

# *SHOGAKUKAN*

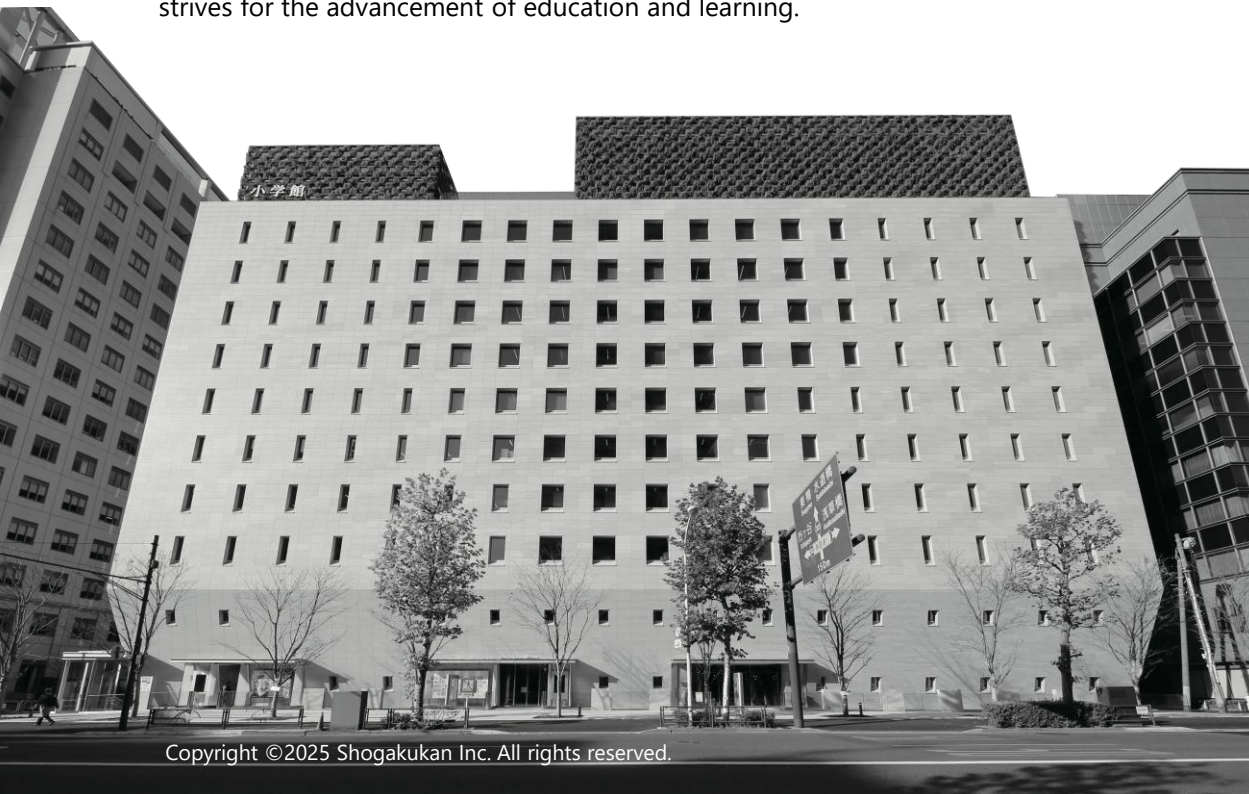
**SPRING 2025**  
**Rights Guide**

*HIGHLIGHTS*

# SHOGAKUKAN

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

Shogakukan was founded in 1922 as a publisher of educational magazines for preschool and elementary school students. Having celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2022, Shogakukan has now established itself as a leading publisher of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, art, photography, travel guides, dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference books. Renowned for its long tradition and expertise in the publishing industry, Shogakukan also produces a wide range of other content across print, digital and audio—comic books for children and adults, educational and entertainment magazines and websites and apps. The wealth of original content is further promoted through investment in film and TV productions, third-party adaptations, as well as extended reality (XR) projects. Honoring outstanding works with the Shogakukan Children, Comics and Non-Fiction Awards, Shogakukan aims to actively foster diversity, inclusion and accessibility, and strives for the advancement of education and learning.



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Company Name: SHOGAKUKAN Inc.  
Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan  
Founded: August 8, 1922  
President: Nobuhiro Oga  
Capital: 147 million yen  
Sales: 108.7 billion yen (2023 fiscal year)  
Employees: 707 (as of March 2024)

**FICTION**



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386730-6  
 Pages: 290 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: October 2024  
 Rights Sold: **Korean**  
 English sample translation available on request.

# Record of an Instinct

*Seishokuki* / 生殖記

Ryo Asai

The latest work by Japan's most promising young author

100,000 copies sold in Japan and nominated for the 2025 Japan Booksellers' Award

Shosei is a 33-year-old man who works in the general affairs department of a consumer electronics manufacturer. He is gay and in the closet. Ever since childhood he's never managed to have feelings for the opposite sex and has no experience dating girls, but neither has he had a gay lover, and he hasn't come out to his family, either. For this reason, he tries to keep his social life minimal, pretending to be a member of the collective while only participating in a passive way.

What makes this book so special is that the narrator isn't Shosei, but the reproductive instinct inhabiting his penis. The reproductive instinct being has previously worked on all sorts of other species and was even in charge of a human female at one time.

This outsider view of human society raises fundamental issues with the "common" sense about community and interpersonal relationships that many people accept unconsciously. Why do humans pursue the development and growth of their collective? How do individuals make their respective contributions to that development and growth? And what are homosexual people to that collective? The perspective of Shosei, gay and human, combines with the more objective observations of the reproductive instinct narrator to produce a reading experience like no other.

## Author Profile | Ryo Asai

Born in Gifu Prefecture. Debuted with his Shosetsu Subaru New Writers Award-winning *Kirishima, bukatsu yameru tte yo* (The Kirishima thing). He also won the Naoki Prize for *Nanimono* (Someone), the Joji Tsubota Literature Prize for *Sekai chizu no shitagaki* (A rough draft of the map of the world), and the Shibata Renzaburo Prize for *Seiyoku* ((Ab)normal desire).



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386739-9  
 Pages: 240 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: October 2024  
 Rights Sold: **Korean**  
 English sample translation available on request.

# Love, Affection, Or At Least Kindness

*Koi toka ai toka yasashisa nara* / 恋とか愛とかやさしさなら

Michi Ichiho

**The latest novel from a Naoki Prize winner & nominated for 2025 Japan Booksellers' Award!**  
**A runaway bestseller with over 80,000 copies sold in just three months**

The protagonist is a 30-year-old photographer named Niika. One day, her partner of five years, Hiraku, proposes. She accepts and is on cloud nine when, the next day, she gets a sudden phone call from his mother.

"My son has just been arrested for photographing a girl without her consent."

He took an upskirt shot of a high schooler at a train station. There was evidence, and he apparently confessed when the police questioned him. Niika anxiously waits for an update, hoping it's all some kind of mistake. In the afternoon, she gets another phone call from the mother. The victim agreed to an out-of-court settlement, and Hiraku's place of work will not be notified, she says, "So you don't have to worry."

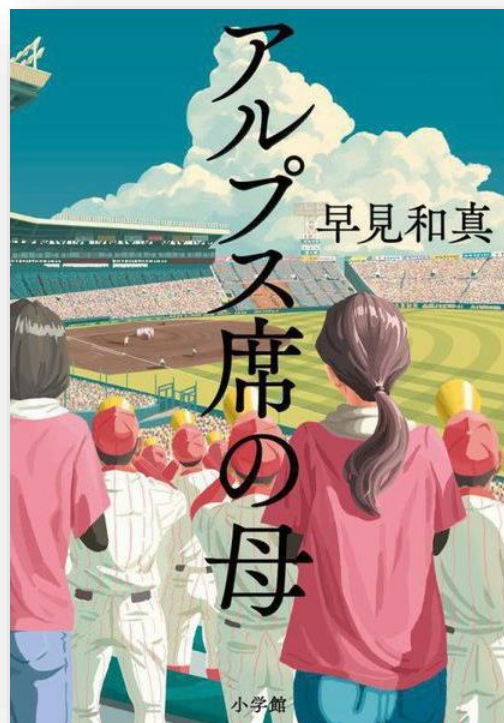
But Niika can't understand what that is supposed to mean. It was true he didn't have any previous offenses, and he hadn't taken a social fall, but he's still a perpetrator of sexual violence.

Family members, co-workers, friends, and the victim herself express different views depending on their relationship to Niika and/or Hiraku as well as their experiences with sexual violence. Sometimes accepting these comments, other times ignoring them, Niika wrestles deeply with the questions of whether to marry Hiraku or break up, whether to forgive him or not, and what it means to love someone as she struggles to reach her own conclusion.

A story of love and pain that asks the reader, "What would you do?"

## Author Profile | Michi Ichiho

Novelist. Debuted in 2008 with *Yuki yo ringo no kaori no gotoku* (O snow, like the scent of apples). Won the 43rd Yoshikawa Eiji Literature Prize and came in third for the Japan Booksellers' Award in 2022 with *Smōru wāruzu* (Small worlds). Won the 171st Naoki Prize with *Tsumidemikku* (Crime&demic) in 2024.



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386713-9  
 Pages: 352 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: March 2024  
[English synopsis available on request.](#)

# The Baseball Mom

*Alps-seki no haha* / アルプス席の母

**Kazumasa Hayami**

## Nominated for the 2025 Japan Booksellers' Award!

When Kotaro expressed his desire to attend a prestigious baseball high school to fulfill a promise to his late father, Nanako, a single mother, decided to support him despite financial concerns. After Kotaro injured his elbow, Coach Saeki from Hope High offered him a scholarship. Nanako relocated with Kotaro to Osaka, finding work as a nurse while he lived in the team dormitory. She struggled to adapt to Osaka's culture and the hierarchical baseball parents' committee.

Kotaro's first year ended with elbow surgery. During his recovery, he showed remarkable personal growth, switching from pitcher to shortstop by his third year. He emerged as a team leader, rekindling his love for baseball by supporting his teammates.

Meanwhile, Nanako challenged outdated committee rules, developing her own confidence. Coach Saeki also transformed his harsh coaching style. Together, they created a more supportive environment. In their final year, the team qualified for Koshien. Kotaro returned to pitching during the tournament, leading them to the semifinals. As he decided to continue baseball in college while studying to become a teacher, Nanako chose to remain in Osaka, embraced by her new community.

