



**POPLAR**  
PUBLISHING



# About Us

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For many years since the company's founding in 1947, Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd. made a name for itself in the Japanese publishing industry as a children's books publisher. Poplar expanded into books for adult readers in 1999. Today, the company puts out bestsellers in a diverse range of genres for both children and other audiences.

Many Poplar novels such as "Rinco's Restaurant," "Midnight Bakery," and "Sweet Bean" have been turned into feature films or television shows. "Lonely Castle in the Mirror" was given the Bookstore Grand Prize, one of Japan's most high-profile awards for novels. Numerous other Poplar titles have ranked high as nominees for the award, including "Pieta," "You're a Good Kid," and "Lion Snacks." These titles have been translated into many other languages.

Poplar publications from other genres have also gone on to become best-sellers and translated for other countries. They include practical books about education, raising children, health, and lifestyles, as well as publications about business and personal empowerment, nonfiction titles, books for senior citizens, and more.

# Contact

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[foreign-rights-sales@poplar.co.jp](mailto:foreign-rights-sales@poplar.co.jp)

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# *My Beautiful Garden*

Author : **Yuu NAGIRA**



paperback

Pub month: Dec. 2019

ISBN 978-4-591-16485-3

188mm x 128mm

283 pages

Rights sold: Vietnam

**A new masterwork by Yuu Nagira, author of 2020 Bookstore Grand Prize winner “Roving Moon” (her first standalone book)!**

**“My Beautiful Garden” is her second standalone book and latest work. An emotional story all about redemption, it gently takes up the sense of being smothered by the world.**

**➔ English sample available**

## **Author profile**

**Yuu NAGIRA** : Debuted in 2006 with “Egoist in Love.” Published works include “Biotope of the Gods,” “Sumire-so Familia,” and “Roving Moon.”

- A lengthy career in “boys’ love” (BL) novels and a popular writer in the genre.
- Has expanded into general literature due to her advanced writing prowess, publishing “Roving Moon,” her first standalone book, through Tokyo Sogensha at the end of August 2019.
- “Roving Moon” won the 2020 Bookstore Grand Prize (<https://www.hontai.or.jp/history/> [in Japanese]).

## **Author Interview (in Japanese)**

January 17, 2020, Read Sound Book, “‘My Beautiful Garden’ Author Yuu Nagira Discusses the Challenges of Human Relationships: ‘Gathering is Synonymous with Exclusion’”

<https://realsound.jp/book/2020/01/post-486660.html>

## **Contents**

There is a space on the roof of an apartment building, and in the back there is a shrine for cutting off relationships. This story is about visitors to the shrine who suffer anguish in their lives, and about the self.

Mone, a girl in elementary school, lives with her stepfather, Tori. In the morning, Ro, who lives in the same building, comes over to their place and all three eat together. Mone and Tori are not related by blood. Some people consider their lifestyle peculiar, but they have fun times every day.

On the roof of the building where the three live is a small shrine that Tori takes care of. The locals refer to it familiarly as “the rooftop shrine” or “the relationship ender.” Worshipped here is a deity of abstinence from foods, which one performs in hope of having one’s desire granted. People say the deity can break any bad habit and end any inauspicious relationship. Visitors who feel weighed down from all sorts of bonds come to this place.

## Reviews (Excerpts, Translated from Japanese)

- “All the characters’ wounds bring pain. Just as all their hearts hurt, so does mine. But I cannot look away from the sight of those wounds. I only want to offer a gentle hug. And I find myself wanting to give my own wounds an embrace.”  
– *Hon ga Suki*, January 16, 2020 (Kaori Yokota)  
<https://honsuki.jp/review/26143.html>
- “A new work by Yuu Nagira, one of the writers whom bookstore clerks are most enthusiastic about right now.”  
– *Web Hon no Zasshi*, February 5, 2020 (Yukari Matsui)  
<http://www.webdoku.jp/newshz/matsui/2020/02/05/130731.html>
- “As I read this book, I thought of how it expressed my feelings exactly the way I wanted them to be described. Throughout the story, you can find effective wording that unravels all sorts of things that bind us.”  
– *Book Watch*, February 13, 2020 (Yukako, Book Watch editorial department)  
<https://this.kiji.is/600455503386428513>
- “Happiness or unhappiness? It’s for you to decide.”  
– *Shosetsu Shincho*, January 30, 2020 (Daisuke Yoshida, writer)
- “Rather than wrapping everything up in a safe and sound shelter, face yourself and light a fire under your combativeness.”  
– *Subaru*, January 30, 2020 (Daisuke Yoshida, writer)
- “To make your flower bloom.”  
– *Dokuraku*, January 30, 2020 (Kaori Fujita, book critic)
- “Ideal relationships of respect and mutual aid.”  
– *Asahi Chukosei Shimbun*, February 23, 2020 (Nanako Hanada, Tokyo HMV & Books, Hibiya Cottage)

## Other (in Japanese)

*BundanTV*, “Female Bookstore Clerks Introduce their Favorite Writers!” (29 sec video)

<https://twitter.com/BundanTv/status/1217748216537440262>



# Burial Outfit

Author : Asako HIRUTA



hardcover

Pub month: June 2018

ISBN 978-4-591-15510-3

193mm x 133mm

239 pages

paperback

Pub month: June 2020

ISBN 978-4-591-16696-3

151mm x 105mm

263 pages

**What clothes would you really wear if you didn't care what other people thought about your outfit?**

**In this story, a 32-year-old woman, stricken with the death of her husband, is taking lessons to make a burial outfit. As she does so, she reflects on her past and meets many different people among her classmates, in the process regaining her positive attitude.**

## Author profile

**Asako HIRUTA** : Born in 1979 in Hokkaido. Won a major prize at the R-18 Literature Awards for Women by Women in 2008. Debuted with “Me, Caught in My Own Trap” in 2010. Other works include “Rin,” “The Abnormal Affection of Fitter X,” and “Love by Remittance.”

## Concept/ Theme

Resurgence from despair so deep it fosters a desire for death

## Contents

Asao, 32 years old, has become a widow. To begin preparing for her own death, she starts taking dressmaking lessons to sew her own burial outfit. She produces several different garments for her assignments: clothing she liked when she was 20 years old, the clothes she longed for when she was 15, clothing that serves as a self-introduction, and so on. Working on these projects stirs up memories for Asao, and through dressmaking, she puts her jumbled emotions in order. What awaits her afterward? This novel is a thrilling masterpiece about finding one's true self both now and moving forward.

## Highlights

(1) The assignments given by the teacher in the dressmaking lessons the protagonist attends:

- What clothing did you like the most when you were 20?
- Remember the clothing you really wanted when you were 15.
- Remake a memorable outfit.
- Make clothing for somebody other than yourself.
- Make an outfit that serves as a self-introduction.
- Make clothes for the upcoming season.

By performing these assignments, the protagonist reflects on her past. She vividly recalls being loved, the people who have supported her, and the future she hoped for when she was young. At the same time, the story arouses emotions in the reader, posing questions such as, “If this were me, what would I make?”

(2) The dressmaking teacher’s comments about making things

“Many people say that making something is equivalent to showing off to the outside world. It’s like, you know, self-expression or putting something out there. But what I teach in my lessons is how to make things not for the outside, but for the inside. When you sew clothing for yourself, you dig deeper into your inner self.”

The idea that you can get to know yourself by working with your hands is one that produces great empathy for people who craft things.

(3) Do the clothes you choose to wear determine what kind of life you will lead?

While the theme is about death, the novel also sends a shout-out encouraging us to make our own choices and be ourselves.

## **Blurb**

“We cannot choose when we are born or when we die, but we can make a choice about how we weave the story of our lives.” Fumio Yamamoto, writer

## **Reviews (in Japanese)**

- *Book Bang* review by Asayo Takii  
<https://www.bookbang.jp/review/article/554883>
- September 11, 2018 *Web Mysteries !*  
<http://www.webmysteries.jp/archives/12245165.html>
- July 2, 2018 *anan NEWS*  
<https://ananweb.jp/news/181282/>

# *A Momentary Gap in the Clouds*

Author : **Mami SUNADA**



hardcover

Pub month: Jan. 2016

ISBN 978-4-591-14797-9

195mm x 135mm

228 pages

paperback

Pub month: April 2018

ISBN 978-4-591-15857-9

151mm x 105mm

221 pages

Rights sold: Indonesia

By coincidence, a young boy died in a harrowing fatal accident. This series of shorts stories, whose author has earned critical acclaim for directing the films “Ending Note” and “The Kingdom of Dreams and Madness,” portrays the people rocked by the sudden tragedy.

Discovered by internationally acclaimed film director Hirokazu Kore’eda, Mami Sunada has enjoyed an award-studded career as a documentary director. This work is her first serious foray into writing. With a meaningful, deep power of expression, backed by a keen eye as a people-watcher and her powers of observation, Sunada’s writing is so polished and draws the reader in so well that one would never guess she is new to the craft.

This book establishing her great talent as a writer is a must-read.

## Author profile

**Mami SUNADA** : Born in Tokyo in 1978. Studied documentary film while attending Keio University. After graduating, apprenticed under the likes of director Kazuhiro Kore’eda as a freelance assistant director. Directorial debut came with “Ending Note” (2011), a documentary about the final stages in the life of her father, a cancer patient. The film received several prizes for new directors, including the 62nd Newcomer Award for Fine Art of the Minister of Education and the 52nd Directors Guild of Japan Newcomer Award, and was screened in theaters beyond Japan, in Taiwan and South Korea. Sunada’s sophomore work in documentary film, “The Kingdom of Dreams and Madness” (2013), is based on a one-year behind-the-scenes project at Studio Ghibli during the production of “The Wind Rises.” Has also published a novel, “Soundless Fireworks” (Poplar).

## Keywords

clouds, moment, tragedy

## Award

Best of early 2016 selection by *Hon no Zasshi*



## Contents

A series of short stories about an accident, as told by five people: the mistress of the man married to the perpetrator, the perpetrator's husband, the perpetrator, the victim's mother, and lastly...see the ray of light that awaits.

## Blurbs

- "A person cannot live without embracing something. That's Mami."  
– Toshio Suzuki, Studio Ghibli
- "It is a book that whispers to the deep reaches of your mind."  
– *Asahi Shimbun*, February 21, 2016 (Nobuko Yoshida, book critic)
- "I can still perfectly recall the feeling of breaking down into a flood of unstoppable tears."  
– *Sunday Mainichi*, April 3, 2016 (Yoko Hiramatsu, essayist)
- "My first impression that this would be a frivolous book was completely overturned, and that felt good."  
– *Nikkei Gendai*, March 12, 2016 (Kunihiro Mishima, CEO of Mishimasha Publishing)
- "Rather than speaking in a loud voice, the book whispers to you, perhaps too much. And yet, the unquestionable quality grabs the reader."  
– *Shukan Shincho*, March 3, 2016 (Fumiko Sakuma, literary journalist)
- "These are not simple stories of rebirth. They make you believe that even if you cannot wipe away a tragedy, it's okay onto hold hope. Personally, I think this is the best book in the first half of the year."  
– *an an*, June 16, 2016 (Kaori Fujita, book critic)

# Harmonium

Author : **Koji FUKADA**



hardcover

Pub month: Sep. 2016

ISBN 978-4-591-15145-7

195mm x 135mm

156 pages

Internationally acclaimed film “Harmonium,” winner of the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, is now a novel, written by the director himself. The fine work demonstrates his additional talent as a novelist.

