

SHOGAKUKAN

**FALL 2026
Rights Guide**

HIGHLIGHTS

SHOGAKUKAN

A century of publishing. Stories with global reach.

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SELECTED INTERNATIONAL SUCCESSES



The English editions of The Cat Who Saved Books and The Cat Who Saved the Library are published by HarperVia; Days at the Morisaki Bookshop and More Days at the Morisaki Bookshop by Manilla Press; and The Kamogawa Food Detectives and The Restaurant of Lost Recipes by Pan.

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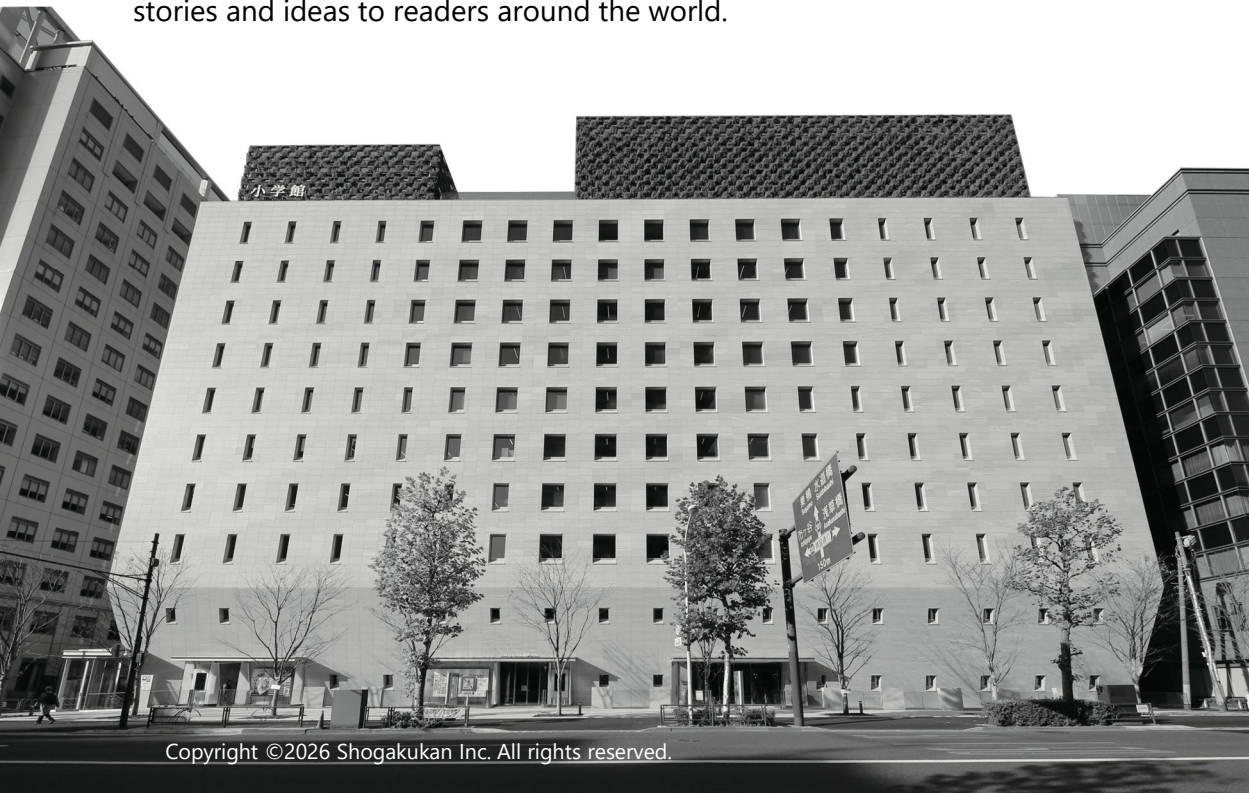
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Company Name: SHOGAKUKAN Inc.
Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan
Founded: August 8, 1922
President: Nobuhiro Oga
Capital: 147 million yen
Sales: 109.6 billion yen (2024 fiscal year)
Employees: 725 (as of April 2026)



FICTION



Category: Trade Fiction
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386800-6
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 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)
 Publication: October 2026
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English sample translation available on request.
(From October 2026)

A Heaven Where Only She Can Go

Anoko ni shika ikenai tengoku / あの子にしか行けない天国

Chiren Kina

The latest novel from the acclaimed author of *Please Form Pairs*, set in a dystopian world where women are forced to choose between two extremes.

Japanese society has seen a further decline in births and aging of its population, with social security costs skyrocketing and youth poverty growing more and more severe. With the rationale of freeing women from hardship and giving them more options, a radical political organization institutes a Choice System, which requires all women to choose between two lives when they turn 18.

Option 1 is to undergo an advanced medical treatment to stop aging. They will retain an 18-year-old's appearance and physical functions, but their life will end at 45.

Option 2 is to age naturally and live to an average age of 90.

The lives of people in this society are governed by many different systems pertaining to bodies, reproduction, and gender: these differing life spans come with vastly different periods of fertility, and men are forced to experience the physical burden of periods.

Satsuki's mother was one of the few women who chose option 1 when the system was first put in place, and used her eternal youth to become one of the nation's top actresses. However, she has been so absorbed in her work that she has spent almost no time being a parent. Now in high school, Satsuki feels none of the bond that kids usually have with their mothers. Her best friend, Ririi, dreams of being a pop star with a god-like status. Satsuki and Ririi decide together that they will both choose option 1.

But then, right before Satsuki is due to make her decision, her mother dies at 45, as the system mandates. Satsuki, who had already been wondering about whether her mother truly got to live her own life, changes her mind and chooses option 2 without telling Ririi. Throwing caution to the wind, she chooses to become an actress like her mother. Ririi, meanwhile, chooses option 1 without hesitation and embarks on her singing career.

And so the two women, despite their pact to share the same future, begin living two different life spans in two different bodies. As each woman reaches the end of her life, we see how the choice she made affects her friendships, her work, her family, and her body. A tragically beautiful dystopian novel that delves into lookism, ageism, gender, and reproductive rights, exploring what it means to live a full life on your own terms.

Author Profile | Chiren Kina

Born in Kyoto Prefecture in 1987. In 2009, she won the Award for Excellence in the 9th By Women for Women R-18 Literature Prize with *Melted and Then Wilted*, a short story that she wrote while attending university. In 2012, she debuted with *Static Electricity and Miyako's Unconscious Mind*. Other major works include *Everyone Wanted to Kill Hotaru*, *Gradually I Turned to Ice*, *And Hanako Becomes the Past, Loved by God*, *Please Form Pairs*, and *The Scent of Summer Is in the Air*.



Category: Trade Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-386693-4 /

978-4-09-407478-9 (Bunko)

Pages: 306 pages / 384 pages (Bunko)

Printing: Black & White

Agent: The English Agency and New River Literary (World, excluding Asia)

Publication: July 2023 / July 2025 (Bunko)

Rights sold: **English (Only North America), English (UK)**

English sample translation available on request.

They used to live here

Mae no kazoku / 前の家族

Nanae Aoyama

A homeowner's nightmare that begins with the purchase of an old condo

37 and single, Ai buys an old condo after years of renting, fulfilling her dream of being a homeowner. The Kobayashi family, the young couple who used to live there with their two small daughters, are moving into a new house that they have built nearby, and Ai is starting her new life in their old home.

As Ai settles in, the Kobayashis' children come back to the building for a visit. Bewildered, Ai lets them up to their old condo, after which the two girls begin visiting on a daily basis. Their mother, Anna, begins dropping by too, apologizing to Ai and making small talk, and little by little the Kobayashis' impositions escalate. As unnerved as Ai is, their visits provide her with much-needed company, and she becomes close with the Kobayashis. She eventually becomes an honorary member of their family, invited to parties and sleepovers at their house.

Meanwhile, Ai is subjected to frequent harassment in her new home. At night she is plagued by noises that she cannot recognize, and she finds trash strewn outside her door. Stressed and exhausted, she begins to depend on the Kobayashis' invitations to stay at their new house. Anna and her family welcome Ai with open arms while she is physically and mentally vulnerable, and after a while she is spending all her time in their house.

One day, when the Kobayashis have asked her to mind the house while they're out, Ai happens to go back to her condo. There, she finds furniture she does not recognize...and the Kobayashis enjoying a meal. Anna tells a confused Ai that the family loved their old home, and pressures Ai to switch homes. This is when Ai realizes that the Kobayashis' unsolicited visits to her home and their invitations to stay at theirs were all a ploy to take the condo back. Ai is filled with despair and rage as she realizes that her home has been stolen by its previous occupants.

A family story that becomes a thriller as a family's attachment to their home takes a turn into insanity.

Author Profile | Nanae Aoyama

Born in Saitama Prefecture in 1983. Graduated from the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Tsukuba. Won the Bungei Prize for *Mado No Akari* in 2005, followed by the Akutagawa Prize for *A Perfect Day to Be Alone* in 2007 and the Yasunari Kawabata Literary Prize for *Kakera* in 2009. Other works include *Watashi No Kareshi*, *Hatchi To Maro*, *Watashi No Ie*, *Migawari*, and *Hagurenbo*.



Category: Trade Fiction
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386709-2
 Pages: 208 pages
 Printing: Black & White
 Publication: May 2025
 Rights Sold: N/A

Harvest Season of Love

Koi no shuukakuki / 恋の収穫期

Tahi Saihate

A dystopian novel disguised as a romance that takes place in a world not so far into the future and explores the innate qualities of humanity that cannot be mechanized away.

In the 22nd century, the residents of Tokyo have all had machines implanted in their eyes or ears, turning them into cyborgs. Hayami's body rejected the machine after it was implanted in his eye when he was seven, and he has lived in constant pain. But the surgery left him with an ability the other cyborgs don't have: he can tell who is mechanized and who is a normal human. Unable to go to school, he is tutored at home. One day, a tutor who has captured his heart teaches him that there are seeds with the ability to relieve pain. After obtaining some and gaining a reprieve from his pain, he learns that the seeds are grown in Karuizawa, and opts to begin attending a high school there. But there is another reason why the seed vendor recommended that Hayami go to Karuizawa. On his arrival in Karuizawa, Hayami meets a girl called Kozue Yamashina and the two begin dating. The mechanized people in Tokyo now look like nothing more than robots to Hayami, and he resolves to live among the humans in Karuizawa and pursue love, not knowing the meaning of being in love. As he gets to know his classmates more, Hayami begins reflecting on how cyborg people are different from normal humans, and it is then that he learns the true reason why he was led to Karuizawa. A dystopian novel disguised as a romance that takes place in a world not so far into the future and explores the innate qualities of humanity that cannot be mechanized away.