Their story illustrates how supporting someone's dreams can lead to unexpected personal growth. What began as a sacrifice became a journey of transformation for both mother and son, finding new beginnings in an unfamiliar place.

## Author Profile | Kazumasa Hayami

Kazumasa Hayami was born in 1977 in Kanagawa Prefecture where he played baseball at Touin High School. His notable titles include *Inosento deizu* (Innocent Days), which won the Mystery Writers of Japan Award in 2015, *Za roiyaru famirii* (The Royal Family), which won the Yamamoto Shugoro Prize in 2020, and *Tenchou ga baka sugite* (How Can My Manager Be So Stupid?) which was nominated for the 2020 Japan Booksellers' Award.





Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 4-09-386138-2 / 978-4-09-408160-2 (Bunko)  
 Pages: 418 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: October 2004  
 Agent: Japan UNI Agency and Vicki Satlow Literary Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), French

# Say Hello For Me

*Sono toki wa kare ni yoroshiku* / そのときは彼によろしく

**Takuji Ichikawa**

**Another bestseller from the author of *Be with you* with over 720,000 copies!**

Satoshi struggles to fit in at elementary school; he likes to sit by the lake and look at the seaweed. One day he discovers a bus abandoned on the shore of the lake. A girl named Karin is asleep inside. Karin has no parents. She and a boy named Yuji from the same orphanage have made the bus their fort. The three of them are friends in no time. Yuji wants to be a painter, Satoshi wants to sell aquatic plants, and Karin wants to work with Satoshi, but before their dreams can come true, Karin falls ill, Satoshi ends up moving away, and they lose touch. Thirteen years pass.

Satoshi fulfills his dream of running a small aquatic plants shop. One day a beautiful woman comes and asks to work there—Karin.

Karin is dealing with an illness that means if she falls deeply asleep, she'll never wake up again. Every day she sleeps longer and longer, and she's taking the strongest medicine available. She's been in love with Satoshi since their childhood days, and given that she isn't sure how much time she has left, she came to see him as soon as she spotted a magazine article featuring his aquatic shop. Then a woman named Momoka gets in touch with Satoshi after seeing the same magazine. Momoka is Yuji's girlfriend; she tells Satoshi that Yuji is in a coma after being in an accident. Satoshi and Karin rush to the hospital. It also turns out that Yuji has been on the path to becoming a painter. After that, Karin slips into a deep sleep, but following a series of heart-wrenching events, a miracle occurs.

## Author Profile | Takuji Ichikawa

Born in Tokyo in 1962. Debuted in 2002 with *Separation*. *Ima ai ni yukimasu* (Be with you) was first published in 2003 and was adapted as a film and TV show and became a major hit with over 1.4 million copies in print. *Sono toki wa kare ni yoroshiku* (Say Hello For Me) also became a bestseller with over 720,000 copies in print since publication in 2004.



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386744-3  
 Pages: 320 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: December 2024

# Pinky Promise with a Fugitive

*Toubouhan to Yubikiri* / 逃亡犯とゆびきり

Riu Kushiki

**The latest collection of serial short stories by an acclaimed psychological suspense author**

Thirty-something freelance writer Michiru gets commissioned to write a story about a middle school girl who fell to her death. She's always wanted to write on social issues, so this is the perfect assignment.

She goes to meet the deceased girl's family and classmates and writes part one of her coverage, but after that article gets published, Michiru's best friend from high school, Fukuko, suddenly calls her.

In high school, Fukuko was always recommending Michiru challenging books, and it was after reading them that she decided to become a writer. But three years prior, Fukuko ended up on the wanted list as a suspect in the murder of four people.

Thanks to Fukuko's tip, the second part of Michiru's coverage gets her numerous accolades. Afterward, whenever she is writing about an unsolved case, Fukuko calls with just the information she needs. As Michiru begins to rely on Fukuko, readers gradually learn about Fukuko's past and the unexpected nature of her relationship with Michiru.

Riu Kushiki continues to deliver the best kind of psychological suspense with this latest collection of serial short stories.

## Author Profile | Riu Kushiki

Born in 1972 in Niigata Prefecture. She won the Japan Horror Novel Prize's Reader Award in 2012 and debuted with *Hōnteddo kyanpasu* (Haunted campus). In the same year, she won the Shosetsu Subaru New Writers Award for *Aka to shiro* (Red and white). Other works include the *Driimudasuto monsutāzu* (Dreamdust monsters) series, *Shokei ni itaru yamai* (Lesson in murder), *209 gōshitsu ni shiranai kodomo ga iru* (Who's the boy in room 209?), and *Uzakawa mura jiken* (The Uzakawa village incident).





Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-406439-1  
 Pages: 344 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: August 2017  
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
 Rights Sold: **Vietnamese**  
 English sample translation available on request.

# The House with a View of the Sea

*Umi ga mieru ie* / 海が見える家

**Mizuki Harada**

**A story about family that will change your outlook on life**

**125,000 copies sold in Japan**

Fumiya Ogata has just graduated college in Tokyo. He manages to get a job by the skin of his teeth, but the company exploits its workers. After barely a month, he quits and is existing somewhat numbly beside himself when he gets a phone call from someone he doesn't know. Apparently, his estranged father has had a heart attack and died unexpectedly.

Following their parents' divorce, Fumiya and his sister Hiromi lived with their father Yoshio. Fumiya clashed with Yoshio during his third year of high school. The monotony of the salaryman life Yoshio lived didn't appeal to Fumiya. As he was preparing for entrance exams, Yoshio asked him what he wanted to do after finishing college, to which he snapped in reply, "At least I know I don't want my life to be like yours!" After that, he moved out and had hardly spoken to his father since then.

To his two children, Yoshio left a house on a hilltop in a seaside town with a view of the water. Soon after turning 50, he had abruptly quit the company he'd been working at for so many years and moved to this little town. Did he die alone? What was his life like? Was he working? Did he have friends? Astonished by how little he knows about his father, Fumiya moves into the house to get it ready to sell. He's never lived by the sea before. Tracing the footsteps of his estranged father, he encounters an unexpected truth.

Through summertime life in Minamiboso, Chiba Prefecture, where a wealth of nature still remains, this bestseller with over 300,000 cumulative series copies in print quietly asks, "What is happiness?"

## Author Profile | Mizuki Harada

Born in Chiba. Debuted with *Sakkā bōizu: saikai no guraundo* (Soccer boys: the field where we meet again). Soccer Boys and House with a View of the Sea are both bestselling series. His many other works include *Taiyō to tsuki* (Sun and moon), *Yagate otozureru haru no tame ni* (For the eventual spring), *Kaishain, yume o ou* (A company employee follows his dream).



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 4-09-386112-9, 4-09-408023-6 (Bunko)  
 Pages: 306 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: September 2002  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional), English  
 English sample translation available on request.

# The Tale of Shimotsuma

(previously published as *Kamikaze Girls*)

*Shimotsuma monogatari*/ 下妻物語

Nobara Takemoto

Adapted as a hit movie that took Japan by storm!

Over 150,000 copies sold in Japan

The setting is Shimotsuma, Ibaraki Prefecture—rice paddies, everywhere you look. The story follows the friendship between Momoko, a huge fan of Lolita fashion, and Ichigo, a "yankee" delinquent.

The quintessence of Lolita fashion is Rococo, and Momoko does nothing that defies the Rococo spirit. Take transportation: Despite living in Shimotsuma, where it takes forever to walk anywhere, she refuses to ride a bicycle simply because it doesn't tickle the fancy of her girlish heart. Meanwhile, Ichigo lives the life of a typical yankee, from her lack of smarts to her gangster fashion.

Momoko needs money to fund her shopping trips, so she starts selling counterfeit brand items. One day, Ichigo shows up in her gang uniform to make a purchase. They may both be thinking, "Wow, you are dressed especially stupid today," but that doesn't cause them to invalidate each other, and slowly but surely, a friendship begins to blossom.

The agile pacing, sense of rhythm, and masterfully impactful wording combine with humor and depth to produce a one-of-a-kind YA novel. The plot of friendship between a "lady" and a delinquent may seem cliché, but this story is a literary gem elevated to masterpiece level by virtue of its brilliant voice and superb character depictions.

## Author Profile | Nobara Takemoto

Born in Kyoto. Debuted as an author in 2000 with *Mishin* (Sewing machine). *Emirii* (Emily) was nominated for the 16th Mishima Yukio Prize in 2003. Other works include *Uroko-hime* (The scale princes), *Tsuinzu* (Twins), *Deusu no sutego* (A child abandoned by Deus), and *Karupusu arupisu* (Calps alpis).



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 4-09-386117-X, 978-4-09-408217-3 (Bunko)  
 Pages: 378 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: February 2003  
 Agent: Japan UNI Agency and Vicki Satlow Literary Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified, Traditional), French, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese, English  
[English sample translation available on request.](#)

# I'm On My Way (also known as *Be With You*)

*Ima ai ni uki masu* / いま、会いにゆきます

**Takuji Ichikawa**

**A story about a small family's quiet love that you'll want to reread anytime it rains**

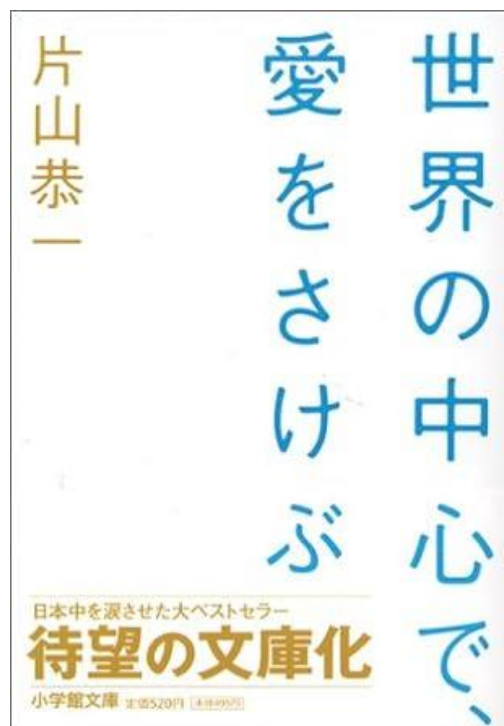
**Over 1.2 million copies sold in Japan!**

A year after his beloved wife Mio dies, Takumi, who has a "buggy" body, is working at a small judicial scrivener's office, living a quiet life with his nearly six-year-old son, Yuji. One weekend during the rainy season, father and son are on their usual walk in the forest when something miraculous happens: they find Mio, who should have been dead. It's just as she said at the end of her previous life: "I'll be sure to come check on you two when the rainy season comes again." The only problem is, she's lost all her memories. Despite that, Takumi and Yuji give her a warm welcome, and the three of them begin a new life together. As Takumi tells Mio about their past romance, a second one begins to sprout, and Yuji is thrilled to spend time with his mother again. It seems as if their joyful life will continue on that way, but things are not that simple.

