



POPLAR
PUBLISHING



Foreign Rights Catalog 2023

About Us

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," "The Lion's Snack," and "What You Are Looking For Is In The Library." 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.

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Dinner at the Night Library

Author : **Hika Harada**



softcover

Pub month: Jun. 2023

ISBN 978-4-591-17824-9

188 mm x 128 mm

321 pages

Rights sold: Korean

Keywords

Books, library, meals, working styles

There are some jobs you just can't continue, even if you like them.

In this day and age, delve into this heart-warming novel about work!

➔ **English synopsis and sample are available.**

About the author

Hika Harada: Born in Kanagawa in 1970. Won the 34th NHK Radio Drama Grand Prize in 2005 for "Little Princess No. 2." In 2007 she received the 31st Subaru Literary Prize for "The Tea Time That Never Comes." Her "How to Use 3000 Yen" was the recipient of the Miyazaki Book Award.

Contents

A full-length novel that will make a lasting impression, about books, food and work.

Otoha Higuchi finds that her job in a bookstore in the Tohoku region is not going well and she had been thinking of quitting, deciding to get a job at a "night library" in the suburbs of Tokyo she had found via social media. In contrast to standard libraries it is only open from 7 pm to midnight and only keeps books written by dead authors, making it something akin to a book museum. Otoha finds herself thinking about the meaning of work as she faces various unexpected situations at the "night library."

You don't have to reveal everything.

There are nights when you just want to keep a comfortable sense of distance, while eating fine-tasting food.

Points of interest

Harada's inspiration to write this tale comes from the recent situation where the downturn in the publishing industry means that many enthusiastic bookstore employees are finding that they can no longer make ends meet and have to quit the job they love. In this day and age there are many jobs that you can't continue just because you like them or are filled with enthusiasm for, and it is possible that people may find their self-confidence draining away and that they lose sight of their goals. This novel will provide a sense of relief to such people, and ultimately may give them the encouragement they need in moving forward.

Each chapter features a recreation of a dish that appears in real novels. For example, from *Anne of Avonlea* (from the *Anne of Green Gables* series) there is a recreation of a cucumber and butter sandwich. In addition, various stories from foreign literature, such as *Little Women*, appear in the conversations between the characters in the novel.



The Blue Swordsmith

Author : **Natsuki Amasawa**



softcover

Pub month: Nov. 2022

ISBN 978-4-591-17505-7

188mm x 128mm

291 pages

Keywords

Japanese sword,
Shimane, Swordsmith,
Traditional craft,
Apprentice, Training,
Forging

Iron is alive, with its own will.

➔ **English synopsis and sample are available.**

About the author

Natsuki Amasawa: Born in Tokyo in 1990. Made her debut with *Samā ransā* (Summer lancer), which won Honorable Mention at the 19th Dengeki Novel Prize.

Overview

Kotetsu is a high school student who was injured in a fire, and has become isolated from his peers as a result. It is decided that he will move in with Kagari Tsurugida, a distant relative who lives in Shimane Prefecture. Kagari is said to be the only female swordsmith in Japan. Unable to go to school due to his trauma relating to the fire, Kotetsu is tasked with helping Kagari forge Japanese swords. Kotetsu throws himself into this work, despite the doubts and difficulties he encounters with Kagari and the other apprentices, as well as an inner-conflict with his own trauma and inexperience. Just as a fragile lump of iron is tempered into a strong and sharp blade, Kotetsu's wounded spirit is tempered into something more robust.



Breath with you and the night

Author : Ichi Kitahara



softcover

Pub month: Oct. 2020

ISBN 978-4-591-16796-0

188mm x 128mm

288 pages

paperback

Pub month: Dec. 2022

ISBN 978-4-591-17590-3

151 mm x 105 mm

285 pages

A young boy and girl each live in isolation, seeking to hide their own psychological scars.

This is the night they both encounter the “only one for them.”

➔ **English synopsis and sample are available.**

About the author

Ichi Kitahara: Born in Tokyo in 1995, he graduated from the Department of Science of Design, Musashino Art University and works as a graphic designer. In 2019 he received the 9th Poplar New Novelist Award Special Prize for this work, his debut novel.

Contents

High school student Makoto Yusa uses makeup as taught by his grandmother to hide the bruises on his face. Fearful of his secret being discovered, he shuns other people, hoping to spend uneventful and quiet days.

One day, on the way home from his newspaper delivery round he spots his classmate, a girl called Makino, smoking a cigarette in the park. Makino isn't a delinquent, but there appears to be a reason why she smokes. She also happens to notice that Yusa is wearing makeup and now that the two have inadvertently shared their “secret,” they gradually grow closer to each other.

Keywords

Poplar New Novelist Award, tear-jerker, moving, youth

This moving coming-of-age novel, which so poignantly describes the sensitivities and feelings of a young boy and girl, won the Special Prize at the 9th Poplar New Novelist Award.



My Cat Is a Yokai series

Author : **Yuta Takahashi**



paperback
Pub month: Sept. 2020
ISBN 978-4-591-16762-5
151mm x 105mm
266 pages

Keywords

Yokai, Edo, Cats

Synopsis by Matt Treyvaud

My Cat Is a Yokai is a fast-paced, plot-driven YA series about yokai (supernatural creatures) in eighteenth-century Tokyo (then called Edo). The story follows Miyabi, an orphaned teenager who learns that her cat Nyankomaru is actually a “feline immortal” from ancient China. Each book in the series contains several stories in which Miyabi, Nyankomaru, and an ever-expanding cast of supporting characters solve yokai-related problems that are alternately humorous, eerie, and heartwarming. At the climax of the series, Miyabi and her friends defeat the oni (ogre) that killed her parents.

