



Shogakukan

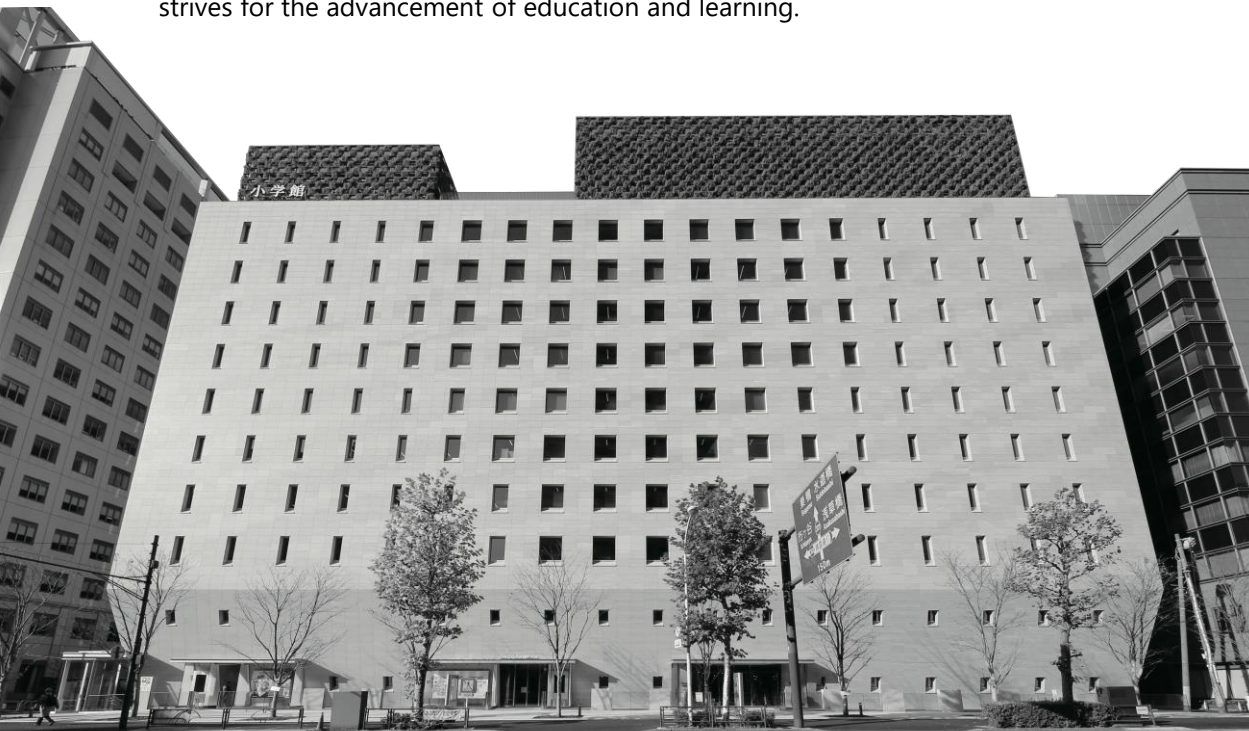
FICTION Rights Guide

Fall 2023

SHOGAKUKAN

*From the past 100 years to the next 100 years.
Inspiring the power to create new ideas.*

Shogakukan was founded in 1922 as a publisher of educational magazines for preschool and elementary school students. Having celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, Shogakukan has now established itself as a leading publisher of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, art, photography, travel guides, dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference books. Renowned for its long tradition and expertise in the publishing industry, Shogakukan also produces a wide range of other content across print, digital and audio—comic books for children and adults, educational and entertainment magazines and websites and apps. The wealth of original content is further promoted through investment in film and TV productions, third-party adaptations, as well as extended reality (XR) projects. Honoring outstanding works with the Shogakukan Children, Comics and Non-Fiction Awards, Shogakukan aims to actively foster diversity, inclusion and accessibility, and strives for the advancement of education and learning.



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Company Name: SHOGAKUKAN Inc.
Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan
Founded: August 8, 1922
President: Nobuhiro Oga
Capital: 147 million yen
Sales: 108.4 billion yen (2022 fiscal year)
Employees: 696 (as of March 2023)

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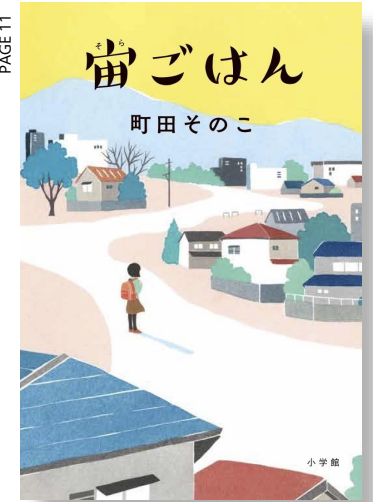
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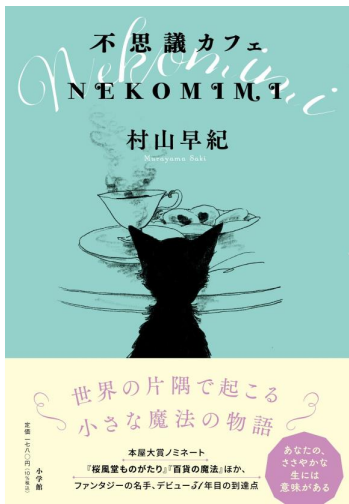
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TRADE FICTION



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 Pages: 250 pages
 Printing: Black & White
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[English sample translation available on request.](#)

The Cat Who Saved You

Kimi o mamoro to suru neko no hanashi / 君を守ろうとする猫の話

Sosuke Natsukawa

The long-awaited sequel to *The Cat Who Saved Books*, the international sensation that sold over 125,000 copies in Japan and was translated in 39 languages

A chronic asthma condition prevents 13-year-old Nanami from joining sports or hanging out with her friends after school. However, she loves reading and is happy to spend most of her free time in the school library, cocooned by stacks of books in all directions. One day, Nanami notices that, despite the library remaining as deserted as ever, her favorite *Arsène Lupin*, *Gentleman Burglar*, *Anne of Green Gables* and other classic works of literature are gradually disappearing from the shelves. When she alerts the library staff, no one seems to take her seriously. Her concerns are brushed off as a product of her imagination. Just as Nanami is about to go back to her reading, she spots between bookshelves a suspicious man in a gray suit. She follows the man hoping to find out what he is up to, but an asthma attack cuts the chase short and all that is left behind is a mysterious light filtering through the library's familiar passageways. That's when, to the delight of readers all over the world, talking tabby cat Tiger comes once again to the rescue.

