

# Retts and Kitty

Text by **Hico Tanaka**

Illus. by **Shinsuke Yoshitake**



Ages 6+

200 x 154 mm

64 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882644729

Rights sold:

This is the first volume in a trilogy that centers on five-year-old Retts. She is now in the top class—"the Fives"—at her three-year kindergarten, but the story begins, "Once upon a time, long, long ago, when Retts was still in the Threes class at her kindergarten . . ." To a five-year-old, two years is indeed a long, long time ago, and much of the story's freshness and charm derives from how it so perfectly captures the child's point of view.

One day Mama comes home from work with a tiny mewing black thing in her arms. It's alive, with eyes as green as a cucumber, and Mama says it's a kitty. Retts begins calling her new pet "Kitty."

Retts learns many new things from her experiences with Kitty. When Kitty playfully bites her finger, the nip is so gentle it actually feels kind of neat. Until this, at kindergarten, Retts had sometimes bitten a boy she didn't like, but now—not wanting him to think that she likes him—she decides to stop doing that and kisses him on the cheek instead. When he bursts into tears, the teacher says, "It was just a kiss. You don't need to cry." Retts learns that she won't get scolded for giving kisses. But on the other hand, when she tries to bite her good friends in the same gentle way Kitty did, they make it clear to her that she really mustn't.

Retts also learns that while kitties need to use all four of their legs to move fast, she herself gets around better when she's not down on all fours. And she learns that both kitties and people have names. Wanting her Kitty to have a real name, she decides on Kyuri ("Cucumber")—but when she says the name to her parents, they think she's saying Kiwi, and it sticks.

In the next volume of the series, *Rettsu no fumidai* (Retts on a Stool), the story begins, "Once upon a time, a little bit long ago," and tells of events that took place when Retts was in the Fours class at kindergarten—again, from Retts's perspective. It too reflects a small child's feelings and curiosity, as well as her unique sense of language and time, with injections of humor to spice things up. The third volume, *Rettsu ga otsukai* (Retts Runs an Errand), is another highly amusing story from when Retts has reached the Fives class.



## About the Author

Hico Tanaka (1953–) was born in Osaka and graduated from Doshisha University in Kyoto. He is considered one of the standard bearers of a new wave in children's literature; also known for his criticism, he runs a juvenile literature review site on the Web. His major works include *Ohikkoshi* (Daddy Moves Out; winner of the 1990 Muku Hatoju Children's Literature Prize), *Karenda* (Calendar), and *Gomen* (Sorry; winner of the 1997 Sankei Children's Book JR Award); both of the award-winning titles were adapted into movies. From these early works through his more recent *Rettsu* trilogy (*Rettsu to Neko-san* [Retts and Kitty]; *Rettsu no fumidai* [Retts on a Stool]; *Rettsu ga otsukai* [Retts Runs an Errand]), he has sought out new ways to illumine the daily interactions of children and grownups. As a critic, he published *Otona no tame no jido bungaku koza* (A Course on Children's Literature for Grown-ups) in 2005; and he created quite a stir in 2011 when he drew on his extensive knowledge of juvenile subculture (video games, television heroes, manga, anime, juvenile literature and film) to publish *Fushigi na fushigi na kodomo no monogatari: Naze seicho o egakanaku natta no ka?* (The Strange Thing about Children's Stories: Why They Don't Come of Age Anymore).

Shinsuke Yoshitake (1973–) completed a graduate degree in plastic arts and mixed media at the University of Tsukuba. In addition to working as a commercial artist and producing sculptures and other art projects on commission, he has published books of sketches, including *Shikamo futa ga nai* (And There's No Lid) and *Ja kimi ga suki* (In That Case, I Like You). His sketches have won a following for the way they capture slices of life with an exquisite eye for detail.

## Panpaka Underpants: Are the Ghost Pants Scary Pants?



Ages 6+  
226 x 183 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591144343  
Rights sold:



Vol.2

This is a picture-book spinoff of the highly popular children's television series Panpaka pantsu o-New! (Panpaka Underpants, Spanking New!), launched in April 2015. An animated piglet named Panpaka, who is particularly fond of underpants, performs a cute dance to the beat of music. His endearing antics have captured the hearts of viewers not just in Japan but in Taiwan as well.

Panpaka makes it his mission to collect underpants from all over the world—especially those of unusual design. His grandfather, who is an expert underpants hunter, declares that he has found some ghost underpants and gives Panpaka a map. Panpaka hops into his brand-new gyrocopter—painted, of course, to look like his favorite article of clothing—and off he goes, bubbling with excitement over what he may find.

He tries to imagine what kind of underpants a ghost might wear, but when he arrives at the spooky house indicated on the map, what he finds instead is an “underpants ghost.” The terrified Panpaka tries to flee, but the ghost eventually corners him. As Panpaka cowers in fear, the ghost speaks up—but his voice is pleading rather than threatening: “Please put me on,” he implores. He explains that his former master, a lion, decided to stop wearing underpants before ever getting around to trying him on. Having never been worn, he has become a wandering ghost, looking for someone to help him fulfill his purpose. Panpaka feels sympathy for the ghost and dons the pants—though still with considerable trepidation. “I also need you to say how good it feels to have me on,” the ghost adds. When Panpaka obliges and then continues to assuage the ghost by following his several comical pleas for attention, the specter thanks him and then vanishes with a smile, saying he doesn't need to be a ghost anymore. “I think maybe I did a good deed,” says the much-relieved Panpaka. But there turn out to be many more underpants ghosts in the house, and when they start coming after him, he takes to his heels. He's had enough underpants ghosts for one day.



# We are First Graders Series

Text by **Ryuji Goto**

Illus. by **Tomoko Hasegawa**



## Our Class is Great!

When I got to school this morning, I didn't see my friend Kurosawa in our classroom. My teacher told us that he moved to another city. He came to my house every day—even though I didn't invite him. But, he didn't tell me he was moving! We had fights sometimes, and I kind of wished he would transfer to another school. But, I feel so sad now.

My class decides to write letters to Kurosawa, but I don't know what to write. I don't want to say goodbye. He doesn't need to be cheered up by me. The girl who sits next to me writes to him, "I love you!" I'm surprised at first, but I think it's great to write your true feelings. I'll do that, too!

The series, which is popular in Japan, depicts children's delicate feelings precisely and warmly.

Ages 6+  
232 x 188 mm  
71 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591111741  
Rights sold: China



I Jump the Highest!



Who Loves to Eat the Most?



You have the Warmest Hands!



We have the Noisiest Day



Who has the most Selfish Mind?



I am the Greatest Person in our Class!

### About the Author

Ryuji Goto (1943-2010) was a well-known children's writer. He won the Japanese Writers Association of Children's Literature Award twice, and the Noma Children's Literature Award for "Yashin Aratamezu."

Tomoko Hasegawa, born in 1947, won the Sankei Children's Publication Culture Award for "Hitsujigumo no Mukoni." She writes picture books, as well as draws illustrations for fiction.

# Kuma the Bear and Tiny Tatan: Visitors from the Blue

Text by **Kyoko Hara**

Illus. by **Koshiro Hata**



Ages 6+

197 x 155 mm

72 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591123652

Rights sold: Taiwan

This volume belongs to a series of books telling of events in the life of Kuma, a bear, and Tatan, a caterpillar-like bug, who live together.

One autumn night, they both make a wish on a falling star, but neither of them reveals their wish. The next day, they are working in their flowerbed, listening to a radio hanging from a branch of an apple tree, when the music stops. Kuma goes to fix it, but the radio slips from his hand and falls to pieces on the ground. Just then, two bugs who look just like Tatan descend from the treetop—Poran and his daughter Pomu. They have journeyed to Earth from another planet, but their spaceship has broken down. Kuma gives Poran the damaged radio to use for parts to repair his ship. While he's working on the repairs, Pomu goes to Kuma and Tatan's house.

Tatan is irritated by how nice Kuma is being to Pomu. Trying to think of something fun for them all to do together, Kuma suggests they go to a field where cosmos are blooming. On the way, Pomu says to Tatan, "When tiny creatures like us go traveling, we encounter all kinds of dangers. I envy you for having big strong Kuma to look out for you." When they reach the field with the cosmos, Tatan searches hard for a four-leaf clover, and when he finds one, gives it to Pomu for good luck.

Pomu asks Tatan if he wouldn't like to go back with them to their planet. But Tatan says he wants to stay with Kuma until the flowers they planted in their flowerbed bloom. Since Kuma's wish on the falling star was for him and Tatan to be able to stay together, he couldn't be happier.



## About the Author

Kyoko Hara graduated from Wako University with a degree in art. Among her many titles are *We Found Spring*, *Tell Me a Story*, the "Kuma the Bear and Tiny Tatan" series, and the "Ishishi and Noshishi's Tall Tales" series.

Koshiro Hata (1963–) writes picture books, draws illustrations, and designs books. His solo-production picture books include *A Summer Day* and *How Many Animals?* He has said that he approaches drawing for picture books "as if it's a present to my five-year-old self." Hata shows a vibrant sense of color in his illustrations.

# Bulbul the King

Text by **Yoshihiko Funazaki**

Illus. by **Ikuo Nishimura**



Ages 6+  
 230 x 200 mm  
 64 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591062944  
 Rights sold: Korea

This humorous and charming picture book tells the story of a lion who learns to appreciate the little joys in life. Bulbul the Lion is the king of the grasslands. But as he grows older, he can't run as fast, see as well, or eat without his false teeth. This is his big secret.

When Bulbul goes out he tries to look scary, roaring and running after the other animals, even though he knows he can't catch them anymore. The animals begin to notice that no one is caught by the lion these days, so they send a baby mouse to Bulbul's house to see how he is doing now. When the mouse knocks on the door, Bulbul, who is eating porridge, is very surprised because no one has ever come to his place before. When he opens the door and roars, trying to look scary, his false teeth fall out! The mouse, he is sure, will tell the other animals about it. The lion is convinced that they will all laugh at him.

But then, the other animals of the grasslands all come and ask if they can have some of his porridge. Bulbul doesn't know what kind of look he should put on, but without thinking he smiles. Then Bulbul and the other animals eat porridge together. Bulbul doesn't need strong legs, good eyesight, or sharp fangs any more, because he feels good from the "little joys" of sharing life with friends.



## About the Author

Yoshihiko Funazaki (1945–) teaches at Shirayuri College, and is known for works that blend fantasy with botany and a playful spirit. His books for young readers include *I'm Here*, *Rainy Zoo*, and *Copan in the Moonlight*.

Ikuo Nishimura (1939–) became a full-time illustrator after working as a magazine journalist and a design studio artist. He has illustrated many works, including the children's books *Bulbul the King*, *The Tiger Kitty*, and *The Baby Sorcerer*.

# The Easygoing Pig and the Restless Rabbit

Text by **Tadashi Ozawa**

Illus. by **Shinta Cho**



Ages 6+

230 x 200 mm

64 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591062876

Rights sold: Korea

An easygoing pig and a restless, meddlesome rabbit live happily together in a house on the outskirts of Animan, a city where people and animals reside side by side. One morning, Pig is having a pleasant dream about cabbages, his favorite food, when Rabbit wakes him up. Rabbit lectures Pig that if he wants to stand shoulder to shoulder with people, he needs to have highbrow dreams about musical concerts and grand balls and such. That night, Rabbit produces a small box with cords that can be hooked up to each of their beds and says it will let them both have the same dream. The dream they share that night is of a dance being held in a grand palace, but the ballroom is filled with cabbages dancing to music from an orchestra that is also made up of cabbages. In the morning, Rabbit glares at Pig with disapproval.

So Pig suggests that the next night they should share Rabbit's dream. This puts Rabbit on the spot: he's been dreaming about carrots night after night. He goes to see Dr. Fox and gets some medicine that is supposed to produce dreams about finding treasure. That night, Pig and Rabbit go to sleep with the box hooked up to their beds again. In Rabbit's dream, the two arrive on Treasure Island and follow their map to the location of a treasure chest. When they open the chest, it is filled to the brim with sparkling, shiny carrots.

Rabbit is so embarrassed when he wakes up in the morning that he decides he must simply leave. At the gate he turns back to look at the house, and sadly thinks of how much he will miss Pig. But Pig is already waiting outside with a rucksack on his back, saying he will go with Rabbit on his journey. He has filled the rucksack chock full of cabbages and carrots for them to enjoy along the way.



## About the Author

Tadashi Ozawa (1937–2008) was known for slipping surprisingly weighty themes into otherwise light and humorous stories. Among his many works are *Wake Up, Toragoro* and *The Easygoing Pig and the Restless Rabbit*.

Shinta Cho (1927–2005) received an honorable mention in the Hans Christian Andersen Awards for *The Talkative Omelet*. Among his many other honors are the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize for *Cabbage Boy* in 1981, for *Upside-Down Lion* in 1986, and for *I Cried* in 2005. In recognition of his body of work as an artist and illustrator, he was decorated with Japan's Medal with Purple Ribbon in 1994.

# The Tanuki Aesop

Text by **Tadashi Ozawa**

Illus. by **Maki Sasaki**



Ages 6+

230 x 200 mm

64 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591062906

Rights sold:

A tanuki racoon dog has made up three Aesopian stories, complete with his own humorous morals, and shares his tales with a man who comes to visit him. The first is Little Pig and Rabbit Go Hiking.

Little Pig and Rabbit get lost while hiking across the countryside. They spread their map open between them, but cannot figure out where they are. As they wander around in circles they begin to wonder if their excursion is only a dream in which they are really searching for themselves. Tanuki concludes: “Better to have no map at all, if you don’t know how to read it.”

Next comes Five Little Pigs and a Little Pig Bomb. A wolf moves in next to the house where five little pigs live. Since they don’t want to be eaten, the pigs decide they’d better find out whether he’s a good wolf or a bad wolf. They ask the fox to create a fake little pig for them—one with a bomb in its belly, set to go off if the wolf takes a chomp—and they send the fake pig to call on the wolf. The pig returns to tell them that the wolf is a good wolf, and the delighted pigs all join hands and dance in a circle. But when their dance is over, they realize they no longer know which one of them is the fake pig with the bomb! Tanuki’s moral: “No matter how you look at it, foxes are trouble.”

The last tale is The Little Bunny Who Hid Too Well. One day when Papa Rabbit has to go to work and Mama Rabbit also needs to step out, they leave their seven little bunnies at home by themselves. Before going, they warn the little ones that a wolf could show up at the door in disguise, so they are not to open the door to anyone. After both Papa and Mama are gone, a hen, a mouse, and a lizard come calling, but the bunnies refuse to let any of them in. When Papa comes home, the door won’t open, so he breaks it down to get inside. The children are nowhere to be seen. Then Mama comes home. When she calls out to them, the little bunnies begin to emerge from various hiding places around the house. But one of them remains missing no matter how hard everybody searches! Tanuki says: “Those who hide too well might want to think twice!” Then he promptly falls into a deep, snoring slumber.

## About the Author

Tadashi Ozawa (1937–2008) was known for slipping surprisingly weighty themes into otherwise light and humorous stories. Among his many works are *Wake Up, Toragoro* and *The Easygoing Pig and the Restless Rabbit*.

Maki Sasaki (1946–) works as a manga artist, picture-book author, and illustrator. Among his best-known works are the titles in the “Monsieur Meunier” series and the “Very Sleepy Mouse” series. His works are noted for the highly distinctive worlds and characters they present, drawn with firm, steady lines.





# Read Me a Story

Text by **Kyoko Hara**

Illus. by **Kazue Takahashi**



Ages 6+

204 x 154 mm

80 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591129005

Rights sold: Taiwan

Through her interactions with some animals in the woods, a little girl sees good come out of something she does, and gains new self-confidence and maturity in the process.

First-grader Yuka loves to have her mother read to her. But these days, ever since Yuka got a new baby brother, Mama's always too busy. Yuka asks the grandma next door and an older girl across the street to read to her, but they don't seem to have time for her either. So she gets a book and walks into the nearby woods, where she begins reading aloud to herself. Though she was never especially fond of her own voice, here among the trees she's surprised to discover that it has a nice ring to it. As she reads on, wrapped up in the sound of her voice and the story, some animals begin to gather around her—a squirrel, a pheasant, a rabbit, a cat, a monkey, a fox, a tanuki, a dog, a wolf, a boar, and a bear. At their request, she reads another, then another, enjoying herself more with each story.

One Saturday as autumn is nearing an end, Yuka takes a book into the woods and reads to the animals again, but this time they ask her for a story in which they appear. After thinking about it for a week, the following Saturday she reads them an adaptation of *The Musicians of Bremen*, in which she has included each member of her audience. The animals are delighted.

Rumors begin to circulate around town that the woods will be cut down to make way for a condominium, but then a short while later the project is canceled. It seems that the animals joined forces to scare the workers away—much as the Bremen musicians sent the robbers running. Yuka's adaptation of the story has ended up serving a real purpose. Yuka can hardly wait for the animals to come out of hibernation in the spring.

## About the Author

Kyoko Hara was born in Tokyo and graduated from Wakō University with a degree in art. In 1978 she won the Children's Literature Prize in the Kodansha Famous Schools Contest. Among her many titles are *Haru ni aeta yo* (*We Met Spring*), *Nē, ohanashi kikasete* (*Read Me a Story*), the *Kuma no Beāru to chiisana Tatan* (*Kuma the Bear and Tiny Tatan*) series, and the *Ishishi to Noshishi no suppoko peppoko henteko banashi* (*Ishishi and Noshishi's Tall Tales*) series.

Kazue Takahashi (1971–) was born in Kanagawa Prefecture and graduated from Tokyo Gakugei University. She made her debut as a picture-book author with *Kumakuma-chan* (*Kuma-Kuma-chan the Little Bear*) in 2001, and also works as an illustrator for other authors. Her picture books include *Nyāko-chan* (*Nyāko the Cat*), *Risu denwa* (*The Squirrel Telephone System*), *Kuma no ko no toshikoshi* (*Little Bear Sees In the New Year*), and *Ame no hi no Kuma-chan* (*Rainy Day Bear*). Titles she has illustrated include *Nē, ohanashi kikasete* (*Tell Me a Story*; text by Kyoko Hara) and *Dareka-san no kaban* (*Somebody's Canvas Bag*; story by Miyako Moriyama).

# Where are you going, Little Bear?

Text by **Miyako Moriyama**

Illus. by **Kazue Takahashi**



Ages 6+

218 x 154 mm

71 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591083291

Rights sold:

One sunny day, Little Bear decides to go see a tree far away from his house because no one has been there before. Little Pig wants to join him, but Little Bear says, “You’re too small to walk all the way there.” Little Bear starts out walking by himself, but when he turns around, Little Pig is still looking at him and waving his hands.

When Little Bear gets to the tree, he sees an old gentleman, Grandpa Rabbit, talking to someone in a garden. But Little Bear doesn’t see anyone there, and soon finds out that Grandpa Rabbit is in fact talking to the flowers. Seeing how the old gentleman cares for the flowers gives Little Bear a good feeling, and he asks Grandpa Rabbit if he can bring his friend next time.

On his way back home, Little Bear sees Little Pig and tells him about the great place he visited, saying, “Next time let’s go there together with our friends.” “But I don’t think I can walk that far,” says Little Pig. Little Bear hoists Little Pig on his shoulders and says, “Then I’ll carry you piggyback, like this!”

The story lovingly depicts how people come to care about each other, and how meeting other people helps children grow.



## About the Author

Miyako Moriyama (1929–) is known for her rhythmical writing style and for stories featuring human-like animals. Her works include the “Little Fox” series, which won the Robo-no-Ishi Young Readers Award in 1989, and *Travels of Oira the Copy-Cat*, winner of the Noma Prize for Children’s Literature in 1996, and *Hana and Her Friends in the Temple School*, which won the Akaitori Award in 2009.

Kazue Takahashi (1971–) made her debut as a picture-book author with *Kuma-Kuma-chan the Little Bear* in 2001, and also works as an illustrator for other authors. Her picture books include *Nyako the Cat*, *The Squirrel Telephone System*, *Little Bear Sees In the New Year*, and *Rainy Day Bear*.

# Adorable Kitten Needs Loving Home

Text by Wakako Nariyuki

Illus. by Mako Taruishi



Ages 6+

204 x 153 mm

71 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591099384

Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan

On her way home from school one day, Chii-chan finds a kitten in a cardboard box trembling in fear at the crows that are threatening it. She screws up her courage and chases the crows away, then carries the box home. But her family lives in an apartment where pets aren't allowed. "I'm sorry," her mother tells her after taking the kitten to be examined by a vet. Since she can't keep it herself, Chii-chan decides to look for someone at school who can. But none of her friends are willing to take it. When the kitten mews, it sounds to Chii-chan almost as if it's calling to her, "Chii, Chii," and it pulls on her heartstrings. Refusing to give up, she draws up a flier to post on telephone poles and hand out to people—the cover art of the Japanese edition is this flier—but day after day goes by with no response.

The kitten is growing, and its voice is, too. Soon neighbors begin to complain, and the landlord says he'll give them one more week to find a home for the kitten, but after that it'll have to go to the shelter. Chii-chan knows what happens to kittens that go to the shelter. She tries harder than before to find a home for the kitten, persisting in her efforts even when the other kids at school make fun of her, but the fateful day arrives and she still has no taker. She picks the cat up and dashes out of the house without knowing where to go or what she can do . . . Then the school nurse stops her and says she's found someone who'll take the kitten. Chii-chan is both relieved and sad when she gives the kitten to its new caretaker.

Through the figure of a little girl who does everything she can to save an abandoned cat, the story speaks to the immeasurable value of life.



## About the Author

Wakako Nariyuki (1954–) branched out into picture books and stories for children after first establishing herself as a manga artist. Her titles include *Chiwao the Chihuahua*, *Adorable Kitten Needs Loving Home*, *Hanako: The Kitten I Adopted on August 7, I Know! I'll Write a Letter!*, and others.

Mako Taruishi (1952–) graduated from Tama Art University and worked as a designer at a company before becoming a freelance illustrator and picture-book author. Her picture books include *One Day before Winter*, *Hot Hot Hot*, and *Lion and Me*.

# Becoming Friends

Text by **Ippei Mogami**

Illus. by **Akiko Miyakoshi**



Ages 6+

204 x 153 mm

80 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591131640

Rights sold:

This story of two little girls who slowly but surely get to be friends sends the message that it's okay to take your time when you start a new friendship.

Sato, the main character, is a shy, quiet girl. In the seat next to her at school is Juju, who is lively and outgoing. Although they are opposites in personality, they begin to get to know each other. Little by little, as they share secrets, walk together in the rain, and look up at the stars together, they become better and better friends.

Then Sato goes to Juju's house for the first time. Juju lives alone with her mother. "Mommy and I came from the Happy Planet to look for happiness on Earth," she tells Sato. She takes an old, broken music box from her box of treasures and gives it to Sato to keep. "Even though it's broken," she says, "people like us can hear it playing Träumerei."

A number of days later, Juju asks Sato to help her find a good luck charm. It's for her mother, she says, because she's scheduled to take a certification exam. When they fail to find a shrine nearby that has talismans for sale, they choose a pretty white stone on the grounds of a shrine to use as a charm instead.

That night, Sato takes the broken music box in her hand and says a little prayer for Juju's mother to pass her exam, and at that moment, for the first time, she thinks she can hear the music box playing Träumerei . . .



## About the Author

Ippei Mogami (1957–) won the JAWC New Talent Award in 1985 for *The Silver Rabbit*, and both the JAWC Award and Niimi Nankichi Children's Literature Award in 2001 for *The Fox of Mt. Nukui*. His other titles include *Becoming Friends*, *Monster Grasshopper*, and *Grow Up in your Own Sweet Time*.

Akiko Miyakoshi (1982–) won the Nissan Children's Storybook and Picture Book Grand Prix for *Typhoon Comes* in 2009, and her *The Tea Party in the Woods* garnered the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize in 2011. Her other works include *Piano Recital* and *Whose Is This?*

# I Know! I'll Write a Letter!

Text by **Wakako Nariyuki**

Illus. by **Satoshi Iriyama**



Ages 6+

216 x 155 mm

79 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591142318

Rights sold:

In this heartwarming tale based on the author's own experience, Aya enters the first grade. At the welcoming ceremony on the first day of school, everyone else is chattering away, catching up with each other. But Aya has no friends because she missed most of kindergarten to be with her father, who was slowly dying in the hospital. As the experience has left her unsure of how to play or interact with children her age, she becomes increasingly isolated, and they regard her as a misfit.

Aya's teacher, Mr. Koyama, reminds her of the father she lost. It is he who teaches her how to be friends with her peers. Instead of scolding the other children or trying to change Aya's behavior, Mr. Koyama simply seeks to give Aya a place in the class where she can feel at home. Since she loves to draw, he spends time with her on her drawing. By talking to him about what she is drawing, she begins to shed some of her stiffness.

One day when her classmates are mean to her and she bursts into tears, Mr. Koyama asks her to draw on the blackboard in front of the class. Although she's very tentative at first, once she gets started, she can feel her classmates' interest growing, and the atmosphere in the room completely changes as everyone is enthralled by Aya's work. The next day a girl comes to Aya and asks her to draw something for her in her notebook.

When the new term begins after summer vacation, Mr. Koyama must quit his job and return to his hometown. He tells Aya to write at any time—just as if she were writing to her father in heaven. After he is gone, simply knowing that she can write to him gives her strength when she is feeling lonely. Then at the end of the story, she wins an award for a poster she draws, and says, "I know! I'll write a letter!" In the end, this book itself seems like something she may have written.



## About the Author

Wakako Nariyuki (1954–) branched out into picture books and stories for children after first establishing herself as a manga artist. Her titles include *Chiwao the Chihuahua*, *Adorable Kitten Needs Loving Home*, *Hanako: The Kitten I Adopted on August 7*, *I Know! I'll Write a Letter!*, and others.

Satoshi Iriyama (1958–) worked as a greeting-card artist and character designer before becoming an illustrator and picture-book author. Including such titles as *Where's Your Mother?*, *Piyo?* and *Piyo Plays Hide-and-Seek*, the many volumes in his *Piyo-chan* series have sold a combined total of over 1.7 million copies.

# Jump, Jump, and Another Jump!

Text by **Miyako Moriyama**

Illus. by **Ken Kuroi**



Ages 6+

216 x 155 mm

71 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591140123

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

One evening, Little Bear begins jumping rope under the tree where Grandpa Squirrel lives. No matter how hard he tries, he can never jump more than five times in a row without tripping up. He comes back the next evening to do it again, and each evening after that, until finally, after much practice, he succeeds in jumping ten times in a row. Little Bear shouts “Ten!” and without even thinking, Grandpa Squirrel calls out, “You did it! Good for you!” But Little Bear thinks it is the tree that spoke.

After that, Grandpa Squirrel takes to talking to Little Bear as if he is the tree, but then one day he catches a cold and loses his voice. An owl who comes to look in on him reveals to Little Bear that a squirrel lives in the tree, and that the voice he has been hearing, talking to him and cheering him on, belongs to that squirrel, not the tree. Little Bear looks up at the tree and dejectedly turns toward home. Watching him go, Grandpa Squirrel feels awful for having deceived Little Bear, and he decides to leave his home to find a new place to live the next morning. But then Little Bear comes back and looks up into the tree again. “Get well soon, Grandpa Squirrel,” he says. “So you can watch me jump rope again.” Little Bear gives the tree a great big hug and turns homeward once more, waving goodbye as he disappears into the darkness.



## About the Author

Miyako Moriyama (1929–) is known for her rhythmical writing style and for stories featuring human-like animals. Her works include the “Little Fox” series, which won the Robo-no-Ishi Young Readers Award in 1989, and *Travels of Oira the Copy-Cat*, winner of the Noma Prize for Children’s Literature in 1996, and *Hana and Her Friends in the Temple School*, which won the Akaitori Award in 2009.

Ken Kuroi (1947–) worked as a children’s book editor with a major publisher before turning freelance as an illustrator. In 1983 he was awarded the Sanrio Art Prize for a series of illustrations he produced for the magazine *Poems and Märchen*. Picture books he has illustrated include *Gon the Fox and Buying Mittens* by Nankichi Niimi; *Mother’s Eyes* and *Willow Street in Amano* by Kimiko Aman; and *Night Boat* by Haruo Yamashita. He has also published many art collections, including *Mississippi*, *Monaural*, and *Cloud Signals*.

# Little Miss Apple

Text by **Eiko Kadono**

Illus. by **Kuniko Nagasaki**



Ages 6+

218 x 154 mm

63 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591077757

Rights sold: Taiwan

One day Mai receives a present from her grandma of a great number of apples and a handmade stuffed doll named Little Miss Apple. But Little Miss Apple has an angry look on her face, and Mai doesn't like her. When Mai's friend Haru comes over to play, though, Little Miss Apple's scowl disappears and is replaced with a happy, smiling face. This angers Mai, and she shuts Little Miss Apple up in a closet. When Mai gets up in the middle of the night and goes to check on her, she finds Little Miss Apple chomping away at the apples Grandma had sent. Mai tries to stop her, but Little Miss Apple starts making all sorts of demands. "If I don't do as she says, there'll be trouble," worries Mai. "If you don't treat me better, I'll put a curse on you," threatens Little Miss Apple. Will Mai and this, the world's most self-centered doll, ever become friends? Defying readers' expectations at every turn, the story moves in unpredictable and entertaining ways toward its conclusion, in which Little Miss Apple smiles a smile to end all smiles. The author further snares the attention of young readers with mildly horror-story-like episodes, a far cry from the cheery moralism of conventional tales about good little girls and boys. The underlying theme of this masterpiece of children's literature is how friendships are formed, as well as the diverse realities that make up a child's world, from imitative play to the pleasures of fantasy.



## About the Author

Eiko Kadono (1935–) was born in Tokyo. She moved to Brazil for two years when she was 25, and wrote her maiden work, *Ruijinnyo shōnen, Burajiru o tazunete* (Brazil and My Friend Luizinho), a nonfictional story about a boy who loves to dance the samba, based on her experiences there. Seven years after its release she began writing and publishing children's stories. Among the many accolades she has received are the Robō-no-Ishi Literary Award in 1984 for *Watashi no mama wa Shizuka-san* (My Mama is Shizuka) and *Zubon senchō-san no hanashi* (Tales of an Old Sea Captain). She won the Noma Prize for Children's Literature, the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award, and a place on the IBBY Honor List in 1985 for *Majo no takkyūbin* (tr. *Kiki's Delivery Service*), which was adapted into a wildly popular animated film by renowned director Hayao Miyazaki.

Kuniko Nagasaki (1970–) is a native of Tokyo. Since graduating from Tama Art University's Department of Textile Design she has worked as a freelance illustrator of magazines, books, and advertising. In addition to illustrating such works as *Kanemochi tō-san binbō tō-san* (Rich Daddy, Poor Daddy) and *Chiizu wa doko ni kieta?* (Where'd the Cheese Go?), she has published collections of her pictures, including *Nagasaki Kuniko no shishū no hon* (Kuniko Nagasaki's Embroidery Book) and *Daydream Nation*. She has also illustrated many picture books, among them *Panda no Ponpon* (Ponpon the Panda) and *Shōto torippu* (A Short Trip). She is known for her bold compositions and charming characters. Her style makes ample use of her design skills, and her work in various genres is highly regarded.

# Africa, it's Secret but True

Text by **Fumiko Takeshita**

Illus. by **Jun Takabatake**



The book has five joyful stories about animals in Africa: an alligator who likes bananas, a lion who hates brushing his teeth, a zebra who has lost his tail, a snake whose body is too long, and an elephant who is good at skipping. Each story is short and easy to read, so children can enjoy these humorous and charming stories by themselves.

Ages 6+

218 x 154 mm

79 pages

Hardcover

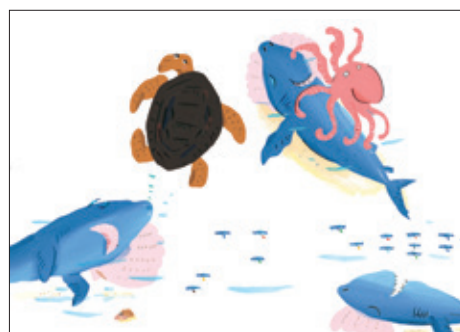
ISBN 978-4591078723

Rights sold: China and Taiwan



# The Sea, it's Secret but True

The book has five happy stories about fish in the sea: a shark, which sleeps late in the morning; a dolphin, which is bad at singing; a hasty flying fish; a shy wolffish; and a mischievous prawn.



## About the Author

Fumiko Takeshita, born in 1957, has won several awards, including the Japan Picture Book Award for “Mugiwaboshi.”

Jun Takabatake, born in 1948, won the Bologna Children’s Book Fair Graphic Award for “Dare no Jitensha.” He also received the Japan Picture Book Award for “O Suppa” and the Kodansha Publishing Award for Picture Books for “Futari no Namakemono.”



# Playing Ice Cream?

Text by **Yukiko Ninomiya**

Illus. by **Kae Nishimura**



Ages 6+  
 218 x 154 mm  
 79 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591078273  
 Rights sold:

Mary the Hen comes home to find a hippopotamus soaking in her bathtub. When she asks what he's doing there, the hippo says he's playing zoo; he came here because the tub in his own house is too big to feel like a pen in a zoo. Mary starts down the hall and finds two baby bunnies stretched out on the floor. When she asks them what they're doing there, they say they're playing slippers; at their own home, there are too many other baby bunnies running around to tell if they're playing the same game or not. In this way, the author draws the reader into a strange world that just keeps getting stranger.

Mary opens the refrigerator and finds a green clothes hanger inside. When she asks what it's doing there, it says it's playing ice cream. "But ice cream needs to be in the freezer, not the refrigerator," counters Mary. "I don't like it too cold, so I'm in the refrigerator pretending to be ice cream that's just starting to melt," explains the hanger. Led from one thing playing this to another thing playing that, the reader has no choice but to give up any normal notion of order and simply go with the flow. When Mary returns the shivering hanger to the wardrobe, she finds a fancily decorated cake there, feeling sorry for itself because it wants to try being a hanger, but has no way to hang . . . (Hico Tanaka)



## About the Author

Yukiko Ninomiya (1955–) was born in Osaka. A specialist in nonsense tales, she draws readers into her whimsical world with the distinctive rhythms of her prose. Her way of carrying logic to an extreme in order to highlight some inherent strangeness in things bears a resemblance to Lewis Carroll; there are also Kafkaesque elements in her work, as when a character's sense of self is compromised and his or her confidence shaken. Ninomiya received the Akaitori Award for Children's Literature in 2000 for her *Harinezumi no Purupuru* (*Purupuru the Hedgehog*) series. Her *Kirai* (Ick!) was nominated for the 2005 IBBY awards. In 2011 she received the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize for *Monosugoku okina purin no ue de* (*On Top of a Really Humongous Custard Pudding*). She is also active as a translator.