This story conveys the simple truth that happiness lies in the mundane, such as exchanging greetings like, "Morning," "Good night," and "See you later"—that just having someone to whom you can say "I love you" makes life so much better.

## Author Profile | Takuji Ichikawa

Born in Tokyo in 1962. Debuted in 2002 with *Separation*. First published in 2003, the above title was adapted as a film and TV show and became a major hit with over 1.4 million copies in print. With other works that include *Ren'ai shashin: mou hitotsu no monogatari* (Love collage: another story), *Sono toki wa kare ni yoroshiku* (Say hello for me), and *Konna ni mo yasashii, sekai no owarikata* (An end of the world so kind), Ichikawa has become a mainstay of the romance genre. In 2016, he published his first non-fiction book, *Boku ga hattasu shōgai da kara dekiru koto* (What I'm capable of because of my developmental disability).



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 4-09-386072-6, 4-09-408097-X (Bunko)  
 Pages: 210 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: March 2001  
 Agent: Japan UNI Agency and Vicki Satlow Literary Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified, Traditional), French, Hungarian, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Serbian  
 English synopsis and sample translation available on request.

# Crying Out Love in the Center of the World (also known as *Socrates in Love*)

*Sekai no chushin de ai wo sakebu* / 世界の中心で、愛をさけぶ

Kyoichi Katayama

**Over 3.3 million copies sold. A mega-hit that became a sensation across Japan!**

"I feel the same way—a world without you is a total unknown. I'm not even sure if it would exist or not."

"Don't worry. The world will definitely keep existing even after I'm gone."

Sakutarō and Aki meet during their second year of middle school. After graduating, they end up in the same class in high school, and Sakutarō can no longer deny he has feelings for Aki. His love for her is as self-evident as the fact that he exists as himself. Meeting up every day to walk home from school, exchanging recorded voice diaries, a first kiss that smells like fallen leaves, an overnight on an uninhabited island... But the bright future that seemed to have been promised to them is dashed when Aki is diagnosed with an incurable illness. Sakutarō feels powerless watching Aki grow weaker and weaker during his restricted visits to her aseptic room, but for her 17th birthday, he's determined to take her on the trip to Australia she wasn't able to go on with her classmates...

What does it mean to love someone and lose them? A teenage boy confronts death, the ultimate goodbye, while interrogating the fleeting yet weighty nature of love. Through his journey, the essence of love, and the pain and growth that comes with its loss, will be inscribed into each reader's heart.

## Author Profile | Kyoichi Katayama

Born in Ehime Prefecture in 1959. After studying agriculture at Kyushu University, he got his masters, but later dropped out of his PhD program. He won the Bungakukai Newcomer Award in 1986 for *Kehai* (Presence). Published in 2001, the above book became a bestseller with over 3.3 million copies in print and was later adapted for the big screen and TV. Katayama has written many other works including *Shi o mitsume, sei o hiraku* (Gaze at death, begin life).





Category: Trade Fiction

ISBN (Sister Edition): 978-4-09-386690-3

ISBN (Brother Edition): 978-4-09-386691-0

Pages: 256 pages each

Printing: Black & White

Publication: September 2023

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

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

English synopsis and sample translation available on request.

# The Ginnaami Shopping Street Mysteries

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

Magi Inoue

The books that became a viral YouTube sensation with 5+million views

Over 200,000 copies sold!

The Ginnaami Shopping Street Mysteries, comprising two books, is a parallel mystery that investigates three incidents from two distinct perspectives: the Uchiyama sisters and the Kogure brothers. Set in Ginnaami Shopping Street, where the siblings grew up and feel connected to, solving the mysteries becomes personal as they involve the local community. While each perspective stands on its own, a completely different truth emerges when reading from the other viewpoint.

Author Magi Inoue has achieved an extraordinary feat of storytelling, allowing readers to begin with any of the six stories without spoiling the mystery told from the other perspective. You can choose to read the sisters' book first, the brothers' book first, or alternate between each mystery. Compare notes with a friend, child, or partner as you explore the interconnected stories together.

Two books, six stories, and so many ways to experience them—where will you dive in first?

## Author Profile | Magi Inoue

Originally from Kanagawa Prefecture and a graduate of the University of Tokyo, Magi Inoue debuted in 2015 with *Predicate Logic of Love and Taboo* after it won the 51st Mephisto Prize. Their work *The Speedy Detective* was adapted into a TV drama twice, generating significant buzz. Recent publications include *The Prayer for Basic Income*, *Mushica: The Insect Requiem*, and *Ariadne Calling*. Magi Inoue is a pseudonym, and the author's sex and age remained undisclosed, to ensure that personal details do not influence readers' interpretation of their works. The first name Magi uses the same kanji characters as *shingi*, meaning truth and falsehood.



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386280-6, 978-4-09-408757-4 (Bunko)  
 Pages: 256 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: September 2010  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified, Traditional), Russian

# 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: 978-4-09-386710-8

Pages: 224 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: February 2024

Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)

Rights Sold: Arabic, Chinese (Simplified, Traditional), Catalan, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English (UK, US), French, Germany, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil, Portugal), Romanian, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, Georgian

English sample translation available on request.

# The Cat Who Saved You

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

Sosuke Natsukawa

**The long-awaited sequel to *The Cat Who Saved Books*, the international sensation that sold over 150,000 copies in Japan and was translated in 40 languages**

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

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

## Author Profile | Sosuke Natsukawa

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



Category: Trade Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-407192-4

Pages: 320 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: October 2022

Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)

Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional), English (UK), French, Germany, Korean, Malay, Italian, Portuguese (Portugal), Romanian, Spanish, Russian

English synopsis and sample translation available on request.

# The Stationery Store in Ginza

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

Kenji Ueda

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

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

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

## Author Profile | Kenji Ueda

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



Category: Trade Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-406409-4

Pages: 392 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: April 2017

Rights Sold: Arabic, Korean

Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)

English synopsis available on request.

# The Regret Ward

*Kokai byoto* / 後悔病棟

Miu Kakiya

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

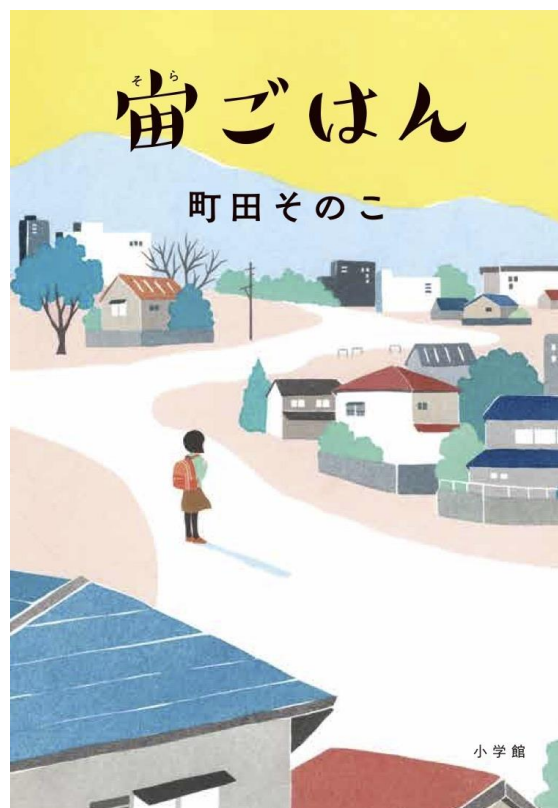
**125,000 copies sold in Japan**

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

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

## Author Profile | Miu Kakiya

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



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386645-3  
 Pages: 368 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: May 2022  
 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* / 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

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





Category: Crime & Mystery  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-406791-0  
 Pages: 368 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: July 2020  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional), Korean, Thai  
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
[English sample translation available on request.](#)

# What Did You Do That Day?

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

Toshika Masaki

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

**Over 300,000 copies sold in Japan**

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

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

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

## 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: 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), French, Korean, Russian, Thai

# 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: French, 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: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-389113-4  
 Pages: 256 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: April 2023  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional)

# Princess Grandma Goes to London!

*Sobohime rondon he iku* 祖母姫、ロンドンへ行く

Michiru Fushino

**Novelist Michiru Fushino's first memoir will have you laughing and crying!**

When the author reminisces at a family gathering about her time studying abroad in the UK, her grandmother says, "Just once I'd like to go to London. I want to travel like a princess," and that's how the luxurious 5-night, 7-day trip is decided! But the know-how the author developed during her time overseas was the hit-or-miss, brute-force way of traveling on the cheap—the exact opposite of the skills she needs to treat her elderly grandmother like a princess. Though her family has the financial aspect covered, she feels nothing but anxiety at being thrust into the unfamiliar role of tour conductor.

Once they arrive on the ground, however, it's a parade of experiences that show her the true meaning of "first-rate": The British Museum, the Tower of London, Harrods, Fortnum & Mason, London Mitsukoshi, the Orient Express, the hospitality of a 5-star hotel, and the afternoon tea of their dreams... There's never a dull moment on this trip, with both fun and trouble heaped in equal measure. Will the author be able to satisfy the stubborn yet elegant—and eminently quotable—Princess Grandma?

There's no end to the laughter, but before long, you'll realize your heart is warm. A young woman finds her self-esteem on a trip with her cute and spunky grandmother.

**"Fushino-san is a woman I truly admire. Where do those feelings come from? When I read this book, I see it all clearly. Fushino-san, Princess Grandma, you're just the best!"**

— Mizuki Tsujimura (author of *Lonely Castle in the Mirror*)

## Author Profile | Michiru Fushino

Born in Hyogo Prefecture. In 1996, she received an honorable mention for the White Heart Prize for Popular Literature with *Hitokai kidan* (A strange tale of human trafficking). That kicked off the Kidan (strange tales) series, which ended up running many volumes. She also used her experience as a forensic scientist and medical examiner to write mysteries such as the *Kiseki tsūran* (Glancing over the names of the dead) series. She lives with four older cats and one little one she rescued recently.