Will Nanami and Tiger overcome the challenges of the dangerous adventure ahead? Why are faceless gray soldiers burning books in a stone castle? And what happened to Rintaro, the socially withdrawn hero of the first novel? In the age of book banning, Sosuke Natsukawa urges us not to underestimate the power of great literature and to be prepared to defend our freedom to choose.

Sosuke Natsukawa is a doctor and novelist based in Nagano, Japan. He was born in Osaka Prefecture in 1978 and graduated from Shinshu University School of Medicine. While practicing the medical profession, he made his debut as a writer in 2009 with the multivolume novel *Kamisama no karute* (God's Medical Records), which sold over three million copies in Japan and was adapted into a film. His most famous work, published in English as *The Cat Who Saved Books* (tr. Louise Heal Kawai), was an international bestseller and won several prizes both in Japan and abroad.



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Printing: Black & White

Publication: October 2022

Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)

Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional)

English synopsis and sample translation available on request.

The Stationery Store in Ginza

Ginza "Shihodo" bunboguten / 銀座「四宝堂」文房具店

Kenji Ueda

Miracles of the Namiya General Store meets Before the Coffee Gets Cold

Tucked away down an alley in Tokyo's most exclusive shopping district, stands a three-story stationery store dating back to the early 19th century. "Shihodo" read the golden letters on the glass front door and, despite the old letterpress in the basement, customers setting foot in the store are greeted not by spiderwebs and dust but a composed, awe-inspiring sense of history. The Takarada family has been running Shihodo for generations, skillfully sourcing both from Japan and further afield a wide assortment of notebooks, writing utensils, letter sets, scissors and more. But make no mistake, Shihodo is no ordinary stationery store, just as Ken Takarada, the current owner, is no ordinary clerk. City dwellers wandering the busy streets of Ginza in search of super-efficient, speedy customer service should turn to the nearby department store. At Shihodo, Ken offers nothing but warmth, affability and an in-depth knowledge of every single item he sells.

A thank-you letter from a company employee to the grandmother who raised him as her own child on the day of his first paycheck. A resignation form from the hostess of an elegant club to the manager who dissuaded her from giving up her day job upon graduation. A notebook for the captain and vice-captain of a high-school archery team to exchange notes about day practice. A tin full of postcards handed to a husband on the day of the funeral of the wife he repeatedly betrayed. An invitation to the opening of a new high-end sushi bar from a formerly homeless sushi chef to the man who gifted him his first knife. By attending with care to customers' wishes, Ken unintentionally unravels their troubled hearts and unearths the true feelings behind the stationery items they seek. As posts, images and videos endlessly scrolling on social media lure us into a state of constant distraction and emotional detachment, *The Stationery Store in Ginza* reminds us to look at the simple objects we hold every day in our hands and reflect on how they connect us to our loved ones.

Kenji Ueda is a Japanese novelist known for blending fantasy with the charm of everyday life. Born in Tokyo in 1969, he made his debut as a writer in 2021 with *Teppan* (The Iron Griddle), the revised version of a work he wrote in 2019 for the 1st Japan Delicious Fiction Award.



ISBN: 978-4-09-406409-4
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[English synopsis available on request.](#)

The Regret Ward

Kokai byoto / 後悔病棟

Miu Kakiya

If you could live your life all over again and correct past regrets, would you?

125,000 copies sold in Japan

Rumiko has been treating terminally ill cancer patients for nearly ten years. Although she has already cared for hundreds of patients, she lacks confidence in her skills as a doctor. As an experienced practitioner she is expected to understand how her patients feel, but every time she is in front of a patient she can't help fretting and blurting out something inappropriate. Much more talented doctors and nurses have either left their jobs after having children or changed careers and she is at a loss over whether she should stay. One day, while she is quickly polishing off her lunch on a bench in the hospital's courtyard, she notices in the flowerbeds a shiny object which turns out to be a stethoscope. This apparently unremarkable find marks for Rumiko the beginning of a strange new journey of self-discovery and growth. By placing the stethoscope on her patients' chests, Rumiko can hear their thoughts. The stethoscope also opens a door to the past and gives patients the chance to experience the life that would have been possible had they made different choices.

What if Satoko had not given up on her dream of becoming a great actress like her mother? Keiichi is about to die, so why can't his wife stop talking about money? What if Chitose had not opposed her daughter's marriage and could now hold a grandchild in her arms? What if in junior high Koji had taken the blame for the girl he loved stealing money from a teacher's purse, instead of his best friend Sumio? At various stages of our life, we all get stuck on the thought of what we should have done differently. By exploring the possible alternatives, Miu Kakiya's new book gives us the courage to look back on our lives and understand the importance of owning the choices we made no matter their outcome.

Miu Kakiya was born in Hyogo Prefecture in 1959. Her debut work, *Tatsumaki garu* (Tornado Girl), was published in 2005 and won the Mystery Novel Newcomer Award. Her books include *Rogo no shikin ga arimasen* (I Don't Have Any Money Left in My Retirement Account) adapted into the 2021 homonymous film. *The Regret Ward* is the first installment in a three-volume series, followed by *The Hope Ward* and *The Prison Ward*.



ISBN: 978-4-09-406891-7
 Pages: 224 pages
 Printing: Black & White
 Publication: March 2021

The Candy Shop's Backroom

Kasugai shokudo / かすがい食堂

Keiichi Kakoya

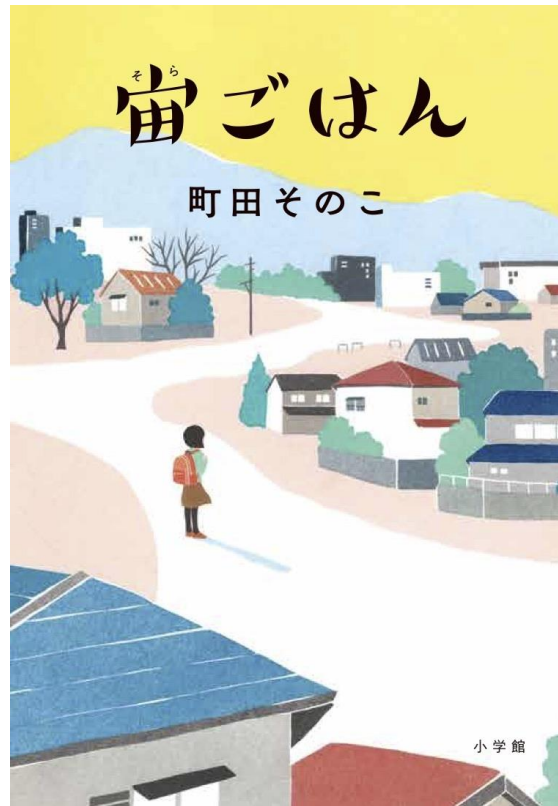
A kids-only cafeteria serving up delicious and heartwarming dishes of meddlesomeness!

