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Title: Outlet
Author: Randy Taguchi
Translator: Glynne Walley
Publisher and/or Distributor: Vertical, Inc.
Publisher Website: www.vertical-inc.com
Pages: 272
ISBN: 1-932234-04-7
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Reader: Bob Spear
Rating: 4 Hearts

This is an adult-level Japanese metaphysical novel about a young freelance journalist covering the financial sector. She finds herself thrust into a whole new world of perceptions and understandings when her older brother's body is found decomposing in an apartment from starving to death. Seeking help from a past professor/lover, the young lady, Yuki, also comes in contact with other old acquaintances from her student days. A lady anthropologist begins watching over Yuki, believing she is a new kind of Shaman designed for the needs of our modern, high-tech society. Meanwhile, Yuki begins questioning her own sanity as her dead brother keeps visually appearing to her, and she keeps smelling his decomposing body on those people with whom she comes in contact who are slated to soon die.

Vertical brings us a **delightfully edgy** novel from the island of Japan. The reader is shown microcosmic snapshots of modern Japanese culture along with interesting speculations that some of us need to "plug into, literally, the master computer's chosen "outlets". The author does a great job of explaining esoteric spirituality concepts in high-tech terminologies better suited for modern society. We rated this novel four hearts.

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