# **CHILDREN'S BOOKS**



Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725290-0  
Pages: 32 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: January 2025  
Age: 3+



# Pikachu and the Seaside Treasure Hunt

*Pikachu to umi no takara sagashi* / ピカチュウと うみのたからさがし

Rikako Matsuo

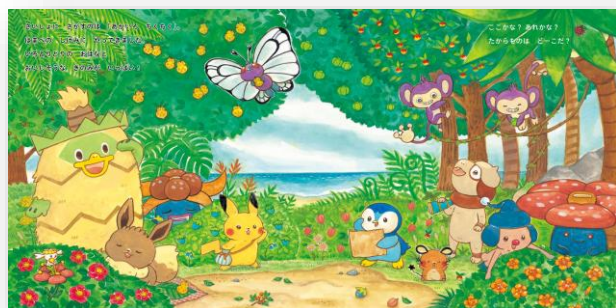
**The third book in the bestselling series with over 400,000 copies sold!**

Let's go on a seaside treasure hunt with Pikachu!

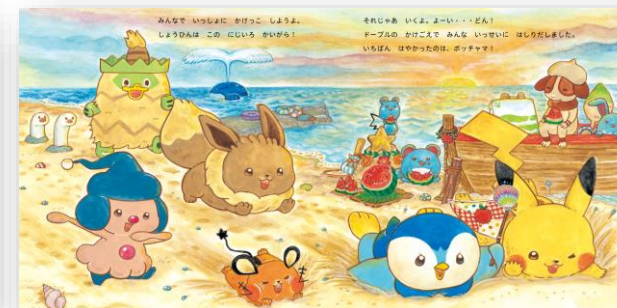
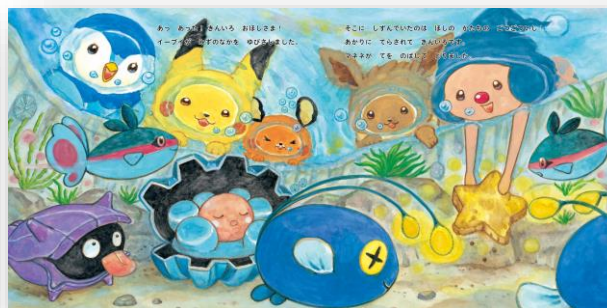
In this third installment of the bestselling series (with a cumulative 400,000 copies in print), the Pokémon crew explores an island by following a treasure map their new friend Piplup shows them. Pikachu, Piplup, and friends search inside a pitch-dark cave, on a busy beach, and in the beautiful world under water. Will they find the treasure? Kids can cultivate concentration and curiosity with the seek-and-find activities in this book.

## Author Profile | Rikako Matsuo

Rikako Matsuo was born in 1989 and currently lives and works in Tokyo. A graduate of the printmaking course at the Joshibi University of Art and Design in Tokyo, she has loved Pokémon since she was a primary school student. Her most famous picture books include *Itsutsugo usagi no kissaten* (The quintuplet bunnies' coffee shop), *Itsutsugo usagi to umi no hōseki* (The quintuplet bunnies and the sea gem), *Takaramono no anata* (You are my treasure), *Ofuro daisuki! Shirokuma kyōdai!* (The polar bear siblings love taking baths!), *Suteki na okurimono nakami wa nāni?* (What is inside the beautiful gift box?).



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Category: Early Years  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725136-1  
Pages: 32 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: December 2021  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified, Traditional), English, French, German, Italian, Thai  
Age: 3+



## Pikachu's First Friends

*Pikachu to hajimete no tomodachi / ピカチュウとはじめてのともだち*

Rikako Matsuo

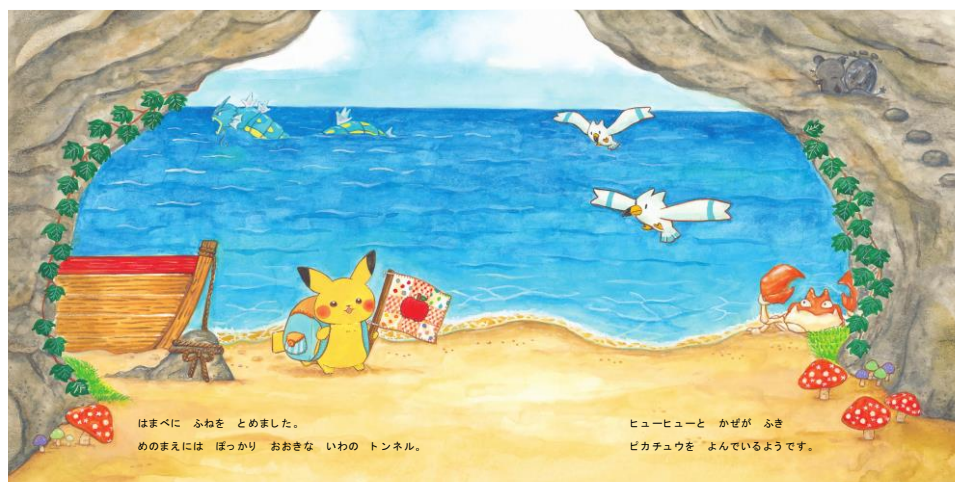
### Will Pikachu be able to make new friends?

The first picture book series released by monpoké, the official Pokémon brand for babies. Babies can now explore the wonderful world of Pokémon with Pikachu and his friends!

Traveling on a small boat, Pikachu discovers an island where many Pokémon live, called monpoké Island. As Pikachu wanders around the island, he meets a very special friend.

### Author Profile | Rikako Matsuo

Rikako Matsuo was born in 1989 and currently lives and works in Tokyo. A graduate of the printmaking course at the Joshibi University of Art and Design in Tokyo, she has loved Pokémon since she was a primary school student. Her most famous picture books include *Itsutsugo usagi no kissaten* (The Quintuplet Bunnies' Coffee Shop), *Itsutsugo usagi to umi no hoseki* (The Quintuplet Bunnies and the Sea Gem), *Takaramono no anata* (You Are My Treasure), *Ofuro daisuki! Shirokuma kyodai!* (The Polar Bear Siblings Love Taking Baths!), *Sutekina okurimono nakami wa nani?* (What Is inside the Beautiful Gift Box?).



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Category: Early Years  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725187-3  
Pages: 32 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2022  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified, Traditional), English, French, German, Italian, Thai  
Age: 3+



## Pikachu's Night Adventure

*Pikachu to yoru no tanken / ピカチュウとよるのたんけん*

Rikako Matsuo

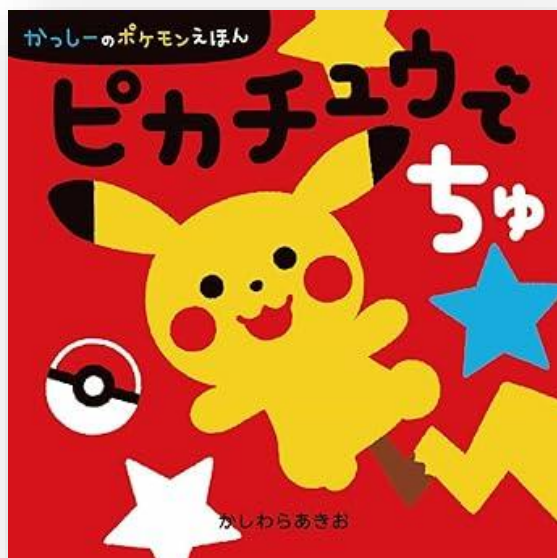
### Time to venture out into the night!

The second installment of the popular monpoké series takes place on the night of a full moon, ideal for ghosts and other scary surprises. Pikachu and his friends decide to climb Makkuroyama, the so-called pitch-dark mountain. In addition to Pikachu, Dedenne, and Eevee, the book features many other Pokémon that can be encountered at night.

### Author Profile | Rikako Matsuo

Rikako Matsuo was born in 1989 and currently lives and works in Tokyo. A graduate of the printmaking course at the Joshibi University of Art and Design in Tokyo, she has loved Pokémon since she was a primary school student. Her most famous picture books include *Itsutsugo usagi no kissaten* (The Quintuplet Bunnies' Coffee Shop), *Itsutsugo usagi to umi no hoseki* (The Quintuplet Bunnies and the Sea Gem), *Takaramono no anata* (You Are My Treasure), *Ofuro daisuki! Shirokuma kyodai!* (The Polar Bear Siblings Love Taking Baths!), *Sutekina okurimono nakami wa nani?* (What Is inside the Beautiful Gift Box?).





Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725258-0  
 Pages: 26 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: May 2024  
 Age: 0+

# Pika-Boo!

*Pikachu de chu* / ピカチュウでちゅ

**Akio Kashiwara**

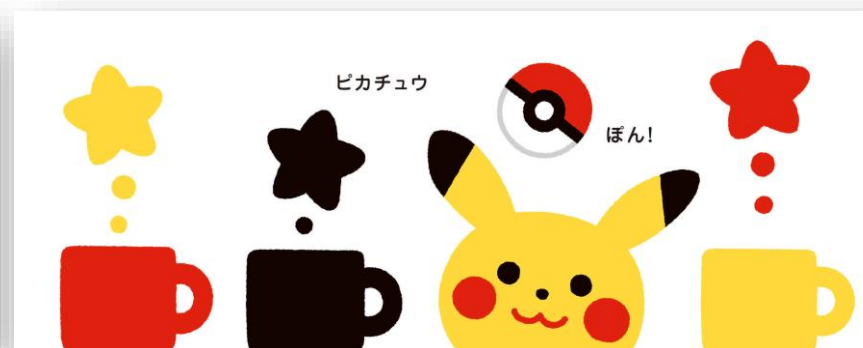
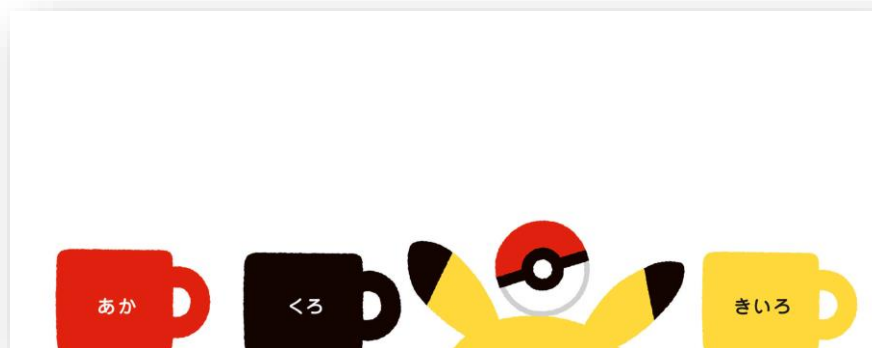
## Babys' first color book

Play peek-a-boo with Pikachu!