Fourth grader Kakeru walks in the Kasugai candy shop at the same time every evening, buys exactly three coins worth of sweets and walks away. Sixth grader Akane is repeatedly seen picking up candies from the floor and popping them into her mouth. Teenage idol, Karen, eats nothing at all after a trivial comment by a TV personality pushed her into anorexia. These are the names and faces 25-year-old Fuko Kasugai catches sight of in and around her grandma's candy shop in downtown Tokyo, as the disappointment of a botched career in the film industry gradually fades away through her interactions with regular customers.

Fuko learns from Kakeru that the three coins worth of sweets he buys every evening function as his dinner and decides to use those three coins to buy ingredients for a meal Kakeru, Fuko and her grandma can enjoy together in the candy shop's backroom. When Kakeru's mother accuses the shop of treating her child as an object of pity and charity, the response is prompt: "This is the Kasugai Cafeteria, an authentic kids-only cafeteria!"

Juicy hamburger steaks, stir-fried vegetables with plenty of rice, a hot pot for all to gather around, *The Candy Shop's Backroom* depicts Japan's *kodomo shokudo*, or children's cafeterias, a fast-growing grassroots movement to fight child poverty and social isolation by offering children low-cost, nutritious meals and a safe place to stay. This is the first installment of a three-volume series. The first volume tackles issues such as bullying, child neglect and poverty, the second focuses on diversity and discrimination, while the third portrays young carers of family members unable to cope on their own due to illness or other problems. A heartwarming series about eating well and connecting with society.

Keiichi Kakoya was born in Osaka in 1972. His debut work *Pachipuro kodo* (The Pachinko Player's Code) was published in 2010 and won the This Mystery Is Excellent! Grand Prize. His many books include *Nen'neko shobo nazotoki* (The Nenneko Mystery Solving Bookstore) about the owner of an antiquarian bookstore solving mysteries in Tokyo's Jimbocho book district.



ISBN: 978-4-09-386645-3
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 Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional), Italian, Korean, Thai
 English synopsis and sample translation available on request.

Sora's Recipes

Sora gohan / 宙ごはん

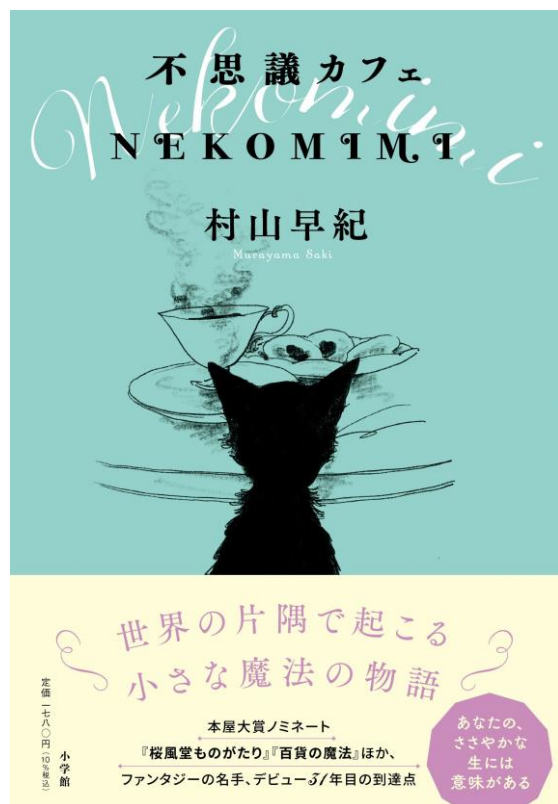
Sonoko Machida

Japan Booksellers' Award winner Sonoko Machida explores the community's crucial role in addressing maternal ambivalence in contemporary Japan

Sora, from the Japanese word for "air," has two mothers, a birth mum and the mother who lovingly raised her until she had to move to Singapore due to her husband's job transfer. Before starting elementary school, Sora could not believe her luck at having two mothers. She did not live with Kano, her birth mum, but they met regularly and she was immensely proud of her beautiful looks, sweet disposition, and talent as an illustrator. However, when the mother who raised her moves abroad and Sora is forced to live with Kano, the situation drastically changes. When it comes to her work, Kano is considered a distinguished illustrator, but she has none of the qualities usually associated with a "normal mother." She is not particularly good at cooking and lacks the confidence and special attention needed to raise a child.

In dire need of help through the chaos of newfound motherhood, Kano decides to rely on old friend Saeki, a chef at a local restaurant. She asks Saeki to cook daily meals for Sora and keep an eye on her. From Saeki Sora learns not only how to cook, but also how pouring all her heart into the making of a dish has the power to heal people's souls. A touching story depicting the rebirth of a dysfunctional family through food.

Sonoko Machida is an award-winning Japanese author, born in 1980 in Fukuoka Prefecture. In 2016, she won the By Women for Women R-18 Literature Prize for her *Kamerun no aoi sakana* (Blue Fish of Cameroon). Her masterpiece *52 herutsu no kujira-tachi* (The 52-Hertz Whales), won the 2021 Japanese Booksellers' Award and became a bestseller with about half a million copies sold in Japan. Her novels *Hoshi o sukuu* (Scooping Up the Stars) and *Sora gohan* (Sora's Recipes) were nominated for the award respectively in 2022 and 2023.



ISBN: 978-4-09-386668-2

Pages: 296 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: January 2023

Agent: Japan Uni Agency (World, excluding Asia)

[English synopsis and sample translation available on request.](#)

The Incredible Nekomimi Café

Fushigi kafe NEKOMIMI / 不思議カフェNEKOMIMI

Saki Murayama

A black cat, a flying car and an itinerant café—the Japanese master of fantasy writing takes us on a magical new adventure

Ritsuko, a woman in her fifties living on her own, leads the most uneventful life one could ever think of. She works every day as diligently as she can and spends her spare time reading books or listening to music while sipping her favorite teas. One day she gets a terrible headache and is told that she is due to pass away that same night. Her life will only be spared if she accepts to shed her human nature and become a wizard.

