



A SELECTION OF TITLES
FROM JAPAN

FRANKFURT
BOOK FAIR
2026

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency

vicki@vickisatlow.com

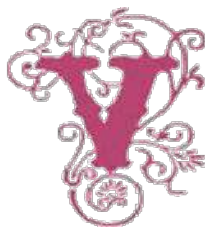
+39 02.48015553

Via Cenisio 16 - 20154 Milano (Italy)

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency
www.vickisatlow.com

Follow us
Vicki Satlow Literary Agency
@vickisatlow





A SELECTION OF TITLES
FROM JAPAN

Frankfurt
BOOK FAIR
2026

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency

info@vickisatlow.com

+39 02.48015553

Via Cenisio 16 - 20154

Milano (Italy)

YUYA ADACHI

THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK AND STOP TALKING LIKE AN IDIOT

930,000 copies sold

#1 Business Bestseller in Japan in 2023 and 2024

Winner of the 2023 Keibundo Bookstore Business Book Award



True intelligence lies in the ability to pause and think before speaking. Our thoughts means little if we cannot express them clearly. At the same time, communication skills alone are insufficient to make an impact.

Drawing on his own successes and failures as a consultant, bestselling author Yuya Adachi reveals how genuinely intelligent people think—what they consider, how they approach problems and obstacles, and how they earn the trust of others. He offers practical tools anyone can use to improve their communication skills. Referencing insights from thinkers like Daniel Kahneman, Peter Drucker, Takeshi Kitano, Kengo Kuma, and Haruki Murakami, this is more than a business book. It is a guide to becoming a better and more effective human being—for the people around us and for ourselves.

In an age where AI can write emails and efficiency often takes precedence, meaningful relationships and strong communities still depend on the trust we inspire as human beings. That trust comes not from the quality of our thinking

Ranked in Japan's top 10 bestseller lists for two consecutive years alongside the enduring phenomenon *The Courage to Be Disliked*, Adachi's book explains the difference between people who merely pretend to be smart and those who are. This book teaches readers how to combine critical thinking with consideration for others—a skill set essential for success in both business and life.

NON FICTION

Publisher:
Diamond
Publishing
Publication: 2023
Pages: 334

The Seven Golden Rules for Gaining Intelligence and Trust

Take Time to Avoid Becoming a Fool
 Intelligence Is Something Other People Determine
 People Trust Those Who Think Deeply
 Don't Fight People—Fight Arguments
 Speaking Techniques Aren't What Move a Listener
 Information Becomes Intelligence When You Use It for Others
 Control Your Need for Validation to Become a Powerful Communicator

The Five Principles of Thought That Lead to Intelligence and Trust

The Objectivity Principle – Stop Talking Like an Idiot
 The Organization Principle – Why Are Smart People So Easy to Understand?
 The Empathic Listening Principle – Before You Think Deeply, You Must Listen Deeply
 The Asking Principle – The Skill of Listening and Learning with Intentionality
 The Articulation Principle – Transform Your Thoughts into Words for Impact

Rights sold

Brazil (Editora Sextante)
 Croatia (V.B.Z d.o.o.)
 France (Tredaniel)
 Greece (Psichogios)
 Italy (Newton Compton)
 Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)
 Spain (Kataeru/Anaya)
 Netherlands (Alphabet Uitgevers)

Yuya Adachi is the CEO of Tinct Inc. and founder of the business media platform Books&Apps, which has accumulated more than 120 million page views. He previously led both the Osaka and Tokyo offices of Deloitte Tohmatsu Consulting (now ABeam Consulting), where he worked directly with leaders from more than 3,000 companies. His extensive consulting experience brings depth, authority, and practical credibility to the insights shared in this book.

HIDEHIRO INAGAKI

PLANTS THAT SHAPED WORLD HISTORY

What if plants —not people—were the true drivers of civilization? In this revelatory work, Hidehiro Inagaki re-examines world history through a radical lens: the plant kingdom.



Would you believe that plants completely transformed humanity's 10,000-year history? We think we know human history, but what if plants were secretly at its evolutionary core?

Wherever humankind has progressed, plants have followed or rather led. By cultivating plants, humanity began agriculture, and that technology gave birth to civilization. Plants generated wealth, and people were tossed about by the very plants that produced that wealth. As populations grew, vast amounts of crops were needed. Cultivating crops created food and riches, which eventually gave rise to nations — and from those nations, great powers emerged.

NON FICTION

Publisher: PHP
Research Institute
Publication: 2018
Pages: 224

People fought one another to seize wealth, and plants even became the triggers of war. Those who mastered plants seized global supremacy. History has always depended on plants. And therefore human history is also the history of plants. The result is a sweeping narrative that reframes how we understand power, progress, conflict, and survival.

Reading this book will reveal a new perspective and brilliant insights into human history—how seemingly immobile plants passionately stirred and propelled human desires, shaping our world.

Readers will gain new perspectives and excellent insights into human history,

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Chapter 1 Wheat: Civilization was born from a single seed
- Chapter 2 Rice: Rice culture created “Japan”
- Chapter 3 Pepper: The black gold that Europe envied
- Chapter 4 Capsicum: Columbus’ agony and the enthusiasm of Asia
- Chapter 5 Potatoes: The Devil’s Plant That Created the Great Power of America
- Chapter 6 Tomatoes: The Too Red Fruit That Changed the World’s Food
- Chapter 7 Cotton: “Plants That Grew Sheep” and the Industrial Revolution
- Chapter 8 Cha, The Opium Wars and the Magic of Caffeine
- Chapter 9 Sugarcane The sweet tastethat misled mankind
- Chapter 10 Soybeans: From military food in the Sengoku period to the New World
- Chapter 11 Onions: The medicinal properties that supported the giant pyramid
- Chapter 12 Tulips: The world’s first bubble economy and bulbs
- Chapter 13 Corn: A Marvelous Crop
- Chapter 14 Sakura - Yamazakura and the Japan Spirit

READERS’ REVIEWS

“It was so interesting that I read it all at once. I think it’s one of the books that will change your life”.

“Reading world history through the lens of plants is far more thrilling than expected”.

“To be honest, when I first heard the phrase “plants changed world history,” it made me laugh. “Seriously, how could plants change history?” That was my reaction. This book completely blew my mind”.

Hidehiro Inagaki is a doctor of agriculture and botany. He is engaged in agricultural ecology and conveys the charm of plants to the public through his writings and lectures. Born in Shizuoka Prefecture in 1968, he received his doctorate in agriculture from the Graduate School of Agriculture at Okayama University. After working at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, he is training future students as a professor at the Faculty of Agriculture at Shizuoka University.

SHINYA HAYASAKA

BATHING: THE WORLD'S EASIEST HEALTH HABIT

What if the most effective health habit wasn't a supplement, a gadget, or a gym membership — but your bathtub?



Japan's leading hot-spring medical specialist, Dr. Shinya Hayasaka, distills thirty years of research and data from more than 70,000 bathers into a practical, scientifically grounded method for using daily bathing to improve longevity, mood, immunity, circulation, sleep, and overall quality of life.

This book reveals that while most people shower for convenience, showers barely warm the core body and therefore fail to activate the physiological systems responsible for recovery and resilience.

Hayasaka demonstrates—clearly, accessibly, and with strong clinical evidence—that a simple bath at the right temperature and timing can outperform exercise, massage, and many popular wellness trends in regulating blood vessels, easing the autonomic nervous system, and increasing “healthy lifespan.”

Simple, inexpensive, and instantly applicable, *Bathing: The World's Easiest Health Habit* reframes the bath as a powerful, daily tool for health and longevity. It is the kind of wellness book that changes behavior overnight—and allows for health and longevity.

Ideal for readers of Dr. Andrew Huberman, James Nestor's *Breath*, Dr. Susanna Søberg's cold-/heat-exposure work, and lifestyle-science bestsellers that blend physiology with actionable guidance.

NON FICTION

Publisher: Ascom

Publication:

October 2025

Pages: 208

From the foundations of thermal physiology and the data explaining why regular bathers consistently show greater longevity and higher levels of well-being; to the physician's definitive method—a precise formula of temperature and duration capable of increasing core body temperature by 1°C, boosting metabolism, and stabilizing the autonomic nervous system; to personalized protocols tailored to seasons and specific conditions (high or low blood pressure, headaches, colds, allergies, fatigue, concentration, skin health); Without overlooking an essential chapter on safety, addressing critical issues such as thermal shock and domestic accidents, which remain among the leading causes of mortality in Japan; And a practical guide to thermal spas and public baths, rigorously distinguishing—through a medical lens—between tradition and what is truly effective.

This book sits squarely at the intersection of health, lifestyle, and popular science — a rapidly growing international segment (sleep, longevity, stress management). It combines the authority of Japanese research—universally admired—with global relevance, translating bathing culture into data rather than folklore.

Simple, affordable, and immediately actionable, *Bathing: The World's Easiest Health Habit* has all the hallmarks of a book that changes habits overnight, restoring to the act of “going to the baths” its deepest meaning: a daily practice of health and longevity.



Rights sold

Germany (Kösel Verlag PRH)
UK (Atlantic books)

Shinya Hayasaka specialist in Hot Spring Therapy, Doctor of Medicine, Professor at Tokyo City University. Born in 1968 in Miyagi Prefecture. After graduating from Jichi Medical University School of Medicine in 1993, he engaged in community healthcare. Following completion of the Graduate School of Medicine at Jichi Medical University in 2002, he served as Associate Professor at Hamamatsu University School of Medicine and Professor at the Faculty of Sports and Health Sciences, Daito Bunka University, before assuming his current position. A “bathing specialist” who has medically investigated the bathing habits of over 70,000 people.

JOE HISAISHA & TAKESHI YORO

THE LISTENING BRAIN

A dialogue between one of Japan's leading philosophers and one of the world's most talented composers.



The Listening Brain stands at the crossroads of neuroscience and Eastern aesthetics—a rare dialogue in which anatomist Takeshi Yoro and composer Joe Hisaishi explore the human mind as an instrument of feeling. In the tradition of Oliver Sacks' lyrical case studies and Iain McGilchrist's explorations of hemispheric thinking, the book blends scientific insight with philosophical reflection to show how deeply our emotional and creative lives are wired into the auditory brain.

Drawing on Japanese sensibilities of silence, impermanence, and breath, Yoro and Hisaishi illuminate a perspective often missing in Western neuroscience: that perception is not merely cognitive, but existential. The ear—our oldest sense—anchors empathy, rhythm, connection, and the subtle currents of meaning that flow beneath words.

In an age dominated by visual overload and analytic thinking, the authors argue for a different stance toward life itself: one shaped by sensibility over efficiency, resonance over reason. To live, they suggest, is not to complete tasks but to compose one's days as a work of art. The result is a luminous synthesis of biology and culture—a book that listens deeply to what makes us human.

