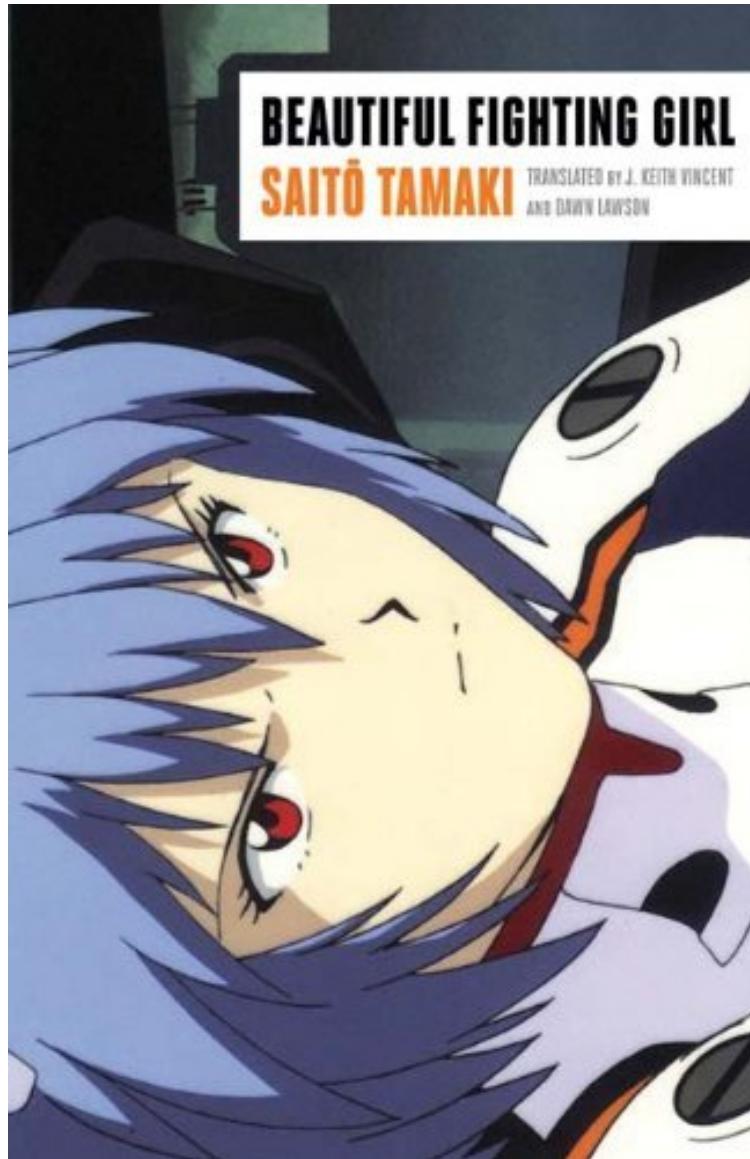


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## Beautiful Fighting Girl

*Saito Tamaki*

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**Saito Tamaki : Beautiful Fighting Girl** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beautiful Fighting Girl:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. perhaps uneven, but that's forgivable considering the ground being broken here  
By Jim Pyke  
If you are someone who, like me, is interested in thinking seriously about anime and manga, and the culture of the most intense consumers of anime and manga (the so-called "otaku")...If you, like me, enjoy reading academic writing that crosses over into readability by an audience that is not exclusively academic...If you, like me, are interested in thinking thoughts you haven't thought before, and seeing anime and manga from perspectives

you haven't imagined before.....then you are very likely to enjoy this book as much as I have.I suggest reading some of the translator's introduction available via the "look inside" page for this book. If that piques your interest, you'll probably enjoy the whole thing. The author's insights are impressive, and the translation feels very clean (as opposed to "messy" like some translated texts in which the translators can't seem to decide how to fully convey the meaning of the original, so they annotate the text into a muddy mess) and is highly readable, even if the ideas sometimes take effort to fully grasp.I'd like to read more books like this one!6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Dense, but interestingBy Brian WhitePart of a growing body of literature on otaku and Japanese popular culture that has been translated into English, SAITO Tamaki's "Beautiful Fighting Girl" is unique in its psychoanalytic approach to its titular subject. Unlike many sociological or literary studies of otaku culture, Saito uses the figure of the "beautiful fighting girl" (sentou bishoujo) as a touchstone from which to analyze the mindset behind much of Japanese popular culture. With the help of Jacques Lacan and Sigmund Freud, Saito attempts to tackle the psychosexual underpinnings of this phenomenon.As a literary studies specialist, I found some of his argumentation to be very dense (something I feel about much psychoanalytic theory) and difficult to comprehend, but obviously this will vary with each reader. As far as the intended audience is concerned, it is definitely a book for academics, unlike its more generalist counterparts in "New Academism" such as AZUMA Hiroki's *Otaku: Japan's Database Animals*. Saito's detour through American "outsider art" was, in my opinion, unnecessary, but it was a nice nod toward the global implications of the study.In short, the translation "Beautiful Fighting Girl" is a welcome new perspective in the realm of English-language literature on Japanese popular culture, and if you are able to grasp its sometimes tangled psychoanalytic language, your time reading will be well spent.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A book that really grew on meBy AzazelloSo I used to have a review here that was quite negative, complaining that the book's structure was a mess, the comparisons with American/western examples overgeneralized and underargued, and the author's refusal to engage with feminist approaches to manga and anime very disappointing. After reading it a couple more times and discussing it with others, however, I've come to appreciate the book much more. The main argument - that the use of fictional characters as a way to satisfy sexual desire is in its own way socially adaptive - at first appeared rather ludicrous (no doubt in part due to my own initial biases against it). But over time I've come to appreciate Saito's perspective as quite provocative and insightful as a way to understand and (even more importantly) take seriously a certain 'otaku' approach to desire. I've even come to appreciate the Henry Darger chapter and what it adds to the book, a section that totally didn't seem to fit the first time around. Keith Vincent gives some important clues in his excellent introduction, but for this reader at least this book took some time to reveal itself.

From Cutie Honey and Sailor Moon to Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind, the worlds of Japanese anime and manga teem with prepubescent girls toting deadly weapons. Sometimes overtly sexual, always intensely cute, the beautiful fighting girl has been both hailed as a feminist icon and condemned as a symptom of the objectification of young women in Japanese society.