Kae Nishimura studied at art schools in Ireland and the United States after completing a humanities degree at International Christian University in Tokyo, then began working as an illustrator while living in Brooklyn. She has also written and published picture books of her own, including *Monoshiri Goromaru* (*Clever Goromaru*), *Haru ni umareru kodomo* (*Baby Comes in the Spring*), and *Manmaru neko Daina*. The last of these was published in English as *Dinah! A Cat Adventure* by Clarion Books in 2004.

# Maru the Snowman

Text by **Yukiko Ninomiya**

Illus. by **Yoji Watanabe**



Ages 6+

210 x 154 mm

67 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591070215

Rights sold:

Maru is the baby in a family of five, which includes his father, his mother, and an older sister and brother. Being the baby also means he's the biggest. Why? Because Maru's family are snowpeople, who melt and grow smaller as they get older! This means Maru's father is the smallest member of the family, and that Maru can hardly wait to "grow up" to be small. Lots of things are different like this in the snowpeoples' world. Healthy meals are made of ice cream, and pancakes are only for dessert. The piping-hot cakes are not so healthy, so Father and Mother don't eat them at all anymore. Maru doesn't listen to his mother, and runs off to play outside. He goes skiing and skating with the animals of the forest, and every time he falls down, more snow and ice sticks to him, making him even bigger. How will he ever grow smaller this way?

The give-and-take among members of Maru's family mirrors the kinds of things that happen in any home, bringing smiles of recognition to young readers' faces. They can identify with Maru and feel his disappointments, worries, and joys right along with him. Even if they've never imagined what life would be like for a snowman, they can't help feeling it would surely be just like this.

The success of this book led to a series of sequels, and there are now three additional volumes featuring the same central character: *Maru no kakurenbo* (Maru Plays Hide-and-Seek), *Maru to maigo no Santa Kurosu* (Maru and the Lost Santa), and *Maru to Shi-chan* (Maru and His Cousin Shi). (Sachiyo Hosoe)



## About the Author

Yukiko Ninomiya (1955–) was born in Osaka. A specialist in nonsense tales, she draws readers into her whimsical world with the distinctive rhythms of her prose. Her way of carrying logic to an extreme in order to highlight some inherent strangeness in things bears a resemblance to Lewis Carroll; there are also Kafkaesque elements in her work, as when a character's sense of self is compromised and his or her confidence shaken. Ninomiya received the Akaitori Award for Children's Literature in 2000 for her *Harinezumi no Purupuru* (Purupuru the Hedgehog) series. Her *Kirai* (Ick!) was nominated for the 2005 IBBY awards. In 2011 she received the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize for *Monosugoku okina purin no ue de* (On Top of a Really Humongous Custard Pudding). She is also active as a translator.

Yoji Watanabe (1943–) was born in Tokyo. He received Japan Picture Book Awards as an illustrator for *Yai Tokage* (Yo, Lizard!; story by Yasuko Funazaki) in 1984, and for *Ponpon-yama no tsuki* (Moon Over Mt. Ponpon; story by Kimiko Aman) in 1986. In 1998 he won the Akaitori Award for Illustration for *Arumajiro no shippo* (The Armadillo's Tail; story by Johko Iwase). His drawings are loved for their humor and pathos.

# Little Minami and Mini Minami

Text by **Mutsumi Ishii**

Illus. by **Nami Yoshida**



Ages 8+

209 x 154 mm

111 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591087190

Rights sold: Taiwan

This endearing fantasy springs from a sympathetic understanding of the subtle psychological ripples in a small child's life.

Little Minami has a new baby brother, and Mother is too busy now to play with her the way she used to. So she opens her sketchbook and begins drawing a picture of herself, only to hear a voice suddenly emerge from the page. Her drawing is speaking to her, and quite forwardly at that, saying flatly that it doesn't like pink clothes, and telling her to do this or do that. "But I thought you were me," says Little Minami. "No, I'm Mini Minami," it retorts, "I'm not you at all," and shows itself to be very fussy about clothes. But the two quickly become friends, as Little Minami draws lots of different clothes in her sketchbook and they play "dressmaker's shop" together.

Mini Minami looks unhappy when Little Minami gets ready to eat a custard pudding at snacktime, so she draws one in the sketchbook for her imaginary friend. Then Mini Minami asks her to draw a plate and spoon, too. Little Minami finishes her pudding and looks back at her sketchbook to discover the plate and spoon still there but the snack all gone . . .

Little Minami's loneliness is dispelled with a warm and heartening glow in this marvelously charming story. (Akira Nogami)



## About the Author

Mutsumi Ishii (1957–) won the Niimi Nankichi Children's Literary Award in 1990 for her short-story collection *Gogatsu no hajime, Nichiyōbi no asa* (A Sunday Morning in Early May), and the Asahi Award for New Writers in 2003 for the novel *Pasukaru no koi* (Pascal's Love), published under her pen name Ren Komai. *Sara to kami hikōki* (Plates and Paper Airplanes) won the 2011 JAWC Award. She has also translated many picture books, receiving the Sankei Children's Book Award in 2006 for her translation of Sarah McMenemy's book *Jack's New Boat*. Her works appeal to a broad audience ranging from preschoolers, such as her Little Violet series, to young adults, particularly young women. Some of her stories, such as *Shiroy tsuki kiroy tsuki* (White Moon Yellow Moon), have a surrealistic tinge reminiscent of Haruki Murakami.

# The Bum Detective: Lady Purple and the Secret Code

## Troll



Ages 6+  
216 x 155 mm  
88 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591146187  
Rights sold: China, Korea,  
Taiwan and Vietnam

The Bum Detective series so popular among the picture-book set now has a companion in this illustrated chapter-book series targeted at elementary-age children. This is the first volume in the series and contains two all-new stories.

In the title work, the Bum Detective is in his office reading the newspaper during tea time, and an article about a serial burglar wanted by the police has just caught his eye when a woman dressed from head to toe in purple comes in the door. She needs him to decode a message she recently discovered at the back of her safe, she says. It was apparently placed there by her ancestors on the farm that has long been in the family, and she is convinced it will lead her to treasure if she can break the code. The detective thinks she must be the woman people call “Lady Purple” mentioned in another article in that day’s paper—the owner of a sweet potato farm who loves to dress in purple. Although he senses something suspicious about her, he works with her to solve a number of different puzzles, and in the end succeeds in learning the location of the treasure as well as his client’s true identity: though disguised as Lady Purple, this is actually the male burglar the detective had read about in the paper.

In the second story, *Oyatsu dorobō wa dare da?* (Who Stole the Custard?), the Bum Detective hears the sound of breaking glass coming from inside as he arrives back at his office from a shopping trip. When he enters, his assistant, Brown, tells him a burglar has just fled out the broken window with the egg custard that was supposed to be their snack. The detective then notices that his favorite teacup is also missing. The burglar must have taken that as well, suggests Brown, but in the face of the detective’s systematic investigation of the evidence and sharp-witted questioning, ultimately admits the truth: he had inadvertently broken the teacup and the window himself, and had quickly hidden the pudding in order to make it look like there had been a burglary.



Vol.2



Vol.3



Vol.4

Integrated into the stories at various points are a variety of games for readers to enjoy as they make their way through the book—mazes, hidden pictures, “What’s wrong with this picture?” and others.

### About the Author

Troll is a team consisting of writer Yoko Tanaka (1976–) and illustrator Masahide Fukasawa (1981–). Together they produce picture books, illustrations, and application graphics for the iPhone, iPad, and Android. Their first picture book, *The Bum Detective*, has expanded into a four-volume series.

# The Incredible Zorori series

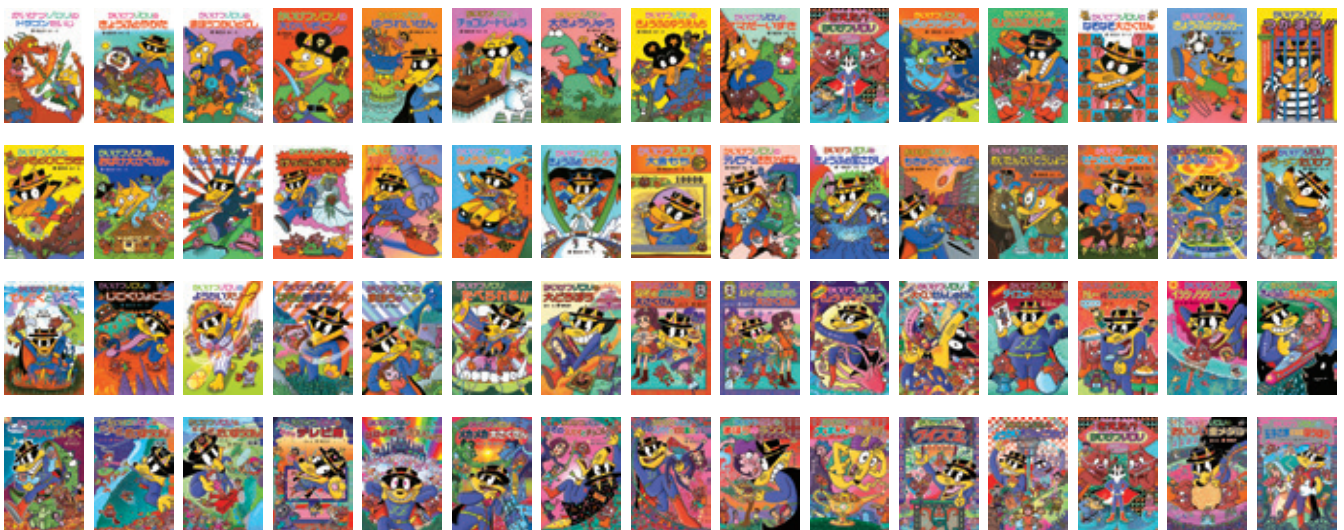
Yutaka Hara



Ages 6+  
 218 x 155 mm  
 103 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591126820  
 Rights sold: China, Korea,  
 Hong Kong and Taiwan

In this best-selling children's book series, Zorori, a male fox, and his two henchmen, the twin boars Ishishi and Noshishi, become entangled in an endless variety of incidents in which they mess things up, or look out only for themselves, yet somehow or other wind up being the heroes who help the weak. Illustrations appear on every page and are sometimes broken up into cartoon-style boxes. At the end of 2011 the series numbered 50 volumes, from *Kaiketsu Zorori no doragon taiji* (The Incredible Zorori Fights the Dragon), published in 1987, to the most recent *Kaiketsu Zorori: hanayome to Zorori-jo* (The Incredible Zorori: The Bride and the Castle), released in 2011. Combined sales of all volumes have reached 13.5 million copies.

In one story the characters travel through Hell, while in others they might encounter a ghost, embark on a treasure hunt, or continue Zorori's pursuit of Princess Elzie, with each volume exploring something new. Beyond the likeable characters, an abundance of wordplay and jokes, as well as mazes and puzzles to solve along the way, make for books that are filled with fun from cover to cover. Sales are furthered by the extras that come as inserts, such as the *Zorori Times* newspaper and cutout figures and games. An anime adaptation of the series aired in 2004. (Akira Nogami)



**About the Author** ◀ \* \* \* \* \*

Yutaka Hara (1953–), born in Kumamoto Prefecture, made his debut as an illustrator at the age of 20. In 1974 he won the Children's Literature Prize in the Kodansha Famous Schools Contest. The character Zorori originally appeared as the villain in the *Horenso-man* (Spinach Man) series, written by Shiho Mizushima and drawn by Hara from March 1985 to June 1987, before becoming the main character in his own series from 1987 onward. In 2008, an exhibition titled "Fun with the Incredible Zorori: Yutaka Hara and the Zorori Crew" opened at the Kamakura Museum of Literature and later toured museums in Sendai and Himeji.

# Oof, the Bear Cub

Text by **Toshiko Kanzawa**

Illus. by **Yosuke Inoue**



This collection of nine stories centers on the bear cub Oof and his animal friends. His name derives from his favorite word, “Oof.” He’s a playful cub who’s fond of eating, licking, and musing over all sorts of interesting things.

In *Is Oof Made of Pee?*, Oof considers hens who lay eggs every day, and concludes with a bit of a swagger, “They’re made of eggs!” When Little Fox retorts, “In that case, since all you ever produce is pee, you must be made of pee!” they get into a fight. It gets Oof to thinking about what he could be made of. When Oof falls down and feels the pain, he cries and sheds tears, and when he rolls over the ground and enjoys it, he realizes; it’s Oof that do that, not pee.

Ages 6+  
 216 x 176 mm  
 135 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591069479  
 Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan

In *Why Does This One Butterfly Make Oof Cry?*, Oof is oblivious when other insects die, but when a butterfly that wanders into his room dies, he breaks down in tears; the story is about the preciousness of life. *Is One Bear Worth a Hundred Mice?* makes readers think about how different kinds of living things can coexist. While young readers are entertained by the interactions between Oof and the other animals, parents are struck by how deep some of Oof’s questions go, giving the book an appeal across generations.



Hello, Oof!



Oof, Little Fox and Little Bunny



## About the Author

Toshiko Kanzawa (1924–) brings her background to stories that are rooted in the culture of the north, or that draw from her own childhood spent close to nature. She has published poetry, nursery songs, picture books, nursery tales, novels, and essays. She won many awards, including the Noma Children’s Literature Award.

Yosuke Inoue(1931–) produces original paintings and prints as well as illustrating children’s books and creating picture books of his own, His solo titles include the picture books *Around the Corner* and *Wacky Rail Rides* (winner of the 2000 Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize.) He is loved for his humorous and warmhearted drawings.

# Rila the Little Gorilla

Text by **Toshiko Kanzawa**  
 Illus. by **Hiroshi Abe**



Rila the Little Gorilla loves her father. He is a big gorilla and makes nice sounds by pounding his mighty chest. Rila pounds her chest, but Mako the Parrot teases her, saying “you sound very different from your father.” She gets upset and climbs a tree to run after Mako. Getting on the tree, Rila finds delicious-looking nuts on its branch.

When her father comes, Rila asks him to climb the tree so they can have the nuts together. But he is too heavy for the tree, so Rila drops some nuts for him. And she says, “I’ll drop something nicer” and jumps down into his arms! The story depicts precious moments in daily lives and a warm family relationship.

Ages 6+  
 218 x 154 mm  
 79 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591078075  
 Rights sold:



## About the Author

Toshiko Kanzawa, born in 1924, won the Noma Children’s Literature Award for “Inai inai baya,” the Sankei Children’s Book Award for “Taran no Hakucho,” and the Shogakukan Children’s Publication Culture Award for “Shikayo Oreno Kyodaiyo.” Her books have been read for decades in Japan.

Hiroshi Abe, born in 1948, won the Shogakukan Children’s Literature Award for “Gorilla Nikki.” Before he started his career as a picture book writer, he worked at a zoo for 25 years.

# Welcome to Dream Shop Series

Text by **Yoko Tomiyasu**  
 Illus. by **Tomoko Hirasawa**



## The Greatest Present in the World

Shiragikumar, a big old cat, is the owner of Dream Shop, where customers can get whatever they want. Dream Shop has the most delicious cake, the most comfortable sofa, a cloak that will make one invisible and many more interesting objects. Only stray cats know the way to the shop, which has two rules: 1.) You can only buy one thing and 2.) The item will cost all of the money you have with you.

Today a young man comes to the shop, looking for “the greatest present.” What will he get there? Readers will enjoy five stories in the book. This is the second in this fantasy series.

Ages 8+  
 205 x 155 mm  
 125 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591135709  
 Right sold: China



## Welcome to Dream Shop!

A boy, who is looking for running shoes, comes to Dream Shop by accident. Shiragikumar, the owner, shows him special shoes, saying the boy will be able to run like a bullet train with these shoes. But there are some conditions. The boy shouldn't give the shoes to anyone, and it'll be effective only for a week. The book has four other stories. This is the first in the series.

### About the Author

Yoko Tomiyasu, born in 1959, has won many awards, including the Noma Children's Literature Award for “Bonmaneki.”

Tomoko Hirasawa, born in 1982, started working as an illustrator after graduating from Musashino Art University. She draws illustrations for fiction.



# Acchi the Little Ghost Series

Text by **Eiko Kadono**

Illus. by **Yoko Sasaki**



## Acchi and Dorara

From the author of “Kiki’s Delivery Service” comes the story of Acchi, a cute little ghost, who is a cook at a restaurant. Acchi goes on the road to think of a new recipe and meets Dorara, Dracula’s granddaughter, on his way. She is cooking ‘Green Caterpillar Gratin,’ which Acchi finds delicious. Acchi asks her how to cook it, but Dorara replies that Acchi should think of a recipe on his own. What kinds of dishes will Acchi make at the end? Children will enjoy a joyful story of friendship, as well as the unique and delicious dishes described in the story.



Ages 6+  
 220 x 151 mm  
 80 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591119501  
 Rights sold: China and Vitnam



## Acchi and Dracula's Soup

Acchi turns down Dorara’s offer to have her cook at his restaurant. Soon after that, the restaurant starts to move back and forth. When Acchi tries to make a soup, vegetables roll around. Some think Dorara might be the one doing this, but Acchi thinks she isn’t because she is his friend. This is the latest title in the series.

### About the Author

Eiko Kadono is the author of “Kiki’s Delivery Service,” on which Hayao Miyazaki, Japan’s best-known animator, made a film by the same name. She won the Noma Children’s Literature Award and the Shogakukan Children’s Publication Culture Award

Yoko Sasaki, born in 1952, writes and illustrates picture books and also draws illustrations for fiction.

Since the first volume was published in 1979, the “Acchi the Little Ghost” series has been popular for decades in Japan. The series started up again with a new character, Dorara, in 2010. Eight volumes have been published so far.



Acchi Makes a Delicious Dish



Acchi and Docchi the Little Brother



Acchi, Bon and Dorara



Acchi and Dorara's Curry



Acchi and the Secret of a Castle



Acchi, Bon and a Mysterious Cook



Socchi and Mysterious Candies



Socchi wants to become older sister



Acchi and Pancake

# A Witch Sends me on an Errand

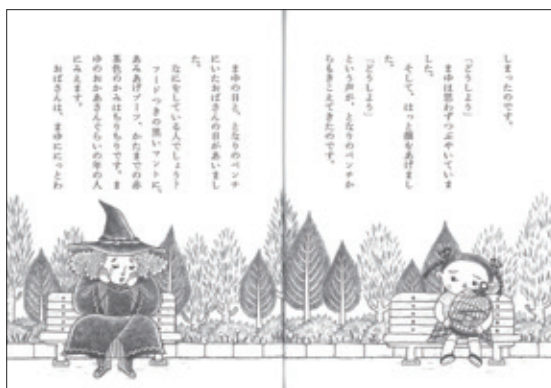
Text by **Sachiko Kashiwaba**  
 Illus. by **Nobuko Tsuchida**



Mayu, a little girl, feels worried in a park because her little bird flew away. She whispers, “What should I do?” At that moment, she hears someone also say, “What should I do?” Mayu sees a lady, who wears a black cloak and a long hat, sitting on the bench next to her. The lady smiles and nods to Mayu, looking at her empty cage. She says, “I’ll catch your bird, so can you do me a favor?”

The lady asks Mayu to go to a shop and say, “she can’t come.” The moment Mayu says it, she is standing in a different world. A gentleman leads Mayu to a room where an old lady is in bed. Mayu and the old lady drink hedgehog peach juice, sing a song with mice and read a huge mysterious book together. The story humorously and warmly describes the interaction between a little girl and a witch.

Ages 8+  
 205 x 153 mm  
 103 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591129302  
 Rights sold: Korea



**About the Author** ◀ \* \* \* \* \*

Sachiko Kashiwaba, born in 1953, won the Sankei Children’s Publication Culture Award twice for “Miracle Family” and “Botansan no Fushigina Mainichi,” and the Shogakukan Children’s Publication Culture Award for “Tuduki no Toshokan.”

Nobuko Tsuchida writes picture books and draws illustrations for fiction.

# The Little Hippopotamus with a Big Mouth

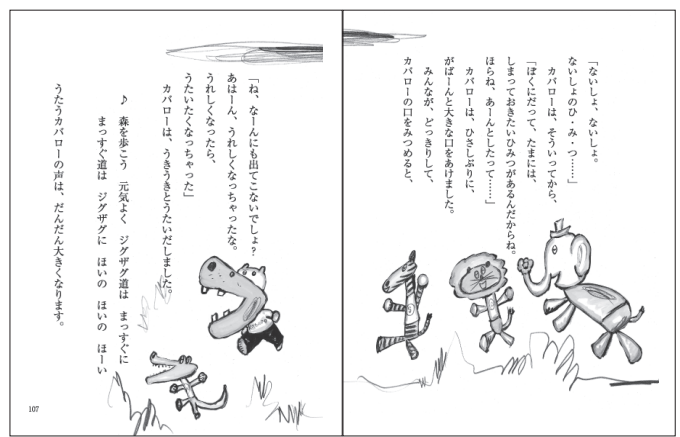
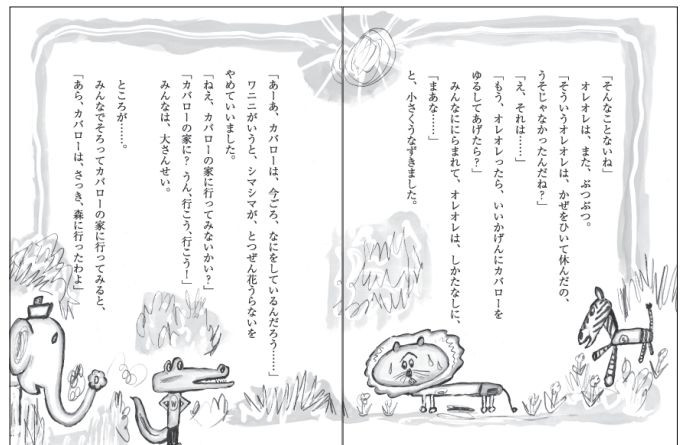
Text by **Kazuyo Toda**  
 Illus. by **Ryoji Arai**



Kabaro the Little Hippopotamus has a big mouth, and he's proud of it. But, he hears someone saying his mouth is so big that he can't keep secrets. He instantly says, "That's not true! Ah, Zibra probably said that. He wet the bed this morning, but he blamed it on his sister. In addition, Lion skipped school, saying he had a cold, but in fact, that was because he didn't do his homework." Ah, he revealed their secrets!

So Kabaro tries, in many ways, not to talk any more. After a while, friends who are worried about Kabaro come to see him and ask him to tell an interesting story—after all, Kabaro loves to talk! With brilliant illustrations by Ryoji Arai, the book delivers a charming story of friendship.

Ages 8+  
 205 x 153 mm  
 112 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591098158  
 Rights sold:



**About the Author** \* \* \* \* \*

Kazuyo Toda won the Japan Children's Literature Association's Newcomer Award for "Nai Nai Neko no Nakushimono."

Ryoji Arai has won several awards, including the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. He is popular in Japan and abroad.

# My Precious Chick

Text by **Miyuki Iso**

Illus. by **Yuki Sasameya**



Ages 8+  
 205 x 153 mm  
 151 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591134665  
 Rights sold:

Hinako, a fourth grader, is asked to write about herself at school, but she doesn't have much to write. She can't think of anything she is good at doing, and she doesn't know what she wants to be in the future. And, her classmates don't seem to care much about her.

One day, Hinako bought a chick at a night market. She loves the chick, which comforts her when she's sad. Hinako tells her classmates about her chick and lets them take turns holding it. The chick looks tired and Haruko, her only friend in the class, says they should stop taking turns holding it, but Hinako ignores her. The chick dies the next day.

Should she keep smiling if she wants to make and stay friends with her classmates? At the end, Hinako courageously says what she really thinks. The book depicts the delicate feelings of a girl who wavers between reality and who she ideally wants to be.



**About the Author** \* \* \* \* \*

Miyuki Iso started writing fiction and picture books after she worked as an artist and dancer.

Yuki Sasameya, a popular illustrator in Japan, has won many awards, including the Japan Picture Book Award for "Ashita Uchi ni Neko ga Kuruno."

# Chocolates and Blue Sky

Text by **Kaoru Horigome**

Illus. by **Rumiko Koizumi**



Ages 8+

194 x 134 mm

175 pages

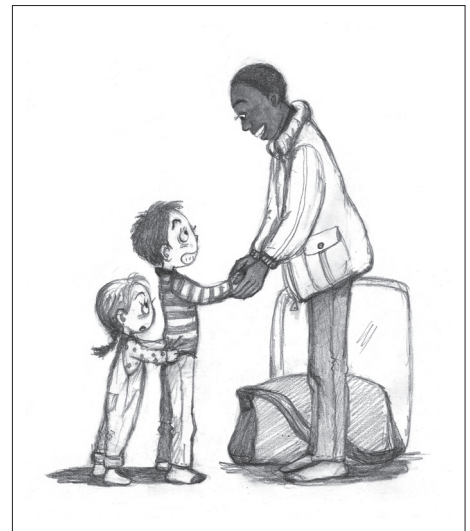
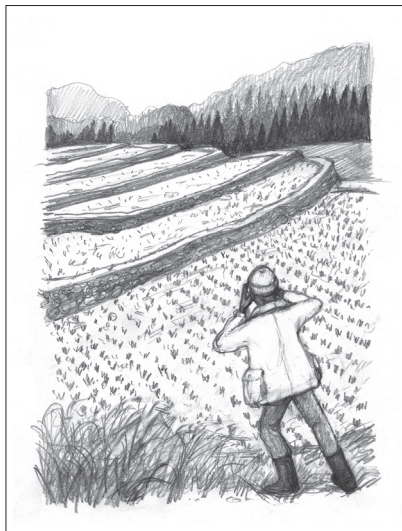
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882644477

Rights sold: Taiwan

Shuji's parents are full-time farmers. His older brother, who gets irritated easily these days, doesn't like farming, so only Shuji is asked to help their parents. One day, Eric comes to their house from Ghana to learn farming. When they have chocolates together, Eric tells Shuji that he never had chocolates until he was an adult even though Ghana produces a lot of cacao—the seed used to produce chocolate. Eric shows Shuji a lot of photos, and Shuji learns that many children in Ghana have to work in cacao fields and can't go to school.

Eric, who is proud of his family and his country, brought about several changes in Shuji's family. His older brother starts smiling again, and his mother buys fair trade chocolates. This is an engaging story of a young boy who starts seeing the world from different perspectives.



## About the Author

Kaoru Horigome, born in 1958, works as a farmer and writes stories about farming.

Rumiko Koizumi, born in 1950, draws illustrations for picture books and fiction.

# Second Day Moon

Text by **Miku Itō**

Illus. by **Yuki Maruyama**



Ages 8+

194 x 134 mm

207 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882645375

Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan

The main character is An, a girl in fourth grade. Her long-awaited little sister has just been born, and Mommy and Daddy named her Mei. In the first family picture of the four of them together, everybody is beaming. But a month after Mei was born, Mommy and Daddy don't seem their usual selves, and her new little sister keeps spitting everything back up after nursing. It seems so serious, she's afraid to ask, but she finally screws up her courage. Her parents tell her that because of something that happened when Mei was being born, the doctor has said she might not live very long, and even if she does, she will probably be disabled.

Unable to keep her mother's milk down, Mei remains thin and small. She is very sickly, and must be rushed to the hospital by ambulance over and over. But each time she achieves something new, the whole family rejoices. Mei keeps trying with everything she has.

Unfortunately, even as the family follows Mei's progress with love, they feel hurt by the doctor continuing to assume in everything he says that Mei will not live long, and by people who respond with pity or annoyance at the sight of a handicapped child. And for An, the worst part is feeling bad for being jealous of Mei, even though she loves her, for all the time and attention she gets from Mommy and Daddy.

The story helps young readers understand and gain empathy for people with disabilities by taking them along on An's journey of learning about her little sister's special challenges. As she learns what the family needs to do to support Mei so she can have the fullest life possible in spite of her handicap, she must also come to terms with her own changing feelings as well as the disturbing attitudes of people around her.

At the end, An and two friends see a sliver of a moon in the sky as they leave school late in the afternoon. When one of her friends comments on the cycles of the moon—how it goes into hiding but always comes back—An inwardly compares it to her own dark periods since her sister was born, and takes reassurance from the moon that even if the dark periods continue, they'll always be followed by returning light.

## About the Author

Miku Itō (year of birth unknown) was born in Kanagawa Prefecture. She is a children's author. In 2013 she won the JAWC New Talent Award for *Itoko no taijūkei* (Itoko's Scales), and in 2015 she took the Japan Juvenile Writers Association Prize for *Sora e* (To the Sky). Her other titles include *Kāchan toriatsukai setsumeisho* (The Mama-Owner's Manual), *Onēchan tte hōnto tsurai!* (It's So Hard Being a Sister!), and *Shafu* (Rickshaw Man).

# A Car the Color of the Sky: The White Hat

Text by **Kimiko Aman**

Illus. by **Takushi Kitada**



Ages 8+

126 x 176 mm

128 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591064429

Rights sold: China



A Passenger in Spring



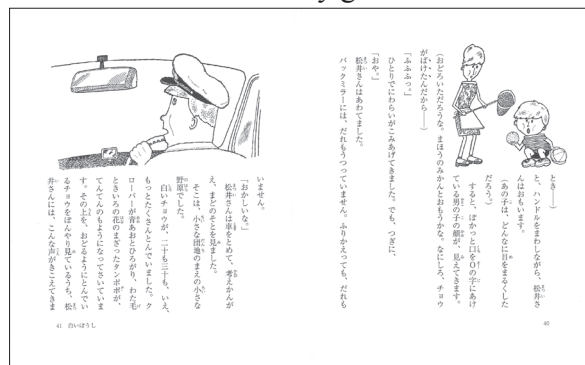
Star Taxi

Goro Matsui's taxi is sky blue, and he always keeps it clean and shiny. Numerous heartwarming stories about the mild-mannered driver and his sometimes rather unusual passengers have been collected in three volumes under the series title *A Car the Color of the Sky*. The present volume, *The White Hat*, contains eight such tales.

The title story is about Matsui and a white butterfly. One day Matsui is driving along when he sees a small white hat on the side of the road. When he stops the car and picks it up, a white butterfly flies out from underneath. Imagining that the little boy to whom the hat must certainly belong will be disappointed at losing the butterfly he had caught, Matsui places a summer citrus from a box of fruit his mother had sent him under the hat. When he gets back into his car, he finds a little girl in the back seat who says she is lost. After learning that she wants to go to Blossom Lane, he begins driving in that direction, but then he realizes the girl has disappeared, and when he looks out the window he sees lots of white butterflies fluttering over a field in front of an apartment house.

In *Third Block of Sycamore Street*, Matsui picks up a woman who appears to be about 40. When he nears the address of the title, on a street he's never been on before, the woman asks him to wait while she goes into a small house. When she returns, she tells him that she had lived in that house until the end of World War II, and it was 22 years ago on this day that she lost her three-year-old twin boys in an air raid. Each time she thinks of them, she feels as if she has gone back in time to the age she was then. Matsui delivers the woman back to the train station, but the passenger who alights from the car is an elderly grandmother.

Filled with warmth and evoking much nostalgia, these tales continue to win the hearts of succeeding generations of readers as they are passed down from parent to child.



## About the Author

Kimiko Aman (1931–) received the Japan Association of Writers for Children New Talent Award in 1968 for *The White Hat* and Special Award in Akaitori Award for Children's Literature in 2001 for *A Car the Color of the Sky* series. She has received numerous other awards, including the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for the picture book *Chichan and the Shadow Figures*.

Takushi Kitada (1921-1992) was an illustrator of numerous works of children's literature, many of them featuring vehicles, such as *Moritaro's Car*, written by Makoto Oishi, a frequent collaborator. Kitada was especially fond of taxis, which figure prominently in such hits as the series *A Car the Color of the Sky*, written by Kimiko Aman.



# The Little Ghost's Apartment Series

Kayo Murai



## The Little Ghost Comes to My Apartment

There is a tree called Tree of Ghosts in the garden of an old apartment. Momo, the princess of Ghost Country, goes to protect it. While there, Momo meets Rui, a little boy who can see and speak with Momo. As Momo and Rui try to carry out missions, the king of Ghost Country orders Rui—who used to get scared easily—become more confident. With a lot of illustrations and comics, the book humorously conveys the importance of being kind to others and loving living things.