Studies have shown that the primary colors, black, and white are great for activating color differentiation abilities in children ages zero to two. Various version of this book were tested at daycares in order to create a finished product featuring the content that babies reacted to most actively. Please take your time and read it over and over in a rhythmical way. Help your baby learn colors as you hunt for Pikachu together.

## Author Profile | Akio Kashiwara

Born in Hyogo Prefecture in 1969. Graduated from Kobe Designer's Gakuin College with a degree in Graphic Design. In addition to being a creative director, he authors picture books. He debuted in 2004 with the *Eigo ehon* (English picture books) series and has since written many baby books including the *Issho ni asobo* (Let's play together) series and the *Yubiasobukku* (finger fun books) series. In 2012 he won the first Digital Picture Book Awards Grand Prize for *Chon chon chon (yubiasobukku)* (Poke poke poke: a finger fun book), and books in the *Honto no okisa* (True size) series he contributed illustrations to won gold awards in the Parents' Choice Awards nonfiction category in 2009, 2010, 2012.







Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725259-7  
 Pages: 26 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: May 2024  
 Age: 0+

# Pa-Pi-Pu-Pe-Pokémon

*Papipupe pokemon / ぱぴぷぺポケモン*

Akio Kashiwara

## Onomatopoeia picture book for babies

Tons of sounds to delight your baby!

This is a fun picture book full of P sounds babies love that are used to describe the way Pokémon move. Little ones will never tire of its colorful rainbow motif and fun sounds and movements. The book was tested at daycares in different versions to arrive at the design kids responded to most actively.

## Author Profile | Akio Kashiwara

Born in Hyogo Prefecture in 1969. Graduated from Kobe Designer's Gakuin College with a degree in Graphic Design. In addition to being a creative director, he authors picture books. He debuted in 2004 with the *Eigo ehon* (English picture books) series and has since written many baby books including the *Issho ni asobo* (Let's play together) series and the *Yubiasobukku* (finger fun books) series. In 2012 he won the first Digital Picture Book Awards Grand Prize for *Chon chon chon* (*yubiasobukku*) (Poke poke poke: a finger fun book), and books in the *Honto no okisa* (True size) series he contributed illustrations to won gold awards in the Parents' Choice Awards nonfiction category in 2009, 2010, 2012.





Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-735363-8  
 Pages: 8 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: December 2024  
 Age: 0+

# Gengar Here and There

*Achikochi Genga* / あちこちげんがー

Dr. Kazuo Hiraki

**An interactive picture book that helps babies develop their cognitive abilities**

Slide the movable parts with your fingers to look for Gengar and Pikachu!

Using the book's many movable parts, kids can enjoy finding the Pokémon hiding around town. Supervised by Dr. Kazuo Hiraki, who researches the development of cognitive abilities in infants, this book has been designed so that babies will respond naturally, making it a fun intellectual exercise for them while they move their bodies too.

## Author Profile | Kazuo Hiraki

Born in 1963 in Toyama Prefecture. Completed a Ph.D. in engineering at Keio University. Currently, he's a professor in the department of General Systems Studies at the Tokyo University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He specializes in baby science, developmental cognitive neuroscience, and machine learning. Runs the baby lab at Tokyo University. He launched the Baby Science Picture Book Project in order to create picture books babies would really like. His unique research topics include finding that even infants root for allies of justice.





Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725138-5

Pages: 48 pages

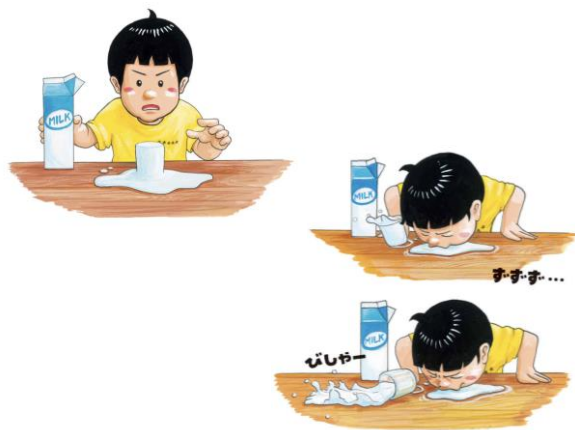
Printing: Color

Publication: February 2022

Agent: Japan UNI Agency and Vicki Satlow Literary Agency (World, excluding Asia)

Rights Sold: Catalan, Chinese (Simplified, Traditional), German, Italian, Korean, Spanish, Thai, Italian, Vietnamese, Portuguese

Age: 5+



# The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises

*Daipinchi zukan* / 大ピンチずかん

Noritake Suzuki

The picture book that took post-COVID Japan by storm for teaching children easy but effective stress-coping techniques

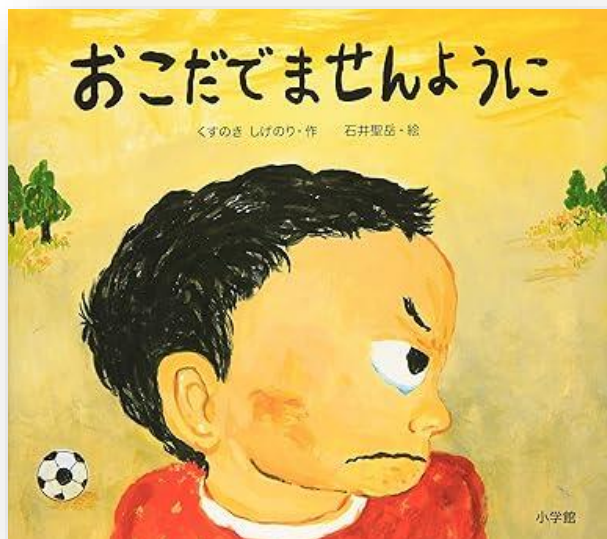
Over 1,150,000 copies sold in Japan

In this illustrated guide, the many possible major crises faced by children in their daily life are categorized according to "level of emergency" and "likelihood of occurrence," from the least urgent crisis to the most serious one. In addition, each occurrence is accompanied by a description of a similar crisis and suggestions on how to cope with it. With this one book, children will be prepared to overcome whatever obstacle comes your way.

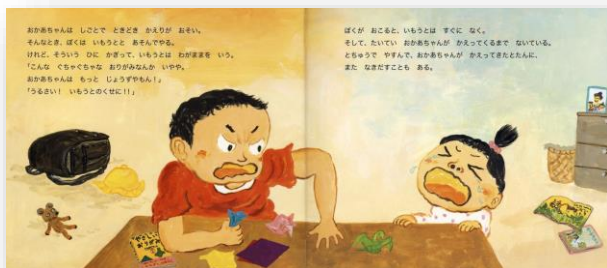


## Author Profile | Noritake Suzuki

Born in 1975 in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture. After working as a company employee and graphic designer, he became a picture book author. He won the Readers' Prize at the Japan Picture Book Awards for *Boku no toire* (My Toilet) and the Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award for *Shigotoba Tokyo Sukai Tsuru* (Workplaces: Tokyo Sky Tree). Major works include the *Shigotoba* (Workplaces) series, *Kawa* (River), and *Oshiri o shiritai* (I Want to Know More About Butts). *Daipinchi zukan* (The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises) was awarded the Miraiya Picture Book Grand Prize, the Libro Picture Book Award Grand Prize and the MOE Picture Booksellers' Grand Prize.



Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726329-6  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: June 2008  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified, Traditional), Korean  
 Age: 3+



# Please Let No One Get Mad at Me

*Okodade masen youni* / おこだでませんように

Text by **Shigenori Kusunoki**, Illustrations by **Kiyotaka Ishii**

## A bestselling picture book with over 370,000 copies sold

Whether he's at school or at home, everyone is always mad at the first grader protagonist of this book. While he's taking care of his little sister for his mom, she's being selfish, so he scolds her, but that makes her cry, and then his mom gets mad at him. And when he protests his classmates leaving him out, a fight starts, and their teacher gets mad at him. Deep down, the boy desperately wants someone to tell him he's doing a good job.

One day at school, the kids are tasked with writing their *Tanabata* wishes (*Tanabata* is a festival derived from East Asian traditions, where people write their wishes on small cards and hang them on a bamboo tree, believing that their wishes will come true). The other kids write things like, "I want to be a pro soccer player" or "I want to get better at piano," but this boy writes "Please let no one get mad at me." Reading the clumsy letters written by such a young child, the adults around him finally realized how he feels. This bestselling picture book, with 370,000 copies sold, is a great way for parents and children to think together about praising versus scolding.

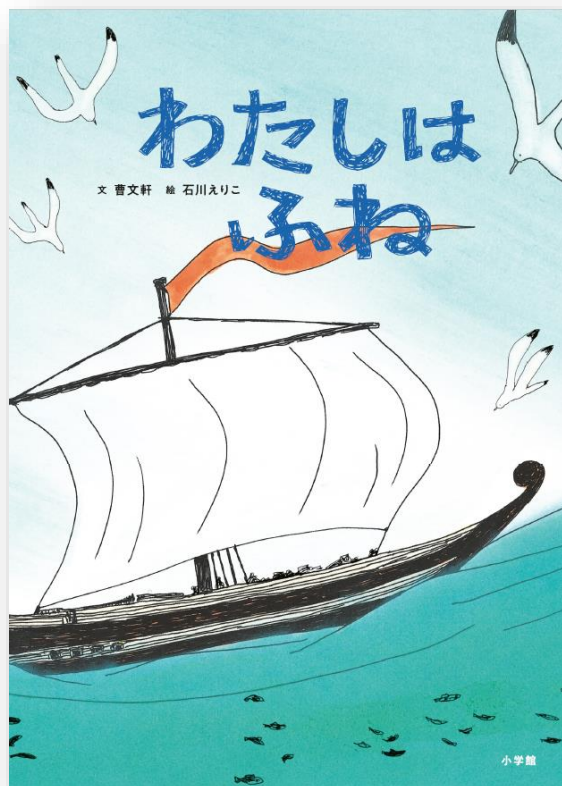
## Author Profile | Shigenori Kusunoki

Born in 1961 in Tokushima. Living in Naruto. After teaching at an elementary school and working as assistant director of the Naruto Municipal Library, he now mainly creates and gives lectures about children's lit. This award-winning picture book was chosen as an assignment in the All-Japan Young Readers Book Report Contest.

