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The Sailor Who Fell from  
Grace with the Sea

Yukio Mishima

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## About the Author

Yukio Mishima was born into a samurai family and imbued with the code of complete control over mind and body, and loyalty to the Emperor – the same code that produced the austerity and self-sacrifice of Zen. He wrote countless short stories and thirty-three plays, in some of which he acted. Several films have been made from his novels, including *The Sound of Waves*; *Enjo*, which was based on *The Temple of the Golden Pavilion*; and *The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea*. Among his other works are the novels *Confessions of a Mask* and *Thirst for Love* and the short-story collections *Death in Midsummer* and *Acts of Worship*.

After Mishima conceived the idea of *The Sea of Fertility* tetralogy in 1964, he frequently said he would die when it was completed. On November 25th, 1970, the day he completed *The Decay of the Angel*, the last novel of the cycle, Mishima committed *seppuka* (ritual suicide) at the age of 45.

ALSO BY YUKIO MISHIMA

The Sea of Fertility, a cycle of four novels

*Spring Snow*

*Runaway Horses*

*The Temple of Dawn*

*The Decay of the Angel*

*Confessions of a Mask*

*Thirst for Love*

*Forbidden Colours*

*After the Banquet*

*The Temple of the Golden Pavilion*

*Five Modern No Plays*

*The Sound of Waves*

*Death in Midsummer*

*Acts of Worship*

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# THE SAILOR WHO FELL FROM GRACE WITH THE SEA

TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE BY  
John Nathan

Yukio Mishima

VINTAGE BOOKS  
London

**PART ONE**

***SUMMER***