That's how Ritsuko acquires the magical power to make people's wishes come true. With her black cat Melody by her side, Ritsuko embarks on an exciting new journey that will lead her to open the itinerant Nekomimi Café and meet all sorts of customers over tea and delicious handmade treats. The apparently unremarkable lives of those forgotten in secret corners of the world and in between the interstices of time swirl at the gentle touch of Ritsuko's magic. Interspersed into the book are delicate, black and white line drawings by popular Japanese illustrator, Rei Kurahashi.



Saki Murayama was born in Nagasaki in 1963 and graduated from the Department of Japanese Literature at Kwassui Women's University. A master of fantasy writing, she won the 15th Mainichi Fairy Tale Newcomer Award and the 4th Hatoju Muku Children's Literature Award for her 1993 picture book *Chūsai Eri-chan* (Little Eri). She was twice shortlisted for the Japan Booksellers' Award, in 2017 for *Ofudo monogatari* (The Tale of Ofudo) and in 2018 for *Hyakka no maho* (The Magical Department Store), which was translated into Italian among other languages. In recent years, her series of novels *Konbini Tasogare-do* (The Tasogare Convenience Store) and *Kafe Kamome-tei* (The Kamome Café) set in the fictional city of Kazahaya was received with both critical and popular acclaim.



ISBN: 978-4-09-386696-5
 Pages: 258 pages
 Printing: Black & White
 Publication: October 2023

The Coffee Man

Kissa ojisan / 喫茶おじさん

Hika Harada

The bestselling author of *How to Use 3,000 Yen* explores food's power to redeem people

Despite being fifty-seven years old, Junichiro Matsuo has no job prospects or hobbies of his own. He took early retirement from a major construction company and is currently unemployed. His wife, Akiko, moved into the apartment of their daughter, second-year university student Arisa, and so, for about six months, he has been living on his own.

One day he casually wanders into a coffee shop and orders an egg sandwich with a cup of coffee. He has such a pleasant time that he decides he might as well look for another place to eat. That's when the idea springs to mind. "From now on, this will be my hobby. I will visit coffee shops, especially the classic, old-fashioned ones where no alcohol is served!" Higashi-ginza, Shimbashi, Gakugei Daigaku, Ameyoko, Shibuya, Ikebukuro, Kyoto... "This taste, this taste. Delicious!" Junichiro travels around the country and enjoys the signature coffee flavor of various establishments. But his new hobby hides a bitter past. Despite the objections of his wife, he had used his severance pay to start a coffee shop, which he had to shut down in half a year.

His estranged daughter, his wife, an old colleague and all the other people he meets tell him the same thing. "You don't understand anything." And yet, through old school friends, he starts helping out at a local coffee shop and eventually lands a job as a sales representative at a new company. From January to December, *The Coffee Man* follows a year in the life of Junichiro Matsuo, a middle-aged man who, bouncing from one coffee shop to the other, navigates the challenges of maintaining meaningful human connections in the later part of his life.

Hika Harada was born in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1970. In 2005, she received the NHK Original Radio Drama Grand Prize for *Ritoru purinsesu 2 go* (Little Princess No. 2) and in 2007, the Subaru Literary Prize for *Hajimaranai ti taimu* (The Tea Time That Never Comes). Her 2018 novel *San zen en no tsukaikata* (How to Use 3,000 Yen) has sold over 750,000 copies to date in Japan and has been translated in English among many other languages.



ISBN: 978-4-09-386676-7
 Pages: 400 pages
 Printing: Black & White
 Publication: February 2023
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional)

Piano Man

The Story of *Blue Giant's* Yukinori

Piano man BLUE GIANT *Yukinori no monogatari* / ピアノマン 『BLUE GIANT』雪祈の物語

Eito Nanba

Turn up *Piano Man's* volume and let words drown out all other sounds

A spin-off of the record-breaking, award-winning manga *Blue Giant* about high-school student Dai and his journey to become the greatest saxophone player in the world. This novel focuses on the life of pianist Yukinori, one of the members of Dai's jazz band. As a young boy, Yukinori learned sounds before he even learned words. Music appeared in front of his eyes as a limitless variation of colors. Eventually Yukinori became fascinated with jazz music and dreamt of changing the jazz scene in Japan by performing at the best jazz clubs in the country. However, the night before the band achieved their goal of performing at Japan's number one jazz club, So Blue, Yukinori is run over by a truck at his part-time job at a construction site and loses the use of his right arm. The three members of the band decide they will perform no matter what. Will Yukinori still be able to prove his worth in a solo? Will his perseverance earn him a standing ovation?

Praise for the *Blue Giant* manga

"Ishizuka's page-turner applies the gung-ho spirit of action manga to an unlikely subject: jazz music...Combining optimistic storytelling with intense emotion, this bighearted musical celebration is a delight." *Publishers Weekly*

Eito Nanba is a Japanese manga artist, an editor and a scriptwriter. In close collaboration with Shinichi Ishizuka, he developed both the story for the popular manga *Blue Giant*, which sold more than eleven million copies in Japan, and the script for the homonymous movie. This is his first full-length novel.



ISBN: 978-4-09-386683-5
 Pages: 210 pages
 Printing: Black & White
 Publication: April 2023

Happiness Ending Corporation

Hapinesu endingu kabushiki gaisha / ハピネスエンディング株式会社

Toianna

A normal internship, at a company for not quite so normal funerals!

Second-year university student Tomoya decides to intern at the Happiness Ending Corporation, a company that performs mock funerals for people who want to cut ties with their parents. The nature of the work horrifies Tomoya, who having grown up in a peaceful home struggles to understand the company's motives. However, after witnessing the actual funerals, Tomoya is shocked by what the clients reveal about their past. Excessive parental interference, corporal punishment, sexual abuse, rape...Tomoya soon discovers that these seemingly disturbing funeral services have the power to set people free. The popular Japanese author and columnist with over 70,000 followers on Twitter tackles the sensitive subject of toxic parenting and shows how its effects can be overcome.

