



**SHOGAKUKAN**  
**100th**

# Foreign Rights Guide

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Spring 2023

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**FICTION**

# SHOGAKUKAN



*From the past 100 years to the next 100 years.*

*Inspiring the power to create new ideas.*

Shogakukan was founded in 1922 as a publisher of educational magazines for preschool and elementary school students. Having celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, Shogakukan has now established itself as a leading publisher of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, art, photography, travel guides, dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference books. Renowned for its long tradition and expertise in the publishing industry, Shogakukan also produces a wide range of other content in print, digital and audio form—comic books for children and adults, educational and entertainment magazines as well as websites and apps. The wealth of original content is further promoted through investment in film and TV productions, third-party adaptations, as well as extended reality (XR) projects. Honoring outstanding works with the Shogakukan Children, Comics and Non-Fiction Awards, Shogakukan aims to actively foster diversity, inclusion and accessibility and strives for the advancement of education and learning.



Company Name: SHOGAKUKAN Inc.  
Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan  
Founded: August 8, 1922  
President: Nobuhiro Oga  
Capital: 147 million yen  
Sales: 105.7 billion yen (2021 fiscal year)  
Employees: 687 (as of January 2023)

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# Contents

## HIGHLIGHTS

[04](#)

Makoto Takayama [05](#)

Sayaka Murata et al. [06](#)

Sonoko Machida [08](#)

Akari Mikimoto [09](#)

Saki Murayama [10](#)

Gyatei Murasaki [11](#)

Yuko Yuzuki [12](#)

Tomihiko Morimi [13](#)

## TRADE FICTION

[14](#)

## LITERARY FICTION

[24](#)

## CRIME & MYSTERY

[29](#)

# HIGHLIGHTS





Category: Literary Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-407175-7

Pages: 192 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: August 2022

[English synopsis available on request.](#)

# Egoist

*Egoisuto* / エゴイスト

**Makoto Takayama**

**"Groundbreaking...Raw and immediate."** *Japan Times*

**Heralded new film adaptation by Daishi Matsunaga**

**Highest critics' ranking at the 2022 Tokyo International Film Festival**

**Three nominations at the 2023 Asian Film Awards**

Kosuke, a wealthy fashion magazine editor with a close circle of artistic friends, becomes romantically entangled with his new personal trainer, Ryuta. Kosuke is dumbstruck when Ryuta abruptly breaks off the relationship, confessing that he is barely making ends meet and has been a sex worker since his teens to support his ailing single mother, Taeko. After much hesitation, Ryuta accepts a monthly stipend from Kosuke that allows him to quit his side hustle in exchange of two menial jobs. Taeko's maternal attention seems like balm to Kosuke, who lost his mother at the age of 14 and grew up with his unemotional father in a conservative rural community. However, just as harmony seems to have been restored, tragedy strikes. Did Kosuke's desire to rescue Ryuta and his mother drive them to the brink? Can love ever be authentic when it is driven by ego and self-interest? At a time in which LGBTQ+ rights in Japan are at the fore of public discourse, Makoto Takayama's autobiographical novel is a much-needed investigation of economic disparity in contemporary Japan and the struggles sexual minorities face with family and finances in an unaccepting society.

**Makoto Takayama** graduated from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies with a bachelor's degree in French. While working as an editor at a publishing company, he was also a prolific writer. His work mainly includes essays on love and interpersonal relationships, such as *Ai wa doku ka, doku ga ai ka* (Is Love Poison? Is Poison Love?) published by Kodansha in 2018. He died in 2020.



Category: Literary Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-356745-9  
 Pages: 416 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: December 2022  
 Rights Sold: Korean, Thai, Vietnamese  
 English synopsis available on request.

# Disconnect

*Zetsuen* / 絶縁

Sayaka Murata, Alfian Sa'at, Hao Jingfang, Wiwat Lertwiwatwongsa, Hon Lai Chu, Lhacham Gyal, Nguyen Ngoc Tu, Lien Ming Wei, Chung Serang

Against the backdrop of the global pandemic and the resurgence of war, nine Asian writers born between the late 1970s and early 1980s reflect on the increasing erosion of social cohesion in their countries and expose the shared nature of their experience of disconnectedness and isolation. This ambitious anthology, simultaneously published in Korean by Munhakdongne and in Japanese by Shogakukan, was led by science fiction writer Chung Serang (South Korea). It brings together a rich and diverse collection of short stories by Sayaka Murata (Japan), Alfian Sa'at (Singapore), Hao Jingfang (China), Wiwat Lertwiwatwongsa (Thailand), Hon Lai Chu (Hong Kong), Lhacham Gyal (Tibet), Nguyen Ngoc Tu (Vietnam), and Lien Ming Wei (Taiwan) on the common theme of social isolation. At a time when heightened international tension and instability are breeding misinformation, stigmatization and hate speech, can these young voices be woven together to forge stronger bonds within the region?

**"While all the writers were initially 'disconnected' from each other, the project provided a thread to link them, and readers, together...By using each other as a mirror [...], people can get to understand themselves in more detail."** *Japan Times*

**"Depicts a wide variety of topics, including loss and hope, the shape of the family, urban and social transformations...A collection of works with a great deal of power."** *Asahi Shimbun*

**"Explores what lies beyond the severance of bonds between people due to the pandemic and the intensification of international conflict."** *Yomiuri Shimbun*

**"Social isolation is an even more controversial topic in Asia, where culture is founded on its exact opposite, social interconnection. The gap between the 'self' and the 'other,' widened by the three-year pandemic and the precarious relationships between neighboring countries, is seen in this book through the sensitive eyes of a group of novelists...A unique anthology."** *Hankyoreh*

Photo ©Bungeishunju



## JAPAN

## Nothingness

*Mu* (nothingness) is in vogue among young people and *mu-machi* (cities of nothingness), practicing this lifestyle, are built all over the world.

**Sayaka Murata**, born in 1979, is one of the most celebrated of the new generation of Japanese writers. She has won the Mishima Yukio Prize and the Akutagawa Prize, among other awards. Her many books include *Convenience Store Woman*, *Earthlings*, and *Life Ceremony*.



## SINGAPORE

## Wife

The life of a couple, long hoping for a child, is forever changed when the husband casually mentions the name of a former lover.

**Alfian Sa'at**, born in 1977, is a Singaporean author, playwright, poet, and translator. His plays have been read and performed internationally. He is currently the resident playwright of theater group WILD RICE. *Malay Sketches* is the first of his works to be available in the US.



## CHINA

## Positive Brick

In Positive City, buildings and furniture change color according to human emotions. Those who turn their surroundings black must be quarantined.

**Hao Jingfang**, born in 1984, is a Chinese science fiction writer. She won the 2016 Hugo Award for Best Novelette for "Folding Beijing," translated by Ken Liu, the first Hugo awarded to a Chinese woman. *Vagabonds*, her first novel in English, was shortlisted for the 2021 Arthur C. Clarke Award.



## THAILAND

## Burning

Inspired by Lee Chang-dong's film, *Burning*, this is a love story set against the radicalization of the democracy movement in Bangkok.

**Wiwat Lertwiwatwongsa**, born in 1978, is at the forefront of modern Thai writing with long, sometimes surreal collections of short stories reflecting the spirit of his generation, such as *Alphaville Hotel*, *A Tale Without a Name* or *A Damaged Utopia* (all available in English).



## HONG KONG

## The Secret Police

The secret police infiltrate a city kept under quarantine for the spread of a virus. Pets are prohibited, but cat-owners gather, candlelight in hand.

**Hon Lai Chu**, born in 1978, is an award-winning Hong Kong writer. She won the Hong Kong Biennial Award for Chinese Literature for fiction and her books have been twice named to the list of Top 10 Chinese Novels Worldwide. *The Kite Family* was published in English in 2015 by Hong Kong UP.



## TIBET

## A Snow Lotus Blooms Inside a Hole

After leaving an exploitative job in Beijing, the protagonist recalls the lie once told to a deceased childhood friend.

**Lhacham Gyal**, born in 1977, is a Tibetan author and scholar residing in Beijing. Deputy Director of the Religious Research Institute and president of the Tibetan Youth Society, he writes in both the Tibetan and Chinese languages. He is a five-time recipient of the prestigious *sbrang char* prize for Tibetan literature.



## VIETNAM

## Escape

A mother is about to die, lying on the bathroom floor. On the other side of the wall, her son is watching soccer on TV, but she hesitates to speak up.

**Nguyen Ngoc Tu** is a Vietnamese fiction writer born in 1977. Her most famous work, *The Endless Field*, won the Vietnam Writers' Association Award in 2006, the German Literaturpreis award at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2018 and has been adapted into a film.



## TAIWAN

## Aunt Sherith's Afternoon Tea

A local boy, the descendant of a British colonist and a black maid, and the son of an engineer gather in a secret place after table tennis.

**Lien Ming Wei**, born in 1983, taught Chinese for one year in the Philippines before beginning his career as a writer. He has won nearly every single important prize for literature in Taiwan, including the China Times and the Lin Rung-San Literary Awards.



## SOUTH KOREA

## Disconnect

Is the punishment for a man accused of harassment by six female broadcasters unfair or not? A heated debate divides two best friends...

**Chung Serang** was born in 1984. After working as an editor, she debuted as a writer in 2010 with a story in the SF magazine *Fantastique*. Her novel *School Nurse Ahn Eunyoung* was adapted into a Netflix series. Chung won the 2013 Changbi Prize for Fiction and the 2017 Hankook Ilbo Literary Award.



Category: Literary Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-386645-3

Pages: 368 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: May 2022

Rights Sold: **Chinese (Traditional)**

English synopsis and sample translation available on request.

# Sora's Recipes

*Sora gohan* / 宙ごはん

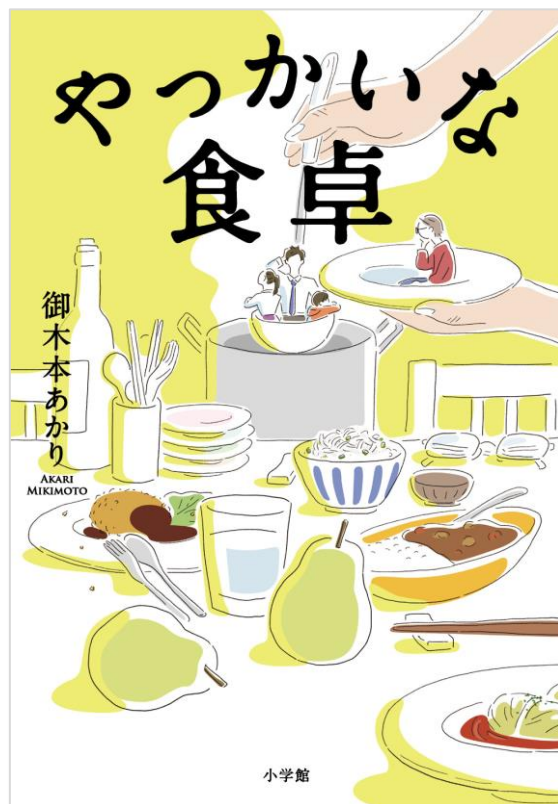
**Sonoko Machida**

## Shortlisted for the 2023 Japan Booksellers' Award

Sora, from the Japanese word for "air," has two mothers, a birth mum and the mother who lovingly raised her until she had to move to Singapore due to her husband's job transfer. Before starting elementary school, Sora could not believe her luck at having two mothers. She did not live with Kano, her birth mum, but they met regularly and she was immensely proud of her beautiful looks, sweet disposition, and talent as an illustrator. However, when the mother who raised her moves abroad and Sora is forced to live with Kano, the situation drastically changes. When it comes to her work, Kano is considered a distinguished illustrator, but she has none of the qualities usually associated with a "normal mother." She is not particularly good at cooking and lacks the confidence and special attention needed to raise a child.

