

13322

**'The
Japanese
Stieg Larsson'**

The Times

**KEIGO
HIGASHINO**

**SALVATION
OF A
SAINT**

**BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
JAPANESE THRILLER PHENOMENON
THE DEVOTION OF SUSPECT X**

LITTLE, BROWN

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SALVATION OF A SAINT

Keigo Higashino

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WITH ELYE J. ALEXANDER

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Little, Brown

ONE

The pansies in the planter had flowered – a few small, bright blooms. The dry soil didn't seem to have dimmed the colour of the petals. *Not particularly showy flowers, but they're tough*, Ayane thought, gazing out onto the veranda through the sliding glass door. *I'll have to water them when I get a chance.*

'Have you heard a single word I've said?' Yoshitaka asked.

She turned around and smiled faintly. 'Yes, everything. How could I not?'

'You might try answering more quickly, then.' Yoshitaka, lounging on the sofa, uncrossed and recrossed his long legs. In his frequent workouts, he took pains not to put on too much lower-body muscle – nothing that would prevent him from wearing the slim-cut trousers he preferred.

'I suppose my mind must've wandered.'

'Oh? That's not like you.' Her husband raised a single sculpted eyebrow.