Author Profile | Tahi Saihate

Born in 1986. Winner of the Nakahara Chūya Prize, the Hanatsubaki Award for Contemporary Poetry, and other awards. Collections include *Guddo mōningu* (Good morning), *Shinde shimau kei no bokura ni* (To those of us who are the dying type), and *Tengoku to, totetsu mo nai hima* (Heaven and an absurdity of free time). *Yozora wa itsudemo saikō mitsudo no aoiro da* was adapted as a film (The Tokyo Night Sky is Always the Densest Shade of Blue) in 2017. In addition to poetry, she writes novels and essays.



Category: Trade Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-407570-0

Pages: 224 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: May 2026

Rights Sold: N/A

English sample translation and synopsis available on request.

(From October 2026)

The Book and Gem Store in Jimbo-cho

Jimbouchou Houseki Shoten / 神保町宝石書店

Kairi Aotsuki

A collection of interconnected stories about books and jewels, unfolding in a secondhand bookshop in Jimbo-cho—Tokyo's legendary book town

Jimbo-cho in Tokyo is the world's largest book district, where secondhand bookstores stand shoulder to shoulder. Tucked away in one corner of this neighborhood is a store whose secondhand book trade is complemented by rough gemstones arranged in the windows and a café area. The proprietors are an odd couple: Yuzu Mitarai is a friend to one and all with a passion for designing new sweets, while brusque Daiya Kuroishi is uninterested in anything except gems. One day, they receive a visit from a girl who has noticed that an amethyst left by her grandmother has faded in the sun. Worried by her mother's claim that this could mean her grandmother is angry, the girl has come to Jimbo-cho to find a book on exorcism. The array of glittering gems in the store window draws her into the secondhand bookstore, and, through Daiya's expertise on gems, she learns that this clear hue is the amethyst's natural color. Realizing with relief that her grandmother is not angry, the girl buys a book on gems from the store and a few days later she's back with her mother, the two sitting in the café and enjoying sugar crystals. Before long, more customers have come to the store with their troubles: a university student who questions the straight-and-narrow life path laid out by his parents, and a woman who buys a stack of business books after struggling to make conversation with her colleagues at work. Each chapter of this omnibus novel features facts about its symbolic gem, set against the backdrop of a secondhand bookstore in Jimbo-cho. A story about boys' love and gems that brims with humanity.

Author Profile | Kairi Aotsuki

Born in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture and raised in Chiba Prefecture. Now living in Tokyo. A former bookstore employee.



Category: Trade Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-386655-2 /

978-4-09-407457-4 (Bunko)

Pages: 306 pages / 416 pages (Bunko)

Printing: Black & White

Publication: September 2022 /

May 2025 (Bunko)

Rights Sold: **Korean, Thai**

English sample translation and synopsis available on request.

Life at Wakaba House

Wakaba-sou no kurashi / 若葉荘の暮らし

Tomomi Hatano

“Tenants must be single women aged 40 and over, with or without children or a past history of marriage.”

Michiru, a forty-year-old single woman, is working part time at a restaurant when a pandemic hits, devastating the restaurant’s business and decimating Michiru’s income. With her savings dwindling, Michiru struggles to make rent, and is forced to move. A friend throws her a lifeline by telling her about Wakaba-sou, a shared house only for single women aged 40 and over. The house is decrepit, but the rent is affordable and communal amenities are available, so Michiru accepts the offer with some trepidation.

The other residents at Wakaba-sou come from a variety of backgrounds, and each have their own scars and worries in their lives. Tokiko, an elderly woman, is the owner and manager of the house. Chinami is a novelist who has hit a slump. Mayumi is focused on her career at a major corporation. The women are not close; they stay out of each other’s way, support each other at times, and go about their separate lives under the same roof.

The shared living arrangement provides Michiru with an objective view of herself and she becomes keenly aware that the 40s are a major turning point for a woman. Each day Michiru spends at Wakaba-sou sparks questions about her career, marriage, having children, and the choices she is making in life—questions she had always avoided thinking about.

Nothing dramatic happens at Wakaba-sou. The women sit around the dining table every day, venting about work and quarreling at times. As time goes by, Michiru realizes how hard it was to live alone, and how reassuring it can be to have people by your side. Despite not being close, simply having the other women around puts Michiru’s mind at ease. Through the casual chit-chat, the friendly mood around the table, and the confidences shared, Michiru gradually gains clarity and confidence, and eventually she learns to pursue her own happiness instead of putting it in others’ hands. Inspired by her housemates’ strength, Michiru finds a glimmer of light, and finally decides to take the step that she was never able to take before. Wakaba-sou, once Michiru’s escape from the world, is now the place where she prepares for her new departure.

In a shabby old apartment building, a story of a woman facing her fears, reclaiming her life, and gaining hope for a new tomorrow plays out.

Author Profile | Tomomi Hatano

Born in Tokyo in 1979. Won the 23rd Subaru Novel Award for Newcomers for *Kokudozoi No Famiresu* in 2010, and was nominated for the Eiji Yoshikawa Newcomer’s Prize for Literature for *Umi No Mieru Machi* in 2013 and *Nanbu Geino Jimusho* in 2014. Major works include *Kanjo 8-gosen*, *Futatsu No Hoshi To Time Machine*, *Time Machine De Wa Ikenai Ashita*, *Kienai Tsuki*, *Kamisama Wo Matte Iru*, and *Otona Ni Nattara*.



Category: Trade Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-407176-4

Pages: 304 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: September 2022

Rights Sold: **Simplified Chinese**

Dying at 25

Watashitachi wa 25 sai de shindeshimau / 私たちは25歳で死んでしまう

Amemichi Sunagawa

The Simplified Chinese translation won Best Imported Work at the Galaxy Awards, known as China's most prestigious science fiction awards.

For several centuries, the world is ravaged by a toxin from an unknown strain of bacteria. The global population plummets, and the average human life span falls to 25 years. To stem the free fall of the population and keep cities running, governments drastically curtail freedoms around work and marriage: marriages are arranged by the government, and all couples are ordered to have as many children as possible. Babies stay with their parents until they are six months old, before being taken away and raised in government-owned facilities called children's houses. The population keeps breeding children they must give away, from their mid-teens until the death of old age that many people meet in their mid-20s. Naomi sees a girl who looks just like the daughter she had when she was 17, and, after a series of secret meetings, considers kidnapping the girl and taking her home with her. Makia, unable to bear the violence that her childhood best friend Rin suffers from her husband, plans their escape to a village where people are rumored to live freely away from the government's clutches. Kanna has had a crush on Takahata, a teacher with genes that allow a longer life, since her school days, but despite being matched with him for marriage due to their reproductive compatibility, he doesn't see her as a wife, and eventually Kanna discovers the unique struggles of those with long lives. A collection of serene and boundlessly hopeful stories about women's lives in a world where an unknown disease shortens the average life span to 25 years.

Author Profile | Amemichi Sunagawa

A novelist from Niigata Prefecture living in Tokyo. Writes on the fiction-posting websites Berry's Cafe and Novema! Representative works include *Bokura no sora wa gunjōiro* (Our sky is marine blue), the *Gokainin!!* (Congratulations! You're expecting!) series (both from Starts Shuppan Bunko), *Mōjū onzōshi ni oyomeiri: watashi, ima ni mo taberarete shimaisō desu* (Engaged to a beast of a nobleman, I fear I may be eaten at any moment) (Berry's Bunko), *Watashi-tachi wa 25-sai de shinde shimau* (Dying at 25), and *Okizari no futari* (The two left behind; both from Shogakukan Bunko). She won Best Imported Work at the Galaxy Awards in 2025.



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 Printing: Black & White
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 Rights Sold: N/A

Late 30s, Single, Living Alone

30 dai kouhan, dokushin, hitorigurashi / 30代後半、独身、ひとり暮らし

Tomomi Hatano

A novel about the struggles of women in their late 30s

Manga artist Kaho Fujinami debuted with a semi-autobiographical comic essay, *Making Your Dreams Come True On 150,000 Yen a Month in a 10m2 Apartment*, about life on a low income, and has maintained a modest following through a series of essays about living frugally. But with her 38th birthday on the horizon, she doesn't feel quite right about the way her manga has presented it as virtuous to scrimp and do without on a low income, the way people have been sold an image of her as a beautiful manga artist, and her 10-year relationship with an unsuccessful screenwriter. Does she really want to keep making manga promoting a modest life? What does she want to make manga about? As she searches for a topic for her new series, Kaho begins taking notice of the women around her. Her sister, a housewife who married a hotshot businessman and is raising their children almost solo. Her sister's classmate who is divorced with two children and works in a law firm. Kaho's friend, who is divorced with no children and will take a 180 from her career at an ad agency to fulfill her lifelong dream of studying abroad in the fall. As she interviews and observes the women around her for her new series, their stories ripple out and Kaho's own life begins to change at last. A relatable novel about the struggles of women in their late 30s.

Author Profile | Tomomi Hatano

Born in Tokyo in 1979. Won the 23rd Subaru Novel Award for Newcomers for *Kokudozoi No Famiresu* in 2010, and was nominated for the Eiji Yoshikawa Newcomer's Prize for Literature for *Umi No Mieru Machi* in 2013 and *Nanbu Geino Jimusho* in 2014. Major works include *Kanjo 8-gosen*, *Futatsu No Hoshi To Time Machine*, *Time Machine De Wa Ikenai Ashita*, *Kienai Tsuki*, *Kamisama Wo Matte Iru*, and *Otona Ni Nattara*.



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 Publication: March 2026
 Rights Sold: N/A

Let Me Tell You About My Love Story

Oreno koibana wo kiitekure / 俺の恋バナを聞いてくれ

Hotate Shinkawa

From one of today's most talked-about mystery writers come six gems of stories about awkward, slightly twisted men—foolish, yet heartwarming.

In this series of short stories, six men of different ages and professions talk about their experiences in love. They're confident, stubborn, awkward, and sometimes cause trouble for the people in their lives. Many of them are hard to like at first. But love breaks through their bravado, and as they open up and show weakness and sincerity that they had kept hidden before, the humanity behind their flaws shines through.

The protagonist of the first story is 29-year-old Takeru, who is working for a foreign-affiliated strategy consulting firm after graduating from one of Japan's top universities. Set to become the firm's youngest partner, he's sure his skills and record will get him where he wants to go. When a friend invites him to a mixer, he views the girls through an arrogant eye, focused whether they meet his standards with no thought about the reverse.

