaxes and lies. Honma is tenacious, methodical, an attentive listener with a retentive memory and the ability to connect disparate bits of information. The trail takes him back through the real Sekine's history and into the life of the other woman, whose family ran afoul of vicious loan sharks. Miyabe drives her complex plot with spare prose, combining expert pacing and psychological nuance to ultimately haunting effect. (Feb.) FYI: All She Was worth was named Best Novel of the year and Best Mystery for 1992 in Japan.

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### **From Library Journal**

This popular Japanese writer's work, translated admirably well, offers finely detailed narrative, Tokyo backdrops, and an approachable police detective. Shunsuke Honma, the 42-year-old investigator, looks for a young woman while recuperating from a gunshot wound. Honma soon discovers that a relative's missing fiancée had more to hide than a bankruptcy in her past: she assumed another woman's identity and may have killed to do so. Honma struggles with this unofficial job, with his young son, and with self-doubt?all of which add subtle complication and psychological depth to a masterful plot. Super work from an award-winning author.

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Betty Lavery:**

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated it for a

while is reading. That's why, by reading a publication your ability to survive enhance then having chance to remain than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading any book, we give you this kind of All She Was Worth book as beginning and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

**Nancy Farley:**

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read any book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day every day to reading a guide. The book All She Was Worth it is rather good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book provides high quality.

**Scott Marin:**

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**Steven Cordell:**

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