In dire need of help through the chaos of newly-found motherhood, Kano decides to rely on old friend Saeki, a chef at a local restaurant. She asks Saeki to cook daily meals for Sora and keep an eye on her. From Saeki Sora learns not only how to cook, but also how pouring all her heart into the making of a dish has the power to heal people's souls. A touching story depicting the rebirth of a dysfunctional family through food.

**Sonoko Machida** is an award-winning Japanese author, born in 1980 in Fukuoka Prefecture. In 2016, she won the *Onna ni yoru onna no tame no R-18 bungakusho* (By Women for Women R-18 Literature Prize) for her *Kamerun no aoi sakana* (Blue Fish of Cameroon). Her masterpiece *52 herutsu no kujira-tachi* (The 52-Hertz Whales), won the 2021 Japanese Booksellers' Award and became a bestseller with about half a million copies sold in Japan. The following year, her novel *Hoshi wo sukuu* (Scooping Up the Stars) was nominated for the award for the second consecutive year. *Sora gohan* (Sora's Recipes) is her most recent work.



Category: Trade Fiction  
ISBN: 978-4-09-386653-8  
Pages: 240 pages  
Printing: Black & White  
Publication: September 2022  
[English synopsis available on request.](#)

# The Troublesome Dining Table

*Yakkaina shokutaku* / やっかいな食卓

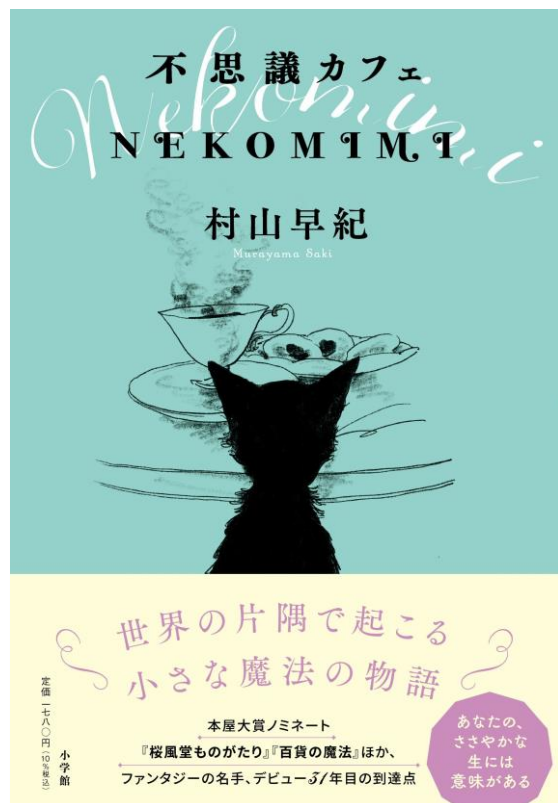
**Akari Mikimoto**

Despite having lost her husband and eldest son, 72-years-old Rinko enjoys her independence and leads an extremely active life. Every day she is out and about. One day she studies calligraphy, the next she teaches flower arrangement. Since cooking is her forte, once a month she also holds a cooking class for men. Meanwhile, Yuki, the wife of Rinko's second son Takeru, is working at a dizzying pace to advance her career as a food stylist. She is a little concerned about her son skipping school, but work remains at the top of her priorities. She believes that simple meals are more than sufficient and that housework should be shared and made more efficient.

One day, Takeru comes up with a shocking proposal. "Why not move all in together?" Rinko fears that her carefree lifestyle will be threatened. Yuki admits that she and her mother-in-law are not the best of friends. The compromise they come up with is living all together but keeping separate dining tables. As soon as the two families start living under the same roof, "troublesome" incidents occur. The two dining tables clash and the boundaries between their meals gradually become blurred. A variation on the theme of the age-old conflict with the in-laws, the colorful meals and ever-extending list of family members gravitating around the dinner table make this an exhilarating, laugh-out-loud read.

**Akari Mikimoto** is the pen name of essay writer Chizuko Kamiya who was born in Chiba Prefecture in 1953 and graduated from Ochanomizu University, Faculty of Science. After her husband was transferred overseas, she resigned from her job at NHK and spent the next 23 years living in nine different countries as the wife of a diplomat. Her essays include *Oba michi* (Old Woman's Way) and *Josei no kenshiki* (A Woman's Discernment). This is her first novel.





Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386668-2  
 Pages: 296 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: January 2023

English synopsis available on request.



# The Incredible Nekomimi Café

*Fushigi kafe NEKOMIMI* / 不思議カフェNEKOMIMI

**Saki Murayama**

Ritsuko, a woman in her 50s living on her own, leads the most uneventful life one could ever think of. She works every day as diligently as she can and spends her spare time reading books or listening to music while sipping her favorite teas. One day she gets a terrible headache and is told that she is due to pass away that same night. Her life will only be spared if she accepts to shed her human nature and become a wizard.

That's how Ritsuko acquires the magical power to make people's wishes come true. With her black cat Melody by her side, Ritsuko embarks on an exciting new journey that will lead her to open the itinerant Nekomimi Café and meet all sorts of customers over tea and delicious handmade treats. The apparently unremarkable lives of those forgotten in secret corners of the world between the interstices of time swirl at the gentle touch of Ritsuko's magic. Interspersed throughout the book are delicate, black and white line drawings by popular Japanese illustrator, Rei Kurahashi.



**Saki Murayama** was born in Nagasaki in 1963 and graduated from the Department of Japanese Literature at Kwassui Women's University. A master of fantasy writing, she won the 15th Mainichi Fairy Tale Newcomer Award and the 4th Hatoju Muku Children's Literature Award for her 1993 picture book *Chūsai Eri-chan* (Little Eri). She was twice shortlisted for the Japan Booksellers' Award in 2017 for *Ofudo monogatari* (The Tale of Ofudo) and in 2018 for *Hyakka no maho* (The Magical Department Store), which was translated in Italian among other languages. In recent years, her series of novels *Konbini Tasogare-do* (The Tasogare Convenience Store) and *Kafe Kamome-tei* (The Kamome Café) set in the fictional city of Kazahaya gained great popularity both of public and critics.



Category: Trade Fiction  
ISBN: 978-4-09-406849-8  
Pages: 288 pages  
Printing: Black & White  
Publication: December 2020  
[English synopsis available on request.](#)

# 3,000 Words Left to Live

*Yomei 3000 moji* / 余命3000文字

**Gyatei Murasaki**

## The TikTok sensation that sold over 300,000 copies in Japan

What fate awaits a man who has been told by his doctor that he has only 3,000 words left to live? What if a boy were to receive on his birthday a rare Japanese “wild rich man,” a finicky creature that only accepts expensive goods from Ginza? What decision will a fetus take after being stuck in its mother’s belly for six years, refusing to be born? Twenty-six short stories by TikTok sensation and master of the absurd Gyatei Murasaki for the first time collected in an anthology. With striking titles like “My Boyfriend Became a Mackerel Can,” “Laundromat for the Heart” and “Tabelog 1.8 Ramen” be prepared to go from uncontrollable laughter to heart-wrenching grief in just under five minutes.

**Gyatei Murasaki** was born in Kumamoto Prefecture in 1994. His short stories initially posted on a literary website attracted a great deal of interest and were consequently published in this 2020 anthology entitled *Yomei 3000 moji* (3,000 Words Left to Live). Murasaki’s short story collections have now been turned by Shogakukan into the *5 Minute Reads* series, which includes *△ ga furu machi* (The City Where △ Fall) and *Anata no shitai o kaitorasete kudasai* (Please Let Me Buy Your Corpse).



Category: Crime  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386664-4  
 Pages: 320 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: November 2022  
[English synopsis available on request.](#)

# The Chaplain

*Kyokai* / 教誨

Yuko Yuzuki

After ten years on death row, Kyoko Mihara is executed for having murdered her 8-year-old daughter and a 5-year-old neighbor in Japan's northern Aomori Prefecture. After the execution, Kasumi Yoshizawa a distant relative living in the suburbs of Tokyo is asked to collect Kyoko's remains at the Tokyo Detention Center. Having lived far away their whole life, Kasumi has only met Kyoko once at a family gathering as a primary school student, but since news of the murder had erupted in the media she always struggled to reconcile the memory of the gentle expression on her cousin's face with the image of a cold-blooded, evil killer portrayed by the public.

"I've kept my promise. Now praise me."—Kyoko's last words in the execution chamber stir in Kasumi the need to know the truth. In-between jobs she heads to Aomori, Kyoko's hometown and the scene of the crime, to find out the meaning of those mysterious last words. Through interactions with the locals and people who followed the case, what she discovers is a strict upbringing where abuse extends from the family to the whole community and love offers no protection. A crime novel that delves into the mind of a woman on death row to explore the social ramifications of a trauma that turns the victim into the aggressor.

**Yuko Yuzuki** is a Japanese crime novelist, born in 1968 in Iwate Prefecture. A great reader since childhood, as a teenager she watched with her mother the *Jinginaki tatakai* (Battles Without Honor and Humanity) film series retracing the yakuza conflicts in Hiroshima, which would later become the subject of her most acclaimed book, *Koro no chi* (The Blood of Wolves). The novel was adapted into a movie in 2018 and was the recipient of the 2016 Mystery Writers of Japan Award. For the social connotation of her work, her style is said to bear the imprint of Japanese crime writers Seicho Matsumoto and Hideo Yokoyama.





Category: Mystery

ISBN: 978-4-09-386456-5

Pages: 256 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: October 2016

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Korean

English sample translation by Emily Balistrieri available on request.

# Endless Night

Yako / 夜行

Tomihiko Morimi

Author of *The Tatami Galaxy*, shortlisted for the 2023 PEN Translation Prize

Over 260,000 copies sold in Japan

Shortlisted for the Japan Booksellers' Award

Ohashi goes to Kyoto to attend the Kurama Fire Festival with some friends he hasn't seen in ten years—Nakai, Takeda, Fujimura, and Tanabe. The last time the five of them went, there was a sixth—Hasegawa, but on the night of the festival, she disappeared. Before meeting up with his friends, Ohashi catches sight of who he is convinced is Hasegawa going into a gallery. He enters, but instead of the woman, he finds copperplate engravings by an artist named Michio Kishida that seem to all depict the same endless night. Nakai mentions he's seen a Kishida engraving before, at a hotel in Onomichi and tells the story of why he traveled there. The other friends also share stories of recent travels involving death and disappearances at night. Finally, the five friends set out for the fire festival, but on their way back Ohashi is mysteriously separated from the group. When he phones Nakai, Nakai can't believe Ohashi is calling him. Was Ohashi the one who disappeared ten years ago? Do Kishida's *By Night* and *Dawn Light* engravings hold the key to the mystery?

