



A SELECTION OF TITLES
FROM JAPAN

LONDON
BOOK FAIR
2025



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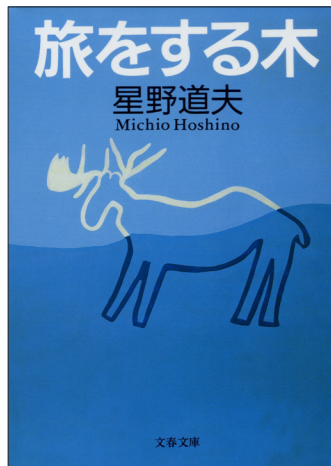
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HOT LIST

MICHIO HOSHINO

THE TRAVELLING TREE

First published in 1994, and reprinted 57 times, *The Travelling Tree* by renowned photographer Michio Hoshino is a literary classic of nature writing.



NON FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju
Publication: 1994
Pages: 231

An enduringly popular collection of literary memoirs and photographs of Alaska—its wilderness, wildlife, and peoples—by a naturalist, mystic, and adventurer.

An aerial photograph of the tiny Inupuiak (Eskimo) village, Shishmaref, would change his life forever. After coming across it by chance in a photo collection on the shelf of a used bookstore in Tokyo, Michio Hoshino, then a teenager, was immediately enchanted by this tiny cluster of dwellings on the Arctic Sea. What sort of people lived in such a desolate place, seemingly at the ends of the Earth? The photograph intrigued him so much that he decided to write a letter asking if he could visit the village. Not knowing to whom he should address the letter, he made it out to simply, “Mayor, Shishmaref.” To his surprise, he received a response from an Inupuiak family willing to host him and spent the next summer, at the age of 19, immersed in their way of life.

Each essay is a short mosaic of memory and narrative in which Hoshino ponders universal questions with careful introspection and emotional depth reminiscent of Henry David Thoreau, while braving one of the final frontiers with full acceptance and even reverence for its dangers. His photos of Alaska—taken before global climate change began to ravage its landscape—add vividness to the world his words conjure. *The Travelling Tree* has gained increasing popularity in the more than 20 years since Hoshino’s untimely death. His work has been featured in numerous Japanese television specials and documentaries and an exhibition of his photography has travelled to cities and communities across Japan.

Rights sold

Spain (Cantico)
UK/US (Octopus Books)

EXCERPT

As I write this, my wife Naoko is pregnant. While I am very happy about this development, it also makes me somewhat anxious. She continues to have intermittent spotting and we’re worried about the possibility of a miscarriage. After consulting with the local doctor, we have decided for the time being to wait and see how her condition progresses. I’ve been involved with the immense wilderness of Alaska for all these years, and now for the first time I’m perplexed by a little slice of nature of my own.

About six or seven years ago, I caught my first sighting of a caribou giving birth. This was while I was up north awaiting their spring migration. From our camp, the Arctic Ocean was visible on the edge of the horizon, and although it was the month of May the temperature still felt like minus sixty when the wind blew.

One day around twilight, a small herd of caribou descended from the mountains. There must have been 30 to 40 of them in total. They had journeyed over 600 miles from the woodlands of Canada. All were female and most were probably bearing young. While I had been following the caribou for close to a decade, I had yet to witness a birth.

Since I could only ever stake out one particular spot in the vast Alaskan Arctic through which the caribou are constantly on the move, my chances of encountering this momentous event were slim.

But as I watched through binoculars from my tent, one fell behind the rest of the herd, behaving strangely. In a panic, she kept tumbling to her side and getting back up again. I decided she must be about to give birth. She was too far to photograph and I would have scared her if I’d left the tent, so I stayed where I was, squeezing the binoculars in my fists and hoping anxiously. Her companions, not breaking pace, had already vanished into the distance of the tundra.

When the lone caribou stood up suddenly, a small black form flopped out onto the snowy field. Hurriedly I stuffed a camera into my backpack, crawled quietly out of my tent, and made my way on all fours towards them until they were in close view. I believe it was around midnight, but the season of endless day had already arrived and the sun that never sets shone on the white plane. Even bundled up in thick down gear, the burning cold cut through to my skin.

Michio Hoshino (1952-1996) was a photographer and a memoirist, winner of the Anima Award. Born and raised in Ichikawa City, Chiba, his life changed forever by an aerial photograph of the Inupuiak (Eskimo) village, Shishmaref, found by chance in a bookstore in Tokyo. He moved to Alaska at the age of 19, and dedicated his life to photographing and writing. He is best known for his extraordinary photos of polar bears in Alaska.

SHOUKEI MATSUMOTO

HOT LIST

WORK LIKE A MONK

How to Work Mindfully and Peacefully in the Corporate World

A business book by a monk featured in Forbes Business magazine.



In his new book, *Work Like A Monk*, Shoukei Matsumoto (author of *A Monk's Guide to a Clean House and Mind*) takes his mindful philosophy one step further: from Capitalism towards Cooperation, with an entrepreneurial spirit.

Buddha, also known as “the Great King of Medicine”, is the ultimate doctor who fundamentally cures human beings of suffering. Buddha’s way of preaching, taiki-seppo, focuses on who the listener is and is also phrased as oubyo yoyaku, giving appropriate medicine in accordance with the status of illness. Matsumoto is a leading “corporate monk” who aims to support modern workers and organizations with Buddha’s teachings.

NON FICTION

Publisher: TBD
Pages: 128

Rights sold
Germany (Penguin Random House)
Greece (Patakis Publications)
Italy (Vallardi)
Netherlands (Atlas Contact)
Portugal (Bertrand)
Spain (Planeta)
UK/US (Gallery)



Shoukei Matsumoto (1979) is a Contemporary Buddhist, who graduated from the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Letters, University of Tokyo. Matsumoto is the World Economic Forum (Davos) Young Global Leader. In 2010, he received his MBA from the Indian Institute of Business (ISB) as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar. In 2012, he opened the “Future Chief Priest School”, a temple management school.

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NOBUKO NAKANO

HOT LIST

THE SCIENCE OF LUCKY PEOPLE

The book that will change the way you see your place in the world!

230,000 copies sold



Finally, a neuroscientist reveals the secret behind being one of those “lucky people” who earn success, love and money.

The situations that both lucky and unlucky people encounter are the same in most cases. But the way they view and think about the circumstances differs, and so does the way they deal with various situations.

So, what are the common lifestyle patterns, mindsets, and outlooks of lucky people?

And what is the method to becoming a lucky person?