## Illustrator Profile | Kiyotaka Ishii

Born in 1976 in Shizuoka Prefecture. Graduated from Nagoya Zokei University of Art and Design. Winner of the 39th Kodansha Publication Culture Award for Picture Books and the 13th Japan Picture Book Award for *Futte kimashita* (It started raining; text by Izumi Motoshita). Other works include *Boku wa nakimashita* (I cried; also with Shigenori Kusunoki) and *Fushigi na tsugakuro* (The magical mystery walk to school; text by Maki Hanazato).





Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725214-6  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: May 2023  
 Rights Sold: **Chinese (Simplified)**  
 Age: 3+



# I Am a Boat

*Watashi wa fune* / わたしはふね

Text by **Cao Wenxuan**, Illustrations by **Eriko Ishikawa**

**A picture book about the Ship of Theseus by the 2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award-winning author**

After years of sailing around the world, the *Nichigetsu Maru* has gotten older, so one day the captain decides to replace its wheel. The old wheel seems like it could still be used for something, so an elderly sailor gets permission to take it home. Over time almost every part of the ship get replaced, and all the parts that would have gotten thrown away go home with the elderly sailor. Finally, the elderly sailor succeeds in building a new *Nichigetsu Maru* with all the old parts. Out on the open water, the *Nichigetsu Maru* meets the *Nichigetsu Maru*. Now, which do you suppose is the "original" *Nichigetsu Maru*?

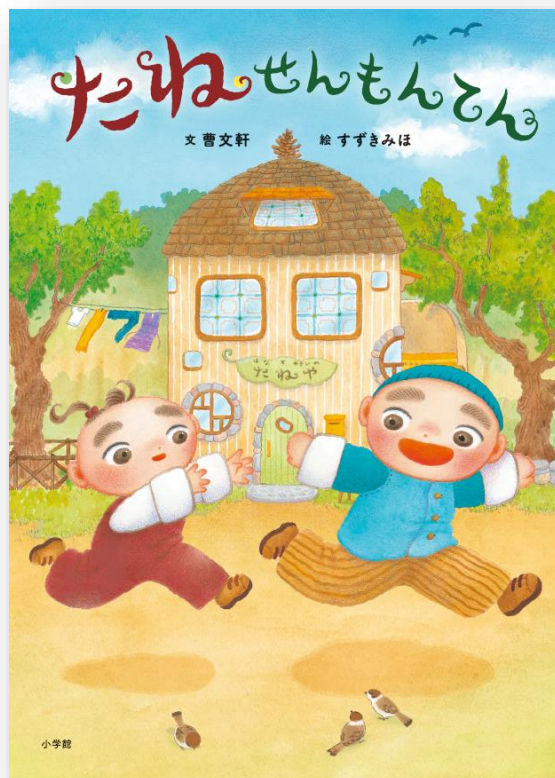
Winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award Cao Wenxuan and illustrator Eriko Ishikawa deliver a picture book based on the Greek mythology-inspired thought experiment, Theseus's Paradox. Get kids thinking and cultivate their imaginations by exposing them to this philosophical theme.

## Author Profile | Cao Wenxuan

Professor at the Department of Chinese Language and Literature and Director of the Institute for Literary and Creative Writing at Peking University. He has written many books including novels such as *Bronze and Sunflower* and *Dragonfly Eyes* (English by Helen Wang), picture books such as *Flying High* (illustrated by Yu Rong; English by Jake Hope and Simone-Davina Monnelly) and *Feather* (illustrated by Roger Mello, English by Chloe Garcia-Roberts), as well as academic volumes. More than 170 of his works have been translated into over 40 languages. He received the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2016.

## Illustrator Profile | Eriko Ishikawa

Born in 1955 in Kama, Fukuoka. Living in Yokohama. After working as a designer, she became a freelance writer and picture book author. *Botasan de asonda koro* (When we played on Mt. Bota), about her experiences in early childhood, won the 46th Kodansha Publication Culture Award for Children's Books in 2015 and was selected for the 2015 Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava. In Taiwan, it received the Openbook Best Children's Book Award in 2017.



Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725216-0  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: May 2023  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified)  
 Age: 3+



# The Seed Shop

*Tane senmonten / たねせんもんてん*

Text by **Cao Wenxuan**, Illustrations by **Miho Suzuki**

**Ode to the unconstrained creativity of children by the 2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award-winning author**

One day when their mom and dad are out, Daizu and his little brother Azuki are watching the family's seed shop, which sells the seeds of various plants like flowers, veggies, and grains. When Daizu isn't looking, Azuki switches some of the labels around. Daizu ends up selling customers some seeds that don't match what the package said.

The customers take their seeds home and plant them, and after some days, they realize the "wrong" plant is sprouting and wonder what's going on. But getting something they didn't expect actually turns out to be a blessing.

Children's pranks are generally met with grownup anger, but sometimes they can bring about unexpected joy. Winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award Cao Wenxuan and illustrator Miho Suzuki deliver this ode to the unconstrained creativity of children.

## Author Profile | Cao Wenxuan

Professor at the Department of Chinese Language and Literature and Director of the Institute for Literary and Creative Writing at Peking University. He has written many books including novels such as *Bronze and Sunflower* and *Dragonfly Eyes* (English by Helen Wang), picture books such as *Flying High* (illustrated by Yu Rong; English by Jake Hope and Simone-Davina Monnelly) and *Feather* (illustrated by Roger Mello, English by Chloe Garcia-Roberts), as well as academic volumes. More than 170 of his works have been translated into over 40 languages, and in addition to winning numerous awards in China, he received the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2016.

## Illustrator Profile | Miho Suzuki

Born in 1993 in Tokyo and began her career as an illustrator after graduating from the design department at Joshibi University of Art and Design. She debuted in 2016 with *Bokunchi no Shiro* (Our dog Shiro). She's taught at children's atelier for ten years.





Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726625-9  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: February 2016  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified, Traditional)  
 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

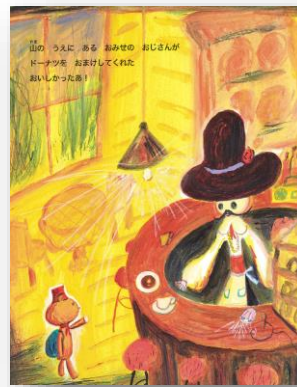
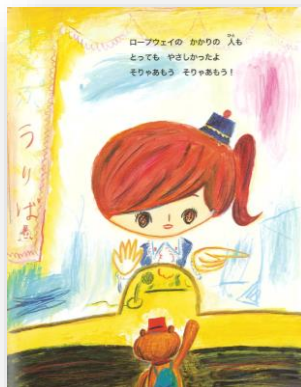
Ryoji Arai

**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.

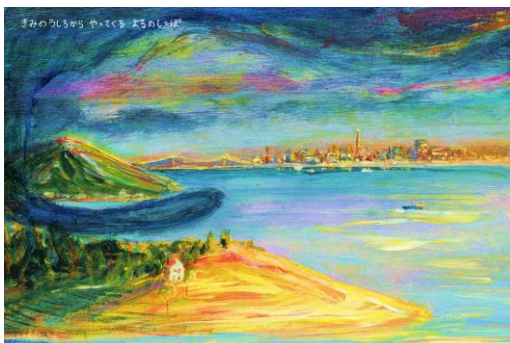
## Author Profile | Ryoji Arai

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 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: **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.

# Tales of Extinct Animals: To Those We'll Never Meet Again

*Zetsumetsu doubutsu monogatari mou nido to aenai kimi e* / 絶滅動物物語 もう二度と会えないキミへ

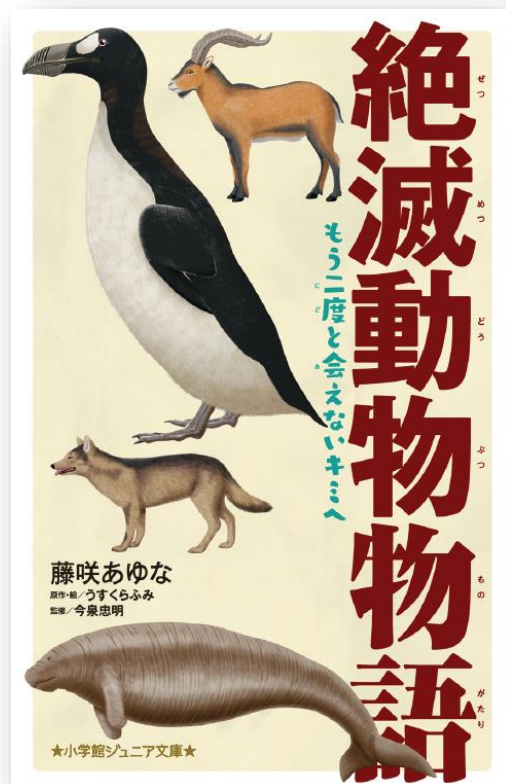
Text by **Ayuna Fujisaki**, Original Story and Illustrations by **Fumi Usukura**, Supervised by **Tadaaki Imaizumi**

## A collection of short stories about extinct animals

This short story collection allows young readers to learn through fiction about animals that humans drove to extinction. Since the year 1600, at least 700 species have died out, and in biological history, our current era is known as the sixth mass extinction. Previous mass extinctions occurred due to meteorite impacts or climate changes during ice ages, but this sixth one is thought to be caused by humans.

The extinct animals introduced in this book are the great auk, Steller's sea cow, the Pyrenean ibex, and the Japanese wolf. The history of each animal is explained in story and manga formats, including how they went extinct and the role humans played in that process.

As we grapple with severe climate problems and try to prevent future extinctions, this is a great educational title that encourages kids to think about our future as part of this planet.



Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-231454-2  
Pages: 200 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: June 2023  
Age: 5+



## Author Profile | Ayuna Fujisaki

In addition to writing for manga, she writes other novels and scripts.