**Tomihiko Morimi** was born in 1979 in Nara Prefecture. His first novel *Tower of the Sun*, which he wrote while studying at Kyoto University, won the 15th Japan Fantasy Novel Award. In 2006, he received the Yamamoto Shugoro Prize for the novel *The Night is Short, Walk on Girl*, and in 2010, *Penguin Highway* was awarded the Japan SF Grand Prize. In 2023, the English edition of *The Tatami Galaxy* translated by Emily Balistrieri and published by HarperCollins was shortlisted for the PEN Translation Prize. An English edition of the sequel, *The Tatami Time Machine Blues*, is planned for publication by HarperCollins in September 2023. Several of Tomihiko Morimi's works have been adapted into critically acclaimed anime series and films. He still lives and works in Nara.

# TRADE FICTION



ISBN: 978-4-09-386655-2  
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 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: September 2022  
 Rights Sold: **Korean**  
 English synopsis available on request.

# Life in the Share House

*Wakaba-so no kurashi* / 若葉荘の暮らし

**Tomomi Hatano**

The Japanese bubble era of the 1980s and early 1990s seems nothing more than a distant memory. At the age of 40, Michiru Mochizuki has only ever experienced the low wages and precarious working conditions of temporary employment. She is working part-time at a local restaurant when, due to the outbreak of an infectious disease, customers plummet and her pay is drastically reduced. In desperate need of an affordable place to live, she is introduced by a friend to Residence Wakaba, a share house where only women over 40 are allowed to live. Never having considered shared living, she knocks on the front door with a sense of unease. But just as the discomfort of having reached a new low is setting in, she is warmly welcomed by elderly manager, Tokiko, and decides to give the share house a try. Award-winning author Tomomi Hatano offers a realistic portrait of the struggles faced by different generations of Japanese women in a country marred by economic stagnation and gender inequality. Women in their 40s belonging to the “employment ice age” generation that entered the workforce after the burst of the bubble economy, women in their 50s at the mercy of the controversial 1986 Equal Employment Opportunity Law and women in their 60s who had no choice but to conform to traditional gender expectations, all come to find in Residence Wakaba a safe haven where to support each other and define happiness on their own terms.

**Tomomi Hatano** is a Japanese novelist born in Tokyo in 1979. She cultivated her dream of becoming a writer while working part-time at manga cafés, cinemas and in the publishing industry. Her debut work, *Kokudou zoi no famiresu* (Family Restaurant on the National Highway), won the Shosetsu Subaru New Writers Award in 2010. She was twice nominated for the Eiji Yoshikawa Literary Prize for New Writers, in 2013 for *Umi no mieru machi* (A Town with a View of the Sea) and in 2014 for *Nanbu geinou jimusho* (The Nanbu Talent Agency). A prolific writer, her collection of short stories *Futatsu no hoshi to taimumashin* (Two Stars and a Time Machine) and novel *Taimumashin de wa, ikenai ashita* (A Tomorrow that Can't Be Reached by Time Machine) were both published by Shogakukan.



ISBN: 978-4-09-386656-9

Pages: 256 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: September 2022

[English synopsis available on request.](#)

# For Example, Grapes

*Tatoeba, budo* / たとえば、葡萄

Masumi Oshima

## Naoki Prize-winning author

Mizuki, a company employee in her late twenties, decides on the spur of the moment to quit her dead-end corporate job and find a more fulfilling life path. However, when the pandemic brings the world around her to a standstill, in lack of a better option she is forced to move in with her mother's old friend Ichiko. As Mizuki drowns in despair, Ichiko and her circle of middle-aged friends lean in and with their strong personalities help their young new guest stand back on her feet. By chance, she ends up helping out at a local winery where she reconnects with an old childhood friend. "The world has already changed,"—he tells her. And she knows she must change with it. But with no clear opportunity to do so in sight, which direction should she take? That's when she stumbles upon a grape juice made from the winery's grapes and decides that she must bet her future on that heavenly taste. Naoki Prize-winning author Masumi Oshima masterfully portrays the sense of stagnation and insecurity so prominent in our time and offers younger generations an example of hope and resilience in the face of seemingly unsurmountable obstacles.

**Masumi Oshima** was born in 1962. She was raised in Nagoya and grew up reading science fiction. Her debut work *Haru no tejinashi* (Spring Magician) was published in 1992 and won the 74th Bungakukai Prize for New Writers. Her 2003 novel *Chocolietta*, about a young woman who uses the Federico Fellini film *La Strada* to recover from her grief, was adapted into a 2015 film by screenwriter and director Shiori Kazawa. Her 2009 novel *Nijiuro tenki ame* (Rainbow Weather) and its 2010 sequel *Bitter Sugar*, about three women whose friendship is tested as they approach the age of 40, were adapted into a 2011 NHK TV series called *Bitter Sugar*. In 2019, Oshima won the Naoki Prize for her novel *Uzu: Imoseyama onna teikin, Tamamusubi* (Whirlpool: Husband and Wife Mountains, A Mirror of Virtuous Women, Requiem), a work of historical fiction about 18th century playwright and puppeteer Hanji Chikamatsu.





ISBN: 978-4-09-386654-5  
 Pages: 224 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: October 2022

# The Pickles Bar

*Kon'ya, nukazuke sunakku de* / 今夜、ぬか漬けスナックで

**Toko Koyanaga**

Upon receiving news that her mother has passed away, Makio visits Shodoshima Island in Japan's Seto Inland Sea. She has not heard from her mother in years and when she arrives on the island a man younger than herself named Ibuki claims to be her late mother's husband. Since Makio has just lost her job, Ibuki offers her to temporarily stay at his place and work at the bar he is now running instead of her late mother. Makio recalls her grandmother making *nukazuke* pickles when she was a little girl. Following faint memories of her instructions, she ferments vegetables in the *nukadoko* rice brain bed and serves the pickles at the bar. Through her various pickling experiments, Makio not only develops a connection with the residents of the island, but also discovers a surprising side of a mother she always assumed had no feelings for her. Will the familiar scent of the fermenting rice brain carried by the warm island breeze be sufficient to soothe Maiko's sorrow? With chapters centered around each step of the laborious fermentation process, Toko Koyanaga turns *nukazuke* pickles into a metaphor of life, which must be regularly stirred even when the surface appears to be clear.

**Toko Koyanaga** was born in Aomori Prefecture in 1982 and graduated from Hirosaki University, Faculty of Humanities. In 2019, she won the 1st Japan Delicious Fiction Award for *Nanado waraeba, koi no aji* (Laugh Seven Times to Taste Love). The award was established to honor the work of fiction writers who excel in the portrayal of food. Judges include Kundo Koyama, screenwriter for the legendary Japanese television cooking show "Iron Chef," Naoki Prize-winning author Ichiriki Yamamoto and Hisashi Kashiwai, author of Shogakukan's international bestselling series, *Kamogawa shokudo* (The Kamogawa Diner). *Kon'ya, nukazuke sunakku de* (The Pickles Bar) is Koyanaga's first novel after receiving the award.



ISBN: 978-4-09-407135-1  
 Pages: 352 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: April 2022

# Welcome to the Kitchenware Shop

*Ryori doguya ni youkoso* / 料理道具屋によこそ

**Ayumu Ueno**

Since the web design company he self-started in the city is not taking off, Michika decides to return to his hometown and take over the family business, a small shop selling kitchenware and restaurant supplies. Although it feels good to be back, sales are at an all-time low and the shop, Kitchenware Tokumiya, is in a tight spot. When he hears from the owner of a nearby restaurant that he'd visited the shop on a number of occasions but could never find what he needed, Michika realizes that their product lineup is completely wrong and swift change is needed.

A reunion with classmate Yui, who produces plastic food samples to be displayed in restaurants, gives Michika a chance to take a step in the right direction. A coming-of-age novel that brings back to life the old-fashioned charm of Japanese ceramics, lacquerware and beautifully crafted knives and is sure to enthrall lovers of Japanese cuisine.

**Ayumu Ueno** was born and raised in downtown Tokyo. He graduated from Senshu University with a degree in Japanese Literature and claims to have become a writer thanks to the wish he hung as a student on a bar's bamboo decoration for the Tanabata festival, "May I win the Nobel Prize in Literature." After working as a reporter for a number of magazines, he made his debut as a writer in 1994 with *Koibito to issho ni narudeshou* (You'll Surely Be with Your Lover), which won the 7th Shosetsu Subaru New Writers Award for fiction. After a ten-year hiatus in which he supported emerging authors at a self-publishing business, he resumed his writing career with the intention to focus on characters' relationship with their profession.



ISBN: 978-4-09-386661-3  
Pages: 208 pages  
Printing: Black & White  
Publication: November 2022

# The Kitchen Is Calling

*Kitchin ga yonderu!* / キッチンが呼んでる！

**Shunsuke Inada**

Three days after moving in, a toaster oven is delivered by courier to the studio apartment of a young, single woman. Clothes, make-up, cleaning products randomly piled up on the bed or dumped on the floor, did she really need one more box to add to the general chaos? Completely lost in her work, the next time she takes her eyes off the screen it is already 8:00 pm. She buys a ham and lettuce sandwich and a steamed meat bun from the local convenience store and, when she returns home, sits down to enjoy the very first meal in her new home. Many more meals follow—some on her own, some with her loved ones, some involving the most intricate recipes and others nothing more than fast food or a takeaway. But as days go by, alongside the young woman's culinary wanderings grows the utter pleasure of having a space of her own. Thirty days, one meal a day, natural-born foodie Shunsuke Inada leaves no corner of the kitchen unexplored. From appliances and cooking utensils, to seasonings and favorite recipes, *The Kitchen Is Calling* takes us on a delicious journey of female self-discovery and emancipation.

**Shunsuke Inada** is a chef and restaurant producer, born in Kagoshima Prefecture. After graduating from Kyoto University, he worked for a beverage manufacturing company and subsequently joined Enso Food Service. In 2011, he opened in the Yaesu underground shopping mall of Tokyo Station Eric South, a popular South Indian restaurant that currently boasts multiple types of stores. His writing is mainly devoted to exploring food from a wide variety of angles. This is his first novel.



ISBN: 978-4-09-386633-0  
 Pages: 208 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: April 2022

# I Can Do My Best Now

*Ima, dekiru, seiippai.* / 今、出来る、精一杯。

**Shuko Nemoto**

The setting is the backyard of a supermarket, Mama's Kitchen. An unreliable manager, a beauty queen, a female part-timer with a strong sense of justice, and a male clerk with a stutter are all carrying out their duties day after day while trying to come to terms with each other. One day, a man who has never been able to hold on to a job and lives under the protection of his girlfriend is interviewed by the manager and hired without delay. As soon as he is exposed to face-to-face interactions, unable to cope with troublesome workplace relationships he feels the urge to withdraw in isolation and become once again a recluse. However, an incident gets in the way. In this ensemble drama the inner lives of 12 people clashing to impose their own petty interests are masterfully depicted by the enfant prodige of Japanese theater.

