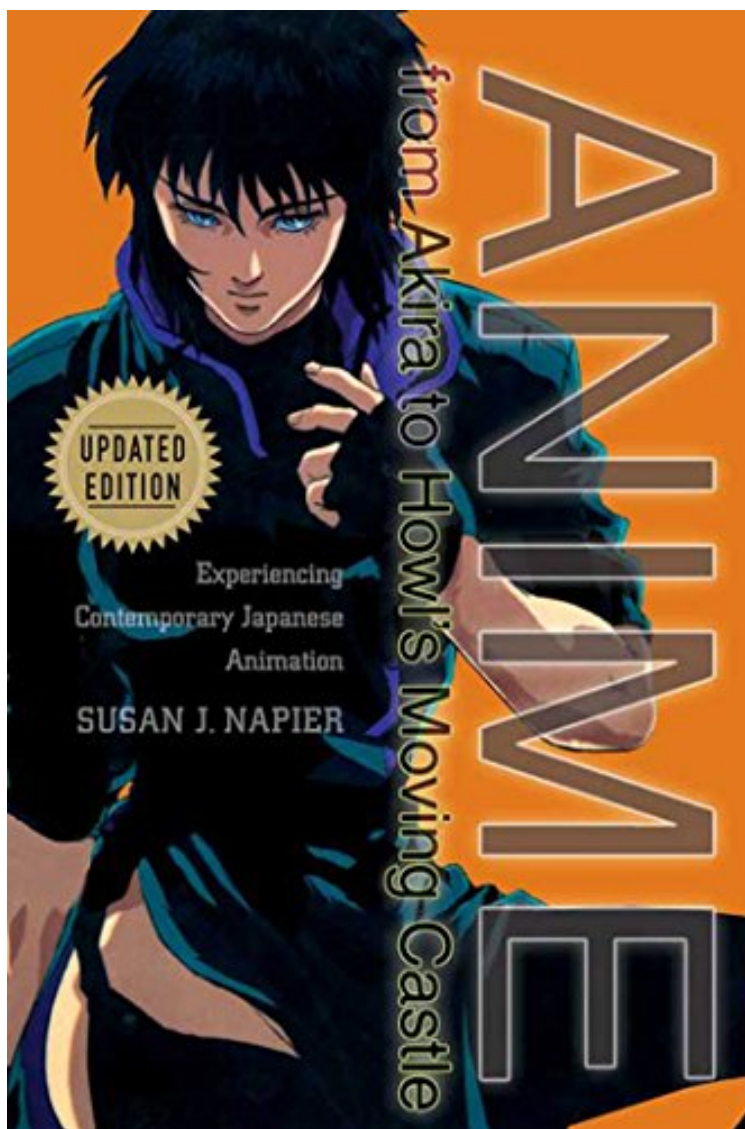


## Anime from Akira to Howl's Moving Castle: Experiencing Contemporary Japanese Animation

*Susan J. Napier*

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**Susan J. Napier : Anime from Akira to Howl's Moving Castle: Experiencing Contemporary Japanese Animation** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Anime from Akira to Howl's Moving Castle: Experiencing Contemporary Japanese Animation*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. good delivery, good condition, not bad. By Josh I bought this years ago for a college class I was taking, but I do remember the book being in solid condition when I bought it, and the book itself being a interesting read. I find myself skimming through it from time to time. 0 of 1 people found the

following review helpful. Five StarsBy Emily L.Arrived in good time and as described.11 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Better than reviews indicateBy E. BaumanThe problem with long-time otaku is they are fans beyond the scope of any introductory book on this topic and thus dismiss that which doesn't meet their standards for reasons that those new to the topic will neither be aware of nor care about. This book is a fine effort for the purposes of the author's goal -- explaining the topic in overview and then with detail using selected works. Its imperfections are simply no worse than any other general book on anime and it does offer a reasonable academic discussion on a very large subject with many facets.One-star reviews are rarely justified, and this is the case here. Expecting this book to be either encyclopedic or current is pointless. And the choices of films to analyze as examples is arbitrary at best. The complaints here about the author's choices are no more valid than those from fans who invariably write to entertainment magazines complaining about films and actors/directors being left out of best or top 25/50 lists. Such quibbling is best ignored given the wide range of tastes in anime, differences of opinion and limitations of space.The emphasis on sex is hardly out of place given the unique, frequent and varied manner in which it appears in an art form (animation) that usually has little or no such content outside of anime. The author attempts to bring all of this into perspective, and the repetitive use of certain words is hardly a valid issue given the circumstances. Her extensive notes and quotes make it obvious this book isn't simply a fabricated matrix of interpretation by her. One might not agree, but to dismiss her work as wrong is itself quite incorrect.All in all, this is a fine read for anyone curious about and interested in anime. Should it be the only book one reads on the topic? Probably not, but that doesn't mean there's not significant value in it. Ignore the negative reviews and enjoy this work for what it brings to the subject. If you want reviews of an extensive list of anime films and tv series, there are other books that do this -- with the caveat that reviews are personal opinion and not the last word or fact no matter how experienced the reviewer is.

This new edition of the groundbreaking popular book is a must-have for both seasoned and new fans of anime. Japanese animation is more popular than ever following the 2002 Academy Award given to Hayao Miyazaki's *Spirited Away*. It confirmed that anime is more than just children's cartoons, often portraying important social and cultural themes. With new chapters on *Spirited Away* and other recent releases, including *Howl's Moving Castle*--Miyazaki's latest hit film, already breaking records in Japan--this edition will be the authoritative source on anime for an exploding market of viewers who want to know more.

ldquo;...A thoughtful and carefully researched account.rdquo; ?The New York Timesldquo;Napier draws a rather complete picture of Japanese animation as a legitimate art form, and uses anime as a key to the culture that creates it.rdquo; ?Entertainment Weeklyldquo;This worthy addition to the burgeoning literature on Japanese popular culture will stand the test of time.rdquo; ?Choiceeldquo;This is a riveting and inspiring book, one that I have thoroughly enjoyed reading and from which I have learned a great deal. As a source of concrete information about Japanese animation it is invaluable.rdquo; ?Sharon Kinsella, Cambridge Universityldquo;Informative, well-written, and yet entertaining...both generous and critically insightful.rdquo; ?Sharalyn Orbaugh, University of British ColumbiaAbout the AuthorSusan J. Napier is Professor of Japanese Literature and Culture at the University of Texas, Austin.