



Lonely Castle in the Mirror

by Mizuki Tsujimura

Review by Juliette



Fantasy

What originally made you interested in reading/watching/playing this media? How did you hear about it or come across it?

I saw a video on TikTok of someone reviewing this book and recommending it, so I looked up the general overview and thought it was interesting. So, I decided to buy it and read it and I ended up loving it.

Is it part of a series? If so, what series is it?

No, it is not a part of a series.

What is this media about? Make sure to give enough interesting details without spoiling too much!

This novel takes place in Japan, and follows a junior high student named Kokoro, who decided to stop going to school after continuous bullying by another student at school. One day, the mirror in her bedroom begins to glow, and when she steps through, Kokoro is transported through the mirror to a castle. In the castle, she encounters six other students, who like her, have stopped going to school for reasons of their own. The castle is guarded by a mysterious young girl in a wolf mask who tells them that there is a Wishing Key hidden somewhere in the castle.

If the key is found, one wish can be made and it will come true. However, there are certain rules that cannot be broken, or else they will have to face consequences. This story follows the characters as they slowly begin to unlock the secrets of the castle, and eventually, each of their own secrets.

Who are the main characters? What makes them interesting or unique?

The main character is a junior high student named Kokoro, and the other major characters are Rion, Masamune, Ureshino, Fuka, Aki, and Subaru. What makes them interesting is that they are all students who have not been to school for a while, all for different reasons and backstories.

Does this media remind you of anything else you've read/watched/played?

Since this book is Japanese literature, it reminds me of another Japanese novel called *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi.

What type of person might enjoy this media? For example, this book is for someone who likes Percy Jackson, someone who enjoys getting scared, someone who likes a challenge, etc.

This book is for someone who enjoys being moved, likes fantasy, and can relate to or sympathize with the mental health topics that are touched upon in this story, including social anxiety and the pressure faced by students.

Did you like this media? Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?

I really enjoyed reading this book and would recommend it to others. While it is a pretty easy read, it touches upon deep topics with a magical spin, which made it both moving and entertaining. There were also a couple of plot twists that I did not expect, but they connected the whole story together really well.

Do you like the cover? Does it convey what the media is about?

The cover features one of the characters of the book, so it does partly convey what the book is about.

Do you have any last thoughts about this media that you would like to include in your review?

This book was actually also made into an animated movie, so you can watch the movie after you read it, or vice versa!