Ages 6+  
 218 x 155 mm  
 79 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591073940  
 Rights sold:

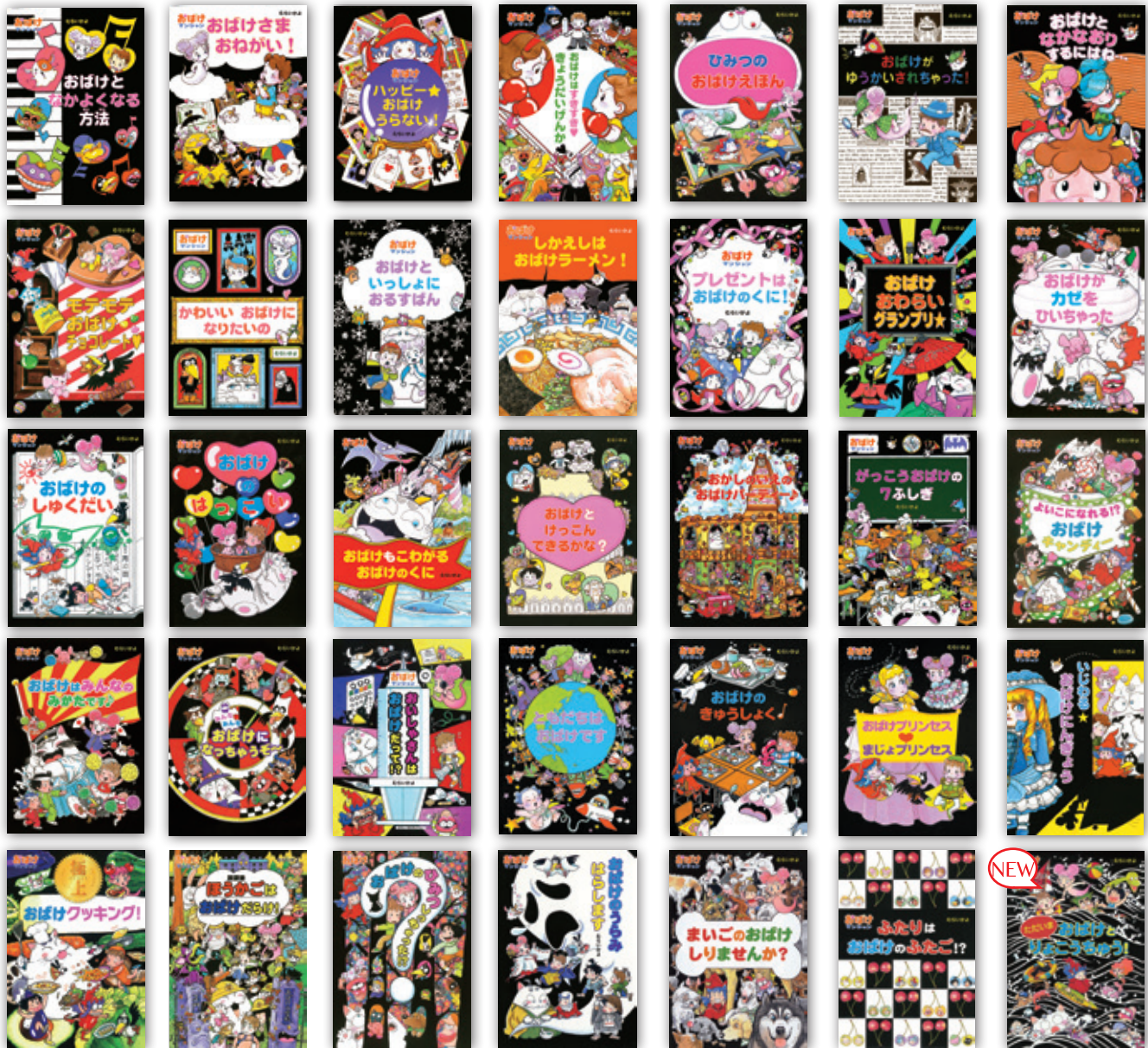


### About the Author

Kayo Murai, born in 1953, started her career as an illustrator. She writes books for children, as well as translates picture books.

# The Little Ghost's Apartment Series

The Little Ghost's Apartment Series conveys messages, such as being honest and caring about others, in humorous ways. With a lot of illustrations and comics, children, who don't usually read books, can enjoy the series as well. More than 30 titles have been published so far.



The Way to Make Friends with Ghosts  
 Run a Race with Ghosts  
 Ghost's Fortune-Telling  
 A Fight between Siblings  
 I want to be a Cute Ghost  
 House-Sitting with Ghosts  
 Ghosts' Ramen Noodle  
 Going to Ghost Country  
 Ghost Country even Ghosts are Sacred of  
 Can I Marry a Ghost?  
 A Ghost Party at Sweet House  
 Seven Mysteries of Ghost School  
 My Friend is a Ghost  
 Ghosts' School Lunch  
 Ghost Princess  
 Ghosts and a Doll  
 A Mysterious Ghost Book  
 A Ghost is Kidnapped!

Let's Make up with a Ghost  
 Ghosts' Chocolate  
 Ghosts' Comedy Contest  
 A Ghost Catches a Cold!  
 Ghosts' Homework  
 Ghost's First Love  
 Ghosts' Candies  
 Ghosts are on Your Side  
 Ghosts' Halloween Party  
 A Doctor is a Ghost?  
 Ghost Cooking  
 Ghosts' After School Hours  
 I've got to know a Ghost's Secret!  
 I inflame the grudge of the Ghost  
 Do you know a lost Ghost?  
 They are twins  
 Currently, I'm Traveling with Ghosts

# Magic Garden Tales

Yasuko Ambiru



## The Magic Garden and Mysterious Herb Recipes

With a violinist father and pianist mother, Jarett long lived out of a suitcase, traveling from city to city around the world wherever her parents performed. Always staying in hotels, the family never had a place to call home. Jarett’s friends thought she was lucky, because she always had people waiting on her and taking care of things for her; but she longed for her own home, where she would have to do her own cleaning and could have a pet to take care of.

Then the herb witch Topaz, a distant relative, leaves her a small cottage in her will. Against her parents’ initial opposition, Jarett takes up residence there, together with six kittens. Following the recipes in a book left by Topaz, she mixes herbs from the garden, and when she gives these mixtures to her neighbors as medicines, they are a big hit. A continuing theme of the series to which this story belongs is the many different efficacies of herbs and aroma essences. The series has been highly popular in Japan, with 17 volumes published so far.

Ages 8+

205 x 153 mm

143 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591097496

Rights sold: China, Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam



### About the Author

Yasuko Ambiru specializes in fantasies for young girls. Her major works include *The World's Best Restaurant*, the “Lulu and Lala” series, the “Everything Witch Trading Company” series, and the “Magic Garden Tales” series.



- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Herb Tea Party                               | Witch's Getting Ready for Winter |
| The Magic of Peppermint                      | The Magic of Perfume             |
| A Village Festival with Three Little Witches | Rosemary and Magic of Venus      |
| Magic Tea with a Winter Fairy                | Happy Recipies at a Cafe         |
| A Piano Lesson at the Magic Garden           | Magical Effect of the Herb       |
| The Witch of Rose Valley                     | Jarett's Brilliant Magic         |
| Three Little Witches and Potpourri           | April and Present of the Magic   |
| Magical Night with Seven Fairies             | Teatime of the Witch             |
| A Willful Princess and Magic Roses           | April and magic gift             |
| Queen's Purple Magic                         | Tea Time for goddess of time     |

## Herb Lessons from the Magic Garden



### Vol.1 Tea Party

With a lot of illustrations, photos and main characters, the book demonstrates how to make various kinds of herb tea and sweets for a tea party. It also introduces many kinds of herbs.



Vol.2 Christmas



# Wonderbar the Talkative Cat Series

Text by **Rio Kuboshima**

Illus. by **Miho Satake**



## Wonderbar and his Beloved Momo

There is a little black cat called Wonderbar in a small seaside village. He looks like an ordinary cat, but he can talk! Wonderbar lives with a couple who own an antique shop, and he loves his friend Momo, a lively girl who lives nearby. But, she looks different these days. Wonderbar is shocked to find out that's because she has fallen in love with one of her classmates.

However, Momo can't express her feelings, so in the end, Wonderbar tells Momo's crush that she likes him! The series depicts how someone can relate with others and begin to see the world in a new light. Nine titles have been published so far.

Ages 10+  
203 x 154 mm  
173 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591095133  
Rights sold:



- Wonderbar's Best Friend
- Wonderbar Wants to Work
- Wonderbar and a Puppy
- Wonderbar Goes Abroad
- Wonderbar Finds a Stolen Statue
- Wonderbar Forms a Team with Other Cats
- Wonderbar Hunts for a Treasure
- Wonderbar Meets New Villagers



### About the Author

Rio Kuboshima, born in 1966, writes junior fiction and picture books, as well as draws illustrations for books. Her mother is the author of "Kiki's Delivery Service."

Miho Satake, born in 1957, draws illustrations for a wide range of books, from classics to fantasy.

# Ghost Art Museum Series

Text by **Sachiko Kashiwaba**  
 Illus. by **Takako Hirai**



## Welcome to Ghost Art Museum!

Mahiru, a fifth grader, is asked to work at an art museum as a director! The museum is owned by her father's company, and the mother of the president established the museum. According to her will, the director should be a girl younger than 10 years old. That's why Mahiru is selected, and she is excited to work there.

But, the museum is very mysterious. In fact, figures in paintings, such as an old lady, a knight and angels, come to life—though only children can see them. Young readers will enjoy warm and humorous stories in this series.

Ages 8+  
 203 x 155 mm  
 143 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591093320  
 Rights sold: Taiwan



**Fairies' Cake is Mysterious?**



**A Mysterious Train doesn't Stop!**



**Doll's house is full of monsters**

### About the Author

Sachiko Kashiwaba, born in 1953, won the Sankei Children's Publication Culture Award twice for "Miracle Family" and "Botansan no Fushigina Mainichi," and the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for "Tuduki no Toshokan."

Takako Hirai, born in 1954, publishes picture books and books of paintings. She also draws illustrations for books and book jackets.

# Hozuki Clinic of Internal and Monster Medicine 1

## Even Monsters Get the Flu!

Text by **Yoko Tomiyasu** Illus. by **Yoshika Komatsu**



Ages 8+  
208 x 154 mm  
143 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591090299  
Rights sold: Taiwan

One Saturday Kyohei, a fifth-grader, wanders into an unfamiliar back alley and up the front steps of Hozuki Clinic—which he's amazed to learn is the only specialist in monster medicine in the entire world. Rushing out on an emergency house call, its head physician, Dr. Kyojuro Hozuki, presses Kyohei into looking after things at the office, and the boy must deal with a constant stream of frightful monster patients, from Hundred-Eyes to Two-Mouths to No-Face. Not only that, but Kyohei is soon called away to Mt. Suzaku to help with the doctor's errand. As it turns out, there's an ogre hiding in a cave who needs to get a shot to prevent the horrid Ogre Flu from spreading to the other monsters and causing total mayhem. Dr. Hozuki lures the wild child-eating ogre out with Kyohei's tasty scent, and then—just when Kyohei's about to be snatched up—sticks the needle right into the monster's arm. Success!

As a reward for his work, the doctor hands Kyohei a mysterious bell shaped like a hozuki, or Chinese lantern plant, which serves as the key to the way between the boy's own world and that of the Hozuki Clinic. Ring it, and it'll bring him here again. Despite his scare, Kyohei decides that he does want to come back to see Dr. Hozuki so he can continue being the only assistant to the only monster doctor in the world.

Yoko Tomiyasu, who has captivated countless fans with her masterful works of fantasy, does so again in the opening volume to her popular series about the mysterious Dr. Hozuki, his inquisitive young assistant Kyohei, and the monster-related troubles they set out to solve. Boys and girls alike enjoy this series filled with bright humor and skillful storytelling.



### About the Author

Yoko Tomiyasu (1959–) won the Shogakkan Children's Literature Award for *The Rustling Oak Lodge*; the Niimi Nankichi Children's Literature Award in 1997 for her *Little Princess Suzuna* series; the Sankei Children's Book Award in 2001 for *The Sky Myth*; the Noma Prize for Children's Literature for *Bon Invitation*.

# Reader of the Winds

Nobuyuki Mitamura



Ages 10+

188 x 128 mm

383 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591099063

Rights sold:

This four-volume work imaginatively portrays, from his early childhood until he became the most important diviner in the land, the life of Abe no Seimei, a real-life yin-yang diviner who was active in the late Heian period (794–1185). He battles supernatural entities possessing mysterious powers, and faces off repeatedly with a powerful rival, uncovering plots and schemes in the capital and elsewhere as he is called upon to protect the imperial court and its city from danger. Providing a rich emotional counterpoint to such intrigues are portrayals of the loves he knew—that of parent and child, deep friendships with peers, and an unfulfilled, secret ardor.

Given birth by a fox, Seimei is raised by his father in the capital (today's Kyoto), but after his father's death, he goes to the forest of Shinoda to find his mother. There he discovers the marvelous, magical world of the foxes. After a time he leaves his mother again to begin training as a yin-yang diviner with the monk Chitoku, and quickly demonstrates his remarkable gifts. Seimei's coming-of-age tale begins to unfold through a variety of encounters with childhood friend Kamo Yasunori, with the brother and sister thieves Tajōmaru and Sae, with the nobleman's daughter Sakuyako, and with rival Ashiya Dōman. (Book 1: "Born of a Fox")

One day, a black snow falls, and soon the capital is wrapped in a deep darkness. Meanwhile, Seimei is shaken to learn that Sakuyako, with whom he is secretly in love, has been spoken for by the emperor and will soon go to the court. But Sakuyako falls under a spell cast by a mysterious diviner named Kuronushi, putting her into an endless slumber from which she does not wake. Will Seimei be able to rescue his beloved Sakuyako and the capital from doom? (Book 2: "The Sleeping Princess")

When Seimei returns to the capital after some time away to heal his broken heart, he discovers that Kuronushi has been advancing a nefarious plot. The aim is to restore to life the vengeful spirit of a prince who died while still young, and to have him seize control of the court and the country. Seimei's rival Dōman has thrown in his lot with Kuronushi by casting a spell on the emperor. Meanwhile, the dark and threatening shadow of a mysterious god named Mashura falls on the forest of Shinoda, where Seimei's mother lives . . . (Book 3: "Demon on the Prowl")

Sakuyako dies, and Seimei considers joining her in death, but then a warrior who has amassed great power in the east, Taira no Masakado, requests his services, so Seimei travels to his domain. Here, too, he encounters a plot by Kuronushi, who is on a drive to subdue the eight eastern provinces by manipulating Masakado. Well aware of Kuronushi's intent, Seimei throws his support to Masakado's forces. But the greatest danger he has ever faced comes when Kuronushi's identity is finally revealed . . . (Book 4: "Roving Wind")

## About the Author

Nobuyuki Mitamura (1939–) writes stories for children of all ages, from nursery tales to epic novels. His four-volume "Reader of the Winds" series was awarded the 2009 Iwaya Sazanami Literary Award and the 2010 JAWC Award. His other works include *Lots of Daddies*, retellings of Chinese and Japanese classics such as *Sangokushi* (Records of the Three Kingdoms), *Account of the Genpei Wars*, *The Crescent Moon, a New Version*, the "Locksmith Fox" series, and the "Hoofing It Along the Monster Highway" series.



# Please Fairy! Series

Text by **Mai Mizuno**

Illus. by **Tomoko Katano**



## Iruka's First Love

Iruka, a fifth grader, is bad at studying and playing sports. She is the smallest and skinniest in her school, and she sometimes misses school because she has asthma. When she can't go to school, her classmate, Yanagida, brings her homework.

One day, a fairy suddenly appears when Iruka is about to throw away her medicine. The fairy has been with her since then and says one of the most important things is to be true to herself. The series delivers engaging stories of first love and friendship. Fifteen titles have been published so far.

Ages 10+

188 x 128 mm

248 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591116937

Rights sold: Taiwan

- Iruka Goes on a First Date!?
- Iruka's Valentine's Day
- Friends Forever
- A New Classmate is a Prince?
- The Secret of a Rival in Love
- A Cooking Contest for Love?
- A Love Mission on a Beach
- Iruka Participates in a Fashion Show?
- How can I tell him my Feelings?
- Iruka Goes on a School Trip
- Iruka Experiences an Occupation
- Iruka Goes out an Audition
- Iruka Tries Climbing a Mountain
- Iruka Does a Baseball Game



### About the Author

Mai Mizuno writes junior fiction. The "Please Fairy!" series is her first book.

Tomoko Katano started her career as an illustrator after working as a designer. She is a popular illustrator of children's books in Japan.

# Daisuke Lie-suke

Text by **Natsumaru Abe**

Illus. by **Yutaka Murakami**



Ages 10+

218 x 154 mm

279 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591087206

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

The story follows events in the lives of three boys and a girl during the summer of their final year in grade school in Toyota, near where the Yashita River runs through the city.

One day Kenta sees a classmate named Daisuke throwing bread crusts into the river from atop the levee. Daisuke moved to town from Nagano when he was in the third grade. He's considered an oddball because he isn't interested in the games everyone else is playing, and for some reason he has earned the nickname of "Daisuke Lie-suke." Mystified, Kenta watches Daisuke for awhile, but then Daisuke notices him, and they end up fishing for carp together. After that, the two boys make it part of their routine to go to the river together when school lets out each day. During the day in school, they mostly act like they hardly know each other, but when class favorite Natsuha catches them at a practical joke they play, it ultimately leads to her joining them in their daily visits to the river.

Then honor student Keiichi wins the top prize in a city-sponsored contest for a report in which he concluded, "Based on an analysis of water quality, there are no fish living in the Yashita River." Outraged, Kenta and his friends take Keiichi to the river and show him that fish are indeed present.

Keiichi declares he will turn the prize down. Since the winning school is to receive a large fish tank from the city, the four children make plans to fill it with fish from the river. On the day of the awards ceremony, Keiichi admits to the audience that the conclusion his study reached was wrong, and tells them that the fish in the water tank are all from the Yashita River, caught by Kenta, Daisuke, Natsuha, and himself. The four get quite a tongue lashing from their teacher, but they have no regrets.

After events have settled down, Daisuke tells Kenta that it was because of him (Kenta) that people had started calling him "Daisuke Lie-suke"—the result of some word play, not any ill will. Kenta is taken aback, because he always thought Keiichi was to blame. But he also recognizes that hanging out with Daisuke has made him look at himself in new ways, and he feels he has begun to find his true self.

Daisuke's big heart, and the way the children relate to the creatures of the river, bring readers a refreshing shot of energy and inspiration for their own doings.

## About the Author

Natsumaru Abe (1960–) worked as a kindergarten art teacher and as a bookstore manager. He received the 1995 Tsubota Jōji Literature Award and the 1996 Muku Hatojū Children's Literature Prize for *Fish Can't Cry*. Among the numerous children's stories he has written since then are *Oguri's Foal*, which was made into an NHK television drama, and *The Tadpoles' Field Day*, which won the Hirosuke Children's Book Award. Known in particular for stories that engage children with rivers, he is favored for the clear perspectives he offers on nature, and for writing about living things and their condition in a strong and lively prose style.

# When Grandpa Forgets...

Text by **Atsuko Otsuka**

Illus. by **Mihoko Cocoro**

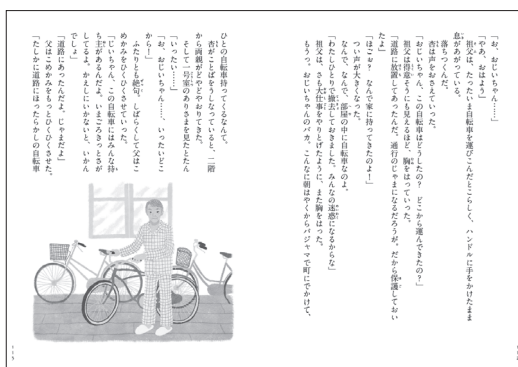
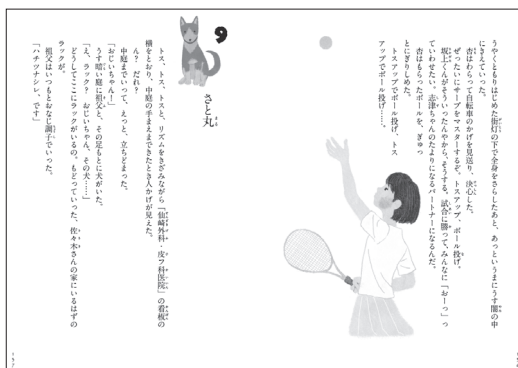


Ages 10+  
 189 x 135 mm  
 222 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591122037  
 Rights sold: Taiwan

Fifth-grader Momo lives in Kyoto with her parents, younger brother, and grandfather, who is retired from a private medical practice. She's in the tennis club at school, and is crazy about the sport. Grandpa, who she loves dearly, got her started on it.

But Grandpa suffers from Alzheimer's-type dementia, which is slowly but surely depriving him of his faculties. Increasingly, he finds himself unable to do things he could do before, and there've been more times lately when he hasn't even recognized his own family. He went all the way to Yokohama to attend a conference that didn't exist.

Then he goes missing on the day before an important tennis tournament. Momo's mother happens to be away at the hospital, looking after her brother Rui, who has appendicitis. Momo goes searching for Grandpa with her father when he gets home from work, but they can't find him anywhere. Her father has to go to work again the next morning, and her mother is still away at the hospital with her brother, so Momo cancels her tennis match and continues the search alone in this stirring tale of how a young girl copes with the unpredictable effects of her beloved grandfather's dementia. The book won the Japan Juvenile Writers Association Prize.



## About the Author

Atsuko Otsuka (1942–) received the JAWC New Talent Award and the Japan Juvenile Writers Association New Writer Prize in 1990 for *The Secret of the Cottage by the Sea*. Her other titles include *Iruru Runs* and *Dream in the Wind—An 11-Year-Old's Journey to the Himalayas*.





# Grade 6 Room 1: The Day the Class Broke

Text by **Emi Saitō**

Illus. by **Miho Takeda**



Ages 10+

172 x 112 mm

206 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591092590

Rights sold: Korea

In this stirring tale, grade-school children are shown dealing with such serious issues as bullying and classroom breakdown, working out solutions for themselves, and—strengthened by the experience—finding a way forward.

Mizuki is a sixth-grader who has difficulty expressing her feelings. Her best friend Haruhi is everybody's sweetheart, a lively, outgoing girl loved by both her peers and grown-ups. Even though she adores Haruhi, Mizuki can't help feeling a little jealous, a little inferior. Their teacher, Ms. Sakakibara, is extremely severe. Many of her students have been wounded by her harsh words. But she has nothing but praise for Haruhi no matter what she does. The antipathy felt by the rest of the class toward their stern teacher is soon redirected toward the person perceived to be the teacher's pet, and Haruhi becomes the subject of bullying. It begins with someone taking and hiding Haruhi's things, and escalates into the entire class giving her the cold shoulder. Haruhi becomes almost completely isolated. Mizuki tries to stand by her best friend, but she also understands how the other students feel. She doesn't like Ms. Sakakibara any more than the others, and she thinks Haruhi is at least partly to blame for the favoritism she receives. Sensing this, Haruhi tells her, "Look, you don't have to be my friend anymore if you don't want to." After this, even Mizuki becomes alienated from Haruhi. Matters come to a head when Haruhi gets locked in the girls' bathroom, and Ms. Sakakibara finds out about the bullying. A class meeting is held to discuss the situation. Students are able to get their true feelings in the open, including their dissatisfaction with Ms. Sakakibara, and a path to new understanding opens up bit by bit.

With compelling realism, the story of friendship and maturation looks at bullying from the perspective of children, stressing the importance of mutual trust as it shows fellow students grappling with the problem and growing in the process.

## About the Author

Emi Saitō (1962–) was born in Tokyo and graduated from Aoyama Gakuin Women's Junior College. She made her debut as a children's author when her manuscript for *Yonen ichikumi Ishikawa ikka: Sekigae hantai!* (The Ishikawa Bloc of Grade 4 Room 1: No Change to the Seating Arrangement!) was selected in the first *Dōwa no umi* (Sea of Children's Stories) competition, jointly sponsored by Poplar Publishing Co. and the Japan Association of Writers for Children. It became a trilogy, with two additional *Yonen ichikumi* volumes following in short order. Her other titles include *Fushigi na orusuban* (Home-Along Wonders), the *Aozora-en* (Blue Sky Kindergarten) series, the *Ninja Kids* series, and *Watashi ga futari* (Two Me's).

# A Ticket to Another World

Text by **Yuri Kohama**

Illus. by **Sayaka Iwashimizu**



Ages 10+  
 189 x 135 mm  
 194 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591125694  
 Rights sold:

If you had a ticket that enables you to go to another world just once, where would you want to go? The book consists of five heartwarming stories of children going to other worlds and beginning to see their own world differently. Chiaki goes to see her great-grandma at the hospital, but she feels uncomfortable simply because her great-grandma is fragile with old age. Later on that day, when she wakes up from a nap at her uncle's house, she meets a girl wearing a kimono. The girl turns out to be her great-grandma as a child, and they have fun together. After coming back to reality, Chiaki visits her great-grandma again and realizes that she remembers the time they spent together.

Kento is upset with his friends because they went out without telling him. Before Kento makes up with them, Kuniyan, one of the friends, transfers to another school. One day Kento meets a mysterious man on a train, and they end up having a hamburger together. The man turns out to be Kuniyan as an adult. After returning to reality, Kento goes to see Kuniyan with his other friend. The book delivers five engaging stories, which vividly depict relationships among families and friends. It won the Muku Hatoju Children's Literature Award.



## About the Author

Yuri Kohama won the Muku Hatoju Children's Literature Award for "A Ticket to Another World." She is the author of several Young Adult Fiction books.

Sayaka Iwashimizu draws illustrations for books, as well as creates three-dimensional artwork.

# The Triple-Zero Arithmetic Case Files

Text by **Shōgo Mukai**  
 Illus. by **Keisuke Ikeda**



Ages 10+  
 172 x 112 mm  
 223 pages  
 Softcover  
 ISBN 978-4591145104  
 Rights sold: Korea



Fifth-grader Yūten Ariake is a math whiz, but no one in his class knows it because he blows off the tests and gets low scores. His best friend Kyōhei Todoroki excels in sports, is a big fan of superhero shows on TV, and has an unusually strong sense of justice.

Yūten and Kyōhei learn one day that their classmate Shige is being badgered by class bully Tsuyoshi. Coming to Shige's aid, they suggest that the two race each other. But Tsuyoshi is among the most fleet-footed runners in the class, while Shige invariably comes in last. To overcome this problem, Yūten puts on a disguise and, claiming the role of referee, tells Tsuyoshi that he has to give Shige a 10-meter head start as a handicap. The strategy is to take advantage of Zeno's famous paradox of Achilles and the tortoise with the head start, which says Achilles can never catch up to the tortoise because by the time he reaches where the tortoise was when he started, the tortoise has moved to a point farther ahead, and in the time it takes Achilles to reach that next point, the tortoise had moved ahead yet again, and so on. With his head spinning from the description of the paradox, Tsuyoshi fails to notice that he is actually racing Kyōhei, or that Kyōhei then switches places with Shige just before the goal line so it looks as though he beat Tsuyoshi. After it's all over, Shige explains the trick to Tsuyoshi, and the two become friends.

Prompted by these events, Yūten and Kyōhei band together as the "Triple-Zeros," a top-secret action duo whose mission is to make the school a "zero bully, zero mischief, zero tears" zone by coming to the rescue of those who find themselves in difficulties of one kind or another. They are soon joined as well by their beautiful classmate Rei Shinomiya, who is adept at magic.

Author Shōgo Mukai earned an A rank in the Japanese Math Olympics while in high school, and this is his first volume in a series of stories that introduce math concepts to grade school students in an entertaining way. Mini math lessons are embedded throughout the narrative. Whether he is showing readers how to calculate the speed of the ball in dodgeball, describing "the paradox of the heap," or introducing basic math theorems, Mukai has a knack for making the subject both accessible and fun.

## About the Author

Shōgo Mukai (1989–) was born in Kanagawa Prefecture and graduated from the University of Tokyo. While in high school, he participated in the Japanese Math Olympics. He is particularly fascinated by number sequences. As a member of the kendo club while at the University of Tokyo, he advanced to the nationwide tournament of the University Kendo Federation. His publishing debut came with *Omakase! Sūgakuya-san* (Mathman to the Rescue!) in 2013 after his manuscript for the novel won the 2012 Poplar Fiction Prize for New Writers. Appealing to a broad cross section of readers ranging from middle- and high-school age to adults, the book has enjoyed remarkably strong sales for a first novel, going through six printings in its first year of publication. Mukai's second novel was *Kamae! Bokutachi kenshikai* (Kendo Team, Ready!) centering on a small, outmatched high-school kendo team. In 2015 he published *Toripuru zero no sansū jiken-bo* (The Triple-Zero Arithmetic Case Files), his first work targeted at younger children; it became a hit and has been turned into a series.



# The Klutzy Witch Series

Text by **Satoko Narita**

Illus. by **Enaga Senno**



## The Klutzy Witch is a Princess

Fuka, a little witch, is training to be a better witch like her mother, a queen of Silver Castle. She is a lively girl and cares about her friends, but she gets into trouble sometimes. Karin, a princess of Green Castle, is Fuka's best friend; and Chitose, a prince of Blue Castle, is her friend from childhood. Fuka goes to the Wood of Wolf to look for a tunnel with them, but they find a hole instead. This is an exciting story of adventure and friendship. It's the first in the series.

Age 10+

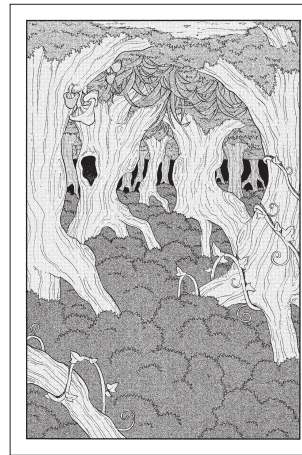
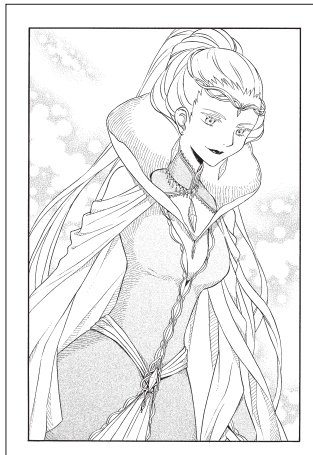
172 × 112 mm

190 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591094648

Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan



NEW



## The Klutzy Witch and Dark Palace

Fuka hears that her mother had an accident at an ancient monument. A letter is delivered to Fuka. It reads "Don't worry," but different characters soon appear on the letter, saying "Don't get out of the castle." Fuka doesn't know what the letter really means. And then a mysterious figure, Kotori, comes and tells Fuka that she should go meet a person who knows a way to help her mother. It's the latest title in this popular series.

### About the Author

"The Klutzy Witch" series is Satoko Narita's debut work. It's sold more than 1.4 million copies so far.

Enaga Senno draws illustrations for children's books.

The Klutzy Witch series delivers exciting stories about adventure, first love, friendship and a family secret. Eighteen titles have been published, with sales totaling more than 1.4 million copies in Japan.

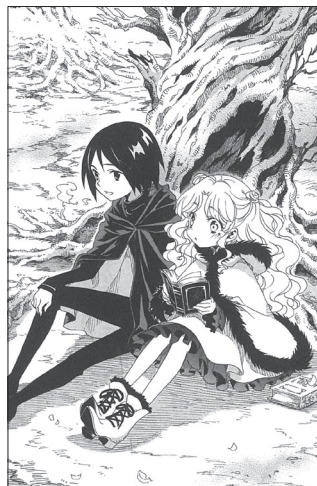


- The Witch of Devildom
- A Promise with the Prince
- A Sweet Party
- The Ghost Island
- The Princess of Water Country
- The Labyrinth of Treasure
- The Last Fort
- Going to the Woods After School
- The Ring of the Other World
- The Phantom of the Kingdom of Mirror
- The Circus of Devildom
- A Promise with a Fairy
- The Knight of Randall
- The Klutzy Witch's First Love
- The Mission for a Successful Date



## The Klutzy Witch and Friends

This is the first collection of short stories in the series. Each story tells how Fuka met her friends for the first time.



# Mysterious Ghost Story Series

Text by **Seiji Midorikawa**

Illus. by **Miho Takeoka**



Ages 10+  
 172 x 112 mm  
 206 pages  
 Softcover  
 ISBN 978-4591119631  
 Rights sold:

## Black Book

I borrow a book titled “Black Book,” a collection of ghost stories, at a school library. As I read the book, mysterious things—similar incidents described in “Black Book”—start to happen.

When I see a little boy running to the front of a car, I dash into the street to help him. I am lying on the street when I notice that the little boy is looking at me. A lady comes across the street, and I tell her what I saw. She tells me that her son died in a car accident here 10 years ago. What is real? What is fiction? Many stories are based on oral traditions, and this is the first in this popular series. Twelve titles have been published so far.



Red Book



White Book



Green Book



Blue Book



Purple Book



Gold Book



Silver Book



Yellow Book



Book without  
Color



Book of  
Darkness



Book of  
Curse

### About the Author

Seiji Midorikawa won the Japanese Writers Association of Children's Literature Newcomer Award for “Haretahi ha Tsyokan he Iko.”

Miho Takeoka draws illustrations for children's books.

# Go, Hilarious Trio!

Text by **Masamoto Nasu**

Illus. by **Kazuo Maekawa**



Ages 10+

218 x 155 mm

184 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591007761

Rights sold: China

This book is the first in a best-selling series of 50 volumes about the adventures of three young boys. Hachibei, the son of a greengrocer, is short in stature but a lively lad who is quick to get into a fight. Not very good when it comes to using his head, he's fond of girls, but isn't popular with them due to his rather crude personality. Hakase is good at studies, wears glasses, and tends to be nervous. He knows many things but does poorly at sports. He lives with his parents and a younger sister. Mo-chan is a plump fellow; he loves to eat and is a bit timid, but the girls like him because he is so gentle and easygoing. His parents are divorced, and he lives with his mother and an older sister. With all this diversity in the temperaments and family circumstances of the three protagonists, the stories are free to develop in various ways. The boys are all in the sixth grade at Hanayama Elementary School No. 2, a setting that has not changed over the 26 years that the 50 volumes have been published. The themes taken up include first love, parental divorce, the occult, the concept of time, the corporate world, overseas travel, dieting, and running away from home—truly, something for everyone. In this way the series constitutes a chronicle of Japanese children's lives over a quarter of a century.

In this, the first volume, the characters are introduced through five short stories. In *The Group of Three—Here They Come!*, Hakase is reading a book in the toilet when a robber breaks into the house. Hakase is afraid to leave the toilet, but just then Hachibei and Mo-chan come by, and Hakase calls out for help. In *The Battle of Hanayama Station*, Mo-chan sees a pickpocket at work. In *The Strange Tale of Willow Pond*, Hachibei is mocked by a girl and, together with his chums, constructs a fake ghost, then invites the girl and her friends to Willow Pond one night to give them a good scare. But then a real ghost appears . . . Through these five short tales, the reader is drawn into the happy and sometimes hapless world of the “Hilarious Trio.”

(Hico Tanaka)

## About the Author

Masamoto Nasu (1942–) was three years old and at his home three kilometers from the hypocenter when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. His family survived, and he remained in Hiroshima until the end of high school. After making his writerly debut with *Kubi-nashi jizō no takara* (The Treasure of the Headless Jizō), he earned renown for his children's-book series *Zukkoke sannin-gumi* (The Hilarious Trio), a collection of 50 volumes written over the course of 26 years which sold over 20 million copies and has been spun off into TV and manga serials. The series has won the Iwaya Sazanami Literary Award and the Noma Prize for Children's Literature. *Sagishi-tachi no sora* (Sky of the Swindlers) won the Robō-no-Ishi Literary Award, and the *Oedo no Hyakutarō* (Hyakutarō of Edo) series received the JAWC Award. Nasu has also coauthored prizewinning picture books with illustrator Shigeo Nishimura, including *Bokura no chizu ryokō* (Our Map Adventure) and *E de yomu Hiroshima no genbaku* (tr. *Hiroshima: A Tragedy Never to Be Repeated*). In 2007 Nasu became president of the Japanese Association of Writers for Children, Japan's premier professional association of juvenile-literature authors.