NON FICTION

Publisher: Sunmark
Publication: 2023
Pages: 207

Nobuko Nakano’s method for being “lucky” is a structured approach grounded in both mindset and behavior. She argues that luck is not random but something that can be cultivated through intentional actions and mental habits, supported by scientific research.

By combining these elements, Nakano’s method turns luck from something random into something largely under personal control, rooted in a scientific understanding of how mindset and behavior influence outcomes.

Rights sold
Brazil (Globo Livros)
France (Groupe Guy Tredaniel)
Italy (Newton Compton)
Romania (Editura Humanitas)
Russia (Eksmo)
Spain (Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial)
UK/US (Gallery)

Nobuko Nakano is well known throughout the neuroscience field. She also regularly comments on political affairs and is an avid art lover.

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FUMIO SASAKI

HELLO, HABITS
A Minimalist's Guide to a Better Life

The internationally best-selling author of *Goodbye, Things* shares insights and practices to help you become the best version of yourself.



NON FICTION

Publisher: Wani Books Ltd.
Publication: 2018
Pages: 295

Fumio Sasaki changed his life when he became a minimalist. But before minimalism could really stick, he had to make it a habit. All of us live our lives based on the habits we've formed, from when we get up in the morning, to what we eat and drink, to how likely we are to actually make it to the gym. In *Hello, Habits*, Sasaki explains how we can acquire the new habits that we want—and get rid of the ones that don't do us any good.

Drawing on leading theories and tips about the science of habit formation from cognitive psychology, neuroscience, and sociology, along with examples from popular culture and tried-and-tested techniques from his own life, he unravels common misperceptions about “willpower” and “talent,” and offers a step-by-step guide to success.

Ultimately, Sasaki shows how ordinary people like himself can use his principles of good habit-making to improve themselves and change their lives.

Rights sold
France (Groupe Guy Trédaniel)
Germany (FinanzBuch Verlag)

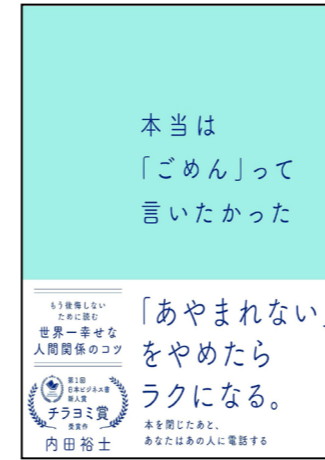
Fumio Sasaki is a Japanese author, editor, and minimalist. He is the former coeditor in chief of Japan's Wani Books, and cofounder of the website Minimal & ism.

HIROSHI UCHIDA



I'M SORRY
The Power of Apology

Whoever said that love means never having to say you are sorry was **WRONG!**
But why is it so hard for us to simply say *I'm sorry*?



NON FICTION

Publisher: Subarusya
Publication: 2023
Pages: 128

A transformative self-help book that delves into the profound value of the word “sorry” and offers insights into how sincere apologies can positively transform one's life and relationships. Uchida emphasizes that apologizing is a powerful tool for enhancing self-esteem and fostering healthier human connections. The book aims to reshape readers' perceptions of apologies, making it easier to express remorse and build happier relationships.

Hiroshi Uchida's book offers practical insights and techniques to help readers embrace the power of apology, leading to healthier and more fulfilling connections. By redefining the concept of “sorry”, readers will learn, with practical methods, to apologize effectively, leading to more fulfilling relationships in various aspects of life, including family, friendships, partnerships, workplaces, and educational settings

The book provides:

- practical techniques to deliver effective apologies, emphasizing the importance of timing, sincerity, and empathy;
- psychological insights: Uchida explores the psychological barriers that prevent individuals from apologizing and offers strategies to overcome them;
- real-life applications through relatable examples and case studies, readers learn how to apply apology techniques in various aspects of life, including family, friendships, and the workplace.

Hiroshi Uchida, born in 1978 in Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture, is the founder and current director of “BIJUKU”, a makeup school that emphasizes enhancing women's natural beauty. He is also a certified counselor and has developed a unique makeup technique that promotes self-acceptance and confidence. Through his work, Uchida has impacted over 10,000 individuals, helping them improve their self-esteem and interpersonal relationships.

CHISATO ABE

HOT LIST

YATAGARASU

Over 2 million copies sold of this 10 book series of high fantasy inspired by Japanese mythology.

The series has been adapted into Mangas and an anime television show available on Apple tv.

Enter the world of the Yatagarasu, a society evoking Heian-era Japan, where the legendary three-legged crows that appear as a messenger of god in Japanese mythology live as humans in a parallel world.

Set in a grand-scale fantasy world conceived by the author, and filled the eponymous creatures known as Yatagarasu, which are shape-shifting ravens/crows, the story revolves around five Yatagarasu families who are able to transform between human and crow forms.

In the four corners of the domain, the Yatagarasu characters contend with power struggles, turmoil, conspiracy and natural disasters. They are forced to establish alliances and contend for favors to ensure their power.

In volume 1, four beautiful princesses from great noble families gather at the palace where only one will be chosen as a queen for the crown prince, who does not reveal himself to them. The protagonist is Yama Yukiyauchi, who is a member of this shape-shifting race that's been selected to assist Prince Wakamiya. Together, they deal with all sorts of oddities and the unfortunate commonalities of royal drama.

Various folkloric elements of Shinto mythology (including the eponymous crows) appear in the series, although the central part revolves around the relationship between the prince and his Yatagarasu.



FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju
Publication: 2012-present

Rights sold

Italy (Mondadori)
Russia (Ast)
Simple Chinese (People's Literature)
Traditional Chinese (Systex)

Chisato Abe was born in Gunma Prefecture in 1991. She made her debut as a student at Waseda University, after receiving the 2012 Matsumoto Seicho Prize for her work which was later published. Her *Yatagarasu* series was selected as the winner of the Yoshikawa Eiji Bunko Prize for 2024.

HOT LIST

RINKO AKITANI

THE MIRACLE OF NURSE UZUKI

Winner of the Bessatsu Bungeishunju Prize of the Creative Writing Award 2023.

30,323 copies sold.



This novel takes place in the intensive care ward of a general hospital. Nurse Uzuki, the main character, has a special ability: to see when a patient is “leaving behind” this world. She takes the time to resolve her patients’ unresolved issues. She is the nurse we all wish for in our final moments.