"Far preferable to dying or being killed. This novel offers tips for survival." Suzumi Suzuki, Akutagawa Prize nominated novelist

Toianna is a Japanese businesswoman, writer and romance columnist. Born in 1987, after graduating from the Department of Political Science at Keio University, she worked in the marketing department of a multinational consumer goods corporation. She currently runs a content agency providing professional writing services to businesses and individuals. Toianna is the author of a wide range of books, from essays and manuals to novels.

NON-BINARY FICTION



ISBN: 978-4-09-386584-5

Pages: 256 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: October 2020

[English synopsis and sample translation available on request.](#)

[Listen to an extract read by English translator Emily Balistreri, here.](#)

Whiskers and Pads

Hige to napukin / ヒゲとナプキン

Hiroitada Ototake, Fumino Sugiyama

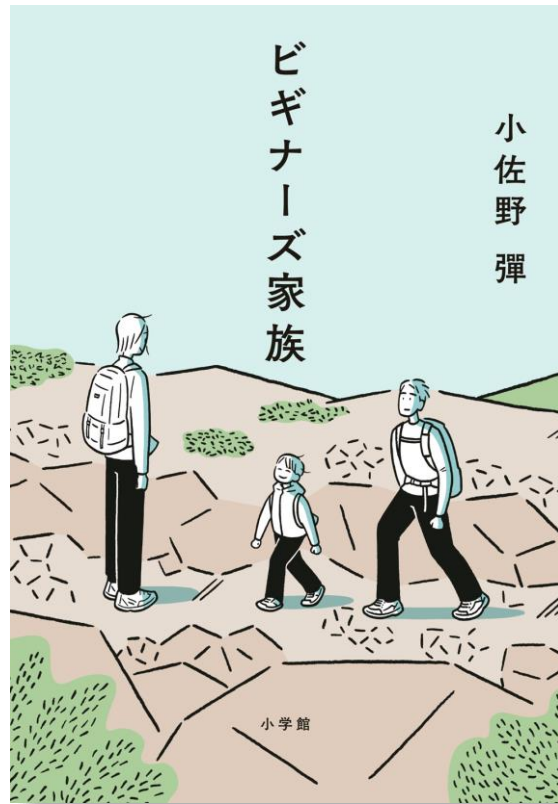
“What are we afraid of? What are we protecting? This is what I want you to rethink.” Ryuchell, TV personality and LGBTQ+ rights advocate

Trans man Itsuki wants to marry his girlfriend, Satoka, but with same-sex marriage not an option in Japan, he would have to change his sex officially for that to be possible. The other issue is that in Japan, trans people face a lot of barriers to changing their sex. For one thing, Itsuki would have to get his uterus removed to be legally recognized as a man. It turns out what Satoka wants most of all is to have children, which is a whole other challenge. Sperm donation from a relative of Itsuki’s would mean they could both have blood ties to the child, but he hasn’t talked to his father in eight years.

Work, love, family, will Itsuki be able to find a path forward after facing in the flesh the unreasonableness of established social norms and the anguish they entail? The author who redefined the meaning of “normal” with his six-million-copies bestseller *No One’s Perfect*, captures what it’s like for trans men in contemporary Japan and questions our assumptions about what it means to be a man, to be a woman and ultimately to be a family.

Hiroitada Ototake was born in Tokyo in 1976. Due to a congenital condition called tetra-amelia, he was born with almost no arms and legs. In 1998, while he was still a student at Waseda University, his memoir *Gotai fumanzoku* (published in English as *No One’s Perfect*, tr. Gerry Harcourt and John Brennan) became a six-million-copy bestseller. Following graduation, he worked jobs such as sports writer and elementary school teacher. Other books include *Jibun o ai suru chikara* (The Power to Love Yourself) and *Sharin no ue* (Over Wheels).

Fumino Sugiyama is a Japanese transgender activist, born in Tokyo in 1981. Co-representative director of the NPO Tokyo Rainbow Pride and former member of Japan’s women’s Olympic fencing team, he learned gender studies in graduate school and wove what he studied in with his personal experience of gender dysphoria to write *Daburu happinessu* (Double Happiness). Other works include *Moto joshikosei ga papa ni naru* (A Former High-School Girl Becomes a Father) and *Sannin de oya ni natte mita* (We Tried Being Parents as a Trio).



ISBN: 978-4-09-386685-9
 Pages: 320 pages
 Printing: Black & White
 Publication: May 2023

Family for Beginners

Biginazu kazoku / ビギナーズ家族

Dan Osano

The touching story of a family breaking a new path to love and acceptance

Born into a celebrity family, Aki lives a quiet life with his same-sex partner, Tetsuhiro. But after the sudden death of his biological father, destiny's path opens up before him as he discovers that he has a 2-year-old half-brother, Ren. Under Japanese law, Aki and Tetsuhiro cannot marry and have long given up on the idea of starting a family. But under the encouragement of his mother Chika, Aki decides to become Ren's guardian and give the life he has always dreamt of a try. Unfortunately, unexpected challenges lie in wait.

Heiress to one of the most prestigious families in Japan, Chika demands that Ren is enrolled in the private missionary elementary school both she and Aki graduated from. Aki doubts a school founded on traditional family values will accept a child raised by a same-sex couple and is worried about his sexual identity being put on public display, but follows the advice of his former homeroom teacher, a reformist in the school, and transfers Ren to a private kindergarten with a reputation for preparing students for prestigious elementary school entrance examinations.

As muffled remarks and outright scandals start to threaten Ren's peaceful upbringing, Aki's enthusiasm for this new path of life gradually fades. Stuck in a hotel at the foot of Mount Fuji, bad weather preventing the climb, Aki, Tetsuhiro and Ren open up about their true feelings and realize for the first time that they have already become the "real family" they were waiting for others to acknowledge.

Dan Osano is a Japanese poet, author and entrepreneur. Born in Tokyo in 1983, he graduated from the Faculty of Economics at Keio University. He is currently based in Taiwan where he runs Tsujiri, a century-old Japanese tea house and dessert chain with branches all over the world. In 2017, he won the 60th Newcomer Award for the Study of Tanka for *Mukuna Nihon de* (In Innocent Japan) and in 2018 he published his first poetry collection, *Metarikku* (Metallic). He is the author of six novels, including *Boku wa nakushita koi shika utaenai* (I Can Only Sing About Lost Love) and *Shajiku* (Axle) whose film adaptation was released in Japan in September 2023.