# Yumemino Station Lost and Found

Mikie Ando



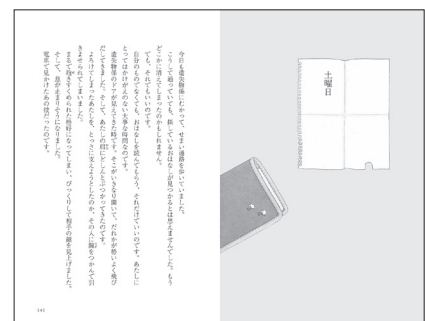
Ages 10+  
 194 x 127 mm  
 206 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591142363  
 Rights sold:

The narrator is a girl who has only recently entered middle school when family circumstances force her to transfer to a new school. In effect retreating into her own private shell, she makes up her mind to expect little from her new school so she won't have to be disappointed, and convinces herself that she needn't feel lonely as she hadn't yet made friends at her last school anyway.

One day on her way home on the train, she meets an unusual old woman. When the girl mentions that she has lost something, the woman urges her to check the Lost and Found at Yumemino Station. She goes there as suggested, and as she is trying to answer questions about the lost item—how big it is, how heavy, and so forth—she realizes that what she has lost is a story. On cue, the attendant brings out a thick notebook labeled “Found Story Register” and begins asking for details about what kind of story it is. “Is this the story you lost?” he asks, reading aloud one of the lost tales that had been delivered there.

That day's story is not the one the narrator lost, but she comes back to the Lost and Found each day for a week, and listens to a different story each day. In the course of listening to them, she begins bit by bit to emerge from her tightly closed shell. When she still hasn't found the story she lost after seven days, it suddenly dawns on her: maybe she never lost a story line at all; maybe the missing tale is the one she is supposed to create and live herself proactively, each day.

Telling of the power and significance that stories have in our lives, this is a volume to savor.



## About the Author

Mikie Ando (1953–) was born in Yamanashi Prefecture. She received the Muku Hatojū Children's Literature Prize in 2001 for *Ten no shīsō* (*Heavenly Seesaw*). Her other titles include *Atama no uchidokoro ga warukatta kuma no hanashi* (*The Bear Who Took a Bad Knock on the Head*), which became a bestseller; *Yūgure no magunoria* (*Magnolias at Dusk*); and *Yonde mita dake* (*Just Called You*).

# A Bear's Lot

## Naoko Uozumi



Ages 10+  
 194 x 130 mm  
 135 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591125397  
 Rights sold:

Seven short stories pose questions about the meaning of life and how it should be lived. *Beppin-san (Hot Stuff)* features a plover whose vanity about her looks prevents her from fitting in and getting along with others in her flock. The story shows the benefits of shedding one's pride and setting one's heart free. In *Shōto katto (Short Cut)*, a mother monkey who aspires to be human turns her back on her own nature and the mountain where she grew up to move into town. Her son descends from the mountain to look for her, and when he finally tracks her down he discovers that she has adopted the manner of a human being and is working at a bar. With nowhere to go, the son meets a kindly fortune-teller on a street corner and moves in with him. The tale leaves one pondering just how much difference there is between humans and monkeys. *Amenbo rīsu (Water Strider Wreaths)* is about a delicate young woman prone to anxiety who shares her troubles with some water striders at a remote pond, first when she is in college, and again as a working woman when she meets the man of her dreams. Each time, the water striders help her overcome her worries, and she ultimately learns to live with confidence and build a happy family life. *Asa no hanabi (Morning Fireworks)* centers on a rat snake, who sees all other creatures only as prey to be killed. He meets a blind girl who shows complete faith in him, and learns to trust and love humans as a result. *Sora no ao wa (The Blue of the Sky)* is about an argumentative koi, or ornamental carp, named Kuroe. Because the other koi avoid her, she passes the days swimming around by herself. As time goes by, however, she realizes that while an attitude of "I am who I am" is all well and good, making a genuine effort to understand others is essential as well. In *Hikaru chiheisen (Light on the Horizon)*, a young lion who has always been dependent on others and given to wallowing in self-pity is going through a rough patch of loneliness, hunger, and despair when he meets an elderly lion who freely shares his meat with other animals. As he follows this elder about, the young lion finally comes to understand life, and he turns over a new leaf, determined to stand on his own four feet. The volume closes with the title story, in which the sight of an elderly bear's corpse causes a young bear cub to develop a fear of death. "I need to become something that doesn't die," he decides. "I know, I'll become a rock." But a rock then tells him that in order to become a rock, he'll have to lie perfectly still all the time, without moving a muscle, without singing, without sleeping, without speaking, without letting his stomach growl no matter how hungry he gets—and the bear cub realizes that would be the same as death. Giving up on the idea of becoming a rock, he learns to savor the joy of life and of being able to do so many different things. Long after the final page is turned, each story continues to resonate in the reader's mind, prompting deep thoughts about a life well lived.

### About the Author

Naoko Uozumi (1966–) won the Kodansha Award for New Writers of Children's Literature for her 1995 debut novel *Hi-baransu (Non-Balance)*, achieving overnight fame when a film version came out in 2001. Subsequent works of young-adult literature such as *Chō-hāmoni (Ultra-Harmony)*, *Zō no dansu (Elephant's Dance)*, and *Ri-setto (Reset)* have become best-selling paperbacks. *Tū toreinzu (Two Trains)* won the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award, and *Engei shōnen (Gardening Boys)* the JAWC Award. *Engei shōnen* has been turned into manga, earning it an even broader audience. Uozumi's un-sentimental but sympathetic portrayals of teenagers dealing with pain and insecurity as they try to find their way in the world have earned her a large and devoted following of young readers.

# Miku Hatsune's Story Book Series



## All is well on the Cherry Blossom Front

Text by **Ren Minami** Illus. by **Tama**

Miku Hatsune is a virtual idol, popular around the world. Stories in this series are inspired by her songs. In “All is well on the Cherry Blossom Front,” Miku is in fifth grade and decides to participate in a relay road race. But, she makes a mistake in a preliminary race and creates tension within her team. It’s a story of friendship and first love.

The series has eight titles, and the ninth title will be published in the fall of 2015.

Ages 10+  
 172 x 112 mm  
 238 pages  
 Softcover  
 ISBN 978-4591136966  
 Rights sold:



A Bandage in my Pocket



Although Songs don't have Shapes



The First Sound



To solve a mystery



A Legendary Witch



Phantom Thief Peter and Jennie



Letter Song



Achieve success an idol

# Popper's Magic Shop: I Sell Trouble

Text by Yūta Horiguchi

Illus. by Tukasa Kuga



Ages 10+

172 x 112 mm

220 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591104651

Rights sold:

This is the first of a 17-volume fantasy series about the young witch Popper growing up, and about her friendships with those in her circle.

The world of the story is made up of the Dark Realm where forces of evil live, the Heavenly Realm where angels and the souls of the dead gather, the Human Realm where living people dwell, and the Dream Realm where denizens of the imagination live. Residing in the last of these is Popper, a novice witch for whom nothing ever seems to go right. She opens a magic shop but nobody comes. Then finally she gets her first customer: a man named Luruso Largas, said to be the most powerful magician in the Human Realm. Largas agrees to take her on as a pupil, but when Popper accidentally releases the three evil Destas brothers from the Dark World prison known as the Deep Abyss, the two must work together to shut them back up in the prison. Though not without difficulty, they succeed in returning Olgo Destas and Ulgo Destas to confinement. Largas then faces off with eldest brother Algo, but is taken in by one of his stratagems and sent into the Deep Abyss himself. This leaves Popper to face Algo alone in a do-or-die battle. She rescues Largas from the Deep Abyss and defeats Algo, who agrees to serve Popper thereafter as her familiar spirit. Keeping this promise faithfully in subsequent volumes of the series, “Familiar AI” becomes an indispensable member of Popper’s circle as she goes through many an adventure.

In the continuing story, Popper develops original magic products for sale in her shop, or goes off on adventure-filled journeys to rescue someone, and so forth, and in the course of those experiences slowly but surely becomes aware of the hidden powers she possesses. The secret of her birth is also finally revealed.

Popper’s undaunted determination in the face of every adversity has struck a chord with readers. The hit series has sold a combined total of over 250,000 copies.



## About the Author

Yūta Horiguchi (1982–) was born in Kagoshima Prefecture. A lover of books from when he was little, he set his sights on becoming a writer at an early age. A manuscript he wrote while still a student won the 2007 Poplar Dream-Smash Grand Prize (now the Poplar Zukkoke Literary Prize) and became his first published work, *Mahō-ya Popuru: Toraburu urimasu* (Popper’s Magic Shop: I Sell Trouble), in 2008. The volume launched a series that has grown to a total of 17 titles.



# Art Girl: Setsuko Negishi and Her Merry Crew

Mitsuru Hanagata



Ages 10+

194 x 125 mm

278 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591101483

Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan

In her second year of middle school, Setsuko Negishi is president of the art club, which is tottering on the brink of collapse. The school's autocratic, performance-obsessed principal has confiscated their clubroom and turned it into a remedial classroom. Setsuko and her comrades have occupied the room and even set off fireworks in protest, but to no avail. Lacking money and a place to call their own, the club must resort to guerilla survival tactics. When they hit on the idea of selling portraits of the popular sports club jocks, the money pours in, but then the principal finds out. The upshot is that to save the club, they must win the Grand Prize in the upcoming prefectural art competition. But first they need money for materials. Their enthusiasm wins them allies like the former head of the baseball club, and they snag a job painting the shutters of closed shops along the town's dilapidated main street.

Setsuko's motley crew couldn't be more diverse, ranging from Hoko Kano, her cynical vice-president, to the incommunicative painting genius Shigeo Aoki, to Satsuki Kusama, stubborn and willful but a brilliant colorist. (The characters' names are all plays on those of famous Japanese artists, like the pop-surrealist Yayoi Kusama.) But somehow these talented misfits bond together and channel their energies into the production of some fantastic "shutter art."

The story is full of hilarious episodes as the art clubbers try one money-making strategy after another, engaging in uninhibited repartee with one another all along. It is also a joyful and heartwarming tale of how utterly disparate personalities can work together to achieve marvelous results. (Rika Nishiyama)

## About the Author

Mitsuru Hanagata (1953–) received the 1998 Noma Prize for New Writers of Children's Literature for *Dragon to issho* (Together with the Dragon), and the Noma Prize for Children's Literature and the JAWC Award in 2001 for *Girigiri toraian-guru* (Barely a Triangle). Her experience as part of a husband-and-wife team running a nursery school has given her vivid insights into a child's point of view, and her stories are notable for their realistic portrayals of kids at their most lively and physical. In her distinctively gentle and limpid style, she has proven versatile at depicting young people across a range of ages, from her child-oriented *Tsubaki-sensei, deban desu* (It's Your Turn, Tsubaki-sensei) to her young-adult novel *Tomawari shite asobi ni ikou* (Let's Go Play the Long Way Around), which offers a straightforward look at preschool life.

# Fighting Back

## Taki Kusano



Ages 12+

196 x 127 mm

222 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591111383

Rights sold:

This is a collection of five short stories for young adults: *Kamisama no shukufuku* (Divine Blessing), *Hiiro* (Hero), *Itsuka futari de* (Someday Together), *Ranchi taimu* (Lunch Time), and *Satsuki-san* (Satsuki). The central part of each story is told in the first person by a girl of middle-school age, describing events as they occur in real time; each tale concludes with an epilogue relating in third person what has become of the protagonist two or three years later. One of the characters who crosses paths with the protagonist becomes the central character of the next story, with the last story linking back to the first in the same way to form a complete circle.

In the first story, Manami has a tendency to over-achieve, both in her badminton club and when she's asked to take a role in a play. In the second tale Satomi, having experienced a class breakdown in elementary school, tries to prevent this sort of thing from happening now that she is in middle school by deliberately playing the clown, as a means of maintaining class unity and peace. The other three girls' behavior is similarly excessive or skewed or ridiculous in some way. But as with Manami, who takes up street singing even though she's not very good, and Satomi, who throws herself into her studies so she can become a teacher, the portrait of the girls after they have moved on to high school shows that they are each blazing their own path.

The middle-school years of grades seven to nine are a time when adolescents often feel as though nothing is going their way. But each of these girls is seen striving with everything she has to find herself and steer her own course. They are "fighting back," and this collection of their stories is in effect a cheerleading shout-out to other girls their age to do the same. (Rika Nishiyama)

### About the Author

Taki Kusano (1970–) made her debut in 2000 with *Sukitotta ito o nobashite* (Stretch the Transparent Thread), which won the Kodansha Award for New Writers of Children's Literature and the Japan Juvenile Writers Association New Writer Prize. This and her second work, *Neko no namae* (The Name of a Cat), took grown women as their central characters; subsequent titles introducing younger heroines in elementary or middle school have earned her a large and devoted following. These include *Hachimitsu doroppusu* (Honey Drops), *Happi noto* (Satoko's Plans), and *Kyoshitsu no matsuri* (The Classroom Festival). The two titles *Half* and *Release* feature young boys as protagonists. Her collection of linked stories *Hangeki* (Fighting Back) appeared in 2009.

# Half

## Taki Kusano



Ages 12+  
 196 x 130 mm  
 160 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591092521  
 Rights sold: Korea

“My mother’s name is Yoko. Ever since I was little, I’ve been told that Yoko is my mother. Yoko is a small, brown, short-haired dog.” With this deadpan but startling statement, the story begins. It proves to be neither comedy nor fantasy.

Sixth-grader Shinji lives with his father, a company employee, and Yoko, a mixed-breed female dog. When he was five Shinji realized that Yoko was not his mother, and began to wonder who his real mother was. But life with his father and his father’s beloved pet is so pleasant that Shinji can’t bring himself to disrupt it by asking about his mother.

Eventually, however, other circumstances conspire to disrupt this happy home. Schoolmates taunt Shinji that his father is crazy. Then Yoko disappears and Shinji’s father really does begin to act strangely. Now Shinji finds himself unable to suppress the feelings he has been hiding all these years. No longer willing to play the part of a naïve child, he confronts the truth about his mother.

What at first seems like a bizarre premise—“my mother the dog”—turns out to be a brilliant setup for a moving story about the fragile souls of people living in our modern society, and the ties that bind the members of a loving family. (Rika Nishiyama)

### About the Author

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# Mission 100 Series

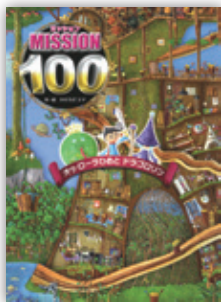
EMA KAHIRODA



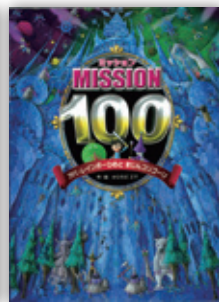
Ages 6+  
 309 x 226 mm  
 34 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591131398  
 Rights sold: Taiwan

## Mission 100 Save a Kidnapped Princess!

By searching for a particular picture amidst beautifully illustrated pages, Ema Kahiroda offers the reader 100 different missions to save a beautiful princess from a devil. This is the first in this popular look-and-find series.



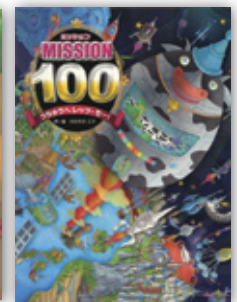
**Mission 100**  
 Princess Aurora and Dragon



**Mission 100**  
 Princess Rainbow and Devil



**Mission 100**  
 Devil's hole of the nose



**Mission 100**  
 Let's go Space

### About the Author

Ema Kahiroda, born in 1973, draws illustrations and makes digital content. His elaborate and magnificent illustrations invite readers to a mysterious world. This is his first picture book.

# Find the Mistakes Book (Pocket)

Michiyo Koto



Ages 3+

189 x 148 mm

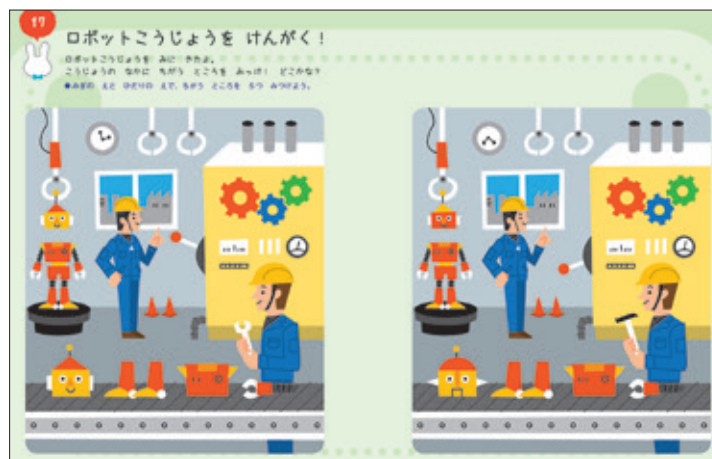
192 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591145708

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

This is the seventh volume in Poplar Publishing's Mecha mecha aso-bukku (Loads of Fun Books) series, designed to help children develop their imaginations, thinking skills, and powers of concentration. The book includes not just find-the-mistakes puzzles, but hidden pictures, mazes, connect the dots, and more—160 fun challenges in all. Children hone their observation skills as they look for mistakes by comparing robot factory scenes, world maps, and so forth. Each challenge is posed as a story and charmingly illustrated. The book is published in a compact size to make it easy to carry, allowing young ones to entertain themselves anywhere and everywhere. The fun-filled illustrations—by Michiyo Koto, who designed the cover, and 11 other artists—will keep children fully engaged right through to the final page.



## About the Author

Michiyo Koto works as an illustrator for advertising, magazines, books, and websites. She is affiliated with “cue’s,” a graphic design and illustration unit offering high-quality illustrations that are “simple and fun, cool and cute.”

# The Hidden Pictures and Maze Book (Pocket)

Noriko Sato



Ages 3+

189 x 148 mm

192 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591145692

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan

This is the sixth volume in Poplar Publishing's Mecha mecha asobukku (Loads of Fun Books) series, designed to help children develop their imaginations, thinking skills, and powers of concentration. The book includes not just hidden pictures and mazes, but find-the-mistakes puzzles, connect the dots, and more—160 fun challenges in all. Children hone their thinking skills as they find forgotten sandbox toys, navigate a dinosaur maze, look for hidden characters in a south-sea island landscape, and so forth. Each challenge is posed as a story and charmingly illustrated. The book is published in a compact size to make it easy to carry, allowing young ones to entertain themselves anywhere and everywhere. The fun-filled illustrations—by Noriko Sato, who designed the cover, and 11 other artists—are a pure delight.



## About the Author

Noriko Sato, known in Japan by her pen name Nori, holds degrees from the Keio University Faculty of Letters and the University of Brighton School of Art, Design and Media. Besides working as an illustrator, she is also involved with animation shorts, character design, and 3D projects ranging in mode from cute to stylish.

# Cute Origami

## La Zoo



Origami is the art of folding a sheet of paper into various objects. With this book and a pair of scissors, children can easily make animals, airplanes, sweets, clothes, and more. They can even make a room or a town! The book includes a set of paper sheets.

A companion volume, *Cute Paper-Cutting Crafts*, shows children how to make attractive paper cutouts of dinosaurs, fish, flowers, jewels, food—even a restaurant and a zoo.

Both books offer children several ways to have fun—not only by making the paper objects, but playing and decorating their rooms with them.

Ages 3+  
210 x 181 mm  
127 pages  
Softcover  
ISBN 978-4591105122  
Rights sold: China and Spain



Cute Paper-Cutting Crafts



### About the Author

La Zoo is a team of artists who edit, illustrate, and design picture books. They won the Bologna Children's Book Fair Grand Prize for "King of Play" series. In addition to *Cute Origami* and *Cute Paper-Cutting Crafts*, they have produced the "Roly-Poly Maru-chan" series. Their books have been translated into many languages. In America, LaZoo's works have inspired the Lazoo lifestyle brand, which offers mobile apps, clothing, and other quality products for children.

# I Did it! String Figures for One

Teruhisa Arika



Ages 3+  
170 x 187 mm  
35 pages  
Softcover  
ISBN 978-4591125960  
Rights sold: China

The book contains instructions on how to create 53 string figures, including such well-known standards as witch's broom, elastic band, and Jacob's ladder. The compact book is designed to stay open for easy reference as you play, and comes with string included. The carefully drawn, easy-to-grasp instructions for each move are perfect for the beginner.

The volume belongs to the *String Figure Mini-Books* series, which includes *Let's Make Them Together! String Figures for Two*, featuring figures to be created with another person; and *Watch This! String Figures with a Surprise*, showing magic tricks you can perform to delight your friends.



Let's Make Them Together!  
String Figures for Two



Watch This!  
String Figures with a Surprise



## About the Author

Teruhisa Arika (1942–) is director of the Japan Children's Play Research Center. Building on a foundation of the traditional games and activities Japanese children have engaged in for generations, he experiments with and creates new games, string figures, homemade toys and such for today's children to amuse themselves with.



# Folding Fun! Origami Creations You Can Play With

## Mariko Ishikawa



Ages 3+

170 x 185 mm

59 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591125946

Rights sold: China and Korea  
and Taiwan

This is a book of instructions and diagrams for easy-to-fold origami toys, along with suggestions for how to play with them. From paper airplanes and throwing stars, to animals that move and wearable accessories, the pages are full of ideas that will appeal to both boys and girls.

The volume belongs to a growing series of craft books by author Mariko Ishikawa titled *Fun with Your Kids Mini-Books*.

In *So Cute! Origami Food* the author shows readers how to fold a variety of different foods, from mouth-watering sweets to entire meals.

In *Easy! Useful! Cute Origami* she shows how to fold practical items such as letters and boxes, and offers ideas for using them.

In *Loads of Fun! Make Your Own Toys* she presents ideas for constructing delightful toys out of paper cups, plastic drink bottles, and other household items.

And in *Fold! Cut! Decorate with Cut-Paper Art* she shows how to fold and cut paper to create flowers, insects, animals, trains and buses, and so forth.



So Cute! Origami Food

Easy! Useful! Cute  
OrigamiLoads of Fun! Make  
Your Own Toys  
(Rights sold: Taiwan)Fold! Cut! Decorate  
with Cut-Paper Art

### About the Author

Mariko Ishikawa began her career at a toy maker, working in planning and design. Her current activities include overseeing creative production for the NHK children's craft show *Nosy's Inspiring Atelier*. She publishes craft, 3D-illustration, and doll-making projects in books, magazines, and video media, and also holds workshops for parents, children, and teachers.

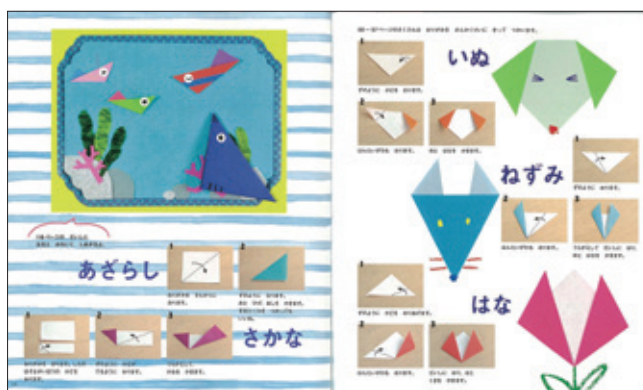
# First Crafts: Tearing, Crumpling, Folding, Drawing, Cutting

Sawako Marubayashi



Ages 3+  
210 x 180 mm  
127 pages  
Softcover  
ISBN 978-4591145371  
Rights sold: China

Inquisitive little children love to tear paper into pieces, crumple it into a ball, or play with it in other ways. This book is filled with ideas for creatively channeling that kind of play into paper-craft projects. The projects make use of four basic shaping techniques—tearing, crumpling, folding, and cutting—plus drawing, and range from very simple crafts that children as young as two can make, to more advanced projects that allow for many variations and arrangements. Tots will love the yummy-looking pizza, spaghetti, ramen, curry rice, grilled chicken, crepes and other foods made of paper and bits of yarn, and they will have endless fun playing with the folded and cut animals. With ideas suitable for different ages and interests, the book offers little ones and their parents many years of crafting fun together. At the end of the volume are 16 pages of cutouts to be used in completing the various projects.



## About the Author

Sawako Marubayashi is an artist educated at Tama Art University. She is on the artistic staff of the arts and crafts show *Kimi nara nani tsukuru?* (What Would You Make?) on NHK Educational TV. She is also editor of the crafts component of *Kodomo charenji poketto* (Kids' Challenge Pocket), which home-delivers educational materials for toddlers on a monthly basis, and has had a role in planning crafts-related supplements for the venerable children's magazines *Mebae* (Sprout) and *Yōchien* (Kindergarten). Her books include *Sawako-san to Happō-kun no hajimete kōsaku* (Sawako and Happō's First Crafts, 2013), *Ritoru supēsu* (Little Space, 2014), and the *Marubayashi-sanchi no tezukuri kaguchō* (The Marubayashi Family's Handmade Furniture Book, 2010–2012) series. She conducts workshops throughout Japan to spread the word about the joys of hands-on crafts.

# Four Seasons of Make-It-Yourself Fun

Sawako Marubayashi



Ages 3+  
210 x 180 mm  
127 pages  
Softcover  
ISBN 978-4591150573  
Rights sold: China

A book filled with make-it-yourself projects to last all year long, with ideas for every season and wherever you are that anyone can enjoy. From indoor projects using empty boxes and origami paper, to outdoor play with soap bubbles and flower garlands, the book suggests things you can do with what you're likely to have on hand—so you can get right down to having fun whenever you're looking for something to do. If it's a sunny day, it's the perfect time to go outside and make that flower garland or a grass whistle. If it's raining, then stay inside and entertain yourself folding origami sculptures or drawing pictures. On that sweltering mid-summer day, it's time for some water fun, going fishing for water-balloon goldfish or cooling off in a homemade squirt-gun fight. When the weather turns cold, get out the yarn to make cute little toys that are warm and fuzzy.

The projects are designed to be easy for children to make, but parents will have fun joining in, too, and some are sure to have Moms proudly putting their young ones' cute and chic creations on display. There are ideas for party decorations, too, and at the back of the book are six pages of cutouts and patterns to use in making the decorations.



## About the Author

Sawako Marubayashi is an artist educated at Tama Art University. She is on the artistic staff of the arts and crafts show *Kimi nara nani tsukuru?* (What Would You Make?) on NHK Educational TV. She is also editor of the crafts component of *Kodomo charenji poketto* (Kids' Challenge Pocket), which home-delivers educational materials for toddlers on a monthly basis, and has had a role in planning crafts-related supplements for the venerable children's magazines *Mebae* (Sprout) and *Yōchien* (Kindergarten). Her books include *Sawako-san to Happō-kun no hajimete kōsaku* (Sawako and Happō's First Crafts, 2013), *Ritoru supēsu* (Little Space, 2014), and the *Marubayashi-sanchi no tezukuri kaguchō* (The Marubayashi Family's Handmade Furniture Book, 2010–2012) series. She conducts workshops throughout Japan to spread the word about the joys of hands-on crafts.

# Thread Them Together: Animal Fun

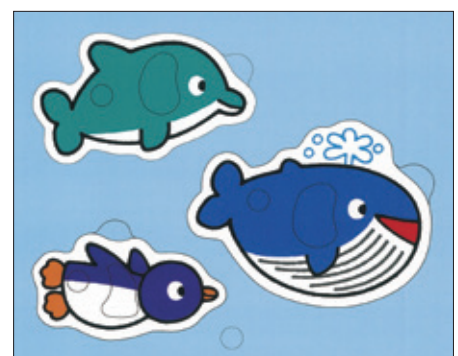
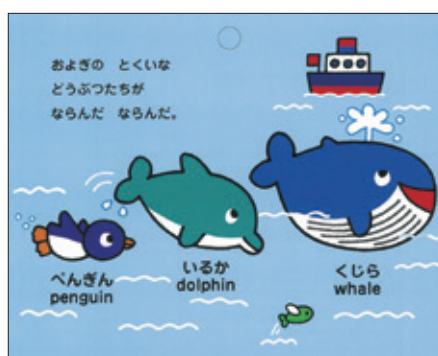
Kimika Warabe



Ages 1+  
175 x 200 mm  
10 pages  
Boardbook  
ISBN 978-4591150511  
Rights sold: China

This is an interactive picture book that offers dexterity training for children as young as 12 months, as they thread the provided cord through holes in animal cutouts.

The pre-cut animal cards can be popped out of the book and threaded together into a chain as illustrated on the cover. Thread them all together for a full parade! Or thread them in groups to match the situations shown in the book: animals taking a walk together across the countryside, sea creatures swimming one after another, all in a row, and so forth. Each card has holes of two different sizes, and they can also be turned over to practice color recognition—offering alternative modes of play to match each child's stage of development. When finished playing the threading game, children can fit the cards back into the book in the manner of a puzzle for even more fun.



## About the Author

Kimika Warabe (1950–) was born in Kumamoto Prefecture. After getting her feet wet in the field of illustration while a student at Chūō University, she established herself as a freelance illustrator upon graduation. In 1982 she founded Omochabako (Toy Box), a company focused on creating picture books and character design. She has produced numerous books designed to promote children's intellectual development, and many works related to childcare as well. She also has a line of other products under the Warabe Family name, including such things as towels, baby clothes, and dishes. Her published titles include the small-format interactive books *Tobidasu! Ugoku! Dōbutsu* (It Pops Up! It Moves! Animals), *Tobidasu! Ugoku! Tabemono* (It Pops Up! It Moves! Food), along with many others in the same series; and *Kisetsu to gyōji no ehon* (Picture Book of Seasonal Observances).

# Jam Packed Hidden Pictures

Kaori Hayashi



Ages 3+  
215 x 190 mm  
22 pages  
Boardbook  
ISBN 978-4591151723  
Rights sold:

Every page of this board book is jam-packed with drawings of animals, insects, sea creatures, flowers, fruits and vegetables, favorite foods, vehicles, clothing and other things around the house, and fairy tales—nine categories of items small children can learn the names of as they follow instructions to “Find the jam-packed monsters Chūtan, Marutan, and Mimitan hidden on every page”; “Find the hamster dancing in a bathing suit”; “Where’s the monkey riding on a bicycle?”; “Where’s the squirt gun?”; “I lost my glass slipper. Will you find it for me?; and so forth. With items separated by category, the pages contain over 400 pictures, each labeled with its name, for young readers to discover as they pore over the pages trying to find the hidden items. The cute, smile-inducing illustrations will heighten the little ones’ awareness of their actual surroundings as well. At the end of the volume are two pages with some extra challenges and two pages of answer keys.



## About the Author

Kaori Hayashi (year of birth unknown) is an illustrator and designer affiliated with Kyōda Creation Co., Ltd. She takes on a wide variety of design and picture-book projects.

# Princess Drawing Lessons for Little Girls

Tomo Tani, Nemuko Morino and Yūko Iwaida



Ages 3+

182 x 257 mm

80 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591135860

Rights sold: Korea

This is a “how to” book for those who want to learn to draw cute pictures of princesses and other female figures. In addition to model illustrations, the book provides line drawings at various stages of completion, and offers tips on how to fill in facial features and expressions, hair styles, and dress patterns, as well as how to color the drawing once it is completed. The budding artist can trace the light gray lines of the unfinished drawings, color in the finished line drawings to match the fully colored example provided, and practice drawing the same image from scratch on the blank pages included for that purpose. She can practice as many times as she wishes until she has mastered how to draw facial expressions, different poses, and a variety of dresses.

At the end of the book are activity pages where the reader can choose among several cut-out fashions for the figures, augment her play with stickers, and use the included cards and fold-and-mail stationery for correspondence with friends.



# The Witch's Fortune-Telling Birthday Book

Text by **Kinuka**  
 Illus. by **Tomo Tani**



Ages 8+  
 172 x 112mm  
 383 pages  
 Softcover  
 ISBN 978-4-591123867  
 Rights sold: Korea

For each of the 366 days in a year, including the leap day in February, it lists lucky numbers, lucky items, and lucky colors for readers born on that day, and also details what character traits are common among girls with that birthday, their romantic interests, their talents, and their personal charms. Readers can enjoy looking up not only their own fortunes but those of their friends, teachers, and family members as well.



## About the Author

Kinuka is an expert on fortunetelling, who participates in a broad range of related activities in addition to writing books and articles on the subject. She also provides private readings.

Tomo Tani is a manga artist and illustrator. She has provided the cover art and illustrations for numerous books and series, including the "Princess Magic" series.

# Girls' Coloring Book: The Charming Lives of Laura and Mary

## Yuka Satō

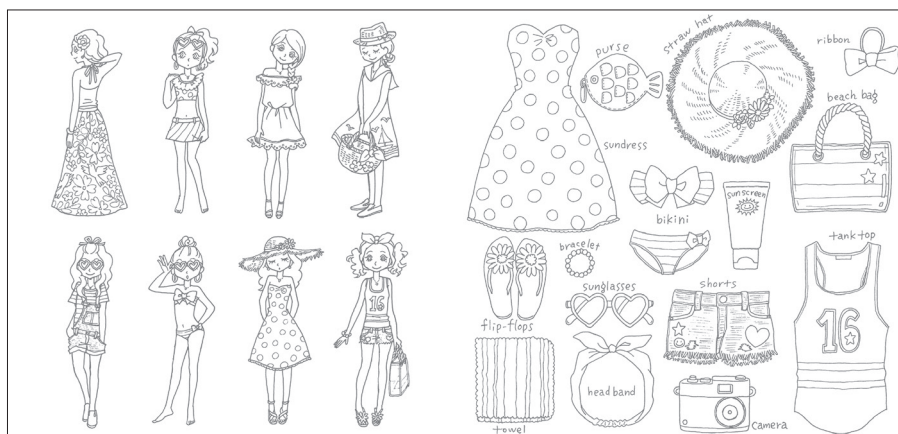


Ages 10+  
 220 x 230 mm  
 72 pages  
 Softcover  
 ISBN 978-4591149287  
 Rights sold: Korea



Mary lives in the country surrounded by nature, while Laura lives in a bustling city. The two girls were born on the same day and will soon be 17. Although they live completely different lives, they are the best of friends.

Author Yuka Satō, a tremendously popular illustrator, has created a picture-book style coloring book of Laura and Mary's "charming lives" to be colored in with your own favorite hues. Their closets and bedroom suites, a dollhouse, a tea party, and more—the girls' activities and surroundings are all here. Since the progression of scenes develops a sense of story, you can let your imagination carry you along as you weave your own personal tale. Even the cover can be colored in. The book is the perfect gift for close friends.