The Yokai Fixer and the Oni of Edo, the first book in the series, begins with an introduction in which Miyabi finds her parents dead, savaged as if by a wild animal. The authorities attribute it to wild dogs, but Miyabi is not so sure.

The first story proper, “The Feline Immortal,” opens one year later, when Miyabi is seventeen. Her house is burning down, and she is arguing with her “remarkably ugly” cat Nyankomaru about whether he could have stopped it. We learn that Nyankomaru is a mystical “feline immortal” (senbyo) from Tang-dynasty China who turned up at Miyabi’s house not long after her parents died. He can be arrogant and lazy, but he seems to have Miyabi’s interests at heart.

Hideji, a childhood friend of Miyabi’s who now works for a local magistrate, suspects that the fire was arson. He offers to take Miyabi in, but she has already decided to stay at an abandoned shrine nearby. On the way to the shrine, Miyabi is attacked by a sword-wielding figure in a white fox mask. She is rescued by another newly introduced character: Kuichiro, an ogamiya or intercessor (literally “pray-er”) who helps people with supernatural problems by summoning yokai using mantras and incantations. Kuichiro speaks like a samurai, but is already living in the abandoned shrine, for reasons he does not divulge. He offers to let Miyabi stay there too, but when the man in the fox mask reappears at the shrine, she realizes it is not safe there either.

➔ **Full text of synopsis and English sample are available.**

About the author

Yuta Takahashi: Born in Chiba in 1972. Debuted with *Mononoke Honjo Fukagawa Case Files-Osaki goes to Edo* in 2010.

Further volumes in the series



Vol.2

The Tsukumogami and the Edo Doctor



Vol.3

The Nekomata and the Lovesick Rokurokubi



Vol.4

The Yokai Procession and the Monster's Child



The Noble Detective Requests a Dash of Gourmet

Author : **Izumi Aizawa**



paperback
Pub month: Nov. 2021
ISBN 978-4-591-17179-0
149 mm x 105 mm
342 pages

Keywords

Mystery, solving cases,
gourmet, handsome men,
recipes

**Delicious mysteries solved by an everyday housekeeper and a celebrity handsome detective!
Winner of the 10th Poplar New Novelist Award
Encouragement Prize**

➔ English synopsis and sample are available.

About the author

Izumi Aizawa: Residing in Kanagawa Prefecture, she received an honorable mention in the 2nd Fujimi Novel Prize for *This is Mukojima in Sumida-ku, where Dr. Oedo spending his days solving mysteries*. This work won the encouragement prize at the 10th Poplar New Novelist Awards.

Contents

Could the secret to the handsome aristocratic detective's deductive reasoning be everyday cuisine with a little extra something added?!

Ichika Mitamura works as a live-in housekeeper to help out her poor family, and ends up working for a beautiful blonde youth called Rihito Shinonome, who lives in a mansion in Shoto in Tokyo.

Rihito uses his genius powers of deduction to solve cases brought to him by wealthy clients. Rihito has had little interest in food since losing his mother, but Ichika treats him to dishes that his mother used to make, with a little something extra added. Taking a hint from these dishes, which are made delicious simply by adding a few familiar ingredients, can Rihito go on to solve a baffling mystery...?!

Featuring many recipes with a little extra something added that you will want to try immediately!

Open the pages of a gourmet mystery, featuring an unlikely duo!

Further volumes in the series



*Vol.2 The Noble Detective Requests
a Dash of Gourmet
Enchanted Recipes Smell of Incidents*



*Vol.3 The Noble Detective Requests
a Dash of Gourmet
The Secret of the Illusory Soup*



Starting Married Life with One Year to Live

Author : **Yujin Takanashi**



paperback

Pub month: Nov. 2022

ISBN 978-4-591-17539-2

148 mm x 105 mm

287 pages

A pseudo-marriage for one year, to clear her life goal of getting married.

This novel is a moving tear-jerker.

➔ English synopsis and sample are available.

About the author

Yujin Takanashi: Born in Hiroshima in 1987, now living in Ehime. Began writing at age 30 while working in an office and debuted as a novelist with his first work *The Second Past is the Future Without You*. (Shueisha Bunko.)

Contents

Takumi Segawa lives to work. One day, he is suddenly informed that his life expectancy is limited. In the midst of his sorrow, when visiting the hospital, he meets an innocent woman named Aoi. Just like him, Aoi doesn't have much time left, and she suggests to Takumi that they live together for an astounding reason, "Before I die, I want to experience being married." Takumi and Aoi create six goals that they wish to achieve as a couple, and decide to start their pseudo-married life during their one remaining year...

An infinitely warm and sad story of love.



Gloaming Lane

Author : **Hiyoko Kurisu**



You can never be sure what effect this store's enchanted confections will have... Please follow the dosage and usage instructions.

“Amberglow Confectioner's Store” is the only store in this mysterious shopping street that welcomes human customers. It is said that the sweet treats lined up at here have mysterious powers.

➡ English synopsis and sample are available.

paperback

Pub month: May 2022

ISBN 978-4-591-17390-9

151 mm x 105 mm

221 pages

About the author

Hiyoko Kurisu: Debuted in 2018, when her work *Confectionery Upperclassman's Delicious Recipes* was published after winning a special prize in the Shōsetsuka ni Narō (Let's Become a Novelist) x Starts Publishing awards.