One day, while taking care of a man in his 50s, the protagonist sees a little girl standing quietly next to him. In reality, the girl is not there, she is the embodiment of the patient’s regret, a spiritual “remnant” of the man preparing to leave this world. Who is this little girl? And what happened to her? Uzuki struggles to resolve the problems left by various patients. Her patients are often barely able to speak anymore, so she must try to untangle the issue by talking to family, friends and colleagues. Once resolved, the patients’ “remnants” disappear, and they are quietly seen off, and nurse Uzuki has performed a little miracle.

We follow the life of this mid-career nurse, in a fascinating medical drama. Through the stories of her patients, the reader is forced to ponder life lessons, and reevaluate priorities.

Rinko Akitani was a ward nurse for more than 10 years.



FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju

Publication: 2024

Volume One: 286 pages

Volume Two: 255 pages

EXCERPT

I’m not used to it. It is not a real girl, but Mr. Oooka’s “leftover”.

At one point, I began to see the patient’s “regrets”. This is hardly a gift of our species. I alone see people who are not supposed to be there, things that are not supposed to be there. I can see them but I cannot touch them or interact with them. I am only seeing them unilaterally, and the “remnant” is probably not aware of me. It is as if the patient’s unresolved thoughts and feelings are projected on the screen as a three-dimensional picture. And apparently, “regrets” appear when patients become aware of their mortality.

I believe that if I can eliminate the “regrets,” the patient will have one less thing to fight against before peacefully passing.

Rinko Akitani was born in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1980. After graduating from Yokohama City University College of Nursing (now the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Medicine), she worked as a nurse in the ward for more than 10 years. After retirement, she published novels and essays on the media platform “note”. In 2023, *What You Can See in the Rabbit Moon* won the Bessatsu Bungei Shunju Award at the Creation Award 2023 sponsored by note. This is her debut novel.

KYOKO HASUMI

DOCTOR PEN

A heartwarming story about past emotions packed into magic fountain pens.



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing
Publication: 2021
Pages: 293

Tucked away down an atmospheric alley in Kobe, the tiny shop is the roost of owlishly wise Toma Fuyuki, who dispenses advice to his customers as he fixes their fountain pens. The motto of his store is: **Fountain Pen Counseling will change your life.**

When it comes to repairing old pens, no one can compare with Toma. Simply looking at a pen is enough for him to grasp all the worries and difficulties of its owner, whom he gently guides towards a solution.

When unhappy university student Sawa Nonami takes a job as his assistant, she discovers the universe of eccentric fountain-pen aficionados whose lives intersect at his store. The experience will change her life in ways she could never have guessed.

Filled with fascinating details about fountain pen brands, designs, mechanisms, and inks along with plenty of reasons why these old-fashioned writing tools still matter today, this is a novel for pen lovers and for young people struggling to find their path in life.

Rights sold

France (Bragelonne)
Italy (Sperling & Kupfer)
China

EXCERPT

Three days later, a car pulled up in front of Doctor Pen's shop.

"I believe I requested that the pen's owner come in person," Toma said. Sawa was confused... "I'm here, aren't I?" Reito asked, setting the cup he was holding in his left hand on the table. "No, I meant the person who has been using this pen," Toma answered. Reito froze. Toma opened a box he had set on the desk and took out the Waterman Edson pen. "Pardon my saying so, but I don't believe you are the one who has been using this fountain pen, Mr. Terada." Sawa watched nervously as Reito scowled.

"What are you implying?" he snapped. "If you're going to start making bizarre accusations, I'll take my business to another shop. There are plenty of other fountain pen repairmen around."

The instant Reito reached out his left hand, Toma drew the Edson near. "I believe this pen's owner is right-handed," he said. Reito stared in amazement at his own extended hand. "And that they have quite a distinctive way of using it," he added. Sawa could hear Reito gulp.

"The question of which hand is simple," Toma continued. "You can tell by looking at how the nib is worn down. Now, your order said the ink was coming out too fast. Excessive ink flow is caused when a pen is dropped or knocked, causing the tip to bend, or when this slit here that runs toward the tip widens." He pointed to the bottom of the nib. "If the person using the pen presses down hard when they write, it's common for the slit to widen. But that's not the reason you're having a hard time using this pen. To make it easier to explain, I have here another Edson."

Toma took a pen of the same make and model but a different color from the desk drawer. He slowly removed the cap, peered through his magnifying glass at the nib, and then set both on the tray.

"This is a Diamond Black Edson I borrowed from a customer. The nib width is F, fine. Take a look at the nib like I've just done." Reito hesitated to pick up the magnifying glass and pen. "Go ahead," Toma urged. Copying Toma's movements, Reito held the nib behind the magnifying glass, but had trouble bringing it into focus. Eventually, he seemed to succeed. "The nib you are looking at now is the standard model sold by the company. Keep that shape in mind. Now please look at the Edson nib that you brought in. I have done nothing to it since receiving it." Reito was silent. "Well? Do you notice that compared to the other pen, the nib is longer?"

Kyoko Hasumi (1965) was born in Sakai, Osaka, and graduated from the Fine Arts Department of Osaka University of Arts. Her debut novel won the Excellence Award in the Yokomizo Seishi Mystery and Horror Prize in 2010. In 2020 she won the Osaka Book One Project.

KEIGO HIGASHINO

HOT LIST

THE DREAM FLOWER

Winner of the 26th Shibata Renzaburo Award.

Over one million copies sold of this standalone thriller.



FICTION

Publisher: PHP publishers
Publication: 2013
Pages: 350

A sabre-wielding madman slaughters a family in the middle of the street, two children become friends after a chance encounter at a flower market, and an old man is found lifeless in his house: three fates that seem to have nothing in common, except perhaps a mysterious yellow flower with unsuspected powers. A masterful new plot by the master of origami detective fiction.

Following her cousin's incomprehensible suicide, Lino contacted her grandfather and discovered his extraordinary flower crops. Fascinated, she asked him to set up a blog to showcase his work. He agreed, but on one condition: not to post anything about a certain yellow flower she had seen at his house. A few days later, Lino visits his grandfather and finds his body lifeless. Realizing that the pot containing the enigmatic yellow flower has disappeared, Lino decided to post a photo of the cultivar online. She is soon contacted by a man called Gamo Yeesuke, who claims to be a botanist and advises her to delete the photo from the site. At his place, she accidentally meets her younger brother, Sota, who pretends to be a botanist even though he works for the police...