CRIME & MYSTERY



ISBN: 978-4-09-406791-0

Pages: 368 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: July 2020

Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional), Korean

Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)

English sample translation available on request.

What Did You Do That Day?

Ano hi, kimi wa nani o shita / あの日、君は何をした

Toshika Masaki

A gripping mystery delving into the clashing emotions of two mothers whose ideal family image is suddenly shattered

Over 300,000 copies sold in Japan

Izumi Mizuno's uneventful life as an ordinary housewife drastically ends when her son, junior-high-school student Taiki, is mistaken for a suspect in a serial murder case for acting suspiciously late at night. When the police tries to question him, he flees on his bicycle, crashes into a parked truck and tragically dies. What was Taiki up to the night he snuck out of the house and rode away on his bicycle?

Fifteen years later, a young woman is stabbed in her apartment in Tokyo. The man she was cheating with, Tatsuhiko Momoi, a company employee, goes missing, so the police consider him a key witness. Frustrated by his wife's indifference, Tatsuhiko's mother, Chie, desperately tries to find him.

As detectives Mitsuya and Tadokoro proceed with their investigation, it soon becomes clear that the two mothers' feelings for their sons are intertwined and the shocking truth that links the two seemingly unrelated cases comes to light. Prolific mystery writer Toshika Masaki investigates one of the most difficult relationships in the world, the one between a parent and a child.

Toshika Masaki was born in 1965 and currently resides in Sapporo. She won the Hokkaido Shimbun Literature Award in 2007 for her story *Chiru saku meguru* (Fall Bloom Repeat). The next year the story was collected in her first book *Yoru no sora no hoshi no* (Of Night, of Sky, of Stars). Renown for writing mysteries with a heavy emphasis on psychological depictions, her latest novel published by Shogakukan is *Kanojo ga saigo ni mita mono wa* (What Was the Last Thing She Saw?).



ISBN: 978-4-09-407250-1
 Pages: 416 pages
 Printing: Black & White
 Publication: May 2023

I Killed Our Teacher

Watashi ga sensei o koroshita / 私が先生を殺した

Mina Sakurai

The dark specter of youth violence looms over a classroom just like any other

“Hey...is someone up there?” The students of a high school are assembled in the courtyard for an evacuation drill when one of them points to the rooftop. Jun Okuzawa, the most popular teacher in the school, has climbed over the fence and is about to jump. “Don’t do anything stupid!” Students and teachers scream, but amid the shocked looks of them all Okuzawa’s body flutters in the air.

What could have pushed the 27-year-old teacher to such an act? An earlier graduate of that same school and close in age to the students, Okuzawa was known among other veteran teachers for taking great care of his students. He would offer advice to those in need and tutor students whose grades were falling behind. Utter disbelief seems the only reaction possible, when the words “I killed our teacher” are found written on the blackboard of Okuzawa’s classroom. Who is the “I” behind the teacher’s death?

Narrated in alternating voices, different versions of the same tale exquisitely intertwine in student’s separate accounts of the incident, until the last chapter told from Okuzawa’s point of view brings the whole heart-wrenching truth to light. Reminiscent of Kanae Minato’s bestselling thriller *Confessions*, this gripping and profoundly unsettling new novel by Mina Sakurai delves into the darkest corners of human psyche.

Mina Sakurai debuted in 2013 with *Kijikakushi no niwa* (Garden of Asparagus Fern), which won the 19th Dengeki Novel Prize, the largest prize for light novels in Japan. Her most famous work is *Hei no naka no biyoshitsu* (Beauty Salon in Prison, also known as *The Depth of the Sky*), whose manga adaptation, illustrated by Marco Kohinata, received an Excellence Award at the 24th Japan Media Arts Festival in 2021.



ISBN: 978-4-09-407008-8
 Pages: 304 pages
 Printing: Black & White
 Publication: April 2021
 Rights Sold: Korean

The Murdered Husband Returns

Koroshita otto ga kaette kimashita / 殺した夫が帰ってきました

Mina Sakurai

For fans of Natsuo Kirino and Hideo Yokohama

170,000 copies sold in Japan

Mana Suzukura, the young employee of a clothing manufacturer in Tokyo, is troubled by the persistent advances of Hodaka, one of her clients. One day, on her way home, Mana is ambushed by Hodaka, who tries to force himself into her house, ignoring her pleas to stop. At that moment, a man claiming to be Mana's husband appears and turns Hodaka away. There is no doubt the man is Kazuki Suzukura, Mana's husband. However, Mana does not feel relieved. She is terrified. Wasn't Kazuki the husband who subjected her to the most horrific domestic violence? Wasn't he the same man she pushed off a cliff and killed five years ago?

Kazuki claims to have lost all memories of their past life together due to an accident. There seems to be no trace of violence in his calm and kind demeanor, so Mana reluctantly agrees to have him move back into their former home. Just as Mana settles into the life she always wished for and her desire to trust Kazuki grows stronger, a letter from an unknown sender is delivered. "I know about Mana Suzukura's past." Around the same time, a detective informs Mana that Kazuki's skeletal remains have been found in the mountains of Miyagi Prefecture.

Who is the man at Mana's side? What terrible secret does a wife who cannot recognize her husband's face hide? A page-turning psychological thriller whose plot twists and questionable characters will leave you breathless.

Mina Sakurai debuted in 2013 with *Kijikakushi no niwa* (Garden of Asparagus Fern), which won the 19th Dengeki Novel Prize, the largest prize for light novels in Japan. Her most famous work is *Hei no naka no biyoshitsu* (Beauty Salon in Prison, also known as *The Depth of the Sky*), whose manga adaptation, illustrated by Marco Kohinata, received an Excellence Award at the 24th Japan Media Arts Festival in 2021.

BACKLIST



Category: Trade Fiction
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386463-3
 Pages: 224 pages
 Publication: January 2017
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)
 Rights Sold: Arabic, Armenian, Bulgarian, Catalan, Chinese (Simplified, Traditional), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English(UK, US), Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil, Portugal), Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese

The Cat Who Saved Books

Hon o mamorou to suru neko no hanashi / 本を守ろうとする猫の話

Sosuke Natsukawa

“Enchanting” *Observer*

“Quirky and heartwarming in equal measure, *The Cat Who Saved Books* invites us to remember the joy of curling up with a favorite book.” *Japan Times*

“Combine *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* with *Mr. Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore* and you might get a feel for this delightful novel.” *Washington Post*

Sosuke Natsukawa is a doctor and novelist based in Nagano, Japan. He made his debut as a writer in 2009 with the multivolume novel *Kamisama no karute* (God’s Medical Records), which sold over three million copies in Japan and was adapted into a film. *The Cat Who Saved Books* (tr. Louise Heal Kawai), his novel about a talking cat and the young owner of a second-hand bookshop going on an adventure to protect books, was an international bestseller and was translated into 39 languages.