This book explores fundamental questions such as “Why are people moved by music?” and “How does the synchronization of sound and image occur?” from the perspectives of neuroscience, embodied cognition, music theory, and creativity studies. Through this book, readers experience more than simply “listening to sound”—they are invited into a new intellectual horizon where hearing activates the body, brain, and emotions.

NON FICTION

Publisher:
Jitsugyo no Nihon
Sha, Ltd.
Publication:
February 2025
Pages: 248

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1: “Why Are People Moved by Music?” The authors discuss how hearing is interconnected with the brain, body, and emotion—drawing from Yoro’s anatomical insights and Hisaishi’s practical experience in music.

Chapter 2: “The Soil of Sensibility” explores the cultural and bodily background that nurtures sensitivity, while

Chapter 3: “What Makes Good Music?” considers what allows music to endure and how composers transcend themselves through creation.

Chapter 4: In “Consciousness Runs Wild” they examine creative acts that oscillate between consciousness, the unconscious, the body, and technology.

Chapter 5: “Empathy and Creation” delves into the role of empathy in listening, performing, and composing.

Chapter 6: “All Humans Are Artists” presents the idea of perceiving everyday life through an artistic lens.

Chapter 7: “‘Mono no Aware’ and AI” reconsiders aesthetics, music, and embodiment in the age of artificial intelligence.

Rights sold

Spain (Debate Ediciones)

Takeshi Yoro was born in 1937 in Kamakura, graduating from Tokyo University School of Medicine and joining the Research Center of Anatomy. Following his degree in M.D., he taught anatomy at Tokyo University until 1995 and was a professor at Kitazato University until 2003. He later became an Honored Professor at Tokyo University. Yoro is popular for his explanations of societal phenomena and psychological issues from the neuroscientific and anatomic perspective. He is the author of the million copy bestseller *The Wall of Ignorance*.

Joe Hisaishi began his career as a composer of contemporary music and, after graduating from music college, developed an interest in minimal music. He has worked as a conductor with orchestras around the world. His album *A Symphonic Celebration*, released by Deutsche Grammophon, ranked No. 1 in two U.S. Billboard categories. In 2025 he assumed the role of Music Director of the Japan Century Symphony Orchestra.

MICHIO HOSHINO

THE TRAVELLING TREE

Lessons from a Nomadic Life

Half a milion copies sold



This enduring collection of essays recounts world-renowned author's experiences with wildlife in Alaska and offers his reflections of our place within it.

First published in 1994, and reprinted 57 times, *The Travelling Tree* by world renowned photographer Michio Hoshino is a literary classic of nature writing. In this enduringly popular collection, naturalist, mystic and adventurer Michio Hoshino recounts his experiences with the wildlife and reflects on and our place within it.

Michio Hoshino's life was changed after coming across a book containing an aerial photograph of the tiny Inupuiak (Eskimo) village, Shishmaref, in a used bookstore in Tokyo. The teenager was enchanted by this tiny cluster of dwellings on the Arctic Sea.

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.

After this introduction to Alaska, Hoshino was smitten with America's northernmost state and dedicated the remainder of his life to photographing and writing about it. *The Travelling Tree* is a collection of his writing published at the peak of his artistic prowess, only two years before his career was tragically cut short at the age of 43 by a fatal bear attack while on a shoot in the Kamchatka Peninsula.

NON FICTION

Publisher:
Bungeishunju
Publication:
1994
Pages: 231

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.



Rights sold

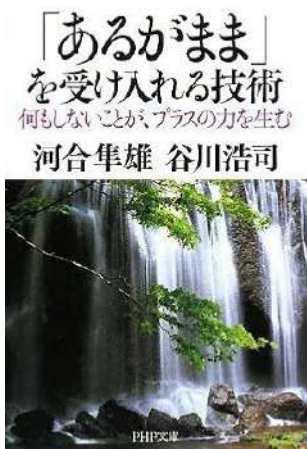
Italy (Rizzoli)
Spain (Cántico)
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus)
UK/US (Octopus Books)



Michio Hoshino (1952-1996) was a photographer and a memoirist, winner of the Anima Award. Born and raised in Ichikawa City, Chiba, he moved to Alaska at the age of 19, where he began photographing and writing. He is best known for his extraordinary photos of polar bears in Alaska.

HAYAO KAWAI & KOJI TANIGAWA

THE POWER OF NON-ACTION



NON FICTION

Publisher: PHP
Publication: 2008
Pages: 256

We are taught that hard work and determination lead to success. But in an age of uncertainty, effort alone is no guarantee of fulfillment. How do we find peace when life goes awry?

Renowned clinical psychologist Hayao Kawai, Japan's foremost Jungian thinker, and celebrated shogi grandmaster Koji Tanigawa explore mui—the Eastern philosophy of “non-forcing.” Rather than trying to control every outcome, mui teaches us to accept reality, trust the natural course of events, and recognize that true strength often lies in letting go.

Drawing on psychology, Buddhist and Taoist thought, mythology, clinical practice, and the strategic lessons of shogi, the authors explore why creativity often appears only after conscious effort has relaxed, why forgetting can be more liberating than remembering, how jealousy can reveal hidden potential, why there are no single right answers, and how our greatest ideas often emerge when we stop trying to force them. Together, they offer a practical philosophy for responding to uncertainty with flexibility, resilience, and playfulness.

At a time of burnout, anxiety, and relentless self-optimization, the concept of the power of Mui offers a compelling alternative: replacing control with trust, striving with acceptance, and exhaustion with quiet confidence.

Co written with Koji Tanigawa, one of the greatest professional shogi (Japanese chess) players in history.

THE WISDOM OF HAPPINESS



Rather than offering formulas for success or positive thinking, renowned clinical psychologist Hayao Kawai explores happiness as the lifelong practice of embracing complexity, nurturing meaningful relationships, and accepting both joy and sorrow as essential parts of life.

Gathering sixty reflections drawn from his writings, lectures, and decades of clinical experience, Hayao Kawai on Happiness blends psychology, mythology, literature, and Jungian thought to explore love, family, work, grief, creativity, and self-understanding.

NON FICTION

Publisher: PHP
Publication: 2023
Pages: 256

At its heart is a simple but profound message: happiness is not the absence of suffering, but the ability to live authentically alongside it. Wise, compassionate, and timeless, this is an inspiring guide to living with greater balance, resilience, and humanity.



A MAP OF THE HEART

No emotional state is permanent. Storms pass. Sunshine returns. Every season carries its own meaning and its own opportunities for growth.

Hayao Kawai invites readers to stop judging emotions as good or bad and instead see them as naturally shifting emotional climates. Sadness, anxiety, anger, hope, and joy all move through our inner lives like changing weather.

NON FICTION

Publisher: PHP
Publication: 2024
Pages: 272

146 practical insights to help clear the emotional fog that often clouds our hearts and minds. Drawing on decades of clinical experience, Hayao Kawai explores our relationship with the self, the meaning of psychology and psychotherapy, and, above all, how these ideas can help us live more fully and authentically.

Hayao Kawai (1928–2007) was Japan's most influential Jungian psychologist and one of the country's leading public intellectuals. Credited with introducing analytical psychology to Japan, he bridged Western psychology with Eastern philosophy, bringing profound psychological ideas to a broad general audience. The author of more than 100 books, his work continues to shape the fields of psychology, education, and personal development decades after its publication.

TAKAAKI KAWASHIMA

FREE YOURSELF FROM THE PARENTS YOU HATE: The Japanese Way



This book has become a quiet phenomenon among readers who feel betrayed by the traditional family-values discourse. Its message offers relief, validation, and concrete steps toward autonomy—without vilifying parents or idealizing separation.

A guide that explores how to overcome deep emotional wounds and resentment toward your parents through Japanese philosophical and therapeutic perspectives. Drawing on cultural concepts such as acceptance, self-compassion, and non-confrontational healing, the book helps readers detach from cycles of blame and emotional dependency to reclaim their personal peace.

Philosophical, and reflective, the author mixes case studies, quotes from Buddhist thought, and psychological exercises. The unjudging approach centers on practical emotional liberation.

Many adults are still struggling with their relationships with their parents. In this book, you will find a way to end the painful relationship with your parents and live your own life!

NON FICTION

Publisher:
Subaru-sha
Publication:
2022
Pages: 270

Rights sold

Italy (Ponte della Grazia)
Spain (Ediciones B)
UK/US (Leap of Bonnier Books)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

“Freedom isn’t rebellion or distance for its own sake. It’s the gentle awareness that your life belongs to you and always has.”

Tools that combine Buddhist mindfulness, cognitive awareness, and traditional Japanese emotional discipline.

The Prison of Parental Hatred

Many adults remain emotionally bound to harmful parents through anger, guilt, or fear. Healing begins by recognizing that freedom is an internal process.

Understanding the Source of Pain

Childhood neglect or abuse shapes distorted self-images through internalized parental voices. Japanese practices help separate past identity from present self.

The Japanese Way of Letting Go

Letting go is achieved through shouganai—accepting reality without blame or forced forgiveness. This leads to sustainable emotional detachment.

Escaping the “Good Child” Trap

The need for parental approval fuels perfectionism and guilt. Replacing gaman with self-respect restores emotional balance.

Healing Without Reconciliation

Reconciliation is not required for closure. Healing comes from mourning the ideal parent and accepting reality.

Building Emotional Independence

Emotional independence is rebuilt through self-parenting and self-nurture. The goal is yasuragi, inner tranquility.

Integrating the Past into the Present

The past is integrated, not erased. Pain becomes part of growth without defining identity.

Exercises and Reflections

Reflection journal (daily or weekly introspection on giving and receiving)

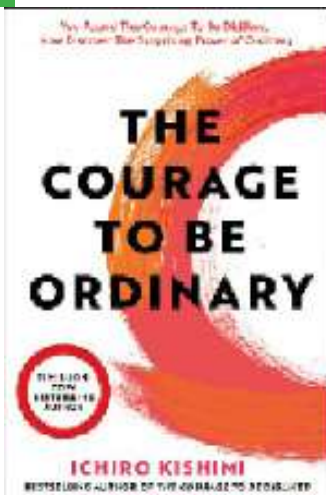
Letter to your parents (write, never send — release resentment through words)

Visualization of separation (imagine cutting the invisible bond or burning symbolic threads)

Self-compassion ritual (repeat affirmations such as “I am enough as I am”)

Takaaki Kawashima Representative of the Adult Parent-Child Relationship Counseling Center and the Mental Training Office of Takateru Kawashima. Born in Niigata Prefecture in 1974, Kawashima became an independent counselor in 2011 and later established "Adult Parent-Child Relationship Counseling Center".

ICHIRO KISHIMI



THE COURAGE TO BE ORDINARY

There is a saying that “there is no cure for stupidity”, but is there a “cure for normality”? This book was born out of a response to that concern. At the root of the anxiety of “having to be special” is a comparison with others. How can we free ourselves from comparison with others, gain confidence and live happily?

NON FICTION

Publisher:
Sunmark
Publication: 2025
Pages: 336

This book explores a lifestyle that “doesn’t try to be special, but isn’t ordinary either”.

