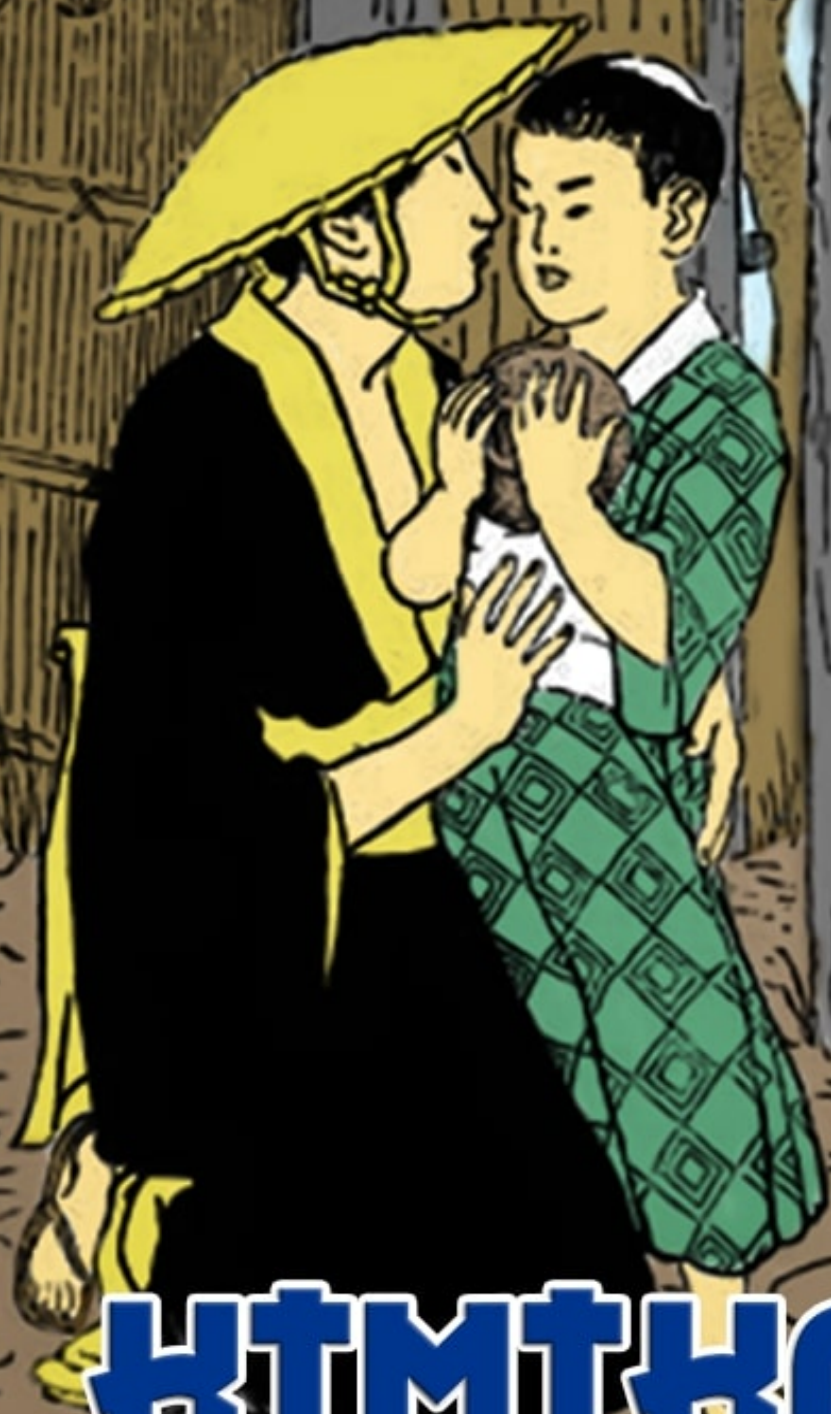


**CLASSICS TO GO**



**HIMIHO**  
**AND OTHER JAPANESE SKETCHES**  
**LAFCADIO HEARN**

# **Kimiko**

**And Other Japanese Sketches**

**Lafcadio Hearn**



The Evergreen Series

# KIMIKO

Wasuraruru Mi naran to omō Kokoro koso Wasuré nu yori mo  
Omoi nari-keré.[\[1\]](#)

## I

The name is on a paper-lantern at the entrance of a house in the Street of the Geisha.

Seen at night the street is one of the queerest in the world. It is narrow as a gangway; and the dark shining wood-work of the house-fronts, all tightly closed,—each having a tiny sliding door with paper-panes that look just like frosted glass,—makes you think of first-class passenger-cabins. Really the buildings are several stories high; but you do not observe this at once—especially if there be no moon—because only the lower stories are illuminated up to their awnings, above which all is darkness. The illumination is made by lamps behind the narrow paper-paned doors, and by the paper-lanterns hanging outside—one at every door. You look down the street between two lines of these lanterns—lines converging far-off into one motionless bar of yellow light. Some of the lanterns are egg-shaped, some cylindrical; others four-sided or six-sided; and Japanese characters are beautifully written upon them. The street is very quiet—silent as a display of cabinet-work in some great exhibition after closing-time. This is because the inmates are mostly away—attending banquets and other festivities. Their life is of the night.