### About the Author

Yuka Satō graduated from the Graphic Design Department of Tokyo Designer Gakuin College with a degree in illustration, and has been working as a freelance illustrator since 1997. Titles she has illustrated include the Japanese editions of the *Little Genie* series by Miranda Jones and the *Animal Ark* series by Lucy Daniels, and *Tsuyokute gomen ne* (Sorry I'm Strong) by Hiroko Reijō, among many others.

sato-yuka.wixsite.com



# Fun with Zoomadanke: Kendama!

## Zoomadanke



Ages 9+  
210 x 146 mm  
127 pages  
Softcover  
ISBN 978-4591146866  
Rights sold:

Kendama is the Japanese version of the classic cup-and-ball game known in a variety of forms around the world, played with a ball attached by string to a handle with which it must be caught—in France, it's known as the bilboquet. The current design of Japan's kendama handle, with three cups and a spike, became established around 1920, and subsequent years have seen its acceptance throughout Japan as a traditional toy and folk-craft item that has also inspired serious research by practitioners aiming to achieve greater success as well as the development of competition models.

The Zoomadanke performance duo, who oversaw the production of this book, have been drawing enthusiastic crowds at shows that fuse kendama tricks with dance. The two certified toy consultants here present the tricks they have been teaching children throughout the country—from basic moves to complex sequences of those moves that will wow your onlookers—liberally illustrated with photographs that even youngsters can follow. Whether you are a grade-schooler picking up a kendama for the first time or an advanced adept working to perfect a spectacular routine, the book brings you advice from the pros. It's just

what you need to train for the freestyle kendama competition you've always wanted a shot at!

The book comes with a DVD of Zoomadanke in performance, including tips by the duo on how to practice and develop your kendama skills.



### About the Author

Zoomadanke is the name of a kendama (cup-and-ball) performance duo comprising Kodaman (1980–) and Easy (1990–). They perform over 100 shows a year combining their kendama virtuosity with music and dance, and are otherwise engaged in spreading the word about the many different ways you can enjoy the classic game. In recent years they have also appeared on television and other media, and have taken their show on tour overseas.

# Dinosaurs Comic Series

Comic by

Juzo Tokoro

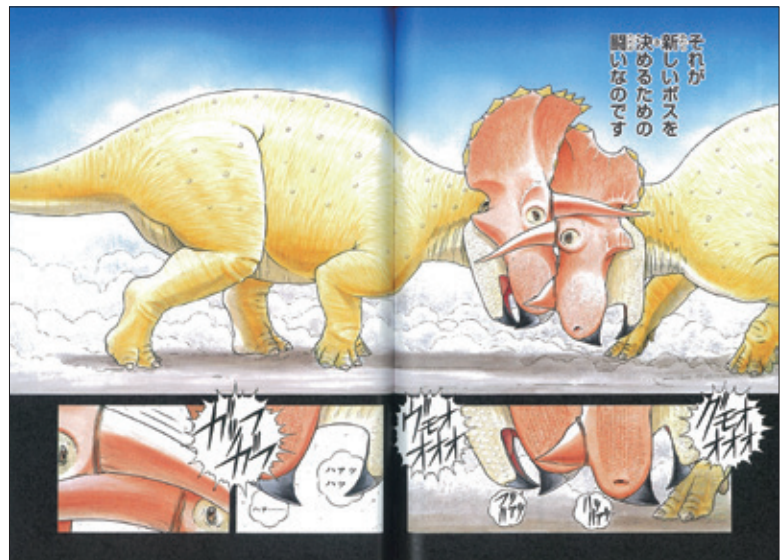
Editorial Supervision by

Makoto Manabe



## Tyrannosaurus

This comic series explains how various dinosaurs lived one hundred million years ago. This is the fourth title in the series, which features Tyrannosaurus. The books will fascinate readers with engaging stories and precise illustrations. It's a perfect introductory book with which children can easily learn about the biology of dinosaurs. The series has four titles.



Ages 8+

217 x 154 mm

159pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591135204

Rights sold: China and Taiwan



Allosaurus



Rhamphorhynchus



Velociraptor

### About the Author

Juzo Tokoro, a comic artist, mainly writes comics of dinosaurs.

# World's Heroes & Heroines Comic Series



Ages 10+  
226 x 160 mm  
126 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591135181  
Rights sold: Taiwan

## Cleopatra

Comic by **Natsumi Mukai**

Editorial Supervision by **Nozomu Kawai**

This comic series features scientists, doctors, masters of invention, and those who worked for ordinary people. The comics tell their childhood stories, as well as well-known episodes from history. Children can easily understand how these people lived, and it serves as a great start to reading biographies. The series has 32 titles so far.





Nobel



The Wright Brothers



Queen Elizabeth I



Favre



Galileo



Gandhi



Joan of Arc



Christopher Columbus



Beethoven



Mother Teresa



Madame Curie



Edison



Anne Frank



Nightingale



Helen Keller

# Learn a Technique by Comics: Shōgi School for Loving Kids

Text by **Takanori Hashimoto**

Illus. by **Kazuhiro Murakawa**



Ages 10+

210 x 148 mm

207 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591146491

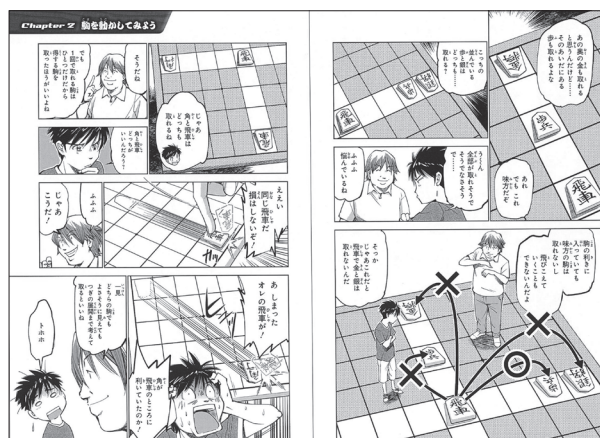
Rights sold:

Shōgi, also known as “Japanese chess,” is a board game for two played with 20 pieces each on a nine-by-nine grid of 81 squares. The game is distinctive among chess variations for being the first to institute a rule that allows captured pieces to be returned to the board as one’s own.

This work is an introductory guide to shōgi in comic book format, presenting the basic rules of the game as well as tips on winning strategies. The main character is Shōtarō Katsura, age nine or so, who has never had the slightest interest in the old-fogeyish game his grandfather keeps offering to teach him. But when he discovers that the new girl at school who moved from Tokyo loves shōgi, he decides he wants to learn to play. Supervising editor and professional shōgi player Takanori Hashimoto appears as himself in the story on the premise that he is visiting Shōtarō’s town on vacation. He takes Shōtarō step by step through the rudiments of the game, and readers who know nothing at all about shōgi get to tag along, learning the rules and basic strategies from a pro.

Sidebars at the end of each chapter offer additional information, and a

glossary of terms is included at the end of the volume. The book contains everything a beginner needs to know to get started with the game.



## About the Author

Takanori Hashimoto (1983–) was born in Ishikawa Prefecture. He is a *kishi*—a professional shōgi (“Japanese chess”) player. In 1994 he was admitted to the Shōreikai—the Japan Shōgi Association’s organization for training professionals—as a student of shōgi master Shōji Kenmochi. He was promoted to fourth *dan* and joined the ranks of professionals in 2001. Considered one of the most promising young *kishi*, he attained his current rank of eighth *dan* in 2012 (the highest *dan* is nine). An avid promoter of the game, he has taught classes to children and served as a commentator for tournament play. His publications include *NHK shōgi shirīzu: Hashimoto Takanori no shōri o tsukamu uke* (NHK Shōgi Series: Takanori Hashimoto’s Winning with Defense, 2010).

Kazuhiro Murakawa (1970–) was born in Yamagata Prefecture. He made his debut as a manga artist in 1999 with *Ayumu no koma* (Ayumu’s Pieces), a year-long series in the manga weekly *Shōnen Sandē* (Boys’ Sunday) about a high-school boy whose sights are set on becoming a professional *shōgi* (“Japanese chess”) player; the series was subsequently compiled in five paperback volumes. His other titles include *Haya* (Haya: A Fishing Cutie; 4 vols.), about a high-school girl who has grown up as an expert river-fisher thanks to her ichthyologist grandfather, and *Masaru no itte* (Masaru’s Move; 3 vols.), about a boy who gains admission to the Japan Shōgi Association’s school for training professional shōgi players.

# Swans in Space 1

## Lunlun Yamamoto



Ages 10+

182 x 128 mm

151 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591094907

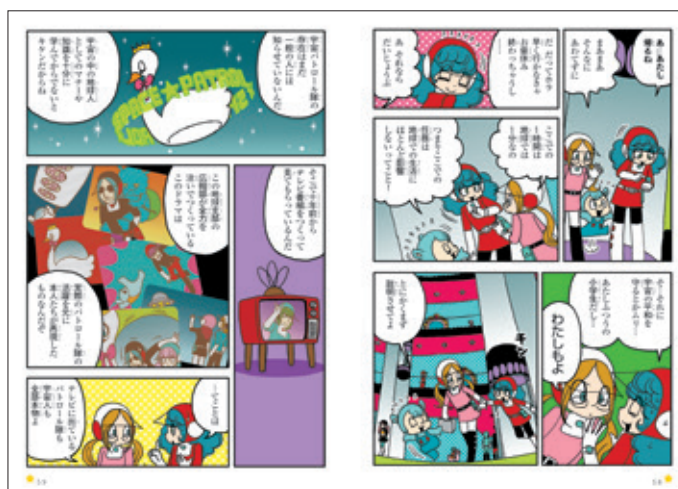
Rights sold: Canada, France  
and The United States

This space comedy manga originally appeared in the Asahi Elementary Student Newspaper, where it captured a huge fan base among Japan's grade school students.

Honor student and athletic standout Korona Hoshino is the sixth-grade class president at Cosmos Academy, and well-liked for her kind and caring nature. By contrast, Ran Tsukishima is something of a loner. Preferring not to draw attention, she spends her time reading by herself; because she is always snacking, she has a reputation for being lazy. But she's also a huge Space Patrol enthusiast, and she manages to persuade Korona to join the patrol as her partner.

The job of the Space Patrol is to solve conflicts among all sorts of alien races on any number of different planets. Through a variety of unusual incidents, in many cases with the more laid-back Ran covering for honor-student Korona's miscues, the two gradually cement their relationship and learn to work together as a team.

Adding interest along the way are a host of memorable characters, including a teacher who is even lazier than Ran, several capable rivals and senior members of the patrol, and a variety of highly unusual aliens. Also among this work's highlights are its unique artwork—in full color, though with quiet tones—and its fashions that are the perfect balance of retro and space age.



### About the Author

Lunlun Yamamoto (1973–) made her publishing debut in the alternative manga magazine *Garo*. She has published a number of manga series in the Asahi Elementary Student Newspaper, including the *Marshmallow Times*, *Orion Street*, and *Swans in Space*. Her other manga titles include *Miss Poppysseed's Fairy Tale Lane* and *Citrus Academy*. Fans are drawn to her distinctive artwork and the unique worlds she creates.

# The Scoop on Poop: Germs to the Rescue

Text by **Shiho Sakamoto**

Illus. by **Mimirō Tara**



Ages 10+

216 x 186 mm

63 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591142936

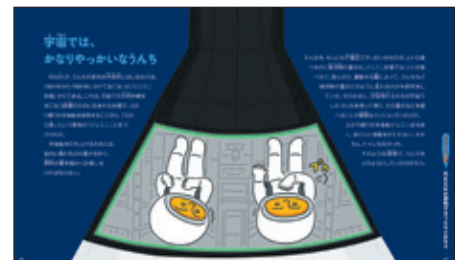
Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan

They may not be anybody's favorite things, but few would deny a certain degree of curiosity about poop, farts, and belly-button crud. A close look at these waste products of the human body show them to be teeming with bacteria. In order to throw light on the nature of these microorganisms, this book presents a number of funny but true stories in which they played a key role, such as how some researchers made cheese out of belly button crud, and how a "poop explosion" stank up the air aboard a NASA spaceship.

The primary focus is on showing just how significant the bacteria living in our gut are to our overall health, both physical and mental.

Numerous scientific studies have confirmed that having the proper balance of bacteria in our bellies is crucial to maintaining our well-being. The profound effects these germs have far outweigh their infinitesimal size.

The light, humorous tone adopted by author Shiho Sakamoto holds readers' interest as she unveils the intricate relationship between human waste and microorganisms based on up-to-date research. Colorful and amusing illustrations help make the information easy to grasp.



## About the Author

Shiho Sakamoto was born in Tokyo and graduated from Japan Women's University. Prior to striking out on her own as a freelance writer, she had stints as a researcher at the National Institute of Health (now the National Institute of Infectious Diseases), an assistant at the Tokyo University Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, and an editor of the science magazine *Nyūton* (*Newton*). In addition to her own writing, she helps develop science programs for NHK television, and has had a hand in producing programs on the giant squid, deepwater sharks, and human body cells, among others. Her recent publications include *Dokumento: Shinkai no chōkyōdai ika o oe!* (*Chasing the Giant Squid of the Deep*), *Dokumento: Nazo no kaitei same ōkoku* (*Mysteries of the Deepwater Shark*), and *Jintai: Mikuro no bōken: Bijuaru-ban saibō no mirakuru wārudo* (*The Miraculous World of the Human Body Cell: A Visual Adventure*).

Mimirō Tara (1969–) was born in Osaka and graduated from Osaka Designers' College. He worked in computer paste-up before going independent as an illustrator in 2000. Since then he has provided illustration and design services for both print and web media, and has maintained an active schedule of solo exhibitions. He is the prime mover behind the Hinode Factory and the group exhibitions for illustrators known as hinodetaraXentateXnt, which tap into the youthful culture of backstreet Harajuku in Tokyo.

# Dinosaurs Still Live

Text by **Kyōichi Tomita**  
 Illus. by **Masakatsu Shimoda**



Ages 10+  
 216 x 185 mm  
 63 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591147191  
 Rights sold:

Compiled by dinosaur expert Kyōichi Tomita and illustrated with great dynamism by Masakatsu Shimoda, this science reader for children presents the latest research on dinosaurs and their evolution. The text is written in simple language that even grade-schoolers with little prior scientific knowledge can follow.

In recent years, dinosaur fossils with feathers have been discovered. Having feathers could have benefited dinosaurs in a number of ways: helping maintain body temperature in frigid climes such as Antarctica, keeping their eggs and their young warm, attracting mates, expressing anger toward enemies, and most important of all, enabling flight. The first creatures to use feathered wings to fly through the air were in fact dinosaurs—in particular, the smaller and weaker ones. As larger, more powerful dinosaurs proliferated, smaller dinosaurs found haven in the trees. They flapped their feathered wings to help them climb trees or to hop from one to another, and then gradually increased their ability to remain in their air for longer periods of time until they could live entirely off the ground.

Beginning with the revelation that the famous tyrannosaurs of the Cretaceous period had feathers, the book discusses why dinosaurs flourished and how they are linked to Earth's ecosystems today. It goes on to explain that, of all creatures living on Earth at present, dinosaurs are the most closely related to birds—in other words, that dinosaurs evolved into birds—and ultimately arrives at the conclusion set forth in the book's title: dinosaurs still live.



## About the Author

Kyōichi Tomita (1966–) was born in Fukushima Prefecture. He has conducted research on dinosaurs at fossil fields all over the world as well as on the reptiles of Okinawa, and has devoted himself to CG reconstructions of dinosaurs as well as science education. As an expert on reptiles and dinosaurs, he has had a hand in many books and magazine features for children, and has served as an advisor to dinosaur exhibits mounted throughout Japan. Among his many publications are *Saishin kyōryū nyūmon* (The Newest Dinosaur Basics), *Za hachūrii & ryōseirui* (Reptiles and Amphibians), and *Sūpā riaru kyōryū daizukan* (Super-Real Illustrated Dinosaur Compendium).

Masakatsu Shimoda (1967–) was trained at the Kuwasawa Design School. For a period of two years beginning in 1994 he traveled through China, Tibet, Nepal, India, and the countries of Europe, drawing portraits of the people he met. Upon returning to Japan, he featured the portraits in a magazine series, and in 1997 the portraits were compiled into the book *Private World*. Besides working as an illustrator for magazines and such, he also creates picture books, among which are a number of collaborations with the poet Shuntarō Tanikawa, such as *Ān* (Open Wide) and *Buta rappa* (Pig Horn). In recent years he has been creating and holding exhibits of dinosaurs sewn out of sailcloth. His work is featured in the book *Kyōryū ningen* (Dinosaur People), with photos by Meisa Fujishiro and poetry by Shuntarō Tanikawa.



# Mr. Fabre's Insect Class: The Brilliance and Foolishness of Instinct

Text by **Daisaburo Okumoto** Illus. by **Kohei Yamashita**



Ages 9+

207 x 205 mm

175 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591150313

Rights sold: China, Korea and  
Taiwan

This book is compiled from translated extracts of French entomologist Jean-Henri Fabre's *Souvenirs entomologiques*, originally serialized in the Asahi Newspaper Elementary School Edition between April 2014 and September 2015. The text is written in Fabre's voice, as if he is speaking to the reader about his own observations and discoveries regarding insects, and it is divided into easy-to-grasp, page-length sections focusing on what the various insects eat, their eggs, their stages of development, their habits, and so forth, accompanied on the facing page by colorful, often amusing, manga-like illustrations. Also included is a section titled "Mr. Fabre's Photo Album" presenting a large number of color photos. The book covers 14 species of insects: scarab beetles, stag beetles, cicadas, wasps, butterflies, and more. (Although stag beetles do not appear in *Souvenirs entomologiques*, they have been included here because of their interest to Japanese children.)

It is the perfect book for the child who is curious about insects but finds the author's full translation of *Souvenirs entomologiques* too daunting.



## About the Author

Daisaburō Okumoto (1944–) was born in Osaka, graduated from the Department of French Literature at the University of Tokyo, and subsequently completed his graduate studies in the same department. A specialist on French literature, he is now professor emeritus of Saitama University. He is also chairman of the Japan Henri Fabre Association. In 1981 he won the Yomiuri Prize for Literature (Essays & Travelogues) for *Mushi no uchūshi* (A Natural History of the Bug Universe). Among his many other titles are *Mushi kara hajimaru bunmeiron* (Civilization Begins with Bugs), and *Mushi no idokoro* (Things That Bug Me). Okumoto also continues to publish new volumes of *Kan'yaku Fāburu konchūki*, his planned complete translation of Jean-Henri Fabre's *Souvenirs entomologiques*.

Kohei Yamashita (1971–) graduated from the Fine Arts Department at the Osaka University of Arts and works as a graphic designer, character products designer, and picture book author under the design label "mountain mountain." He is a member of the Japan Henri Fabre Association and the Japan Graphic Designers Association. His picture books include *Kaeru-kun to Kera-kun* (Froggie and Mole Cricket) and the *Banana sensei* (Our Teacher, Mr. Banana) series, both with stories by Yukihiisa Tokuda; and the solo title *Sagasō! Maigonosaurusu* (Where's the Dinosaur?).

# Elephants and Potato Chips

Makoto Yokotsuka



Ages 10+

217 x 282 mm

33 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882643302

Rights sold: Korea

The third largest island in the world, Borneo is a Southeast Asian treasure house of biodiversity. Covered in tropical rain forests, it is home to numerous species found nowhere else on earth. Yet the elephants that live there are being deprived of their native habitat and becoming increasingly endangered. Who would have guessed that there is a close link between their plight and the potato chips we all eat?

One glance at an aerial photo of Borneo's tropical landscape makes the connection clear: the deep green of the old-growth jungle has been reduced to narrow strips along the rivers; the rest of the land has been given over to oil palm plantations that stretch as far as the eye can see. The cheap, high-quality oil extracted from the fruit of these trees is used around the world to fry potato chips. It turns up in many other products as well, such as detergents. In fact a large proportion of the "vegetable oil" that appears on product ingredient lists is in fact oil that comes from these plants.

Beautiful photographs and succinct text document the ongoing destruction of Borneo's rain forests, stressing how important it is for each of us to be aware of the connections between our lives and what is going on elsewhere in the world. That understanding extends to an awareness not only of the tremendous diversity found in nature but also of how irreparably damaging the loss of that diversity can be. Author Makoto Yokotsuka has returned frequently to Borneo over the years to continue photographing the ecological changes underway there, and has made it his life's work to support the island's conservation movement. His photographs and text give readers much food for thought about how man and nature can coexist.

## About the Author

Makoto Yokotsuka (1957–) was born in Yokohama. From 1985 until 1994 he lived on Iriomote Island in Okinawa and photographed the flora and fauna native to the island, with particular attention to the critically endangered Iriomote cat, which is found nowhere else on earth. He succeeded in capturing images of an entire Iriomote cat family in 1990, and his photos were subsequently featured in the inaugural issue of the Japanese edition of *National Geographic* magazine. Since 1996 he has established his base of operations variously in Borneo, Costa Rica, and Madagascar, devoting his camerawork to tropical rain forests and mangroves. His published works include *Gensundai konchukan* (Full-Scale Insect Gallery), *Boruneo no nettai urin—seimei no furusato* (Borneo's Tropical Rain Forest—Fountainhead of Life), *Iriomote-jima yamaneko sodoki* (The Iriomote Cat Affair), and *Iriomote-jima firudo zukan* (Iriomote Island Field Guide).

# A Horse Poops!

Text by **Etsuko Yuki**  
 Photographer by **Yukihiro Fukuda**



Horses eat grass all day, and they poop a lot! Horses know whose poop it is by smelling it. Male horses poop over other male horses' poop to show "I am here." Male horses smell female horses' poop to look for their brides. Baby horses eat their mother's poop because it contains bacteria, which helps them digest grass. With brilliant photos and interesting stories, the book shows the amazing ecology of horses.

Ages 6+  
 226 x 195mm  
 32 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4882644545  
 Rights sold:



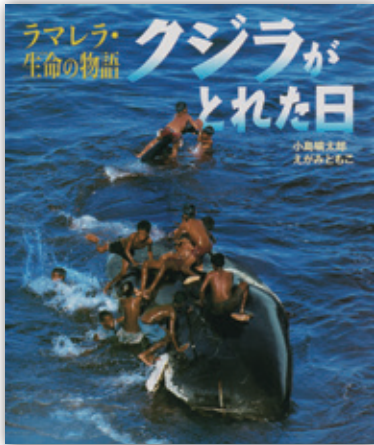
**About the Author** \* \* \* \* \*

Etsuko Yuki travels to watch wild animals worldwide and writes picture books and articles for children's magazines.

Yukihiro Fukuda, born in 1965, started his career as a photographer in his early 20s. He's published more than 20 picture books and photography books.

# The Day They Caught a Whale: Lamalera, a Tale of Life

Text by **Tomoko Egami**  
 Photographer by **Kotaro Kojima**



Ages 10+  
 264 x 219 mm  
 42 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591067819  
 Rights sold:



This is a photo picture book depicting whale hunting in the small village of Lamalera, on an island far to the south of Japan.

Word comes that a whale has drawn near the island. The villagers row their boats out to sea. They raise sail and concentrate hard; not a word is exchanged so they do not lose the whale. Some villagers sharpen the harpoons, others handle the oars, while still others offer prayers for success.

Turning the page, we find that the whale has finally risen to the surface of the sea. The villagers speak in very quiet voices; the only thing one hears is the sound of the whale spouting water. Lafama the harpooner is excited as he prepares to leap onto the whale, harpoon in hand. It is a sacred one-to-one struggle. The harpoon, hurled into the whale with maximum force, hits its target, and those on board pull hard on the rope that is attached to the harpoon. They need this whale in order to live. They feel profound respect for the whale and during the struggle will eat no food and drink no water. This, they believe, is their covenant with the whale. The victorious villagers drag the whale onto the beach where it will be cut up and used not only for food but for all sorts of daily necessities. Nothing is wasted: this too is part of their covenant with the whale.

We who have upset Nature's balance and now call loudly for whale conservation have much to learn from these villagers in their equal interaction with the forces of Nature.

## About the Author

Tomoko Egami (1946–) was born in Fukuoka Prefecture; she now lives in Okinawa and teaches at Okinawa International University, her specialty being ethnology. She has collaborated with photographer Kotaro Kojima on such books as *Kujira ni idomu fune* (Boats Challenging Whales) and *Kujira ga kureta chikara* (The Power the Whales Gave), both in the *Ramarera, inochi no monogatari* (Lamalera, a Tale of Life) series, as well as *Kujira to ikiru: umi no shuryo, yama no kokan* (Living with Whales: Hunting at Sea, Trading in the Mountains).

Kotaro Kojima (1952–) was born in Tokyo and lives in Okinawa. Since 1985 he has devoted himself to the study of traditional whaling culture on the island of Lembata in eastern Indonesia, describing the lives of people who hunt sperm whales with hand-held harpoons from wooden boats. He has published *Kujira to shonen no hibi* (Days of Whales and Youths), and has collaborated with author Tomoko Egami on *Kujira ni idomu fune* (Boats Challenging Whales) and *Kujira ga kureta chikara* (The Power the Whales Gave), both in the *Ramarera, inochi no monogatari* (Lamalera, a Tale of Life) series, as well as *Kujira to ikiru: umi no shuryo, yama no kokan* (Living with Whales: Hunting at Sea, Trading in the Mountains).

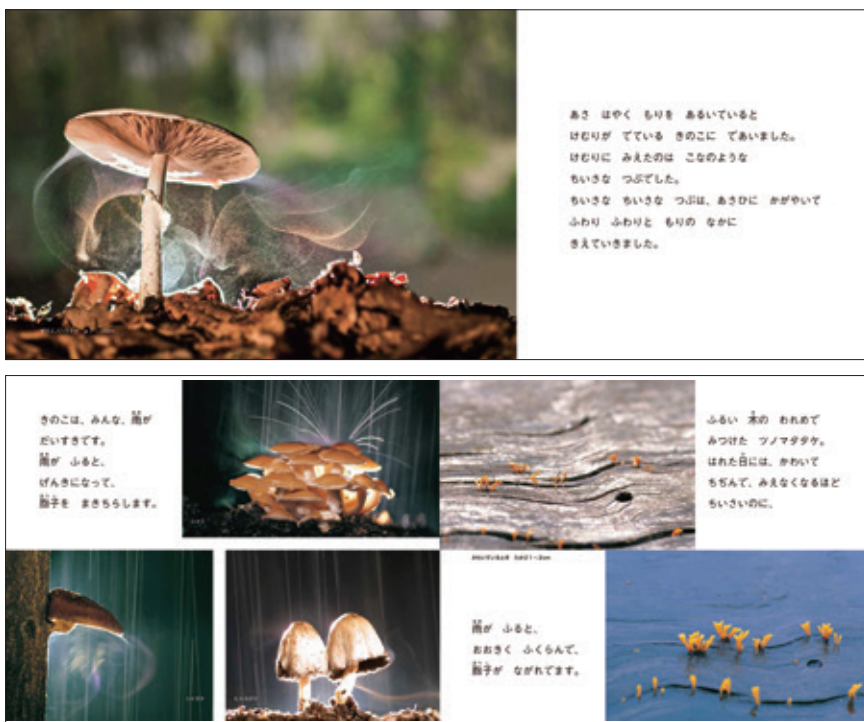
# Mushrooms: The Weightless Dance of the Spores

Ciabou Hany



Ages 10+  
 208 x 263 mm  
 35 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591125632  
 Rights sold:

White wisps of smoke puff from the cap of the mushroom. They are in fact spores. Riding on air currents, they catch the light to create a phantasmic, aurora-like spectacle. The earthstar mushroom releases spores like a volcanic eruption when hit by a drop of rain. The bioluminescent yakodake mushroom glows in the dark, as do its spores. Numerous photo collections have been published featuring the shapes and colors of mushrooms proper, but this is the first to focus entirely on the moment when their spores take flight. Readers can picture the photographer lying on his stomach in the woods to bring the mushrooms to eye level as he awaits the moment to snap the shutter. They will find themselves nodding at his characterization of the mushroom as a launching pad from which the fungus broadcasts its seed. And having seen something new about mushrooms that the naked eye cannot view on its own, they will gain a fresh appreciation for the great workings of nature.



## About the Author

Ciabou Hany (or Shabo Hani in the conventional spelling; 1931–) was born in Oita Prefecture and is one of Japan’s leading plant photographers. He has long held a deep interest in desert plants. In 1960 he designed the Izu Cactus Park, located in Ito on the Izu Peninsula. Shortly afterwards he moved to Yamaguchi Prefecture, where he continued to study desert plants and began publishing *Gekkan shaboten* (The Cactus Monthly) as a platform for sharing his knowledge with other enthusiasts. Beginning around 1968 he established himself as a photographer of plant life, an occupation he continues to this day. He now lives in Gunma Prefecture. His photo picture books include *Himawari* (Sunflowers), *Shokubutsu ki* (Days of Plants), and *Saboten no fushigi* (The Wonders of Cacti). In 2012 he received the Sankei Children’s Book Art Award for *Kinoko—Fuwari hoshi no mai* (Mushrooms—The Weightless Dance of the Spores).

# Cocoons: Capsules of Life

Takashi Shinkai



Ages 10+  
208 x 261 mm  
35 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591103654  
Rights sold:

To see a caterpillar spinning silk from its mouth to create a cocoon is to encounter one of the great wonders of nature. The reader opens this book to a flyleaf filled from edge to edge with the captivating beauty of the myriad cocoon shapes made by different moths.

The ovate cocoon of a Japanese oak silkmoth (*Antheraea yamamai*) and the purse-like cocoon of a *Rhodinia fugax* are both pale green in color, but one hides in the shade of a leaf while the other hangs from a branch. The spike-covered larva of a *Monema flavescens* builds its cocoon with a brown and white pattern reminiscent of a piece of fine pottery. Photos of each caterpillar at work, building its cocoon, are shown on facing pages. The finished shapes embody the marvelous artistry of nature.

There are photos, too, of larvae inside the cocoon transforming into pupae, maturing, and dramatically emerging as full-grown moths. The cocoon is indeed a capsule of life, protecting these insects during a critical stage of development. Numerous photo sequences reveal the mysteries of these tiny lives and leave the reader with a sense of wonder. (Akira Nogami)

## About the Author

Takashi Shinkai (1968–) was born in Ehime Prefecture. He became fascinated by the lives of butterflies while in high school, and went on to major in entomology at Ehime University. After graduation he worked in Tokyo for a time in the production of educational films before going independent as a freelance photographer of insects; his photos capture their remarkable characteristics in eye-popping detail. His books include *Yamamayuga kansatsu jiten* (The Japanese Oak Silkmoth Up Close), *Kamemushi kansatsu jiten* (The Stink Bug Up Close), *Mushi-tachi no fushigi* (The Miraculous World of Insects), and *Mushi no kodomo-tachi* (A Pictorial Guide to Larvae).

# We're Having a Baby

Text by **Emiko Ito**

Photographer by **Yasuhiro Ito**



Ages 10+

248 x 245 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591083710

Rights sold: Korea

The striking cover photo shows a little girl with her nose pressed to her mother's pregnant belly, as if she is communicating with the baby inside. "I'll be waiting for you," she says, and *tok tok tok tok* comes the answer. It is the sound of the baby's heart. A midwife drops by now and then to check on the baby's health, letting the family listen to the baby's heartbeat with her ultrasound device, and the little girl is amazed to see her mother's tummy ripple. Then one day when they are in the bath together, Mama says her tummy hurts and out comes the baby with a *Waaah!* The girl's older brothers cut the cord and the baby falls asleep at Mama's breast. "You're my new little brother! We're going to have so much fun playing!"

The book captures the excitement of seeing a new life come into the world from the perspective of a six-year-old girl, expressing her surprise and delight in endearing language. Because the story is essentially a documentary of the author's own pregnancy and home birth that unfolds in pictures taken by her husband (a professional photographer), flipping through the book evokes the same warm feelings as paging through a family album. A conversation with the family and remarks from the midwife are appended at the end of the volume, prompting further thoughts about the birth of a new life. (Sachiyo Hosoe)

## About the Author

Emiko Ito was born in Niigata. She began working with children with disabilities during her college years, and has continued to be active in the disability welfare movement ever since. She has also helped promote breastfeeding and diaper-free practices with Friends of Natural Mothering (Shizen Ikuji Tomonokai), a nonprofit dedicated to child-rearing support. Since the publication of *Uchi ni akachan ga umareru no* (We're Having a Baby) she has been offering readings and guest classes at schools. Her other picture books include *Kyo Nobu ni atta yo* (I Saw Nobu Today), *Ippo niho sampo* (One Step, Two Steps, Three Steps), and *Omedeto, taisetsu na anata e* (Happy Birthday to My Special One).

Yasuhiro Ito was born in Niigata. As a professional photographer, he specializes in softly illumined photos of mothers with their babies. He has produced a number of photographic picture books with his wife, author Emiko Ito.

# Happiness in the Form of a Cat

Rui Kodemari



151 x 105 mm  
262 pages  
Softcover  
ISBN 978-4591126967  
Rights sold: Korea and  
Vietnam

Set against the constantly changing seasons of the American countryside, this story tells of the powerful bond that forms between a married couple and their beloved cat. It is based on author Rui Kodemari's own experiences with her cat, no longer of this world.

Ayano, born and raised in Japan, and Michio, of Japanese descent but born and raised in the United States, are introduced to each other as potential marital partners in Tokyo. They instantly hit it off, decide to get married without delay, and Ayano moves to America. It is a second marriage for both of them, following unions that left each of them scarred. Agreeing that they would like to have a cat as part of their new life together, they go to the local animal shelter, and when a Norwegian Forest kitten leaps out of the cage onto Michio's shoulder, they decide to take it home.

The kitten quickly becomes the center of their life and a symbol of their happiness. Even the scratches it leaves on the furniture as it bounds about the house are endearing to them. Stories about the cat are interwoven with the ebb and flow of the couple's love for each other, telling of how it responds to the appearance of wildlife outside the windows, what it did when left home alone while the couple went on a trip, and so forth. The young kitten grows into adulthood and ages far more quickly than its human guardians; the two look on with growing concern as the end appears nigh, and then their beloved companion is gone. As close as Michio and Ayano have been as husband and wife, they respond differently to their loss—each grieving and healing in his or her own way—and this serves to bring subtle wrinkles in their relationship into relief.