**Shuko Nemoto** is a Japanese screenwriter, actor and playwright. Born in Tokyo in 1989, she started her theater company, Gekkan Nemoto Shuko, when she was 19 and has since written and directed all of its plays. Recent productions include the 2020 play *Mottomo ooi naru ai he* (To the Greatest Love). Nemoto's work is animated by a continuous search for new forms of expression, not only in theatrical performance, but also in screenplay writing and musical accompaniment. *Ima, dekiru, seiippai.* (I Can Do My Best Now) is her first novel.





ISBN: 978-4-09-388334-4

Pages: 208 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: November 2013

Rights Sold: Catalan, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese (Portugal), Russian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish

# The Kamogawa Diner

*Kamogawa shokudo* / 鴨川食堂

Hisashi Kashiwai

International bestseller translated in over 17 languages

The Kamogawa Diner has no signboard or fabric curtains. Customers come to this inconspicuous eatery near Higashi Honganji in Kyoto relying on a single line advertisement, "Search for the food of your memories." They are people with concerns typical of the time we live in—work, family, life, love, interpersonal relationships. When they finally arrive at the correct location, the owner of the diner and his daughter listen with great care as the customers describe a memorable dish they had in the past. Thanks to the owner's instinct and power of observation, the meal the customer truly desires is identified and recreated with masterful skill. The wonderful scenes of Kyoto in the background, the touching episodes focused on a wide range of customers, and the delicious meals served make this an excellent addition to the much-beloved genre of Japanese gastronomic fiction.

**Hisashi Kashiwai** was born in 1952 and graduated from Osaka Dental University in 1976. He runs his own private dental clinic and also writes essays and novels about Kyoto, food and travelling. He is the author of many essays including *Ohitori Kyoto no tanoshimi* (Enjoying Kyoto on Your Own), *Nihon hyaku mei shuku* (100 Famous Japanese Inns) and *Ohitorikara no himitsu no Kyoto* (Exploring Secret Kyoto on Your Own), as well as novels.



ISBN: 978-4-09-408545-7

Pages: 208 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: September 2010

Rights Sold: Catalan, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Polish, Portuguese (Portugal), Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Slovene, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese

# Days at the Morisaki Bookshop

*Morisaki shoten no hibi* / 森崎書店の日々

Satoshi Yagisawa

International bestseller, translated in over 25 languages and adapted into a film

Takako, a 25 year old born and raised on the southern island of Kyushu, has lived a relatively easy life. She went to a good university and got a graduate job at a company in Tokyo. However, when her charming boyfriend, Kashikoi, casually announces that he's been cheating on her and is planning to marry somebody else, Takako's life suddenly starts falling apart. She loses her job and with it all of her friends and acquaintances. She ends up in a deep depression, but just as her despair seems to have reached rock bottom, she receives a call from her distant uncle. Her Ojisan runs the Morisaki Bookshop, a secondhand store in Jimbocho, Tokyo's famous book district which is home to hundreds of used bookshops and publishing houses. Takako used to turn her nose up at Ojisan's unconventional way of life but when he offers her the tiny room above the bookshop rent-free in exchange for helping out at the store, she reluctantly agrees. In the months that follow, Takako discovers a passion for Japanese literature and her life starts to come back together again.

**Satoshi Yagisawa** was born in 1977 in Chiba Prefecture and graduated from Nihon University. *Morisaki shoten no hibi* (Days at the Morisaki Bookshop) is his debut novel. After winning the Chiyoda Literary Prize, it became a publishing sensation in Japan, as well as in Korea, Vietnam, and Taiwan. The book was adapted into a film and a sequel was published in 2011.



ISBN: 978-4-09-386463-3

Pages: 224 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: January 2017

Rights Sold: Arabic, Armenian, Bulgarian, Catalan, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal), Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese

# The Cat Who Saved Books

*Hon wo mamorou to suru neko no hanashi* / 本を守ろうとする猫の話

Sosuke Natsukawa

International bestseller translated in over 39 languages

The Natsuki Bookstore is a small and dusty secondhand bookshop, tucked away in a remote corner of town. It houses countless masterpieces from all over the world, but no bestsellers, popular comics or magazines. When his beloved grandfather suddenly dies, high school student Rintaro inherits the bookshop. In the general disinterest towards books, Rintaro sees no choice but to close it, until he meets Tiger, a speaking cat, who convinces him to go with him on an adventure to save books. Thus begins an amazing journey through different mazes and challenges to set books free. A magical story for book and cat lovers alike, *The Cat Who Saved Books* was an instant bestseller in Japan and has been translated in over 38 languages around the world.

*"Enchanting" Observer*

*"Quirky and heartwarming in equal measure, The Cat Who Saved Books invites us to remember the joy of curling up with a favorite book."* Japan Times

*"Combine The Elegance of the Hedgehog with Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore and you might get a feel for this delightful novel."* Washington Post

**Sosuke Natsukawa** is a Japanese physician and novelist, born in Osaka Prefecture in 1978. He graduated from the Shinshu University School of Medicine and, while working as a doctor, made his debut in 2009 with multivolume novel *Kamisama no karute* (In His Chart), which won several prizes and sold over three million copies in Japan.

# LITERARY FICTION



ISBN: 978-4-09-386541-8

Pages: 320 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: May 2019

English sample translation by Alison Watts available on request.

# Buddha on the Waterside

*Mizube no Buddha* / 水辺のブッダ

**Durian Sukegawa**

**International bestselling author of *Sweet Bean Paste***

Beneath the bright lights and prosperous veneer of urban Japan is an underbelly of poverty and desperation where the homeless and marginalized struggle to survive. On the banks of the Tama River on the outskirts of Tokyo, the lives of an estranged father and his long lost daughter cross without ever succeeding to meet. In reaching out for each other, however, Bota, a disgraced white-collar worker, and Eri, a high school student with a history of abuse, find a route to escape the darkness in their heart, forever changing their fates.

From the bestselling author of *Sweet Bean Paste*, this gritty but authentic portrayal of homelessness, sex and violence in contemporary Japan ultimately has an uplifting message of hope for anyone struggling to rise above difficult circumstances, and challenges us to find new meaning in nature and our connection to others.

**Durian Sukegawa** studied oriental philosophy at Waseda University, reported from Eastern Europe and Cambodia in the early 1990s, and has worked extensively in radio and TV. He is currently associate professor at Meiji Gakuin University. Renowned as a writer of non-fiction, essays and novels championing society's disadvantaged and downtrodden, his novel *Sweet Bean Paste* is an international bestseller that has been translated into 19 languages and adapted into the homonymous film. During the pandemic it found new popularity with audiences worldwide, and was chosen by international charity Shelterbox as book of the month in June 2022. In 2017 Sukegawa was awarded the prestigious Prix Littéraire Domitys and Prix des Lecteurs du Livre de Poche.





ISBN: 978-4-09-386626-2

Pages: 432 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: December 2021

[English synopsis available on request.](#)

# The Strangling Tree

*Shimegoroshi no ki* / 絞め殺しの樹

**Akiko Kawasaki**

## Shortlisted for the 2022 Naoki Prize

Yusuke Yoshioka has never met Misae, his birth mother. She was as kind and as strong as a tree, he is told for the first time in front of her grave at the age of 18. But the stronger a person is, the more others lean on them and crash them under the weight of their burdens. That's why the Bodhi Tree, the sacred fig tree where Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment, is also called the "strangling tree." As it grows, it coils around stronger trees, robs them of their nutrition and eventually kills them.

Misae was born in Nemuro, on the eastern tip of Hokkaido, and raised in Niigata. She has no recollection of her parents' faces. In 1945, when she was only ten years old, she was sold to the Yoshioka family as a servant and returned to her hometown of Nemuro, but awaiting her there were days of cruelty beyond her wildest imagination. A childhood spent like a slave, a marriage anything but happy, her daughter's suicide, parting with her son forever. After a life of so many sufferings, could Misae have possibly been happy? Yusuke sets out on a journey to find his own life path by retracing the steps of his birth mother.

**Akiko Kawasaki** is a multi-award-winning author, born in Betsukai, Hokkaido in 1979. In 2019, she won the Oyabu Haruhiko Prize for *Nikudan* (Human Bullet). In 2020, she won the Nitta Jiro Literary Award and was nominated for the Mishima Yukio Prize for *Tsuchi ni aganau* (Redeeming the Earth). In 2022, *Shimegoroshi no ki* (The Strangling Tree) was shortlisted for the Naoki Prize.



ISBN: 978-4-09-386638-5  
 Pages: 240 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: April 2022

# Gold Sunset

*Gorudo sansetto* / ゴールドサンセット

Haruka Shirao

**“Full of laughter and love for the creative process.”** Shion Miura, author of *The Great Passage*

A junior high school girl, a single woman in her 40s, a retired man, a man with dementia, a gay young man, his wife and mother-in-law, an elderly actor...Organized in six acts inspired by lines from famous plays, this poignant and touching new novel carefully depicts how in the face of hardship and trauma we can all find a small glimmer of hope. Act I, Open Light. A junior high school girl commits suicide due to bullying. Her classmate, who is struggling to cope with her sudden death, meets the elderly actor living next door. What is the purpose of his strange behavior? Act II, Swimming in Golden Water. A single woman in her 40s has worked hard and lived conscientiously her whole life. While struggling to find a job and a suitable partner, she reflects on her past. Will she find any answers? Act III, Golden Girls. A man in his retirement stumbles upon a woman he once sexually abused and power harassed. The encounter leads to a painful ending. Act IV, Nostalgic Evening Glow. Two young men visit an old man's house. Who are they? And what memories do they treasure? Act V, Golden Names. The pain and conflict all women face once in their life is depicted from a woman's specific point of view. Interlude. All characters encounter and bond. Final Act, Gold Light. The last act of life is filled with regret and a deep love that will never return. And yet, the strength to live on remains unchanged.

**Haruka Shirao** was born in Kanagawa Prefecture and raised in Tokyo. After graduating from college in the U.S., she returned to Japan and is now a freelance digital content producer and marketer. In 2017, she won both the Grand Prize and Readers' Prize of the 16th *Onna ni yoru onna no tame no R-18 bungakusho* (By Women for Women R-18 Literature Prize) for *Akurosu za yunibas* (Across the Universe). Her hobbies include reading books and manga, watching movies and foreign dramas, taking walks, and writing haiku.



ISBN: 978-4-09-386667-5  
Pages: 304 pages  
Printing: Black & White  
Publication: January 2023

# What Color Am I?

*Boku wa nani iro* / ぼくはなにいろ

**Shosho Kuroda**

Shoji, who has been living a solitary life after being injured in a car accident, meets one night at his favorite bar Chihiro. Chihiro appears dazzlingly vivacious to Shoji, but her bubbly personality acts as a cover for an unspeakable trauma. Takashiro, whose sole purpose in life is to scratch lottery tickets, helps his father at the family's stationery shop. Emi, a school dropout, keeps drawing on the notebooks left out on the shelves to test pens and markers. She gets written updates about life at school from a boy who is unable to speak. Shosho Kuroda, one of Japan's most promising young authors, weaves a delicate net between young people each hurting in a tiny world of their own making. The resounding message that comes across every page is, "You have the right to live."

