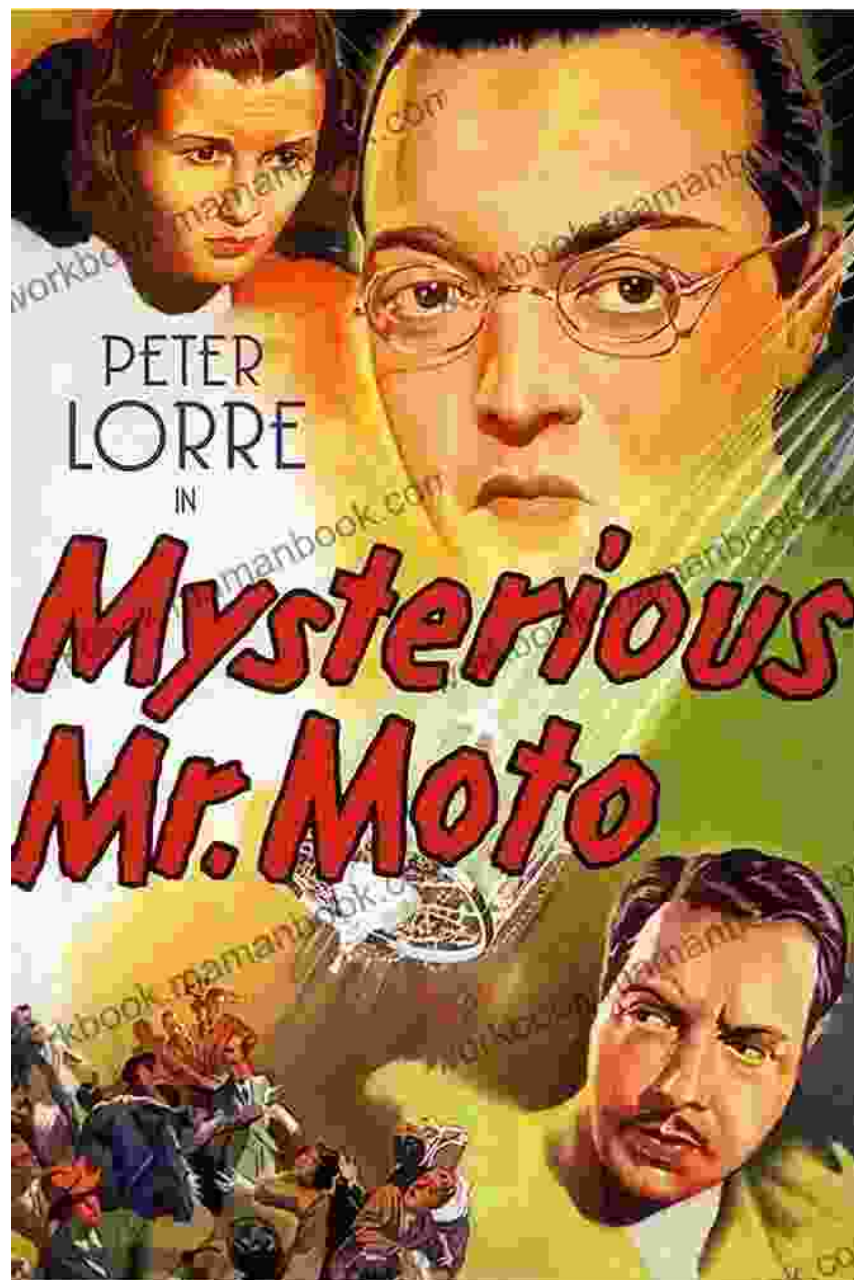


Mr. Moto Is So Sorry: Unveiling the Enigmatic Mr. Moto Novels



Mr. Moto Is So Sorry (The Mr. Moto Novels)

by John P. Marquand

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 3349 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 205 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Mr. Moto Is So Sorry, first published in 1935, introduced the world to a unique and unforgettable character: Mr. Moto, the enigmatic Japanese detective created by John P. Marquand. Over the next two decades, Marquand penned seven more Mr. Moto novels, each one a thrilling adventure that explored complex themes of cultural identity, stereotypes, and the challenges of living in a world on the brink of war.

The Enigmatic Mr. Moto

Mr. Moto is a Japanese gentleman of noble birth and exceptional intellect. He is a master of disguise, a skilled martial artist, and a brilliant detective. However, beneath his calm and collected exterior lies a deep sense of sorrow and regret. He is haunted by the memories of his past and the knowledge of the injustices that have been committed against his people.

Moto's character is a complex and nuanced portrayal of a Japanese man living in a time of great turmoil. He is neither a stereotypical villain nor a noble hero. He is simply a man trying to do what is right in a world that is often unjust.

Cultural Stereotypes and Orientalism

The Mr. Moto novels were written during a time when Western stereotypes of Asia and its people were prevalent. Marquand's portrayal of Moto was groundbreaking in that it challenged these stereotypes and presented a more authentic and human representation of a Japanese character. However, the novels also reflect the limitations of Marquand's own understanding of Japanese culture and contain some elements of orientalism.

For example, Moto is often depicted as being inscrutable and mysterious. He speaks in a broken and stilted English, which reinforces the idea of the "exotic" Orient. Additionally, Moto's loyalty to Japan is sometimes portrayed as being more important than his loyalty to the United States, even when he knows that Japan's actions are wrong.

Despite these limitations, the Mr. Moto novels remain an important contribution to the mystery genre. They provide a fascinating glimpse into a different culture and challenge readers to question their own preconceived notions about race and identity.

The Impact of World War II

The Mr. Moto novels were greatly impacted by the outbreak of World War II. In the early novels, Moto is depicted as a loyal and patriotic Japanese citizen. However, as the war progresses, he becomes increasingly disillusioned with Japan's actions. In the final novel, *Think Fast, Mr. Moto* (1940), Moto resigns from his position as a Japanese intelligence officer and chooses to fight against his own country.

Marquand's decision to have Moto turn against Japan was a bold and controversial one. At the time, anti-Japanese sentiment was running high in

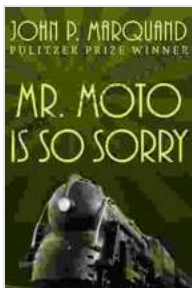
the United States, and many people were suspicious of Japanese-Americans. By creating a character who was both Japanese and anti-war, Marquand was challenging the prevailing prejudice of the time.

Japanese-American Identity

The Mr. Moto novels also explore the complex issue of Japanese-American identity. Moto is a Japanese man who has lived in the United States for many years. He is fluent in English, has adopted American customs, and has even served in the U.S. Army. However, he is still often seen as an outsider by both 日本人 and Americans.

Moto's experiences reflect the challenges faced by many Japanese-Americans during the early 20th century. They were often caught between two cultures, feeling like they didn't belong to either one. Moto's story is a reminder of the importance of tolerance and understanding, and the need to embrace diversity.

The Mr. Moto novels are a fascinating and complex exploration of cultural identity, stereotypes, and the challenges of living in a world on the brink of war. Mr. Moto is an unforgettable character, and his story is still relevant today. The novels are a reminder that we should never judge a person based on their race or origin, and that we should all strive to be more tolerant and understanding of others.



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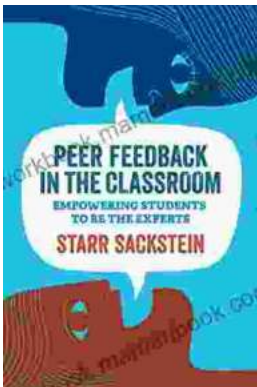
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