

Why Don't You Do Your Best?  
なぜベストを<sup>っ</sup>尽くさないのか

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January 28, 2013

# Preface

“Begin at the beginning,” the King said  
gravely, “and go on till you come to the end:  
then stop.”

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— Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

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## Japanese Text

This document will contain some Japanese characters - either in the footnotes or translation notes that are provided. If you have been able to open the document, then your PDF reader should be able to display them without any problems. However, if you find that there are sections of garbled characters in place of Japanese characters, then you might need to install Asian character support for your reader.

Most kanji<sup>1</sup> characters in this translation (mostly proper nouns) have ruby text<sup>2</sup> placed above them to aid the reader in the correct phonetic reading of the characters. Most kanji have more than one reading, as such they are separated (in Japanese) into three categories:

- Konyomi
- Onyomi
- Nanori

Dependant on the contextual meaning of the kanji, different readings of the character are used for the ruby text.

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<sup>1</sup>Kanji are Chinese characters used in written Japanese. The translation of Kanji is “Chinese Characters”

<sup>2</sup>Ruby Text is the text placed near to a character to aid in phonetic pronunciation. More information on Ruby Text can be found here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruby\\_text](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruby_text)

# A Note From The Translator

“I’m a man of taste, a man of finesse, but I must get something off my chest. I’ll abide by the laws of your watering holes, but I won’t stand in the rain with a pack of ruddy proles ”

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— Mr. B the Gentleman Rhymer, Let Me Smoke My Pipe

## Reasons for Translating This Book

Throughout the TRICK series (including the TV Show, the Specials and the Films), Ueda Jiro - the male lead - constantly refers to books that he has written. These books are based on his experiences solving paranormal crimes, along with Yamada Naoko - the female lead. The books (“Why don’t you do your best?”, “Come over, Spiritual Phenomena”, etc.) are used by supporting characters to point out how brave and smart Ueda is. The joke being that Ueda isn’t, really, either. Sure, he’s a physics professor at 東大<sup>3</sup>, but he often confuses basic magic tricks for paranormal phenomena. He is also very easily scared out of his wits.

When I found out that the books referenced in the show had been published, as a series of self-help style books, I decided that I would need to read them, as they would provide more insight into the characters. A cursory web-search showed me that none of the books had been translated, so I decided to order a copy of one of the books. I chose “Naze Besto” because it seemed to be used for more jokes in the series than “Donto Koi”.

## Who Are All These People?

Trick is a Japanese comedy starring 阿部寛<sup>あべひろし</sup>(Abe Hiroshi) and 仲間由紀恵<sup>なかま ゆきえ</sup>(Nakama Yukie) as 上田次郎<sup>うえだ じろう</sup>(Ueda Jiro) and 山田奈緒子<sup>やまだ なおこ</sup>(Yamada Naoko), respectively.

Ueda is a professor of Physics at Tokyo University and uses logic and physics as a basis for his understanding of the world and the people within it. Whereas Naoko is a down on her luck, and (mostly) out of work magician, who uses intuition and her magical training to see through most illusions.

Ueda is contacted by people to help them to understand or debunk paranormal phenomena (for instance: curses, good luck charms, psychic abilities and miraculous feats of strength). He usually chickens out when he witnesses said phenomena and implores Naoko to help him explain what’s happening.

Naoko is insulted by many of the characters due to her small breasts. She usually fights back with a jibe about Ueda’s gigantic penis, or the fact that the wig that 矢部謙三<sup>やべけんぞう</sup>(Yabe Kenzo) wears is has fallen off or looks obvious or out of place.

Yabe Kenzo is an inept Assistant Detective, sent from Tokyo to investigate the crimes that are related to the phenomena that Ueda and Naoko are trying to debunk. Yabe (also the Japanese word for “stop”) is played by 生瀬勝久<sup>なま せ かつ ひせ</sup>(Namase Katsuhise).

Naoko’s Mother, 山田さと子<sup>やまだ さとこ</sup>(Yamada Satori) is a calligrapher who teaches the children of her home town about the power of the written word. She has an often hinted at but never explained, psychic connection with Naoko, and will often find a way of helping her daughter when she is in trouble. She is played by 野際陽子<sup>の ぎわ よしこ</sup>(Nogiwa Yoko).

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<sup>3</sup>東京大学<sup>とうきょうだいがく</sup> is often abbreviated to Tō Dai

More information about Trick can be found at the D-Addicts wiki page: [http://wiki.d-addicts.com/](http://wiki.d-addicts.com/Trick)  
Trick

# Translation

なぜベストを尽くさないのか？

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— 上田次郎, TRICK

# Welcome!<sup>1</sup>

These 13 characters<sup>2</sup> will change your life.

I find the existence of belief in witchcraft and sorcery to be a false faith.

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<sup>1</sup>Ueda writes in a very informal manner. The original opening is はじめに, which is quite informal

<sup>2</sup>In the original Japanese, なぜベストを尽くさないのか is 13 characters and this is what Ueda is referring to

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