



# The Waiting Years by Fumiko Enchi

By Saskia Guckenburg

GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 28 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.3in. x 0.8in. Seminar paper from the year 2011 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1, 7, University of Mannheim, course: The New Woman in American Short Fiction, language: English, abstract: Fumiko Enchi has worked on Onnazaka for eight years, which has been translated to English under the title of The Waiting Years. The novelist-critic Takami Jun describes it as a rare jewel among masterpieces of modern literature. The novel reveals how the family system of Meiji Japan (1868-1912) leads to an exploitation of the women and treats various problems which the protagonist Tomo Shirakawa faces. The role of the concubines provides a profound double structure. The novel is a fictional transformation of Enchi's grandmother Ines' painful life who endured a polygynous marriage with a man from a samurai family. The protagonists' suffering and pain expresses Enchi's own protest against the system and the maltreatment of women. First published in pieces in journals, it came out in a book form in 1957. During that time women were resisting the government to reintroduce the traditional Japanese family system. Enchi published several critical novels in the...



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