“Harmonium” was hailed upon its first-ever screening at the Cannes Film Festival. Following in the footsteps of Kiyoshi Kurosawa, Hirokazu Kore’eda, and Naomi Kawase, Koji Fukada won sudden global notice as a film director. This book is the novelization by Mr. Fukada himself. His astonishing power of expression with the written word is not what you would expect from a first-time novelist. It is a stupendous work that has plenty of appeal to savor that differs from the film. In the mold of Miwa Nishikawa, “Harmonium” is a highly recommended read that attests to Koji Fukada’s talent as a novelist.

## Author profile

**Koji FUKADA** : Born in 1980. Released the animation “La Grenadière” in 2006 and the feature-length film “Human Comedy in Tokyo” in 2008. His work has been selected for the Rome International Film Festival and the Paris Cinema International Film Festival. The 2010 film “Hospitalité” won the Japanese Eyes category at the Tokyo International Film Festival. The 2013 film “Au revoir l’été” won the grand prize at the Three Continents Festival. His 2016 film “Harmonium” won the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize at the 69th Cannes Film Festival. In 2020, “The Serious Red Flag,” produced as a TV drama, was chosen for the 2020 Official Selection at the Cannes Film Festival. This book is the author’s first novel.

## Author’s Awards

Has a stellar record of rewards as a film director, including the 67th Newcomer Award for Fine Art of the Minister of Education and the Order of Arts and Letters, Chevalier (Knight) from the French Minister of Culture.

## Keywords

Cannes Film Festival

## Contents

Toshio works at a small machine shop in the suburbs, where he lives with his wife Akie and his daughter Hotaru. He and his wife don’t speak much, but they lead a peaceful life together. One day, Toshio’s old friend, Yasaka, visits their home. It

marks the beginning of an unusual time when Yasaka begins to live with the family. It is also the very first step toward the family's destruction. "Harmonium" is an internationally acclaimed film that won the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, and now comes the novelization by the director himself.

### **Blurb**

"In horrid fashion, the innocent appearance of that one man exposes the true nature of everything ! Even so, it feels kind of good." Fumi Nikaido, actress

# *Lying to Mom*

Author : **Katsumi NOJIRI**



hardcover

Pub month: June 2020

ISBN 978-4-591-16666-6

188mm x 128mm

314 pages

**A novelization of the masterpiece that won critical acclaim, written by the director himself. The story portrays a family confronting death and examining life.**

## Author profile

**Katsumi NOJIRI** : Born in 1974, originally from Saitama Prefecture. After graduating from college, went into the film business, where he served as an assistant director for some of the leading directors of Japanese film, including Kazuyoshi Kumakiri, Toshiaki Toyoda, Tatsushi Omori, Satoko Yokohama, Yuya Ishii, and Ryosuke Hashiguchi. “Lying to Mom,” a creation of his own making, marks his feature film directorial debut. The film has received numerous awards, including a prize in the Japanese Cinema Splash category at the 31<sup>st</sup> Tokyo International Film Festival, the gold prize at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Kaneto Shindo Awards, and Best Screenplay at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Mainichi Film Awards. “Lying to Mom” also ranked sixth among the 10 best Japanese films at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Kinema Junpo Best Ten. Recent directorial work includes the TV drama “What Did You Eat Yesterday?” This book is the author’s first novel.

## Major Film Awards

18th New York Asian Film Festival, Grand Prix

31st Tokyo International Film Festival, Japanese Cinema Splash category, Best Film

23rd KanetoShindo Awards, Gold

73rd Mainichi Film Awards, Best Screenplay

40th Yokohama Film Festival, Yoshimitsu Morita Memorial Best New Director

92nd Kinema Junpo Best Ten, No. 6

## Contents

The oldest son in the Suzuki family, Koichi, has spent three years at home as a recluse when one day, he suddenly passes away. His mother, Yuko, passes out from the shock and does not regain consciousness until 49 days after her son’s death. However, she has lost all memory of her son’s demise. “Where is Koichi?” she asks. Her daughter, Fumi, comes up with a quick lie: “He’s in Argentina.” So begins the family’s days of deceiving Yuko about her son’s passing.

## Blurbs

- “Despite the lies and secrets, a family keeps on going on. Whether you’ve seen the movie or not, this is a must-read!” Hakuzan Kanda, professional storyteller
- “When a son dies, his family members jump into a hole where they search the past to try and figure out what it was that brought death to him and whether one of them bears the guilt. I feel this book taught me a powerful lesson: that the emotions associated with the death of someone important are not mere sadness.” Mana Sakura, adult film actress and novelist

# Oshorin

Author : Youko FUJIOKA



hardcover

Pub month: Feb. 2016

ISBN 978-4-591-14796-2

195mm x 135mm

338 pages

**A spiritual story about two brothers who changed the world with eyeglasses.**

**Herein lies the quintessence of Japanese craftsmanship.**

## Author profile

**Youko FUJIOKA** : Born in Kyoto in 1971 and earned a degree in literature from Doshisha University. After working at the Hochi Shimbun newspaper company, studied abroad at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. After returning to Japan, graduated from Nursing School of the Jikei and became a nurse. Also began writing novels at this time. In 2006, “Yuigon” was recommended for the North Japan Literature Prize selected by Teru Miyamoto. In 2009, debuted with “Forever a White Feather,” a young adult novel set at a nursing school. Also the author of “Sea Route,” “Whistle,” “A Musical Note in the Palm of the Hand,” and “Wind and Waves.” “A Musical Note in the Palm of the Hand” is a bestseller that has sold 300,000 copies. Her debut work, “Forever a White Feather,” was made into a TV drama by Fuji Television.

## Keywords

Fukui, spectacles, Sabaeshi, Masunaga clan

## Contents

It is the year 1905 in the village of Otsu, Fukui Prefecture. The only work to be had here is in farming. The village is a cold place, where in winter the snow piles up deeply. Everyone lives in poverty, faced with no choice but to lead an existence of bare subsistence. Gozaemon Masunaga, the village headman, tries out all sorts of ideas to establish some sort of industry for the community, but they only yield frustration after frustration. One day, his younger brother, Kohachi, returns from a stint working in Osaka. He brings with him an idea: “What if we tried making spectacles in the village?” In Osaka, his job had involved producing glasses cases. “Education is going to keep getting better and better in Japan, and more people will be reading books and newspapers. That’s why spectacles are going to spread like crazy.” After thoughtfully considering his brother’s passionate appeal, Gozaemon makes a decision: “Okay, let’s make spectacles here.” They invite three eyeglass makers from Osaka and eventually begin producing spectacles in the village.

## Blurb

“The thoughts and concerns of my great-grandparents and the first generation of Masunaga eyeglass makers as they endeavored to produce glasses frames strike a chord with us today and offer great encouragement.” Sotaro Masunaga, Masunaga Optical Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

# Summer Sky, White Flower

Author : Shinobu SUGA



hardcover

Pub month: July 2018

ISBN 978-4-591-15952-1

195mm x 135mm

410 pages

paperback

Pub month: July 2020

ISBN 978-4-591-16719-9

151mm x 105mm

394 pages

**A thoroughly incredible work, based on historical fact, about the postwar Japan and the revival of the country's High School Baseball Championship. The paths of history and baseball align in this pinnacle of Shinobu Suga's work.**

## Author profile

**Shinobu SUGA** : Born in Saitama in 1972. Studied history at Sophia University. Debuted with 1994's "Planetary Fairy Tales," which won the reader's grand prize at the Cobalt Novel Awards. Broke into various mystery writing rankings and generated buzz in 2010 with "Divine Thorn." Her third work, 2013's "Fuyo Senri," won the grand prize at the 12th Sense of Gender Awards. She was then recognized at the 18th Haruhiko Oyabu Awards with "The Night Before the Revolution" in 2016 and with the 4th High School Naoki Prize for "Again, in the Country of Cherry Blossoms" in 2017. Other written works include "Look at the Azure Limits," "Crimson Bonds," "Swelling Clouds, Abundant Light," "Summer Prayer," and "White Lilies at the Abandoned Castle."

## Keywords

high school baseball, Koshien, World War II

## Contents

It is the summer of 1945, the day after Japan's defeat in World War II. What until yesterday had been the nation's just cause has been delegitimized. The entire country is dumbfounded. A man comes to visit the offices of the Asahi Shimbun newspaper. He believes that it is exactly at this time, when all has been lost, that, for the sake of the future's leaders, the High School Baseball Championship that was cancelled during the war must be revived.

Without balls, a field, or even coaches, the man still wants to bring baseball back to legendary Koshien Stadium. For himself and for the comrades he lost in the war, he wants to show people hope for Japan's future.

A journalist at the newspaper by the name of Kasumi joins in this enterprise. His motives are not entirely pure at first, as he is also acting to save the company and himself. While he crisscrosses the country, hearing from people about their passion for baseball and their prayers for the sport, standing in his way is interference by the education ministry, as well as the adamant objections of GHQ, which fails to understand the meaning of high school baseball in Japan.



## Blurbs

- “A white flower in the sky of summer. You’ll understand what that means when you get to the end. (I was so astonished it brought me to tears.) I ardently hope that the world will always have a white flower in bloom.” (Yukari Matsui, book critic) in *Ogikubo*. I soon took a liking to this girl, a serious student and ambitious worker who dedicated herself to the children.” (Suginami Ward)
- “This book is not just an emotional story. Throughout, it raises questions about serious issues. It is a book that inquiries into the responsibilities of adults.” Hiroko Oya, book critic
- “A single book can change the complexion of a background we’ve viewed for many years.” Ryo Asai, writer
- “This book explores hope by looking at historical facts as objectively as possible, without condemning or championing Japan’s past as a country.” Chiko Ishii, book critic

## 23 Tokyo Stories

Author : **Mariko YAMAUCHI**



paperback

Pub month: Oct. 2017

ISBN 978-4-591-15636-0

151mm x 106mm

271 pages

Rights sold: Taiwan

**How I want to walk the streets of Tokyo! In this unique collection of stories, each of Tokyo's 23 wards tells its own narrative about its history and dramatic events.**

### Author profile

**Mariko YAMAUCHI** : Born in Toyama Prefecture in 1980. After earning a film degree at Osaka University of Arts, lived as a writer in Kyoto before eventually moving to Tokyo. Won the reader's choice prize at the R-18 Literature Awards for Women by Women in 2008. Written works include "It's Boring Here, Pick Me Up," "Japanese Girls Never Die," "Call My Name if You're Lonely," "Never Been to Paris," "Cute Marriage," and "Tokyo Noble Girl."

### Keywords

Tokyo, taking a walk, 23 wards, essay, Shibuya Ward, Hachiko, Shinjuku Ward, Taito Ward, Arakawa Ward, Chiyoda Ward, Olympics

### Contents

In this collection of stories, each of Tokyo's 23 wards is given a voice to talk about its own history and complexion, and the tragicomic dramas it has spawned. Chiyoda Ward, your typical classroom representative, reflects back on when The Beatles visited Japan. Shibuya Ward, who takes on the style of a Japanese high school girl, talks about the bittersweet origins of Love Letter Alley. The entire collection of 25 stories, which will spark laughter or touch the reader, includes the 23 wards plus the city of Musashino and Tokyo Prefecture.