**Shosho Kuroda** was born in 1994 in Fukuoka Prefecture. In 2019, he won the Shogakukan Bunko Award for Fiction for *Haru ga mata kuru* (Spring Will Come Again). He made his debut as a writer in 2020 with *Mattaku, aokunai* (Not at All Blue), a retitled version of his award-winning novel. *Boku wa nani iro* (What Color Am I?) is his second novel.



# **CRIME & MYSTERY**



ISBN: 978-4-09-406791-0  
 Pages: 368 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: July 2020

# What Did You Do That Day?

*Ano hi, kimi wa nani wo shita / あの日、君は何をした*

**Toshika Masaki**

**300,000 copies sold in Japan**

Izumi Mizuno's uneventful life as an ordinary housewife drastically ends when her son, Taiki, is mistaken for a suspect in a serial murder case and dies in an accident. What was Taiki up to when he snuck out of the house late at night and rode away on his bicycle? Fifteen years later, a young woman is murdered in Tokyo and the key witness, Tatsuhiko Momoi, a company employee, goes missing. Frustrated by his wife's indifference, Tatsuhiko's mother, Chie, desperately tries to find him.

As detectives Mitsuya and Tadokoro proceed with their investigation, it soon becomes clear that the two mothers' feelings for their sons are intertwined and the shocking truth that links the two seemingly unrelated cases comes to light.

**Toshika Masaki** was born in 1965 and currently resides in Sapporo. She won the Hokkaido Shimbun Literature Award in 2007 for *Chiru saku meguru* (Scatter, Bloom, Surround). Made her literary debut in 2008 with *Yoru no sora no hoshi no* (The Stars in the Night Sky). A prolific writer, her latest novel published by Shogakukan is *Kanojo ga saigo ni mita mono wa* (The Last Thing She Saw).



ISBN: 978-4-09-407176-4  
 Pages: 304 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: September 2022

# Dying at 25

*Watashitachi wa 25-sai de shinde shimau* / 私たちは25歳で死んでしまう

Amemichi Sunagawa

For hundreds of years, toxins brought by unknown bacteria have been raging. The world population has plummeted and average human life expectancy does not exceed 25 years of age. In order to contain the population's decline and ensure basic urban functions, the central government has severely restricted the freedom to work and choose a life partner. Citizens are expected to marry the person assigned to them and bear as many children as possible. A dystopian novel describing the struggles of six women in a world where all basic rights have been denied and uncertainty is the only certainty.

**Amemichi Sunagawa** is a Japanese novelist born in Niigata Prefecture and currently living in Tokyo. In 2013, she began writing "mobile phone novels," a popular type of literature originated in Japan where literary works are written on a mobile phone via text messaging. She currently writes for a number of literary websites, including *Novema!* and *Berry's Cafe*. Her books include the *Gokainin!!* (Conception) series and *Okizari no futari* (The Abandoned Couple).



ISBN: 978-4-09-386650-7  
 Pages: 258 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: June 2022

# The Suicide Support Service

*Sanzu / さんず*

**Ten Furuta**

Sanzu is a provider of assisted suicide services, that quietly sneaks up on those who can't seem to make up their minds and decide to die. Its name is said to derive from the Sanzu River, a river that flows between the world we live in and the afterlife. As a modern-day Charon, Sanzu helps people whose life has become unbearable to cross the river and reach the afterlife. On the company's website customers can choose between two plans, the "Snuggle Plan" and the "Together Plan," each leading to a different but equally unexpected end. A convenience store clerk victim of power and sexual harassment, a woman who continues to think about a man in prison, a wealthy man trying to find a buyer for his butterfly collection, the owner of a bar struggling to pay off his debts, a female teacher disrespected by her boss at the school she has been assigned to—five short stories in which the lives of those wishing to die intersect and the meaning of life itself is questioned.

**Ten Furuta** is the pen name of So Ayukawa and Ei Hagino, who are known for having won in 2014 the *Kono Misuteri ga Sugoi!* (This Mystery Is Excellent!) Grand Prize for *Joo wa kaeranai* (The Queen Will Not Return). In 2018, their short story *Itsuwari no haru* (Fake Spring) won the Mystery Writers of Japan Award in the short story category.



ISBN: 978-4-09-407127-6  
 Pages: 416 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: March 2022

# The Vanishing Son

*Kieru musuko* / 消える息子

Yoshiaki Ando

"That's where I was killed." Kazuo Miyatsu, a civil servant in Hachioji (a city west of central Tokyo), is taken by his son to a lake where he receives the startling confession. At the same time, a strangulation-like mark appears on his son's neck and Kazuo starts to have nightmares about strangling a mysterious man by the water. The coincidence of his son making such a statement exactly in the same location where a body was found 33 years ago is too strange to be ignored. Could there be a connection between his son and the man Kazuo had killed in the past? One day, Kazuo's vision becomes distorted and he finds himself standing in the Hachioji of 33 years ago. There Kazuo meets a man he thinks could be his son in a previous life...Will saving this man result in his son disappearing from the present? The ultimate time-slip mystery.

**Yoshiaki Ando** was born in Shizuoka Prefecture in 1956 and graduated from the Faculty of Political Science and Economics at Meiji University. In 1994, he won the Japan Mystery and Suspense Grand Prize for *Shi ga maiorita* (Death Descended), and in 2000, he won the Horror and Suspense Grand Prize for *Kishimojin* (the Japanese goddess of childbirth and children). Ando's suspense and detective novels have attracted considerable interest in Japan for the meticulousness of their crime reporting.





ISBN: 978-4-09-407169-6  
 Pages: 384 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: August 2022

# To My Mother, Who Died That Day

*Ano hi ni naku naru anata e / あの日に亡くなるあなたへ*

**Yu Fujinoki**

Harusho Kusakabe works as an obstetrician and gynecologist at a university hospital. When he was little, his pregnant mother collapsed in front of him and died. Since then, Harusho has had to live with the regret of not having offered any help. One day, at his parents' house his mother's old phone starts ringing. Curious, he takes the call and is surprised to hear his late mother's voice come gushing out of the receiver. However, only on rainy days the mysterious phone call has the power to connect Harusho to his mother. Relying on this last, thin thread, Harusho decides the time has come to save his mother and by changing the past, he will change the future.

**Yu Fujinoki** is a Japanese novelist, as well as an obstetrician and gynecologist. He began writing fiction in 2019 and his debut work *Magiwa no gohan* (Restaurant Magiwa's Rice) was published in 2021. He has also written a number of practical books related to his medical profession.



ISBN: 978-4-09-386657-6  
Pages: 322 pages  
Printing: Black & White  
Publication: November 2022

# The December Diary

*12 gatsu no jisho* / 十二月の辞書

**Kou Hayase**

Kaoru Nagumo, an AI researcher, receives a phone call from his ex-lover for the first time in 15 years. She has become a popular illustrator who goes by the name of Lise. Her father, the president of a bank, has recently passed away and left her a house in Hakodate, a city in the southern tip of Hokkaido. Nagumo is asked to find a portrait of Lise her father made, which is still supposed to be in the house. However, when Nagumo reaches the property, what he finds is not an art studio but a library. Nagumo and a student, Saeki, begin to search for the painting. A romantic mystery book brimming with sadness and suspense, where memories of a love that did not end well are interwoven with thousands of books.

**Kou Hayase** was born in Tokyo in 1967 and made his debut as writer in 1992 with *Gurifonzu gaden* (Griffons' Garden). His other books include *Mihitsu no Makubesu* (Unconscious Macbeth), *Puranetariumu no sotogawa* (Outside the Planetarium), and *Kanojo no shiranai sora* (The Sky She Doesn't Know).



**SHOGAKUKAN**  
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# **Foreign Rights Guide**

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Spring 2023

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**NON-FICTION**



# SHOGAKUKAN



*From the past 100 years to the next 100 years.*

*Inspiring the power to create new ideas.*

Shogakukan was founded in 1922 as a publisher of educational magazines for preschool and elementary school students. Having celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, Shogakukan has now established itself as a leading publisher of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, art, photography, travel guides, dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference books. Renowned for its long tradition and expertise in the publishing industry, Shogakukan also produces a wide range of other content in print, digital and audio form—comic books for children and adults, educational and entertainment magazines as well as websites and apps. The wealth of original content is further promoted through investment in film and TV productions, third-party adaptations, as well as extended reality (XR) projects. Honoring outstanding works with the Shogakukan Children, Comics and Non-Fiction Awards, Shogakukan aims to actively foster diversity, inclusion and accessibility and strives for the advancement of education and learning.



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Employees: 687 (as of January 2023)

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# Contents

## HIGHLIGHTS

[04](#)

Eiichi Yoshimura      [05](#)

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

[06](#)

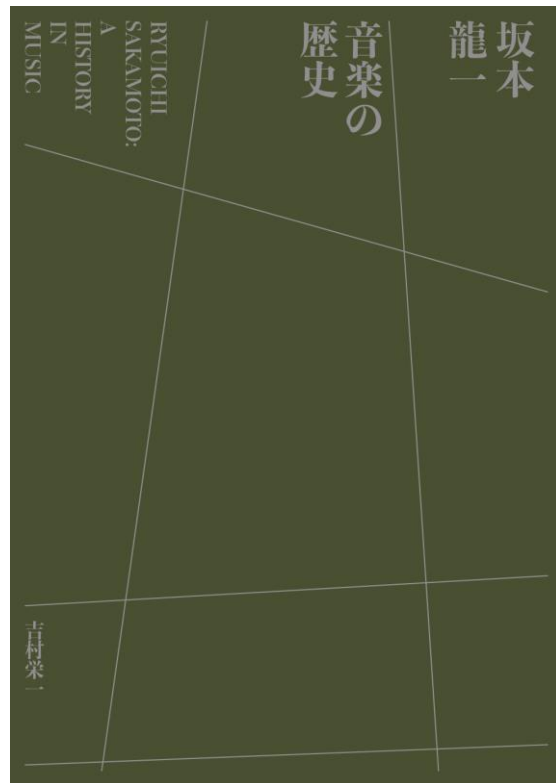
## SELF-HELP

[10](#)

## ART

[14](#)

# HIGHLIGHTS



Category: Biography / Art  
ISBN: 978-4-09-388882-0  
Pages: 448 pages  
Printing: Black & White  
Publication: February 2023

# Ryuichi Sakamoto: A History in Music

*Sakamoto Ryuichi Ongaku no rekishi / 坂本龍一 音楽の歴史*

Eiichi Yoshimura

Ryuichi Sakamoto is the trailblazer of Japan's contemporary music scene, who won global fame for the power of his music to cross musical and cultural boundaries. An academically trained musician, as well as an Academy Award-winning composer, a producer, an actor and an environmental activist, Ryuichi Sakamoto reshaped and pioneered a wide range of musical genres and the influence of his work both as a solo artist and as a member of the techno-pop group Yellow Magic Orchestra (YMO) continues to the present day.