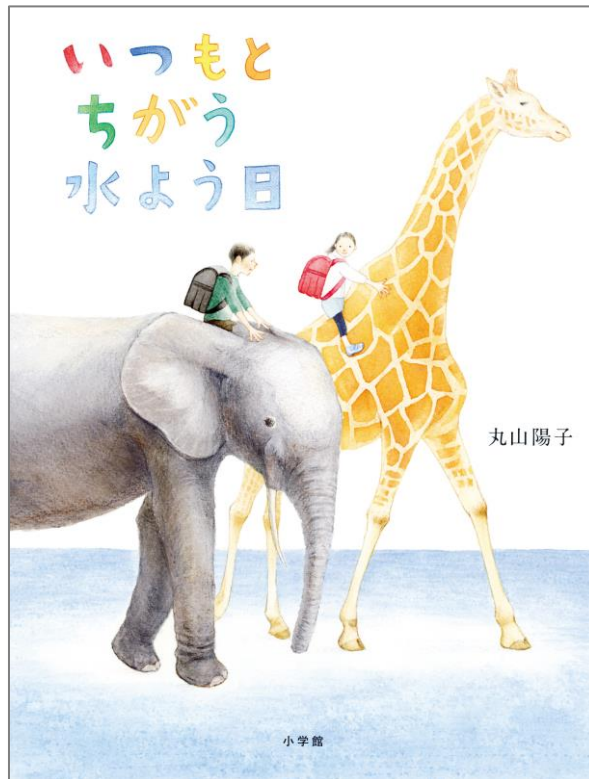
## Illustrator Profile | Fumi Usukura

Mangaka. A winner in the Shogakukan's 83rd New Comic Creators Award. Since 2021, his manga series this book is based on, *Zetsumetsu dōbutsu monogatari* (Tales of extinct animals) has been serialized in Big Comic since 2021.

## Supervisor Profile | Fumi Usukura

Animal researcher. After graduating from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, he studied mammal taxonomy at the National Science Museum of Japan. Currently he is the director of The Cat Museum in Ito, Shizuoka. He has written or supervised many books including the bestselling *Why We Went Extinct: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Species That Just Didn't Make It* (co-authored with Takashi Maruyama; illustrated by Masanori Sato, Yoko Uetake, Kenta Kaido and Nasumiso Itame; English by Angus Turvill).





Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725268-9  
 Pages: 35 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: June 2024  
 Age: 6+

# An Unusual Wednesday

*Itsumo to chigau suiyobi* / いつもとちがう水よう日

Yoko Maruyama

**A story about complicated social interactions that even elementary schoolers have to navigate**

One Wednesday, first-grader Arisu gets invited by her classmate Kai to go play at his house. He shows her his collection of the candy cards that are popular at school, they eat ice cream, and he performs a magic trick. Then he says, "Let's climb onto the roof." As they are watching the clouds together, Kai's mom comes home and gets angry at them, saying, "Why would you do something so dangerous?" Then, even though it was Kai's idea, he blames it on Arisu...

This is a gentle story that brings up emotions from childhood surely everyone has experienced.

## Author Profile | Yoko Murayama

Born in 1971. After working at a textbook company, she made the selection for the third Showa Shell Contemporary Art Prize (now the Idemitsu Art Award) by Centre Pompidou curator Aomi Okubu. In her 30s, she pivoted to picture books, and her debut, *Mori no orusuban* (A quiet house in the woods) was published in Italy and China as well as Japan. Featured in the Spotlight on Reading exhibition at the 2014 Bologna Children's Book Fair. After catching the attention of renowned Australian editor Michael Neugebauer, her *Little Santa* and *The Forgotten Crayon* have been published in numerous countries.







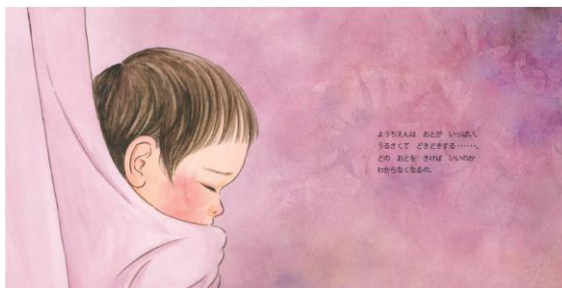
Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725256-6  
 Pages: 36 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: April 2024  
 Age: 3+



# About Suu

*Suchan ha ne* / すうちゃんはね

Text by **Akiko Honda**, Illustrations by **Tomoe Chiba**



## A picture book about really listening to children

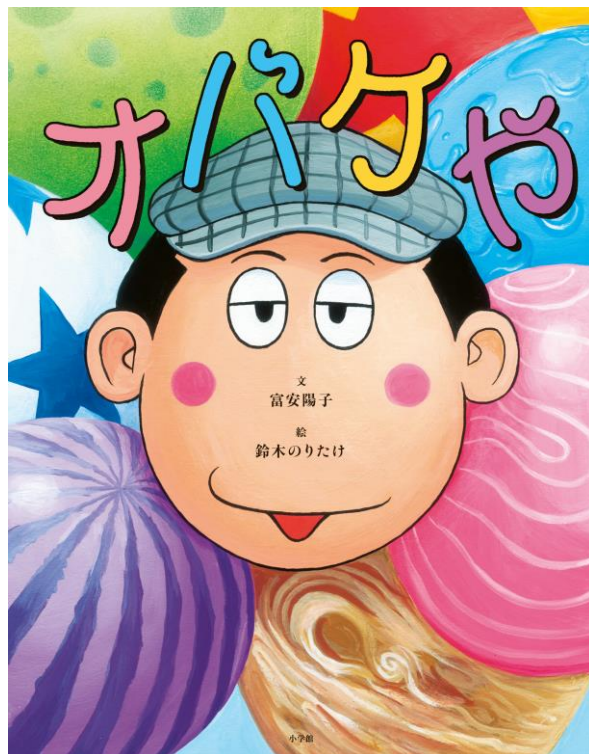
Sometimes kids don't want to go to school or throw a sudden tantrum. The reasons aren't necessarily what you'd expect. In this book, Suu is reluctant to go to kindergarten. She's sensitive and easily overstimulated. What does she dislike? What makes her anxious? What can she do to feel better? This is a soothing picture book based on experiences the author has had raising her highly sensitive child. But highly sensitive kids aren't the only ones who struggle with the anxieties of collective life, difficulty adapting, and so on. You'll be able to close this book with warm feelings, so it's perfect to use as a tool to communicate with your child.

### Author Profile | Akiko Honda

Graduate of what is now known as Kyoto Art University. She was involved in producing TV for a station in Kyoto. Her main role was directing documentary footage for news programs. After giving birth, she stepped away from work. As the mother of a highly sensitive child, this book is based on her personal experiences.

### Illustrator Profile | Tomoe Chiba

Graduate of Yokohama National University. She was a finalist for the 16th Pinpoint Picture Book Competition and won an Excellence Award in the 22nd Ohisama Awards. Works include *Hana-chan otona ni narimasu* (Hana's gonna be a grownup).



Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725260-3  
 Pages: 31 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2023  
 Age: 3+



# The Ghost Collector

*Obake ya* / オバケや

Text by **Yoko Tomiyasu**, Illustrations by **Noritake Suzuki**

## If it's a ghost you've got, leave it to the ghost collector!

There are ghosts hiding in your house, around town—all over the place! Catching these ghosts that surprise and prank people is the job of the traveling ghost collector. What kind of ghosts are in our neighborhoods? And how will the ghost collector catch them?

Yoko Tomiyasu, known for her yokai picture books, and Noritake Suzuki of *Dai pinchi zukan* (The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises) fame team up for this amusing title. The casual spoken language is fun to read aloud, and there is always something more to discover no matter how many times you read.

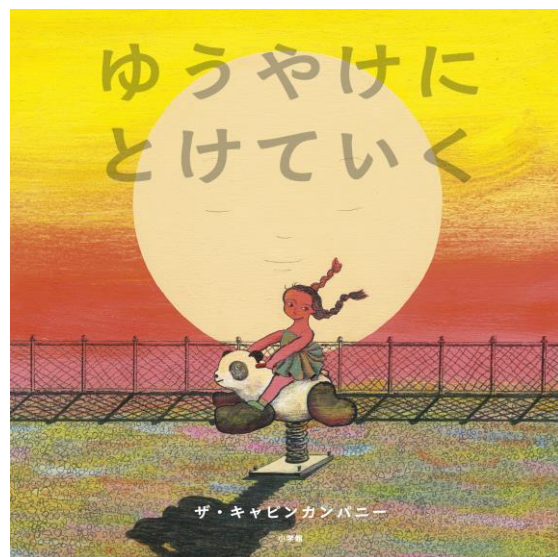


## Author Profile | Yoko Tomiyasu

Born in 1959 in Tokyo. Won the Japanese Association of Writers for Children Prize for Newcomers and the Shogakukan Award for Children's Literature for *Kunugi-bayashi no zawa zawa sō* (The noisy house in Kunugi Forest). Won the Niimi Nankichi Children's Literature Award for the *Chiisa na Suzuna-hime* (Little princess Suzuna) series and the Sanki Children's Publishing Culture Award for *Sore e tsuzuku shinwa* (The myth that continued into the sky). *Yamanba-san no Mokko-tachi* (The Mokkos of Mount Yamanba) was chosen for the 2002 IBBY Honour List. She also won the Noma Prize for Children's Literature *Bon maneki* (An obon invitation).

## Illustrator Profile | Noritake Suzuki

Born in 1975 in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture. He won the Readers' Prize at the Japan Picture Book Awards for *Boku no toire* (My Toilet) and the Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award for *Shigotoba Tokyo Sukai Tsuru* (Workplaces: Tokyo Sky Tree). Major works include the *Shigotoba* (Workplaces) series, *Kawa* (River), and *Oshiri o shiritai* (I Want to Know More About Butts). *Daipinchi zukan* (The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises) was awarded the Miraiya Picture Book Grand Prize, the Libro Picture Book Award Grand Prize and the MOE Picture Booksellers' Grand Prize.