### From the Book

- "For one thing, I am Chiyoda Ward. I'm stuck in my ways. That's why I was opposed to The Beatles using the Budokan." (Chiyoda Ward)
- "Look, the word for 'valley' is in my name, and that's literally what I am! I mean, the Ginza Line is nuts. It's called a subway, but the platform is three stories above ground level! What a crazy difference in elevation! Ha ha ha!" (Shibuya Ward)
- "It was around the year 1939 when a sweet lass came to visit Masuji Ibuse's house in Ogikubo. I soon took a liking to this girl, a serious student and ambitious worker who dedicated herself to the children." (Suginami Ward)

# Maison Toki no Yu

Author : Miyuki ONO



hardcover

Pub month: Feb. 2018

ISBN 978-4-591-15684-1

194mm x 134mm

279 pages

paperback

Pub month: Jan. 2020

ISBN 978-4-591-16588-1

151mm x 105mm

379 pages

“Should I even be alive?”

“Do I have a place in this society?”

A masterfully composed coming-of-age story, packed full of solid hope, portrays lives led with sincerity while dealing with the sense that one does not belong.

## Author profile

**Miyuki ONO** : Born in Tokyo in 1985. Earned a degree in French literature from Keio University. In 2011, began crowdfunding a picture book about the Great East Japan Earthquake entitled “Dragon of Light,” which was published in 2014. Has also authored “Life from a Wound” (Gentosha Bunko) and “If You’re Tired of Life, Go on a Pilgrimage to Spain” (Kobunsha Shinsho).

## Keywords

public bathhouse, shared house, moratorium, socially vulnerable people, rakugo, Shitamachi, Taito City, Akane Marubeni

## Contents

Unable to accustom himself to the “normal” approach to finding work, Mahiko is approaching graduation without a job offer in hand. Uncertain about his career and living situation, an unexpected turn of events has him residing at Toki no Yu, a hundred-year-old public bathhouse in Shitamachi, the east side of Tokyo. There, where everything is an uphill battle, Mahiko learns about society that does things “the right way” no more than he does.

## Blurbs

- “It’s so funny I couldn’t stop until I reached the end. I even forgot to eat lunch! Public bathhouses are the conscience of a town. If we don’t keep them, we will pay for it.” Masayuki Kusumi, manga artist
- “A bath loosens you up from the core. It makes you feel okay, even if you’re a good-for-nothing scoundrel.” KOM\_I, musician

# *Yabusame Girl!*

– *Bullseye at Aomori Prefectural Ipponsugi High School!*

Author : Yui AITO



paperback

Pub month: Aug. 2018

ISBN 978-4-591-15830-2

148mm x 105mm

275 pages

The setting is Towada, a city in Aomori Prefecture where *yabusame*, traditional mounted archery, boosts the local economy. Modeled on the real-life women-only *Sakura Yabusame* tournament, this coming-of-age story that will have you laughing and then crying follows two high school girls taking on the rigors of *yabusame*.

## Author profile

**Yui AITO** : Winner of the “Japan Love Story Award” with her 2013 debut, “Sakura Animal Hospital” (Takurajimasha). In 2015, won the prize for excellence at the 1st Occupational Novel Contest with “Snooty Back Alley Glasses Shop” (Mynavi Publishing). Has worked on numerous other popular titles.

## Keywords

*yabusame*, coming-of-age, high school girls, high school students, archery, club activities

## Theme

While putting the spotlight on the minor sport of *yabusame*, the book portrays what makes it interesting, as well as the growth of two high school girls who are coming of age. Although at first they don’t get along, they later connect through sport.

## Contents

*Yabusame*, a form of mounted archery practice where the rider aims at targets from atop a galloping steed, is a tradition that is alive and well in the city of Towada, Aomori Prefecture. Maiko is a local girl in the archery club. Her classmate Mitsuru, who has moved to Towada from Tokyo, is a former national archery competitor. Maiko invites her to join the club, but Mitsuru turns down the offer. The fact is that at the *Sakura Yabusame* tournament that Maiko won four years earlier, Mitsuru had been enthralled by the figure Maiko cut, and she came to Towada not to practice regular archery, but *yabusame*. Mitsuru suggests that they practice *yabusame* together, but Maiko has a troubled past associated with the art. Join these two high school girls taking on the challenges of traditional Japanese horse archery in this touching, heart-warming coming-of-age story.

## Reference Materials (in Japanese)

- The real-life *Sakura Yabusame* tournament:  
<https://machidukuritowada.com/info/819>
- The event has won the Hometown Event Award and the Prime Minister Award:  
<http://towada-joba.com/sakurayabusame/furusatoevent>

# *All Cats, Every Day...and Sometimes Birdies*

Author : Masumi ASANO



paperback

Pub month: Feb. 2020

ISBN 978-4-591-16610-9

188mm x 128mm

190 pages

There is such joy in spoiling pet cats.  
But what would be the ultimate bad pet combo?  
It never gets boring with four cats and two birds.

## Author profile

**Masumi ASANO** : Born in Akita Prefecture. Also does voice acting work. Won the 7<sup>th</sup> MOE Production and Picture Book Grand Prize for “Mamezara-chan” (illustrations by Megu Yoshimura) in 2018. Published essays include “How a Chick Walks” (illustrations by Kiyohiko Azuma) and “Sunny Spot Jelly,” while her other picture books include the “Animal Bus” series.

## Contents

They may scamper at full speed across your stomach when you’re asleep, urinate on your favorite bag, or shred toilet paper all over the room, but there is no pretense behind the affection our fluffy, warm animals show for us. They come to us because they simply want to be close. Such moments are like a special gift. These creatures are the subject of the 22 essays here detailing days of fun and laughs, including an encounter between a squad of felines and a pair of birds. Also packed with photos.

- How can a cat be scared of heights?! – calm, gentle Alc (age 7, male)
- How can a cat understand human conversations?! – intelligent, dainty Shima (age 5, female)
- How can a cat not have a tail?! – split-personality Chobi (age 3, male)
- He doesn’t bat an eye, even when he sees a cat! – laidback cockatiel Abi (age 17, male)

## Blurb

“It’s like the ultimate parenting book, bringing out laughs and tears as you read. My heart was touched time and time again.” Natsu Miyashita, novelist

## Media Mentions (Partial List)

- *Da Vinci News*, February 20, 2020
- *Da Vinci*, March 6, 2020
- *Neko Biyori*, May edition, author interview, April 11, 2020
- *Chant Web*, “Dialog Between Natsu Miyashita and Masumi Asano,” May 12-13, 2020

# *Kitasato University School of Veterinary Medicine Dog Club!*

Author : Yuka KATANO



hardcover

Pub month: April 2010

ISBN 978-4-591-11747-7

194mm x 137mm

354 pages

paperback

Pub month: April 2012

ISBN 978-4-591-12916-6

151mm x 105mm

373 pages

Young members of a university club busy themselves around town to save cats and dogs with no place to go. It's a touching work of nonfiction about love, passion, and facing up to the realities of life.

- A true story based on research of an actual university club
- Depicts the battles fought by Kaisaku Ota, now a practicing veterinarian, during his days at veterinary school
- A story that was serialized as a comic in an unusual arrangement in both *Shogakukan Shonen Sunday* and *Akita Shoten's Elegance Eve*, each of which was later released in paperback form.

## Author profile

**Yuka KATANO** : Born in Tokyo in 1966. A self-proclaimed dog fanatic/nonfiction writer. Reports and writes about how people live with dogs, Asian culinary culture, health and beauty, among other topics. Won the 12<sup>th</sup> Shogakukan Nonfiction Grand Prize in 2005 for "The Pet Dog King: A Chronicle of Yonekichi Hiraiwa." Written works include "Ajiwan: Casual Encounters with Dogs in Asia," "Can't Stop Dieting: In Pursuit of the Japanese Body," "When a Dog Becomes True Family," and "Pochi's Secret."

## Latest News

- A film adaptation is set for a 2021 release! Starring Kento Hayashi and Taishi Nakagawa. Directed by Tetsuo Shinohara.
- In May 2020, Dog Club founder and current veterinarian Kaisaku Ota's appearance on Fuji Television's "The Nonfiction" generated a huge response.

## Keywords

dogs, cats, veterinary school, Kitasato University, pet adoption fair

## Contents

This story about veterinary students saving abandoned cats and dogs is set in the Aomori Prefecture city of Towada, which is surrounded by a vast expanse of natural surroundings. The setting may seem a bit over-the-top, but the story is as real as it gets.

It was late in the fall of 2007 when the author first met the members of the Dog Club, who were studying veterinary medicine at Kitasato University. She had seen many animal shelters in her time, so as first she couldn't believe it when she heard



about a university club that rescues cats and dogs. Why? Because caring for animals is tough work!

Kittens and puppies who haven't yet been weaned from their mothers feed and do their business every two to three hours. A healthy dog needs to take a walk every day, even if it's rainy or snowy. But a dog that can actually go for a walk is in relatively good shape, because those that have suffered mental anguish may refuse to come along or even wear a collar. It's not uncommon for a cat to hide under a bed because it's afraid of people. Some animals are on the verge of death due to disease or injury. While some animals may be naturally predisposed not to get along with people, a cat or dog who has been abandoned by its owner requires even more personalized care. It's like starting from zero, or rather before zero. Handling such animals is no simple matter.

The Dog Club's founder is Kaisaku Ota. Unlike most Japanese, the only place in his apartment where forbidding shoes was on the bed. He would help out stray animals he came upon. At any given time, he was living with 15 or so cats and dogs. His own pet dog, Hanako, had a naturally caring personality. She would take it upon herself to look after animals under Kaisaku's protection. In fact, she was the only canine member of the Dog Club. Another member was Mr. Ikeda, who ran about looking for dogs to save, even though he thought he "might die" if he kept it up." There was also Mr. Oyama, who said, "You have to be a little bit off your rocker if you're going to protect animals." The Dog Club was an assemblage of unique personalities.

Once the cats and dogs in the club's care came around and started to trust the members, it was time for them to move on and live with a permanent owner. These moments were the happiest for the club, but they also brought plenty of tears. Every day was different from the last, shaped by the members' effort and perseverance, and most of all by their courage to face life and know it for what it truly is. The author visited Towada on numerous occasions and covered the members' activities so she could write "Dog Club!"

Some say we are in a period of transition toward a society where people and animals can both live happily, but this will probably take yet more time. Even so, the future seems bright, as evidenced by the wonderful young people in the Dog Club.

### **From the Afterword**

"I laughed. I cried. Thank you. And thank you for saving animals."

Seishu Hase, novelist

# Pieta

Author : **Masumi OSHIMA**



hardcover

Pub month: Feb. 2011

ISBN 978-4-591-12267-9

194mm x 137mm

342 pages

paperback

Pub month: Jan. 2014

ISBN 978-4-591-13771-0

151mm x 105mm

391 pages

**“We were really and truly happy orphans.”**

**A representative work by a Naoki Prize writer that was the second runner-up for the 2012 Bookstore Grand Prize.**

It is the 18<sup>th</sup> century in Venice, during the City of Water’s heyday. The musical composer Vivaldi, who wrote “Four Seasons,” had led the all-female chorus and ensemble for charity concerts at Pieta, an orphanage. One day, Emilia, a former student of his, receives word of her teacher’s passing. Guided by a mystery found in a piece of sheet music, the story unfolds. Based on historical fact, “Pieta” is a tour de force offering an animated depiction of the interaction and bonds between women.

## Author profile

**Masumi OSHIMA** : Born in Nagoya in 1962. Won the 74<sup>th</sup> Bungakukai Prize for New Writers for “The Magician of Spring” in 1992. In addition to “Whirlpool: Teachings for Women and Spiritual Bonds,” which received the 161st Naoki Prize, the author’s works include “Three Sisters,” which was selected among the best two in the first half of fiscal 2009 by Hon no Zasshi, as well as “Momoko and the Rabbit,” “Ivy, Ivy,” “The Love of Brothers-in-Arms,” “Bitter Sugar,” “The Morning When I Don’t Wake Up Will Eventually Come,” “Geranium Garden,” “March,” and more. She is a writer with a widespread fan base including critics, bookstore clerks, and avid readers of books.

