

## Document Citation

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## **MY LOVE HAS BEEN BURNING**

This rediscovered Mizoguchi film is astounding today for the prophetic and amazingly militant feminism of its subject. The story is set in the 1880s, a crucial period in the modernization of Japan, when both liberalism and feminism were nascent under the Meiji Restoration. With the blunt universality characteristic of this great director, the conflicts of the era are embodied in the struggles of a determined young woman (the incandescent Kinuyo Tanaka) who leaves home to become involved in the political turmoil of Tokyo. As the story progresses, the heroine rejects the bourgeois entrapments of "respectability" and romance, and the film ends with a hauntingly simple image of two women forming a mystical bond that both includes and transcends politics.

"A must for anyone remotely interested in the career of one of the great directors of the sound era."

– Vincent Canby, *The New York Times*.

Japan, 1949. 84 mins. B&W.

Rental: 175

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1995

*(All films in Japanese with English subtitles)*