Overview

Gloaming Lane: Amberglow Confectioner's Store

The “Gloaming Lane” appears unexpectedly behind a shrine. It exists between the worlds of the living and the dead, and its stores, quietly run by “ayakashi” spirits, occasionally attract individuals who have become unstable due to their troubles.

The “Amberglow Confectioner's Store” is the only store that welcomes human customers. Its owner, Kogetsu, sells confections with mysterious powers, that can gradually change the circumstances of those who buy them...

A series of short stories, both sweet and slightly bittersweet, that will warm your heart when you read them.



paperback

Pub month: Feb. 2023

ISBN 978-4-591-17697-9

151 mm x 105 mm

207 pages

Gloaming Lane: Dimday Post Office

At the “Dimday Post Office,” the only post office on the “Gloaming Lane,” it is said that “you can send letters to anyone in the past, present, or future,” provided you follow a certain rule.

This heartfelt series of short stories is filled with warmth.



Going to Catch the Shooting Star

Author : **Toriko Yoshikawa**



softcover

Pub month: Aug. 2022

ISBN 978-4-591-17411-1

188mm x 128mm

282 pages

The steps taken by people worried about a life they cannot control will gently push you forwards. A collection of short stories that will give you the energy to get up and face the morning.

➡ English synopsis and sample are available.

About the author

Toriko Yoshikawa: Born in Shizuoka in 1977. Currently resides in Nagoya City. Won Grand Prize and Reader's Choice at the 3rd R-18 Literature By Women For Women Award in 2004 for "Nemurihime" (Sleeping beauty). The same year, made her debut with *Shabon* (Bubble), a collection of short stories including "Nemurihime". Won the Aichi Cultural Art Newcomer Award in 2021. Her most famous works include *Gummō ebian* (Good morning everyone) which was adapted for film, *Yomei ichinen, otoko o kau* (With one year left to live, I buy a man) which was nominated for the 35th Yamamoto Shūgorō Prize, and the collection of essays *Onna no jikan* (Woman's time) that includes the essay "Ryūzan aruaru sugoku iitai" (I really want to say I had a miscarriage) which won the 1st PEP Journalism Award's Opinion Prize.

Overview

A housewife who has decided to break out from their dreary life. Two sisters who learn they are third-generation Zainichi Koreans on the cusp of their 16th birthday. A male high school student, born into a life of poverty, who struggles with his feelings for an upper-class same-sex classmate. A woman, unable to conceive a child of her own, who finally decided to adopt. An honor student who asks to hold a prom just before an important exam. While their lives seem normal from the outside, these six stories see the characters take a single step in a world they cannot control, and begin to change the life of another.

A collection of short stories that all connect to film, with witty dialogue and striking monologues, spun from fresh dreams. The author states that watching a movie is like going out to catch a shooting star. In this imaginative work, written like an anthology film, countless shooting stars smash through the ideas of "normal" that become entrenched in our minds.



Kuttara: A Picture Book Shop without Books

Author : **Nagi Shimeno**



This store's owner and their business partner will find a book to ease your troubles

➡ **English synopsis and sample are available.**

About the author

Nagi Shimeno: Born in Hamamatsu. In 2019, made her debut with *A Light Meal Before the Last Train* (Poplar) which included a short story shortlisted for the first ever “Delicious Literature Prize.” Has lived in Tokyo, Fukuoka, and Sapporo. Having started a business in Fukuoka, she is also a keen café owner, running a small store in Tokyo.

paperback

Pub month: Feb. 2023

ISBN 978-4-591-17696-2

151 mm x 105 mm

266 pages

Contents

“Kuttara, the picture bookstore with no books” is a two-story wooden building in Sapporo, marked by its ink blue triangular roof. The sign reads “We have delicious soup”, as Kuttara is also a café, ran by owner Kanade Hirota and jointly managed by Yagi. The menu only has a soup set or coffee, but customers, worried about childcare, or overwhelmed with work, wander in, unsure of where they are. After quietly listening to what they have to say Kanade tells them “We will let you know when the books are ready...”

Keywords

Café, Coffee shop,
Gourmet, Gourmet novel

And so, they visit the store once more. The picture books Kanade picks are sometimes surprising, sometimes warm, and sometimes hold secrets that cannot be found by reading them only once... But why did Kanade open Kuttara?
A relaxing series of short stories featuring heartwarming seasonal soups.



The Tidy Up

Author : **Tsukiko Ochi**



softcover

Pub month: Mar. 2021
ISBN 978-4-591-16900-1
188mm x 128mm
215 pages



paperback

Pub month: Jan. 2023
ISBN 978-4-591-17613-9
151mm x 105mm
239 pages

Asa offers to help tidy the apartment of the old lady next door.

Unexpectedly, their pasts turn out to be subtly interlinked. A simultaneously sad and heartwarming masterpiece.

➔ English synopsis and sample are available.

About the author

Tsukiko Ochi: Born in 1965 in Fukuoka. Debuted with *There's Something Not Quite Right with Me Today* in 2006.

Contents

Asa is a single woman. An unexpected turn of events leads to her helping Yae, the old woman next door, tidy her apartment. Asa gets down to work, sharing some of her own cleaning techniques with her neighbor. In the course of tidying, she learns about Yae's past life. That's when Asa's own childhood memories of being locked in a filthy apartment by her single mother start coming back...

All the baggage and the grief we carry with us through life. What path through life did Yae and Asa choose, as they worked their way through their respective issues? A sad but ultimately heartwarming work with real emotional heft.