THE COURAGE TO LOVE

A philosophical and psychological guide to understanding and practicing authentic love in one’s life — not as dependency or possession, but as a courageous act of freedom and mutual respect. Kishimi argues that many people struggle to love — or to accept love — because they don’t believe they deserve it or fear the vulnerability it requires.

NON FICTION

Publisher: PHP Publisher
Publication: 2018
Pages: 237





THE COURAGE TO LET GO

This book is a philosophical and psychological exploration of human relationships in contemporary society, particularly in the age of constant connectivity (e.g., social media, work expectations, familial duties). The book encourages readers to develop the "courage not to connect" when such connections are based on coercion, dependency, or societal pressure, and instead pursue "true connections" built on equality, understanding, and love. In order to maintain our sense of self, we must not fear loneliness.

NON FICTION

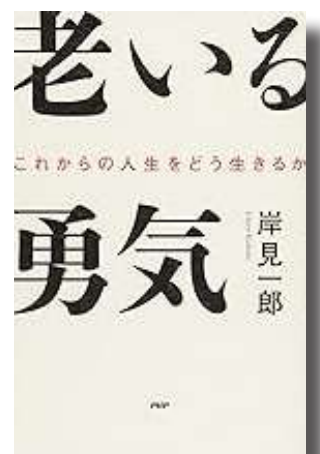
Publisher: PHP

Publication: 2023

Pages: 256

THE COURAGE TO GROW OLD

This book invites readers to rethink aging not as decline but as a natural, meaningful stage of life that can offer peace, freedom, and deep self-understanding. Kishimi argues that modern society overly glorifies youth and productivity, often making people fear aging. In contrast, he shows that growing old is not something to be avoided, but embraced — with courage.



NON FICTION

Publisher: PHP Publisher

Publication: 2020

Pages: 188



NON FICTION

Publisher:
Chikuma Shobo
Publication 2025
Pages: 224

THE COURAGE TO THINK FOR YOURSELF

A practical framework for reclaiming the ability to think in an age overwhelmed by noise, anxiety, and constant distraction. Structured in eight concise chapters—from Why Avoid Thinking to The World and Life Are Not Exclusive—the book draws a sharp distinction between worry, which traps us in emotional loops, and thinking, which opens paths toward action and choice. Addressing the dilemmas of midlife, work, and relationships, Kishimi argues that many modern crises stem not from lack of effort, but from the inability to engage in genuine reflection.

THE COURAGE TO BE LONELY

What happens when everything we take for granted disappears overnight?

Philosopher Ichiro Kishimi explores one of the defining questions of our age: how can we find meaning in the face of uncertainty?

Drawing on philosophy, psychology, and everyday experience, Kishimi reflects on the profound changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic—not as a historical event alone, but as a lens through which to examine the human condition. While modern life teaches us to seek security through accumulation and control, the pandemic exposed the fragility of these assumptions. What cannot be replaced by technology or convenience is our relationship with others, our acceptance of solitude, and our ability to discover purpose independent of external circumstances. At once philosophical and deeply practical, a book for readers searching for wisdom in an increasingly unpredictable world. It is an inspiring meditation on freedom, loneliness, happiness, and what truly gives life value.



NON FICTION

Publisher:
Chūōkōron-
Shinsha, Inc.
Publication
2022
Pages: 224



Rights sold

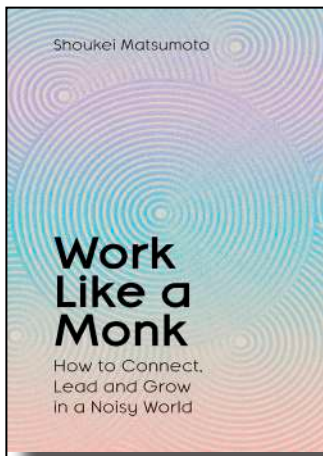
Brazil (Editoria Sexante)
 Croatia (Planetopija)
 France (Guy Tredaniel)
 Finnish (Gummerus Publishers)
 Germany (Rowohlt Verlage)
 Greece (Psichogios Publications)
 Hungary (Egytas Publishing)
 Italy (De Agostini)
 Lithuania (Baltos Lankos)
 Netherlands (Alfabet)
 Poland (Wydawnictwo Filia)
 Portugal (Presenca SA)
 Romania (Grup Media Litera)
 Russia (Eksmo)
 Serbia (Publik Praktikum)
 Slovenia (Učila International, založba, d.o.o)
 Spain (Neko)
 Turkish (Destek Yapim)
 UK (Ebury)
 USA (HarperCollins)

Ichiro Kishimi (1956) is a Japanese philosopher and psychologist specializing in Western ancient philosophy and Adlerian psychology. Kishimi has taught at various institutions. He co-authored the bestseller *The Courage to Be Disliked* with Fumitake Koga, which has sold over one million copies since its publication in 2013. Since 2017, he has been writing and overseeing special features on Adlerian psychology.

SHOUKEI MATSUMOTO

WORK LIKE A MONK**How to Connect, Lead and Grow in a Noisy World**

An engaging exploration of what makes work meaningful, by a popular Buddhist monk and cultural commentator.



In our hectic days filled with long hours, endless emails, and tedious virtual meetings, it's hard to stay connected to the higher purpose of work – to see past the grind and embrace what we're really trying to achieve.

In this engaging and illuminating book, Japanese Buddhist monk Shoukei Matsumoto offers a fresh take on what it means to find satisfaction at work. Presented in the form of an imagined conversation between a Western businessperson and a temple priest, this far-ranging exploration covers everything from embracing simplicity and communicating with clarity to the importance of daily rituals, insights on avoiding burnout, and even what it means to be a good ancestor. Along the way, you'll discover ancient wisdom and contemporary ideas – all thoughtfully presented in the context of modern daily life.

Whether you're a recent graduate or a seasoned professional, this meaningful guide offers a fresh perspective, and more intentional way forward.

NON FICTION

Publisher:
Simon&Schuster
UK

Publication: 2025**Pages: 192**

Original language:
English

Rights sold

Czech Republic (Grada Publishing)
France (Guy Tredaniel)
Germany (Goldmann)
Greece (Patakis)
Israel (Yedioth Books – Miskal)
Italy (Vallardi)
Netherlands (Atlas Contact)
Portugal (Bertrand Editora)
Romania (Editura Humanitas)
Spain (Editorial Planeta)
UK (Gallery), US (Tarcher)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview of “People’s Buddhism” and its emphasis on mindful listening.
How Buddhist teachings resonate in everyday life and work.

People’s Buddhism

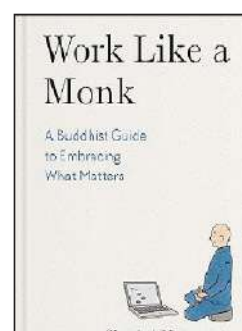
Life Noise: Navigating external distractions and inner chatter.
What is Happiness at Work: Redefining success in professional life.
Listening First: Lessons from Buddhist teachings on genuine communication.
Mindful Listening: The practice of listening with the heart and presence.
Ambient Buddhism: Observing connections in everyday environments.
The Finger Pointing at the Moon: Understanding teachings beyond literal meaning.

Temple Morning

Aisatsu, “Hello!”: The depth of greetings as moments of connection.
True Person: Recognizing the essence of individuals beyond roles and labels.
Itadakimasu: Expressing gratitude through daily rituals like meals.
Buddha’s Songs: Chanting as a practice for inner harmony.
How Can We Become Good Ancestors? Reflections on legacy and interconnectedness.
Walking and Pilgrimage: Spiritual significance of walking and slowing down.
Cleaning as Mindfulness: The transformative power of mindful cleaning.

People’s Buddhism at Work

No Job in Life is a Bullshit Job: Finding meaning in all forms of work.
What Matters is Returning, Not Just Maintaining: The importance of renewal over perfection.
We Are Interbeing: Exploring the interconnectedness of individuals and teams.
Fellowness as a Moral Dimension: Expanding our sense of community and responsibility.
Cleaning Connects People and Places: The role of shared spaces in fostering teamwork.
A Way to Solve Problems Without Solving Them: Unlearning.
Four Stages of Life: Balancing ambition with letting go.

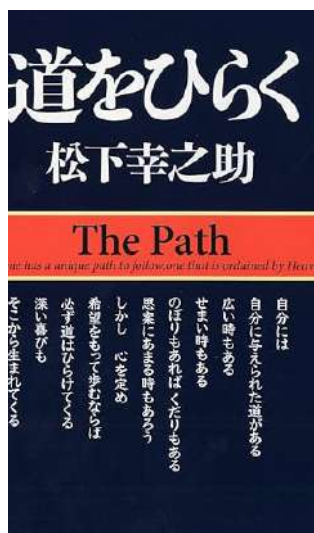


Shoukei Matsumoto (1979) is a contemporary Buddhist, who graduated from the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Letters, University of Tokyo. Matsumoto is the World Economic Forum (Davos) Young Global Leader. In 2010, he received his MBA from the Indian Institute of Business (ISB) as a Rotary Foundation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

KONOSUKE MATSUSHITA

THE PATH

The second best-selling book in postwar Japan, more than 5.7 million copies sold



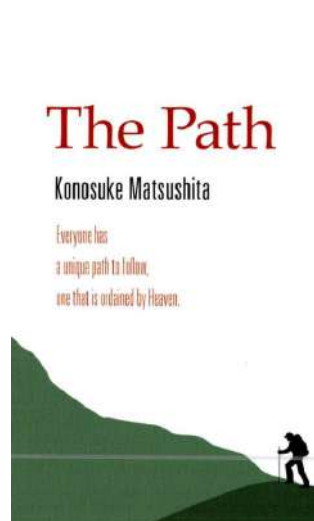
A manifesto on how to live rightly in a changing world by Japanese industrialist and thinker on ethical capitalism Konosuke Matsushita.

Written in spare, contemplative prose, it proposes that each person must discover their own “path” through self-discipline, humility, and service to others.

Drawing on lived experience rather than theory, Matsushita reflects on adversity as spiritual training, work as a moral practice, and leadership as an expression of inner character. The result is a quiet philosophy of responsibility and purpose — an ethical compass for anyone seeking meaning beyond ambition or material success.

NON FICTION

Publisher: PHP
Nihon Sha, Ltd.
Publication: 1968
Pages: 281



Rights sold

Croatian (Planetopiya)
French (J'ai Lu)
German (Bertelsmann/PRH)
Italian (Mondadori)
The Netherlands (Planetopija)
Polish (Czarna Owca)
Portuguese/Brazil (Sextante)
Spain (PRH)
Turkey (Destek)
UK (Bluebird/Macmillan)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Life and Work Are a Journey, Not a Destination

True fulfillment comes from continually striving to improve oneself and one's environment. Success isn't an endpoint but a path of growth, learning, and contributing to others.

