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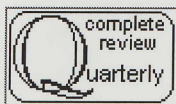
Trying to meet all your
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Twinkle Twinkle

by
Ekuni Kaori

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Title: *Twinkle Twinkle*

Author: Ekuni Kaori

Genre: Novel

Written: 1991 (Eng. 2003)

Length: 213 pages

Original in: Japanese

Availability: [Twinkle Twinkle - US](#)

[Twinkle Twinkle - UK](#)

[Twinkle Twinkle - Canada](#)

- Translated by Emi Shimokawa
- Japanese title: *Kira kira hikaru*
- Made into the movie *Kira kira hikaru* (1992), directed by Joji (George) Matsuoka, starring Hiroko Yakushimaru, Etsushi Toyokawa, and Michitaka Tsutsui. (Not to be confused with the later TV series of the same name)

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Our Assessment:

B : restrained story of an unusual love triangle



See [our review](#) for fuller assessment.



The *complete review's* Review:

Twinkle Twinkle is narrated in alternating chapters by the Kishidas, Mutsuki and Shoko. They are practically newlyweds when the book begins. Mutsuki is a doctor, while Shoko does translation work from Italian.

As Shoko says early on: "explaining our marriage is no simple matter". In a society where appearances are of great significance neither of them is really an ideal marriage-partner: Mutsuki is emphatically homosexual (and still has a boyfriend, Kon), while Shoko isn't entirely mentally stable (and teeters close to alcoholism). Their in-laws were not aware of these respective flaws in their children's mates when the marriage was arranged, and are naturally troubled when they are revealed.

The marriage is one of convenience, in a way -- it's important for the doctor's career, for example -- but there's also a genuine sort of affection between the new husband and wife, as they find a certain comfort with each other. Outside pressures, however, weigh on them -- for example, the parents' questions about when offspring can be expected. As Shoko says:

My carefree, convenient marriage was as fun as playing at house, but it came with a price after all.

Shoko accepts Mutsuki's relationship with Kon, but it also puts a strain on the marriage, especially when Mutsuki tries to set up Shoko with a boyfriend of her own. Shoko's inquiries into artificial insemination also complicate matters.

The marriage isn't built on very sound footing, and looks to break down under parental and societal pressures and personal weaknesses, but ultimately the Kishidas do come up with a solution of sorts. Neither seemed to have high expectations for it -- with Shoko saying:

It was fine to have marriages like ours. You didn't expect much, you didn't wish for much. You didn't lose anything, there was nothing to be afraid of.

But they come to see that there's more to it than that -- and to figure out how to hold onto it.



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