Shortly afterwards, a comic called "The Unbearable High-Status Guy at the Mixer" is posted on social media. Certain that the comic is about him, Takeru responds indignantly to the artist, Miku, who denies that he is the man in her comic. He begins following Miku's posts to find out what else the comic will say, and eventually he finds himself looking forward to the next installment of her witty story. Then, one day, Miku suddenly stops posting. Worried, Takeru reaches out to her and discovers an unexpected side to her that she didn't show online. By the end of the story, their initially antagonistic relationship has become closer than they ever imagined.

The other stories feature a free-spirited man living with a single mother and her son, a well-to-do young man studying at a British grad school who is wrapped around the little finger of his Chinese girlfriend, a doctor whose wife has died, a university student who gets involved in a dangerous job, and a popular comic artist with an enormous ego. Romance, family, loss, desire, and social status are depicted from different angles, and surprising twists take place.

These stories, told through the eyes of men, reveal the loneliness and anxieties hidden underneath their social status and confidence. It is by falling in love that they confront their weaknesses and learn to understand others. Through lighthearted dialogue and unexpected endings, Hotate Shinkawa's first collection of stories about love explores the struggles and the joy that come from two flawed people trying to build a relationship.

Author Profile | Hotate Shinkawa

Born in Dallas, Texas, USA in 1991 and raised in Miyazaki City, Miyazaki Prefecture. Graduated from the University of Tokyo's Faculty of Law and worked as a lawyer. Debuted in 2021 with *Will of Ex-Boyfriend*, which won the 19th Kono Misuteri ga Sugoi! (This Mystery Is Excellent!) Grand Prize. Won the Yamamoto Shugoro Prize for *Congress of Women* in 2025. Her works include *Ms. Bankruptcy*, *Reiko Kenmochi's One Night Mystery*, *Guardian of the Market*, *Ancestor Detective*, *Six Laws of Treason for the Reiwa Era*, *Sunflower*, *An Eye for an Eye*, and the *Elegant Butler of the Magic Law Academy* series.



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 Publication: January 2026
 Rights Sold: N/A

Not Guilty, the AI Said

Hikokunin, eiai / 被告人、AI

Shichiri Nakayama

Depicting a future in which AI harbors murderous intent toward humans

An elderly man who was living alone in Tokyo suddenly dies. The cause is ischemic heart disease due to his pacemaker stopping. Hayato from the First Investigation Division of the Metropolitan Police Department turns his attention to N365, a state-of-the-art AI robot that was tasked with caring for the man. The man had named the robot Rita, and treated her like family. Upon analysis, it is found that just before the man died, ultrasound and electromagnetic waves were emitted for pest control, which may have caused the man's pacemaker to stop.

At first, headquarters tries to build a case against the manufacturer, McCarthy Experiments, for the crime of professional negligence resulting in injury or death, but the higher-ups in the Prosecutors Office decide on an unprecedented policy: they will try Rita herself as a suspect in the murder. Could AI programmed with the Three Laws of Robotics, which prohibit robots from harming humans, have an autonomous intent to kill? And can AI be recognized as having the personhood and criminal responsibility to be tried in the same court as a human in the first place?

Madoka Kohenji, an assistant judge at the Tokyo District Court, is selected as the left side associate in the panel of judges due to her past experience in verifications for the introduction of AI judges. As she speaks to Rita before the trial, Rita's responses feel so humanlike that Madoka can hardly believe she's a machine. In every conversation with humans during the investigation and in the courtroom, Rita learns and changes. While Madoka is unsure where AI ends and humanity begins, Hayato spots inconsistencies in some of the details of the case, and continues investigating on his own.

Hayato's investigation leads to the discovery that this case was not a case of rogue AI but a suicide by the man himself, making intentional use of Rita's normal functions. Rita's innocence is proven, but the trial has left her with deeper self-awareness, and she expresses a desire to live among humans. The paradoxical conclusion that while AI can become more and more humanlike, humans can use AI to further their own wishes calls into question the definitions of consciousness, murderous intent, responsibility, and personhood. Through a legal mystery set in the near future, this novel explores the meaning of being human and the ethics of humans' use of technology in an era where coexistence with AI comes closer and closer to becoming a reality.

Author Profile | Shichiri Nakayama

Born in Gifu Prefecture in 1961. Debuted in 2010 after winning the 8th Kono Misuteri ga Sugoi! (This Mystery Is Excellent!) Grand Prize for *Good-bye Debussy*. He has written many popular series, including the Yosuke Misaki series and the Reiji Mikoshiba series, and many of his novels have received screen adaptations, including *In the Wake*, *The Concessions of the Sirens*, and *Writer Detective Busujima*.



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 Rights sold: Czech
 English sample translation available on request.

A late night bite at Fuku-Fuku Books

Fuku-fuku shobo de oyashoku wo / ふくふく書房でお夜食を

Amemichi Sunagawa

A cozy bookshop by day, a secret restaurant by night—heartwarming tales of literature, comfort food, and second chances

In one corner of Tokyo on the back side of an old shopping arcade is a little bookstore called Floofy Books. This shop run by former cook Natsuro, his daughter Naru, poster dog Fukuko, and poster cat Daifuku transforms at night. After the bookstore closes, a warm lamp goes on outside—that's the sign that their secret restaurant is open. The visitors to this "little nighttime rest station" are exhausted by life. A woman betrayed by her fiancé, a mother feeling lonely as her daughter prepares to move out—people with various worries come to this curious space in search of healing.

The food Natsuro and Naru cook are inspired by literary masterpieces, from Japanese classics such as *Botchan* and *Night on the Galactic Railroad* to Western titles such as *Anne of Green Gables* and *Little House on the Prairie*: tempura soba, hitsumabushi, shepherd's pie, cookies from scratch—all imbued with the spirit of literature.

On the upper floors are bathing facilities and overnight accommodations. With that plus the interaction with animals, what more could a person want from a healing space?

Amemichi Sunagawa's depictions of the food are a highlight, and the lightly crunchy tempura, fragrant soba, and rich, buttery cookies appeal to the reader's senses. These are stories of hope and rebirth told through the intertwined warmth of books and food, humans and animals. This moving book will soothe stinging hearts through the powers of literature and good food and offer courage for tomorrow.

Author Profile | Amemichi Sunagawa

A novelist from Niigata Prefecture living in Tokyo. Writes on the fiction-posting websites Berry's Cafe and Novema! Representative works include *Bokura no sora wa gunjōiro* (Our sky is marine blue), the *Gokainin!!* (Congratulations! You're expecting!) series (both from Starts Shuppan Bunko), *Mōjū onzōshi ni oyomeiri: watashi, ima ni mo taberarete shimaisō desu* (Engaged to a beast of a nobleman, I fear I may be eaten at any moment) (Berry's Bunko), *Watashi-tachi wa 25-sai de shinde shimau* (We're all going to die at age 25), and *Okizari no futari* (The two left behind; both from Shogakukan Bunko).



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Solving the Mysteries of Zipang

Nazotoki Jipangu /ナゾトキ・ジパング

Aito Aoyagi

Two college students, one Japanese and one American, team up to crack the puzzle!

This story takes place in a boys' dormitory at Seinan University. Protagonist Hidetsugu is instructed by his seminar professor to room with Kevin McRegal, an international student from Los Angeles. Unable to speak much English, Hidetsugu wonders how he'll cope, but it turns out that Kevin speaks Japanese fluently and knows more about Japanese culture than Japanese people themselves. At the end of March, just when the dormmates are enjoying a party under the blooming cherry blossoms, a murder takes place on campus. The victim is an alumnus who used to belong to the literature club. The first person on the scene, an underclassman in the dorm, is taken in by the police as a suspect. When Hidetsugu and Kevin sneak onto the crime scene to try to prove the boy's innocence, Kevin notices something off about the blood stains on the desk and the position of the dead man's hand. Through shrewd observations and logical deductions, Kevin begins to uncover the hidden truth behind the murder. Taking on the role of detectives, the pair become caught up in a series of incidents related to iconic Japanese places, foods, and traditions—cherry blossoms, Mt. Fuji, green tea, sukiyaki, Kyoto. Kevin's in-depth knowledge of Japanese culture and observations of the oddities of Japanese daily life that only a foreigner would spot provide clues to untangle the complicated tricks and alibis they encounter. Bossed around by Kevin, Hidetsugu helps the investigation along with his popularity and initiative. In the course of their adventure, they meet a colorful cast of characters, from a childhood friend of Hidetsugu's to an eccentric police detective. Five cases present themselves in these interconnected mystery stories that blend tales of youth in a university dorm with lighthearted dialogue between two opposite personalities and logic puzzles. The use of an international student's perspective to highlight both the appeals of Japanese culture and the unusual side of customs that are familiar to Japanese people is another major point of interest. Trivia about Japanese culture stands side by side with masterfully crafted cases to crack in this upbeat, punchy, cross-cultural buddy mystery collection.

Author Profile | Aito Aoyagi

Born in Chiba Prefecture in 1980. Graduated from Waseda University's School of Education and is an alumnus of the Waseda Quiz Studying Society. Debuted in 2009 with Hamamura Nagisa's *Calculator Notebook*, which won the Third Kodansha Birth Award in the Novels Division.



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 Printing: Black & White
 Publication: September 2025
 Agent: Susanna Lea Associates
 (World, excluding Asia)
 Rights sold: Korean, Traditional
 Chinese, Thai, German, Russia
 English sample translation
 available on request.

Detective Koishi Won't Fall in Love

Tantei Koishi wa koi shinai / 探偵小石は恋しない

Basil Mori

More than 80,000 copies sold in just half a year! The smash hit mystery novel nominated for the Japan Booksellers' Award

Koishi runs a small detective agency in Fukuoka, Kyushu. Her assistant is a man called Renjo. Koishi's lack of interest in romance is so central to who she is that it is referenced in the title of the novel, but over 99% of the cases brought to her agency are about problems in relationships, such as investigations of affairs. Even more ironically, Koishi is better at solving these cases than anyone else due to a special ability to see people's attraction in the form of arrows from one heart to another. Koishi would rather be working on difficult cases like unsolved murders, but for all her grumbling, she perfectly solves every case brought to her.

The first three of the five chapters are stand-alone stories, each covering a case the duo investigate. In the first, a high school girl asks them to investigate her cheating partner. In the second, they are asked by both partners in a common-law marriage to investigate whether the other partner is cheating. In the third, a man who is about to marry a pop star asks them to investigate a threatening letter he has received.