## Keywords

Vivaldi, Pieta, charity concert, baby hatch, musical ensemble, chorus, Four Seasons, The Harmonic Inspiration, L’estro armonico, Venice, 18th century, Canaletto, Bookstore Grand Prize, emotion, friendship, women, love, mystery, gondola, period novel, historical novel, masterpiece, historical fact, music novel

## Contents

It is the 18th century in Venice, during the City of Water’s heyday. The musical composer Vivaldi, who wrote “Four Seasons,” had led the all-female chorus and ensemble for charity concerts at Pieta, an orphanage.

One day, Emilia, a former student of his, receives word of her teacher’s passing. She is unable to conceal her shock. At that time, however, Veronica, an old friend and Venetian aristocrat who had studied music with Emilia when they were children, sends her a curious request: “I want you to look for the sheet music our teacher, Vivaldi, wrote for me.”

While tracking down a number of mysteries, Emilia discovers a side of her former teacher she had not known.

Masumi Oshima's transparent writing has portrayed the casual moments of everyday life, but in taking up her first work about a historical figure, she has produced an ambitious piece of dramatic storytelling.

## Reviews

- "The world should know a little more about Masami Oshima... The heart-tugging conclusion will undoubtedly send the greatest of music resonating through the reader's chest."  
– *Yomiuri Shimbun*, February 15, 2011, morning edition
- "In this dramatic novel interwoven spectacularly with historical fact, half a lifetime of the Pieta children, the society and manners of the time, and more emerge in striking detail."  
– *Da Vinci*, March 2011 edition (Asako Miura)
- "Let's declare that when we truly refer to a 'moving piece of literature,' we are talking about something like this book."  
– *J-novel*, March 2011 edition (Kaori Fujita)

## Bookstore Clerk Blurbs

- "It is a beautiful story, like a miracle, where the lives of the three women resonate, as if I have actually met them. This is the loveliest work ever considered for the Bookstore Grand Prize."  
– Kanazawa Beans Meibundo Bookstore, Rie Omote (remarks during paperback release)
- "It's a beautiful thing when people transcend their positions in society and connect. This is one book I definitely want someone special to me to read."  
– Maruzen Marunouchi Bookstore, Sawako Takato (remarks during book's release)
- "I was drawn in by the clever storytelling, and I still can't forget how moved I was when I finally reached the song in the latter part of the book. I read it a little at a time over the course of a week, but if I can, I want to read through it all in one go. A blissful reading experience surely awaits you."  
– Shichigo Bookstore, Taka'aki Kumagai (remarks during book's release)

## Visionaries – All Six Volumes

Author : **Jin FUKAZAWA**



paperback  
 Pub month: March 2016  
 ISBN 978-4-591-14935-5  
 148mm x 105mm  
 276 pages

The story is of a Japanese exchange student who can see ghosts and faeries, and a young English man who belongs to an organization that cleans up problems caused by faeries. This is Volume 1 of a popular story that has produced an enthusiastic fanbase.

### Author profile

**Jin FUKAZAWA:** Debuted with “R.I.P. – Angels Embrace Mirrors and Bullets,” which won the prize for excellence at the second “This Light Novel is Amazing!” awards. Other works include “Mutsukasa Shrine and Non-Deities” (Kono Light Novel ga Sugoi! Bunko), Vocaloid light novel “Dear” (PHP Institute), and “This Summer’s Children Will Forget Anyway” (Poplar Bunko Pure Full). Enjoys taking walks and traveling. Likes to go to far-off places while listening to music.

### Author Interview (in Japanese)

May 2, 2018, Da Vinci News, “A Must-Read for Anglophiles! ‘Visionaries’ Series Finally Complete. What Will Happen to the Ham-Fisted Boys?”

<https://ddnavi.com/interview/455594/a/>

### Keywords

university students, England, faeries, witches, fantasy, buddies

### Contents of Volume 1

Kai Managawa is a Japanese exchange student attending university in England, living with his aunt in the town of Witzbury. Kai, who can see the spirits of the dead, meets a fairy. He later gets to know a young man named Lance who works for the UK Special Bureau for Phantasm Regulation & Reporting. On campus, Lance’s anemia often causes him to faint. While caring for him during one of these episodes, Kai gets wrapped up in a “phantasmic” (bureau jargon for an incident involving a phantasm). In Volume 1, this tale of fantasy and school life also depicts England in rich detail.

### Review (Excerpt, Translated from Japanese)

“Stay in England or go back to Japan? ... Decision time is here in the latest from “Visionaries,” the fantasy series by Jin Fukazawa about phantasms set in England.”

– *Da Vinci News*, July 21, 2017

<https://ddnavi.com/news/388772/a/>



*Vol. 1: Phantasnic*



*Vol. 2: Midsummer Eve*



*Vol. 3: Farewell, My Ghost*



*Vol. 4: Wheel of Fortune*



*Vol. 5: Blood over Water*



*Vol. 6: The Return of the Shepherd*

## Sixteen-year-old Storytellers

Authors : **Nayuta GANBE, Honoka TSUDA, Akane AIZAWA** Editor : **Toshiro SATO**



Pub month: Feb. 2016  
ISBN 978-4-591-14822-8  
188mm x 129mm  
223 pages

**Let us speak of that day; let us speak of the future.**

**Children, rising with hope from a scene of devastation.  
Stories of the future, from authors who experienced the 2011  
Tohoku earthquake and tsunami as fifth-graders.**

**Winner of the 2017 Child Welfare Cultural Award**

**➔ English sample available**

### Author profiles

At the time of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami on 11 March 2011, authors **Nayuta Ganbe**, **Honoka Tsuda**, and **Akane Aizawa** were fifth-graders at the Omagari Elementary School in Higashimatsushima, Miyagi prefecture. As of January 2016, all three were first-year students at high school in Ishinomaki, Miyagi prefecture. Through this book, they act as storytellers passing on their experiences and lessons learned through disaster, both for others living near them and for people around the world.

**Toshiro Sato** is from Ishinomaki, Miyagi prefecture. Since 1987, he has been working as a Japanese teacher at junior high schools in Miyagi prefecture. At the time of the disaster, in which he lost a sixth-grade daughter, he was teaching at the Daiichi Onagawa Junior High School (currently the Onagawa Junior High School). Five months after the disaster, he had his students write haiku describing their feelings, and these poems were presented on television, in newspapers, and in books. These poems were included in first-year junior high school Japanese textbooks for the 2016 school year. Following the disaster, he became head of disaster prevention at the Onagawa and Yamoto Daini Junior High Schools. He also served as an editorial committee member for supplementary readers for disaster prevention education in Miyagi Prefecture. He retired from teaching in March 2015. He and other surviving family members created the “Committee for Considering the Meaning of Young Lives,” which delivers lectures at disaster prevention events throughout Japan. He was the executive director of the nonprofit “Kids Now Japan,” an advisor at the nonprofit Katariba, an instructor at the Smart Survivor Project, and a frequent guest on the “Onagawa FM” (formerly “Onagawa Saigai FM”) radio station. He is an instructor at the “Committee for Passing on Stories of Life,” a project sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Education.

### Keywords

earthquake disaster, Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, ethics, children, society, counseling, psychology, disaster recovery, nonfiction, life, death



## Contents

Stories that can only be told by these children upon having reached sixteen years old.

- I want to create at least one new memory every day, no matter how small it may be.  
— Nayuta Ganbe
- Words, to me, are very heavy things.  
— Honoka Tsuda
- Even today, I feel like I need to live for the friends I lost.  
— Akane Aizawa

This book was published on 11 March 2016, five years following the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. The city of Higashimatsushima in Miyagi prefecture, which was severely damaged in the tsunami, is home to three certain high school students. Rather than simply relegating their painful experiences to the past, they have instead become storytellers helping people to learn from what they saw. This book presents their feelings, their doubts, and the paths of their lives over the previous five years, along with the reasons why they feel they must keep talking about those heartbreaking days. Within their tales, we find a sense of mission and conflict that can survive even that great disaster.

While being a record of disaster as experienced by young children, this is also a book of hope as described in the future they envision.

## Table of Contents

Introduction: How I met three young storytellers, by Toshiro Sato, executive director of “Kids Now Japan”

### Part 1: Three Storytellers

- Nayuta Ganbe, first-year student, Ishinomaki High School, Miyagi Prefecture
- Honoka Tsuda, first-year student, Ishinomaki High School, Miyagi Prefecture
- Akane Aizawa, first-year student, Ishinomaki-nishi High School, Miyagi Prefecture

### Part 2: Responses to the Stories

- Miyu Yamashiro, second-year student, Minamidaira High School, Tokyo
- Toshiro Sato, former junior high-school instructor, Miyagi prefecture

Afterword, by Toshiro Sato

## A Word from Your Guide

The 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami has been called a once-in-one-thousand-years event. If that is the case, then our experiences—what happened that day, what we felt that day, and what we’ve experienced and felt since—should all serve as precedents for the future. Remembering the lessons we learned from that disaster and passing them on to future generations is our gift to the future.

Your Guide,

Toshiro Sato

(former junior high-school instructor, Miyagi prefecture)

# September 1: My Mother Passes the Baton

Authors : **Kirin KIKI and Yayako UCHIDA**



Pub month: Aug. 2019  
ISBN 978-4-591-16360-3  
188mm x 128mm  
287 pages

**The first co-authored book by this mother and daughter. Four dialogues by Yayako Uchida that led her to understand the meaning of living her life.**

## Author profiles

**Kirin Kiki** (early stage name, Chiho Yuki) was one of the first members of the Bungakuza theater company. Her talents were discovered by actor Hisaya Morishige when they appeared together in the television drama *Seven Grandchildren*. She developed breast cancer at age 61, and at age 70 announced that the cancer had spread throughout her body. Her husband was rock musician Yuya Uchida, with whom she had a daughter, essayist Yayako Uchida. She appeared in many television commercials, television shows, and movies. In addition to many acting awards, she was awarded a Japanese Medal of Honor for her artistic contributions and the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun. She died at age 75 on 15 September 2018.

**Yayako Uchida** is an essayist and member of the musical band Sighboat. She has two sons and a daughter with her husband, actor Masahiro Motoki. Her eldest son is model Uta Uchida. Her books include *Paper Movie* (Asahi Press), *Interviews and Brooch* (Little More), and *When Parents and Children are Raised* (Iwanami Shoten), co-authored with Kiyoe Shimura. She also translated Margaret Wise Brown's *The Important Book* (Froebel-Kan Group). She is a contributor to the *Shukan Bunshun* Woman magazine column "Blank Page."

## Contents

September 1 is notorious in Japan as a day on which many Japanese bullied teenagers, not wanting to return to school after summer vacation, commit suicide. On that day in 2018, Kirin Kiki was looking outside the window of her hospital room, mumbling. "Please don't die... Please don't die... Too many children die today." Her daughter was left wondering just what she was trying to say.

This book is a compilation of the words Kirin Kiki left behind, as received by her daughter Yayako Uchida. Through consideration and dialogue, Uchida weaves those words into an understanding of living through a life that doesn't go as planned. Her story is a gift of life for anyone feeling difficulty in carrying on.