## About the Author

Rui Kodemari (1956–) was born in Okayama Prefecture. In 2005 she received the Shimase Award for Love Stories for *Hoshii no wa, anata dake* (You're the Only One I Want). Since then she has produced numerous romances, which have gained her a steady following. Her fiction works include *Sora to umi no deau basho* (Where Sky and Ocean Meet), *Mochizuki seikaten* (Greengrocer Mochizuki), *Neko no katachi o shita kōfuku* (Happiness in the Form of a Cat), *Kyūshi isshō* (Nine Lives Make One Life), *Utsukushii shinzō* (Beautiful Heart), and many others. In 2014's *Appuru songu* (The Apple Song), she takes on a weightier storyline while still retaining the delicate charm of her established style. She has also published essay collections, including *Aishi no neko Purin* (My Beloved Cat, Purin) and *Uddosutokku no mori no hibi* (Days amid the Trees of Woodstock). She currently lives in Woodstock, New York.



# Where Sky and Ocean Meet

Rui Kodemari



151 x 105 mm  
256 pages  
Softcover  
ISBN 978-4591102978  
Rights sold: Korea and  
Vietnam

Konoha Kakehashi, 32, is a freelance illustrator. One day she receives a request from the publisher of a forthcoming children's story by Yūi Igarashi, alias "Arashi," to provide illustrations for the volume. According to the young editor, Arashi is currently on an extended trip overseas, but he has personally directed that Konoha be commissioned to illustrate the story.

Konoha and Arashi had in fact lived together until five years before, and not a day has gone by since without her thinking of him. The two had met when they were both 13, at a residential facility for children from troubled families. Konoha had become unable to go to school as a result of bullying; Arashi had been removed from his parents' care and turned over to relatives. They are drawn to each other and exchange their first kiss. Arashi's dream is to become a writer; when he leaves the facility he promises Konoha he will come to her aid if she ever finds herself in difficulty.

They run into each other again in their 20s, when Konoha is a budding illustrator and Arashi is trying to establish himself as a writer. They fall in love and soon move in together. Completing a manuscript he has poured heart and soul into, Arashi sends it off to a publisher with high hopes, only to receive a stinging rejection note in return. After seeing the note, he disappears for a time; when he finally comes home, he and Konoha have a falling out, in part due to his womanizing, and she ultimately leaves him. Five years have gone by since.

Arashi's manuscript begins arriving in sections from overseas, and Konoha draws the requested illustrations. Through the events of the story, she comes to know the loneliness Arashi is experiencing and his awkwardness in expressing his love. Once the final section has arrived and the story is complete, communications from Arashi cease. With only his last post card as a clue, she goes to Ireland to look for him, and the two are finally reunited on a hill where they can look out over the sea to the distant horizon—where sky and ocean meet.

It is the story of a man who lives under an unbearable burden of loneliness, the woman who wants desperately to save him from it, and their love for each other that reaches across time and distance.

## About the Author

Rui Kodemari (1956–) was born in Okayama Prefecture. In 2005 she received the Shimase Award for Love Stories for *Hoshii no wa, anata dake* (You're the Only One I Want). Since then she has produced numerous romances, which have gained her a steady following. Her fiction works include *Sora to umi no deau basho* (Where Sky and Ocean Meet), *Mochizuki seikaten* (Greengrocer Mochizuki), *Neko no katachi o shita kōfuku* (Happiness in the Form of a Cat), *Kyūshi isshō* (Nine Lives Make One Life), *Utsukushii shinzō* (Beautiful Heart), and many others. In 2014's *Appuru songu* (The Apple Song), she takes on a weightier storyline while still retaining the delicate charm of her established style. She has also published essay collections, including *Aishi no neko Purin* (My Beloved Cat, Purin) and *Uddosutokku no mori no hibi* (Days amid the Trees of Woodstock). She currently lives in Woodstock, New York.

# The Apple Song

## Rui Kodemari



194 x 136 mm

374 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591140031

Rights sold:

As an infant, Marie Torikai is rescued from beneath the rubble following an air raid on the city of Okayama near the end of World War II. She is cared for by relatives until the age of ten because her mother had failed to recover her strength after childbirth, but then her mother comes to claim Marie back and they move to Seattle to live with her second husband. When her mother dies six years later, however, Marie is left an orphan at age 16. She moves to New York, where she works as a hotel maid while setting her sights on becoming an artist. Impressed by pictures a friend shows her, she joins the upstate apple harvest to earn some extra money and buy a camera of her own. A young Japanese cameraman traveling in the United States teaches her the basics of photography, and she begins submitting photos to publishers, dreaming of the day when she will be able to make a living with her camera.

Then comes a fateful meeting with Renji Iwai, a Japanese war photographer who has been documenting the War in Vietnam. They fall in love, and Marie sets her camera aside as she focuses on starting a family. But she happens to be back in Japan in February 1972 when the Asama Sansō (“Mountain Lodge”) hostage crisis takes place, and the incident prompts her to pick up her camera again. As she is covering that news she suffers a miscarriage, and at nearly the same time, Renji is killed in Vietnam. She decides to carry on his work as a photojournalist, and begins traveling to hot spots around the globe, documenting outbreaks of student unrest, plane crashes, civil wars, and the like. All the while she asks: Why do people fight? Is there anything that can save the world from all this conflict? The final event she photographs is the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in New York City on September 11, 2001. Torikai throws down her camera to help rescue children from a daycare center inside one of the buildings and ultimately fails to return, adding her name to the list of the missing.

The story is told in part by Marie herself, and in part by Miwako, a childcare worker whom Marie rescues from the World Trade Center. Miwako visits Marie’s relatives and acquaintances to learn about her life. The two points of view merge into a moving tale of a woman living in turbulent times who pursued her chosen mission with great passion and pride.

### About the Author

Rui Kodemari (1956–) received the Shimase Award for Love Stories for *You’re the Only One I Want* in 2005. Since then she has produced numerous romances, which have gained her a steady following. Her fiction works include *Where Sea and Sky Meet*, *Greengrocer Mochizuki*, *Happiness in the Form of a Cat*, and many others. In 2014’s *The Apple Song*, she takes on a weightier storyline while still retaining the delicate charm of her established style. She has also published essay collections, including *My Beloved Cat*, *Purin*. She currently lives in Woodstock, New York.

# Harmonium

## Kōji Fukada



195 x 135 mm

156 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591151457

Rights sold:

In his literary debut, director Kōji Fukada has personally novelized the film that took the Jury Prize in the *Un Certain Regard* section of the 2016 Cannes Film Festival.

The story is set at a small suburban metalworking shop owned and operated by Toshio Suzuoka and his wife Akie. The couple have a ten-year-old daughter, Hotaru. They live a quiet and humdrum life with little to talk about. One day an old acquaintance of Toshio named Yasaka shows up at the door. He has recently been released from prison after serving a sentence for murder. Without discussing it with Akie, Toshio not only hires Yasaka but offers him their spare room to live in. Akie cannot hide her displeasure at first, but Yasaka goes with her to her Christian church, happily accompanies Hotaru to her organ lessons, and otherwise conducts himself both amiably and courteously, and she gradually warms up to him. Toshio sees Yasaka acting more and more like a member of the family and becoming closer to his wife, but looks the other way. The fact that Yasaka alone had gone to prison for an incident in which they were both involved weighs on his conscience. Then one day Yasaka disappears after assaulting Hotaru sexually and leaving her in a vegetative state.

Eight years go by. Toshio's efforts to find Yasaka's whereabouts through private investigators continue to be in vain. A youth named Kōji hires on as a new employee in the Suzuokas' shop. The boy never knew his father, and his mother's death has left him an orphan, but he has an easy nature that quickly wins his employers' confidence. Then a remark he happens to make one day shocks them to the core: the father he never met was none other than Yasaka. Toshio finally tells Akie about his involvement in the murder for which Yasaka went to prison. In his inability to overcome his feelings of guilt, he had consigned his daughter to her tragic fate. Toshio and Akie find themselves battling the demons of their past as they set out with Kōji in search of Yasaka in this deeply provocative tale that traces how sins of the past slowly but surely begin to erode the foundations of a seemingly stable and tranquil family.

### About the Author

Kōji Fukada (1980–) is a Japanese filmmaker who was born in Tokyo. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Literature at Taishō University as well as of The Film School of Tokyo. In 2006 he released the film *Zakuro yashiki* (*La Grenadière*), which went on to win the Golden Sun for First Films (*Soleil d'or du premier film*) at the 2008 Festival Kinotayo, the largest contemporary Japanese film festival held in France. His film *Kantai* (*Hospitalité*) was named Best Film in the Japanese Eyes category at the 2010 Tokyo International Film Festival. In 2013, his *Hotori no Sakuko* (*Au revoir l'été=Goodbye Summer*) took double honors at the Festival of the Three Continents in Nantes, France, winning both the Golden Montgolfière and the Young Audience Award; and it also won the Jury Prize for Best Director at the Black Nights Film Festival in Tallinn, Estonia. *Fuchini tatsu* (*Harmonium*) received the Jury Prize in the *Un Certain Regard* section of the 2016 Cannes Film Festival; Fukada's novelization of the film, published the same year, marked his literary debut.

# In the Back Yard of the Minato Hotel

Haruna Terachi



194 x 135 mm  
238 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591149102  
Rights sold: China

This volume contains two heartwarming linked stories, one mid-length and one short, about the eponymous Minato Hotel.

In *Saku no wa hana dake de wa nai* (Not Just Flowers Bloom), Shinnosuke Kiyama, a 25-year-old white-collar worker, lives with his grandfather Kakujirō. Kakujirō is a member of a “mutual support group” of men and women who were originally classmates in middle school and have met regularly ever since. One day Kakujirō tells Shinnosuke that the first-anniversary memorial for group member Yōko is approaching, and he wants to hold the ceremony in the back yard of the Minato Hotel that she used to run. It is a lodging house that was built in the 1920s, and besides being outfitted with antique furnishings, its six guest rooms are soundproofed. The hotel has a back yard where flowers are constantly in bloom year-round, but the key to the back door has been missing since Yōko’s death. In the meantime, a note expressing Yōko’s wish that her funeral be held in that back yard has come into Kakujirō’s possession, and although it’s too late to honor that particular wish, he offers Shinnosuke a sum of money to find the key so that her first anniversary observance can be held there.

When Shinnosuke goes to the Minato Hotel to conduct his search, Yōko’s 37-year-old adopted son Atsuhiko, now managing the hotel, offers to pay him to find a missing cat, as well as to stand in at the hotel’s reception desk. During Yōko’s time, what was once a perfectly ordinary lodging place had somehow been transformed into a kind of retreat facility for people whose troubles steal their appetites and keep them awake at night. Shinnosuke has never been much of a people person, but his contacts with the distinctively drawn characters at the hotel—eccentric owner Atsuhiko; long-term residents Kiriko and her daughter, who have come there to escape a violent husband/father; a colleague of Shinnosuke from his regular job, who has been cut off by her adulterous lover—begin to change him, warming him to the value of a life lived in service to others. After weathering a visit by Kiriko’s husband when he discovers her whereabouts, Shinnosuke finally finds the key to the back yard, and the first-anniversary memorial takes place there as Kakujirō had hoped. The all-important clue to the key’s hiding place is one that expresses Yōko’s deep love for Atsuhiko.

The accompanying story, *Te no naka ni aru* (In Hand), rolls back the time frame to when Yōko’s beloved husband died. It recounts how, after shuttering the hotel for a time, she decided to reopen it as a place where those who are struggling with difficult circumstances in their lives can come to rest both body and soul.

Set in an offbeat hotel that opens its arms to people carrying a variety of burdens, the two stories gently and lovingly illumine the simple joys of people connecting with one another.

## About the Author

Haruna Terachi (1977–) was born in Saga Prefecture and now lives in Osaka. She began writing on the side while holding down a job in addition to her homemaking responsibilities. Her publishing debut came after winning the Poplar Fiction Prize for New Writers in 2014 for *Bioreta* (Violeta). Lavish praise from such established writers as Yuka Murayama quickly put Terachi in the limelight as a hot new talent. Between part-time work and caring for a four-year-old, she continues to write at her own pace. She has declared that she’s “not interested in big shots or heroes,” and intends to keep on writing about ordinary people.

haruna0109.hatenablog.com

# Violeta

Haruna Terachi



194 x 135 mm  
223 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591145616  
Rights sold: China

Tae Tanaka is 27. She quits her job to marry Shin'ichi, the man she has been seeing for four years, only to have him call off the wedding and break up with her. She is sobbing in despair at the side of the road when a no-nonsense, take-charge woman named Sumire Kitamura, “as commanding as a doberman,” practically picks her up by the scruff of the neck to drag her home and take her under her wing. Tae begins working at Violeta, a store run by Sumire and named after the Spanish word for her name. It is a somewhat offbeat shop selling a variety of handicrafts made by Sumire, including beautifully decorated jewelry boxes that are referred to as “coffins.” Customers place mementos and memories in these boxes—a worn-out fountain pen, some cigarette butts, a broken watch, a doll handmade by Mom, a cherished memory of a dead spouse, and so forth—and bury them in the store’s yard. But for some reason, Sumire refuses to allow Tae to place her engagement ring in one of these coffins. Tae admires Sumire for her independence and dauntlessness, but she also can’t help feeling a certain unbridged gap between them.

Tae decides to stick it out at Violeta until she finds a better employment opportunity. In an effort to get past the heartache of her break-up, she begins seeing Kentarō Chitose, the owner of a button shop that is one of Violeta’s suppliers. Now in his forties, Chitose is a kind, big-hearted man who treats Tae well. It comes as a shock to her when Sumire’s grown son Rentarō comes home for a visit and tells Tae that Chitose is his father, but Chitose is able to ease her misgivings and the relationship continues with the apparent blessing of Sumire and Rentarō.

Although she lacks confidence and has a tendency toward self-abnegation, Tae gradually gains a new sense of herself through the interactions she has with the many unusual people she meets at Violeta. And as she gets to know Chitose better, she learns that he was abused by his mother as a child, and also that Sumire is racked with guilt over how she married and divorced Chitose in short order just to have a child. In time she realizes that the workplace and the companion she chose “for the time being” have become treasured, essential parts of her life. Instead of waiting around for something new to be given to her, she determines to “be here now,” doing whatever she can for the people who have become so important to her.

Both stirring and funny, this story of a woman learning to stand on her own two feet will work its way into readers’ hearts.

## About the Author

Haruna Terachi (1977–) was born in Saga Prefecture and now lives in Osaka. She began writing on the side while holding down a job in addition to her homemaking responsibilities. Her publishing debut came after winning the Poplar Fiction Prize for New Writers in 2014 for *Bioreta* (*Violeta*). Lavish praise from such established writers as Yuka Murayama quickly put Terachi in the limelight as a hot new talent. Between part-time work and caring for a four-year-old, she continues to write at her own pace. She has declared that she’s “not interested in big shots or heroes,” and intends to keep on writing about ordinary people.

# Like a Momentary Ray between the Clouds

Mami Sunada



195 x 135 mm

228 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591147979

Rights sold:

This is a collection of five stories linked by the death of a young boy in a traffic accident.

In *Summer: Chieko's Story*, the eponymous Chieko, 28, is working as a temp at a publishing house when she meets married editor Kenji, 39, and they begin an illicit affair. A woman friend and colleague repeatedly urges her to end the relationship, but Chieko is unable to give up her feelings for Kenji. Then one day, suddenly, she can no longer reach Kenji. Several months go by, and the relationship resumes as if nothing had happened. Kenji tells her he has been out of touch because his wife “hit a little boy with her car, and the boy ended up dying.” They continue seeing each other until one day Kenji shows up at her apartment uncharacteristically wearing a suit, which he explains by saying it’s the first anniversary of the boy’s death: he and his wife have been to visit the boy’s family and pay their respects. They had gone expecting to be vilified by the single mother, who had raised the boy all by herself since getting divorced, but there had not been a single harsh word from the woman. “On the way back, I threw up at the side of the road,” he adds, smiling faintly as tears brim in his eyes. Something in his manner fills Chieko with desire, and they make mad, passionate love. Realizing afterward that Kenji had not used protection, Chieko goes to the emergency room to get a prescription for the morning-after pill. When the severe side effects of taking the emergency contraception wear off, Chieko breaks up with Kenji as if she has been exorcised of a possessive spirit.

In *Autumn: Yoshino's Story*, the point of view shifts to the dead boy’s mother, and in the stories that follow the perspectives shift again—to Kenji; to Kenji’s wife, Misato; and to Kōichi, a random witness to the accident. Each narrative gently probes the psychology of the point-of-view character as it follows him/her through the days—the adulterous couple each in their turn, the woman who killed a young boy in a traffic accident, the mother who lost her child, and the witness who experienced an epiphany “like a momentary ray between the clouds.” When people come face-to-face with the death of another, they often become more aware of their own sins, and wonder how they can atone. It is a work that lingers in the reader’s mind long after the last page is turned.

## About the Author

Mami Sunada (1978–) was born in Tokyo and is a documentary filmmaker. She received numerous awards, including the 2011 Directors Guild of Japan New Directors Award, for her directorial debut, *Endingu nōto* (Ending Note: Death of a Japanese Salesman), in which she follows her terminally ill father from the time he learns he has cancer in early 2009 until his death at the end of the year. She made her literary debut in 2011 as well, with *Oto no nai hanabi* (Silent Fireworks), which can be read as a companion to the film.

i

## Kanako Nishi



195 x 135 mm

303 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591153093

Rights sold: Korea

The *i* of the title represents both the imaginary unit in math ( $i^2 = -1$ ) and the English first-person pronoun I. It is also a homophone for *ai*, the Japanese word for “love,” as well as for Ai, the name of the main character. When her high school math teacher declares during a lesson on imaginary numbers that “*i* does not exist in this world,” Ai Soda Wild feels as if her own existence has been denied. The line lodges deep in her consciousness and continues to haunt her for some time to come.

Ai was adopted from Syria by her American father and Japanese mother. Her early childhood years were spent in the upscale New York neighborhood where her parents lived, but the family moved to Tokyo when she was in middle school. She has fretted about the fact that she is adopted from a very young age. Why had she been the one her loving parents chose? Who among the untold numbers of other unfortunate children had she displaced? The comfortable circumstances in which she lives bring her pangs of guilt, and news reports from around the world about civil wars, terrorism, and natural disasters make her feel as if she alone has been wrongly spared. As a bystander, she feels she has even lost the right to mourn the many tragedies she hears of. Ultimately, she begins keeping track of the death tolls from those various calamities in a notebook. Countering these tendencies toward self-abnegation is the realization that the voice in her head repeating “*i* [Ai] does not exist in this world” disappears when she is with her best friend Mina, a girl she met after starting high school.

When Japan’s northeastern Pacific coast suffers an earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear plant meltdown, the introverted Ai begins to come out of her shell. Rebelling against her parents, who are in America at the time, she decides to remain in Japan. At a demonstration to protest nuclear power she meets a photographer named Yū, and they subsequently get married. Lacking a sense of her own roots, Ai wants to establish a family tree for herself by having a child. But after going through infertility treatments, she miscarries. At that very juncture Mina reveals that she is thinking of getting an abortion, and the two young women have a falling out. Ai feels at a loss, but nudged by Yū’s remark that “You can still love someone even if you can’t understand their point of view,” she decides to visit Mina in Los Angeles. The two long-time friends talk through the night—about the ravages of war in Syria, about the state of the world, about the future—unburdening their hearts to each other. Ai realizes that even when she’s not directly involved in tragic events around the globe, it’s important to be able to imagine how they affect those who are. In the water at the beach the next day, she raises her voice in self-affirmation: “Ai *does* exist in this world.”

In the present day, with information pouring in constantly from every corner of the globe, the world’s tragedies thrust themselves upon us day in and day out. It is difficult for anyone to escape a frustrating sense of powerlessness in the face of it all. This story follows the trajectory of a young woman whose unusual background makes her especially sensitive to these conditions as she comes of age and finds herself.

### About the Author

Kanako Nishi (1977–) was born in Tehran, Iran, where her family had relocated for her father’s job. She subsequently lived in Japan for several years before moving with her family to Cairo, Egypt, where she spent four of her elementary school years. After college, Nishi wrote for an information magazine as a freelancer. At 25 she began writing fiction, and made her literary debut in 2004 with the short story collection *Aoi* (Blue). In 2006 she won the Oda Sakunosuke Prize for her novel *Tsūtenkaku* (Tower to Heaven), and in 2012 she received the Kawai Hayao Literary Prize for the novel *Fukuwarai* (Funny Face). Her monumental 2014 novel *Saraba!*, in which the action roves across all of the places where she has lived, from Iran to Egypt and Osaka to Tokyo, garnered her the prestigious Naoki Prize. Nishi’s forthright portrayals of the alienation experienced by characters with strong personalities have gained her a wide following, especially among young readers. She is also known as an avid fan of professional wrestling.

# Indigo Rain: The Collectors

Risako Asano



195 x 135 mm  
311 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591151112  
Rights sold:

Tōka Hiryū's father, a collector of and dealer in antiques, was murdered five years ago during business talks at his vacation home in Karuizawa. The beautiful and talented Tōka once traveled the globe as an internationally known jewelry designer, but ever since the unwanted attention that came her way following her father's death, she has shunned the limelight and now lives quietly in her Azabu, Tokyo home with private secretary Ichirō Tatsuki. Her father's murder remains unsolved. Believing one or more members of the antiques dealer community were involved, Tōka continues to look for leads that might bring the perpetrators to justice.

When she visits Kyoto to attend a memorial service for a mentor, she is asked to appraise a porcelain bowl by Kakiemon that the proprietress of an exclusive restaurant brings to her. She recognizes it as being from her father's collection. Thinking it may serve as a lead for solving her father's murder, she asks for its return. The proprietress says circumstances prevent her from returning it immediately, but she promises to do so when the time is right. Several days later, Kyoto police call to say that the proprietress was left with serious injuries following an attack, and ask Tōka to come to the station to answer some questions. The police show her a Kakiemon bowl the proprietress had in her possession. It is a very well made imitation. Tōka naturally wonders what might have happened to the original bowl. Then she receives word from Ichirō in Tokyo that a package has been delivered, and when she tells him to open it, it contains the original bowl that had belonged to her father.

The proprietress and her husband belonged to a major forgery operation in which he is one of the craftsmen, but had been wanting to sever ties with the group. The group had learned of their intention and attacked her in order to keep her from talking, but by then the original bowl was already on its way to Tōka, who zeroes in on the truth. The incident has confirmed for her that the forgery group is connected with her father's murder, and she resolves to dig deeper into the shadows that still surround it. Although she has made progress, the mystery remains unsolved at the end of this volume, leaving readers eager for the planned sequel.

Including such well-known paintings as Sir John Everett Millais's *Ophelia* and Shōen Uemura's Nihonga-style *Hanagatami* (A Flower Basket), author Risako Asano weaves references to real-life artworks into the narrative, displaying her broad knowledge of antique art and curios. Through the gripping tale of a beautiful heroine pursuing the mystery of her father's death, the story brings to life people caught up in the "indigo-hued shadows" of the antiques world, a place where every object is endowed with a certain sheen of beauty and only a few cognoscenti can tell the difference between an original and a fake.

## About the Author

Risako Asano was born in Tokyo. She made her literary debut in 2009 with the period novel *Rokudō Sabaki no Ryū: Yami no shiokinin burai hikae* (The Dragon of the Six-Realms Posse: A Record of the Shadow Punishers). She apprenticed herself to mystery writer Kō Kitamori and subsequently became his personal as well as business partner, completing his unfinished *Renjō Nachi firudo fairu IV: Yamatai* (Yamatai: The Renjō Nachi Field Files, Vol. 4) after his death in 2010; she also compiled a volume of his unpublished short stories as *Renjō Nachi firudo fairu V: Amagi-goe* (Crossing Amagi: The Renjō Nachi Field Files, Vol. 5). Her own titles include the period novels *Hanakagari: Osagashimono ukeoi-ya* (Flower Torches: Lost Property Recoverer), and *Nehan no tsuki: Onna onmitsu yamisabaki* (Moon over Nirvana: The Shadow Justice Agent).



# The Restaurant of Love Regained

Ito Ogawa



194 x 135 mm

234 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591100639

Rights sold: China, France,  
Italy, Korea, Spain, Taiwan,  
the UK and Vietnam

Living in the city and working at a restaurant, Rinko's big dream is to open an eating establishment of her own with her live-in boyfriend, but one day she returns home from work to discover that he has moved out, taking with him all their furniture and joint savings. The shock of being abandoned by her mate and losing everything she owns causes Rinko to lose her voice on top of it all. Although she had left the town where she grew up ten years before in a fit of disgust at her mother, who ran a bar next to their house and was rumored to be carrying on with multiple lovers, Rinko now decides she has no choice but to return to her family home. Still running the same bar, her mother now also keeps a pet pig, and seems to have quite the busy life.

Rinko receives the okay from her mother to remodel an outbuilding into a small restaurant, which she names "The Snail." Her plan is to serve just a single table a day, offering no set menu but rather meeting with each party beforehand to assemble a customized meal just for them. For an elderly customer who has lived bleakly in mourning for many years after the death of the man she loved, Rinko plans a series of courses to enliven the senses and rekindle the joy of living. For a young couple on their first date, she prepares a soothing, warm soup that will go down easy no matter how nervous and tense they may be.

Rinko's ingeniously thought out and lovingly prepared meals gain a reputation for bringing about small miracles, but they also make her the brunt of jealousy. Overcoming this and other trials, she carries on with her tiny restaurant. Then one day her mother reveals that she has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and has only a short time left to live. In the days that follow Rinko learns of the deep love her mother has for her.

To live is to eat. This heartwarming tale deftly explores the relationship between food and the human heart. It has sold 820,000 copies so far and been made into a film in Japan.

## About the Author

Ito Ogawa (1973–) won Premio Bancarella della Cucina in Italy and Prix Eugénie Brazier in France for *the Restaurant of Love Regained*, which became a runaway bestseller in Japan and has been translated into a number of languages. It was also made into a film. Her other works include *Chatter and Jabber*, *Family Tree*, *The Tortoise and Crane Maternity Clinic*, and *Ribbon*.

# Ribbon

Ito Ogawa



194 x 135 mm

318 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591134245

Rights sold: China, France,  
Korea and Italy

Grade-schooler Hibari and her grandmother Sumire are the best of friends. When they find a bird's egg nearby, they take it home and keep it warm until it hatches. It turns out to be a cockatiel. They name it Ribbon, and take good care of it, but then one day Ribbon escapes from her cage and flies away.

Ribbon meets a variety of people, including a woman who is unable to move past her grief a year after giving birth to a stillborn son, a gay man who works at a bird shelter, and an elderly artist who's been told she has only a short time left to live. All those who meet and befriend the orange-cheeked Ribbon renew their zeal for living.

Twenty-some years pass from the day Ribbon fled her cage, and a great deal happens to Hibari's family in the interim. They move to a new house, where the grandmother dies. Hibari graduates from college and strikes out on her own as a working woman, but when a secret love affair she has ends badly, she gives up her full-time position to eke out an existence at lesser jobs.

As time goes by after her grandmother's passing, she decides to visit the area where they lived when she was a child. She finds the neighborhood completely changed, with a highrise luxury apartment building standing where their home used to be. Then she sees a bird perched in a large tree. "Ribbon," she calls to it, and the bird alights on her shoulder. "Hibari." Faintly, she hears Ribbon speak her name, recalling her grandmother's voice. She realizes Ribbon and her grandmother's spirit are trying to cheer her up. Having rekindled a zest for life in Hibari, Ribbon flies off again into the heavens.

# Waiting for Fair Winds

Yuki Ibuki



194 x 135 mm

351 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591110218

Rights sold: China, Indonesia  
and Korea

Bank employee Tetsuji Suga, 39, is on a doctor-recommended leave of absence after falling into depression from overwork. There has also been growing friction at home with his higher-earning wife. When he discovers that she has been having an affair, he decides to spend the summer at the home where his late mother had lived, on the coast far from Tokyo. Once there he gets to know a cheerful, plain-spoken woman his own age named Kimiko. She is a longtime resident of this coastal town, but now spends most of the year away, supporting herself with her skills as a hairdresser as she travels from place to place. She returns only at this time of year, each summer.

Tetsuji asks Kimiko to help him sort through his mother's belongings. When he offers payment, she asks instead that he play music for her from his mother's extensive collection of classical CDs and LPs, giving him lists of titles, composers, and performers she wishes to hear. We learn that Kimiko lost both her son and her husband in quick succession, and the lists she brings are in fact those of her son's favorite music. Before drowning seven years before at the age of 12, the boy had commuted long distances to piano lessons in another city, with his sights set on becoming a classical piano player. Having never known anything about classical music herself, Kimiko says she wants to better understand the music her son so loved. It is in fact to remember her son that she returns to this town each summer around the anniversary of his death.

The two wounded souls find themselves gradually growing closer. Around the time they both realize they might be falling in love, Tetsuji's wife Rika suddenly shows up. It happens to be on the day after a typhoon, which had forced Kimiko to spend the night, so she finds them together. After showering them with vitriol, she returns to Tokyo. Tetsuji realizes there's no longer any chance of patching things up with Rika, and wants more than ever to be with Kimiko. At his invitation, she travels with him to Tokyo to see an opera, but the morning after the performance, she disappears. She has chosen to remove herself from Tetsuji's life because a photo of his family she had seen at the house on the coast persuaded her that their budding relationship can be nothing more than a passing summer interlude. Back at home in Tokyo, Tetsuji discusses the circumstances with his daughter and decides to file for a divorce from Rika.

When Tetsuji goes back to the coastal town the following summer, he learns that Kimiko has set a new course for her life. He tells her of his feelings for her as well as of his divorce, and asks her to come to the long-distance bus stop before the last Tokyo-bound bus of the day leaves. When she fails to show up, he watches the bus pull away and continues to wait. But soon the toll-road service plaza where the bus stop is located closes down for the night, and he must leave. As he trudges through the darkness, he sees a figure coming from the other direction. It is Kimiko . . .

# Mourning Recipe

Yuki Ibuki



193 x 135 mm

263 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591115350

Rights sold: China, Korea and  
Taiwan

Adapted into both a television miniseries and a feature film, this story offers fresh and warm-hearted portrayals of connections between people even as it addresses such difficult themes as the death of a spouse, infertility, and infidelity.

Retiree Ryohei Atsuta lives on the outskirts of Nagoya with his wife Otomi. Having always relied on Otomi to take care of all their domestic needs, he is helpless around the house without her. One morning when he leaves to go fishing, he got angry at Otomi and didn't take the lunch she has prepared for him. He returns to find Otomi dead of a heart attack, and his lunch still sitting on the table where she had placed it that morning. He spends the days after her funeral as if only half alive, assailed by regrets and sapped of the will or energy to do anything.

Ryohei's daughter Yuriko lives with her husband in Tokyo. In spite of seeking medical help for infertility, they remain childless. In the days following Otomi's funeral, Yuriko learns that her husband has long been carrying on an affair with another woman, and that the woman has now become pregnant. When her husband says he's unwilling to choose between the two women, she returns to her father's house leaving signed divorce papers behind.

That same day, an eccentric-looking 19-year-old woman with bright yellow hair named Imoto appears at the house saying Otomi had asked her to help Ryohei and Yuriko out in the event something happened to her. She tells the two about a collection of "Recipes for Life" that Otomi has left behind, and says she will stay to help out around the house until the 49th day after Otomi's death—that being the day when Buddhist tradition holds that the soul of the deceased attains full release. She also calls in a Japanese-Brazilian friend named Haru to help with any heavier lifting that's needed, bringing them to a household of four.

Otomi's recipes for Yuriko include recipes for meals and beauty tips; for Ryohei, instructions for simple housecleaning tasks and health tips. Also in her writings is a request that they hold a rousing party on the 49th day, instead of the traditional memorial service. At first, Ryohei and Yuriko balk at this suggestion, but they ultimately decide to honor Otomi's wishes. In the course of preparing for the party, they both have occasion to reflect on their past and gradually come to terms with the present. When the day comes, relatives arriving for the observances initially object to the unconventional preparations that have been made, but soon they, too, are caught up in the spirit of things as they recall times spent with Otomi and reflect on who she was and the life she led. The party becomes a congenial, happy, and moving celebration of her life.

## About the Author

Yuki Ibuki (1969–) joined a publishing house after graduation and worked as a magazine editor before turning independent as a freelance writer. In 2008 she received the Poplar Publishing Prize for Fiction, Special Award, for *Waiting for Fair Winds*. Her second novel, *Mourning Recipe*, became a bestseller and was turned into both a miniseries for television and a feature film. Her most recent novel, *Midnight Bus*, has been nominated for both the Yamamoto Shugoro Prize and the Naoki Prize.

# Cooking Lessons for Love

Megumi Fujino



194 x 136 mm

286 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591137703

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

On a quiet lane in Kyoto stands an old-fashioned townhouse where, each Saturday afternoon, Aiko Koishihara, once the grand matron of a well-known merchant house, conducts a traditional Kyoto cuisine cooking class “for men only.” The four linked stories in this volume tell how four students of different ages, occupations, and backgrounds are able to make a fresh start in their lives as a result of their participation in the aging instructor’s class and the recipes they master under her tutelage. The title story centers on budding architect Tomohisa, who enrolled in the class because the woman he is secretly in love with, Towako, once remarked that she thought men who can cook are hot. Unfortunately, he still can’t bring himself to confess his love to her. Vincent, a French patissier also enrolled in the class, asks him to be the architect for the new café he’s planning to open, but Tomohisa’s boss is opposed, and Tomohisa agonizes over what to do. Thanks to some advice from Aiko, he finds a way to persuade his boss, and is also finally able to open his heart to Towako.

Vincent is the central figure in the second story, *Deaimon* (Delights of the Season). Planning to quit his current job and go independent, he has begun remodeling an old Japanese house to be his new café, but then he runs into some flak from his landlord Yoshikawa. Through some things that are said during the cooking class, he realizes that Yoshikawa’s desire to nullify the rental agreement comes from his fear that the changes being made to the house will efface cherished memories of his aunt, who used to live there. Vincent invites Yoshikawa to the house and lays out a spread of sweets for him that will remind him of his beloved aunt’s cooking. In the third story, *Futari no daidokoro* (A Kitchen for Two), the main character is a 20-year-old college student named Miki who comes to the class dressed in drag. He lives with his sister Juria, who has become a deep-seated man-hater as a result of their father’s alcoholism, and it is in fact as part of her therapy that he dresses the way he does. They both suffered during their childhood from a neglectful mother as well, so Miki has never actually experienced “home cooking,” and has generally been content with surviving on a diet of junk food. But through his experiences in the cooking class, he realizes that while they will never have warm memories of their own mother’s cooking as other people do, he and his sister can create their own favorite family dishes. A metal engraver named Saeki is the protagonist of the final story, *Nichijō sahan* (Daily Meals). He has always left domestic matters entirely to his wife, but as soon as their two grown sons have moved out of the house, she presses him to enroll in a cooking class. He fears she might be contemplating divorce, but at Aiko’s suggestion, he decides to cook a meal for her with some of the new recipes he has learned—to thank her for all she does for him. As he is preparing to do this, however, she collapses: she had in fact been seriously ill for some time, and had pressed him to take cooking lessons so that he’d be able to fend for himself after she was gone, as well as to give him some new social contacts that would keep him from becoming isolated and lonely. More grateful than ever for his wife’s deep love, he vows to do everything he can to support her in her battle with illness.