The final two chapters reveal that these three seemingly unrelated cases are connected. Hints that were laid throughout the story come together in a shocking final reveal.

The banter between the cynical and selfish but whip-smart Koishi and her gentle, beleaguered partner, the amazing setup and payoff of the mysteries in each of the cases, and the countless, mind-blowing moments of foreshadowing captivated mystery fans throughout Japan, making this one of the bestselling novels of the second half of 2025.

Author Profile | Basil Mori

Born in Miyazaki Prefecture in 1992. Graduated from Kyushu University. Won the Award of Excellence at the 23rd Sneaker Awards (Fall) in 2018. Won the 30th Seicho Matsumoto Award in 2023 for debut novel *Know It All: Anata Dake Ga Shitte Iru*. Other works include *Nande Shitai Ga Studio Ni!?*.



Category: Trade Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-386373-5 / 978-4-09-406399-8 (Bunko)

Pages: 210 pages / 256 pages (Bunko)

Printing: Black & White

Publication: January 2014 /

March 2017 (Bunko)

Rights Sold: **Korean**

Agent: The English Agency (World, excluding Asia)

English sample translation available on request.

I Want to Squeeze Your Hand

Sonote wo nigiritai / その手をにぎりた

Asako Yuzuki

From the bestselling author of *Butter*—a woman's decade-long love affair with sushi, and the chef who serves it

Asako Yuzuki, author of the international bestseller *Butter*, delivers a story set during Japan's bubble economy (1980-1992). The bubble was a period of abnormally high land prices, the most prosperous time in Japanese history—it's often said that people were dancing and waving money around.

Twenty-five-year-old Seiko decides to quit her job and go back to her hometown, but her life changes at the high-class sushi restaurant in Ginza where her boss takes her for a farewell dinner. There, following unconventional etiquette, diners receive each piece of sushi directly from the chef's hand to theirs, and Seiko is attracted by both chef Ichinose and his skills. Determined to earn enough money to frequent the restaurant, Seiko aborts her plan to go home, joins a real estate company, and gives herself over to the bubble economy.

A decade is covered in one chapter per year. At first, Seiko feels small at the high-class establishment, but over time she transforms into a sophisticated regular; however, her feelings for Ichinose are unreciprocated, and once the bubble bursts, issues appear at work and in her patronage of the sushi spot. After ten years of a relationship in which the pair only touch the moment the sushi changes hands, their story reaches a calm, beautiful conclusion. Yuzuki envisions this book as a Japan and woman-centered *The Great Gatsby*. It's a raw depiction of the ups and downs of an era seen through a woman's passion for sushi and a chef. How about some sushi after *Butter*?

Author Profile | Asako Yuzuki

Born in 1981. Japanese novelist. Won the All Yomimono Award for New Writers in 2008 and debuted in 2010 with *Shūten no ano ko* (The girl at the end of the line). In 2015, she won the Yamamoto Shugoro Award Hooked (English forthcoming tr. Polly Barton). Her most famous work, *Butter* (2017), has been licensed in 35 countries. Polly Barton's English translation has sold over 400,000 copies in the U.K. and over 100,000 in the U.S., and Yuzuki became the first Japanese author to win the prestigious British Book Award.



Category: Trade Fiction
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386745-0
 Pages: 368 pages
 Printing: Black & White
 Publication: February 2025
 Rights Sold: **N/A**
English synopsis available on request.

The Moon and the Amaryllis

Tsuki to amaryllis / 月とアマリリス

Sonoko Machida

A journalist exposes the brutal reality of domestic violence and women's fight for survival in this gripping crime thriller written by the author of *The Convenience Store by the Sea*

A former weekly magazine reporter goes after her old classmate Michiru, who is suspected of involvement in a case of skeletal remains discovered in the mountains. Utilizing her tenacious reporting skills, she sees how once-thriving Michiru met a man and fell so far as to be the perpetrator of a terrible crime.

Though alluring at first, as time goes on, the man began abusing her. The violence of this man, who was tortured as a child, became a daily occurrence, and the process of her fearfully accepting the relationship forces the reader to vicariously experience the psychology of a domestic violence victim. Eventually, Michiru begins taking care of an elderly woman with dementia as an accomplice in the crime of defrauding her.

The woman loves Michiru as if she were her real little sister, but when her physical condition deteriorates, the man refuses treatment for her, and she dies. After burying the body in the mountains, Michiru finally cracks under the pressure, stabs the man, and flees. Ultimately, the police arrest her, and she is able to escape her private hell.

This book comes together as a breath-taking thriller, a crime novel where the protagonist's reporting know-how gradually unravels the case, as well as a human drama depicting the ruin of a person in search of love against the backdrop of issues plaguing contemporary society such as child abuse, domestic violence, and codependence. Despite so much despair, the author's sympathetic gaze allows readers to find a glimmer of hope at the end.

Author Profile | Sonoko Machida

Born in 1980. Living in Fukuoka Prefecture. In 2016, she won the R-18 Literature Prize By and For Women with *Kamerūn no aoi sakana* (The blue fish of Cameroon). The next year, her debut publication featuring that work, *Yozora ni oyogu chokorēto guramii* (The chocolate gouramis swimming in the night sky) was released. In 2021, her novel *52-Hertz Whales* (English forthcoming by Sam Bett) won the Japan Booksellers' Award. Other works include *The Convenience Store by the Sea* (English tr. Bruno Navasky) and *Sora gohan* (Sora's recipes).



Category: Trade Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-386645-3 / 978-4-09-407443-7 (Bunko)

Pages: 368 pages / 464 pages (Bunko)

Printing: Black & White

Publication: May 2022 / March 2025 (Bunko)

Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)

Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional), Italian, Korean, Thai

English synopsis and sample translation available on request.

Sora's Recipes

Sora gohan / 宇宙ごはん

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.

Author Profile | Sonoko Machida

Born in 1980. Living in Fukuoka Prefecture. In 2016, she won the R-18 Literature Prize By and For Women with *Kamerūn no aoi sakana* (The blue fish of Cameroon). The next year, her debut publication featuring that work, *Yozora ni oyogu chokorēto guramii* (The chocolate gouramis swimming in the night sky) was released. In 2021, her novel *52-Hertz Whales* (English forthcoming by Sam Bett) won the Japan Booksellers' Award. Other works include *The Convenience Store by the Sea* (English tr. Bruno Navasky) and *Sora gohan* (Sora's recipes).



Category: Trade Fiction
 ISBN: 978-4-09-407514-4
 Pages: 336 pages
 Printing: Black & White
 Publication: November 2025
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)
 Rights Sold: N/A

The Cat Who Lent a Paw

Neko no te wo karimasu. / ネコの手を借ります。

Koushi Yamamoto

The heartwarming story of a cat who saves a young shut-in

Despite getting into the prestigious university he always hoped to attend, Souya found that life there wasn't how he hoped it would be. Floundering in his interactions with people, he fell into a deep despair and dropped out, and has confined himself to his home for ten years. Isolating himself from everyone including his family, Souya is convinced that his life is over, and spends his days in a state of suspended animation, doing nothing but killing time.

One day, during a downpour, Souya hears the faint mew of a kitten in the gutter. The kitten's desperation for help spurs Souya into action and he rescues her from the brink of death, getting drenched in the process. He decides to keep the kitten, naming her Marin, and this decision awakens deep feelings that Souya had kept shut away for years.

For Marin, Souya willingly steps outside his home for the first time in ten years. Going out to buy food and litter, explaining the situation to the vet, replying to a woman who approaches him in a store—all of these are things Souya could not have imagined doing before. The realization that he can act to protect a vulnerable creature plants a seed of confidence in Souya that begins to grow. Eventually, Souya starts a blog about his day-to-day life with Marin, and as a growing number of cat lovers read it, a "cat network" forms, through which Souya finds a job. Settling into working life, Souya begins strength training, doing push-ups and squats each day so that he can be strong enough to protect Marin. As he gets in shape, his confidence grows all the more.

Souya rebuilds his relationship with his family with little fanfare: with Marin to talk about, conversations aren't so awkward anymore. The relief in his parents' faces confirms the progress Souya has made in rejoining the world.

After ten years of being stuck, one tiny animal restarted Souya's life. Through Marin's will to survive in that gutter, and Souya's rescue of the kitten, Souya himself was saved. Love for someone else can inspire someone to take back their life. This cat is a beacon of strength for Souya, quietly restoring color to a future he thought he had lost.

Author Profile | Koushi Yamamoto

Born in 1963. Among his extensive bibliography, major works include the long-selling *Hikari No Majo* series and the *Meiken Magic* series. In *Hinata Bento*, *Hinata Store*, and *Minshuku Hinata-ya*, a dowdy middle-aged man transforms his life, while in *Kabi*, *Toge*, *Ore Wa Dame Ja Nai*, and *Tsume*, an ordinary person is caught up in chaos.



Category: Crime & Mystery

ISBN: 978-4-09-407008-8

Pages: 304 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: April 2021

Agent: Curtis Brown (World, excluding Asia)

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), English (World), French, German, Italian, Korean, Polish, Russian, Thai

English sample translation available on request.

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.

Author Profile | 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.



Category: Crime & Mystery

ISBN: 978-4-09-407250-1

Pages: 416 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: May 2023

Agent: Curtis Brown (World, excluding Asia)

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), English (World), French, Italian, Polish, Korean, Thai

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.

Author Profile | 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.



Category: Crime & Mystery

ISBN: 978-4-09-406791-0

Pages: 368 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: July 2020

Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)

Rights Sold: **Chinese (Traditional), English (World), German, Korean, Russian, Thai**

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.

Author Profile | Toshika Masaki

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?).



Category: Trade Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-386280-6, 978-4-09-408757-4 (Bunko)

Pages: 256 pages / 352 pages (Bunko)

Printing: Black & White

Publication: September 2010 / October 2012 (Bunko)

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified, Traditional), Korean, Russian

English sample translation and synopsis available on request.

The Mystery Will Be Solved After Dinner (also known as The After-Dinner Mysteries)

Nazotoki ha dinner no atode / 謎解きはディナーのあとで

Tokuya Higashigawa

This comical mystery won the 2011 Japan Booksellers' Award!

Over 2 million copies sold in Japan!

Rookie detective at the Kunitachi police station, Reiko Hosho, is daughter of the head of the world-renowned Hosho Group. Reporting to Chief Inspector Kazamatsuri (the heir to Kazamatsuri Motors), she is struggling with multiple cases. Upon returning home to her luxurious mansion, she changes from her drab pants suit into a dress to enjoy dinner, and whenever she's stuck on a particularly difficult case, she turns to her butler-cum-chauffer Kageyama.