Few artists have a career as rich and eclectic as Ryuichi Sakamoto and this biography, published in occasion of his 70th birthday, aims to be the first and definitive account of his entire musical history from when he first fell under the spell of English rock as a child. The book is packed with rare first-hand accounts, previously unpublished episodes, handwritten notes, interviews, articles expertly woven together by Eiichi Yoshimura, a writer who has followed Ryuichi Sakamoto for many years and published extensively on his musical undertakings. *Ryuichi Sakamoto: A History in Music* is also available in a deluxe, boxed-set edition, that includes alongside the biography, a complete discography and a never-before-seen collection of 80 black and white photographs.

**Eiichi Yoshimura** was born in 1966 in Fukui Prefecture. After working as an editor for *Kokoku Hihyo*, a leading Japanese monthly trade magazine focusing on advertisement, he became a freelance editor, writer and copywriter. Eiichi Yoshimura's books include *Deviddo Boi Nihon ni oritatta isejin* (David Bowie: the Alien that Landed in Japan), *Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence*, which explores the collaboration between David Bowie, Ryuichi Sakamoto and Takeshi Kitano in Nagisa Oshima's 1983 film, and *YMO 1978-2043*, a history of the Yellow Magic Orchestra.

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**





ISBN: 978-4-09-389104-2  
 Pages: 240 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: May 2023

# Speaking Up

*Koe o agete / 声をあげて*

Rina Gonoï

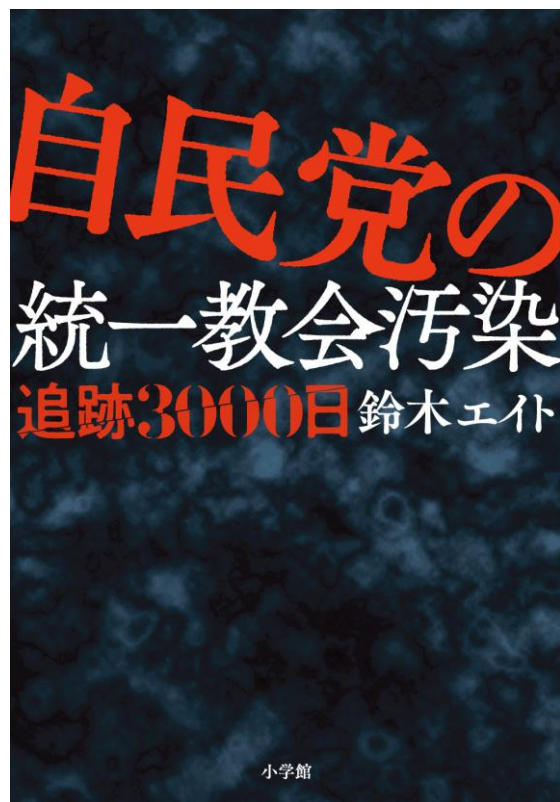
**Named by the *Financial Times* as one of the 25 most influential women of 2022**

As a young girl Rina Gonoï dreamed of joining Japan's Self-Defense Forces. In March 2011, at the age of 11, she was among the thousands of children displaced by the country's devastating earthquake and tsunami and at the evacuation center she would look in admiration at the female soldiers as they carried water for survivors to bathe. But her dream came to an abrupt end when shortly after joining the forces she was sexually assaulted. She reported the assault, but was repeatedly silenced. She then decided to appeal to the media with her real name and face. This is the story of Rina Gonoï, whose courage inspired officers in Japan and beyond to demand change. As Japan embarks on an unprecedented increase of its military spending in the face of China and North Korea's military threats, Rina Gonoï's campaign draws yet again attention to the worldwide issue of sexual violence in the armed forces and the urgent need for reform.

**"In a male-dominated society where sexual abuse victims face backlash for speaking out...Gonoï wants public accountability and systemic change within the military."** *Washington Post*

**"Gonoï's fight was a rare public reckoning with sexual assault in Japan, where the #MeToo movement met a muted response and government data shows just 4% of rape victims report the crime."** *Japan Times*

**Rina Gonoï** (born 1999) is a former Japanese soldier, who in 2022 started a public campaign about the sexual abuse she was subjected to by fellow members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, after an investigation into her claims was dropped on the grounds of insufficient evidence. Gonoï also filed a lawsuit against the government and her assailants over the mistreatment she received. She is the first survivor of sexual assault to gain public attention in Japan since journalist Shiori Ito's 2017 rape accusations against a prominent TV journalist turned her into a symbol of the country's #MeToo movement.



ISBN: 978-4-09-380123-2  
Pages: 322 pages  
Printing: Black & White  
Publication: September 2022

# How the Unification Church Penetrated Japan's Ruling Liberal Democratic Party

*Jiminto no Toitsu Kyokai osen / 自民党の統一教会汚染*

Eito Suzuki

On 8 July 2022, two days before a parliamentary election, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was fatally shot at close range with a handmade gun during a campaign rally in the western city of Nara. The assassination drew an outpouring of grief in a nation unused to political violence and raised questions about Japan's ruling party's association with the Unification Church, which was said to be the killer's motive. Founded in 1954 in South Korea by Reverend Sun Myung Moon and known for its mass weddings and coercive fund-raising methods, the Unification Church's ties with Japanese politicians quickly became a controversial subject in mainstream media after the shooting. Was Abe's relationship with the group a rushed assumption based on a congratulatory video message aired at a meeting ten months before the attack, or can the group's influence on his political career be backed up with a degree of certainty? Undaunted by the pressure from both the political and religious sphere, journalist and anti-cult activist Eito Suzuki traced for more than 3,000 days, over the nine-year period since the second Abe administration took office in 2012, the trajectory that led to the murder of the longest-serving leader in modern Japan.

**Eito Suzuki** is a Japanese journalist, born in Shiga Prefecture in 1968 and graduated from the Nihon University College of Economics. In 2009, he became the vice-president and editor-in-chief of *Yaya Nikkan Cult Shimbun* (Almost Daily Cult Newspaper) an online news outlet that specializes in tackling social issues related to religious cults in Japan. In 2011, he began working as a freelance journalist, contributing articles to *Asahi Weekly*, *Toyo Keizai* and *Diamond*, among many others. For his anti-cult activism, he was followed, threatened and assaulted by former Unification Church members. In addition to investigating the interrelation between religion and politics in Japan, he is also active in countering anti-vaccine misinformation on social media. This is his first book.



ISBN: 978-4-09-380125-6

Pages: 266 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: March 2023

# Cult Children

*Ogawa Sayuri, shukyo ni-sei / 小川さゆり、宗教2世*

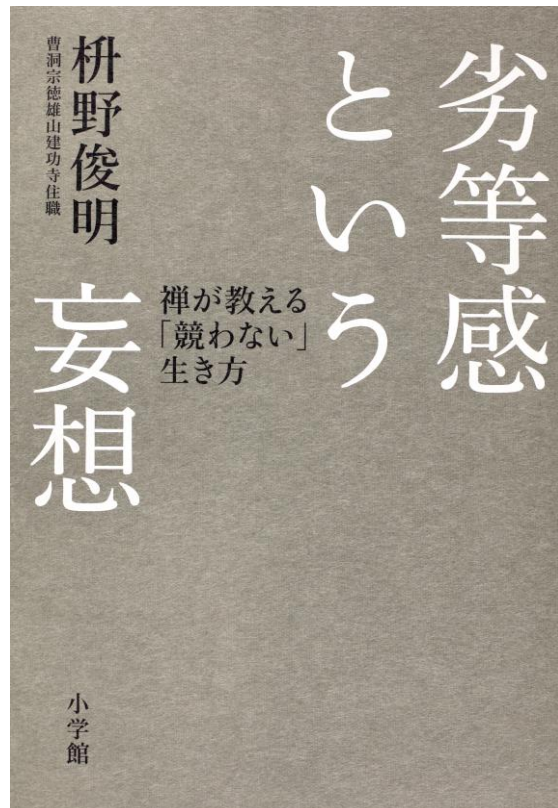
**Sayuri Ogawa**

Sayuri Ogawa's parents joined the Unification Church, formally known as Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, at around the age of 20 and were married through one of its mass weddings. A so-called "child of god," as a little girl Sayuri saw the church as the very foundation of her existence and was taught that those who violated its doctrine would go to hell. She was forced to attend worship services and was banned from having romantic relationships or any kind of physical contact with the opposite gender. Sayuri recalls a childhood spent in abject poverty. Driven by fear to regularly make large donations, her parents confiscated all of her money and even solicited money from relatives. After joining a session for would-be participants of mass weddings in South Korea, she had a mental breakdown and was hospitalized in a psychiatric ward. She ultimately left the group, got married and recently had her first child.

How did the Unification Church become the center of her family's life and why did she decide to leave? How did she distance herself from the values she was given from a very young age and what path did she follow to build a new family? As the fatal shooting in July 2022 of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe illuminated the plight of thousands of children of church adherents who faced abuse and neglect, Sayuri Ogawa shares a first-hand account of the heartbreaking first half of her life.

**Sayuri Ogawa** is the pseudonym of a second-generation member of the Unification Church, the South Korean religious group whose donation collecting practices and ties to Japanese politicians have come under heavy scrutiny after the murder of Shinzo Abe. At a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan few days after the shooting, Sayuri decided to publicly discuss the extreme hardship she endured as the daughter of devout followers. She called for the disbandment of the Unification Church and asked that Japan, having ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, intervene to save other child victims like her. The church accused her of being mentally unstable and demanded an end to the press conference. In December last year, Japan's Parliament enacted a law that bans organizations from maliciously soliciting donations.

# **SELF-HELP**



ISBN: 978-4-09-388438-9  
 Pages: 194 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: December 2015  
 Rights Sold: Korean, Thai, Vietnamese

# The Delusion of Inferiority

*Rettokan to iu moso* / 劣等感という妄想

**Shunmyo Masuno**

Zen priest and bestselling author Shunmyo Masuno takes up the feelings of inferiority that have come to plague so many in today's world. As social media increasingly shape our interactions and relationships with others, it has become difficult not to compare ourselves with our friends and wonder if we are measuring up—especially when they appear so much more successful and happy in their daily postings than we may feel ourselves. Masuno admonishes readers who find themselves in such circumstances with the Zen expression *maku mozo* (have no delusions) and urges them to cast off their suffering by clearly separating themselves from others in their mind, "I am me and they are them."

With his usual knack for explaining the teachings of Zen in terms anyone can understand, Masuno reveals the true nature of inferiority complexes, and shows how the ideas and practices of Zen can break the cycle of negative thinking and open the way to a re-energized life.



**Shunmyo Masuno** is a Japanese monk and garden designer, born in 1953 in Yokohama. He is chief priest of the Soto Zen temple Kenkoji, professor at Tama Art University, and president of a garden design firm, Japanese Landscape Consultants, that has completed numerous projects in Japan and overseas. Recognized as Japan's leading garden designer, he has lectured at universities such as Cornell, Harvard, the University of British Columbia and the University of London. He is the author of *Zen, shinpuru seikatsu no susume* (The Art of Simple Living), *Zen no niwa: Masuno Shunmyo no sekai* (Zen Gardens: The World of Shunmyo Masuno), *Okoranai Zen no saho* (Anger-free Zen Practice) among other bestselling books.