Four savory and heartwarming tales unfold against the backdrop of lessons in Kyoto cuisine. Included in an appendix at the back of the book are seven of the recipes that play a role in the stories.

## About the Author

Megumi Fujino (1978–) was born in Osaka and graduated from Osaka University of Arts. She writes for both children and adults, and across a broad range of genres. She made her literary debut in 2004 after her manuscript for *Nekomata yōkai den* (*The Ghost of Nekomata, Cat of Two Tails*) won the Junior Adventure Fiction Prize the previous year. Her other titles include *Haru-san* (*Haru*), a heartwarming tale of a single father and his daughter that became a bestseller; *Boku no uso* (*My Lie*); *Watashi no koibito* (*My Sweetheart*); and the *Kaitō Fantomu & Dākunesu* (*Master Thieves Phantom & Darkness*) series.

# Finding Me

## Hatsue Nakawaki



194 x 135 mm

257 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591135365

Rights sold: Taiwan

A woman who had a difficult childhood finds a place for herself as a nurse, nearly loses herself in the effort to protect that hard-won ground, and then through key encounters and experiences is able to recover herself once again.

Yayoi was found abandoned shortly after being born, and grew up in an orphanage. It was at the orphanage that she was given her name. Since it is the old name for March in Japan, everybody assumes that's her birth month. But in fact it only means the month in which she was abandoned.

After leaving the orphanage, Yayoi becomes a licensed practical nurse—a certification she is able to earn while on the job. The doctors at the hospital where she works are arrogant and overbearing, with little respect for the nurses or sympathy for their patients. But Yayoi expresses no objections because she has finally found a sense of belonging.

Yayoi had been taken up for adoption when she was small, but her fear of being abandoned again had led her to repeatedly test her new parents' love for her by doing bad things, and in the end they had returned her to the orphanage. One consequence was that she missed a solid block of school right at the time multiplication was being taught, so she never learned her times tables. She also took away from the experience an understanding that she must always be a "good girl" if she doesn't want to lose what she has, so she now instinctively "goes along to get along," no matter how outrageously others may behave.

The hospital gets a highly capable new head nurse. She immediately recognizes the unhealthy dynamics and starts a campaign to improve them, expressing her opinions without reserve even to the doctors.

One day, a patient dies from complications following surgery. The head nurse realizes that the surgeon is at fault and tells Yayoi, who also assisted in the surgery. But when the time comes to explain the outcome to the patient's family members, Yayoi does as the surgeon asks and helps to make sure the head nurse is not present.

Around the same time, an elderly man Yayoi encountered on her way to work one day is admitted to the hospital. He had been out taking a walk when he heard shouting and the wails of a child coming from an apartment house he passed. Worried that the child was being abused, he had stopped Yayoi to ask if she was from the neighborhood and might know something about it. As he is being cared for by Yayoi in the hospital, the old man realizes that she is unable to do multiplication. One day when she is at his bedside, he quietly hands her a times table and says, "It couldn't have been easy, becoming a nurse when you never even learned to do multiplication."

Yayoi is assisting in surgery again when the doctor makes another mistake. This time the patient survives, thanks to the head nurse's quick thinking, but the fact that she took action without the doctor's permission becomes an issue, and she is forced to leave the hospital.

When it is the old man's turn for surgery, the doctor fails to order a transfusion even after it becomes clear that the patient is losing too much blood, so Yayoi takes action on her own, praying that it will save the old man's life. March might have been the month in which she was abandoned, she tells herself, but it was also the month when someone rescued her, and the only reason she is standing there now is because that person had prayed for her to make it then, just as she is praying for this old man now. The work was short-listed for the 2014 Yamamoto Shugoro Prize.

# You're a Good Kid

Hatsue Nakawaki



194 x 135 mm

319 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591129388

Rights sold: China, Korea and  
Taiwan

This is a collection of five stories set in the same suburban town, with key elements transpiring on the same rainy afternoon.

The House where Santa Doesn't Come centers on Okano, a novice grade-school teacher, and a boy in his class who is being abused at home. Facing his first classroom as a teacher, Okano has difficulty maintaining control of all the different personalities among his charges and finds that his lessons don't go as planned. But even as his sense of inadequacy mounts, he realizes that one of his students is a victim of abuse. He learns that the boy has been told by his stepfather not to come home until after 5:00, and that he's not getting proper meals at home; there are also signs that he is being beaten. But the boy is convinced it's all because he's a bad boy; that's also why Santa doesn't come to his house, he says. Though he feels scarcely up to the task, Okano does everything he can to refute the boy's interpretation of what is happening to him, and to get him to stop blaming himself.

Pretty Girl is the story of a young mother who beats her daughter due to the lingering trauma of the abuse she suffered at her own mother's hand as a little girl. In Liar, a friend's father speculates about the state of mind of a boy who is being abused by his stepmother. Hello Goodbye portrays interactions between an elderly neighbor woman and a young mother struggling with the challenges of raising an autistic son. In Taking Granny Up the Mountain, a woman who was abused by her mother while growing up reflects on their long-ago history together in advance of her mother being admitted to a memory care facility.

In one way or another, all of the stories take up the troubling subject of child abuse, but in each case the author also leaves readers with a ray of hope.

## About the Author

Hatsue Nakawaki (1974–) made her literary debut while still in high school, when she won the 1991 Botchan Literary Award for her story *Like a Fish*. Her collection of stories *You're a Good Kid* won the 2012 Tsubota Joji Literature Award, took first place in the 2012 Shizuoka Bookstore Grand Prize, and came in fourth in the 2013 Booksellers Award balloting. Set in the same suburban town as *You're a Good Kid*, her most recent novel *Finding Me* has been short-listed for the Yamamoto Shugoro Prize. Alongside her writing, she took up narrating traditional folk tales, and wrote stories based on them as well, including *Snow Maiden* and *Chinkororin*.

# Untitled

Chisa Asukai



194 x 137 mm

333 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591135488

Rights sold:

Author Chisa Asukai highlights both the universality and the fragility of family bonds in this portrayal of a woman who looks at things only from her own rigid perspective. Toko, 31, is scrupulous and strict in her ways. She unfailingly follows the rules she has set for herself, and she judges all that goes on around her by those same rules. But then, a series of events causes her personal value system to crumble . . .

Father is on the board of a major corporation, Mother is always cheerful and full of energy, daughter Toko has a stable office job, and son Kenta works for a television production company. At a glance they appear to be the ideal happy family. But each member of the family has his or her own secrets, and as those secrets begin to emerge, the erstwhile harmony of the family unravels with surprising ease.

It all begins with the shocking appearance and behavior of Kenta's fiancée Masami when he first introduces her to the family. From the time they were children, Toko has never had a very high opinion of her younger brother, who had slovenly habits and was always causing trouble for the family. Now Masami's rudeness lowers her opinion of him further—in addition to turning her instantly against her future sister-in-law.

As it happens, Toko has long been carrying on an affair with a married man, and she is satisfied with the current state of their relationship. Though well aware that society considers the relationship immoral, she's convinced that it is sustainable so long as she makes sure not to cause trouble for her lover's family.

At about this same time, it comes out that her father has secretly resigned from his executive position and is now working as the caretaker of an apartment building; also that a handsome young dancer has turned her mother's head, and she has been giving him money. Toko regards her parents' behavior as a shameful betrayal, and lights into them when the whole family is present, but is severely shaken when their response is to hurl their own criticisms at her. With her pride in tatters, she turns to her lover for support, but he bluntly spurns her, and she realizes all too painfully that they had never been soul mates, only garden-variety illicit lovers. The person to whom Toko turns next is the last person in the world she'd have thought—Masami.

## About the Author

Chisa Asukai (1979–) made her literary debut when she won the Shosetsu Subaru New Writers' Award in 2005 for *When Haru Dies*. In 2011 her pocket paperback original *Tiny Tiny Happy* topped 100,000 in sales and catapulted her into best-sellerdom. Her stories often focus on seemingly insignificant, mundane occurrences in the lives of ordinary people, and she shows a knack for bringing out the subtle yet telling movements of the heart that are so easily overlooked.



# The Winged Girl

Maha Harada



194 x 135 mm  
286 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591137277  
Rights sold:

Early on January 17, 1995, a devastating earthquake shook the Osaka-Kobe region of Japan and left 6,434 people dead, three missing, and 43,792 injured. In this story, first-grader Nike saw her parents burned to death right before her eyes in one of the countless fires that broke out as a result of the quake. She is taken in together with her older brother Ikki and younger sister Sanku by Koreaki Samotora, a doctor of psychosomatic medicine whose nickname is Dr. Zero. Nike herself has become permanently disabled by an injury to her right leg suffered in the quake, and she has difficulty making friends among her new classmates. But through her interactions with Dr. Zero and others from the neighborhood, she decides she wants to become a doctor who helps heal wounded hearts and mind.

Dr. Zero lost his wife in the quake when he was unable to rescue her from beneath the rubble that fell on her. His only son, Yuya, holds this against him, and the two have become estranged; a heart surgeon, Yuya soon takes a new job at a hospital in Tokyo and cuts off communications with his father altogether.

When Nike is in the sixth grade and gets her first crush on a boy, she discovers something strange: when she experiences strong feelings toward another person, sharp pangs of pain traverse her back. She has the same pangs when she is feeling especially sorry for her beloved little sister, and one day, to her astonishment, wings suddenly sprout on her back. But the wings quickly turn to sand and disappear.

When Nike is in the eighth grade, Dr. Zero's chronic heart condition catches up with him, and he requires immediate surgery. His son Yuya is considered the best man for the job. Together with Dr. Zero's assistant, Nike and her siblings head to Tokyo to ask Yuya to conduct the operation. Yuya is torn, but ultimately refuses—still unable to forgive his father.

That night at the hotel, having all but given up hope, Nike thinks back to the earthquake. Her mind fills with memories of how she'd been helpless to do anything but wail in anguish as she watched her beloved parents die. She can't bear the thought of once again losing someone she loves. The powerful emotions triggered by these memories cause wings to sprout on her back a second time. Flapping them, she flies back to Yuya. Moved by her repeated entreaties as well as by the miracle that has sprung from the intensity of her desire to save someone she loves, Yuya sets aside his ill feelings and agrees to wield the scalpel. The surgery is a success.

As if keeping pace with the reconstruction of the city around them, three children who lost their parents in the earthquake and an elderly doctor rejected by his son gradually bond as a new family. Underlying their heart-warming story is a message from the author that people all carry within them the strength to pick themselves back up no matter how hopeless their situation may appear.

The name of the story's young protagonist comes from the Winged Victory of Samothrace sculpture of the Greek goddess Nike, on display at the Louvre in Paris. Through the character's association with the goddess of victory and her powerful wings, the author expresses a prayer for both peaceful repose and vigorous regeneration.

## About the Author

Maha Harada (1962–) worked in-house at a number of art museums before becoming a freelance curator. She made her literary debut in 2005 when her first novel *Waiting for Good News* won the Japan Love Story Award; the work sold over 370,000 copies and was adapted to the big screen. She has continued to produce entertainment fiction in the years since, and in 2012 won the Yamamoto Shugoro Prize for *Painting of Paradise*.

# Geranium Garden

Masumi Oshima



194 x 137 mm

280 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591130759

Rights sold: Taiwan

One New Year's Day when narrator Ruru is in her mid-twenties, her 80-year-old grandmother Toyose learns that Ruru has gotten a story published in a literary journal, and urges her to write about the major family secret she has related to Ruru in bits and pieces over the years. Toyose collapses that same day, and passes away two days later.

The secret has to do with Toyose's twin sister Kaei. The twins were born into a prominent family in Nihonbashi, Tokyo, near the end of the Meiji period (1868–1912). Toyose thrives and grows normally, but the family worries that Kaei's development appears to be delayed. As time goes on, however, they realize that she is in fact reaching all of the standard milestones, only at a far slower pace. When Toyose has matured into a young woman of marriageable age, Kaei is still a little girl. Because Kaei is obviously abnormal compared to her twin sister, the family moves to a newly built estate in the suburbs where she can be kept out of sight, and she is subsequently sent to seek treatment in England accompanied by her attending physician.

Fourteen years later, in 1944, Kaei returns to Japan from Manchuria, where she had gone after England. Toyose is by this time middle-aged, past her child-rearing years, but Kaei is a beautiful young woman in her prime. For a time she lives as if under confinement in the suburban residence the family had built to keep her out of sight, but a short while after the end of World War II, she moves out to live on her own.

Ruru's mother (Toyose's daughter) dislikes Kaei, who still comes to visit the family home from time to time. Then Kaei's visits stop. Ruru's mother does not tell her daughter about Kaei's secret, but she repeatedly finds occasion to note that it's best for people to age and die normally. When Kaei comes to Toyose's funeral, the woman who should be just as old as Toyose appears to be no older than the last time Ruru saw her. Ruru's narrative then comes to an end with a scene in which she is talking with Kaei in the family's backyard, where the geraniums are in bloom.

Several decades go by. Ruru's parents as well as Ruru herself are long dead, and even Ruru's son and daughter are getting on in years, but Kaei lives on. She picks up the story where Ruru's narrative had left off, revealing secrets that Ruru herself had no way of knowing, such as the fact that she had had an affair with one of the men Ruru was seeing. Her tale brings into relief the loneliness she feels as her life crawls on at its much slower pace, watching people born long after herself living full lifespans and preceding her in death one after another.

## About the Author

Masumi Oshima (1962–) won the Bungakukai Prize for New Writers for *Spring Magician*. Her other titles include *Rainbow-Colored Sun Shower*, *Three Sisters*, *Battle Mates in Romance*, *Bitter Sugar*, *Pietà*, and many others. *Bitter Sugar* became a television series on NHK, and *Pietà*, a story set in 18th-century Venice and portraying the lives of girls at the Ospedale della Pietà, where Vivaldi taught music, became a publishing sensation and was voted third in the 2012 Booksellers Award balloting.

# Double Whorls

Yukiya Shoji & Natsu Miyashita



194 x 135 mm

278 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591130698

Rights sold: Indonesia

Two popular writers share authorship of this much talked about work, writing alternately from the perspectives of brother and sister. Yukiya Shoji writes from the perspective of Yūichi, an eleventh-grader who plays in a band, and Natsu Miyashita writes from the perspective of Yūichi's little sister Madoka, a fourth-grader who loves judo. The narrative centers on a certain family secret, the circumstances of which gradually come to light.

Brother and sister both have two whorls in their hair. Their mother does as well, and she has always told them that it's a mark of good fortune. One day when Madoka is at home alone, a phone call comes in from a woman she doesn't know. Later, her mother says she doesn't know the woman either, but there seems to be something a little strange in her manner.

Yūichi then discovers that the woman has attended a live performance of his band, Double Spin Round, and that his father knows her. As time goes on, a music producer expresses an interest in signing the band, but as soon as Yūichi says the producer's name is Ishigō, his mother is dead set against it.

Eventually Yūichi learns that his mother had once set her sights on becoming a professional singer, and the woman on the phone was her manager at the time. His mother had also gotten to know Ishigō during that period. Meanwhile, Madoka is increasingly distressed by the change that has come over their mother ever since the producer approached her brother's band.

Their mother finally gives her blessing for Yūichi's band to sign with Ishigō's office, and also reveals the secret she has been keeping from them until now. Yūichi and Madoka become aware of how their parents have been protecting them, and gain a new appreciation for family.

Miyashita delicately probes the psychology of ten-year-old Madoka, who is at that sensitive age when a little girl begins to turn outward and become more aware of the world around her, as master storyteller Shoji keeps the plot moving along. The authors' two distinct styles meld perfectly to produce a warm-hearted tale of family.

## About the Author

Yukiya Shoji made his debut as a writer by winning the 2002 Mephisto Award for *Singing an Old Song about Looking Up at the Sky*. Among his many works published since then are the "Tokyo Bandwagon" series, *Cow House*, and *the Holy Man of Hanasaki Street*. He works at the entertainment end of the literary spectrum, in genres ranging from family novels to mysteries.

Natsu Miyashita made her literary debut after receiving an honorable mention from the Bungakukai Prize for New Writers jury in 2004 for her story *Quiet Rain*. Her first full-length novel, *School No. 4*, garnered a great deal of attention in 2007, and *Someone's Missing* was voted seventh in the 2012 Booksellers Award balloting. One of the most talked-about authors of our time, she deftly captures everyday scenes of earnest, ordinary people going about their lives in prose that is imbued with freshness and warmth.

# Aboard Ship!

## Osamu Fujitani



Told from the viewpoint of Satoru as an adult, this is a coming-of-age story about a teenager who decides to choose another path rather than try to become a professional musician, as well as the story of a middle-aged man who is finally able to face a past about which he has some regrets. The author vividly conveys the beauty and brightness of youth, as well as the pain and regret that many of us feel when reflecting on our teen years.

Readers will enjoy this moving tale as well as the discussions of philosophy and classical music it contains. The title is taken from the words of the philosopher Nietzsche. The series has three volumes.

148 x 105 mm  
 308 pages  
 Softcover  
 ISBN 978-4591123997  
 Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan



**About the Author** ✦ \* \* \* \* \*

Osamu Fujitani (1963–) made his book publishing debut in 2003 with the novel *Andante Mozzarella Cheese. A Woman Named Q Ogata*, which appeared in a magazine, was a candidate for the Shincho Prize for New Writers in 2002. Subsequent works have also been listed for various prestigious literary prizes, among them the three-volume series “Aboard Ship!,” a candidate for the Booksellers Award in 2010. Fujitani also operated the Ficciones bookstore in Tokyo, but closed it in 2014 to devote his time to writing.

# The Nocturnal Bakery 1: A Recipe for Midnight

Noriko Oonuma



151 x 105 mm

319 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591124796

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan

In a quiet corner of the city is Boulangerie Kurebayashi, a bakery that opens its doors only at night. It's run by the always-smiling owner, Yosuke Kurebayashi, and his foul-mouthed but good-looking young apprentice, Hiroki. Back in middle school Hiroki was racing down the path of delinquency until, at the age of 14, he met Miwako, 12 years his senior. Miwako helped Hiroki with his studies and set him straight; he became quite devoted to her, believing they had been brought together by fate. But six months ago, just as she was preparing to open a bakery, Miwako, now married to Yosuke, was killed in a traffic accident. Yosuke decided to quit his job with the United Nations PKO so he could bring his wife's plans to fruition.

One day, a teenage girl named Nozomi shows up claiming to be Miwako's half-sister, and asks to be put up. She was raised by her grandparents until the age of six because her mother couldn't be bothered with her, and even after her mother took Nozomi back, she would periodically leave her with friends and disappear. Nozomi compares her mother to a cuckoo.

The aromas wafting from the bakery draw a motley group of nocturnal characters to the shop—among them Orie, a single mother with sticky fingers, and Kodama, her grade-school-age boy; a gay cross-dresser who goes by the name of Sophia; and Madarame the scriptwriter, who has multiple telescopes set up in his eighth-floor apartment so he can peep into neighboring buildings. Each has his or her own set of problems, and effectively nowhere else to go. Then Orie disappears, and the people who gather at the bakery pitch in to look for her. In the course of the search, details emerge about their diverse pasts and the hidden burdens they all carry in their hearts.

This sweet and sour story, which is made into a TV drama, is very popular in Japan, selling over 1.2 million copies. The series has four volumes so far.



## About the Author

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

# Mathman to the Rescue!

Shogo Mukai



188 x 129 mm

327 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591134948

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan



This math-themed YA novel by an author who participated in the Japanese Math Olympics while in high school leaves every reader thinking, “If only I’d read this book sooner, I’d have learned to like math a whole lot more.”

Haruka is a middle-school girl who loves sports and hates math. The story begins when an unusual new boy named Sora joins her class as a transfer student. Sora declares that his dream is to “save the world with math,” and one day he opens shop as “Mathman,” saying he will use math to solve whatever problems his classmates bring to him—personal challenges, relationship issues, etc.—no payment necessary. Events conspire to make Haruka his assistant in the operation.

Mathman is asked how to resolve territorial disputes between the boys and girls on the playground during recess, how to light a fire under slacker members of the baseball team so they’ll show more spirit, how to afford a new mitt on a limited allowance, and so forth. In each case he applies mathematical formulas to arrive at a solution. As she sees how magnificently Sora solves their classmates’ problems, even the math-hating Haruka begins to see the joy of numbers.

One day the duo is presented with a far more difficult problem. An anonymous middle-schooler asks for advice on a matter of love. Of all human emotions, love is the most mysterious, and Haruka is convinced that there’s no way a mathematical formula can be applied. But one particular formula comes to light that is able to crack even the great enigma of love and bring about a successful resolution.

It is inspirational to discover that math can be such a romantic pursuit. The book is sure to charm math nerds and mathophobes alike, but it is especially to be recommended for the latter group.

## About the Author

Shogo Mukai participated in the Japanese Math Olympics while in high school. He is particularly fascinated by number sequences. As a member of the kendo club while at the University of Tokyo, he advanced to the nationwide tournament of the University Kendo Federation. His publishing debut came with *Mathman to the Rescue!* in 2013 after his manuscript for the novel won the 2012 Poplar Fiction Prize for New Writers. Appealing to a broad cross-section of readers ranging from middle- and high-school age to adults, the book has enjoyed remarkably strong sales for a first novel, going through six printings in its first year of publication. Mukai’s second novel was *Kendo Team, Ready!* centering on a small, outmatched high-school kendo team.

# The World of Five Dragons Series

Yukako Kabei



148 x 105 mm  
345 pages  
Softcover  
ISBN 978-4591132159  
Rights sold: Taiwan

Yugi, a 15-year-old girl, was left alone at a shrine when she was five years old. Her master raised her there, and Yugi, a lively girl, is now practicing martial and medical arts under his guidance. Yugi respects her master, who treats patients, performs exorcisms and conducts ceremonies in the community.

Hekiyo, Yugi's friend, is a beautiful girl working at a brothel who has the ability to read the "atmosphere," which allows her to know what's happening in the world. One day, Yugi meets Ruin, a little boy, and she gradually learns how powerful he is. But she can't tell if he is her friend or, perhaps, her enemy. Irurakku, a handsome Western pastor, runs into Yugi when he is chasing after Ruin. Yugi becomes attracted to Irurakku, even though she doesn't really understand her feelings.

Set in late-19th-Century China, this fantasy series fascinates readers with its exciting stories and unique characters. Three volumes have been published so far.



## About the Author

Since publishing her first novel in 2003, Yukako Kabei continues to write fiction. She is one of Japan's up-and-coming authors.

# Parade of Monsters

Emel Komatsu



148 x 105 mm  
318 pages  
Softcover  
ISBN 978-459119723  
Rights sold: Taiwan

Ghostly lore in Japan includes a host of weird and diverse supernatural creatures known collectively as yokai. One night as the sundry ghouls and goblins are making their procession, a yokai named Koharu drops out of line and begins falling. He lands in the yard of a secondhand goods dealer named Kizo; the two meet, and Koharu decides to stay. Kizo is a youthful 20, but besides being gruff and unfriendly, he has a countenance that could scare even a ghost. Koharu, on the other hand, has the appearance of a sweet little boy even though he professes to be a truly fearsome yokai. The two become caught up in all manner of supernatural disturbances during the Meiji era, and invariably play a role in resolving each one.

Abandoned by his mother as a child, Kizo had retreated into himself and become a misanthrope, but now he is forced to interact with others—including his half-sister Miyuki, the handsome but irresponsible Hikoji, and a large cast of yokai—and little by little he begins to open his heart.

Ultimately each of us is alone in this world, but author Emel Komatsu's gentle yet forceful message is that this reality itself is what drives us to seek companions with whom to share our journey and offer mutual support. Komatsu's maiden work, the book became an immediate hit and was turned into a series with six volumes appearing to date and combined sales surpassing 200,000.



## About the Author

Emel Komatsu (1984–) was born in Tokyo. Her maternal grandfather being from Turkey, she was given a name that means “strong, kind, and beautiful” in Turkish. She graduated from Kokugakuin University with a degree in history, and first broke into publishing with the story collection *Ikki yako* (Parade of Monsters), which won the Jive Fiction Grand Prize in 2008 to high praise from the selection committee. The fourth volume in the series, *Ikki yako: Karezu no hozuki* (Parade of Monsters: The Lantern Plant That Never Withers) was voted #2 on the 2012 Kono jidai shosetsu ga sugoi! (This Period Novel Is Amazing!) list. Besides the *Ikki yako* series, now up to six volumes, her works include *Uwan* (Uwan) and *Yakusoku: Rangaku-juku Genyudo seishun-ki* (Promises: Students of the Genyudo Dutch-Learning School). An up-and-coming author, Komatsu is noted for her fertile imagination and warmly drawn characters.



# Divination for All Your Needs: Welcome to the Yin-Yang Shop

Shōko Amano



148 x 105 mm

296 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591122372

Rights sold: Taiwan

This first volume in author Shōko Amano’s popular *Onmyō-ya* (The Yin-Yang Shop) series for young adults contains four linked stories in the main narrative line, and two spinoff episodes.

In the basement of a building on a bustling shopping street in Ōji, a district in Tokyo’s Kita Ward, is an establishment called “The Yin-Yang Shop,” where a young and handsome diviner who goes by the name of Abe no Shōmei (just one character different from the name of the famous Heian-era [894–1185] diviner Abe no Seimei) offers his services. One day a ninth-grade boy and his mother come in the door. The mother explains that they have experienced a series of misfortunes of late and requests a reading. Dressed in full *onmyōji* (yin-yang master) attire, Shōmei conducts a water-basin divination ceremony followed by a purification rite and asks for an exorbitant payment—to which the boy responds that he is a fraud. While Shōmei feigns innocence, the boy declares that he could smell the special solution that Shōmei had surreptitiously added to the basin to make its surface foam up as if in ill omen. He goes on to uncover his ears and tail and identify himself as the abandoned child of a shape-shifting fox—which is why he has a far more powerful sense of smell and hearing than do normal people.

Shōmei is unfazed, and having learned the boy’s true identity, ropes him into being his *shikigami*—a kind of spirit conjured by yin-yang masters as part of the ceremonies they perform. The title is in name only, however, and the boy, Shunta Sawazaki, has in effect been coerced into serving as Shōmei’s all-purpose gofer.

Shōmei is actually a former “host”—which is to say, he worked at a nightclub that provides male drinking companions for its female clientele. Although his good looks made him extremely popular with the ladies in that role, he’s actually rather ill-natured, sharp tongued, and decidedly lazy. Shunta, for his part, is innocent and artless, having been doted on to excess by his adoptive parents, the Sawazakis. Because he is of a nocturnal constitution due to his fox background, he is always falling asleep in class and does poorly in school. With Shōmei treating Shunta like a personal slave, the two go about solving a wide variety of troubles brought to them by people from the local area.

The worldly-wise Shōmei’s methods are unique. He settles an intractable marital quarrel by attributing everything to a curse, for example, or he uses the charms he wielded as a host to soothe the feelings of female clients. He may sometimes appear to be a fraud, but he is always practical, and soon wins acceptance from the other merchants on his shopping street.

The series has reached eight volumes to date, with aggregate sales of over a million copies. In the course of the many episodes, Shunta advances to the tenth grade and gains new maturity, readers learn about the secret of his birth as well as his love interests, and his mother and Shōmei carry on an extended feud. The stories are comedies, but summon the occasional tear as well. The series was adapted to television in 2013.

## About the Author

Shōko Amano was born in Nagasaki Prefecture and graduated from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies with a degree in German. She subsequently attended a novel-writing course, and made her publishing debut in 2005 with *Keishichō Yūrei-gakari* (Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department Ghost Division). Her other titles include *Shōjo manga-ka ga neko o kau riyū* (Why Girls’ Manga Artists Keep Pet Cats), *Shinshi no tame no esute nyūmon* (Introduction to Beauty Salons for Men), the *Tama no nekomata sōdanjo* (Tama the Split-Tailed Cat’s Advisory Service) series, and the *Onmyō-ya* (The Yin-Yang Shop) series.

# The Spirits from the Storehouse Next Door

Yu Ito



148 x 105 mm

254 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591134917

Rights sold:

In a story reminiscent of Mary Norton’s *The Borrowers*, author Yu Ito ushers readers into a parallel world that exists right next to our everyday lives.

Fifth-grader Honoka lives with her parents and big brother Yūichi in a rundown condominium where the residents are at odds over whether to rebuild or make do with repairs. Yūichi has started hanging out with a rough crowd since advancing to middle school, a constant source of stress for their mother. It distresses Honoka, as well, to see discord within her family. One of her few comforts is looking out the window at the garden next door as it changes from season to season. The neighbor’s house is occupied by an elderly woman who lives alone, and there is an old, earthen-walled storehouse in its yard that has a certain mysterious aura about it. Honoka and Yūichi used to play inside it and in the old lady’s yard when they were little.

One day there is an arson incident in the neighborhood, and soon after, a number of very strange things—a doll with a fearsome face, a tiny person who looks like a frog, a bird resembling a wrapping cloth that follows Yūichi around, and a little man with a smoking pipe stuck in his sash—begin appearing. Honoka and Yūichi conjecture that these events are somehow related to the storehouse.

As a matter of fact, the storehouse has indeed become home to a variety of tsukumogami—treasured objects that have taken on spirits and become animated in the course of being used by people over many long years. The frog person is the tsukumogami of a carved netsuke in the shape of a frog that Honoka had been fond of as a small child. The bird is the tsukumogami of the wrapping cloth Yūichi had used as a cape when he was a little boy. The scary-faced doll is the tsukumogami of Shōki, a guardian statue. The man with the pipe is the tsukumogami of exactly just such a pipe. Because of the arson incident and talk of the condominium building being torn down, the spirits have emerged from the storehouse in order to protect their home.

The spirits come to visit Honoka and her brother, whom they remember fondly from the days the siblings played in the storehouse. As they interact with the free-spirited tsukumogami, the two both gain new confidence in themselves. Yūichi drops out of the gang he’s been running with and tries to get his best friend to drop out, too. When he and the friend get into a fight over it, the wrapping cloth and the pipe come to his aid, but end up getting hurt. As animated objects, tsukumogami lose their ability to move about freely when they are injured. Meanwhile, tsukumogami efforts to stop the hardline rebuilding proponents bear fruit, and talk of destroying the condos comes to an end.

When things have finally settled down, Honoka, Yūichi, and the woman next door return the tsukumogami to the storehouse. “Perhaps someday a tsukumogami that’s good at repairing his mates will appear,” says the old woman as the story comes to a close, giving Honoka and her brother hope that the injured tsukumogami will one day be made whole again.

## About the Author

Yu Ito (1959–) won the Fantasy Award for Children’s Literature for her debut work, *A Bridge to the Other World*, in 1997. After garnering critical acclaim for these two richly detailed fantasies set in the medieval Heian period, she cemented her reputation as a powerful and versatile writer with her third book, *Something about Yuhki*, concerning children in today’s world; the book received the 2004 JAWC Award. Ito also won the 2013 Shogakukan Children’s Publication Culture Award for *Sasuke the Guardian Dog Goes Missing*.

# The Twilight Mart

## Saki Murayama



148 x 105 mm

182 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591114162

Rights sold: Korea, Taiwan  
and Vietnam

This is the first volume in a tremendously popular series of linked stories that has grown to five volumes and counting. The tales are set in the fictional community of Kazahaya and center on a mysterious convenience store, known as the Twilight Mart, on the edge of town. Surrounded by legend, it is said to be reachable only by those who are searching for something out of some deep-seated need.

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 is capable of feeling strong empathy for his customers. They are a diverse lot: a schoolboy, a schoolgirl, a thirtyish female radio announcer, a cat in human form, and so forth. All are individuals leading ordinary, unassuming lives, the outlines of which slowly come into focus as they reveal their innermost desires and prayers.

Although a premise reminiscent of children's stories may seem removed from adult interests, the advancing narratives evoke fond memories and reawaken emotions from simpler times that have been stored away deep in readers' hearts. The audience for the series has grown both in size and breadth with each new volume, with even older male readers remarking on how moved they were by the deep insights offered on loneliness and death. For readers overwhelmed by the myriad stresses of contemporary life, these "fairytale for adults" reaffirm the essential goodness of people and shake the imagination out of its torpor.

In addition to the title story, in which a fifth-grade boy visits the store, the volume includes Anzu (Apricot), in which the eponymous cat, approaching death, takes on the form of a little girl to visit its master and say goodbye; Te o tsunaida (Hand in Hand), in which a little girl looking for the doll her mother threw out in anger learns about her mother's own childhood, and mother and daughter are finally able to connect; Sakura no koe (Sakurako's Voice), in which the eponymous radio announcer discovers how important her voice is to listeners from the past and future as well as the present and decides not to quit her job; and Aru terebi no monogatari (The Story of a Television), in which a family's beloved television set, now old and breaking down, musters its last bit of strength to show the little girl wonderful images. In the course of these tales, the Twilight Mart convenience store emerges as a place where those who have lost something treasured and irreplaceable can receive and send invisible messages; it is also a place where they can leave behind their indescribable sense of loss and heartache. Readers will find in these stories not only healing for the heart but the courage to accept the past and begin moving forward again.

### About the Author

Saki Murayama (1963–) was born in Nagasaki Prefecture. She received the Mainichi Children's Story New Writer Prize in 1991 and the Muku Hatojū Children's Literature Prize in 1994 for *Chiisai Eri-chan* (Little Eri). Her popular titles include *Sabaku no utahime* (Desert Songstress), *Ruryūru* (Reliure), *Sono hon no monogatari* (Story of the Book), the *Shēra-hime no bōken* (The Adventures of Scheherazade) series, the *Konbini Tasogare-dō* (The Twilight Mart) series, the *Kafe Kamome-tei* (The Seagull Café) series, the *Kaiba-tei* (The Seahorse Mansion) series, and the *Kaze no oka no Rurū* (The Little Witch of Windswept Hill) series, as well as other stories set in the fictional town of Kazahaya.