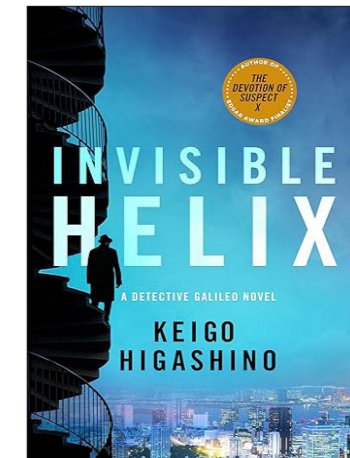
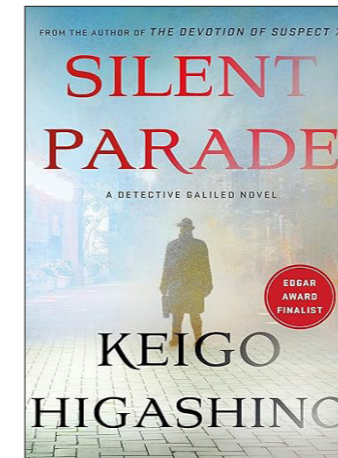
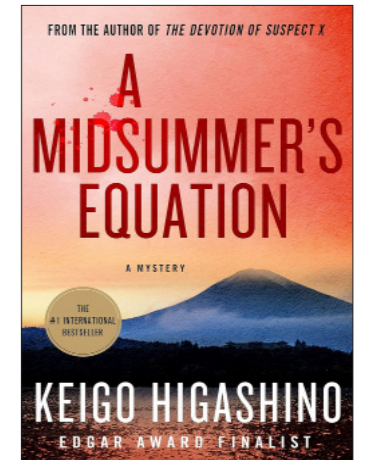
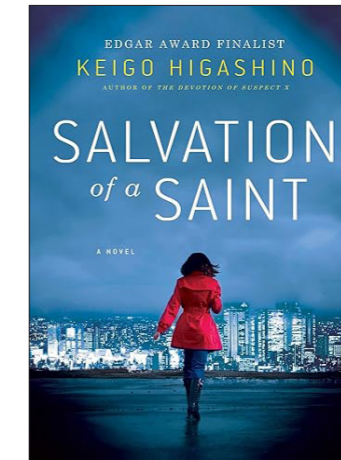
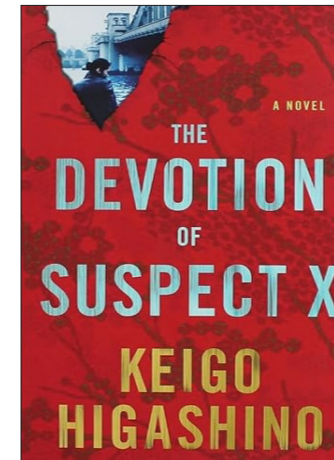
Higashino's mystery delves into the human drama of people whose fates intersect over a mysterious flower.

Rights sold

France (Actes Sud)
Italy (Piemme)
China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam

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By the author of the *Detective Galileo Series* and *The Kyoichiro Kaga Series*.



Keigo Higashino (1958) is Japan's most successful thriller and mystery writer. He served as the 13th President of Mystery Writers of Japan from 2009 to 2013. Born in Osaka, he started writing novels while still working as an engineer. He won the Edogawa Rampo Award which kicked off his career. In 1999, he won the Mystery Writers of Japan Award. In 2006, he won the 134th Naoki Prize and the 6th Honkaku Mystery Grand Prize.

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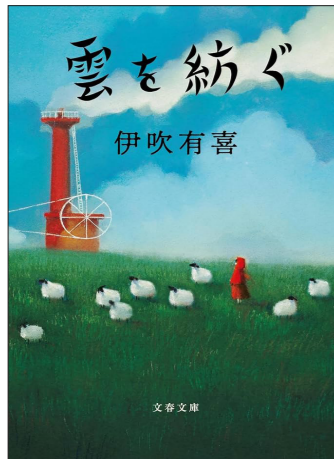
HOT LIST

YUKI IBUKI

SPINNING THE CLOUDS

Can a family on the verge of collapse be saved?

A multigenerational tale portraying family bonds through the ancient art of wool spinning.



A cross-generational story that contrasts the incessant pressures of urban life with the practical challenges that confront a diffident teenager when she runs away from home to live with her grandfather in rural Japan. There, she learns how to work with wool. A red shawl, a treasured present from her late grandmother, becomes the key to untangling her emotions and bringing her estranged parents back together again.

This novel is sure to appeal to fans of ‘cosy fiction’, which has recently been a hugely popular genre of translated Japanese literature. The depiction of high schooler Mio’s struggles, and the empathy shown throughout the novel, is sure to strike a chord with fans of *Lonely Castle in the Mirror*, while the many who enjoyed *The Cat Who Saved Books* or *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop* will surely appreciate the themes of overcoming a difficult period and rediscovering joy in life.

In addition to the heartwarming storyline, the novel is a treasure trove for foreign readers with an interest in Japanese culture and arts as, through Mio, we learn about the ancient crafts of wool-spinning and dyeing. The crafts portrayed in Ibuki’s novel, born of a specific region and time, give the reader both an insight into the environments and ways of life of the people who created and developed them, and the story expresses a deep respect for the craftspeople who made them and passed them down to subsequent generations.

This is an uplifting celebration of the traditional and tactile arts in an age of virtual reality, invoking both C.S. Lewis’s *Tales of Narnia* and Kenji Miyazawa’s *Night Train to the Stars*.

Rights sold

France (Albin Michel)
Italy (Garzanti)
Portugal (Presença)
China, Vietnam

THE MIDNIGHT COACH

Not everything in life goes to plan, but the journey goes on regardless...

The touching story of a long-distance coach driver and his family.



Toshikazu Takahashi drives long-distance coaches travelling between Niigata and Tokyo. At one time he worked in a large company in Tokyo, but after becoming a coach driver, he and his family moved back to his parents’ home in Niigata. However, relationships between his wife, Miyuki, and his mother soon grew strained, and his wife left, leaving the two children behind.

Now 16 years have since passed; Toshikazu’s mother has died, his son Reiji has graduated university and is working in Tokyo, and his daughter Ayana has left home and found a man she is thinking of marrying. Suddenly without family obligations, Toshikazu thinks about moving in with his girlfriend Shiho in Niigata, but on the very day Shiho invites him to live with her, Reiji shows up suddenly, having quit his job in Tokyo, and things start to change between him and Shiho. There are also problems threatening his daughter’s upcoming marriage.

Then, one day, Toshikazu bumps into his ex-wife Miyuki in the bus centre. He feels sorry for her, and brings the children to meet her. This novel presents a deft portrayal of a family for whom things don’t always run smoothly, honestly conveying their starts and restarts.

Shortlisted for both Shugoro Yamamoto Award and Naoki Prize.