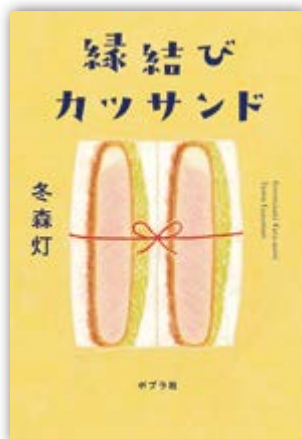
Keywords

Tidying up, Preparing for death.



Matchmakers and Pork Cutlet Sandwiches

Author : **Tomo Fuyumori**



softcover

Pub month: July 2020
ISBN 978-4-591-16718-2
188mm x 128mm
300 pages

paperback

Pub month: Aug. 2022
ISBN 978-4-591-17471-5
151mm x 105mm
319 pages

Filling up a deflated heart with joy, a story about exceptional and warm “bonds”

➔ **English synopsis and sample are available.**

About the author

Tomo Fuyumori: Finalist of the 1st Poplar Delicious Literature Prize. Made her debut with *Enmusubi katsu-sando* (Matchmaker’s pork cutlet sandwich).

Overview

Komagome Urara Shopping Street, where a long row of old-fashioned shops can be found. The bakery Koten, nestled amongst these shops, is run by a second-generation couple, and is seen by its regulars as a place to naturally go to rest their weary hearts. The third-generation heir to the bakery, with no confidence in dealing with customers or baking, slowly begins to bake their ideal bread while interacting with customers and fellow shop owners along the street, growing into a more dependable heir.

A young woman who worries about marriage, a university student struggling with job-hunting. Each of these youths slowly begins to make progress in life, through conversations with the people they meet at Koten, and the power of the bread baked by the third-generation heir. A story filled with humanity, exploring the bonds between people, and sometimes even the bread they eat.



Erasing the Traces

Author : **Homare Maekawa**



softcover

Pub month: Jul. 2018

ISBN 978-4-591-15986-6

188 mm x 128 mm

303 pages

Rights sold: Korean, simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, and Thai

I immersed myself into a company that cleans the homes of those who have died under special circumstances.

While his work is to erase the traces of people's lives, this moving story is deeply aware of the testament of human life.

➡ English synopsis and sample are available.

About the author

Homare Maekawa: Born in 1986. From Miyagi prefecture. Began writing novels while working as a nurse. Won the 7th Poplar New Novelist Award in 2017 with his debut work *Erasing the Traces*. Was nominated for the 22nd Haruhiko Oyabu Award in 2020 for his second work *Secret pain: Yosari medical prison's south ward*. Won the 14th Yamada Futarou Award in 2023 for his latest work *Aiuro zikoku no kimitachi ha*.

Contents

The carefree and unemployed Wataru Asai meets Keisuke Sasagawa by chance at a bar and starts working for his company "Dead Morning," a cleaning company which specializes in cleaning the houses of people who have died under specific circumstances, such as isolation or suicide. Shocked by the traces of death left behind at the sites, Wataru keeps making mistakes in his work, and even the aloof Keisuke seems to have something on his mind...

This touching work is a sincere portrayal of the meaning of life.

Points of interest

It is said that the number of specialized cleaning services has increased 15 times in the last 5 years (at the time of publication). Nowadays, it is not uncommon to face death alone. We hope that many people can read this book, which asks, "What does it mean go through life together with somebody in spite of this?"



paperback

Pub month: Aug. 2020

ISBN 978-4-591-16729-8

151 mm x 105 mm

344 pages



Detective Kurosu, Sou Kurosu

Author : Sho Fujisaki



paperback
Pub month: Sep. 2016
ISBN 978-4-591-15167-9
151 mm x 105 mm
334 pages

Detective Kurosu, a man with excellent deductive powers, who brilliantly hunts down the criminals, but there's always some twist at the end that means he fails to solve the case.

About the author

Sho Fujisaki: Born in Ibaraki in 1985, after graduating from high school he worked for six years as a comedian. Published in 2014, his debut novel, *The Other Side of God's Face*, won the 34th Yokomizo Seishi Mystery and Horror Prize.

Overview

Volume 1 Detective Kurosu, Sou Kurosu

Japan's most unfortunate detective takes on six difficult cases!

Detective Kurosu is a man with excellent deductive powers, who brilliantly hunts down the criminals, but there's always some completely unexpected twist right at the very end that means his colleagues get all the credit.

The only name his colleagues have for him anymore is "the hapless detective." Kurosu struggles valiantly to solve perfectly the next case that comes up and rid himself of this unwanted nickname, but today, once again, the same thing's happened....

A series of comedy-mysteries by an up-and-coming former comedian that will inevitably have you in stitches with its brilliant twists and turns!

➔ **English synopsis and sample are available.**



Paperback
Pub month: Jun. 2017
ISBN 978-4-591-15458-8
151 mm x 105 mm
363 pages

Volume 2 Detective Kurosu in Love

Kurosu engages in an investigation with a new female detective as his partner?! Even though he possesses brilliant powers of deduction, it's always Kurosu's colleagues that get all the glory.

Now this eternally unlucky man, both in work and his private life, finds an opportunity for love has fallen into his lap.

Five difficult cases face this highly motivated detective!

Keywords

Detective, police novel, hapless detective mystery (*bakamisu*), entertainment, mystery, reasoning, detective novel, comedy



Mourning Recipe

Author : **Yuki Ibuki**



hardcover

Pub month: Feb. 2010

ISBN 978-4-591-11535-0

193mm x 135 mm

263 pages

Rights sold: Korean,
Thai, and Vietnamese



paperback

Pub month: Oct. 2011

ISBN 978-4-591-12665-3

151mm x 105mm

299 pages

➡ English synopsis
and sample are
available.