Face Each Day with Purpose and Enthusiasm

Every new day is a fresh start. Approaching each task — even seemingly small or mundane ones — with sincerity and energy builds character and fulfillment.

Make Wise, Courageous Decisions

When confronted with important choices or adversity, Matsushita urges calm, thoughtful decision-making. Instead of being driven by fear or emotion, one should reflect on long-term impact and moral clarity.

Perseverance and Resilience Matter

The book underscores the importance of persistence in the face of setbacks. True success requires resilience — viewing challenges as opportunities to strengthen resolve and deepen understanding.

Prosperity Should Serve People and Society

Business isn't just about profit. It's about making people's lives better and contributing to societal wellbeing. He believed that entrepreneurship and economic success should be aligned with human values and national progress

Konosuke Matsushita (1894–1989) was a Japanese industrialist and the founder of Panasonic. Beyond building one of Japan's largest electronics companies, he became known as a major thinker on ethical capitalism and leadership philosophy. In 1946 he also founded the PHP Institute (Peace and Happiness through Prosperity) to promote social and moral reflection in postwar Japan. Matsushita is often referred to as “the god of management” in Japan because of his influence on modern Japanese business philosophy.

PHP stands for Peace and Happiness through Prosperity, reflecting Matsushita's belief that economic prosperity should serve moral and social well-being. The institute began as a think tank and magazine publisher focused on ethics, philosophy, leadership, and social development in postwar Japan. It later expanded into books across business, self-help, philosophy, and literature and remains an influential Japanese publisher today.

SHIGEHISA NAGAMATSU

THE JAPANESE SECRET TO LIFE-CHANGING ENCOUNTERS



NON FICTION

Publisher: Kizuna
Shuppan

Publication: 2025

Pages: 235

Every encounter holds meaning, whether it is a relationship to a person, an opportunity, or a place. Even seemingly chance meetings and sudden partings carry an invisible force guiding you to the next stage. And you can choose how you want them to unfold.

The Japanese Secret to Life-Changing Encounters reveals the timeless Japanese concept of en—the invisible threads of fate, connection, and circumstance that quietly shape every life. Rooted in the Buddhist principle of in-en-ka (cause, condition, and result), it offers a fresh perspective on success and fulfillment: our actions alone are never enough; it is the people we meet and the relationships we cultivate that create the conditions for life to unfold.

It's no exaggeration to say life is determined by who you meet and who you live with, and your very presence here now is the result of past encounters. Were those encounters coincidence, or necessity? And in the future, how can you choose the best connections?

This book first introduces the meaning and practical application of “EN”, then analyzes it through eight themes of connection: your personal idols, objective advisors, people who bring connections, companions, elders, the next generation, your supporters, and places. Next, it breaks down the qualities of people who are blessed with lucky connections, explaining how the power of gratitude and the importance of thinking of others circles back into your own good fortune. There is also a section on how to navigate interpersonal troubles, and finally, the last chapter is dedicated to carrying important connections into the future.

As you read, you'll remember the faces of those you long to meet, and your relationships will begin to shift.

Some questions and highlights addressed by the book:

Why did you meet that person?

Why did you part ways with that person?

Why do seemingly random encounters become foreshadowing in life?

Why do you get along with some people, but not others?

The difference between a good “EN” and a bad “EN”.

Success is really an accumulation of small efforts.

Don't wait if you can act now!

Rights Sold

Italy (Giunti)

France (Tredaniel)

Spain (Neko/Planeta)

USA (Union Square publishing)

Shigehisa Nagamatsu. Born in Nakatsu, Hyogo Prefecture, he began his entrepreneurial journey in 2000 with a small takoyaki stand occupying just three tsubo (approximately 9.9 m²). In 2003, he opened Gwining Hinata-ya, which quickly grew into a celebrated destination restaurant, attracting more than 10,000 visitors from outside the prefecture each year through word of mouth .

Drawing on his own experience as a business owner, he developed a distinctive philosophy of human resource development centered on the idea of cultivating people rather than merely gathering talent. His innovative approach has drawn widespread attention across Japan and led him to deliver numerous lectures and seminars nationwide. He has established himself as a leading strategist and advisor. Today, he serves as a consultant for Kawabata Consulting, the Kawabata Bun'en Office, Ken'en, and Semina, where he develops strategies and solutions to address a wide range of organizational and leadership challenges. As a new-generation leader who communicates the deeper “essence of being human,” he has inspired and captivated many young people, earning strong support from audiences across the country.

His books have sold more than 4.7 million copies in total.

Yasufumi Nagoshi

I PRESCRIBE YOU A BUDDHA



I Prescribe You a Buddha presents Buddhist wisdom as if it were a form of medicine for modern life. Structured around everyday struggles—stress, anxiety, relationships, work pressure, and the constant feeling of being overwhelmed—the book imagines a compassionate Buddhist “prescription” for each human problem.

Rather than presenting Buddhism as abstract philosophy, the author frames its teachings in practical, approachable terms. Just as a doctor listens to symptoms and prescribes treatment, the book examines common emotional and psychological conditions of contemporary life and responds with insights drawn from the teachings of the Buddha. These “prescriptions” include reflections on impermanence, the nature of desire, the importance of awareness, and the cultivation of compassion and gratitude.

Each section focuses on a particular human difficulty: feeling lost about the future, comparing oneself with others, struggling with failure, or dealing with the pressure to succeed. The book explains how many of these problems arise from attachment—attachment to outcomes, expectations, and the illusion that life should unfold according to our plans. Through short reflections and examples, the author shows how Buddhist perspectives can transform these struggles into opportunities for clarity and growth.

A central idea of the book is that suffering is not something to eliminate entirely but something to understand. By observing our thoughts and emotions with calm awareness, we begin to loosen the grip of anxiety and dissatisfaction. The teachings encourage readers to slow down, accept impermanence, and recognize the value of the present moment.

NON FICTION

Publisher: Kizuna Shuppan

Publication: 2025

Pages: 235

Written in a clear and accessible style, *I Prescribe You a Buddha* serves as both an introduction to Buddhist philosophy and a guide to navigating modern life with greater balance. Rather than offering rigid rules, it invites readers to reconsider how they see themselves, others, and the world around them.

Ultimately, the book suggests that the wisdom of the Buddha is not distant or abstract—it functions like a quiet remedy for the everyday ailments of the human heart. By applying these teachings thoughtfully, readers may find a more peaceful, compassionate way to move through life's challenges.



Rights Sold

Italy (Giunti)
Spain (Neko/Planeta)
UK (Bloomsbury)

Yasufumi Nagoshi is a Japanese psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, and bestselling author known for bridging modern mental health with Buddhist philosophy. Drawing on his clinical experience, Nagoshi explores how ancient Buddhist insights can be applied to contemporary psychological struggles, offering practical tools for reducing anxiety and cultivating a calmer, more meaningful life.

His work focuses on fundamental human questions—how to cope with suffering, how to live with awareness, and how to find meaning in an uncertain world.

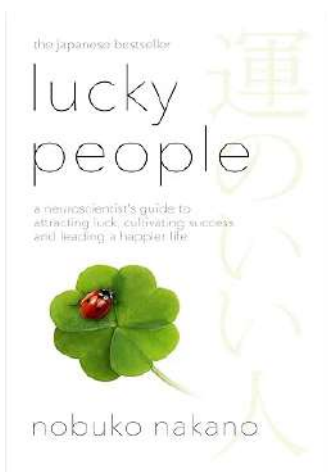
Nagoshi argues that much of modern anxiety stems from avoiding life's most basic existential question. By combining psychiatric insight with accessible Buddhist practice, he offers readers a clear and compassionate path toward greater psychological balance and peace.

NOBUKO NAKANO

THE SCIENCE OF LUCKY PEOPLE

230,000 copies sold

A Neuroscientist's Guide to Attracting Luck, Cultivating Success and Leading a Happier Life



Publisher:

Sunmark

Publication: 2023

Pages: 207

Lucky and unlucky people often encounter similar situations and setbacks in life. But the way they view and think about the circumstances differs, as does the way they deal with them. So, what are the common lifestyle patterns, mindsets, and outlooks of lucky people?

Nobuko Nakano is a neuroscientist who argues that luck isn't random but can be cultivated through intentional actions. We can become lucky through our mindset and behaviour. Certain behaviours attract luck, such as taking calculated risks, expanding social networks and reframing setbacks. Our thoughts and actions shape how our brain processes information and affects how we interact with the world. If we believe in good outcomes, we are more likely to act in ways that will make them happen.

This is science-based self-help and an expert take on a fascinating subject that can at first seem irrational and unpredictable.



Nobuko Nakano's method for being lucky involves:

Cultivating a lucky mindset (optimism, openness, growth mindset).

Engaging in behaviors that increase exposure to opportunities (taking risks, building social networks, adaptability).

Practicing gratitude to foster a positive outlook.

Using visualization to align the brain with successful outcomes.

Practicing mindfulness to stay present and aware of opportunities.

Taking consistent action to create opportunities.

Rewiring negative thought patterns that block luck.

Staying resilient and persistent in the face of challenges.

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

Arabic (Dar Alkhan)
 Brazil (Globo Livros)
 France (Guy Tredaniel)
 Estonia (TÄNAPÄEV Publishers)
 Germany (Kösel PRH)
 Italy (Newton Compton)
 Portugal (Leya)
 Romania (Editura Humanitas)
 Russia (Eksmo)
 Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)
 Spain (Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial)
 Sweden (Gyldendal Astra)
 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.

MISUZU NAKASHIMA

WHY AM I ALWAYS LATE?

Unraveling the Brain Mechanisms Behind Poor Time Management



Why do I always miss deadlines, arrive late, or start projects at the very last moment—although I know I shouldn't? Or does someone you love, or a work colleague infuriate you because they never arrive on time? This book invites you to view time management as a psychological and cognitive issue, shaped by differences in perception, planning ability, and executive functioning.

Whether you are the one always rushing, or the one waiting (and fuming) on the other side, this book helps you recognize what is really happening when time slips away. You are guided through behaviors commonly labeled as “sloppy” or “irresponsible” and shown why they are often neither. Lateness, last-minute procrastination, and missed deadlines turn out to be less a matter of character than of how the brain remembers, plans, and experiences time. Along the way, reconsider something deceptively simple: what does “five minutes” actually feel like? Drawing on time psychology and insights into reward sensitivity and ADHD-related traits, the book explains why time passes quickly for some, painfully slowly for others, and unpredictably for many.

Written by a certified public psychologist with a PhD in psychology, and based on extensive clinical work, professional training, and academic research conducted at Kyushu University, this book translates psychological research into practical, humane guidance. It reframes time management not as a moral failing, but as something that can be learned, supported, and improved—for yourself and for those around you.

NON FICTION

Publisher: PHP

Publication:

2026

Pages: 250

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rethinking “Carelessness”

Behaviors commonly labeled as sloppiness—lateness, last-minute action, missed deadlines—are examined through a psychological lens. The chapter argues that these patterns often stem from limitations in memory, planning, or time perception, rather than lack of effort. It highlights the social and professional consequences of misinterpreting inability as unwillingness.