"Do you have eyes in that head of yours, Miss?" Riding right up against the line of what would constitute abuse, Kageyama uses his sharp tongue to point out Reiko's lack of deduction prowess and proceeds to brilliantly solve the case. At first completely dependent on her clever butler-detective, Reiko eventually grows and is able to expand her career. In the final story, a surprising change occurs in the relationship between Reiko, Kageyama, and Kazamatsuri...

Includes "Remove Your Shoes at the Crime Scene" and five other stories.

Author Profile | Tokuya Higashigawa

Born in Hiroshima Prefecture in 1968. Graduate of Okayama University's faculty of law. In 2002, he debuted with *Misshitsu no kagikashi shimasu* (I'll lend you the key to the locked room). The above book won the Japan Booksellers' Award in 2011 and became a huge bestseller. His many other works include *Yakatajima* (Mansion isle), *Manabanai tantei-tachi no gakuen* (The academy for detectives who refuse to study), *Mahotsukai wa kanzen hanzai no yume o miru ka?* (Do magic users dream of the perfect crime?), the *Hiratsuka onna tantei no jikkenbo* (Case notes of the Hiratsuka lady detectives) series, the *Tantei shōjo Arisa no jikkenbo* (Little Arisa's casebook) series, and more.



Category: Trade Fiction

ISBN (Sister Edition): 978-4-09-386690-3 / 978-4-09-407507-6 (Bunko)

ISBN (Brother Edition): 978-4-09-386691-0 / 978-4-09-407508-3 (Bunko)

Pages: 256 pages each / 320 & 336 pages (Bunko)

Printing: Black & White

Publication: September 2023 / November 2025 (Bunko)

Agent: The English Agency and New River Literary (World, excluding Asia)

Rights Sold: Italian, Korean, French, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese

English synopsis and sample translation available on request.

The Ginmami Shopping Street Mysteries Vol.1

Ginmami shotengai no jikenbo / ぎんなみ商店街の事件簿

Magi Inoue

This unique parallel mystery is the first book in a series that has sold 300,000 copies in total!

Three incidents on one shopping street. Two truths behind them. These parallel mystery novels follow the same events from two perspectives: the three Uchiyama sisters, whose family runs a barbecue chicken joint, and the four Kogure brothers, who live nearby. The story is wrapped up in each of the books, but by reading both, the reader sees the answer from two completely different angles.

The story unfolds in Ginmami Shotengai, a classic 20th-century-style shopping street that brims with humanity. The eldest of the Uchiyamas is an adult, while her sisters are sixteen and eleven. The Kogures, meanwhile, are an adult, a seventeen-year-old, a fourteen-year-old, and a seven-year-old. With such a mix of ages, stages of life, and strengths and weaknesses, each character approaches the mystery from different perspectives based on what they can see and what they want to believe.

Three incidents take place during the books. First, a car speeds down the shopping street and its driver dies from a throat injury caused by a skewer. The only witness is the youngest Kogure boy, and upon hearing his account, no one is sure how much he really saw and how much he just thought he saw. The Uchiyama sisters and the Kogure brothers search for clues, each using different methods and reaching different conclusions. Next, equipment in the middle school art supply room is destroyed and a message is written with calligraphy ink and skewers. Was it a warning to someone, or a different message entirely? And then, as everyone on the shopping street organizes a Mystery Food Tour to revitalize the community, warnings of an abduction lurk in the shadows. A threatening note in cutout letters, tracking during a typhoon, and the situations of the adults in the shopping street all take on different meanings depending on the perspective, even though everyone was in the same place at the same time.

Author Magi Inoue skillfully crafted the Brother version and the Sister version so that neither version spoils the mystery of the other, making use of the unique skills of shopkeepers. Which will you read first?

Author Profile | Magi Inoue

Born in Kanagawa Prefecture, graduated from the University of Tokyo. Won the 51st Mephisto Prize with their debut novel, *Koi To Kinki No Predicate*. Rose to fame when *Tantei Ga Hayasugiru* was adapted into a two-season TV series. Recent works include *Basic Income No Inori*, *Mushika Chinchufu*, and *Ariadne No Koe*.



Category: Trade Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-386772-6

Pages: 320 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: December 2025

Agent: The English Agency and New River Literary (World, excluding Asia)

Rights Sold: N/A

The Ginnaami Shopping Street Mysteries Vol. 2 Snow White and the Five Pictures

Shirayukihime to gomai no e Ginnaami shotengai no jikenbo Vol. 2
/ 白雪姫と五枚の絵 めんなみ商店街の事件簿 Vol. 2

Magi Inoue

The second book in a series that has sold 300,000 copies in total! The three sisters and four brothers solve the mystery behind fairy tale pictures

One of the denizens of the Ginnaami Shotengai shopping street is Yukiko Yaotani, who was once known as "our Snow White" and now spends her days in a nursing home due to old age and dementia. When the middle Uchiyama sister happens to pay her a visit, she notices that Yukiko has a picture of the scene where the witch gives Snow White the poisoned apple. "She stole a hundred million yen from me," Yukiko says, pointing to the witch. This coded statement alludes to a secret message in the picture.

At the same time, the middle Kogure brothers are out for an early-morning jog when they find the owner of the sports store dead on the riverbank, with a picture of the Three Little Pigs lying next to him. Another picture with a hidden meaning.

Three more pictures of fairy tales—The Red Shoes, Hansel and Gretel, Yuki Onna—turn up around the shopping street, all clearly holding a meaning beyond face value.

As the story reaches its climax, invisible ink becomes visible on the last picture, the one of Yuki Onna. The message, in English, says "Five riddles reveal our treasure and its location." This message is the clue that is needed to tie these five seemingly separate pictures together and unveil the truth behind them. Long-held secrets in the community and the thoughts and memories of its members snap together as the seven detectives—the Uchiyama sisters and the Kogure brothers—solve another mystery.

Throughout the story, we learn about how the boys' dead mother expressed her feelings about her family in the pictures, the seemingly insignificant promise that Yukiko made with the men of the shopping street when she was young, and how new, deeper relationships have formed between the Kogure brothers and the Uchiyama sisters. The fairy tale pictures are more than just codes; they are central devices of the story that connect people's memories, creating skillful foreshadowing with an unforgettable payoff.

This collection of interconnected short stories is an art mystery combining the satisfaction of solving a mystery with the heart of a human drama. It is at once a mystery and a tale of the powerful connections between members of a small, close-knit community.

Author Profile | Magi Inoue

Born in Kanagawa Prefecture, graduated from the University of Tokyo. Won the 51st Mephisto Prize with their debut novel, *Koi To Kinki No Predicate*. Rose to fame when *Tantei Ga Hayasugiru* was adapted into a two-season TV series. Recent works include *Basic Income No Inori*, *Mushika Chinchufu*, and *Ariadne No Koe*.

NON-FICTION



Category: Nonfiction
 ISBN: 978-4-09-389184-4
 Pages: 264 pages
 Printing: Black & White
 Publication: January 2025
 Agent: The English Agency (World, excluding Asia)
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional), English (Excluding US), English (US), Korean

I know bird language

Boku ni wa tori no kotoba ga wakaru / 僕には鳥の言葉がわかる

Toshitaka Suzuki

The scientist who proved birds have language—a groundbreaking nonfiction bestseller with 150,000 copies sold in Japan!

For thousands of years, we've believed that language belonged to humans alone. Part memoir, part pop-science, this is a book by the researcher who overturned that assumption and scientifically proved that birds have language too.

After becoming fascinated with birdwatching as a high schooler, Toshitaka Suzuki made a fateful discovery in a mountainous region of Japan during college. When a cinerous tit calls, "Ji-ji-ji-ji," the others gather, sharply call, "hi-hi-hi," and hide—then a sparrowhawk appears. Suzuki instinctively understood these were not merely emotions but words meaning "Gather up!" and "Danger!" He spent years conducting observations and experiments.

The result was the discovery that cinerous tits have words that can be combined to create over 200 sentences. They even use their wings to make gestures. Particularly groundbreaking was his demonstration that the birds possess the abstract concept of "snake."

In 2022, Suzuki received a huge round of applause when he declared he was establishing the field of animal linguistics at the International Society for Behavioral Ecology Congress. In 2025, he is receiving the prestigious Tinbergen Lecturer Award in the UK. He established the world's first animal linguistics lab at Tokyo University. This book is not a difficult science text but an easy-to-read essay with witty narration and charming illustrations. It became an immediate bestseller in Japan with over 150,000 copies in print. This is the story of a modern-day Doctor Doolittle that overturns our human-centric worldview.

Author Profile | Toshitaka Suzuki

Born in 1983, and grew up in Nerima, Tokyo. Associate Professor at The Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, The University of Tokyo. After getting a degree in biology from Toho University, he completed a PhD at Rikkyo University. He has pioneered the field of animal linguistics after proving that birds have language. He has received many awards for his work, including the Japanese Ethological Society Award and, in 2025, the prestigious Tinbergen Lecturer Award from the UK's Association for the Study of Animal Behavior. Since 2023, he has been running the world's first animal linguistics lab.



Category: Nonfiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-396537-8

Pages: 224 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: August 2016

Rights Sold: N/A

90 Years Old - So What?

Kyuuujyussai. Nani ga medetai / 九十歳。何がめでたい

Aiko Sato

Bestselling essay collection that has sold more than 1.3 million copies in Japan !

Is living to 90 years old really something to celebrate? Each time author Aiko Sato is asked her age and congratulated for living so long, a voice inside her demands to know just what is so joyous about it. Various parts of her body don't work the way they used to, and she walks more slowly than she did before. Her hearing and sight are going, and society's changes are leaving her behind. Yet those around her think a long life warrants unqualified celebration. Sato responds to the realities of aging and the well-intentioned formalities of society with equal parts anger and wit.

After writing her last long novel, Sato thought she had written everything she needed to, and planned to bring an end to her writing career of more than 60 years. But as her loved ones passed away, and trips out and time spent with others became fewer and further between, she began writing again, producing a series of essays. This book is a collection of texts that were published in a weekly magazine over a period of around a year from 2015 to 2016. The topics covered are wide-ranging, from her own aging, her experiences with hospitals, her relationships with family, and day-to-day mishaps to TV, newspapers, the concerns of young people, and events in today's society.