## Table of Contents

Forward (by Yayako Uchida)

Part 1: What Kirin Kiki told me

Interview— Be thankful for a life with many difficulties

A talk— Things I consider self-evident

Part 2: What Yayako Uchida thought

Dialogue 1, with Shiko Ishii (editor, *The School Refusal Newsletter*)— Thoughts on Kirin Kiki's last days and September 1

Dialogue 2, with Ms. E (age 20, former school refuser)— The pain you feel is justified

Dialogue 3, with Kioyoe Shimura (birth therapist)— Don't forget that feeling of hitting bottom

Dialogue 4, with Robert Campbell (Japanese literature scholar)— What you use that finger for

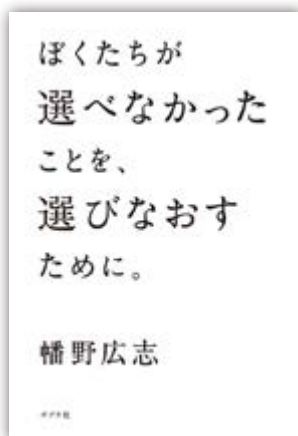
Afterword (by Yayako Uchida)

## Selected media coverage (in Japanese)

- “What Kirin Kiki said about September 1; tears in her hospital room”  
—*Asahi Shimbun* Withnews, 23 Aug 2019: <https://bit.ly/2BYjcey>
- “An interview with Shiko Ishii about *September 1: My Mother Passes the Baton*, Part 1”  
—Wotopi, 25 Aug 2019: <https://wotopi.jp/archives/90728>
- “The baton of life, from Kirin Kiki”  
—*Woman Excite*, 25 Aug 2019: <https://woman.excite.co.jp/article/series/child/S1564993403201/>
- “Kirin Kiki worried about September 1 until the last days of her life; what her daughter, Yayako Uchida, felt”  
—*Hon-no-hikidashi*, 28 Aug 2019: [https://hon-hikidashi.jp/learn\\_learn/92972/](https://hon-hikidashi.jp/learn_learn/92972/)
- Over 35 appearances on radio, television, newspapers, and magazines within one month of publication !

# *To Reconsider What We Could Not Choose Ourselves*

Author : **Hiroshi HATANO**



Pub month: May 2019  
ISBN 978-4-591-16100-5  
188mm x 128mm  
215 pages

**Words about family for anyone facing difficulty living.**

**An autobiographical work by Hiroshi Hatano, in which he interviews cancer patients and those who have lost loved ones to cancer, while battling cancer himself. He also discusses how cancer has changed his relationships with his wife, his son, and his mother, the latter of whom he has become estranged from as a result of his illness. He also discusses his support for euthanasia.**

## **Author profile**

**Hiroshi Hatano** dropped out of the Nippon Photography Institute in 2004. In 2010 he began studying under commercial photographer Tsutomu Takasaki, winning an award at the Nikon Juna 21 exhibition for his “Marine Ruins.” In 2011, he became an independent photographer and married. He was an Epson Photo Grand Prix winner in 2012. His son was born in 2016. In 2017 he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. His other works include *Becoming the Parent I Wanted as a Child* (PHP Institute) and *Photobook* (Hobonichi).

Hatano, an avid photographer and hunter, was diagnosed with an incurable form of blood cancer at age 34. The blog where he announced his diagnosis became very popular, and he has attracted many followers on social media. This book is a message to the family that will survive him, including his (then) two-year-old son. He writes about how he wants to spend his final years living the life he wants, and why he advocates euthanasia. Unlike many previous books by cancer patients, he takes a strong stance for living one’s own life to the end, and has thereby attracted a strong following, particularly among young readers in their twenties and parents in their thirties and forties.

## **Contents**

As a photographer who has long observed life, Hatano places high value on “choice.” This book describes the changes arising in his family as a result of his being diagnosed with incurable cancer at 34, and how he has come to view this through interviews with other cancer patients and those around them. He also describes his desire for choosing euthanasia as the end of his life. In strong but gentle terms, he talks about the meaning of being able to make his own decisions as a way of overcoming the difficulty of living on. Her daughter was left wondering just what she was trying to say.

## Table of Contents

Chapter 1: And so, I took a trip

Chapter 2: The freedom we seek— An interview with K

Chapter 3: True independence— An interview with M

Chapter 4: Avoiding loss of refuge— An interview with T

Chapter 5: Choosing a new form of family

Chapter 6: My final choice

## Reader reviews

- After reading this book, I wanted to speak with Mr. Hatano. Then I realized what I wanted was a dialogue with myself.  
— Anne Watanabe (actress)
- Of course! Just make a different choice! Scales from my eyes. I guess there's still time. For me, and everyone.  
— Kiyoshi Shigematsu (author)
- I read this book without putting it down. It was like a beautiful, direct love letter. From now on, I'll make my own decisions.  
— Office worker, 30s
- I will use this book as a guide when next I have the opportunity to redecide things in my life. I'm so glad I found it.  
— Office worker, 30s
- Hatano's stating that "doctors can only provide care at a point, but families are lines" really got to me. I hope I can find a way to provide care along that line.  
— Doctor, 30s
- This book made me realize I can always reconsider my choices, even regarding things like my job and parents that everyone else around me insists must be done in a certain way. It's given me the power to lead my own life.  
— Reader, 30s
- This is the kind of book that will always have a place on my bookshelf, one I will pick up to reread over and over again.  
— Office worker, 40s
- I believe we need the option of euthanasia to live better lives. The sense of security coming from having that option will embolden people and give them the power to withstand adversity.  
— Entrepreneur, 50s
- I feel like I've lived my life playing a role, one conforming to the ideals of others around me. After reading this book, I (finally) realized I was freer than that. Such happiness, to live as I wish, without fear of whether I'll be forgiven or lectured.  
— Homemaker, 60s

# *Even So, I Want to be a Mother:* *Reflections on Family by a Woman Who Was Supposed to be Infertile*

Author : **Rurika TOKU**



Pub month: Aug. 2019  
ISBN 978-4-591-16362-7  
188mm x 128mm  
247 pages

There is no “normal” way to live.

**Marriage, divorce, childbirth, infertility, life and death, gender re-assignment, adoption, fostering... Finding hope in new forms of human connection beyond laws and blood relations. A debut work by a notable new author !**

## Author profile

**Rurika TOKU** : After graduating from Keio University Law School, Rurika Toku began working at a publishing company, where she was engaged in planning, editing, and writing for books and online media. Following that, she took a public relations job for an organic cosmetics brand. Now independent, she is a writer focusing on women’s issues and familial forms. This is her first book.

Twitter: @rurika109

Blog: <https://note.mu/rurika>

## Keywords

marriage, pregnancy, childbirth

## Contents

Assuming she was infertile, Rurika Toku was struggling with questions regarding family. “Do I have to give birth to a child to be its mother?” “Is it really blood ties that make a family?” Following a miraculous pregnancy, Toku crafted this collection of reports and essays describing the mother–child relationship and her thoughts regarding family after interviewing women in many varied circumstances. The candid words in this book are sure to raise questions regarding how women should live and form relationships in this new era.

## Table of Contents

### I. You are special to me

Minako— Pregnant at sixteen, a mother in high school

Midori— Moving on after the death of a loved one

My husband— The person who accepted my circumstances

### II. Giving birth, not giving birth

Yoko— Choosing a life with no children and no uterus

Haruka— Life after sharing a pair of kidneys with a partner

Naomi— Mothers who are barren and mothers who can’t raise children

Sakura— Adoptees and other parents and children unrelated by blood

My daughter— The child who brought life to my dysfunctional uterus



### III. Creating the space called “family”

Nari— Transitioning to male and building a family as one’s true gender

Ayako— Raising a child in society as a foster mother

My mother— The person who creates space for me

### **Reader review**

It’s easy to blame the mistakes we’ve made on others, but this high-school student and the author didn’t do so. To me, that felt like being in a warm pool of light.

—Yukari Takinami (manga artist)

# *Ultra-second-class: Perfecting a Skill to Defeat Genius*

Author : Katsuya NOMURA



Pub month: Aug. 2019  
ISBN 978-4-591-16380-1  
173mm x 109mm  
232 pages

To produce results that last, “ultra-second-class” is better than “first-class.”

What is “ultra-second-class”? It means knowing your strengths and abilities, and using your head to best utilize yourself.

Cast aside your pointless desires and focus on what you do best!

## Author profile

**Katsuya NOMURA :** In 1954, Katsuya Nomura became a tryout player for the Nankai Hawks (currently the Fukuoka Softbank Hawks), joining three years later as a regular member. Since then he has been one of the most famous catchers in Japanese baseball. In 1970 he became both a player and a head coach, later playing on the Lotte Orions (currently the Chiba Lotte Marines) and the Seibu Lions teams. He received numerous awards in his twenty-seven years as a baseball player, the first postwar Triple Crown in 1965, five MVP awards, nine homerun king awards, seven awards for batting-point average, leading hitter once, top-nine player nineteen times, and a Golden Glove Award. He retired in 1980 at age 45 and became a baseball commentator. He was head coach for the Yakult Swallows from 1990 to 1998, taking them to four league victories and three Japan championships during that time. He was head coach for the Hanshin Tigers from 1999 to 2001, and head coach and general manager for the Shidax company baseball team from 2002 to 2005, and from 2006 to 2009 he was head coach for the Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles, who he took to their first Climax Series. In 2010 he returned to being a baseball critic, and became involved in a variety of activities. His other books include *Nomura’s Notes*, *Nomura’s Last Will and Testament*, and *Katsuya Nomura’s Theory of Baseball*. He passed away on 11 February 2020 at age 84. A Yakult vs. Hanshin memorial match dedicated to his memory, delayed due to the novel coronavirus, is scheduled to be held this season.

## Keywords

“Nomu-san”, baseball notes, “Nomura Recycling Plant”, baseball, professional baseball, Hanshin, Giants

## Contents

Everyone has some sort of potential. Even if you can’t be first-class, you can still become ultra-second-class.

Everyone has a particular strength or skill. By releasing that talent rather than

letting it lie dormant within you, you can become “ultra-second-class,” allowing you to sometimes beat geniuses and the first-class. What is the ultimate insight you can call on precisely because you are a “mediocre” person with undiscovered potential? Katsuya Nomura reveals his secrets of “selection and concentration” lying at his foundation.

## **Excerpted Table of Contents**

Foreword

Before reading this book: Students who go on to become leaders

Chapter 1 My theory of being “ultra-second-class”: Perfecting a skill to beat genius

Chapter 2 The ability to think on your own: Evaluations by others and an honest heart

Chapter 3 How to grow further: The conditions for being ultra-second-class

Chapter 4 Considering the true nature of things

Chapter 5 How to lead an ultra-second-class group

Chapter 6 The ultra-second-class are those who can bring out their talent

Chapter 7 The “human ability” for maximizing talent

Afterword

# *Be Not Swayed:*

## *300 Quotes from Kazuo Koike to Bring Peace to Your Heart*

Author : **Kazuo KOIKE**



Pub month: Dec. 2016  
ISBN 978-4-591-15282-9  
188mm x 128mm  
255 pages

A collection of messages from writer and manga artist Kazuo Koike, who passed away in April 2019.

Even as of July 2020, the author's Twitter account (@koikekazuo) has over 850,000 followers!

Over 140,000 copies sold series-wide!