# The End of the World

Masamoto Nasu



151 x 105 mm

271 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591143056

Rights sold:

Ten short stories peer into the abyss that is the human heart, leaving an indelible impression on the reader.

In the title piece, war in the Middle East sparks a global nuclear conflagration. A boy in Japan is left an orphan when both of his parents die in the bomb shelter where they took refuge. He later hears the voice of a young girl calling for help over the wireless, and decides to leave the protection of the shelter and brave the radioactive environment outside to find her. In a car, the song *The End of the World* begins playing on the radio. It is a song his father often used to sing. He continues on his way, convinced he will be able to find the girl.

In *Yakusoku* (*The Promise*), a kindergarten class has a reunion six years after their graduation. As the children are catching up with each other, their conversation turns to one who is missing, a boy who has died. Now, who exactly was it who had always been bullying the boy? A disquieting chill fills the air. Unbeknownst to any of them, the deceased boy's ghost is watching the proceedings from off to one side.

In *Garasu no raion* (*The Glass Lion*), Tsuneo, a new boy in town who came from the city, suggests to the narrator and his friend Tatsu that they each choose a special treasure and bury them in a box on an island in the river. They make a treasure map so they can remember where the box is buried. When a typhoon comes, they become worried about how the box weathered the storm, so they go to dig it up and see, but the box is gone. Tsuneo says it must have been washed away. In time, Tsuneo moves away again, and they fall out of touch. Thirty years later the narrator runs into Tsuneo by chance. When he visits him at his house, he finds the glass lion he himself had put in the treasure box. "Oh, that's right," Tsuneo says fondly. "This was your parting gift to me when I moved away, wasn't it?" The narrator says nothing.

## About the Author

Masamoto Nasu (1942–) was three years old and at his home three kilometers from the hypocenter when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. His family survived, and he remained in Hiroshima until the end of high school. After making his writerly debut with *Kubi-nashi jizō no takara* (*The Treasure of the Headless Jizō*), he earned renown for his children's-book series *Zukkoke sannin-gumi* (*The Hilarious Trio*), a collection of 50 volumes written over the course of 26 years which sold over 20 million copies and has been spun off into TV and manga serials. The series has won the Iwaya Sazanami Literary Award and the Noma Prize for Children's Literature. *Sagishi-tachi no sora* (*Sky of the Swindlers*) won the Robō-no-Ishi Literary Award, and the *Oedo no Hyakutarō* (*Hyakutarō of Edo*) series received the JAWC Award. Nasu has also coauthored prizewinning picture books with illustrator Shigeo Nishimura, including *Bokura no chizu ryokō* (*Our Map Adventure*) and *E de yomu Hiroshima no genbaku* (tr. *Hiroshima: A Tragedy Never to Be Repeated*). In 2007 Nasu became president of the Japanese Association of Writers for Children, Japan's premier professional association of juvenile-literature authors.

# Diner

Yumeaki Hirayama



194 x 137 mm

474 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591112014

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

Bored with her clerical job, Kanako Oba, a 30-year-old divorcée, responds to an online ad: “Driver. Pay 300,000 yen. Entails some risk.” Hired by a couple to be the driver of the getaway car in a cash heist, she soon finds herself entangled in a nightmarish world. She gets nabbed by a second gang of men and is about to be buried alive in a hole she herself has dug when an unidentified benefactor pays for her deliverance. She is taken to a diner named Canteen, a members-only eatery for hit men. Bombero, the proprietor, is a former hit man turned master chef, and Kanako is to work as his only waitress under the condition that if she disobeys him in the slightest she will be killed on the spot. Famous for its signature hamburgers in particular and its delectable gourmet menu in general, the shop is patronized by a parade of idiosyncratic assassins, among them Kid, who dresses up as a child and specializes in killing children; and Skin, whose face is crisscrossed by the tracks of his many wounds, said to have cumulatively required more than a thousand stitches. Bombero and his Canteen are under the protection of the Mafia, but then a suspicion arises that there may be a traitor or undercover agent in their midst in connection with a former mob boss’s death . . . The work is at once deep and gloriously fun—the sort of novel you might expect film director Quentin Tarantino to immediately option.

## About the Author

Yumeaki Hirayama (1961–) states that the grotesque descriptions of his stock in trade derive from having witnessed repeated suicide jumpers and traffic accidents as an adolescent. He went on to college after high school, but preferred to spend his time making homemade horror movies, and eventually dropped out. As a writer, he got his start reviewing Z-grade movies for a weekly magazine, and in 1993 became a regular contributor to a series of “true horror” volumes. His debut as a novelist came in 1996 with the psycho-thriller *Sinker—shizumu mono* (Sinker). In 2006 he won the Mystery Writers of Japan Award for Short Stories with *Dokuhaku suru yunibasaru yoko merukatoru* (The Universal Transverse Mercator Speaks), and his collection of the same title took first place in the 2007 Konomys rankings. He won the Japan Adventure Fiction Association Prize in 2009, and the Haruhiko Oyabu Award in 2011, for his noir novel *Diner*, set in a restaurant where professional hit men gather. Among his other works is the 2011 story collection *An Outsider’s Death* (original English title).

# Medical Examiner Series: Up in Flames

Ruriko Yuzuhara



151 x 105 mm

383 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591126264

Rights sold: Taiwan

A house burns down in a quiet Setagaya, Tokyo neighborhood. The body found in the charred ruins is identified as that of a young IT entrepreneur recently in the limelight. Detective Kentaro Uesugi (35, male) and his assistant Go Masaki (early 20s, male) investigate. Young medical examiner Karin Kisaragi (early 20s, female) reports no indications of foul play, and witnesses note no suspicious persons coming or going, so the incident is initially investigated as an accidental fire. But Uesugi's instincts as a cop tell him otherwise, and he follows up by questioning the victim's mother, who is an actress; a brother, who is president of a national appliance store chain; and the brother's wife. The sister-in-law soon emerges as a suspect. Convinced that Kisaragi must have missed something in her postmortem, Uesugi shows the complete case file to a more experienced medical examiner and asks for a second opinion. This time the conclusion is death by strangulation: the fire had been set after the fact, in an attempt to cover up the murder. As the investigators follow the trail of clues, past cases with similar signatures come to light in Hakodate and Akita. Piecing together the serial killer/arsonist's psyche and background, they slowly but surely unravel the perfect crime. Two additional installments in the *Medical Examiner Series* have appeared to date: *Ha no kenshin* (The Devotion of the Blade) and *Mukuro no kairo* (Gallery of Corpses)

Consulting editor:

Masahiko Ueno (1929–) is a medical doctor and a leading expert in forensic medicine. He served as director of the Tokyo Medical Examiner's Office from 1984 to 1989. Since retiring from office, he has been active as an author, lecturer, and TV personality. His published works include *Shitai wa kataru* (Tales the Bodies Tell) and *Kansatsu-i no namida* (A Medical Examiner's Tears).

## About the Author

Ruriko Yuzuhara (1955–) was born in Shizuoka Prefecture. After withdrawing from the Literature Department of Bunka Gakuin, she worked at a publishing house and as a freelance writer before turning to fiction. *Kansatsu-i shirizu: Hono'o no kakusaku* (Medical Examiner Series: Up in Flames) was her maiden work.

# All in for the Boy Detectives Club

Osamu Fujitani



186 x 136 mm

251 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591142486

Rights sold:

Edogawa Ranpo, whose adopted pen name closely mimics the pronunciation of Edgar Allan Poe in Japanese, is generally regarded as the father of modern Japanese mystery fiction. This book is the second volume in Poplar Publishing Company's homage to the author on the 120th anniversary of his birth. Among Ranpo's most popular works was the *Shōnen tanteidan* (Boy Detectives Club) series in which detective Kogorō Akechi is assisted in his sleuthing by a group of boys (and, in spite of the name, an occasional girl). In another of the author's popular series, Akechi is repeatedly pitted against an art and jewel thief and master of disguise known as *Kaijin nijūmensō*, or "The Fiend of Twenty Faces."

In this story that reproduces the style and flavor of Ranpo's writing (while also incorporating such 21st-century elements as cell phones), sixth-grader Genki Yoshida is the son of a Tokyo jeweler. His father hasn't been himself lately and seems depressed. One day when his father is out, a man in a mysterious-looking gray cloak visits the shop. He identifies himself as Kakui and tells Genki and his mother that his father is making a necklace out of jewels that carry a curse. Several days later, Kakui invites the Yoshida family to attend a violinist's audition. While they are listening to the beautiful Rumi Sakagawa play, the necklace Genki's father has brought along is lifted. Genki's father remains calm, and a group of children appear out of nowhere to surround Kakui and his cohorts and prevent them from getting away. Anticipating trouble, Genki had contacted members of the Boy Detectives Club beforehand, and had also arranged for Japan's greatest detective, Kogorō Akechi, to disguise himself as his father. Akechi exposes Kakui to be none other than the dastardly Fiend of Twenty Faces, who has gone in league with Rumi to steal the necklace. The would-be thieves manage to flee, but they have not given up on the necklace yet. On a day blanketed in deep fog, they kidnap Genki—except this kidnapping, too, has been anticipated, and the person nabbed is actually Akechi's young assistant Kobayashi disguised as Genki. Genki and the boy detectives worry about what might have happened to him, but then they find a message from Kobayashi hidden in a newspaper article. Leads in the article take them to a public bathhouse, which turns out to be Twenty Faces' hideout. Meanwhile, Akechi pays a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Yoshida, but is acting a little strange. Then a second Akechi arrives, as do the rescued Kobayashi and the boy detectives. Which Akechi is real and which is fake? The secret code word of the Boy Detectives Club becomes the key to uncovering the truth, and Twenty Faces is apprehended, bringing the incident to a close.

## About the Author

Osamu Fujitani (1963–) was born in Tokyo and graduated from the College of Art at Nihon University. After working for a company he made his book publishing debut in 2003 with the novel *Andante Mozzarella Cheese* (Japanese title). *Ogata Q, to iu onna* (*A Woman Named Q Ogata*), which appeared in a magazine, was a candidate for the Shinchō Prize for New Writers in 2002. Subsequent works have also been listed for various prestigious literary prizes, among them the three-volume series *Fune ni nore!* (*Aboard Ship!*), a candidate for the Booksellers Award in 2010. Fujitani also operated the Ficciones bookstore in Tokyo, but closed it in 2014 to devote his time to writing.

# The Dis-Ease Called Mother

Takashi Okada



188 x 129 mm

295 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591131466

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan

A psychiatrist draws on examples from his many years of experience working with mothers and their children to discuss some of the destructive dynamics that can enter the mother-child relationship, along with advice on how to ultimately free oneself from them.

There seem to be a growing number of people troubled in some way by their relationship with their mother. Some contend with emotionally unstable or moody mothers, over-protective mothers, or mothers who neglect their children to pursue relationships with men other than their children's father. Still others find that they can't detach from their mothers no matter how dysfunctional the relationship. Even in cases where mother and child seem well adjusted to each other, the mother may be emotionally manipulating the child; or the child may simply be "playing good," or may be tormented beneath the surface by endless negative thoughts from the fear of Mother's disapproval. The relationship a child has with his or her mother is in many ways the foundation on which all other human relationships are built; if unhealthy, it can hamper one's ability to form healthy interpersonal bonds, or lead to depression, eating disorders, and other emotional difficulties.

Author Takashi Okada analyzes a variety of such cases that are commonly seen today, drawn from his own experience as a psychotherapist. He discusses the relationships a number of famous people had with their mothers, from John Lennon to Herman Hesse to Arthur Schopenhauer. Of Lennon, who was kept in constant turmoil by an undisciplined mother and raised by his aunt, he writes, "... Lennon's music and his psyche cannot be understood apart from the sadness and uncertainty he experienced, or the anger he felt at her lack of stability. Without those experiences, the world would most likely never have had his music."

Delving sharply into the influence mothers have on their children, the work became an immediate hit when it first appeared, with readers ranging from their teens to their seventies offering comments like, "It changed my life," "It gave me new confidence," and "It brought me such relief, I bawled my head off."



The Dis-Ease Called Father

## About the Author

Takashi Okada (1960–) earned his M.D. at the Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine. A psychiatrist and author, he worked for many years at the Medical Detention Center for Juveniles in Kyoto before opening his own practice, Okada Clinic. He also currently holds a visiting professorship at Yamagata University. He is a leading authority on personality disorders and developmental disabilities, and, as a front-line clinician, works with patients to overcome mental and emotional challenges. His publications include *Personality Disorders*, *Children of Sadness*, *Intracerebral Pollution*, and *Asperger Syndrome*.



# Please Don't Forget the Children

Masami Sasaki



216 x 155 mm

143 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591133859

Rights sold:

Do what gives the child joy. And make that your own joy. This alone will immeasurably improve the parent-child relationship . . . This book is a collection of “messages” about the joys and rewards of child rearing, written by a renowned child psychiatrist for parents and others who play a role in early childhood learning.

Unlike earlier eras when children were raised by extended families and even entire communities, child rearing today has become narrowly compartmentalized, and this places many new stresses on parents. Mothers are beset with uncertainties about how to interact with their children, whether their children’s social skills are developing appropriately, and so forth—sometimes to the point that there’s no longer any room for their own feelings. “The essence of child rearing is in always meeting the child face to face,” says the author as he gently discusses how to nurture the child’s natural abilities. It is a book that lets parents feel once again the joys and rewards of watching their children grow.

## About the Author

Masami Sasaki (1935–), a child psychiatrist, has held positions at the Child Psychiatry Division of the University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine, the Pediatrics Department of Tokyo Women’s Medical University, and the Children’s Rehabilitation and Guidance Center, and currently holds a special professorship at Kawasaki University of Medical Welfare. His publications include *Eyes on the Child, Will You Be Grateful for the Life You Lived?*, and numerous other books related to child rearing and the rehabilitation of children with developmental disabilities.

# Today's Stretches

Editorial Supervision by **James Shuichi Nakano**

Illus. by **Taiki Enomoto**



256 x 186 mm

31 pages

Hardcover + Calender

ISBN 978-4591126202

Rights sold: Italy and Taiwan

If you get little exercise, experience frequent back and shoulder pain, or have thought about starting jogging but aren't sure you're up to it, basic conditioning to strengthen and tone your muscles is a smart place to start. Author James Shuichi Nakano, a personal trainer for nearly two decades, maintains that the first step is as simple as proper stretching, and presents a simple 11-week program based on his experience helping countless people with basic strengthening and sports injury prevention in this two-volume set.

Just three minutes a day of stretching can lengthen and loosen your muscles, relieve fatigue, correct imbalances, and promote better posture. The benefits are not instantaneous, however, as it generally takes eight weeks or more of daily stretches to achieve the desired results. It is with this in mind that Nakano developed the 77-stretch program presented here. It begins with two weeks of "Starter Stretches," continues with eight weeks of "Basic Stretches" that cover all muscle groups in the body, and ends with a final week of more difficult "Challenge Stretches."

The shorter first volume offers a discussion of the underlying principles, while the second introduces the 77 specific exercises, one to a page. By doing just one stretch a day, the reader will complete the program in 11 weeks. Thereafter, they can sustain the feeling of well-being that comes with improved flexibility by continuing with the stretches that they have found to be most helpful to them.



## About the Author

James Shuichi Nakano (1971–) was a personal trainer who offers his services at sports clubs throughout the Tokyo area. His private clients range from top athletes (pro tennis player Kimiko Date-Krumm, table tennis player Ai Fukuhara, and others) to professional models, whom he advises on both mental and physical fitness. His books include *Ten Habits that Will Create a Younger You*, *Today's Stretches*, and *Today's Exercises*. He frequently serves as supervisory editor for magazine articles on exercise, and maintains a busy lecture schedule as well.

# Today's Exercises

Editorial Supervision by **James Shuichi Nakano**  
 Illus. by **Taiki Enomoto**



257 x 185 mm  
 31 pages  
 Hardcover + Calender  
 ISBN 978-4591129111  
 Rights sold:

This two-volume set offers a program of daily exercises that can easily be fit into the busiest of schedules. The shorter first volume discusses the principles one must follow for building a well-conditioned and youthful body, and maintaining it over time. The second introduces 55 specific exercises, one to a page, divided by level of difficulty into “Starters,” “Variations,” and “Challenges.”

The program has been structured for maximum efficiency based on findings that it takes at least eight weeks to build new muscle to a level where you can really feel the difference. The two-month training plan prescribes one week for the “Starters,” six weeks for the “Variations,” and one week for the “Challenges.” Once you have completed the initial eight weeks of conditioning, you can maintain the benefits over the long term by selecting the particular exercises you most need and doing them for just five minutes per day.



# Cellular Exercises to Awaken Your Body

Hiroyuki Kobayashi and Nobuhiro Suetake



210 x 149 mm

103 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591134955

Rights sold:

The human body is made up of as many as 60 trillion cells, and our physical and mental health depends on nutrient-rich blood reaching all of them. One of the most important keys to good circulation is a well-conditioned autonomic nervous system. Based on medical evidence and developed by a specialist in sports medicine, the exercises in this book are designed for effective, efficient enhancement of the autonomic nervous system's many functions.

Requiring easy-to-perform movements free of undue stress, the exercises can be done anywhere, anytime, and are equally appropriate for small children as they are for adults, the elderly, and highly conditioned athletes. No special equipment is required. By promoting good circulation throughout the body, the exercises help to reduce or relieve such symptoms as constipation, headaches, lethargy, fatigue, and cold extremities. And because they induce a calm sense of presence, they help athletes perform at the top of their game when incorporated into workouts and warm-ups. Many of Japan's best athletes have already adopted the exercises into their routines and confirmed their efficacy.

Ample photographs help readers understand exactly how each movement is to be performed.



## About the Author

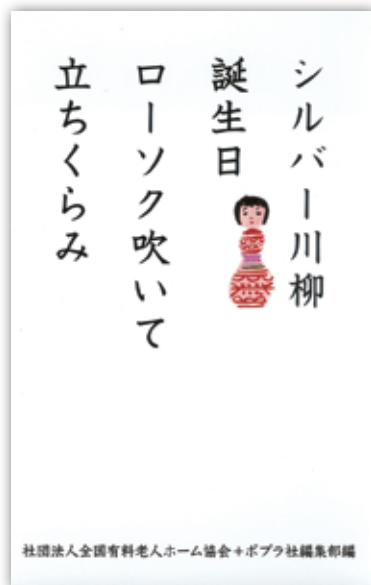
Hiroyuki Kobayashi (1960–) is a professor at Juntendō University Medical School and holds Japan Sports Association certification as a sports doctor. In the course of over 20 years of research spanning such fields as surgery, transplant surgery, immunology, the internal organs, the nervous system, and water and sports drinks, he zeroed in on the importance of achieving and maintaining a proper balance between the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems. As one of Japan's leading experts on the autonomic nervous system, he has advised numerous top athletes and celebrities on how to improve their conditioning and performance. Among his many publications is the 2011 bestseller *Naze "kore" wa kenkō ni ii no ka (Why "This" Is Good for Your Health)*.

Nobuhiro Suetake (1962–), MD, was educated at the Juntendō University Graduate School of Medicine, and holds certification as a specialist from the Japan Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (JSAPS). He is director of the Sakae Clinic, where his practice centers on anti-aging diagnosis and treatment. He also conducts research in sports medicine as an adjunct faculty member of the Juntendō University School of Medicine. Certified as a professional boxing trainer by the Japan Boxing Commission, he has served as trainer to Olympic athletes, professional baseball players, professional golfers, combat athletes, and major performing artists as well.

## Senior Senryu 1:

### My Birthday Party / Blowing Out the Candles and / Nearly Blacking Out

Edited by The Japan Association of Retirement Housing



188 x 119 mm

126 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591130728

Rights sold:

This book compiles 88 of the best senryu poems selected from among more than 10,000 submitted by golden-agers to an annual contest sponsored by the Japan Association of Retirement Housing. Each poem is accompanied by a warm-hearted illustration sure to bring smiles to readers' faces.

The senryu form is limited to the same 17 syllables as haiku, in lines of five, seven, and five. But whereas haiku require a seasonal word known as kigo, senryu do not, and instead of looking to nature, they usually poke fun at or satirize human behavior and society. These poems by veterans of all that life has to offer speak of memory loss, trips to the doctor, crotchety spouses, and other challenges of aging as if the best way to deal with them is to laugh them off. Yet even as the poems prompt laughs, they also inspire sympathy.

Pedometer count / Half the steps are from searching / For something I've lost

I'm in love, I thought / But the palpitations were / Just arrhythmia

Two additional volumes of Senior Senryu have appeared as of June 2014: Senior Senryu 2: Please to Open Wide / Once It Was for Sweet Sweet Love / Now It's for My Nurse, and Senior Senryu 3: In Our Next Lives, Too / Let's Vow to Be Together / I Say to My Dog.



#### About the Author

The Japan Association of Retirement Housing was established in 1982 for the protection and support of those living in retirement facilities, as well as to promote the healthy development of the industry. The association engages in a broad range of activities as the sole such body recognized in the Welfare Law for the Aged. Since 2001 it has sponsored an annual senryu poetry contest for seniors, with more than 120,000 submissions received to date.

# Women's Senryu Circle 1:

How Are You Doing? / Spectacularly Fine, Thanks / At Least Till You Asked

Edited by **City Living**



188 x 119 mm

126 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591132067

Rights sold:

This book compiles 88 of the best senryu—poems that, like haiku, make use of syllable counts but in their content address human nature rather than mother nature—submitted to an annual contest sponsored by Cityliving, a free weekly paper targeted primarily at women who work in office jobs. In the span of 17 well-chosen syllables, the poets spill their true feelings about the entire gamut of challenges they face as women working within the Japanese corporate structure, from interpersonal frictions in the workplace to romance and marriage, concerns about the future, and more. Each verse is accompanied by a humorous illustration, and contains telling elements that draw readers' sympathy even as they elicit laughter.

The senryu form is confined to the same 17 syllables as haiku, in lines of five, seven, and five. But whereas haiku require a seasonal reference known as kigo, senryu do not, and instead of looking to nature, they usually poke fun at or satirize the human condition and society:

This body of mine / Feeling not quite up to par— / Until five p.m.

Past the big four-oh / Time to drop the husband hunt / For a grave-plot hunt.

Who is this geezer? / My first thought before learning / We are the same age.

A second volume has also appeared, under the title *Women's Senryu Circle 2: The Mess Never Clears / Neither on Top of My Desk / Nor within My Life*.



## About the Author

City Living is a weekly free paper published by Sankei Living Shimbun Inc. and targeted at women office workers. Besides an online presence, 660,000 paper copies are distributed weekly in eight separate regional editions (Sapporo, Sendai, Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka-Kobe, and Fukuoka). The paper first appeared in 1984, and since 1997 has sponsored an annual senryu poetry contest, to which some 75,000 verses have been submitted in 17 years.

# Kabuki Coloring Book: Yoshitsune and the Thousand Cherry Tree

Text by **Osamu Hashimoto** Illus. by **Yoshio Okada**



245 x 290 mm

40 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591150894

Rights sold:

The world of Japan's kabuki theater comes to hands young and old in a coloring book based on *Yoshitsune senbonzakura* (Yoshitsune and the Thousand Cherry Trees), a picture book featuring climactic scenes from a kabuki play about the legendary late-12th century general Minamoto Yoshitsune that is included in a five-volume *Kabuki emaki* (Kabuki Picture Scroll) series by the same authors. The play is among the two or three most popular works in the kabuki repertoire—on a par with *Kanadehon chūshingura* (Chūshingura), which tells the famous story of the 47 loyal *ronin* (masterless samurai) who avenged the death of their master.

The book opens with a detailed plot summary of the Yoshitsune story by author Osamu Hashimoto, and beautifully colored sample pictures by illustrator Yoshio Okada. Twelve dramatic scenes from the play are then presented in line-drawing form for readers to color: Yoshitsune receiving the coveted Hatsune drum, his mistress Lady Shizuka dancing, his loyal retainer Benkei battling agents of the Shogunate who are pursuing Yoshitsune, and so forth. Readers have the choice of using the sample illustrations as models, or following their own instincts in selecting colors as they immerse themselves in the elegant world of kabuki. The coloring pages are perforated for easy removal from the book so they can be placed on display.

## About the Author

Osamu Hashimoto (1948–) graduated from the University of Tokyo and worked as an illustrator before becoming a writer. He first made it into print after receiving an honorable mention in the 1977 Shōsetsu Gendai Prize for New Writers competition for *Momojiri musume* (Restless Rena), a story of bumpy adolescence narrated by a high-school girl, which subsequently became a series. Since then he has published not only fiction but literary criticism and essays as well as modern Japanese translations of classics such as *The Tale of Genji*, turning out numerous bestsellers. His critical acumen, breadth of knowledge, and versatile command of the written word have earned him the appellation “genius” among many of his writer colleagues. Hashimoto received the Kobayashi Hideo Prize in 2002 for *Mishima Yukio to wa nanimono datta no ka* (Who Was Yukio Mishima?), a work of criticism. His first fiction prize came in 2005, when he won the Shibata Renzaburō Award for his short-story collection *Chō no yukue* (Where Butterflies Go); in 2008 he was awarded the Mainichi Publishing Culture Award for his modern Japanese translation of *The Tale of Heike*. His more recent works include the novels *Junrei* (Pilgrimage, 2009), *Hashi* (Bridge, 2010), *Ria ke no hitobito* (The House of Lear, 2010), and *Saiwai wa furu hoshi no gotoku* (Happiness Is Like Falling Stars, 2012).

Yoshio Okada (1937–) was born in Hyōgo Prefecture. With a distinctive style characterized by delicate lines and dazzling color, he has provided illustrations and cover art for a broad range of literary works, including contemporary fiction based on *The Tale of Genji* and other classics, and numerous titles in which he has collaborated with Seiko Tanabe and other authors to create modern-day versions of the *e-zōshi* graphic novels that were popular during the Edo period (1603–1867). He is often called a modern ukiyo-e master for his use of bright colors, flamboyant compositions, and sensual lines that evoke a world all his own. In recent years he has collaborated with kabuki expert Osamu Hashimoto, producing original kabuki-themed artwork and promoting the development of this traditional art form.

# Bibi Goes to Africa

Text by **Ichiro Tagawa**

Illus. by **Mitsuo Nakamura**



148 x 210 mm  
78 pages  
Softcover  
ISBN 978-4591146125  
Rights sold:

This is a sequel to *Bibi*, a picture book for adults set in author Ichirō Tagawa’s hometown in Yamaguchi Prefecture and telling of a stray cat named Bibi and a middle-aged man who have a meeting of the hearts, only to become separated in the end. In this second installment, Bibi makes a journey to Africa.

Remembering how her friend used to talk about Africa, Bibi finds a ship in Yokohama harbor headed for the distant continent and stows away on board. When she arrives, she heads westward to explore. She sees firsthand what the desert is like, how the people live, what their schools and markets and clinics are like, and how much effort they must put into obtaining water. She learns about slums on the outskirts of big cities where poor people live, about refugee camps for people who have had to flee civil strife, about child soldiers sent into battle by guerrillas, about forced child labor in diamond mines, and other unhappy realities that are part of life for the people who dwell there. A cat she meets named Salaam offers to be her guide, and along the way the two cats compare notes on the life and culture of their native lands.

Tagawa has for years accompanied actress, writer, and UNICEF goodwill ambassador Tetsuko Kuroyanagi to Africa, producing television documentaries of the trips. His experiences from visiting nearly 20 different countries on the continent are reflected vividly in this book, making it not only a travelogue but a prayer for the children and for peace. “Cats don’t go around fighting and killing each other. People have a thing or two to learn from us,” says Salaam at one point, and his words continue to resonate long after the last page.

## About the Author

Ichirō Tagawa (1939–) was born in Yamaguchi Prefecture and graduated from Hiroshima University. He joined TV Asahi directly out of college and produced programming for the company straight through to retirement age. He began covering actress, writer, and UNICEF goodwill ambassador Tetsuko Kuroyanagi’s trips to Africa in 1984, and has continued to accompany her as a freelance producer even after his retirement. At home in Yamaguchi he runs a blueberry farm and is active in his local community. In 2013 he launched the Tabuse Whole Park Project, a grand experiment aimed at turning his entire hometown of Tabuse into a park. His publications includes *Shiruku-rōdo maboroshi no ōkoku: Rōran kara no tegami* (The Lost Kingdom on the Silk Road: Letter from Lou-lan; 1988), *Bibi* (2009), and *Bibi no Afurika ryokō* (Bibi Goes to Africa; 2015).

Mitsuo Nakamura (1953–) was born in Tokyo, and works as an illustrator and essayist. Reflecting his fondness for remote regions of the world, much of his work both as artist and essayist is on nature and travel themes. His travels have taken him from the Himalayas to the European Alps, Patagonia, and more. Among his many publications are *Nonbiri-yama ni hi wa noboru* (Sunrise on Carefree Mountain; 1998), *Yamatabi no ehon* (A Picture Book of Mountain Travel; 2002), and *Oedo chōteizan sanpo* (A Tour of Tokyo’s Ultra-Low Mountains; 2007). Books he has illustrated include *Bibi* (2009) and *Bibi no Afurika ryokō* (Bibi Goes to Africa; 2015).



# Kuma-Kuma Chan's Travels

Kazue Takahashi



172 x 133 mm  
52 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591152966  
Rights sold: Canada, China  
and The United States

This is the third installment in the *Kuma-Kuma Chan* series, which has won a wide following in Japan, especially among women, and is now spreading its fan base elsewhere in Asia, Europe, and the United States through translations. The main character in the series is Kuma-Kuma, a cute and cuddly bear (*kuma* means “bear” in Japanese) who lives by himself in the mountains and likes to go on trips from time to time. The stories are narrated by his penpal, a city boy who doesn’t always understand the things Kuma-Kuma relates in his letters.

Kuma-Kuma flies off to a south sea isle to lie in the sun and drift into a lazy snooze . . . (turn page) . . . in his imagination. He climbs to the summit of a mountain to view the sunrise while drinking a fresh-brewed cup of coffee . . . (turn page) . . . in the story that he is writing. He flies up into the sky like a bird and looks down on the earth below . . . (turn page) . . . in anticipation of which, he makes a point of getting to know birds better now. He travels back to before he was born to find out what kind of animal he was in a previous life . . . in his dreams. Instead of physically setting out for one place or another, he travels freely all over the world inside his head. But there are also days when he finds it impossible to travel even in this way, in which case he climbs up onto the roof and lies gazing up at the ever-changing clouds and passing birds all day long.

Kuma-Kuma writes down his travel accounts and sends them to his narrator friend, but he scrawls them out in such a hurry that the boy has trouble reading the writing. The boy is left to imagine for himself where Kuma-Kuma is traveling and what transpires there. The story ends as he looks forward to the day when he will get to see Kuma-Kuma again—somewhere on his travels.



## About the Author

Kazue Takahashi (1971–) made her debut as a picture-book author with *Kuma-Kuma Chan The Little Bear* in 2001, and also works as an illustrator for other authors. Her picture books include *Nyāko the Cat*, *The Squirrel Telephone System*, *Little Bear Sees In the New Year*, and *Rainy Day Bear*. Titles she has illustrated include *Tell Me a Story* (text by Kyoko Hara) and *Somebody's Canvas Bag* (story by Miyako Moriyama). [www.kumanekonikki.jugem.jp](http://www.kumanekonikki.jugem.jp)



# Bicycles, Creak Creak

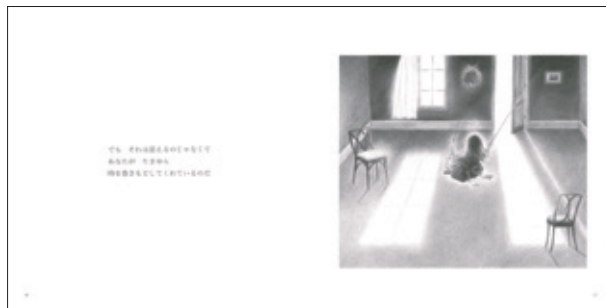
Text by **Yoshihiko Funazaki**

Illus. by **Keiko Ajito**



226 x 225 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591126165  
Rights sold:

“I look up, so that I can see you always. Though I cannot see or hear or touch you, I know you are there, at my side, while I am here.” The story in this picture book is narrated by a girl who lost someone very special. The monochrome illustrations gently and deeply touch readers’ hearts. The Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 has left more than 2,000 children orphaned or without parental care. This book focuses on the inner experience of the child, the feeling that loved ones who passed away are always there with us, and our will to live for the future.



## About the Author

Yoshihiko Funazaki (1945–) was born in Tokyo. A novelist, poet, and illustrator, he teaches at Shirayuri College, and is known for playful works that blend fantasy with botany. His books for young readers include *Koko ni iru* (I’m Here), *Ame to dōbutsuen* (Rainy Zoo), and *Gekkō no Kopan* (Copan in the Moonlight). He has also written the stories for such picture books as *Ano ko ga mieru* (I See That Kid; illustrated by Keiko Ajito), *Aishiteiru* (I Love You; illustrated by Tarō Okamoto), and *Mamono no okurimono* (The Demon’s Gift; illustrated by Akira Uno).

Keiko Ajito was born in Hakodate, Hokkaido and graduated from Tama Art University in Tokyo. Known for her gentle, dreamy portrayals of young girls, she has illustrated such picture books as *Ano ko ga mieru* (I See that Kid; text by Yoshihiko Funazaki), *Hanamame no nieru made* (Till the Flower Beans Boil; text by Naoko Awa), which won the 1994 Akaitori Illustration Award, and *Yume no hata* (At the Far End of a Dream; text by Naoko Awa).

# Kabuki Picture Book Series

Text by **Osamu Hashimoto**

Illus. by **Yoshio Okada**



## Proper Upbringing of a Young Lady at Mount Imose

This is a popular story of Kabuki, a theatrical art that started in the 17th Century in Japan. It's a fantasy and love story based on a well-known historical incident, "Reformation of Taika" in the 7th Century during which everyone joined hands to defeat the vicious head of a powerful family. The story is told with simple wording and beautiful illustrations. It's a perfect introductory book of Kabuki, which children, as well as adults, can enjoy.

252 x 256 mm

54 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591129265

Rights sold:



**The Spirit of Sugawara**



**The Battles of Coxinga**

### About the Author

Osamu Hashimoto, born in 1948, is a well-known writer in Japan. He writes fiction and critical essays, as well as translates Japanese classics into modern Japanese.

Yoshio Okada, a popular illustrator, is known for his use of color and delicate illustrations.



# '17 POPLAR

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