Adapted to a film in 2018.

Yuki Ibuki (1969) was born in Mie and graduated from Chuo University. After working for a publishing house, she made her literary debut in 2008. Her novels have won various prizes and have been made into films.

TAKUJI ICHIKAWA

BE WITH YOU

Over 3 million copies sold.



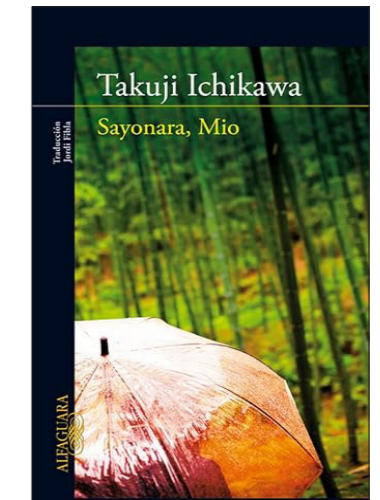
FICTION

Publisher: Shogakukan Inc.
Publication: 2003
Pages: 264

Takumi, a single widowed father, struggles to raise his spirited and intelligent son, Yuji, while grappling with his own debilitating mental health challenges. Bound by a severe anxiety disorder, Takumi cannot venture far from home or use most vehicles without succumbing to paralyzing panic attacks, making their daily life a chaotic and melancholic bachelor existence.

Their world is turned upside down when, during a walk, they encounter Mio—Takumi's late wife—seemingly alive and whole, yet devoid of any memory of her past life. Despite her confusion, the physical resemblance is undeniable, down to the smallest details, and Takumi convinces her she is his wife. Overwhelmed with joy, he sets out to welcome Mio back into their lives, sharing the story of their poignant love and grappling with the surreal reality of her return.

Mio's reappearance, however, is no ordinary miracle. Before her death, she had promised Takumi she would return during the rainy season to check on him and Yuji—though only briefly, disappearing again before the heat of summer. As the days pass, Takumi searches for answers, uncovering a deeply moving tale of love, fate, and the unbreakable bond that transcends even death.



Rights sold
France (J'ai Lu)
Italy (Adriano Salani)
Spain (Alfaguara)

2004 Japanese film
directed by
Nobuhiro Doi



Born in Tokyo in 1962, **Takuji Ichikawa** is a graduate of the Dokkyo University. His first novel, *Separation*, was published in 2002. *Be With You* (*Ima Ai ni Yukimasu*) was published in 2003 and became a huge hit in Japan. Other bestsellers he has written are *Ren-ai Shashin: Mou Hitotsu no Monogatari* (2003), and *Sono Toki Kare ni Yoroshiku* (2004).

KYOICHI KATAYAMA

CRYING OUT LOVE FROM THE CENTER OF THE WORLD

Over 3 million copies sold.



Kyoichi Katayama's *Crying Out Love From the Center of the World* depicts a sweet high school romance between an average guy and a beautiful girl.

Sakutarō and Aki are high school classmates. Their relationship blossoms from friendship to infatuation to a love whose depth belies their youth. But alas their dream is cut short before graduation by leukemia.

The story, told in retrospect by a still-young man trying to come to terms with his true love's death, evokes an aching pathos of loss from the very first page with a clarity and honest intimacy that draws readers immediately into the young lovers' world. The young protagonist is simultaneously dispassionate and deeply tender as he looks back on his experience with his discovery and then devastating loss of first love. Sakutarō's grandfather is a just and telling counterpoint to his own coming of age. Their conversations help bridge the gaps of generation and culture and help Sakutarō build a philosophy from his experience, and then transcend it.

The story closes with an act of devotion to the memory of Aki that will resonate with readers of all generations.

Crying Love From the Center of the World is a bittersweet journey of young love, enduring devotion, and heartbreaking loss. Affectionately known in Japan as Sekachu (short for Sekai no Chushin de Ai wo Sakebu), the incredible popularity of Katayama's novel developed into a social phenomenon in Japan and drove it to become one of the classic love stories of all time.

FICTION

Publisher: Shogakukan Inc.
Publication: 2001
Reissue: 2024
Pages: 206

A national sensation that touched over three million readers, Kyoichi Katayama brought innocent love and romance to the forefront of Japan's ultra-hip mass market.



Rights sold

France (Livre de Poche)
Hungary (Muvelt)
Italy (Salani)
Poland (Grupa Wydawnicza Foksal)
Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)
Spain (Alfaguara)

Kyoichi Katayama (1959) dropped out of Business school to write this novel, and he never went back. He is a master of Samurai Suard Martial Arts.

SAKI MURAYAMA

THE MAGIC OF THE MALL



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing
Publication: 2017
Pages: 452

**Over 110,000 copies sold.
Winner of the 2018 Booksellers Award in Japan.**

A department store, a cat and a wish. It only takes a few ingredients to create a story that conveys serenity and zest for life.

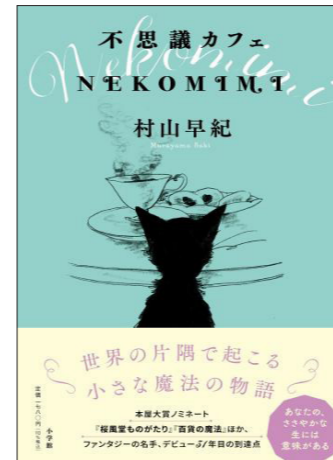
The most prestigious department store in Japan hides a secret, passed down through generations: a white cat capable of granting wishes roams its floors. If you happen to cross its path, your dreams become reality. But it is not easy to find him because he knows that many unfulfilled dreams await him. Among those who are looking for him are: Isana, attendant of the big crystal lift, who would like to find her father who left when she was a child; Sakiko, owner of the shoe shop, who dreams of spending an evening with her best friend, with whom she has not spoken in years. The manager of the luxury department, Kengo, dreams that the white cat will tell him about the woman who abandoned him at birth, while Ichika, who manages the store's archive, hopes for nothing more than to be able to see herself again in the eyes of her lost love.

Everyone has a dream, a wish, a hope to entrust to the mysterious feline that lurks within the walls of the department store. Everyone has a painful past or a future that seems uncertain. The cat knows however that there is no joy without difficulty and sometimes just dreaming fervently for that dormant feeling to resurface brings happiness.

Rights sold

France (Bragelonne)
Italy (Garzanti)
Portugal (Presença)
Russia (AST Publishers)
Korea, Thailand

THE INCREDIBLE NEKOMIMI CAFÈ



FICTION

Publisher: Shogakukan
Publication: 2023
Pages: 296

A 50-something woman and her black cat manage a unique coffee shop where she delights her customers by serving them food, tea, and magic spells.