### Author profile

**Kazuo Koike** was a manga artist, writer, scriptwriter, and songwriter. His representative manga titles include *Lone Wolf* and *Cub and Hanzo the Razor*. In 1977 he created the Gekiga Sonjuku, a school for training new generations of manga artists, graduates of which include Rumiko Takahashi, Tetsuo Hara, Keisuke Itagaki, Akira Sakuma, and Yuji Horii. He joined Twitter (@koikekazuo) in March 2010. His books include *Be Not Swayed*, *If All Else Fails...Run, Don't Blame Yourself* (each from Poplar Publishing), and *Conclusions from Life* (Asahi Shinsho). He died at 82 years old on 17 April 2019.

### Keywords

Kazuo Koike, Twitter, quotes, message, words, worries, relationships, anxiety

### Contents

Regarding relationships with others, negative emotions, and worries about your life, Koike says, "You don't have to worry to the point of regret."

Based on Twitter "like" rankings, this book presents some of Koike's best quotes regarding how to improve your life, how to find the answers you need, and how to make yourself happier.

For those having problems getting along with others...

"Stop trying to find perfection in others. After all, you're imperfect yourself."

For those upset by something someone said to them...

"The best weapon to use against an emotional opponent is your own calmness."

For those having to deal with someone they don't get along with...

"Recently, I often feel that the best solution is to just leave things alone. I don't mean to become disinterested, just to leave things alone."

For those angered by another's actions...

"Just by thinking 'I won't place conditions on people,' you'll find you like far more of them."

For those engaged in a long fight...

“There are two worst ways of dealing with a fight: bringing up something unrelated, and bringing up things from the past.”

For those who easily become depressed...

“It’s very important to stop being swayed by your own emotions.”

For those experiencing unbearable emotional pain...

“When you feel like you’re in hell, don’t dawdle there. Run until you’ve escaped! Don’t worry about what others think, just run!” “Even if you’ve had painful days in your past, today is the farthest you’ve ever been from those days.”

## Sequel

### *If All Else Fails...Run: 225 Quotes to Give Yourself a Break*

Let others be, avoid malice, and take care of yourself. Just distancing yourself can make life easier! There are other places where you can find happiness. A selection of 225 compassionate messages that will lighten your heart and help you to see the true nature of things.

## Reader review

Kazuo Koike is like a street preacher in the Twitterverse. His words often make me cry.  
—Rieko Saibara (manga artist)



Pub month: Oct. 2018  
ISBN 978-4-591-16006-0  
160mm x 120mm  
255 pages  
Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan



Pub month: Sep. 2019  
ISBN 978-4-591-16398-6  
160mm x 120mm  
255 pages  
Rights sold: Taiwan

## Sequel

### *Don't Blame Yourself: 233 Quotes from Kazuo Koike on Not Getting Hung up in Your Relationships with Others*

The third collection of Tweets from Kazuo Koike (@koikekazuo), who passed away in April 2019. 233 quotes from the last days of an account with over 900,000 followers.

# *Cleanliness is Kindness:*

## *The Life of a Craftsperson Maintaining the Cleanest Airport in the World*

Author : **Haruko NIITSU**



Pub month: March 2016  
 ISBN 978-4-591-14940-9  
 188mm x 128mm  
 223 pages

This book presents one of the cleaning staff at Tokyo's Haneda Airport, judged as the cleanest airport in the world two years in a row, and how the daughter of a Japanese orphan left behind in China became Japan's best cleaner.

A story selected for inclusion in Japanese junior high school ethics textbooks!

### Author profile

**Haruko Niitsu** is an employee of JATEC Co., Ltd. She was born in 1970 in Shenyang, China to a Chinese mother and a father who was a Japanese orphan left behind in the Second World War. Unable to speak Japanese when her father brought the family back to Japan, she found work as a cleaner. In 1995 she took a position at JATEC, a job she has maintained for over twenty-five years. In 1997 she became the youngest first-place winner in the All-Japan Building Cleaning Competition, after which she became a cleaning instructor. In addition to currently being a cleaning technique instructor for Haneda Airport's Terminal 1, Terminal 2, and International Terminal, she is the company's only "Environmental Meister," contributing to the overall maintenance of the Haneda Airport environment and helping to train the next generation of world-class cleaners.

### Keywords

Haneda Airport, cleaning, best in the world, professional, towels, China

### Contents

Haruko Niitsu is a cleaning professional, featured twice on the NHK television show *The Workstyles of Professionals*. She is part of the cleaning staff that helped Haneda Airport be selected as "cleanest airport in the world" in 2013, 2014, and 2016, and today focuses on developing the next generation of cleaning staff. Coming to Japan as the child of a Japanese orphan left behind in China, she arrived unable to speak the language, but nonetheless found her ideal job as a cleaner, a job she has maintained for over twenty-five years.

This book provides a close-up on Ms. Niitsu's life and her professionalism as a cleaner. In describing half of her lifetime, it provides a sense of her pride in her work as a craftsperson.



## Table of Contents

Introduction: My place is at the airport  
Chapter 1: From China to Japan: “Just who am I?”  
Chapter 2: A fateful decision: “Cleaning was all I could do.”  
Chapter 3: Finding my path: “Finally, I know my destiny!”  
Chapter 4: A step toward becoming a professional: “I’ll become a building cleaning technician.”  
Chapter 5: Becoming number one in Japan: “Finally, I could give something back.”  
Chapter 6: The death of a benefactor: “Why did you have to leave me?”  
Chapter 7: Cleanest airport in the world, two years in a row: “Keeping this airport clean—this is my mission.”  
Conclusion

## Selected media coverage (in Japanese)

- “Cleaning that goes beyond ‘just clean’: The professional attitude of a star cleaner at the world’s cleanest airport”  
—PHP Online Shuchi, 1 Jul 2019: <https://shuchi.php.co.jp/article/6556?>
- “An interview with the woman behind the world’s cleanest airport: ‘The job of cleaning is an act of kindness’”  
—Cyzo Woman, 9 Jun 2016: [https://www.cyzowoman.com/2016/06/post\\_20399\\_3.html](https://www.cyzowoman.com/2016/06/post_20399_3.html)
- “How did Haneda become the world’s cleanest airport?”  
—Toyo Keizai Online, 13 May 2016: <https://toyokeizai.net/articles/-/117252>

# *The Unrivaled Bodybuilding Diet: Building Muscles Through Nutrition*

Author : Takashi OKADA



Pub month: Dec. 2018  
ISBN 978-4-591-16098-5  
188mm x 128mm  
271 pages

Eat meats, carbohydrates, and sweets without worry! Get the best body you've ever had through eating! A thorough introduction to the best foods for building up muscle while trimming away fat.

Seven printings and 33,000 copies sold as of late June, 2020!

Over one million books by this author sold!

## Author profile

**Takashi Okada** graduated from the Graduate School of Health and Sport Science at Nippon Sport Science University. He completed the necessary coursework for a doctorate from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Tokyo, but left before completing his dissertation. In addition to being a physiotherapist, sports trainer, bodybuilder, and bodybuilding critic (under the name “Bazooka” Okada), he is an associate professor at Nippon Sport Science University, training staff (judo) with the Japanese Olympic Committee, head of the physical training division for the All-Japan Men’s Judo Team, and an athlete training committee member for the Japan Bodybuilding & Fitness Federation. His other books include *Handbook for the Fat-trimming Method* (Baseball Magazine), *Four-minute Grueling Workouts for a Sixpack in Two Weeks* (Achievement Publishing), and *How to Quickly Build Muscles Where You Want Them* (Sunmark Publishing). His books have sold over one million copies in total.

## Food products under supervision of the author

UHA Mikakuto Protein Bars: <https://www.uha-mikakuto.co.jp/sixpack/> (in Japanese)

## Keywords

muscles, training, quickest, body, bodybuilding, testosterone

## Contents

Do you know how many grams of P (proteins), F (fats), and C (carbohydrates) you are eating every day?

Takashi Okada has sold over one million bodybuilding books. This book, his first focusing on diet, tells us that “breakfast, lunch, and dinner are three daily workout sessions!” The author presents an “unrivaled” diet management method for everyone from general dieters to competition bodybuilders, one that won’t cause you pain, doesn’t keep you from the foods you want, and can be easily maintained.

## **Table of Contents**

Preface	The impact of strategic dieting outweighs that of muscle training
Introduction	You know how to train, and you're doing it. So why aren't you building muscle?
Chapter 1	Unrivaled bodybuilding starts and ends with diet
Chapter 2	Eat to harden up! Improving your diet to define muscles through nutrition
Chapter 3	The best foods for building up muscle while carving away fat
Chapter 4	Beyond just practical! The unrivaled bodybuilding diet
Chapter 5	What to do if you don't see changes
Chapter 6	Diet changes both bodybuilding and your quality of life

# *Shining Shoes for Self-change: The Quickest Way to Acquire Self-management Skills*

Author : Yuya HASEGAWA



Pub month: Nov. 2017  
ISBN 978-4-591-15576-9  
188mm x 128mm  
207 pages

**The first self-improvement-through-shoe-shining book, by a world-class craftsman who has polished over 80,000 pairs!**

**How can becoming a shoeshiner improve your life?**

**Find out why business owners and top-class people care about their feet.**

## Author profile

Yuya Hasegawa is a professional shoeshiner and president of Brift H, a chain of shoeshine shops. After working at an English conversation school and at a clothing store, at age 20 (in 2004) he became a street shoeshiner in Tokyo's Marunouchi district. Approximately one year later he moved to a site in front of the Shinagawa train station, where he acquired fame and long lines for his services. In 2006 he started Japan's first website dedicated to shoe-shining. In June 2008 he opened Brift H, a counter-style shoeshine shop in Minami-aoyama, attracting a broad base of customers, including small-business owners and employees of famous finance companies and advertising agencies, as well as shoe aficionados, actors, and athletes. In May 2017 he won the World Championship in Shoe Shining in London, thereby gaining the title of "Best Shoeshiner in the World." He is also the author of *The Shoe Shine Book*.

Brift H website: <http://brift-h.com/>

## Contents

"When we take a little time and face a pair of shoes, many values suddenly become apparent."

A clean pair of shoes feels good. They improve motivation, give us an appearance of cleanliness, and even make our room and desk more attractive. They give us a refined appearance, and help avoid wasteful expenditures. Getting started polishing shoes doesn't cost a lot of money, and it can be enjoyed alone or with others. You can make effective use of time by polishing shoes while doing something else. Shoe-polishing is a partner that will remain with you always.

Your life begins to move with a single swipe.

A world-class shoe-shining professional shows for the first time how starting to shine shoes can improve your life. Shining shoes helps you to learn self-management, making your work and private life more fulfilling. This is the world's first self-improvement book based on a business item we all use. Describes an introductory shoe-shining method in a bonus appendix.

## Table of Contents

Chapter 1	Why do we need to shine our shoes?
Chapter 2	Polishing shoes changes us—that’s why we begin
Chapter 3	Seventeen things that change through shoe-shining
Chapter 4	Making shoe-shining a habit and how to make shoes last
Chapter 5	A deeper relationship with shoes makes life more fulfilling

## Select media appearances (in Japanese)

Appearance on NHK’s “The Workstyles of Professionals” (television show), March 2020: <https://www.nhk.or.jp/d-garage-mov/movie/180-17.html>

# There's a Strategy to Life

Author : Akira TACHIBANA



Pub month: March 2019  
 ISBN 978-4-591-15965-1  
 188mm x 130mm  
 271 pages

To obtain a foundation for happiness, we only need to understand the rules of this new era and make the right decisions at the right time. That's the strategy to life.