Category: Trade Fiction
 ISBN: 978-4-09-388334-4
 Pages: 208 pages
 Publication: November 2013
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)
 Rights Sold: Catalan, Czech, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), English(UK), English(US), French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese (Portugal), Russian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish

The Kamogawa Food Detectives

Kamogawa shokudo / 鴨川食堂

Hisashi Kashiwai

Taste one more time the food of your memories. Through ingenious investigations the owners of this inconspicuous eatery down a quiet backstreet in Kyoto are capable of recreating special dishes from their customers’ past that hold the key to unlocking forgotten memories and future happiness. A mouth-watering series celebrating the power of a delicious meal.

Hisashi Kashiwai was born in 1952 and graduated from Osaka Dental University in 1976. He runs his own private dental clinic and also writes essays and novels about Kyoto, food and travelling. He is the author of *Ohitori kara no himitsu no Kyoto* (Exploring Secret Kyoto on Your Own) among many other books.



Category: Trade Fiction
 ISBN: 978-4-09-408545-7
 Pages: 208 pages
 Publication: September 2010
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)
 Rights Sold: Catalan, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English(UK), English(US), French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Malay, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal), Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Slovene, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese

Days at the Morisaki Bookshop

Morisaki shoten no hibi / 森崎書店の日々

Satoshi Yagisawa

“A slender book, but one rich in experience, exactly like the tiny, crammed *Morisaki Bookshop* itself.” *New York Journal of Books*

“Yagisawa’s prose is clean and direct even as he describes the *Morisaki Bookshop* and the city that surrounds it with extraordinary care and detail. Readers will want to linger in this world. They will want more when this concise tale ends.” *Booklist*

Satoshi Yagisawa was born in 1977 in Chiba Prefecture and graduated from Nihon University. *Morisaki shoten no hibi* (Days at the Morisaki Bookshop), a tale of new romantic and family beginnings set in Tokyo’s Jimbocho book district, is his debut novel. After winning the Chiyoda Literary Prize, it became a publishing sensation. It was adapted into a film and a sequel was published in 2011.



Category: Trade Fiction
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386656-9
 Pages: 256 pages
 Publication: September 2022
 English synopsis available on request.

For Example, Grapes

Tatoeba, budo / たとえば、葡萄

Masumi Oshima

When the pandemic brings the world to a standstill and Mizuki is drowning in despair, she stumbles upon a grape juice made by a local winery and decides she must bet her future on that heavenly taste. Naoki Prize-winning author Masumi Oshima masterfully portrays the sense of stagnation and insecurity so prominent in our time and offers younger generations an example of hope and resilience in the face of seemingly unsurmountable obstacles.

Masumi Oshima won the Naoki Prize in 2019 for her novel *Uzu: Imoseyama onna teikin, Tamamusubi* (Whirlpool: Husband and Wife Mountains, A Mirror of Virtuous Women, Requiem). Her novel *Nijiïro tenki ame* (Rainbow Weather) and its sequel *Bita Shuga* (Bitter Sugar), were adapted into a 2011 NHK TV series.



Category: Trade Fiction
ISBN: 978-4-09-386655-2
Pages: 306 pages
Publication: September 2022
Rights Sold: **Korean**

Life in the Share House

Wakaba-so no kurashi / 若葉荘の暮らし

Tomomi Hatano

A realistic portrait of the struggles faced by different generations of Japanese women in a country marred by economic stagnation and gender inequality. Women in their 40s that entered the workforce after the burst of the bubble economy, women in their 50s at the mercy of the controversial 1986 Equal Employment Opportunity Law and women in their 60s who had no choice but to conform to traditional gender expectations, all come to find in Residence Wakaba a safe haven where they can define happiness on their own terms.

Tomomi Hatano is a Japanese novelist born in Tokyo in 1979. Her debut work, *Kokudo zoi no famiresu* (Family Restaurant on the National Highway), won the Shosetsu Subaru New Writers Award in 2010 and she was twice nominated for the Eiji Yoshikawa Literary Prize for New Writers.



Category: Trade Fiction
ISBN: 978-4-09-386653-8
Pages: 240 pages
Publication: September 2022
[English synopsis available on request.](#)

The Troublesome Dining Table

Yakkaina shokutaku / やっかいな食卓

Akari Mikimoto

"Why not all move in together?" Carefree mother-in-law Rinko and career-oriented daughter-in-law Yuki agree to move in together under the condition that dining tables are to be kept separate. However, as soon as the two families start living under the same roof, "troublesome" incidents start to occur. The two dining tables clash and the boundaries between meals become blurred. An exhilarating, laugh-out-loud read.

Akari Mikimoto is the pen name of essay writer Chizuko Kamiya. After her husband was transferred overseas, she resigned from her job at NHK and spent the next twenty-three years living in nine different countries as the wife of a diplomat. This is her first novel.



Category: Mystery & Crime
ISBN: 978-4-09-386456-5
Pages: 256 pages
Publication: October 2016
Rights Sold: **Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Korean**
[English synopsis and sample translation available on request.](#)

Endless Night

Yako / 夜行

Tomihiko Morimi

Over 260,000 copies sold in Japan

Ohashi goes to Kyoto to attend the Kurama Fire Festival with some friends he hasn't seen in ten years—Nakai, Takeda, Fujimura, and Tanabe. The last time the five of them went, there was a sixth—Hasegawa, but on the night of the festival, she disappeared. Do the *By Night* and *Dawn Light* copperplate engravings in the local gallery hold the key to the mystery?

Tomihiko Morimi's works have won important prizes and been adapted into critically acclaimed anime series and films. In 2010, *Penguin Highway* was awarded the Japan SF Grand Prize and in 2023, the English edition of *The Tatami Galaxy* (tr. Emily Balistreri) was shortlisted for the PEN Translation Prize.



