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Abe Kobo (1924–1993) was one of Japan's greatest postwar writers, widely recognized for his imaginative science fiction and plays of the absurd. However, he also wrote theoretical criticism for which he is lesser known, merging literary, historical, and philosophical perspectives into keen reflections on the nature of creativity, the evolution of the human species, and an impressive range of other subjects.

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The Frontier Within: Essays by Abe Kobo (Weatherhead Books on Asia) By K?b? Abe Bibliography

- Rank: #3115270 in Books
- Published on: 2013-06-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 6.50" w x .75" l, 1.00 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Richard F. Calichman is professor of Japanese studies at the City College of New York, CUNY. His Columbia University Press books include *Overcoming Modernity: Cultural Identity in Wartime Japan* (2008); *Contemporary Japanese Thought* (2005); and *What is Modernity? Writings of Takeuchi Yoshimi* (2005).

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