One day, Ritsuko finds a helpless black cat on the roadside. She takes the poor thing home and cures it, when suddenly, the cat speaks to Ritsuko. When she was a little girl, Ritsuko had a cat named Melody that died of an illness and the black cat is Melody reincarnated.

Ritsuko has an unusual lamp in her home, given to her by a fortune teller friend who told her that a “genie” lives in it. Half-jokingly, Ritsuko asks the lamp to cure her terrible headache and that is when she meets the lamp's genie. The genie then tells Ritsuko, “You are to pass away tonight. It cannot be undone.” Ritsuko accepts her fate, but Melody begs the genie to spare Ritsuko's life in exchange for the cat's. The genie agrees to spare both of them but on the condition they both become wizards.

Ritsuko summons a giant flying car with her magical abilities, and embarks on a journey with Melody and the genie. They open a magical coffee shop where they can grant people happiness.

Rights sold

France (Bragelonne)
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus Publishing)
Korea

NORIKO OONUMA

HOT LIST

MIDNIGHT BAKERY

Midnight Bakery, a six book series written by Noriko Onuma, is a delightful blend of mystery, heartwarming moments, and a touch of the supernatural.

Over 1.2 million copies sold.



A widower, a baker, and a talented but foul-mouthed student work to provide refuge to lost and lonely souls through their magical pastries. But they have secrets too.

The story unfolds in a quaint bakery that operates exclusively during the midnight hours- from 11pm to 5am. This bakery is unlike any other—it caters to a unique clientele of outcasts with special requests and secrets.

The Midnight Bakery is a mysterious and magical bakery in Sangenjaya, open from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m when it offers refuge to troubled customers. It is a small, odd shop that is run by Kanjiro, the foul-mouthed baker, and owner Kurebayashi Yosuke, who suddenly went from high-flying salaryman to owner and apprentice of this newly started bakery after his wife’s sudden death.

One night, a high school student called Nozomi suddenly turns up at The Bakery, claiming to be the younger sister of Kurebayashi’s dead wife. Although doubtful, he lets her stay in the shop without questioning.

This is the start of the numerous incidents that the three of them will find themselves embroiled in as other motley characters come and go in search of the solace that only the bakery and its pastries can provide.

Rights sold
France (Bragelonne)
Italy (Mondadori)
Russia (Mann Ivanov and Ferber)
China, Korea, Taiwan
US/UK (HarperCollins)

FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing
Publication: 2012-2018

Noriko Oonuma (1975) worked as a scriptwriter before entering the fiction arena by winning the 2005 Botchan Literary Award with *Ringling Out the Old Year and Ringling In the New*. She is one of Japan’s up-and-coming writers.

HOT LIST

SHIORI OTA

THE 4 MINUTE 33 SECOND COFFEE SHOP

A coffee shop in Hokkaido that offers you one chance to time-travel and repair the past.

4 Minutes and 33 seconds, the time it takes to make a coffee.



FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju
Publication: 2023
Pages: 288

The scent of coffee and the sound of an old clock invite you into this gentle, bittersweet time-travel fantasy. It is rumoured that at Tacet Evening Hall, a coffee shop in Hokkaido, a woman can take people into the past. And there, they can correct their biggest regret. An unsaid word, a wrong decision, a moment of distraction...

Who wouldn't want a chance to correct the past?

They only get one chance, a four-minute and thirty-three-second window while the coffee is brewing.

At the center of the novel is a Himari, a middle schooler who once had a brilliant future as a piano player, until an accident damaged her fingers. She learns that changing the past is not the only way to shape the future and that "If there were a perfectly written musical score for the future, we would probably not play it accordingly".



FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju
Publication: 2023
Pages: 352

In volume two, the most important moment is the present one. Using the power of four minutes and thirty-three seconds, which is all she is allowed, Himari saves her friend Tsukiko from an accidental death. But altering the past leads to new victims. In order to repair her own mistake and bring everyone back home, Himari takes her classmate Chitose on a second time-travel trip.

Rights sold

- France (City Editions)
- Germany (Droemer)
- Italy (Garzanti)
- Hungary (Alexandra Group)
- Netherlands (The House of Books)
- Russia (Eksmo)
- US/UK (HarperCollins)

EXCERPT

Ever since Himari Misaki was little, everyone had acknowledged her prodigious piano skills.

She'd studied music abroad in England but returned to Hokkaido following an injury. Now, she lives with her divorced mother and younger sister, Nanoka. Coming back and knowing she's failed everyone leaves Himari in a terrible mindset. She begins her first year of middle school a month late because of her recovery, but on her way to her first day there, a middle-aged woman in fancy clothing calls out to her.

"Use everyone's sympathy to your advantage. Just smile brightly, and it'll be fine," the woman reassures her.

On the way home, the same woman recommends her coffee filled with syrup and milk, and she tries it for the first time in her life. "How strange. It smells like flowers," she muses. It's then she learns about "Tacet Evening Hall", a beautiful coffee shop near the neighboring park, and its shopkeeper known as "the witch".

Encouraged, Himari thanks the woman and heads home. "I'll be fine tomorrow, too," she thinks. The next day, Himari searches for the woman, but she finds the woman's whole house has vanished. At that moment, Himari finds the Tacet Evening Hall near the park. "It's really here," she realizes, reading on its door that the café's "Opening Hours End at Sunset". Heavy door, polished wooden walls and floor, a stopped clock, pale dried flowers, and mugs decorating the shelves...

"Tacet" had been named after the musical term for a long rest.

A man named Kobayashi is in the shop. As he remembers his wife who died eight years ago, he is crushed by regret and guilt. His wife had asked him to buy her flowers for her birthday as they'd passed by a florist, but he'd refused out of embarrassment. His wife had died of an illness before her next birthday. He'd always loved her, he thinks, as he orders a second cup of coffee. The storekeeper prepares a French pressed coffee called "4'33" John Cage". The hot water drips in slowly, and the scent of coffee rises. Each drop of falling water resounds lower and slower. Kobayashi's consciousness fades away like the whirl of an old record set to play.

For those four minutes and thirty-three seconds, he time-travels and sees his wife in front of the florist's. "This is the second time you're buying me flowers. The first time was for our first date," she says.

Shiori Ota was born in Sapporo, Hokkaido in 1978. In 2012, she made her debut with *There's a Corpse Buried Under Sakurako's Feet*, which she published on the novel submission website Everystar and won the Excellence Award in the Mystery Category of the Everystar Digital Book Awards.