Category: Trade Fiction
ISBN: 978-4-09-406849-8
Pages: 288 pages
Publication: December 2020
Rights Sold: **Chinese (Simplified)**
[English synopsis available on request.](#)

3,000 Words Left to Live

Yomei 3000 moji / 余命3000文字

Gyatei Murasaki

What fate awaits a man who has been told by his doctor that he has only 3,000 words left to live? What if a boy were to receive on his birthday a rare Japanese "wild rich man," a finicky creature that only accepts expensive goods from Ginza? What decision will a fetus take after being stuck in its mother's belly for six years, refusing to be born? Twenty-six short stories that will transport you from uncontrollable laughter to heart-wrenching grief in just under five minutes.

Gyatei Murasaki was born in Kumamoto Prefecture in 1994. His short stories initially posted on a literary website attracted a great deal of interest and were turned by Shogakukan into the *5-Minute Reads* series.



Category: Literary Fiction
ISBN: 978-4-09-386541-8
Pages: 320 pages
Publication: May 2019
Agent: Japan Uni Agency
Rights Sold: Italian

English synopsis and sample translation available on request.

Buddha on the Waterside

Mizube no Buddha / 水辺のブッダ

Durian Sukegawa

International bestselling author of *Sweet Bean Paste*

On the banks of the Tama River on the outskirts of Tokyo, disgraced white-collar worker Bota and his high-school daughter Eri, who had a history of abuse, find a route to escape the darkness in their hearts, forever changing their fates. A gritty but authentic portrayal of homelessness, sex and violence in contemporary Japan with an uplifting message of hope for anyone struggling to rise above difficult circumstances.

Durian Sukegawa is renowned as a writer of non-fiction, essays and novels championing society's disadvantaged and downtrodden. His novel *Sweet Bean Paste* was an international bestseller, translated into 19 languages and adapted into the homonymous film. He is the recipient of the Prix Littéraire Domitys and Prix des Lecteurs du Livre de Poche.



Category: Literary Fiction
ISBN: 978-4-09-386626-2
Pages: 432 pages
Publication: December 2021

English synopsis available on request.

The Strangling Tree

Shimegoroshi no ki / 絞め殺しの樹

Akiko Kawasaki

Shortlisted for the 2022 Naoki Prize

Misae has no recollection of her parents' faces. In 1945, when she was only 10 years old, she was sold to the Yoshioka family as a servant. Awaiting her were days of unimaginable cruelty. A childhood spent like a slave, a marriage anything but happy, her daughter's suicide, parting with her son forever...After a life of so many sufferings, could Misae have possibly been happy? Her son Yusuke sets out on a journey to find his own life path by retracing the steps of his birth mother.

Akiko Kawasaki is a multi-award-winning author, born in Hokkaido in 1979. In 2019, she won the Oyabu Haruhiko Prize for *Nikudan* (Human Bullet). In 2020, she won the Nitta Jiro Literary Award and was nominated for the Mishima Yukio Prize for *Tsuchi ni aganau* (Redeeming the Earth).



Category: Literary Fiction
ISBN: 978-4-09-356745-9
Pages: 416 pages
Publication: December 2022
Rights Sold: Korean, Thai, Vietnamese
English synopsis available on request.

Disconnect

Zetsuen / 絶縁

Sayaka Murata, Alfian Sa'at, Hao Jingfang, Wiwat Lertwiwatwongsa, Hon Lai Chu, Lhacham Gyal, Nguyen Ngoc Tu, Lien Ming Wei, Chung Serang

"The gap between the 'self' and the 'other,' widened by the three-year pandemic and the precarious relationships between neighboring countries, is seen in this book through the sensitive eyes of a group of novelists...A unique anthology." *Hankyoreh*

Against the backdrop of the global pandemic and the resurgence of war, nine Asian writers born between the late 1970s and early 1980s reflect on the increasing erosion of social cohesion in their countries and expose the shared nature of their experience of disconnectedness and social isolation. Simultaneously published in Korean by Munhakdongne and in Japanese by Shogakukan.



Category: Non-Binary Fiction
ISBN: 978-4-09-407175-7
Pages: 192 pages
Publication: August 2022
English synopsis available on request.

Egoist

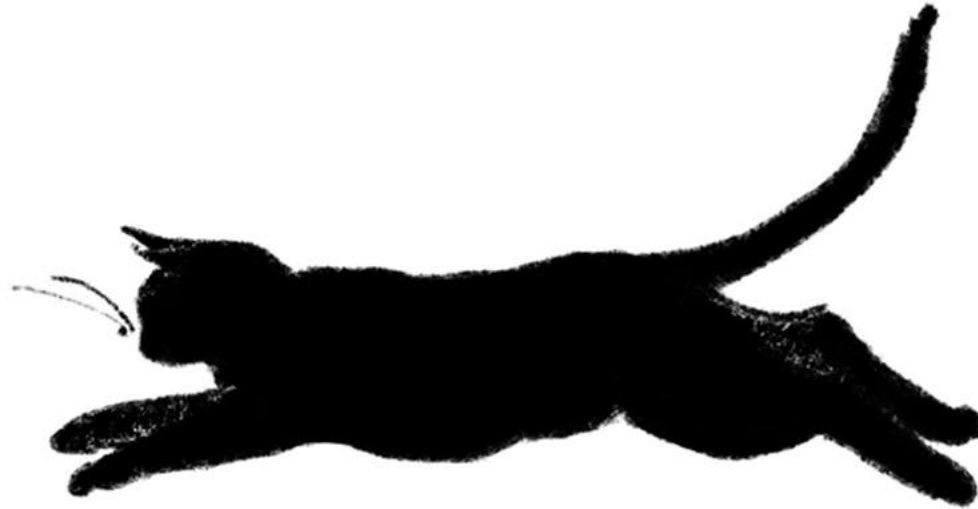
Egoisuto / エゴイスト

Makoto Takayama

"Groundbreaking...Raw and immediate." *Japan Times*

Kosuke, a wealthy fashion magazine editor, becomes romantically entangled with his new personal trainer, Ryuta. When Ryuta abruptly breaks off the relationship, confessing that he has been a sex worker since his teens to support his ailing single mother, Kosuke steps in. Can love ever be authentic when it is driven by ego and self-interest? Makoto Takayama's autobiographical novel is a much-needed investigation of economic disparity in contemporary Japan and the struggles sexual minorities face with family and finances in an unaccepting society.

Makoto Takayama was a prolific writer of essays among other types of books and also worked as an editor at a publishing company.



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