About the author

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

Contents

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

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

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

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

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



The Place Where the Butterflies Sleep

Author : **Azusa Mizuno**



hardcover

Pub month: Apr. 2021

ISBN 978-4-591-17002-1

194mm x 133mm

430 pages

➡ **English synopsis and sample are available.**

When someone is falsely accused of a crime, a female TV reporter covering the case stumbles on a shocking truth. A socially aware entertainment that delves into crime, punishment and the true meaning of atonement.

About the author

Azusa Mizuno: News reporter. Born in Tokyo. Graduated from Waseda University School of Humanities and Social Science and University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication. Covered the Tokyo Metropolitan Police, the Imperial Family; worked on the nuclear power and city news desks; was a foreign correspondent in China and worked on the international desk. Directed and produced documentaries; worked on the news desk for TV evening news, as well as on the editorial committee for the medical, social security and education desks of an affiliated newspaper. Currently on the economics desk, covering the Ministry of Finance and Cabinet Office, while doubling as a news anchor. This is her first book.

Contents

The author, a veteran news journalist, has produced a top-flight gritty and realistic mystery. Grounded in her own experience, it's well researched and intricately plotted.

"I had nothing to do with the case. The real culprit is still out there." These are the last words of a man sent to the gallows for a crime he did not commit. Time passes, and an elementary school child leaps to his death from the roof of his school. A network news reporter starts investigating what she thinks is a case of bullying only to discover that the dead boy's mother is in fact the daughter of a man who was sentenced to death based on a false charge. Are the two miscarriages of justice and the boy's death linked somehow? What is the truth the reporter finally discovers after a behind-the-scenes battle against the powers of the police?

Critical praise

There are moments when you can really feel all the colors and smells of the child's young life. The author writes about such moments with genuine tenderness and affection. What I took away from this book was the sense of forgiveness. Forgiveness is found in truth, long since forgotten and sitting quietly in the dark somewhere.

This is an emotional gut-punch of a story that puts that truth front and center.

— Naomi Kawase (Film director)

Was the death penalty justified? A reporter gets to grips with the darkness that the government is eager to conceal from view. The book has such a level of realism that I felt I was getting God's-eye view of the news I report on for my job.

— Kiyoshi Shimizu (Journalist)



To Slay the Beast...

Author : **Junko Oyama**



hardcover

Pub month: Aug. 2018

ISBN 978-4-591-15996-5

195 mm x 135 mm

412 pages

What did the little girl see?

Killing, disappearance, grief....

A raging narrative development that takes the breath away.

You won't be able to put this masterful full-length novel down until the very last page.

➔ **English synopsis and sample are available.**

About the author

Junko Oyama: Born in Tokyo. Started out as a screenwriter, winning the Kido Prize in 2006 for *Tale of the Night of the Crescent Moon* and the Hakodate Harbor Illumination Film Festival Scenario Grand Prize for *Woman at the Wake* in 2008. In 2011 she was awarded the TBS • Kodansha Drama Original Story Award for *Nekoben: Ransom for a Corpse*, her debut novel.

Contents

On the night of her seventh birthday, Aoi's mother is killed right before her eyes. Who killed her mother and for what reason? Aoi, who miraculously survived, makes her way to an unexplored mountain region dominated by an old man with a withdrawn and detached appearance, and his dog. After a certain happening, Aoi, who has grown up in this isolated world, descends from the mountain harboring a keen desire for revenge.

“What do you think it means to die?”

Desire that intersects the fine line between life and death. What was it that Aoi finally saw? Hope or despair?



Cats Don't Laugh

Author : **Kosuke Mukai**



hardcover

Pub month: Sept. 2018

ISBN 978-4-591-16004-6

194mm x 134mm

191 pages

Rights sold: Italian and French

Keywords

Screenwriter, Director,
Cat in old age, Love

Synopsis by Matt Treyvaud

Cats Don't Laugh is a character-driven story about facing the past and coming to terms with loss. Written by acclaimed screenwriter Kosuke Mukai, it follows narrator Hayakawa, also a screenwriter, as he relives a relationship that ended five years earlier and finds closure at last.

The story begins with Hayakawa walking through snow-filled Tokyo streets on his way to visit Renko, a film director that Hayakawa was in a relationship with for six years. The two separated five years ago, and Renko is now married to a reporter named Miyata, but she called Hayakawa to tell him that Son, the cat they originally took in as a couple, is dying of renal failure.

During Hayakawa's visit, it emerges that Renko is planning to turn down work so that she can care for Son during the day while Miyata is at work. Hayakawa spontaneously offers to help watch Son instead, and the plot is set in motion.

Afterward, Hayakawa visits a bar run by Mari, a woman he has been in an on-again, off-again relationship with since shortly after breaking up with Renko. Mari is not happy about the arrangement, but Hayakawa refuses to budge, insisting that she does not understand.

Hayakawa recalls his first meeting with Renko at a test screening of a film he wrote. Mutual professional admiration becomes a passionate relationship that starts with an entire weekend spent in bed together. He also witnesses the sexism Renko endures in their industry.

Back in the present, Hayakawa, Renko, and Miyata settle into their routine looking after Son. There is no hint of romantic feeling between Hayakawa and Renko anymore, but Hayakawa still suspects that Miyata must be uncomfortable with his constant presence.