Differences in Time Perception

From the perspective of time psychology, this chapter explores how individuals experience time differently. It considers how reward sensitivity and neurological traits associated with ADHD influence time awareness and decision-making, explaining why identical time spans can feel radically different from one person to another.

Executive Function and Action Initiation

Focusing on executive function—the cognitive processes involved in goal setting, task initiation, and completion—this chapter explains how developmental differences or impairments affect time management. It clarifies why some individuals struggle not with understanding tasks, but with starting and sequencing them.

Patterns That Undermine Time Management

This chapter analyzes habitual thinking and behavior patterns that interfere with effective time use. It identifies common negative cycles and emphasizes the importance of adjusting expectations, task structure, and behavioral habits to achieve sustainable improvement.

Guidance for Managers and Supervisors

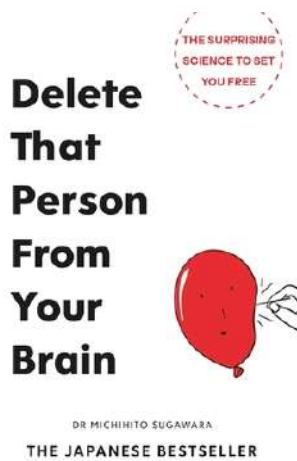
Addressing workplace applications, the final chapter offers practical guidance for leaders managing employees who struggle with time management. From the perspective of reasonable accommodation, it discusses task design, progress monitoring, reminders, and feedback, emphasizing support over blame.

Misuzu Nakashima Ph.D. Is a Japanese clinical psychologist. PhD (Psychology) ADHD CBT at the national hospital organization Hizen Psychiatric Center of Kyushu University.

MICHIHITO SUGAWARA

DELETE THAT PERSON FROM YOUR BRAIN

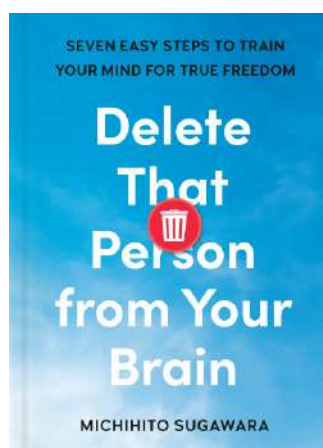
Seven Easy Steps to Train Your Mind for True Freedom



Why is it so hard to stop thinking about difficult people? The answer lies deep within our brain's survival instinct. When someone triggers anxiety, anger, or fear, our mind automatically marks them as a "threat"—making it nearly impossible to simply ignore them. This book offers a revolutionary solution: don't fight your brain's wiring—retrain it. Rather than asking who "deserves" space in your mind, this practical guide teaches you how to erase the mental presence of problematic people and reclaim your attention. Through simple techniques and real-life examples, readers learn to shift their brain's focus away from negative emotions and toward what truly matters: personal growth, creativity, and happiness. The result is a lasting transformation — not just a temporary relief. A refreshing, empowering book for anyone who wants to move beyond resentment and anxiety towards true mental freedom.

NON FICTION

Publisher:
Sunmark
Publication:
2025
Pages: 192



Rights sold

Arabic (Arab Scientific Publisher)
Brazil (Companhia das letras)
France (Albin Michel)
Germany (Rowohlt Verlage)
Greece (Patakis Publisher)
Italy (Giunti Editore)
Netherland (Harper Collins)
Poland (Znak.)
Portugal (Presenca)
Russia (Mann, Ivanov and Ferber)
Spain (Grijalbo)
Turkey (Destek)
UK (Ebury)
US (Tarcher)

GET YOUR BRAIN TO DO IT NOW

For people who think too much and do too little



Why do we keep putting things off, even when we shouldn't? You want to lose weight, get organized, learn a new language, or finally start that project. Instead, you overthink, hesitate, scroll endlessly, and tell yourself: "I'll start tomorrow."

Chronic procrastination is not a failure of willpower. Only one person out of ten manages to "start today," and it's not because the other nine are lazy. The truth is: our brains are wired to conserve energy. Thinking, deciding, and starting all require effort, and the brain — an organ that consumes nearly 20% of the body's oxygen — naturally tries to avoid that cost.

The result? We stall.

NON FICTION

Publisher: Sunmark

Publication: 2024

Pages: 208

The solution is not to fight your brain, but to rewire it. The breakthrough comes from understanding one key mechanism. This book shows readers how to trigger that shift immediately. Written by a practicing neurosurgeon, the book combines scientific credibility with radical simplicity. The language is clear, the examples relatable, and the chapters concise.

If you know what you should be doing but feel stuck, sluggish, or trapped in indecision, *Get your brain to do it now* shows how to get your brain to act

Michihito Sugawara is a neurosurgeon specializing in emergency brain diseases. In 2015, he opened the Sugawara Neurosurgery Clinic in Hachioji, Tokyo, followed by the Sugawara Clinic Tokyo Brain Doc in 2019. Known for an innovative approach that prioritizes patients' life goals, he is widely recognized for his clear, accessible explanations of how the brain works. He has appeared on numerous TV programs and has collaborated with Deepak Chopra.

SHIGEHIKO TOYAMA

THE ART OF ORGANIZING THOUGHTS

132 reprints, over 2.95 million copies sold



How can we learn to think with our own minds, let ideas lift off effortlessly, and allow our thoughts to soar freely? In front of students at Japan's top university—who had successfully triumphed in the exam-driven world where knowledge and memory reigns—Toyama boldly declared, “The more knowledge you have, the less thinking is done,” leaving the audience visibly stunned. This is an introductory guidebook to nurture deep and meaningful habits of thought,

NON FICTION

Publisher:
Chikuma Shobo
New edition: 2025
Original publication: 1983
Pages: 256

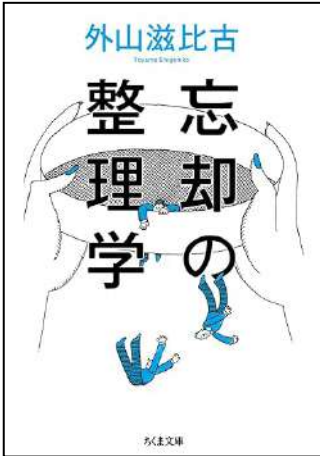
“Accumulating knowledge doesn’t strengthen your ability to think. However, we can develop something technology can’t replicate: the ability to selectively forget.”

Rights sold

Arabic (Bayt Al kotob)
France (Laffont)
Germany (Bertelsmann)
Greece (Patakis Publishers)
Hungary (Park)
Israel (Yedioth Books)
Italy (Rizzoli)
Netherlands (Alfabet)
Poland (Wydawnictwo Czarna Owca)
Romania (Grup Media Litera)
Spain (Debate)
UK/US (Penguin Lifestyle PRH)
Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional),
Korean

THE ART OF FORGETTING

The long-awaited sequel to the “bible of knowledge”



NON FICTION

Publisher:
Chikuma Shobo
Publication: 2024
Pages: 256

From childhood, we are taught that forgetting is a failure: lost test scores, missed appointments, broken promises. Yet what if forgetting is not a weakness but a hidden strength?

Celebrated Japanese thinker Shigehiko Toyama dismantles the myth of perfect memory and reveals the liberating truth: forgetting is as vital as remembering. Through sharp, witty essays, Toyama explores how memory and forgetting work as partners—how forgetting allows us to think creatively, to recover from trauma, and to live more lightly in a world overwhelmed by information.

Just as a carpenter cannot build with unseasoned wood, the mind cannot create without letting some knowledge slip away. With warmth and clarity, he redefines forgetfulness not as a defect but as the soil in which originality, resilience, and even happiness grow. A bestseller in Japan, *The Art of Forgetting* speaks directly to our era of information overload and constant digital distraction. This is not just a book about memory—it is a guide to living more wisely by embracing the power of letting go.

Rights sold

Arabic (Bayt Al kotob)
France (Robert Laffont)
Greece (Patakis Publishers)
Hungary (Park)
Italy (Rizzoli)
Netherlands (Alfabet)
Poland (Wydawnictwo Czarna Owca)
Romania (Grup Media Litera)

Shigehiko Toyama (1923-2020) was a Doctor of Literature, critic, and essayist. After serving as editor-in-chief of *Eigo Seinen* (The Rising Generation), a monthly magazine aimed at researchers and students of English literature, he taught at institutions such as Tokyo University of Education and Ochanomizu University. Beginning with English literature as his primary field, he produced original work across a wide range of areas including textual studies, rhetoric, editorship, thought, and the Japanese language.

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency

HIROSHI UCHIDA

I'M SORRY**The Power of Apology**

But why is it so hard for us to simply say I'm sorry?

Whoever said that love means never having to say you are sorry was
WRONG!



Imagine you have a problem with someone who doesn't apologize to you. You don't want to apologize because you don't think it's your fault. Are your relationships strained because of it? Do you spend your days feeling uneasy?

This book was written for those who immediately answered "yes" to this question.

NON FICTION

Publisher:
Subarusya
Publication:
2023
Pages: 128

The majority of our problems in our lives involve interpersonal relationships which are also cited as the most common reason for leaving the workplace, leaving school, and divorce.

Everyone wants to improve their relationships. So why are so many of us stuck, unable to get along with others? Why do we have misunderstandings with people, get into trouble, or feel badly?

The key to improving your relationships, eliminating regrets, and even raising your self-esteem is One word: "Sorry."

**Rights sold**

Spain (Newton Compton Editores)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Why Is It So Hard to Apologize?

The psychological barriers that prevent people from saying “I’m sorry.”
How pride, fear of rejection, and societal expectations shape our ability to apologize.

The difference between a sincere apology and one made out of obligation.

The Power of Apologizing

How a genuine apology can rebuild relationships and foster trust.
The benefits of apologizing, including stress relief and personal growth.
Examples of famous or everyday apologies that have transformed situations.

Techniques for Apologizing

Practical methods for delivering an effective apology.
The importance of timing, tone, and sincerity.
How to handle situations where an apology is rejected or misunderstood.
Differences between verbal, written, and action-based apologies.

How “I’m Sorry” Can Improve Your Life

How mastering the art of apology leads to stronger personal and professional relationships.

Case studies of people who have changed their lives through sincere apologies.

Hiroshi Uchida, born in Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture, and the founder and current director of “BIBIKU,” 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.

Takeshi Yoro

THE WALL OF IGNORANCE

Six million copies sold. Reprinted more than 129 times

The most read book of the Heisei era (1989-2019)

The 5th most sold book in all Japanese history



A provocative metaphor about limits on learning and change.

People often believe they “know” something—whether from the media, social circles, or personal experience. Yet, our understanding is shaped by unconscious biases and cognitive limitations. We strive for uniqueness, unaware that we are already unique. We cling to impossible truths, not because they are logical, but because our brains are wired that way.

