

Summary

Preface

Author's introduction and historical context for Edo-period Japan.

Introduction – The World of Tsuneno and Edo

– Setting the scene: Japan in the early 19th century, life in Edo (modern-day Tokyo), and the unique story of Tsuneno, a woman who defied convention.

Chapter 1: From Countryside to the Great City

– Tsuneno's early life in a rural temple family in Echigo Province and her decision to leave for Edo.

Chapter 2: Marriages and Early Struggles for Independence

– Her multiple marriages, societal expectations of women, and growing desire for personal autonomy.

Chapter 3: Work, Social Networks, and Urban Challenges

– Tsuneno's efforts to survive in Edo: employment, friendships, and the hardships of lower-class urban life.

Chapter 4: Edo in Transformation

– A portrait of the city's structure, population, culture, and gender roles during the late Tokugawa era.

Chapter 5: Reform, Western Contact, and the Changing City.

– The political and cultural changes shaping Edo society before the Meiji Restoration.

Chapter 6: Tsuneno's Final Years and Legacy

– Her later life, resilience amid hardship, and how her story illuminates the everyday realities of women in early modern Japan.

Conclusion