In a series of flashbacks, we learn that Hayakawa and Renko moved in together three years after they started dating. The move was partly inspired by a visit to their friends the Hories, a married couple who nevertheless pursue their interests separately. We also learn that Son was originally found on the street half-dead by a friend of Hayakawa's, then taken in by Hayakawa and Renko just as they move in together. The name "Son" is a shortened homage to mountaineer Joe Simpson, whose *Touching the Void* had recently impressed Hayakawa.

➔ Full text of synopsis and English sample are available

About the author

Kosuke Mukai: Screenwriter. Born in Tokushima in 1977. Graduated from Osaka University of Arts. This is his first book of fiction.



Blue Promise

Author : **Masayuki Tamura**



paperback
Pub month: Aug. 2012
ISBN 978-4-591-13041-4
151 mm x 105 mm
287 pages

Keywords

That summer, lover, friend, incident, twist, journalist

A novel to make grown businessmen cry out loud! The last 10 pages of this overwhelmingly emotional story are sure to bring on floods of tears. Revisit your youth in the pages of this book.

130,000 copies sold in Japan!

➡ **English synopsis and sample are available.**

About the author

Masayuki Tamura: Born in Kagawa in 1961, he graduated from Waseda University. His novel *In a Floating and Vanishing Kingdom* won the 7th Kaiko Takeshi Prize.

Contents

That summer Shuichi lost his lover and friend in an instant. A chance encounter after more than 20 years begins to shed light on the truth behind “that incident.”

Shuichi Miyamoto works as an analyst, and reconnects with Ariga, an old friend from high school. More than 20 years have passed since “that incident” that tore the two friends apart and took Shuichi’s lover away forever.

This masterpiece of entertainment has been widely praised by many publications, including Asahi, Yomiuri, Nikkei, Sankei, Shukan Shincho, and PEN, as a novel that could only have been written by a working journalist, with its sharp insights into economic issues, and well-drawn storyline.



What You Are Looking For Is In The Library

Author : **Michiko Aoyama**



softcover

Pub month: Nov. 2020

ISBN 978-4-591-16798-4

188mm x 128mm

304 pages

Rights sold: Arabic,
Bulgarian, Czech, Dutch,
English (UK and USA),
French, German, Greek,
Indonesian, Italian,
Korean, Polish,
Portuguese (Brazil and
Portugal), Romanian,
Russian, Serbian, simpli-
fied Chinese, Spanish,
Thai, and traditional
Chinese

paperback

Pub month March 2023

ISBN 978-4-591-17601-6

151mm x 105mm

327 pages

Synopsis by Alison Watts

What are you looking for? is the question that enigmatic community center librarian, Sayuri Komachi, puts to those who come to her for book recommendations. The list of titles that she gives them, however, always contains an unexpected addition that becomes a catalyst for the borrower to gain new perspectives and gives them the impetus to make changes in their career and life. This wise and heartwarming novel is a meditation on the role and meaning of work and society. It shows the powerful influence that a good listener, books, and the right words at the right time can have.

The novel is comprised of five chapters, each narrated by a visitor to the library in the small community center known as Hatori Community House. Each protagonist is at a different juncture in their career, wrestling with dilemmas and issues particular to that stage of life. The conversation that they have with Sayuri Komachi, turns out to be a life-changing encounter.

➔ **Full text of synopsis and English sample are available**

About the author

Michiko Aoyama: Born in Aichi in 1970. Currently living in Yokohama. After graduate school, worked as reporter for a Japanese newspaper in Sydney for two years. After her return to Japan, worked as a magazine editor at a publishing company in Tokyo, began writing novels, and won an honorable mention for the Palette Novel Grand Prize in 2002. Made her debut in 2017 with *A Cup of Cocoa on Thursday* which won the Miyazaki Book Grand Prize. Also, *A Cup of Cocoa on Thursday* and her second novel *Receiving Cat Prophecies beneath a Tree* were nominated for the Miraiya Novel Grand Prize. *What You Are Looking For Is In The Library* was nominated for the Japan Booksellers' Awards.

Contact

Asia...Poplar Publishing (foreign-rights-sales@poplar.co.jp)

The rest of the world...English Agency Japan / New River Literary Ltd (likangqin@newriveragency.com)

20 languages sold!



That Book...

Author : **Naoki Matayoshi and Shinsuke Yoshitake**



hardcover

Pub month: Jul. 2022

ISBN 978-4-591-17432-6

208mm x 154mm

192 pages

Rights sold: Dutch,
English (world), Italian,
Korean, simplified
Chinese, Spanish, Thai,
and traditional Chinese

Keywords

The I Wonder Bookstore,
Spark, Peace, Yoshimoto,
But Look Now, books
about books, gifts, best
seller, children

8 languages sold!

You'll smile, you'll cry, and you'll roar with laughter at the final twist. A collaboration between Akutagawa-winning author and comedian Naoki Matayoshi and popular picture-book author Shinsuke Yoshitake, this is a hilarious, moving journey of books.

➔ English synopsis and sample are available.

About the author

Naoki Matayoshi: Born in 1980 in Neyagawa, Osaka Prefecture. Is a member of the comedy ensemble Peace, part of the Yoshimoto Kogyo entertainment company. In 2015, his debut novel *Spark* won the Akutagawa Prize and became a bestseller with over three million copies sold. In 2017, published the romance novel *Theater*, and in April 2022, expanded *Humans*, originally a newspaper serial, for publication as a paperback. His other titles include *A Hundred Views of Tokyo* and *Second Assistant to the Librarian*. His YouTube channel Whirlpool and his subscription website Moonlight Jottings are also popular.