Takeshi Yoro explores *The Wall of Ignorance*, the invisible barrier that prevents us from truly grasping the world around us. He delves into the neuroscience of human intelligence, revealing how our cognitive limitations shape our perceptions, interactions, and even global decision-making.

Dialogue and interaction do not always lead to understanding; instead, we often reinforce our own assumptions without realizing it. This book invites readers to critically examine the mental constructs that cloud their judgment and to break free from the illusions of certainty.

By deconstructing these ingrained beliefs, we open the door to deeper knowledge, awareness, and a more profound understanding of ourselves and the world.

NON FICTION

Publisher:
Shinchosha
Original
publication: 2003
Pages: 204

Takeshi Yoro is a renowned Japanese anatomist, writer, and thinker known for his interdisciplinary approach to science and philosophy. As a professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo, his scientific work primarily focuses on human anatomy and neuroscience. However, he gained widespread recognition for his thought-provoking essays and books that explore the intersection of biology, society, and human perception.

One of his most famous works, *Baka no Kabe* (The Wall of Ignorance), delves into cognitive biases and human ignorance, earning him critical acclaim. His writing often challenges conventional wisdom, encouraging readers to think independently and question societal norms. Yoro's ability to bridge science and humanities has made him an influential figure in both academic and literary circles in Japan.

“In the last twenty years, the world has seen a rise of ‘walls of ignorance’. At the heart of the book is a reflection on human nature... Yoro’s terminology has taken on a life of its own....”

The Japan Times

Rights sold

Chinese (Traditional)
France (Guy Tredaniel)
Germany (DTV
Verlagsgesellschaft)
Italy (Utet)
Poland (Zysk i S-ka)
Romania (Alice Books)
Russia (Alpina Publisher)
Spain (Debate)
Korean, Turkish
UK/US (Fern)

Takeshi Yoro was born in 1937 in Kamakura, graduating from Tokyo University School of Medicine and joining the Research Center of Anatomy. Following his degree in M.D., he taught anatomy at Tokyo University until 1995 and was a professor at Kitazato University until 2003 and later became an Honored Professor at Tokyo University. Yoro is popular for his explanations of societal phenomena and psychological issues from the neuroscientific and anatomic perspective. He is the president of the Association of Insects in Kamakura, a community group which he founded himself. His love of insects comes from his curiosity towards things that cannot be explained by mere theory.

SHINSUKE YOSHITAKE

DADDY'S FIRST STEPS

Beloved children's book author Shinsuke Yoshitake shares the funny and frustrating truths of fatherhood in his first illustrated parenting essay.



Aren't fathers always left out?

Picture book author Shinsuke Yoshitake figured it out when he became a dad. While struggling with the daily challenges of raising a child, Shinsuke experiences uncertainty, discovers insights, and finds joy.

His illustrated essays on his initiation into fatherhood will have experienced parents laughing and nodding knowingly. It would make the perfect gift for a new dad!

Rights sold

Chinese (Simplified)
Korean

NON FICTION

Publisher: Poplar
Publishing Co.

Publication: January
2025

Pages: 128

READERS' REVIEWS

"A cute little piece; as I read, I kept nodding in agreement, totally understanding."

"Really interesting and laughable! I can sympathize with you! I can cry!"

"I think this book is something that soon-to-be fathers, grandfathers, mothers, and grandmothers can all relate to, helping deepen understanding of each other and providing plenty of conversation starters."

39 息詰まるミッション

1. 我が子のツメが伸びて、ササキがしますよね。



088



089

Shinsuke Yoshitake Born in 1973. He made his debut as a picture-book author in 2013 with *It Might Be an Apple*. He has since authored many other works with a diverse range and won numerous awards, including the MOE Picture Book Store Awards, the New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book Award and a special mention at the Bologna Ragazzi Award.

CHISATO ABE

YATAGARASU

Over 2 million copies sold of this high fantasy inspired by Japanese mythology

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



FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju
Publication: 2012-present

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.

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.



Rights sold

Italian (Mondadori)
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.

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency

AKI HAMANAKA

THE FAMILY

Nominated for the 174th Naoki Prize



FICTION

Publisher:
Bungeishunju
Publication:
October 2025
Pages: 320

On November 3, 2011, a naked woman ran to the police box and the “incident” was discovered. The woman said that she was stealing from her sister and her family, but the police refused to file a case on the grounds of “civil non-intervention.”

That was the beginning of the “Amagasaki Serial Death Case”, one of the worst cases in Japan’s crime history. Miyoko Sumida, a 64 year old Japanese grandmother from Amagasaki, allegedly coerced family and friends to kidnap, torture and murder multiple people for financial gain.

The crimes began with the disappearance of a woman in or around 1987 and, although several suspicious deaths and disappearances had occurred one after another, the case would not come to light for many years.

Akira Hamanaka, who has continued to release mystery novels that closely address social issues such as elder care, homeless children, and the employment ice age, highlights in this non-stop crime novel the flaws hidden in Japan’s doctrine of ‘no involvement in civil matters.

Despite being such a shocking incident, no novel had directly tackled it until now.

Family is a chilling psychological novel inspired by the real Amagasaki serial confinement and murder case, one of Japan’s most disturbing modern crimes. It follows a charismatic woman who builds a cult-like “family” inside a Tokyo apartment complex, drawing vulnerable people into a web of control, violence, and dependency. When one victim escapes, the carefully constructed system collapses — revealing just how easily ordinary lives can be swallowed whole by the promise of belonging.

For readers of Emma Cline’s *The Girls*, Asako Yuzuki’s *Butter* and R.O. Kwon’s *The Incendiaries*.

“At that time, the press had to explain the family tree, but because the crime period was long and there were so many people involved, I don’t think anyone was able to understand the whole picture of the case after hearing it once. I thought it might be better to extract the episode to some extent and write it, but I felt that if I cut down on the “complexity”, the inexplicable attraction of this incident itself would disappear.”

Aki Hamanaka - Interview

READERS’ REVIEWS

“It was scary, so I wanted to set aside time and read on. What is depicted many times in the work is the wall of police non-intervention in civil matters. No matter how serious the situation was, it was dismissed as a “family issue,” and victims were taken back to the place of offense — confronted with the fear of the reality that families would be a cover for violence”.

“It is a terrifying novel that overturns the image of the word family”.

Aki Hamanaka (1976) was born in Tokyo. His novel for young readers, *Raibaru* (*Rivals*), received the Kadokawa Gakugei Children’s Literature Prize in 2009. In 2011 he contributed scripts for the popular manga series *Inu-bu! Bokura no shippo senki* (*Canine Club: Our Tales of Tails*) appearing in the *Shūkan shūnen sandū* (*Weekly Boys Sunday*) magazine. In addition to writing other manga scripts, he contributes articles to educational enrichment magazines. He won the Japan Mystery Fiction Prize for New Writers in 2012 for his novel *Rosuto kea* (*Lost Care*).

KYOKO HASUMI

DOCTOR PEN

A store owner who can read your past and future through fountain pens. One look and he can guide you to healing.



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.

FICTION

Publisher: Poplar
Publishing
Publication: 2021
Pages: 293

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

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 accusations, I'll take my business elsewhere."

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.

"You can tell by looking at how the nib is worn down. Now, your order said the ink was flowing 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 look at the Edson nib that you brought in. I have done nothing to it since receiving it." Reito was silent. "Do you notice now that 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.

YUKI IBUKI

SPINNING THE CLOUDS



FICTION

Publisher:
Bungeishunju
Publication: 2020
Pages: 368

**Can a family on the verge of collapse be saved?
A multigenerational tale portraying family bonds
through the ancient art of wool spinning.**

Shortlisted for the 163rd Naoki Prize (2020)

Mio Yamazaki, a second year high school student who stopped going to school due to bullying, only truly feels at ease when she's wrapped up in the red shawl that was made for her by her grandparents - artisan owners of a textiles workshop in the northern city of Morioka, Iwate prefecture.

When Mio's mother takes away her shawl, Mio runs away from their home in Yokohama and goes to stay with her grandfather in Morioka. Kojiro Yamazaki takes Mio in without reproach, asking only: "What do you like?" and encouraging Mio to "go and find what is is you like doing."

Set in the charming and internationally celebrated city of Morioka, Ibuki weaves a story in which a young girl and her family heal their wounds through the power of craftsmanship.

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.



EXCERPT

Mio hurried back to her room and got into bed. Clutching the red shawl, she draped it over her head and closed her eyes. This never-ageing shawl was magical. When she was wrapped up in it, it felt to Mio like time stopped completely. Opening her eyes slightly, she touched the label sewn into one of its corners. 'Yamazaki Studio'. The name of the artisanal workshop in Morioka, Iwate Prefecture, run by her paternal grandfather.

Her father and grandfather didn't get on; Mio had heard that he hadn't even been invited to her parents' wedding. Still, Mio's father had got in touch with him when she was born, and her grandparents brought the shawl with them when they travelled down to Tokyo for her hatsumiyamairi ritual. Everything looked harmonious enough in the photos taken that day, and you wouldn't be able to tell, by looking at them, that her father and grandfather had fallen out. Mio's favourite was a photo taken in the grounds of the shrine: her grandfather holding his first grandchild, bundled up in the red shawl, while her grandmother looked happily at Mio's tiny face. When things were difficult at school, Mio felt a little lighter inside when she thought about that photo. It helped, knowing there had been someone this happy she'd been born.

She poked her head out of the shawl, reaching for her phone. There was another photo she loved: taken from the window of her grandfather's workshop, showing the view from Yamazaki Studio. It looked like the kind of landscape you would see in a children's picture book, and she had it set as her phone's wallpaper: sheep grazing on green meadows streaked with sunlight, white clovers by their feet, and clusters of trees spread out along the back of the fields. A little pasture, in the middle of one of Iwate's forests.

Rights sold

France (Albin Michel)
Germany (Insel Verlag)
Italy (Garzanti)
Portugal (Presença SA)
China, Vietnam

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



FICTION

Publisher:
Shogakukan Inc.
Publication: 2003
Pages: 264

Over 3 million copies sold

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.

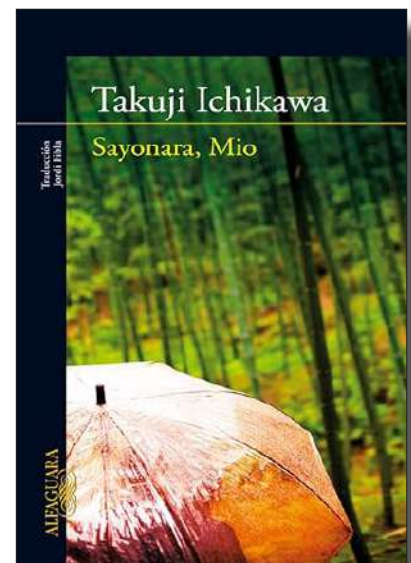
Mio's reappearance, however, is no ordinary miracle. Before her death, she had promised Takumi she would return during the rainy season to check on him and Yuji—though only briefly, disappearing again before the heat of summer. As the days pass, Takumi searches for answers, uncovering a deeply moving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

Rights sold

France (J'ai Lu)
Italy (Adriano Salani)
Netherlands (Contact)
Portugal (Presenca SA)
Spain (Alfaguara PRH)



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 IN THE CENTER OF THE WORLD

A national sensation with over 3 million copies sold, Kyoichi Katayama brought innocent love and romance to the forefront of Japan's ultra-hip mass market.