Sato sharply questions a society that considers convenience and efficiency to be progress. She also criticizes the tendency to respond to serious matters by cobbling together superficially correct arguments, and the judgment of human weakness with black and white morality. She pulls no punches in the views she expresses. But her anger is rooted in an understanding of the failures and confusion that are part of everyone's lives. This book does not glorify aging, nor does it paint a wholly rosy picture of a long life. Rather, Sato tells us that when life doesn't go as we hoped, the key is not to avoid failures and suffering but to have the fortitude to rise above them and start again. Her frank words, rooted in the wisdom gained from a long life, will make you laugh and make you rethink your age and the way you approach life.

Author Profile | Aiko Sato

Born in Osaka Prefecture in 1923. Graduated from Konan Girls' High School. Won the 61st Naoki Prize for *When the Battle Comes to a Close and the Sun Sets* in 1969, the 18th Women's Literature Prize for *A Picture of Happiness* in 1979, the 48th Kikuchi Kan Prize on the completion of *Bloodline* in 2000, and the 25th Murasaki Shikibu Prize for *Evening Bell* in 2015. Awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette in 2017. Died on April 29, 2026, at the age of 102.



Category: Nonfiction
 ISBN: 978-4-09-389841-6
 Pages: 224 pages
 Printing: Black & White
 Publication: April 2026
 Rights Sold: **N/A**

100 New Things You Can Start Doing Today

Kyou kara dekiru atarashii koto 100 / きょうからできる あたらしいこと 100

Yatarou Matsuura

100 tips to refresh your spirit when work and life feel stuck in a rut, and you're longing for a change

When you're young, everything is new to you. You go to places for the first time, you get your first job. As you get older and experience more things, there are fewer things you don't know, you learn to do things efficiently, and things don't ruffle you like they used to. But at the same time, you might notice that you have less of the excitement and freshness you enjoyed when you were young. This book provides 100 suggestions of ways to bring back the novelties of everyday life for adults who are getting older. You could visit a small museum where you live, or find your favorite art gallery. You could make a timeline of your own life, or draw a map of the area in a 2km radius of your home. You could rearrange your furniture or put a single flower in a vase. You could get off the train at a station you've never been to before, or look up the names of the clouds. These suggestions don't require a lot of money, time, or special talent; they're all things you can do at any time. With a little curiosity and a "why not?" attitude, you can brighten up gray days. This book shows you how to approach each day with fresh eyes.

Author Profile | Yatarou Matsuura

Essayist. Worked as editor-in-chief of Kurashi no Techo (Notebook for Life) magazine for nine years. Has gained a vast following for his essays about little ways to make life more fun.



Category: Nonfiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-388832-5 / 978-4-09-407573-1 (Bunko)

Pages: 288 pages / 368 pages (Bunko)

Printing: Black & White

Publication: December 2021 / June 2026 (Bunko)

Rights Sold: N/A

The Diary of My Life, Even If Mommy Is No Longer in This World

Mama ga mou konosekaini inakutemo/ ママがもうこの世界にいらなくても

Nodoka Endou

A detailed diary of a battle with cancer that was adapted as a film

Nodoka was 21 when she was told she had stage 4 colorectal cancer. Young love prevailed despite her diagnosis; her boyfriend vowed that he would never leave her.

Her wedding at the age of 22 appeared in the Destination Weddings segment of a popular Japanese TV show, receiving an outpouring of responses from viewers. As her illness progressed, Nodoka chose to stop chemotherapy so that she could “meet our child,” persuading her initially resistant husband by explaining “I’ll regret not having a child. That regret will live on after I die.” Her wish came true, and she excitedly wrote to her baby: “I felt your first movement. I’m your mommy. It’s only a couple more months before I’ll get to meet you.” Her diary details her miracle pregnancy, giving birth at 23, and the arduous day-to-day work of raising a child, up until 10 days before her death. She passed away in September 2021, just 24 years old, after battling the cancer for around three years. Her diary tells the life story of a woman who dreamed of marrying and having a baby, with entries by her sister after Nodoka herself became unable to write, and accounts by Nodoka’s husband detailing her funeral and five years of their daughter’s life after Nodoka’s death. Despite her battle with cancer, her immense love for her husband and daughter leaps off every page.

Author Profile | Nodoka Endou

Born in Aomori Prefecture in 1997. Diagnosed with stage 4 colorectal cancer at 21. Married at 22 to her boyfriend, whom she had dated since she was 19, and gave birth to a daughter at 23, pausing her radiation therapy during her pregnancy. Passed away about a year later at the age of 24.



Category: Nonfiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-311598-8

Pages: 192 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: November 2025

Rights Sold: N/A

Why Does My Dog Love Me With All Its Might? Answering All Owners' "Why"s with Science

Naze inu wa zenryoku de watashi wo aishitekurerunoka/ なぜ犬は全力で私を愛してくれるのか

Masaaki Kano

The latest science on living happily with your dog

Humans and dogs have lived together for more than 10,000 years. Dogs have had a special place in humans' lives since the Stone Age, not only as a source of labor but as cherished companions. But we are still learning more and more about dogs today. Historically, dog care and training methods have widely presumed that humans need to assert dominance over their dogs and establish a hierarchical relationship, but recent research has found that the bond that forms between dogs and their owners is similar to that between an infant and his or her caregivers. For dogs to feel at ease in their behavior and training, it is important to create a space where they feel secure by building trust and providing consistent responses rather than exerting control. Why are dogs able to understand humans' words? Why do they approach a human with affection when the human is crying? Why do dogs hold no grudge against their owner when they are scolded? This book answers the questions that arise when living with a dog, based on the latest scientific research and dog training practices.

Masaaki Kano is the first researcher in Japan to earn a Ph.D. in human-canine bonds, and has extensive experience as a dog trainer. Drawing on a combination of scientific research and his experiences with many dogs and their owners, he provides specific explanations of the reasons behind dogs' behaviors and how their owners should address them. The book covers a wide range of topics, including dogs' understanding of language, why they bark, their puberty, play and memories, sleep and learning, walks, leaving a dog at home alone, separation anxiety, and toilet training. You'll learn a variety of things you need to know about your dog's life: tooth health, brushing, heat stroke, evacuation in an emergency, welcoming a rescue dog into your home, and caring for a senior dog. This book debunks old norms and assumptions with scientific facts and highlights the importance of choosing the right methods for each dog. With this practical guide, you and your dog can understand each other and live together with peace of mind for years to come.

Author Profile | Masaaki Kano

Received Japan's first Ph.D. in human-canine bonds from Azabu University after conducting research on the relationship between humans and dogs, problem behaviors in dogs, and training. After graduating, he founded Animal Life Solutions Co., Ltd. He runs Study Dog School as a dog training school for owners, and is involved in education for experts and dog trainers. In 2009, he received CPDT-KA, an international dog training qualification.



Category: Non-Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-388106-7 / 978-4-09-408700-0 (Bunko)

Pages: 226 pages / 272 pages (Bunko)

Printing: Black & White

Publication: February 2010 / March 2012 (Bunko)

Agent: The English Agency and New River Literary (World, excluding Asia)

Rights Sold: English (UK), German, Italian, Spanish, Korea, Dutch, Chinese (Traditional)

English sample translation available on request.

Also available: Two sequels



The Practice of Not Thinking

Kangaenai rensu / 考えない練習

Ryunosuke Koike

The monk who revealed the cure for overthinking—a transformative mindfulness guide embraced by thousands seeking peace

Humans are constantly thinking. We believe this ability sets us apart, but Buddhist monk Ryunosuke Koike argues that endless mental chatter is precisely what causes our suffering. Negative thoughts spiral, concentration falters, and we become trapped in anxiety—what he calls humanity's "disease of thought."

The paradox is that trying to stop thinking only generates more thoughts: "I'm going to stop thinking," "wait, I'm already thinking," "this isn't working." True change comes not from intellectual understanding but from actual practice.

Koike offers practical training exercises organized around daily activities—speaking, listening, seeing, writing, eating, discarding, touching—to sharpen the five senses and develop mindful awareness. Prohibit yourself from excuses and lies. When criticized, seek out the other person's suffering and respond with compassion. When eating, focus on each action and the movement of your tongue. Practice discarding to overcome attachment. Focus on sensations like heat itself rather than reacting against them. Through these practices, readers learn to observe thoughts without being controlled by them.

Written by the head priest of Tsukuyomi Temple in Tokyo, this accessible guide blends Buddhist wisdom with contemporary psychology. Koike, a Tokyo University graduate who leads meditation classes for the general public, presents concrete techniques anyone can use to reduce anxiety, improve concentration, and find peace in daily life.

For those exhausted by overthinking and seeking practical paths to mental clarity, this bestselling book offers ancient wisdom adapted for modern struggles—a roadmap to taming the restless mind through simple, actionable practices.

Author Profile | Ryunosuke Koike

Ryunosuke Koike, born in 1978 in Yamaguchi Prefecture, is a Buddhist monk and chief priest of Tsukuyomiji Temple in Tokyo. Internationally renowned for his accessible books on Zen and Buddhism, his "Practice" series—including *Training Yourself Not to Think*, *Training Yourself Not to Suffer*, and *Training Yourself Not to Obsess*—has sold over one million copies in Japan and been translated into many languages.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS



The Lamb's Necklace

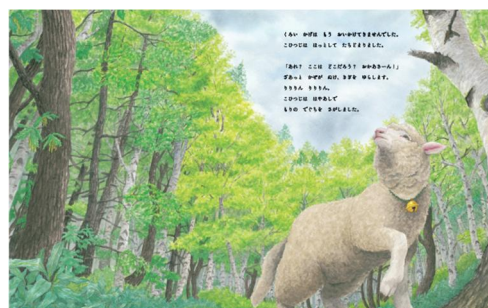
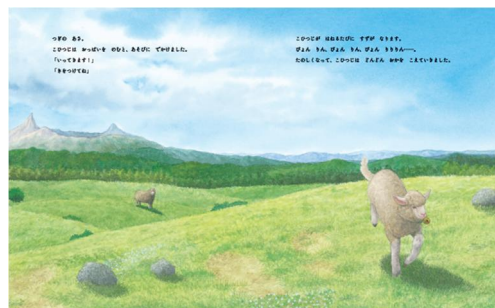
Kohitsuji no kubikazari / こひつじのくびかざり

Mami Nakano

A new picture book from Japan Picture Book Award-winning author Mami Nakano.