Shinsuke Yoshitake: Born in 1973 in Kanagawa Prefecture and graduated from Tsukuba University with a master's degree in visual arts. Made his debut as a picture-book author in 2013 with *Maybe It's an Apple*. Is the author of many books, including the picture books *There's a Reason* and *It Won't Come Off*, the collection of illustrations *Exercises in Delicacy*, and the essay *Can't Help Thinking*. His work has been translated into many languages and has won the MOE Bookstore Prize; the Sankei Children's Book Award for Art; the Shoko Ikeda Memorial In Other Words, I'm Nobody Prize; the Bologna Ragazzi Award Special Prize; and other awards. Is the father of two children.

Summary

There once was a book-loving king who was very old and nearly blind. One day, he called two men to his castle and said, "I love books. I've read many in my day. In fact, I think I've read most of them. But my eyes are so bad now, I can't read. Still, I love books, so I want to hear stories about them. I command the two of you to travel the world searching for anyone who knows of unusual books. When you find them, ask them about those books. Then come back here and tell me their stories."

The two men set out on their journey and collected many stories for the king. When they returned, they began to tell him their stories each night...

A collaboration between Akutagawa-winning author and comedian Naoki Matayoshi and popular picture-book author Shinsuke Yoshitake, this is a hilarious, moving journey of books.

Contact

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The rest of the world...English Agency Japan / New River Literary Ltd (likangqin@newriveragency.com)



A Textbook for Becoming Mentally Wealthy

A Story I Can Tell as Someone Who Rebounded from a 455,000 Dollar Debt

Author : **Toshitaka Mochizuki**



An author with over 920,000 cumulative copies sold! 710,000 people have put these studies, backed by science, into practice! The ultimate connection between Mind and Money is unveiled in this book.

➔ English synopsis and sample are available.

About the author

Toshitaka Mochizuki: Born in Yamanashi Prefecture in 1957. Starting from middle school, he developed an interest in image training, meditation, and the science of success, in addition to other studies and began doing independent research. After graduating from Sophia University's Faculty of Law, began working at an automobile company before joining a vocational training seminar company. Worked as the chief instructor. After suddenly being made redundant and saddled with 455,000USD (60,000,000JPY) of debt, was able to rebound in just a year. Founded VORTEX in 1993. Currently involved in personnel training based on dream realization (treasure map method), healing (reiki, rest), and self-image improvement (energy mastering). Has written 39 books so far, with cumulative sales of over 920,000 copies sold.

softcover

Pub month: Dec. 2022

ISBN 978-4-591-17580-4

188mm x 128mm

239 pages

Keywords

Self-help

Overview

“I wish I could become rich while still enjoying life,” “I feel like I’m not manifesting my abilities to their fullest,” “If I want to save money, do I have to endure things I don’t enjoy?”

Have you ever had thoughts like this? The fact is, everyone has a desire to become rich, while still being mentally fulfilled.

This is a self-help book written by someone who rebounded from a debt trap, teaching readers ways of thinking relating to money, and how to face money. What is the key to success that allowed the author to escape debt? It was enjoying money. Self-investment and the feeling of fortune that comes from making people happy will help to ease one’s anxieties with and attachments to money. In order to achieve true wealth, it is important to free yourself from money-related anxiety and attachment. The book lavishly reveals golden rules proven by science that will dramatically improve money, business, and human relations. Money will become life’s “greatest teacher,” and help to guide the reader through their life. By implementing the author’s advice, readers will be able to overcome the obstacles in life brought about with money, and aim for a richness of mind!



Behind the Scenes of Famous Compositions

The Unbelievable Lives of Classical Composers

Author : Yuko Shibuya



Love, marriage, debt, loneliness.....once you know the background to a composer's life, you get to appreciate their music even more. Enjoy their music as you read. All musical works come with their own QR code! You can listen to and enjoy all the works described in the book!

About the author

Yuko Shibuya: Born in Kagawa Prefecture and graduated from the Faculty of Literature of Otsuma Women's University. She works as a music producer and is President and CEO of Nomos, Inc., as well as being a writer. In addition to sound source production and concert planning and management, she holds seminars to support performers and provides consulting services for sound manufacturers. She has an established reputation for producing sound sources using new technologies, including producing high-resolution reference sound sources, as well as Japan's first project to record live ammunition fire at a Japan Ground Self-Defense Force base, and also assisting in the development of the SONY 360 RealtyAudio sound system. She continues to work domestically and overseas as a music journalist and has authored many articles for music magazines and other media.

paperback

Pub month: May 2023

ISBN 978-4-591-17790-7

173 mm x 108 mm

190 pages

Keywords

Orchestra, Beethoven, concert, music history, composing, Vienna, Mahler, Chopin, conductor, ensemble, opera

➡ English synopsis and sample are available.

Contents

Messed up life, but still pretty amazing.

Let's enjoy classical music in a more relaxed way!

Struggling with unrequited love, constantly trying to find ways to make money due to spendthrift habits, and being harangued by a domineering wife....

Focusing on the shocking details of the lives of classical composers, the reality of which is a far cry from the lofty and elegant image you may have had until now. In this one-of-a-kind guide to classical music you can appreciate the masterworks even more by getting to know the quirks and charms of the people who wrote them.