ISBN: 978-4-09-388346-7  
 Pages: 96 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: December 2013



# Zen Contemplation for a Lighter Heart

*Nagameru Zen / 眺める禅*

Shunmyo Masuno

Japan's leading garden designer, Shunmyo Masuno, has designed traditional and contemporary gardens throughout Japan and around the world. According to Masuno, designing a garden requires an emptying of the self through meditation in order to establish a dialog with elements of the space. By encouraging connectedness, harmony and tranquility, gardening teaches us the sacredness of the everyday and a sense of respect for other humans and for the environment at large.

This book features both stunning pictures of the gardens Masuno has designed and words of wisdom that have penetrated his heart. Just by gazing at an open page every day for 30 minutes before bedtime, worries and troubles will slip away.

Praise for *The Art of Simple Living*

**"Does for mental clutter what Marie Kondo has done for household clutter."** *Publishers Weekly*



ISBN: 978-4-09-388322-1

Pages: 194 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: September 2013

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Vietnamese

# Zen and Food

*Zen to shoku* / 禅と食

Shunmyo Masuno

In *Zen and Food*, Shunmyo Masuno introduces the basic principles of the Zen diet, originally conceived for Buddhist monks in training, and adapts them to everyday living. Quoting the works of Zen master, Dogen, the author explains the Zen Buddhism commandments of not eating meat or fish, striving to use all parts of an ingredient and not strongly flavoring food. His instructions encompass all aspects of savoring a meal from the mental attitude of the cook to food preparation and table manners. Apparently simple rules for eating are meant as rules for living, teaching the intrinsic value of each thing, the harmony and sacredness of the everyday. The book includes a full color section with recipes by monastery chief cook, Taigen Koganeyama, for simple Zen-style meals at home.



Praise for *The Art of Simple Living*

**“Zen activities you can do daily to add more calm to your life...*The Art of Simple Living* brings the spirit of Zen Buddhism to everyday life.”** *Daily Telegraph*

**“Powerful...A profoundly beautiful work, easy to read, encouraging deep thought and reflection, but most importantly, acting as a practical guide to Zen action.”** *Japan Times*

**ART**



ISBN: 978-4-09-311515-5  
 Pages: 192 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: May 2022

**“[Yotaro Sasaki] has created a repertoire of impressive originality and left-field maverick magic.”** *Japan Times*

# Tono Cuisine

*Tono kyuijinu* / 遠野キュイジーヌ

**Yotaro Sasaki**

Surrounded by mountain peaks in all directions, the city of Tono is situated in the lush natural scenery of central Iwate Prefecture, notable for its traditional farming culture and rich folkloric heritage. This rural location, far removed from famous tourist sites, has in recent years established a reputation among both Japanese and international chefs, sommeliers and food lovers as a gourmet destination thanks to the efforts of Yotaro Sasaki, and his restaurant Tonoya Yo. Deeply rooted in the traditions of its landscape and developed in close collaboration with local farmers, meals at Tonoya Yo are based on the ritual of elaborate *kaiseki* multi-course haute cuisine, with an emphasis on seasonal ingredients put to unexpected new uses.

Yotaro Sasaki defines himself as a chef with three callings. He is a rice farmer who grows without pesticides or fertilizers Tono Ichigo, a native rice variety that was on the verge of extinction. He is also the first licensed brewer in the country of an exquisite *doburoku*, the unfiltered sake produced in farming communities since ancient times. And lastly he is a relentless innovator in the art of fermented foods who has developed new techniques for the aging and maturation of numerous ingredients.

In this book, complemented by stunning visuals throughout, Yotaro Sasaki reveals for the first time from production to consumption all aspects of his remarkable philosophy that promises to bring Japanese food traditions into the 21st century while helping to build a sustainable future for Japanese agriculture.

**Yotaro Sasaki** is a Japanese chef and brew master, born in 1981 in Tono, Iwate Prefecture. Born into a family of innkeepers, Yotaro learned the fundamentals of Japanese cuisine from his father and further honed his craft through tireless self-study and painstaking research and experimentation. In 2011, he opened Tonoya Yo, a restaurant and auberge where guests can savor his singular cuisine in the evocative setting of a 200-year-old rice storehouse. In recent years, Yotaro has earned international acclaim for his contribution to gastronomy, with Spain's Mugaritz, among other Michelin-starred restaurants, creating a course featuring his *doburoku*.



ISBN: 978-4-09-682318-7

Pages: 132 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: November 2019

Bilingual Edition: Japanese and English

Rights Sold: **Spanish**

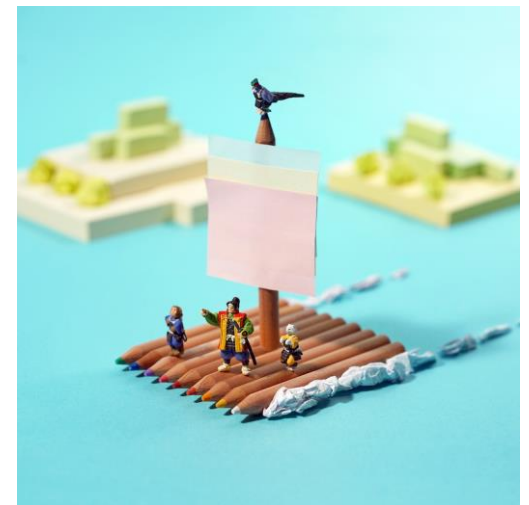
# Miniature Trip in Japan

Tatsuya Tanaka

Over 20,000 copies sold in Japan

Collection of photographs by miniature artist, Tatsuya Tanaka, who rose to international fame in the summer of 2021 with his sport-themed miniature art celebrating the Tokyo Olympic Games. In order to convey the appeal of traditional Japanese culture to foreign visitors, works that represent events typical of the Japanese year are collected in the form of a *saijiki*, a poetic dictionary that lists words and phrases related to the seasons. The book illustrates traditional crafts, national sports, and popular dishes of the Japanese cuisine.

**Tatsuya Tanaka** is a miniature artist and a photographer, born in Kumamoto Prefecture in 1981. In 2011, he began his Miniature Calendar project, in which he posts on a daily basis everyday objects recreated in miniature form through unusual, alternative items. His exhibition, "Miniature Life," held both in Japan and abroad, had a total of over 2 million visitors and his [Instagram account](#) has over 3.6 million followers to date. In 2020, Tanaka's miniature installations were showcased in the Japan Pavilion at the Dubai International Expo.







ISBN: 978-4-09-682421-4

Pages: 128 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: February 2023

Bilingual Edition: Japanese and English

# Miniature Trip Around the World

Tatsuya Tanaka

Following the success of his first collection of photographs, *Miniature Trip in Japan*, in this second volume miniature artist and photographer Tatsuya Tanaka leaves the familiar shores of his home country to take us on a trip around the world. Featuring 90 full-color photographs of newly shot works, the book is divided in eleven major regions. From Asia and Oceania to South and North America going through Europe and Africa, Tanaka focuses his gaze on motifs that anyone can understand, regardless of their age, gender or nationality. Rather than highlighting the cultural uniqueness of each country, his work intentionally seeks aspects we all share, such as the universal roundness of manholes or the flavor of McDonald's fries. By making the similarities of our common human experience visible in his art, Tanaka hopes to create a sense of sympathy and closeness among his readers. Take a seat and get ready to fly anywhere you want, "it's a small world after all."





ISBN: 978-4-09-682378-1

Pages: 220 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: February 2022

Bilingual Edition: Japanese and English

# SHIRIAGARI × HOKUSAI

## Nearly Thirty-six Somewhat Ridiculous Views

*Shiriagari × Hokusai Chotto okashina hobo sanjyukkei / しりあがり × 北斎 ちょっと可笑しなほぼ三十六景*

Shiriagari Kotobuki

Manga artist Shiriagari Kotobuki presents his comical take on the world of *ukiyo-e* master Katsushika Hokusai with 80 works, including parodies of masterpieces such as *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*. This volume brings together the works from the 2018 exhibition "Hommage à Hokusai, Nearly Thirty-six Mischiefs of Shiriagari Kotobuki" and the 2021 exhibition "Shiriagari-san & Hokusai-san: Show Time, with a Giggle!" both held at the Sumida Hokusai Museum in Tokyo.

The combination of Hokusai's masterful woodblock prints, vividly depicting common people, with Shiriagari's imaginative and mischievous contemporary caricatures conveys the timeless power of laughter while giving a broad overview of Hokusai's wide-ranging artistic activities.

**Shiriagari Kotobuki**, pseudonym for Mochizuki Toshiki, is a Japanese manga artist born in Shizuoka City in 1958. After graduating from Tama Art University, he started his career as a manga artist in 1981 under the name "Shiriagari Kotobuki," while working at a food company in the field of design, advertisement and product development. In 1994, he established his own studio, Saruyama Hagenosuke Co., Ltd. He received the 46th Bungeishunju Manga Award in 2000, the 5th Tezuka Osamu Cultural Prize in 2001 and the 15th Japan Media Arts Festival Excellence Award in the Manga Division in 2011. In addition to creating manga in a wide range of genres from comedy to social commentary, he is also active in various other fields including video, theater, computer games, contemporary art. In 2014, the government of Japan awarded him the Medal with Purple Ribbon for his artistic accomplishments.



**SHOGAKUKAN**  
**100th**

# **Foreign Rights Guide**

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Spring 2023

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**CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

# SHOGAKUKAN



*From the past 100 years to the next 100 years.*

*Inspiring the power to create new ideas.*

Shogakukan was founded in 1922 as a publisher of educational magazines for preschool and elementary school students. Having celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, Shogakukan has now established itself as a leading publisher of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, art, photography, travel guides, dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference books. Renowned for its long tradition and expertise in the publishing industry, Shogakukan also produces a wide range of other content in print, digital and audio form—comic books for children and adults, educational and entertainment magazines as well as websites and apps. The wealth of original content is further promoted through investment in film and TV productions, third-party adaptations, as well as extended reality (XR) projects. Honoring outstanding works with the Shogakukan Children, Comics and Non-Fiction Awards, Shogakukan aims to actively foster diversity, inclusion and accessibility and strives for the advancement of education and learning.



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Founded: August 8, 1922  
President: Nobuhiro Oga  
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Sales: 105.7 billion yen (2021 fiscal year)  
Employees: 687 (as of January 2023)

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# Contents

## HIGHLIGHTS

[04](#)

Yuki Ainoya [05](#)

Ryoji Arai [07](#)

Maiko Matsumura [08](#)

Akiko Tanji [09](#)

Keiko Shibata [10](#)

Shigesato Itoi [11](#)

Noritake Suzuki [12](#)

Rikako Matsuo [13](#)

The Cabin Company [14](#)

## EARLY YEARS

[15](#)

## PICTURE BOOKS

[21](#)

## HOME LEARNING

[29](#)



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Sato the Rabbit Series

*Usagi no Sato-kun / うさぎのさとくん*

**Yuki Ainoya**

One day Sato decides to become a rabbit and a rabbit he has been ever since. In the whimsical world of award-winning author Yuki Ainoya, the ordinary becomes extraordinary. A puddle, a walnut, a starry night, the moon, a flower basket, a cup of tea or a giant raspberry, the most familiar encounters that populate our daily lives transport Sato on magical and unpredictable new adventures.