HOT LIST

MAIKO SEO

A BLESSING FOR A WEDDING

This heartwarming story about a teenager in an unconventional family situation won the 2019 Booksellers Award.

Over a million copies sold in Japan.



FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju
Publication: 2018
Pages: 372

Yuko Morimiya has had three fathers and two mothers in her short seventeen years of life, but she is doing just fine, thank you. Yuko rejects the idea she must be damaged because she did not grow up in a typical family; she knows that every adult who cared for her since her birth mother died has loved her and made unique contributions to her development. Yuko is happy, balanced, and resilient despite a complicated upbringing, proof that blood ties are not essential for adults to love a child or provide a stable, healthy home.

When she graduates from university and starts working, she finally finds the man she wants to marry. So why won't Miyamoto (her third father) give his blessing for the wedding?

No matter how hard Yuko and her fiancé try to win him over, Miyamoto is adamantly against the marriage. So Yuko comes up with an ingenious idea: to track down all her relatives and get them to approve of the man she loves. She figures that if everyone else gives their approval, Miyamoto will be forced to as well. She has only one address—that of her previous stepfather—and so that is where her adventure starts. During her search, she learns important lessons about friendship, what makes family, the effect of music on the heart, and all the different ways there are of showing love, especially through food. She also learns the truth about her birth father.

Rights sold
Czech Republic (HOST)
Italy (E/O)
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus Publishing)
Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)
China, Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam
UK/US (Europa Editions)

Readers of all ages and gender have been charmed by this coming-of-age tale about moving out into the world, finding love and navigating the complications of parent-child relationships.

2021 Japanese film
directed by Tetsu Maeda.



Maiko Seo (1974), born in Osaka. Her first novel, *Tamagono Cho* (Egg Cord) won the Botchan Literary Grand Prix in 2001. She won the 2005 EijiY oshikawa Literary Prize in the New Author category with *KofukunaShokutaku* (A Happy Dining Table) and the 2009 JojiTsubota Literary Prize with *TomuraHantenSeishun100 Renpatsu* (Restaurant Tomuraand the Hundred Shots of Youth).

DURIAN SUKEGAWA

DIG OUT THE SUN



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing
Publication: 2024
Pages: 250

One morning, the sun disappeared. The world has been plunged into chaos. From her home, seventy-year-old Yoshie Tokumaru stared at the city wrapped in night.

Even before the disappearance of the sun, Yoshie's heart had lost its light. Her only son, Kentaro, had died of overwork. Yoshie closed the café that she'd remodeled the first floor of her house for. She didn't want to meet anybody.

Someone knocks on the café door. When Yoshie opens it, there stands a boy. He proclaims he is thirsty, so she lets him in and makes him a cumquat syrup drink. The boy says he has no parents. He doesn't offer a name. He insists he is on a journey to find the sun. Yoshie intends to find his guardians, so together they set out into the dark city.

Rights sold
Finland (Sammakko Publishing)
France (BrageLonne)
Italy (Einaudi)
Romania (Alice Books)

SWEET BEAN PASTE



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing
Publication: 2013
Pages: 239

2015 Japanese drama film directed by Naomi Kawase.

Rights sold
Brazil (Morro Branco)
Bulgaria (Colibri Publisher)
Croatia (Hena com)
Czech Republic (Dobrovsky)
Estonia (Postimehe Kirjastus)
Finland (Sammakko Publishing)
France (Albin Michel)
Germany (DuMont)
Hungary (Muvelt Nep Konyvkiado)
Italy (Einaudi)
Lebanon (The Arab Cultural Center)
Poland (Jagiellonian University)
Portugal (Leya)
Romania (Alice Books)
Russia (MTS)
Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)
Spain (Chai Editora)
UK/US (Oneworld Publications)
China, Indonesia, Korea



THE CATS OF SHINJUKU

FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing
Publication: 2019
Pages: 250

Rights sold
France (Albin Michel)
Germany (DuMont)
Greece (Pedio Publishing SA)
Italy (Einaudi)
Poland (Yumeka)
Portugal (Leya)
Romania (Alice Books)
Thailand



THE ISLAND OF PINZA

FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing
Publication: 2014
Pages: 340

Rights sold
France (Albin Michel)
Germany (DuMont)
Italy (Einaudi)



JOHNSON THE CROW

FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing
Publication: 2018
Pages: 259

Rights sold
France (Albin Michel)
Lebanon (The Arab Cultural Center)



BUDDHA ON THE WATERSIDE

FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing
Publication: 2019
Pages: 317

Rights sold
Italy (Einaudi)
Portugal (Leya)
UK/US (Oneworld Publications)

Durian Sukegawa studied oriental philosophy at Waseda University, before going on to work as a reporter in Berlin and Cambodia in the early 1990s. He is a director in the Japan P.E.N. Club and Head of the Children's Book Committee. He's also a poet, spoken-word performer, singer-songwriter, public speaker, and television and radio personality.

MIZUKI TSUJIMURA

THE LONELY CASTLE IN THE MIRROR



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing
Publication: 2017
Pages: 368

*The Chronicles of Narnia
meets The Breakfast Club*

Seven teenagers wake in a tranquil neighborhood of Tokyo to find their bedroom mirrors shining. At a single touch, they are pulled from their lonely lives into a wondrous castle filled with winding stairways, watchful portraits, and twinkling chandeliers. In this new sanctuary, they are confronted with a set of clues leading to a hidden room where one of them will be granted a wish. But there's a catch: if they don't leave by five o'clock, they will die. As time passes, a devastating truth emerges: only those brave enough to share their stories will be punished.

A mesmerizing tale about the importance of reaching out, confronting anxiety, and embracing human connection.

Rights sold

Brazil (Editora Morro Branco)
Bulgaria (Peppermill Books)
France (Editions Milan)
Germany (Carlsen Verlag)
Hungary (Kossuth Publishing)
Italy (DeAgostini)
Poland (We Need YA)
Russia (Reanimedia)
Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)
Spain (Ediciones Urano)
Turkey (Ithaki Yayinlari)
Ukraine (Artbooks)
China, Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam
UK/US (Transworld Publishers)

SUMMER OF AMBER



FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju
Publication: 2021
Pages: 552

What happens to the things we forget when we grow up?

The skeletal remains of a child are found on the grounds of Mirai School, which was once criticized as a cult. Noriko, a lawyer, wonders if the body belongs to a girl she knew. During elementary school she participated in the summer camp at Mirai School, where children lived away from their parents to foster independence, or, like Noriko, because they couldn't do well at school. There Noriko met a girl who said they were "friends forever".