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.

Sakutaro 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. Sakutaro'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 Sakutaro 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.

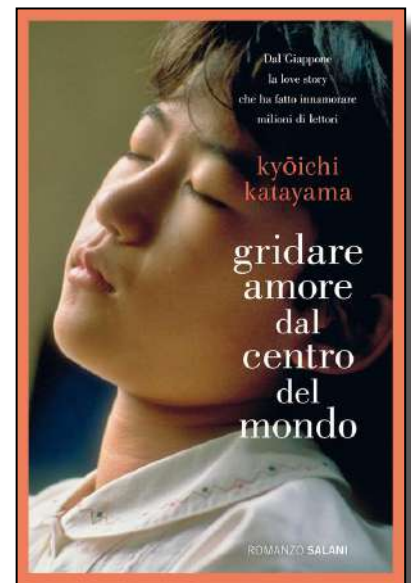
Crying Love From the Center of the World is a bittersweet journey of young love, enduring devotion, and heartbreaking loss. Affectionately known in Japan as *Sekachu* (short for *Sekai no Chushin de Ai wo Sakebu*), the incredible popularity of Katayama's novel developed into a social phenomenon in Japan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

FICTION

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

Rights sold

Basque (Cenlit Ediciones)
 Brazil (OBJETIVA)
 France (Presses de la Cité)
 Hungary (Muvelt Nép
 Könyvkiadó Kft.)
 Italy (Salani)
 Poland (Grupa Wydawnicza
 Foksal)
 Russia (Azbooka-Atticus)
 Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)
 Spain (Plaza & Janés)



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.

KEIYA MIZUNO

THE ELEPHANT THAT MAKES DREAMS COME TRUE

A hugely successful 4-book series with 5.6 million copies sold

No. 1 Amazon bestseller: over 16,800 readers



An ordinary office worker wallows in sorrow and self-pity after attending a party thrown by a senior co-worker. Surrounded by celebrities, top executives and other glamorous people, the protagonist is struck by the pettiness of his own existence. All he wishes for is happiness but no matter how many self-help books he reads, his goals never seem to get any closer.

Hopelessly drunk, the night of the party he cries out to a Hindu figurine brought back from a trip to India, "I want to change my life!"

The next morning, a mysterious creature resembling Ganesha, the elephant-headed god of beginnings, appears at his bedside and promises to make his dreams come true in exchange for carrying out a series of small (but unconventional) tasks.

By setting out to achieve Ganesha's small goals (polishing his shoes, stop eating when 80% full, going straight home after work without stopping on the way), the protagonist learns to cherish the present moment and stop worrying about manipulating the outcome of his actions.

The first volume in the series of five self-help novels that took Japan by storm by reminding readers that perseverance and self-acceptance are the keys to real happiness.

FICTION

Publisher:

Bunkyoisha.

First publication:

2007

4-book series

Rights sold

Chinese (Simplified)
Chinese (Traditional)
Germany (Rowohlt)
Polish (Maginesy)
Russian (Eksmo)
UK/US (Shambala)
Korean, Mongolian, Thai

BOOK INSTRUCTIONS

Starting from today, you are to accomplish one task a day that is set forth by Ganesha. Ganesha's tasks are all able to be completed within a day. As mentioned, the tasks are not particularly difficult. But you will see that they have an immensely effective power that will drastically change your life. By completing the tasks, you will be able to make all of your dreams and goals come true—from becoming richer, to having more fame, to accomplishing something that only you can do, to displaying the talent that you have at its maximum capacity. Ganesha's lessons will lead you to success in everything you wish to be successful in. At first glance, there will be some tasks that you will not see much point in doing. You may question yourself. You may feel that they are based on superstitions and not scientific evidence.

Still, you must go through with every single task. As Ganesha also said, all of the great people we know in history have all accomplished many of these things. The key is that you must execute each that is given to you and experience the effects of success for yourself. If you fail to complete the tasks and dishonor your contract, Ganesha will enforce the rules of the contract and deprive you of all your aspiration.

Now take a deep breath in, and let's begin.

“I devoured all the self-help and business books out there, but they just made me lose confidence and drained what little self-esteem I had left... That's what sparked the idea to write a book with a low entry barrier—something people could read and think, ‘I could try this right away.’ I feel uneasy about books written from the perspective of ‘I succeeded this way.’ As if the author is suddenly trying to show off. I want readers to feel this book has had a true impact on their lives when they finish it and return to reality. That's how this format came about. I see this as a practical guide, aiming to provide readers with knowledge they can wield as a weapon to navigate real life.”

Keiya Mizuno Interview, Asahi Shimbun

Keiya Mizuno is born in 1976 in Aichi Prefecture. Graduated from Keio University's Faculty of Economics. Made his literary debut in 2003 with *Techniques That Make People Laugh* (Ukeru Gijutsu, Shinchosha). He writes for film

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency

SAKI MURAYAMA

THE TWILIGHT CONVENIENCE STORE AND A CAT

The mysterious convenience store - the "Twilight Mart" - is said to be a place where you can find whatever you are most desperately searching for in life.



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar
Publishing
Publication: 2010-
2024

●
Rights sold

Germany (Bastei Luebbe AG)
Hungary (Század Kiadó)
Spain (Neko)
Russia (Mann Ivanov and
Ferber)

In the fictional community of Kazahaya, a mysterious convenience store, known as the Twilight Mart, on the edge of town. Surrounded by legend, it is said that only those who are searching for something out of some deep-seated need will find their way to its front door.

Each story tells about a different customer who visits the store. The clerk is a silver-haired, golden-eyed young man of mysterious mien, who, in spite of his eccentric appearance, has utter empathy for his customers. They guides his customers to what they most want and need. in life.

EXCERPT

When the sun hangs low in the sky, go to the end of the shopping street in front of Kazahaya Station. There, you will find a mysterious convenience store on the old road with the red torii gate.

The wooden sign above the door says Twilight Mart, and unlike other stores, the letters are written in bright shiny red. Just below the sign is a crest, looking like an ear of rice.

When you open the door, you will be greeted by the sweet smell of freshly-made inari and the bubbling sound of oden. There at the register stands a young man with long silver hair and golden eyes, a smile on his face.

His slender eyes seem to sparkle, and it makes him seem a little scary. But he'll welcome you with a cheery and warm greeting.

"Welcome to our shop.

Is there something you're looking for?"

Anything you can wish for can be found right here inside this shop. But there are also things that won't be sold anywhere else.

It is said that you will find them only here.

This is Twilight Mart. A mysterious and magical convenience store.

SAKI MURAYAMA

THE MAGIC OF THE MALL

Over 110,000 copies sold

Winner of the 2018 Booksellers Award in Japan



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar
Publishing

Publication: 2017

Pages: 452

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 are lucky enough to cross its path, your dreams come true. But it takes time and patience because he knows that unfulfilled dreams await him.

Among those who are looking for him are: Isana, attendant of the crystal lift, who is searching for the father who abandoned her as a child; Sakiko, owner of the shoe shop, who dreams of meeting her estranged best friend; the manager Kengo, who wants to know about the woman who abandoned him at birth. Ichika, who manages the store's archive, and wants nothing more than to look into the eyes of her lost love.

Everyone has a dream, a wish, a hope for the wise and mysterious feline that lurks within the department store. But the cat also knows there is no joy without pain and sometimes desire itself brings happiness.

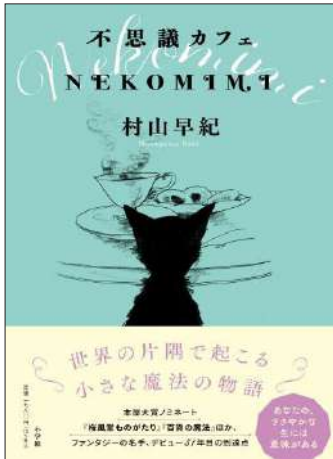


Rights sold

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

THE INCREDIBLE NEKOMINI CAFÉ

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.



FICTION

Publisher:
Shogakukan

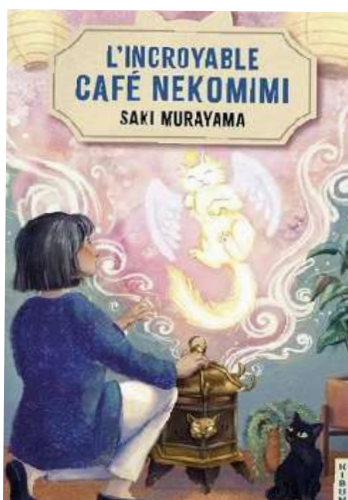
Publication: 2023

Pages: 296

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 for a cure to her headache and that is when she meets the lamp’s genie. The genie then tells Ritsuko, “You are to pass away tonight. The genie agrees to spare both her and her cat on the condition they both become wizards.

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



Rights sold

France (Bragelonne)
Korea
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus Publishing)
Spain (Hachette México)

Born in Nagasaki, Saki Murayama (1963) made her literary debut with *Small Eri*, which won the Mainichi Children’s Books Award and the 4th HatojuMuku Children’s Books Award. *Magic of the Mall* was nominated for the Booksellers’ Award in 2018.

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency

NORIKO ONUMA

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



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar
Publishing

Publication: 2012-2018

A widower, a baker, and a talented but foul-mouthed student work to provide refuge to the lost and lonely through their magical pastries.

The story unfolds in a quaint bakery that operates exclusively during the midnight hours- from 11pm to 5am.

The Midnight Bakery is a mysterious and magical bakery in Sangenjaya which offers refuge to troubled customers. The small and odd shop is run by Kanjiro, the foul-mouthed baker, and owner Kurebayashi Yosuke, who left his career as a high-flying salaryman to open this 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)
Germany (Thiele Verlag)
Italy (Garzanti)
Russia (Mann Ivanov and
Ferber)
Spain (Ático de los Libros)
US (HarperCollins)
China, Korea, Taiwan

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

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



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 brews.

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: 288



Rights sold

Bulgaria (Peppermill Books)
France (City Éditions)
Germany (Droemer)
Hungary (Alexandra Group)
Italy (Garzanti)
Netherlands (The House of Books)
Russia (Eksmo)
US (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.