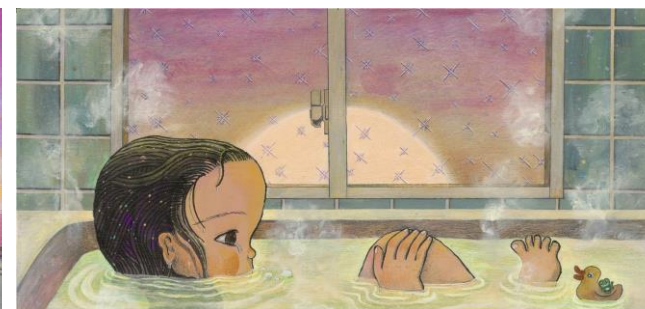


Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725229-0  
 Pages: 31 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2023  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional)  
 Age: 3+

# Melting into the Sunset

*Yuyake ni tokete iku* / ゆうやけにとけていく

The Cabin Company



**Birds aiming at the sun, a train rushing in the distance, the glow of the setting sun enfolds joy and sorrow alike**

As the sun sinks beyond the horizon, a boy playing freely on a jungle gym, a girl kicking bitterly at a stone, a parent and child coming home from the grocery store...scenes that take in the spectrum of human emotion are depicted against the warm glow of the sunset in the background. Rich hues of red, orange, pink and yellow gradually melt into deep shades of green, turquoise, blue and purple until under a myriad of twinkling stars all is dark and quiet. "The joy and sorrow of people living here and there today turn into a stream of light that melts into the sky. And that's how this quiet night sky came to be. Sleep tight."

## Author Profile | The Cabin Company

The Cabin Company is the nickname of Kentaro Abe and Saki Yoshioka, a duo of children's book artists. Both were born in Oita Prefecture in 1989 and graduated from the Faculty of Education and Welfare Science at Oita University. They are active in a wide range of fields, mainly in their hometown of Oita, including exhibitions, picture books, illustrations and workshops in galleries and shops. They are currently working in a former elementary school, which they renovated into their studio. Previous books published by Shogakukan include *Pokémon no shima* (Pokémon Island), *Yubisashi-chan* (Fingertippy), *Nyo-!* (Swoosh!) and *Nen neko* (It's Bedtime for Kitten) among many others.





Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725245-0  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: December 2023  
 Age: 3+

# The Goodnight Pillow

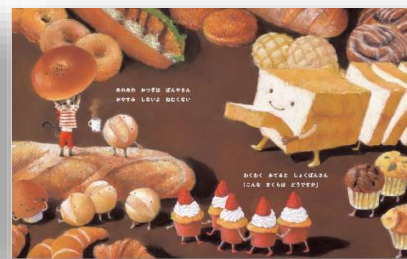
*Oyasumi makura* / おやすみまくら

**Author: Rin Saito and Ukimaru, Illustrator: Chiho Makino**

**A bedtime story that is certain to bring a yawn to the lips of even the naughtiest of readers!**

There was a kitten which, for fear the day would come to an end, didn't want to fall asleep even though it was dark outside. "I'm not sleepy yet. I won't sleep!" The stubborn kitten repeats, lying wide awake on its bed. One night, a chubby round duck comes in from the window and suggests, "Why don't you try sleeping with me as your pillow?" Wrapped in the duck's soft feathers, the kitten is transported into an enchanted world of dreams. Next thing it knows, it is standing with the duck at the edge of a forest. "I'm not sleepy yet. I won't sleep!" The kitten says once again and a big mushroom replies, "Why don't you use me as your pillow?" As soon as its head rests on the plump mushroom, the kitten floats back into the world of dreams. The next time it wakes up, it is standing with the mushroom in a bakery. Where will this mysterious journey lead? Will the kitten finally be able to sleep?

The lyrical story by poet Rin Saito and picture book author Ukimaru complemented by the striking illustrations by artist Chiho Makino invite readers to drift into a fantasy world of overwhelming persuasiveness and charm.



## Author Profile | Rin Saito

Rin Saito is a Japanese poet. She was awarded the Japan Children's Literature Association Newcomer Award and the Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award for her first picture book *Dorobo no dorobon* (Dorobon the Thief). Ukimaru is a Japanese picture book author. He made his literary debut in 2019 with *Haru to aki* (Spring and Fall), published by Shogakukan in 2019. Chiho Makino is a Japanese illustrator. She is the recipient of the Kodansha Publishing Culture Award in the illustration category and the Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award, among many other prizes.





Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725233-7

Pages: 40 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: July 2023

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified, Traditional), French, Germany, 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)  
 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: 978-4-09-725202-3  
Pages: 40 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: December 2022  
Rights Sold: English, Chinese (Simplified)  
Age: 6+

## Sato the Rabbit, the Morning Sun

*Usagi no Sato-kun asahi* / うさぎのさとくん あさひ

Yuki Ainoya

**One day Sato decides to become a rabbit and a rabbit he has been ever since. Welcome to the whimsical world of Sato the rabbit, where the ordinary becomes extraordinary!**

In this fourth installment of the endearingly surreal *Sato the Rabbit* series, Yuki Ainoya explores the theme of light, how it can be manipulated as a physical object and used in ways we would never have thought of. In the first half of the book, entitled *Asahi* (Morning Sun), Sato grabs the slit of morning sunlight peeking through the curtains of his room and uses it as a tool for various purposes. He stirs with it his coffee, scoops up sparkles from the river, lights a fire with it, cooks and eventually eats it. By the time the slit of sunlight is all gone, night has fallen and it is dark again. In the second and last story of the book, entitled *Todai* (Lighthouse), Sato's room turns into a lighthouse quietly floating in the sea. The sound of the waves, curiously shaped clouds and an enchanting sunset are only some of the wonders Sato discovers inside the seashells he finds on his way.

Praise for the English edition of the series

**"Charming artwork illustrates the interconnectedness among nature, children, and creativity...Sweet, surreal, and contemplative."** *Kirkus Reviews*

**"A surreal symphony of vibrant colors and images...a satisfying ode to the deep power—and beauty—of the imagination."** *Nanette McGuinness, World Kid Lit*

**Yuki Ainoya** was born in Yokohama and studied Japanese Art in the Art & Design Department of Tama Art University. She was the winner of the Crayon House Children's Book Grand Prize in 1990 and the Japanese Children's Book Award in 2007 for the original Japanese edition of *Sato the Rabbit*. In her spare time, she likes playing the accordion and hula dancing.



## Sato the Rabbit

*Usagi no Sato-kun* / うさぎのさとくん

Yuki Ainoya

Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-727490-2  
Pages: 60 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: April 2006  
Rights Sold: Catalan, English, Romanian, Spanish, Chinese (Simplified)  
Age: 6+



## Sato the Rabbit, the Moon

*Usagi no Sato-kun tsuki yo* / うさぎのさとくん つきよ

Yuki Ainoya

Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-726352-4  
Pages: 60 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2008  
Rights Sold: English, Romanian, Chinese (Simplified)  
Age: 6+



## Sato the Rabbit, a Sea of Tea

*Usagi no Sato-kun kocha no umi* / うさぎのさとくん こうちやのうみ

Yuki Ainoya

Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-726552-8  
Pages: 60 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2014  
Rights Sold: English, Romanian, Chinese (Simplified)  
Age: 6+







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, Korean

Age: 3+

## The Snow Theater

*Yuki no gekijo* / 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.

**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 published his first picture book, *Melody*, in 1990. Since then, he has published more than sixty picture books and illustrated more than two hundred other children's books. Ryoji Arai has also worked with advertising, magazine illustration and theatre set design. 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: 978-4-09-725211-5

Pages: 32 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: February 2023

Age: 3+

## The Lone Wolf and the Star

*Ippiki okami to ohoshi-sama* / いっぴきおおかみとおほしさま

Maiko Matsumura

**A magical story about the healing power of twinkling stars shining bright in the sky**

On a clear, starry night a lone wolf running free through the woods meets a star shining bright in the sky. The star is a little tired of always shining in the same fixed place and longs to be as free as the lone wolf. Meanwhile, the wolf admits that it is sure fun to be free, but sometimes a hollow feeling creeps up in the pit of its stomach. "Let's run together!" The wolf suggests. But how could the star break free from its constellation? That's when they come up with an ingenious idea that will allow them to enjoy some time together.

With delicate brushstrokes and vibrant colors, Maiko Matsumura makes light shine through the darkness. At a time when interpersonal relationships have been weakened by the pandemic, her book reminds us of the tenderness and kindness to be found in friendship and mutual care.

**Maiko Matsumura** was born in Nara in 1985. She graduated from the Faculty of Design at Kyoto Seika University and in 2009, just before completing her studies, her work was selected for the Bologna International Picture Book Original Drawing Exhibition. She subsequently moved to Tokyo where she worked for an import book company. She is currently a full-time mother, as well as a painter and an author of picture books. For Iwanami Shoten she illustrated the Japanese edition of *A Picture Book Without Pictures* by Hans Christian Andersen. Her books include *Anata wa sekai no kodomo* (You Are a Child of the World) and the self-published *Hajimaru hajimari* (The Beginning of the Beginning).







Category: Early Years  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-735357-7  
 Pages: 30 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: November 2023  
 Age: 0+

## Knock Knock, Pokémon: A Shadow Guessing Picture Book

*Kageasobi ehon Pokémon tontonton / かげあそびえほん ポケモンとんとんとん*

Takashi Kurihara

**A fun guessing game that introduces young children to the most popular Pokémon characters**

Knock knock, someone's at the door. Who's there? Who's there? Who could it be if not a Pokémon of course!? Starting from simple silhouettes and gradually moving on to more interesting shapes and sizes, children are expected to guess who is standing on the other side of the door from the shadow they are making. Get caught in the excitement of having your expectations surpassed each time the door opens. At the end, everyone gathers for a fun party! A picture book with a simple but engaging repetitive structure that stimulates the imagination of young children and encourages them to look closely at the details on each page.

### Author Profile | Takashi Kurihara

Takashi Kurihara was born in Tokyo in 1977. He made his debut as a manga artist in 1999 with *Anahoru hitobito* (People Who Dig Holes), which won the Afternoon Shiki Award for new manga artists. He graduated from the Graphic Design Department at Tama Art University in 2001 and is now active in a wide variety of fields including manga, picture books, and animation. His manga include *Tsuno byo* (Thorn Disease), *Rakki bogi* (Lucky Bogeys), *Taicho to watashi* (The Captain and Me), *Fuyu no UFO natsu no kaiju* (Winter UFOs and Summer Monsters). Among his many picture books, Shogakukan published in 2018 Tampopo *Futaro to nana fushigi* (Dandelion Futaro and the Seven Mysteries).



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