What if the girl had died? The doors open to the memory from 30 years ago, and childhood secrets are revealed.

Rights sold

Italy (Mondadori)
Russia (Reanimedia)
Spain (Ediciones Urano)

TRUE MOTHERS

300,000 copies sold.



FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju
Publication: 2018
Pages: 358

After years of grueling fertility treatments yield no success, Kiyokazu and Satoko Kurihara turn to the plenary adoption system, welcoming a son, Asato, in their home. Six years later, the three have settled into a regular family routine when they receive an unexpected phone call from a woman named Hikari, demanding her child back. Kiyokazu and Satoko decide to meet Hikari, who gave birth at 14 years old.

How can they deny her request?

Rights sold

Italy (Mondadori)
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus Publishing)
Spain (Urano)
China, Indonesia, Korea, Vietnam

Mizuki Tsujimura (1980) made her literary debut in 2004. In 2011 she won the Yoshikawa Eiji Prize for New Writers, and in 2012 she won the Naoki Prize for her story collection.

NAHOKO UEHASHI

KOKUN

The Woman that Could Hear Scents

In this high fantasy, a young girl uses her ability to understand scent-based communication between plants and animals to fight widespread food shortages.



Long ago, a living goddess from another world brought to the Umar Empire a miraculous grain, resistant to all pests and disease. Under the guidance of her successors, who are revered as the Kokun, the empire expanded and prospered by spreading cultivation to new territories. While the grain was far more nourishing than other crops, it became a monoculture wherever it was planted, carrying within it the seeds of a disaster that would manifest generations later.

Aisha is a young woman from a vassal state on the edge of the empire. She is gifted with the ability to intuit what plants and living creatures are experiencing by reading their scent. When Aisha's grandfather falls from power as the state's ruler, Aisha is rescued by Mashu, a government official who sends her to work with the current Kokun, the beautiful Orie. Several years later, swarms of mysterious insects descend upon Umar's grain. Famine looms, threatening the balance of power. Aisha, Orie and Mashu race to uncover the secret of the grain and save their people.



FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju
Publication: 2022
Volume One: 440 pages
Volume Two: 464 pages

Rights sold

France (Actes Sud)
Italy (E/O)
Spain (Monogatari Media Editorial)
UK/US (Europa Editions)

From Japan's greatest fantasy writer – who has proven that the best fantasies don't always involve magic in works including *The Beast Player*, *Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit*, and *The Deer King* – an ambitious novel which both brings her specialist subjects of biodiversity and the natural world to the fore, while introducing new motifs of scent and agriculture. Uehashi 'takes subjects like "smell", which are difficult to put into words, and renders them in beautiful prose'

The author 'has created a world with incredible precision, including around political and economic systems, landscape and local details', and paints a picture of what happens when people try recklessly to tame the environment, and their hopelessness and inability to do anything when the natural world bares its fangs. This is 'reminiscent of our own arrogance and fragility' and thus highly relevant to people in our own world, facing environmental and economic issues. In addition, this novel doesn't just rely on its protagonist's special abilities, but emphasises the power of people's collective wisdom and creativity in solving problems, and is 'a tale of searching for both light and darkness in all living things, and the light of hope in flexible and changing life cycles.'

This epic fantasy is both a tale of biodiversity and the coming-of-age story of Aisha, a young girl exiled from her hometown, who has the extraordinary ability to understand the communication between insects and plants using her sense of smell. A wide-ranging story, drawing on allelopathy to depict the workings of ecosystems of which humans are a part, and touching on plague, food shortage, and environmental destruction.

Nahoko Uehashi is Japan's most acclaimed Fantasy writer – winner of awards including the Hans Christian Andersen Literature Award (2014), the Japan Bookseller's Award, and a Michael L. Printz Award (2020). Her books have sold more than 11.5 million copies in Japan, been made into comics, animated series, a live action television series, and a radio play. Many of her children's works have been translated and published overseas.

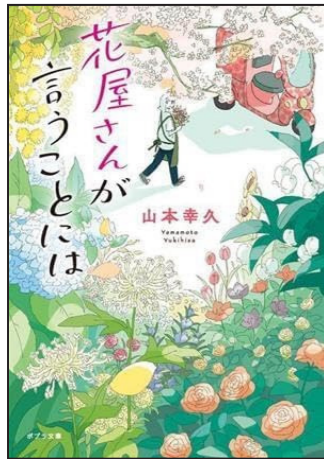
YUKIHISA YAMAMOTO

HOT LIST

THE LITTLE TOKYO FLOWER SHOP

The novel unfolds episodically, with the symbolic meanings of flowers serving as a central theme.

80,000 copies sold in Japan.



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing
Publication: 2022
Pages: 315

At just 24, Kikuko Kimina is completely drained—both physically and emotionally—by the demands of her job. One day, she crosses paths with Rita Tojima, an employee at the Kawarazaki Flower Shop near the station. Drawn into the shop's vibrant world, filled with colorful blooms and a cast of unique coworkers, Kikuko slowly finds solace in her new surroundings. As she interacts with customers, she realizes that every bouquet carries a story—some celebrating life's joyous moments, others marking more bittersweet occasions. Through the language of flowers and the emotions they convey, Kikuko begins to reconnect with her own heart and rediscover a sense of purpose.

Each chapter of this beautifully woven novel is named after a flower, symbolizing the emotions and themes within its story:

- Magnolia Grandiflora
- Sunflower
- Chrysanthemum
- Christmas Rose
- Mimosa
- Cherry Blossoms
- Lily of the Valley
- Carnation

A sequel is set to be published in late 2025.

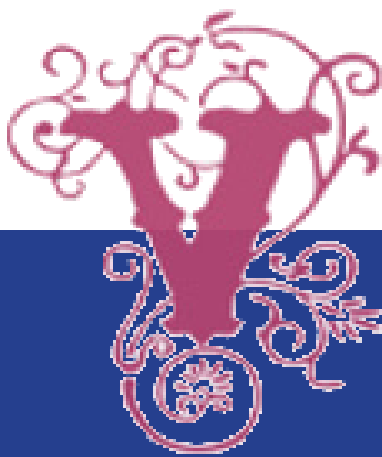
Yukihiisa Yamamoto, born in Tokyo in 1966, made his literary debut in 2003 after winning the Shosetsu Subaru New Writers' Award (Shueisha) for *Warau Manekineko (A Beckoning Cat Laughs)*.

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