## Author profile

Akira Tachibana's debut book was the 2002 international finance novel *Money Laundering*. In 2006, his *The Eternal Tourist* was nominated for the 19th Yamamoto Shugoro Prize. His bestselling works include *Finding a Golden Feather to Get Rich* (Gentosha; over 300,000 sold) and *Unspeakable: Horrid Truths* (Shinchosha, over 500,000 sold), for which he won the Shinsho Taisho prize in 2017. His recent works include *I Hate the Morning Sun* (Asahi Shimbun) and *Even More Unspeakable* (Shinchosha).

## Keywords

life, strategy, youth, friends, evaluation economy, bestseller, ways of life, money, work

## Contents

This book on life strategies for a new era is the first work for young readers by bestselling author and Shinsho Taisho prize winner (for his *Unspeakable*) Akira Tachibana. There is a strategy to life, he insists, a way of living in this new era by which anyone can attain work, money, and happiness.

## Excerpted Table of Contents

Introduction: There's a strategy to life

The World, Part 1: Life is a role-playing game

- Why are the children of wealthy people unhappy?
- Life is a tale Etc.

The World, Part 2: You create "yourself" among your friends

- You only make friends at school
- Differences in character and finding yourself Etc.

The World, Part 3: The rule for making what you love your job

- Childrearing doesn't have large effect on children's lives
- Companies are tools for making their employees happy Etc.

The Strategy, Part 1: Money

- Freedom means being able to say no to things you hate
- A society in which anyone can become rich Etc.

The Strategy, Part 2: Work

- The "salaryman" is an endangered species, its only habitat being Japan
- Nobody hates their company more than a "salaryman"



- Becoming rich in “lukewarm Japan” Etc.

#### The Strategy, Part 3: Love and Friendship

- “Happiness capital” determines your life
- Life strategies for the coming times Etc.

Conclusion: Hints for a happy life

### **Selected media coverage (in Japanese)**

- “The coming extinction event for those who can only do clerical work”  
– Toyo Keizai Online, 18 Mar 2019: <https://toyokeizai.net/articles/-/269348>
- Why Japanese company workers become slaves, even to bosses telling them to go jump off a building”  
– PHP Online Shuchi, 20 Apr 2019: <https://shuchi.php.co.jp/article/6325?>
- Are there strategies for this game called “life”? (interview)  
– Flier, 25 Apr 2019: <https://www.flierinc.com/interview/interview120>
- “Recommended light reading in business: What your boss won’t tell you about money, work, and happiness; how to live without being hindered by your company” (interview)  
– Mainichi Doda, 24 Jul 2019: <https://mainichi.doda.jp/article/2019/07/24/1678.html>

# Education for Life

Author : Tsuneo SASAKI



Pub month: Nov 2018  
 ISBN 978-4-591-16028-2  
 173mm x 109mm  
 216 pages

The true education required to become a Sasaki-school businessperson.

The definitive edition of the educational book by Toray Industries director Tsuneo Sasaki, highly acclaimed by business managers and executives. A book describing what we require to make it through the latter half of our lives.

## Author profile

**Tsuneo Sasaki** is CEO of the Tsuneo Sasaki Management Research Co., Ltd. After graduating from the University of Tokyo School of Economics in 1969, he joined Toray Industries, where he was appointed director in 2001. In 2003, he became president of Toray Corporate Business Research, Inc. He also serves as a committee member on the Cabinet Office Council for Gender Equality and as a visiting professor at Osaka University. He has become a symbolic leader for work–life balance.

## Keywords

leader, education, administration, business, Toray Industries, life, aging, turning point, management

## Contents

Entering into the turning point in our life that is our fifties, how should we as businesspeople think and work so as to complete our work life and live a fulfilling life thereafter, especially in times like these, when it is so difficult to maintain hope for the future? This is the definitive edition of the first educational book by Tsuneo Sasaki, former director at Toray Industries and author of the best-selling *So You've Been Promoted to Management?* This book, widely acclaimed by business managers and executives, describes what we require to make it through the latter half of our lives.

Examples of the education required in a Sasaki-school businessperson:

- First of all, learn the fundamentals of proper etiquette
- You can motivate people, even if you have poor language skills
- Maintaining social harmony is an important part of leadership education
- It is introspection that turns experience into insight
- You can measure people's education by the way they throw things away
- "Education for life" is built from tolerance and trust

## Excerpted Table of Contents

Preface: The “living education” that is acceptable in society

- Why the highly educated intellectual elite have difficulty finding success
- Attending a lot of lectures doesn’t make you educated Etc.

Chapter 1: The education one obtains through work

- First of all, learn the fundamentals of proper etiquette
- Good habits are more important than talent Etc.

Chapter 2: Your words show your level of education

- You can motivate people, even if you have poor language skills
- Words from leaders who changed hearts and organizations Etc.

Chapter 3: Educated people get along with others

- Maintaining social harmony is an important part of leadership education
- Make use of the ideas and perspectives of heretics Etc.

Chapter 4: Some things can only be learned by doing

- True education as seen on the front lines of corporate management
- As a basic principle, treat your subordinates with kindness Etc.

Chapter 5: How to obtain an education that makes you a better person

- It is introspection that turns experience into insight
- Expand your educational base through contact with the real thing Etc.

Chapter 6: Polishing your “elementary education”

- You can measure people’s education by the way they throw things away
- Be aware of the “Zen approach to post-retirement life”

Chapter 7: “Character” is education as seen from others

- Know that you tend to be lax when evaluating yourself
- “Education for life” is built from tolerance and trust Etc.

## Selected media coverage (in Japanese)

- “My depressive wife called me at work; my boss’s ‘words of education’ brought tears to my eyes”  
– PHP Online Shuchi, 22 Jan 2019: <https://shuchi.php.co.jp/article/5990?>
- “Learn how to get along with people you hate! The essence of personal relationships as ‘education’”  
– PHP Online Shuchi, 28 Nov 2018: <https://shuchi.php.co.jp/article/5788?>
- “The education businesspeople should attain to produce results, according to Tsuneo Sasaki”  
– Diamond Online, 16 Nov 2018: <https://diamond.jp/articles/-/185354>

# *A Textbook for the Stock Business: How to Build a Business that Makes Money Month After Month*

Author : Takahiro OTAKE



Pub month: Oct. 2015  
ISBN 978-4-591-14694-1  
188mm x 129mm  
239 pages

**A single book that explains how to build a successful business that will continuously make money now so you can sell it in the future!**

**What is a “stock business”? It’s one that has two defining features:**

- 1. Money constantly flows in**
- 2. It can be sold**

## Author profile

**Takahiro Otake** is CEO of At Office Co., Ltd., Executive Chairman at Stock Soken Co., Ltd., Vice Chairman of the Japan Halal Business Association, and Senior Consultant at the Otake and Partners Tax Accountancy Office. In his twenties, he experienced the ideal management of a stock business at Secom Co., Ltd. (publicly traded on the First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange). Following that, he learned about office sublease management at a large developer owning over one hundred properties. In his thirties, he participated as a founding member of a ramen restaurant franchise where he put his stock business theory into practice, making this chain a major force in the ramen industry by opening approximately 250 stores as franchise manager. Following that, at 42 years old he started a new company with the aim of revolutionizing the real estate industry. Through his main business At Office, he is expanding various stock businesses following his unique theory, including inSquare (office rentals), At Business Center (rental conference space), a conference room sharing business, and Café Insquare. Annual sales of these businesses exceed 1 billion yen. In total, he has started nineteen new businesses. As a conduit for providing practical guidance, he conducts his Stock Business Academy and provides instruction regarding building stock businesses.

## Keywords

stock, business, continuity, tuning, sheets, sellable, business, profit, sales, subscription

## Contents

Entrepreneurs and freelancers hoping to succeed in business, as well as those whose side-businesses aren’t going very well, often find themselves unable to quit their “day job.” In this book, however, Otake warns us that driving ourselves for too long without days off will eventually cause us to forget the joy of work, leading us down a path toward becoming our own nightmare boss.

The “stock business” model that Otake advocates calls for a business that has a stable monthly profit. He learned the fundamentals of the stock business at Secom,

then implemented this knowledge when building a chain of 250 ramen restaurants. After going independent he achieved further success in applying the stock business concept, such as by becoming CEO of the At Business Center, and as an entrepreneur he has continued to develop new businesses and support business models.

Through this book, professional stock business developer Takahiro Otake carefully explains how to build and maintain a stock business. This book will be of huge benefit to anyone dreaming of building a business that will provide stable income.

## Reviews

- *Kigyo to jinzai* [Companies and Human Resources], Nov 2015 issue (reviewer: Takanori Miura, proprietor, Tenro-in Shoten)
- *Weekly Diamond*, 7 Nov 2015 issue (reviewer: Takanori Miura, proprietor, Tenro-in Shoten)

## Sequel

### *A Textbook for the Stock Business: Professional Edition*

This sequel to the highly acclaimed A Textbook for the Stock Business provides examples of practical application. Starting with a review of the definition of a stock business, it takes the reader through how to actually create a stock business, gives advice regarding how it should be managed, and explains the key concept of how to later sell that business at a high price.



Pub month: Nov. 2016  
ISBN 978-4-591-15243-0  
188mm x 129mm  
287 pages

# Everyday Philosophy: Words for a Richer Life

Author : **Mariru HARADA**



Pub month: Nov. 2017  
ISBN 978-4-591-15630-8  
183mm x 128mm  
399 pages

**New philosophical encounters, every day of the year.**

## Author profile

**Mariru Harada** was raised near the famous “Philosopher’s Walk” in Kyoto, Japan. She first encountered and fell in love with philosophy while in high school. After having performed as an entertainer while a university student, she now works as a writer and a guide to philosophy. She is a host of an online forum called “This Philosophy is Amazing! A Lounge for Philosophical Exchange with no Fighting.” In April 2017, she started the game and manga production company Noexit. Her other books include *Words that Whip my Body* (Sunmark Publishing), *Nietzsche Came to Kyoto to Teach Philosophy to a Seventeen-year-old Girl* (Diamond), and *Philosophy Notebook* (Futabasha).

## Keywords

Philosophy, philosopher, quotes, daily calendar, Nietzsche, Chartier, Arendt, Heidegger, Jaspers, Sartre, Russell, Aristotle, Wittgenstein, Emerson, Hoffer, Kant, Cicero, Kierkegaard, Simone Weil, Schopenhauer, Spinoza, Seneca, Descartes, Dewey, Pascal, Plato, Frankl, Socrates, Fromm, Machiavelli, Marx, Marcus Aurelius, Kiyoshi Miki, John Stuart Mill, Rousseau, Caillois, freedom, happiness, life, decisions, solitude, love, desire, time, work, business, culture, self-help

## Contents

Nietzsche: “Courage...is the best slayer”

Chartier: “We are not satisfied by success. Rather, we succeed when we are satisfied.”

Frankl: “If there is meaning in life at all, then there must be a meaning in suffering.”

Miki: “When traveling, it is always we ourselves who we encounter.”

Fromm: “Paradoxically, the ability to be alone is the condition for the ability to love.”

Every page turned is a new encounter with philosophy. To what end do I work so hard every day? Am I living a life worth living? Is this a person I can spend my future with? This book presents 366 days’ worth of quotations from philosophers, providing hints for how we can face the troubles and conflicts we experience in our daily lives. It also provides commentary on how we can more deeply appreciate the teachings of these philosophers. This is a book you will want to keep within arm’s reach—on your office desk, at your bedside, or in a purse or backpack. Enrich your life through daily encounters with philosophy!

## Table of Contents

Preface, and the philosophers you will meet in this book

January: Decisions— This, or that? Or neither?



