Naomi: By Junichiro Tanizaki

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I read Naomi, by Junichiro Tanizaki. This book is about a 31 year old man named Juji. His life has been good, simple, and easy. He has a job, enough money, a house, and a loving family. The only thing that’s missing is love. Until one day at a café his eyes find Naomi, who’s a beautiful Western looking (although Japanese) 15 year old girl with nothing coming for her. The instant Joji sees her he falls in love. They get to know each other, and after a year they buy a small house and move in together. At first they try to just be friends, but for Joji, and somewhat Naomi, that isn’t enough. Soon they get married, and that’s when it begins. Naomi starts to become greedy, ordering tons of food, clothes, shoes, and making Joji pay for her English and music lessons. Joji is too love struck and taken by her beauty to stop it. He doesn’t know whether or not their love is real or if Naomi is just using him to get brand new things. Not only that, Naomi has “guy” friends, who aren’t really friends. As their life together un-winds, Joji uncovers deadly secrets that compromise their relationship and his life. Will he be able to pull away from Naomi and her mesmerizing beauty? Or will his life cease to be under her control?

On a scale of 1-10 I would rate this book a 7.5. It would be higher, except I absolutely HATED the ending. It infuriated me extremely. Of course I can’t say how it ends, in case you are interested in reading it. The book itself was very fun to read, and there were points when I laid it down because I couldn’t read on I was so angry. That’s the author’s job though, right? The beginning of this book was a little difficult for me to start out on, but I kept reading and the further I read on the more I liked it. What I liked about this book was how it described with words how difficult love can be, and how you can get caught in its grasp, unable to escape. Also, though I hate to admit it, I liked how it made it angry because that meant that it was worth my time. What I didn’t like was how the main character was completely clueless. He was a good guy, just clueless. And Naomi, well…there isn’t much to like about her. I more so recommend this to a girl, because it is about love, desire, greed, and longing. It doesn’t have action, adventure, or anything like that which is why I wouldn’t recommend it to a guy. However, this book is written from a guy’s perspective, and some girls find that difficult so that is the only reason I would recommend this to a guy. I think that a guy could relate to Joji more than a girl and understand better. However a girl could understand about the romance of the book better. Hope you enjoyed this summary and will read the book (even though the ending IS aggravating).