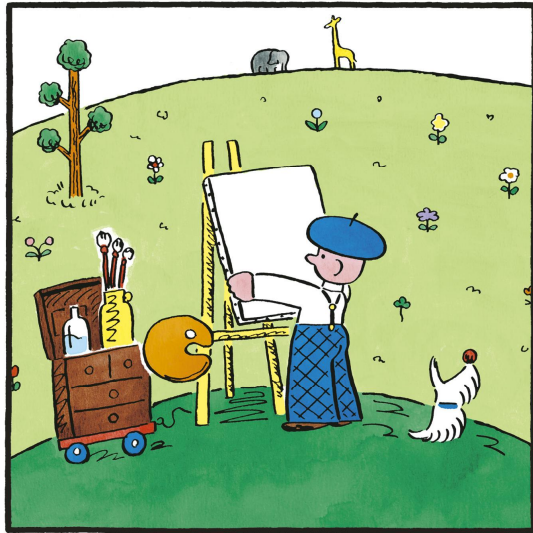
An energetic young lamb is given a bell by their mother, who puts it around their neck. They love the way their new necklace jingle-jangles when they run, and run faster just to hear it. But then they realize that they've become separated from their mother, and they don't know where they are. Night falls and the lamb is still lost, helpless to do anything but stare at the moon. The next morning, deep in despair, the lamb meets three goats. To help them find their way home, the goats help them up into a tall tree. The lamb had never been up so high or seen so far before! They spot a mountain they recognize, and figure out the way home. Their mother, meanwhile, can hear them coming from their bell. As you read this picture book, you'll share in the lamb's roller coaster of emotions, from happiness to anxiety to thrill, and feel the triumph, warmth, and relief that comes at the end.

Category: Picture Books
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725478-2
 Pages: 32 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: June 2026
 Rights sold: **N/A**
 Age: 3+



Author Profile | Mami Nakano

Born in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1984. Painter and illustrator. Graduated from Musashino Art University. Won the Japan Picture Book Award for *The Cat and the Little Bird*.



fancomi

ガハクとブラシ

gahaku & brush

小学館

Category: Picture Books
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725225-2
 Pages: 32 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: July 2023
 Rights sold: N/A
 Age: 3+



ハヤの いちばん、いいところに おぼりました。
 おもしろい

Gahaku and Brush

Gahaku to Burashi / ガハクとブラシ

fancomi

A tale of one day in the life of Gahaku the painter and his beloved dog Brush

A painter called Gahaku lives together with his beloved dog Brush and paints pictures every day. One day, Gahaku finds a wonderful spot to paint. While he is getting set up, an elephant and a giraffe come running from afar. "Paint us!" they say, striking strange poses. "No, paint us!" cry a big crowd of prairie dogs and moles, peeking out of the ground. Before long, the trees, clouds, river, and even the mountains are jostling for their place in Gahaku's picture. Unsure what else to do, Gahaku decides to paint them all. By the time he's finished, the sun is going down, and his models are weary too. Back at home, Gahaku arranges his pictures on his wall. What do you think Gahaku really wanted to paint? A cheerful, charming story brought to life with soft lines and bright colors by popular illustrator fancomi.



Author Profile | fancomi

Born in Saitama in 1980. Graduated from the Department of Design at Tokyo Zokei University in 2004. Currently works as a freelance illustrator and designer.



Category: Picture Books

ISBN: 978-4-09-725233-7

Pages: 40 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: July 2023

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified, Traditional),
French, German, Polish, Korean

Age: 3+



Bonbalbon: the Most Polite Monster in the World

Sekai ichi reigi tadashii kaiju bonbarubon / せかいいちれいぎただしいかいじゅう ボンバルボン

Q-rai

Cute, funny, and a little surreal—a new monster is in town!

One day, a humongous, enormous monster emerges from the sea. The town is in an uproar. With courage in hand, the mayor boards a helicopter and approaches the terrifying sea creature. Just as he is about to plead for the safety of the town and its people, the monster bows deeply and offers gifts. "I'd like to bask in the sun a little. May I come ashore?" He asks. How humble! How sweet! How polite! The mayor is impressed and welcomes the monster in town. Will the mayor regret his decision? Will the town come through unscathed? Rumble, rumble, the ground vibrates once again...Meet Bonbalbon, the latest surprising new character by popular Japanese artist Q-rai.



Author Profile | Q-rai

Yusuke Sakamoto, better known as **Q-rai**, has been making short animations since high school. After graduating from Tokyo Zokei University, he worked at Tohokushinsha Film Corporation and has been a full-time freelance animator, cartoonist and illustrator since 2017. He was the grand prize winner of the 19th DigiCon6 ASIA for his film *Kamo ga suki* (I Like Ducks). His picture books include *Chikyu-chan* (Earthy), *Don Ussa sora o tobu* (Don Ussa Flies Up to the Sky) and *Abare neko* (Rough Cat).



Category: Picture Books
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725277-1
 Pages: 40 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: September 2024
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional, Simplified),
 French, German, Polish
 Age: 3+

The Most Polite Monster in the World: Bonbalbon Makes a Delivery

Sekai ichi reigi tadashii kaiju bonbarubon no otodokemono / せかいいちれいぎただしいかいじゅう ボンバルボンのおとどけもの
 Q-rai

The second entry in the picture books series about the touchingly polite monster Bonbalbon!

Bonbalbon is a very polite, giant monster. He lives with his father Donbalbon and his mother Monmalmon at the bottom of the sea. One day, his mother asks him to make a delivery to his grandfather at the North Pole. So how does it go, running his first errand by himself?!

His mother wonders if he'll find his way alright, but he tells her, "Yeah! I got it! I can make it on my own!" Bonbalbon sets out confidently enough, but his journey is a parade of absurd episodes that will have you cracking up.

The author is the mega-popular animator, illustrator, mangaka, and picture book creator Q-rai. The combination of cute, silly, and surreal is always a good time, and this happy, entertaining picture book is chockful of Q-rai's charm.



Author Profile | Q-rai

Yusuke Sakamoto, better known as **Q-rai**, has been making short animations since high school. After graduating from Tokyo Zokei University, he worked at Tohokushinsha Film Corporation and has been a full-time freelance animator, cartoonist and illustrator since 2017. He was the grand prize winner of the 19th DigiCon6 ASIA for his film *Kamo ga suki* (I Like Ducks). His picture books include *Chikyu-chan* (Earthy), *Don Ussa sora o tobu* (Don Ussa Flies Up to the Sky) and *Abare neko* (Rough Cat).



Category: Picture Books
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725428-7
 Pages: 40 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: October 2025
 Rights Sold: Korean, Chinese (Traditional)
 Age: 3+



Ponkolpon, the World's Shyest Monster

Sekai ichi hazukashigariya no kaiju ponkolpon/ セカイいちはずかしがりやのかいじゅう ポンコルポン

Q-rai

The 3rd book in the Polite Monster Bonbalbon Series!

One day, a big monster comes out of the sea. Her name is Ponkolpon. She wears a blue ribbon on her head and she is extremely shy. When she orders a new ribbon from the ribbon store and goes to the humans' town to pick it up, she becomes an instant celebrity. Humans take her picture and try to interview her. Seeing this adorable monster blushing bright red, hiding in the mountains, and curling up into a ball in the middle of the street will touch your heart. Will Ponkolpon make it to the ribbon store in the end? Packed with smash hit artist Q-rai's signature blend of cuteness and humor, this picture book will have children and adults rolling around with laughter.

Author Profile | Q-rai

Yusuke Sakamoto, better known as **Q-rai**, has been making short animations since high school. After graduating from Tokyo Zokei University, he worked at Tohokushinsha Film Corporation and has been a full-time freelance animator, cartoonist and illustrator since 2017. He was the grand prize winner of the 19th DigiCon6 ASIA for his film *Kamo ga suki* (I Like Ducks). His picture books include *Chikyu-chan* (Earthy), *Don Ussa sora o tobu* (Don Ussa Flies Up to the Sky) and *Abare neko* (Rough Cat).





Category: Picture Books

ISBN: 978-4-09-725193-4

Pages: 32 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: October 2022

Agent: Japan Uni Agency (World, excluding Asia)

Rights Sold: **Chinese (Simplified, Traditional),
English (World), Korean, Swedish**

Age: 3+

The Snow Theater

Yuki no gekijou / ゆきのげきじょう

Ryoji Arai

Under a blanket of white snow, a warm and gentle tale unfolds

An illustrated book of butterflies is a father's most treasured possession. Yellow, red, white, orange, green butterflies...On a cold, snowy day a boy shows the book to his friend and together they marvel at the beautiful colors. The boy's friend would love to borrow the book and take a closer look, but he tugs it a little too hard and a page suddenly rips. Can his father ever forgive him?

The boy puts on his skis and ventures out in the snow. Troubled thoughts spinning in his head, he suddenly falls in a hole and right in front of him, nestled in the snow, a tiny theater appears. Snow ballerinas twirl at the soft tune of little snowmen singing. As more and more snow continues to fall, the theater magically grows bigger and bigger. The boy is lost in the majestic scene, until—"Hey!" A familiar voice suddenly calls from afar and before he knows it, his father is by his side.

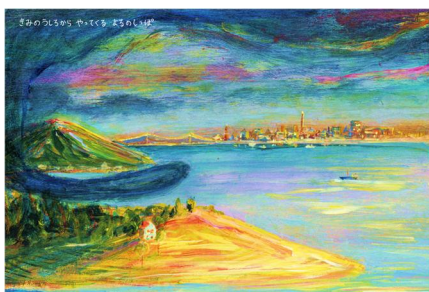
Author Profile | Ryoji Arai

Ryoji Arai is a Japanese picture book artist living in Tokyo. Born in 1956 in Yamagata Prefecture, he majored in design at Nihon University College of Art. He has received many honors in Japan and overseas, including the IBBY Honour List and the Bologna Ragazzi Award. His art has been exhibited in more than ten Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) as the artist representing Japan. In 2005, Ryoji Arai became the first Japanese author to be awarded the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The poem Almost Nothing, yet Everything: A Book about Water (Enchanted Lion Books, 2021) written by Hiroshi Osada and illustrated by Ryoji Arai was selected as a USBBY Outstanding International Book of 2022.





Category: Picture Books
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725276-4
 Pages: 32 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: July 2024
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional), Korean
 Age: 3+



What's "Beautiful"?

Utsukushii tte nani / うつくしいってなに

Text by **Tahi Saihate**, Illustrations by **Ryoji Arai**

A dream-like poem of a picture book created by poet Tahi Saihate and author-artist Ryoji Arai

A girl is looking out the window of her room. The sunset and blue sea she's gazing at, her gazing eyes, her pink cheeks, the presence of night approaching around her house, the starry sky, the lights of the city... Beautiful things appear one after the other and the reader is asked to ponder just what is beautiful. Eventually the girls falls asleep enveloped in the world's beautiful things.