MAIKO SEO

SOMEONE TO COOK FOR

This heartwarming story about a teenager in an unconventional family situation 2019 Booksellers Award
Over a 1.5 million copies sold in Japan



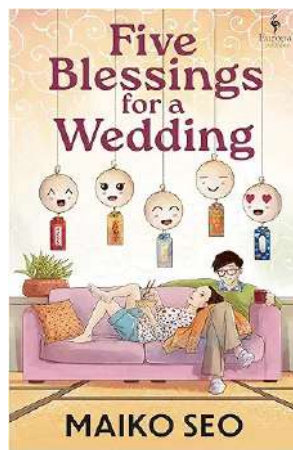
A light, humorous and tender novel about the people who shape our lives and the complexities of non-traditional family ties.

Yuko has had four different surnames and been brought up in several families. The parental figures in her life, despite not being related by blood, have always cared deeply for her. Through it all, pragmatic and resilient and Yuko has navigated life's changes and its occasional conflicts without bitterness, always managing to find a kind of equilibrium.

FICTION

Publisher:
Bungeishunju
Publication: 2018
Pages: 372

As an adult, Yuko falls in love with Hayase, a talented pianist she's known since her school years. Now a married woman, she embarks on a journey to reconnect with the various parental figures from her past to seek their blessing for her marriage. Along the way, she revisits her former life and gains a deeper understanding of what truly defines a family.



Rights sold

Czech Republic (HOST)
Italy (E/O)
Poland (Helion Publishing)
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus)
Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)
Spanish (Lunwerk)
UK/US (Europa Editions)
China, Indonesia, Korea,
Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine,
Vietnam
Turkey (Doki Kitap)

ALL THE LONG NIGHTS

Life is tougher than we think, but there are rays of light all around us.
This novel is one. Like a beacon of hope in the darkness,
it makes living a little bit easier.



FICTION

Publisher: Suirinsha
Publication: 2020
Pages: 272

Two young people struggling to live a normal life with debilitating hidden illnesses that are mired in stigma and misunderstanding.

28-year-old Misa Fujisawa suffers from premenstrual syndrome and 25-year-old Takatoshi Yamazoe from panic disorder. Both have lost jobs, friends and future dreams because of their conditions. But in the relaxed atmosphere of the small company where they work, they develop a bond of mutual support. Their friendship leads to small changes that make a big difference, and open up hope for the future.

Written with humor and empathy, the text draws readers into the world of those live and work with a hidden illness, offering hope on how to remain positive in the face of it. It is based on her own experience of panic disorder.

2024 Film
directed by Sho
Miyake

Rights sold

Italy (E/O)
UK/US (Europe Edition)
China, Indonegsia, Korea,
Thailand, Taiwan, Ukraine,
Vietnam

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.

DURIAN SUKEGAWA

DIG OUT THE SUN



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.

FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing

Publication: 2024

Pages: 250

Rights sold

Finland (Sammakko Publishing)
 France (Bragelonne)
 Italy (Einaudi)
 Poland (Yumeka)
 Romania (Alice Books)
 Spain (Cántico)

SWEET BEAN PASTE



Sentaro has failed: he has a criminal record, drinks too much, and hasn't managed to fulfill his dream of becoming a writer. Instead, he works in a confectionery shop selling dorayaki, a type of pancake filled with a sweet paste made of red beans. With only the blossoming of the cherry trees to mark the passing of time, he spends his days listlessly filling the pastries. Until one day an elderly, handicapped woman enters the shop.

Tokue makes the best bean paste imaginable, and begins to teach Sentaro her art. But as their friendship flourishes, societal prejudices become impossible to escape, in this quietly devastating novel about the burden of the past and the redemptive power of friendship.

FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing

Publication: 2013

Pages: 239

Rights sold

Arabic (The Arab Cultural Center)
 Brazil (Morro Branco)
 Bulgaria (Colibri Publisher)
 Catalan (Empuries)
 Croatia (Hena com)
 Czech Republic (Dobrovský)
 Estonia (Postimehe Kirjastus)
 Finland (Sammakko Publishing)
 France (Albin Michel)
 Germany (DuMont Buchverlag GmbH)
 Hungary (Muvelt Nep Konyvkiado)
 Israel (9 Lives Press)
 Italy (Einaudi)
 Macedonia (Antolog Books)
 Poland (Jagiellonian University)
 Portugal (Leya)
 Romania (Alice Books)
 Russia (MTS)
 Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)
 Spain (Chai Editora)
 UK/US (Oneworld Publications)
 China, Indonesia, Korea

2015 Japanese
 drama
 film directed by
 Naomi
 Kawase.

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)
Russia (Mann Ivanov and Ferber)
Spain (Cántico)
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

Arabic Lebanon (The Arab Cultural)
France (Albin Michel)

BUDDHA ON THE WATERSIDE



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing

Publication: 2019

Pages: 317

Rights sold

Italy (Einaudi)
Portugal (Leya)
Spain (Cántico)
UK/US (Onewold 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.

NAHOKO UEHASHI

KOKUN

The Woman Who 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 shortage.



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

Arabic (THQF)

Bulgaria (Peppermill Books)

France (Actes Sud)

Hungary (Európa

Könyvkiadó)

Spain (Monogatari Media)

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.

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.

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 adapted into comics, television series.

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency

EIKO YAMAGUCHI

THE GHOST OF IZAKAYA

Over 177,000 copies sold

8 volume series



Rights sold

China (Crown
Publishing)
Spain (Planeta)
Korea (Moonye)

FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju
Ltd.

Publication: 2021

Pages: 256

A tavern where spirits and ghosts reside - The izakaya is a psychic waiting room — a place where troubled souls (both living and dead) stop by to settle unfinished emotions.

Each dish (e.g., celery and shirataki stir-fry with yuzu-kosho, sake-steamed salmon with plum-sesame sauce) acts as a medium between the living and the dead. Cooking becomes a ritual because “Food carries memory. When we eat something we once shared with someone, we meet them again.” After eating, talking, or forgiving someone (including themselves), they leave — lighter — and the shop seems to fade again.

The tavern is owned by Akiho, who doesn’t seem to realize that she herself is dead.

Each episode introduces a different guest-customer carrying personal trouble, and offered meals, conversation, and a kind of counselling by proxy.

With each story, we see how food, listening, and human warmth help the guest. Underneath it all, a supernatural framework emerges.

The Ghost of Izakaya

Spicy Sea Bream

Photo Exhibition and Croquettes

Cheers with Fried Chicken!

Edamame and the Seeker

Twins Dumplings

Pasta in Full Bloom

Beware of Mushrooms

Eiko Yamaguchi is a Japanese novelist known for warm, food-centered human dramas and cozy culinary mysteries. A graduate of Waseda University, she made her literary debut in 2013 after winning the Matsumoto Seichō Award for New Novelists with *Moonlit Shanghai*.

Her stories are cherished for their vivid, mouth-watering food descriptions, gentle humor, and empathetic portrayals of everyday life. Blending love advice, life insights, and comforting resolutions, her books leave readers with a pleasant aftertaste and a reassuring sense of calm.

Focusing on themes such as food and personal bonds, women’s lifestyles, and pride in one’s work, Yamaguchi has earned a broad and loyal readership. Representative works include *The Ghostly Izakaya* series and *The Canteen Lady*. Her fiction offers a relaxing, kindness-filled escape—perfect for a quiet break in daily life.

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency

YUKIHISA YAMAMOTO

THE LITTLE TOKYO FLOWER SHOP

Over 100,000 copies sold



FICTION

**Publisher: Poplar
Publishing**

Publication: 2022

Pages: 315

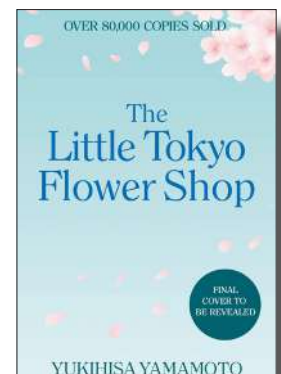
At 24, Kikuko is emotionally and physically drained from the demands of her job. Uncertain about her future, she stumbles upon the Kawarazaki Flower Shop, a small but vibrant store tucked away behind Kuramae Station. There, she meets Rita, an enigmatic florist, and a group of unique coworkers who welcome her into their world of blooms and quiet miracles.

As Kikuko learns the language of flowers, she also begins to understand the unspoken emotions of the customers who visit the shop, some seeking joy, others carrying quiet sorrow. Through these encounters, Kikuko starts to heal, rediscovering her own dreams and the small joys that make life beautiful.

The *Little Tokyo Flower Shop* is a celebration of resilience, kindness, and the quiet strength of flowers and those who love them.

Rights sold

Arabic (Dar Shafaq)
 Brazil (Editora Arqueiro)
 Croatia (Znanje)
 Denmark (Gyldendal)
 France (Albin Michel)
 Germany (Fischer Verlag)
 Greece (Pedio Publishing S.A.)
 Hungary (Európa Könyvkiadó Kft)
 Italy (Garzanti)
 Netherlands (Meulenhof Boekerij)
 Poland (Spoleczny Instytut/Znak)
 Portugal (Planeta)
 Romania (Editura Univers)
 Russia (Bombora)
 Serbia (Laguna)
 Slovakia (MOTÝL Publishing House)
 Slovenia (Učila International, založba, d.o.o)
 Spain (Neko)
 Turkey (Destek)
 UK/US (Hodder and Stoughton)
 Ukraine (Vivat)



STARTING OVER AT THE LITTLE TOKYO FLOWER SHOP

The long-awaited second novel following the bestseller *The Little Tokyo Flower Shop*



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar
Publishing
Publication:
2026
Pages: 323

Rights sold

Germany (Fischer Verlag)
Greek (Pedio)
Netherlands (Meulenhof)
Poland (Spoleczny Instytut Wydawniczy)
Portugal (Planeta)
Serbian (Laguna)
UK/US (Hodder & Stoughton)

Midori is an art student in Tokyo who already knows her way around a flower shop—how to trim stems just right, how to wrap a bouquet so it feels like a promise. Day after day at Kawarazaki Florist, she helps mark other people's love stories and turning points, even as she wonders when her own life will finally come into bloom.

She loves painting, but in a city bursting with talent, her future feels hazy. When a hoped-for job with an art supplies company wilts during the pandemic, Midori stays at the shop, unsure whether she's growing or simply standing still. Around her, coworkers bloom at their own pace: a designer gaining recognition, a former idol still searching for light, a quiet boy who understands flowers better than words.

As customers arrive with bouquets for confessions, apologies, and goodbyes, Midori begins to see how flowers hold feelings people can't quite say. Petal by petal, she returns to painting, capturing the gentle poetry of everyday Tokyo—and realizing that not knowing yet doesn't mean she's failed.

A story that teaches us that even when life feels paused, growth is still happening—just beneath the surface.

Yukihiya Yamamoto, born in Tokyo in 1966, made his literary debut in 2003 after winning the Shosetsu Subaru New Writers' Award.

info@vickisatlow.com

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency

vicki@vickisatlow.com

+39 02.48015553

Via Cenisio 16 - 20154 Milano (Italy)

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency
www.vickisatlow.com

Follow us
Vicki Satlow Literary Agency
@vickisatlow