February: Self— Things too close to be clearly seen  
March: Life— Facing backward to understand, facing forward to advance  
April: Others— Important, but not always agreeable  
May: Work— Unease when there's none, dissatisfaction when there's too much  
June: Sadness— The nectar of unhappiness is addictive  
July: Happiness— Distantly searched for, found nearby  
August: Freedom— What to do, what not to do  
September: Desire— The seeds of anxiety are the seeds of our energy  
October: Love— When our hearts are full of happiness, they fall into disorder  
November: Solitude— The fruit of freedom, the price of freedom  
December: Time— It keeps moving even when we stay still  
Index and References

# *130 Things to Know About How to Get Your Children into the Very Best Schools*

Author : Ryoko SATO



Pub month: April 2016  
ISBN 978-4-591-14990-4  
188mm x 128mm  
318 pages

One of the most famous mothers on Japanese television, who got four children into the most exclusive schools in Japan, gives advice on how to approach study and entrance exams.

## Author profile

Ryoko Sato (known in Japan as “Mama Sato”) is a housewife living in Nara prefecture. Through her efforts, her three oldest children were accepted at Nada Junior and Senior High School, one of the most exclusive private schools in Japan, and her youngest advanced to the equally exclusive Rakunan Junior and Senior High School. After graduating high school, all four were accepted at the notoriously difficult-to-enter Medical School at the University of Tokyo. Since the spring of 2017, she has been working as an advisor at Hamagakuen, the tutoring school that all four of her children attended. She has made numerous television appearances, including shows such as Fuji Television Network’s *High Noon TV Viking!* and Nippon TV’s *One-minute Stories that will Change Your Life*.

## Keywords

school entrance exams, junior high school entrance exams, college entrance exams, Nada, University of Tokyo, medical school, Mama Sato, three siblings, four siblings, passing exams, education, child-raising, study, habit-forming, Japanese, English, sciences, social studies, mathematics

## Contents

Having sold 73,000 copies in just six months after its publication, Sato’s *Skillful Parenting that Got Three Siblings into the University of Tokyo’s Medical School* (Kadokawa) was something of an unusual book in the school entrance exam and child-rearing genre. Following that she made multiple television appearances on Fuji Television Network’s *High Noon TV Viking!* and *NONSTOP!*, thereby garnering further attention. This book takes the form of a Q&A compilation, in which Sato answers questions many parents have regarding how their children should study and prepare for school entrance exams.

## Example questions

- How can I help a child who has difficulty concentrating?
  - What kind of study environment should I prepare in my home?
  - What should students focus on immediately before entrance exams?
  - My child has test anxiety. What should I do?
  - What effects might dating have on my child’s entrance exams?
  - What should a parent do on the day of an entrance exam?
  - Are there differences in how I should raise boys and girls?
- etc.

## **Selected media coverage (in Japanese)**

- “We Ask Ryoko Sato, the Mother who Got Three Siblings into the Medical School at the University of Tokyo, Questions about Studying and Entrance Exams  
—Web Asta, 4 Nov 2015: <http://www.webasta.jp/serial/sato-ryoko/post-74.php>
- “Children Don’t Need a Private Room to Study!”  
—Toyo Keizai Online, 14 June 2016: <https://toyokeizai.net/articles/-/120492>

# Parenting that Maximizes your Child's Talents

Authors : Shuko UCHIMURA and Ryoko SATO



Pub month: Oct. 2017  
 ISBN 978-4-591-15612-4  
 188mm x 128mm  
 366 pages

A book that shows the surprising overlap in childrearing methods between the mother of an Olympic gold medalist and a mother who got four children into the University of Tokyo School of Medicine, along with what's more important than gold medals and elite universities.

## Author profiles

**Shuko Uchimura** is a coach at Sports Club Uchimura, where she lives in Nagasaki. After marrying Kazuhisa Uchimura, who she met at a gymnastics academy she was working at, she gave birth to son Kohei in 1989 and daughter Haruhi in 1991. In 1992 she founded Sports Club Uchimura with Kazuhisa, where she is a gymnastics and ballet instructor. She has made many television appearances, including on “Dr. Failure: Don’t Turn Out Like Me!” (TV Asahi).

**Ryoko Sato** is a housewife living in Nara prefecture. Through her efforts, her three oldest children were accepted at Nada Junior and Senior High School, one of the most exclusive private schools in Japan, and her youngest advanced to the equally exclusive Rakunan Junior and Senior High School. After graduating high school, all four were accepted at the notoriously difficult-to-enter Medical School at the University of Tokyo. Since the spring of 2017, she has been working as an advisor at Hamagakuen, the preparatory tutoring school that all four of her children attended. She has made numerous television appearances, including shows such as Fuji Television *Network's High Noon TV Viking!* and Nippon TV's *One-minute Stories that will Change Your Life*.

## Keywords

education, child-raising, childrearing, entrance exams, Olympics, sports, gymnastics, study, attitude, rules, family

## Contents

Shuko Uchimura is mother to Olympic gold-medal gymnast Kohei Uchimura and a gymnast herself. Ryoko Sato is famous as the mother who got all four of her children into the University of Tokyo School of Medicine. While sports and academics are seemingly completely different fields, there are remarkable similarities between their approaches to childrearing: “start early education as early as possible,” “lavish your children with praise,” “never say ‘later’!” etc. Two Japanese “super moms” give 42 points of advice regarding how to maximize your children’s talents.

## Excerpted Table of Contents

Chapter 1: The right attitude and way of thinking for helping your child develop

- Attitude: A parent's job

Sato— Everything up to age 18 is the parents' responsibility

Uchimura— Your child is your number-one priority; never say "later" Etc.

Chapter 2: Communication that helps your child develop

- The "no" rules

Sato— No negativity, no lies, no jealousy. Daily communication through words and attitude

Uchimura— Parents should never say bad things about teachers or friends  
Etc.

Chapter 3: Early childhood education that produces results

- Communicating with infants

Sato— Language ability is mental ability; don't use "baby talk"

Uchimura— "Baby talk" is fine! Let growing children pester you with questions Etc.

Chapter 4: Lifestyle and family rules that help children grow

- Lifestyle rules: private rooms

Sato— You're only together until age 18, so children don't need their own room

Uchimura— Gathering as a family in the living room helps you notice small changes

Chapter 5: How to develop academic and athletic abilities

- Choosing tutors and tutoring schools

Sato— Parents should scrutinize tutoring schools to find the best teachers

Uchimura— Parents must have a discerning eye; the first requirement is finding teachers your children will like Etc.

Chapter 6: Tests and competitions: Raising a child who doesn't experience "stage fright"

- The right mentality

Sato— An accumulation of "you're okays" can save a child

Uchimura— Your performance in the real thing cannot exceed your performance in practice

## Selected media coverage (in Japanese)

"Surprising child-rearing advice from the mother of Olympic gold medalist Kohei Uchimura and the mother who got all four of her children into the University of Tokyo Medical School"

—Da Vinci News, 30 Oct 2017: <https://ddnavi.com/review/409894/a/>

# *My Child Can't Write:*

## *Raising a Child with Developmental Dyslexia*

Author : Ryoko CHIBA Editor : Akira UNO



Pub month: July 2017  
ISBN 978-4-591-15532-5  
210mm x 148mm  
175 pages

A hugely popular Web serial! Masterful comic essays by manga artist Ryoko Chiba based on her personal experience with a developmental challenge that, on average, affects three students in a classroom of forty.

### Author profiles

**Ryoko Chiba** is a manga artist living in Chiba prefecture with her husband, a son in college, a daughter in high school, a son in elementary school, and a toy poodle. She is currently working hard to support her eldest son and daughter, who have both been diagnosed as having developmental dyslexia, in ways that best conform to their individual personalities and symptoms.

**Akira Uno** is a former professor at the University of Tsukuba, Director of the Japan Dyslexia Research Association, and Director of the nonprofit Learning Disabilities and Dyslexia Center. He is a medical doctor and speech therapist. While instructing children experiencing difficulties learning to read and write, he is also working toward increasing the number of teachers able to provide such instruction. He is the author of books including *The Revised Standard Reading and Writing Skills Screening Test: Accuracy and Fluency Assessments* (Interuna Publishers) and *Development and Disabilities in Language and the Mind* (Nagai Shoten). Learning Disabilities and Dyslexia Center website: <http://square.umin.ac.jp/LDDX/>

### Contents

Chiba's son Fuyu was having problems learning to write even after reaching the second grade. It would take him an hour to fill a single notebook page with practice characters, and his teacher often erased the blackboard before he was able to copy what was written there. He wasn't having problems in other areas, so Chiba remained flummoxed in her search to learn the cause of his writing difficulties.

During summer vacation when Fuyu was in the fifth grade, Chiba attended a lecture sponsored by the board of education, where she first heard the term "developmental dyslexia" to describe children who were having problems learning to read and write, despite having no other problems in their intellectual development. Some could not remember characters they'd practiced writing. Others could not comprehend the shapes of characters, or memorize their forms. Some could guess how to read characters by context, but made mistakes when writing them. What she heard was a perfect description of what she saw with Fuyu, and after testing at a learning institute she realized he had developmental dyslexia.

Dyslexia is not an illness, so there is no "cure." A thorough understanding of its mechanisms and characteristics, however, allows appropriate training, through



which writing skills can improve. Having become aware of her son's disability, it was time to do something about it. And so, with the support of his mother and the other members of his lively family, Fuyu's battle began.

Why do schools consider providing their students with necessary support as "special treatment"? The challenge of high school entrance exams... The danger of being held back due to poor grades... How to find a job after graduation... This is a heartwarming story, depicting the growth of a mother and her child as they overcome many difficulties.

## Sequel

### *What to Do When Your Child Can't Write: Considering Independence for a Child with Developmental Dyslexia*

On average, three students in a class of forty will have developmental dyslexia. It is not because they aren't trying hard enough that these children have problems reading and writing. This book provides thorough analyses of what we can do now, along with what will be helpful in the future, for children with developmental dyslexia. This long-awaited sequel to the popular comic essay *My Child Can't Write* gives practical advice for providing support.



Pub month: Feb. 2020  
ISBN 978-4-591-16611-6  
210mm x 148mm  
215 pages

## Selected media coverage (in Japanese)

- "Two Books by Mothers of Children with ADHD and Learning Difficulties, and a Technical Book Describing the Fundamentals of Applied Behavioral Analysis, etc."  
— LITALICO Developmental Issues Navigator, 20 Feb 2020:  
<https://h-navi.jp/column/article/35027629>
- "Three in Forty Children Have a Literacy Disability?! A New Sequel to the Highly Popular Comic Essay My Child Can't Write"  
— Da Vinci News, 4 Mar 2020: <https://ddnavi.com/news/599992/a/>
- "What Should We Consider Regarding Advancement after Compulsory Education and Post-schooling Job Searches for Children with Developmental Dyslexia?"  
— Mamastar Select, 4 Mar 2020: <https://select.mamastar.jp/379354>
- "Developmental Dyslexia Remains Relatively Unknown, Despite Affecting Three in Forty Students on Average"  
— CHANTO WEB, 17 March 2020: <https://chanto.jp.net/childcare/発達障害/169579/>
- "'Not Everyone Can Be Good at Everything; We Make the Best of What We Have': How I Adopted a Positive Attitude Toward Accepting My Child's Disability"  
— CHANTO WEB, 17 March 2020: <https://chanto.jp.net/childcare/発達障害/169589/>

## Other Media (in Japanese)

- LINE Live, "Akira Uno and Ryoko Chiba on *What to Do When Your Child Can't Write*"  
— Video, 52 min 14 sec: <https://live.line.me/channels/295/broadcast/13157718>