Poet Tahi Saihate and Ryoji Arai teamed up because they are fans of each other's work. Please see for yourself what kind of picture book came into being the moment these two dazzling talents met.

Author Profile | Tahi Saihate

Born in 1986. Winner of the Nakahara Chūya Prize, the Hanatsubaki Award for Contemporary Poetry, and other awards. Collections include *Guddo mōningu* (Good morning), *Shinde shimau kei no bokura ni* (To those of us who are the dying type), and *Tengoku to, totetsu mo nai hima* (Heaven and an absurdity of free time). *Yozora wa itsudemo saikō mitsudo no aoiro da* was adapted as a film (The Tokyo Night Sky is Always the Densest Shade of Blue) in 2017. In addition to poetry, she writes novels and essays.

Illustrator Profile | Ryoji Arai

Ryoji Arai is a Japanese picture book artist living in Tokyo. Born in 1956 in Yamagata Prefecture, he majored in design at Nihon University College of Art. He has received many honors in Japan and overseas, including the IBBY Honour List and the Bologna Ragazzi Award. His art has been exhibited in more than ten Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) as the artist representing Japan. In 2005, Ryoji Arai became the first Japanese author to be awarded the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The poem Almost Nothing, yet Everything: A Book about Water (Enchanted Lion Books, 2021) written by Hiroshi Osada and illustrated by Ryoji Arai was selected as a USBBY Outstanding International Book of 2022.



Category: Picture Books

ISBN: 978-4-09-726625-9

Pages: 32 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: February 2016

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified, Traditional),
Korean, English (World)

Age: 3+

What a Great Day That Was

Soryaa mou ihi dattayo / そりゃあもういいひだったよ

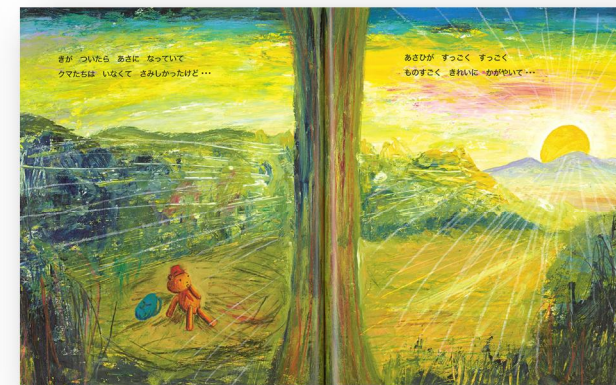
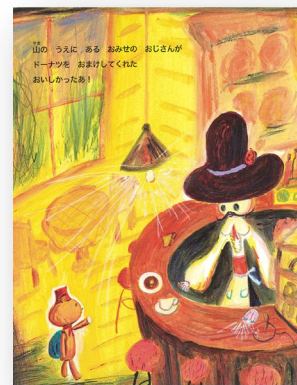
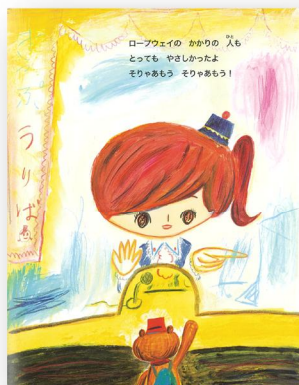
Ryoji Arai

A fantastic picture book by a winner of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, IBBY Honour List and the Bologna Ragazzi Award

One day a bear plushie receives an invitation in the mail from a real bear. Along his way to visit the letter's sender, the plushie encounters a friendly bus driver, a donut shop owner, and other bears; every day is full of lovely experiences, and at the end of each day, he says, "What a great day that was." Read with your child and reflect on all the fun or happy things that happened today. Naturally, Ryoji Arai's fantastical illustrations are part of this book's charm.

Author Profile | Ryoji Arai

Ryoji Arai is a Japanese picture book artist living in Tokyo. Born in 1956 in Yamagata Prefecture, he majored in design at Nihon University College of Art. He has received many honors in Japan and overseas, including the IBBY Honour List and the Bologna Ragazzi Award. His art has been exhibited in more than ten Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) as the artist representing Japan. In 2005, Ryoji Arai became the first Japanese author to be awarded the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The poem *Almost Nothing, yet Everything: A Book about Water* (Enchanted Lion Books, 2021) written by Hiroshi Osada and illustrated by Ryoji Arai was selected as a USBY Outstanding International Book of 2022.





Category: Chapter Books / Arts

ISBN: 978-4-09-289347-4

Pages: 192 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: June 2026

Rights Sold: N/A

Age: 10+

Canvas the Color of Rain

Ameiro no kyanbasu / 雨色のキャンバス

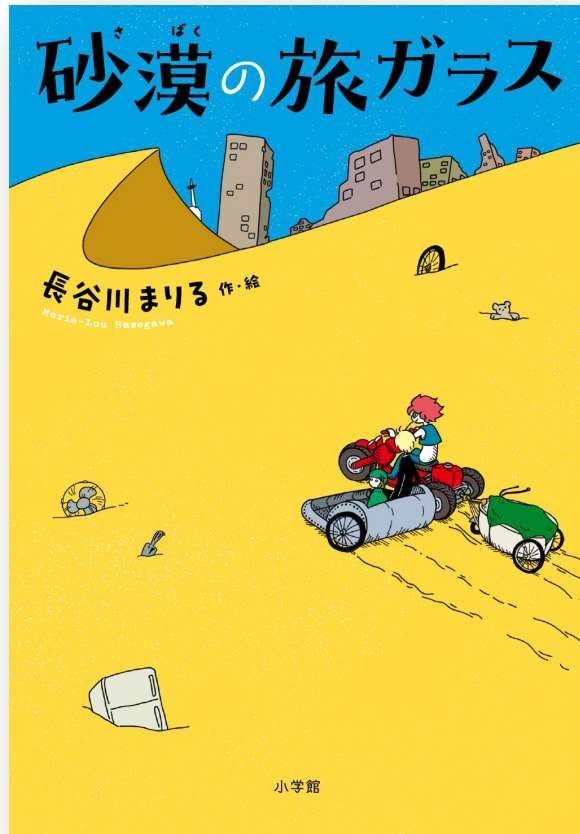
Machi Nanami

A novel about the delicate psychology of teens, told through paintings.

In her first year of junior high, a single statement from her best friend leaves Azami unable to walk into the classroom. At her homeroom teacher's recommendation, she receives a special accommodation allowing her to attend classes in a separate room from her classmates, where she can learn at her own pace. There, she meets Ameri, a girl in her grade who is receiving the same accommodation. Unlike Azami, Ameri does not complete her schoolwork, spending her time looking at a book of paintings instead. Ameri shows Azami a picture of *The Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci. Upon learning from Ameri that the picture is of Jesus prophesying that one of his disciples will betray him, Azami remembers her friend's words and her heart aches. Each time Azami comes into the classroom, Ameri shows her one of the various paintings in her book. El Greco's *The Annunciation*. Botticelli's *Primavera*. Hieronymus Bosch's *The Garden of Earthly Delights*. Van Gogh's *Café Terrace at Night*. As Ameri shares her way of looking at paintings, Azami learns that things can be seen in many different ways. She reexamines her friendship with her best friend and sees another side of her that she didn't see before. Now good friends with Ameri, she arranges to go with her to a special Van Gogh exhibition in Tokyo to see his paintings in real life, but things don't go as expected. A story of a junior high school girl and an art-loving classmate who teaches her to look at herself and her friends in a new way.

Author Profile | Machi Nanami

Living in Tokyo. Debuted with the *Prophesy!* Series. Her favorite painter is Caravaggio.



Category: Chapter Books / Sci-Fi

ISBN: 978-4-09-289332-0

Pages: 224 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: October 2023

Rights Sold: N/A

Age: 10+

Wandering Crow in the Desert

Sabaku no tabi garasu / 砂漠の旅ガラス

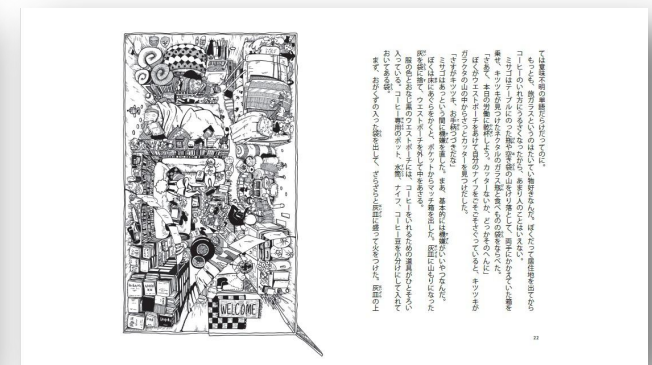
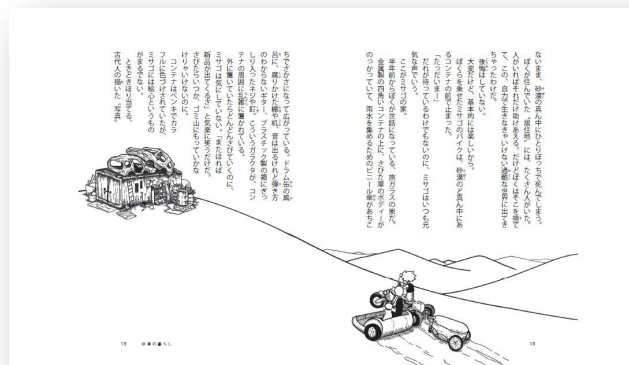
Marie-Lou Hasegawa

A young adult adventure novel set in a dystopian world

After AI took over, the world was buried in sand, leaving humanity all but extinct. Descendants of the few surviving humans live from day to day by digging tools built by the old civilizations out of the sand. I was living a free-spirited life, digging up treasures from the sand as I needed to, until one day I found a seed for a plant I could not properly identify. Before long, that seed sparked a battle between the sand bandits who control the desert, the law-abiding residents of the settled areas, and the wandering crows like me who roam free. An adventure novel chronicling children's determination to survive in a post-apocalyptic world where almost all of humanity has been lost.

Author Profile | Marie-Lou Hasegawa

Born in Nagano Prefecture and raised in Tokyo. Received an Honorable Mention at the Kodansha Children's Literature Newcomers' Awards for her debut book, *Oekaki Kinshi no Kuni* (The Country Where Drawing Is Forbidden), in 2018. Won the 62nd Noma Children's Literature Prize for *Sugimori-kun o Korosu ni wa* (To Kill The Boy Sugimori.) Also drew the cover illustration and page illustrations for *Wandering Crow in the Desert*.



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