- Even though he was constantly rejected, who continued to send works as gifts? ➡ Beethoven
- Who created famous works due to a weakly constitution and communication disorder? ➡ Chopin
- Who was the popular composer who made a business out of music? ➡ Rossini
- Who created a personal love note in a symphony? ➡ Mahler

Points of interest

Is there a way of overcoming perceived barriers to classical music? For many people, classical music and orchestras are things that they know exist, but remain distant, no matter how much they might try to get to know about them. There may be various reasons, such as, "The music is too long," "All the works sound the same," or "I don't understand the meaning of the words and numbers in the title," and many people simply feel daunted about where to begin from among the tens of thousands of works that have been composed over the course of several hundred years. This book first throws a spotlight on the composers themselves and introduces their unique lives, in a gossipy style with lots of juicy stories. The author joyfully homes in on areas that are not covered in most other classical music introductory texts, taking a woman's point of view of such things as love affairs and infidelity. There are also many other valuable columns and sections, dealing with such questions as, "What should I wear to a concert?" "How should you behave in a concert hall?" and "How to use AI to encounter your favorite composers." Take a look at this book and a new way of looking at classical music that you can start using right away.

Struggling with unrequited love, constantly trying to find ways to make money due to spendthrift habits, and being harangued by a domineering wife....

Focusing on the shocking details of the lives of classical composers, the reality of which is a far cry from the lofty and elegant image you may have had until now. In this one-of-a-kind guide to classical music you can appreciate the masterworks even more by getting to know the quirks and charms of the people who wrote them.



I Summarized the Advice Given by 100 “Dieting Books”

Author : Chromakkey



softcover

Pub month: Nov. 2022

ISBN 978-4-591-17536-1

188mm x 128mm

271 pages

**A condensation of the bestselling royal road of techniques!
For losing weight, you just need this one volume!**

➡ English synopsis and sample are available.

About the author

Chromakkey: Runs the YouTube channel Chromakkey University, which showcases books and essays primarily in the diet, muscle training, and healthy living genres. In addition, the channel shares information about books relating to useful business for improving the living standards of workers, neuroscience, and psychology, among others. Receiving acclaim for his to-the-point summaries and colorful illustrations, Chromakkey videos have become hugely popular, his channel has gained over 230,000 subscribers. With over 100 diet books covered, with the essential points summarized into core information about easy methods for losing weight and diet habits. Was able to lose 6 kilograms in just 2 months. Rather than a full-time YouTuber, he is a worker in his mid-thirties who works at a company listed on the 1st section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange and enjoys muscle training. This marks his first published book.

Keywords

Chromakkey University,
Summary channel,
Doctor, Diet, Muscle
training, Losing weight,
Protein, Muscle,
Carbohydrate limiting,
Ketogenic diet, Lipoids,
Oil

Overview

After reading over 100 diet books and trying out their advice, Chromakkey has condensed these techniques into just one book needed for losing weight based on his experiences. Includes thorough commentary on mechanisms of gaining weight and losing weight. The book also introduces the merits and demerits of three proven dietary methods, those being 1. The low-fat diet, 2. The ketogenic diet, and 3. The 16 hour fasting diet. The book brings up specific countermeasures for various issues readers might encounter, including methods for maintaining an ideal body, techniques for avoiding overeating, and how to overcome plateaus, among others.



50 Methods for Becoming Clean with Your Autonomous Nerves : As Taught by a Noted Doctor

Author : **Hiroyuki Kobayashi**



softcover

Pub month: July 2022

ISBN 978-4-591-17431-9

165mm x 128mm

223 pages

Manage your autonomous nerves, and becoming your shining self

➔ **English synopsis and sample are available.**

About the author

Hiroyuki Kobayashi: Born in 1960. Graduated from Juntendo University's Faculty of Medicine in 1987. Professor at Juntendo University's Graduate School of Medicine. After receiving a postgraduate from Juntendo University Faculty of Medicine in 1992, worked a British royal children's hospital tied to University College Hospital, a child studies center tied to Trinity College, and a national pediatric surgery in Ireland. Held the position of lecturer and then assistant professor at Juntendo University's Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine in 2003. Installed as a full-time professor at Juntendo University's Department of Hospital Administration and Department of General Medicine in 2006. Specializes in pediatric surgery, hepatobiliary diseases, constipation, Hirschsprung's disease, genitourinary diseases, and surgical immunology. Also a sports doctor officially recognized by the Japan Sport Association.

An intestinal specialist who established the first outpatient clinic for constipation in Japan, has introduced recommended foods and proposed stretches for managing one's intestinal health, and how to build a healthy body and mind in various ways. And as a leading figure in neurological research, is involved in the improvement of conditioning and performance improvements for athletes, artists, and cultural figures.

Has made many media appearances, including *Sekai-ichi uketai jugyō* (The most desirable class in the world) and *Nakai Masahiro no kinyōbi no sumairu-tachi* (Nakai Masahiro's Friday smiles).

Overview

Due to the major changes in lifestyle and work brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic forcing people to stay at home, many people have not been able to return to their original state, reporting that "my weight has gone up" and "my life lacks variation now." These troubles can be resolved by sorting out our autonomous nerves. It's preferable for the sympathetic nerves and parasympathetic nerves to be balanced and operate at a high level, but when this balance is broken, it can lead to multiple issues for the mind and body including dizziness, palpitations, lack of sleep, and stress. It can also cause a decline in the immune system, leading to an overall negative effect on one's health. Issues with the autonomous nerves can worsen one's intestinal environment, not just leading to constipation and obesity, but skin problems like rough skin due to a lack of blood circulation. While it is impossible to directly control your autonomous nerves, various strategies can help improve the activity of the sympathetic and parasympathetic nerves. This book provides the basic explanation of "what autonomous nerves are" by Dr. Kobayashi, a leading expert in the study of autonomous nerves, as well as introducing 50 methods placed under the categories of Food, Exercise, and Lifestyle Changes, in order to help readers adjust their own autonomous nerves.



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