## Sato the Rabbit, the Moon

*Usagi no Sato-kun tsuki yo / うさぎのさとくん つきよ*

**Yuki Ainoya**

ISBN: 978-4-09-726352-4  
Pages: 60 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2008  
Age: 6+  
Rights Sold: **English, Romanian**



## Sato the Rabbit

*Usagi no Sato-kun / うさぎのさとくん*

**Yuki Ainoya**

**A 2022 Mildred L. Batchelder Honor Book**

**A Horn Book Fanfare Best Book of 2021**

**A Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Book of 2021**

**A Bank Street College of Education Best Book of 2022**

ISBN: 978-4-09-727490-2  
Pages: 60 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: April 2006  
Age: 6+  
Rights Sold: **Catalan, English, Romanian, Spanish**

As Sato waters his garden, puddles on the ground become doors into the sky. A delicious watermelon becomes a boat in the sea. During a meteor shower, Sato catches stars to light a moonless night. The first book in a series whose brief poetic text and gentle illustrations in soft pastel colors are sure to hold readers in a warm, soothing embrace.



## Sato the Rabbit, a Sea of Tea

*Usagi no Sato-kun kocha no umi / うさぎのさとくん こうちのうみ*

**Yuki Ainoya**

ISBN: 978-4-09-726552-8  
Pages: 60 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2014  
Age: 6+  
Rights Sold: **English, Romanian**



**Yuki Ainoya** was born in Yokohama and studied Japanese Art in the Art & Design Department of Tama Art University. She was the winner of the Crayon House Children's Book Grand Prize in 1990 and the Japanese Children's Book Award in 2007 for the original Japanese edition of *Sato the Rabbit*. In her spare time, she likes playing the accordion and hula dancing.



ISBN: 978-4-09-725202-3  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: December 2022  
 Age: 6+

# Sato the Rabbit, the Morning Sun

*Usagi no Sato-kun asahi* / うさぎのさとうくん あさひ

Yuki Ainoya

The fourth, long-awaited book in the endearingly surreal *Sato the Rabbit* series. The main theme of this book is light. Yuki Ainoya explores how light can be manipulated as a physical object and used in ways we would never have thought of.

In the first half of the book, entitled *Asahi* (Morning Sun) Sato grabs the slit of morning sunlight peeking through the curtains of his room and uses it as a tool for various purposes. He stirs with it his coffee, scoops up sparkles from the river, lights with it a fire, cooks and eventually eats it. By the time the slit of sunlight is all gone, night has fallen and it is dark again.

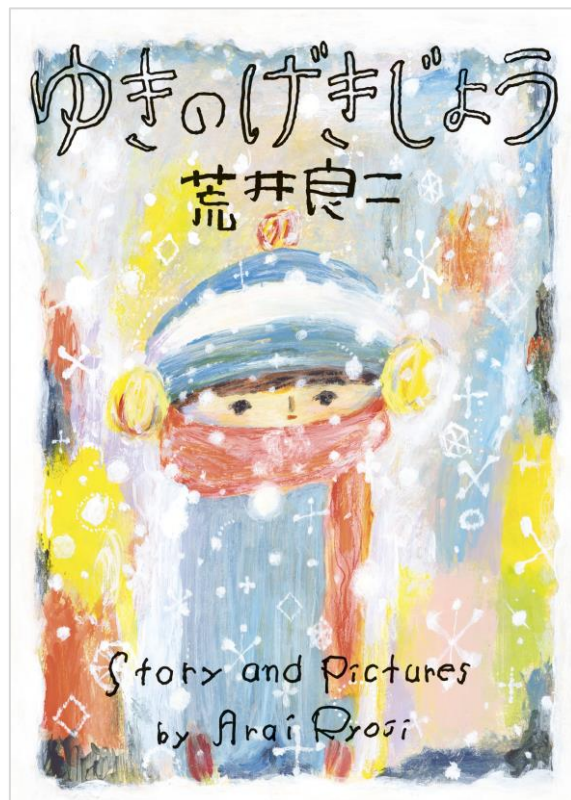
In the second and last story of the book, entitled *Todai* (Lighthouse), Sato's room turns into a lighthouse quietly floating in the sea. The sound of the waves, curiously shaped clouds and an enchanting sunset are only some of the wonders Sato discloses from the seashells he finds on his way.



Praise for the English edition of the series

**"Charming artwork illustrates the interconnectedness among nature, children, and creativity...Sweet, surreal, and contemplative."** *Kirkus Reviews*

**"A surreal symphony of vibrant colors and images...a satisfying ode to the deep power—and beauty—of the imagination."** Nanette McGuinness, *World Kid Lit*



ISBN: 978-4-09-725193-4  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: October 2022  
 Age: 3+  
 Rights Sold: Korean

# The Snow Theater

*Yuki no gekijo / ゆきのげきじょう*

Ryoji Arai

An illustrated book of butterflies is a father's most treasured possession. Yellow, red, white, orange, green butterflies...on a cold, snowy day a boy shows the book to his friend and together they marvel at the beautiful colors. The boy's friend would love to borrow the book and take a closer look, but he tugs it a little too hard and a page suddenly rips. Can his father ever forgive him?

The boy puts on his skis and ventures out in the snow. Troubled thoughts spinning in his head, he suddenly falls in a hole and right in front of him, nestled in the snow, a tiny theater appears. Snow ballerinas twirl at the soft tune of little snowmen singing. As more and more snow continues to fall, the theater magically grows bigger and bigger. The boy is lost in the majestic scene, until "Hey!" A voice suddenly calls from afar and before he knows it his father is by his side. Under a blanket of white snow, a warm and gentle tale unfolds.



**Ryoji Arai** is a Japanese picture book artist living in Tokyo. Born in 1956 in Yamagata Prefecture, he majored in design at Nihon University College of Art. He published his first picture book, *Melody*, in 1990. Since then, he has published more than sixty picture books and illustrated more than two hundred other children's books. Ryoji Arai has also worked with advertising, magazine illustration and theatre set design. He has received many honors in Japan and overseas, including the IBBY Honour List and the Bologna Ragazzi Award. His art has been exhibited in more than ten Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) as the artist representing Japan. In 2005, Ryoji Arai became the first Japanese author to be awarded the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The poem *Almost Nothing, yet Everything: A Book about Water* (Enchanted Lion Books, 2021) written by Hiroshi Osada and illustrated by Ryoji Arai was selected as a USBY Outstanding International Book of 2022.





ISBN: 978-4-09-725211-5  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: February 2023  
 Age: 3+

# The Lone Wolf and the Star

*Ippiki ookami to ohoshi-sama / いっぴきおおかみとおほしさま*

**Maiko Matsumura**

On a clear, starry night a lone wolf running free through the woods meets a star shining bright in the sky. The star is a little tired of always shining in the same fixed place and longs to be as free as the lone wolf. Meanwhile, the wolf admits that it is sure fun to be free, but sometimes a hollow feeling creeps up in the pit of its stomach. "Let's run together!"—the wolf suggests. But how could the star break free from its constellation?



That's when they come up with an ingenious idea and decide to spend some time together. With delicate brushstrokes and vibrant colors, Maiko Matsumura makes light shine through the darkness. At a time when interpersonal relationships have been weakened by the pandemic, her book reminds us of the tenderness and kindness to be found in friendship and mutual care.

**Maiko Matsumura** was born in Nara in 1985. She graduated from the Faculty of Design at Kyoto Seika University and in 2009, just before completing her studies, her work was selected for the Bologna International Picture Book Original Drawing Exhibition. She subsequently moved to Tokyo where she worked for an import book company. She is currently a full-time mother, as well as a painter and an author of picture books. For Iwanami Shoten she illustrated the Japanese edition of *A Picture Book Without Pictures* by Hans Christian Andersen. Her books include *Anata wa sekai no kodomo* (You Are a Child of the World) and the self-published *Hajimaru hajimari* (The Beginning of the Beginning).





ISBN: 978-4-09-725205-4  
Pages: 36 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: November 2022  
Age: 3+

# Chit, the Witch in Training

*Chibikko majo no chitto* / ちびっこまじよのチット

Akiko Tanji

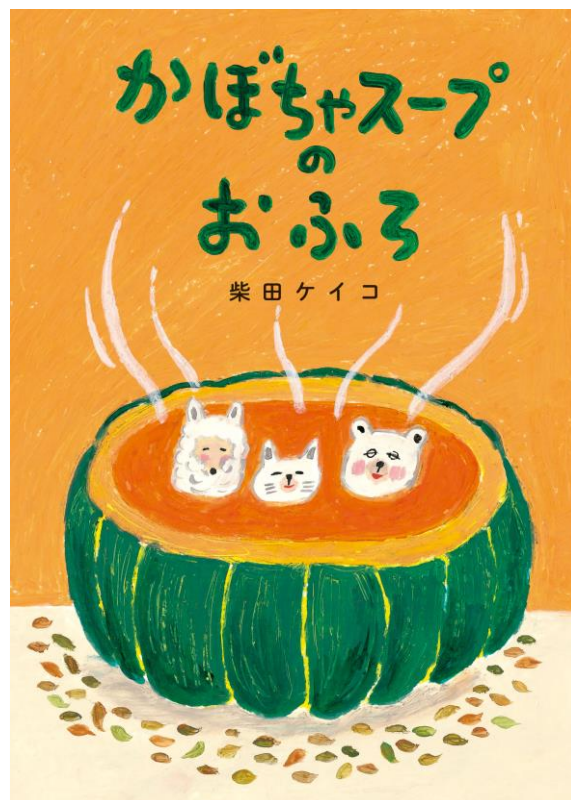
Selected for distribution in the McDonald's Happy Meal Readers Series

Chit dreams of becoming a witch as skilled as her teacher and is determined to practice as hard as she can to make her dream come true. She is excited to take her first test and finally be able to wear a black pointy hat. However, as the day of the test draws near, no matter how hard she tries the magical spell to turn a stone into a cake just does not seem to work. She only manages to turn stones into purplish-brown crumbs with a foul smell that taste nothing like cake.

The night before the test she is so nervous she can't fall asleep, but thanks to the support of her furry friend in the morning she regains her confidence and decides to give it her all. Strawberry shortcakes, blueberry pies, walking past the gorgeous creations of the aspiring little witches, the teacher sticks her finger in the shapeless blob on Chit's plate and..."Yum, it may not look like much but it sure is tasty!" After all Chit does not pass her test but she learns about the happy place in between success and failure.

Akiko Tanji is an illustrator and picture book author born in 1972. The characters she designed for the *Yum. Yum. Yummy* short animation were featured on NHK's educational TV program "Let's Play in English." For Shogakukan she has illustrated the modern reinterpretation of two collections of classic Japanese *rakugo* stories. She currently lives in Tokyo with her cat, who is often portrayed in her artwork.





# The Pumpkin Soup Bath

*Kabocha supu no ofuro* / かぼちゃスープのおふろ

Keiko Shibata

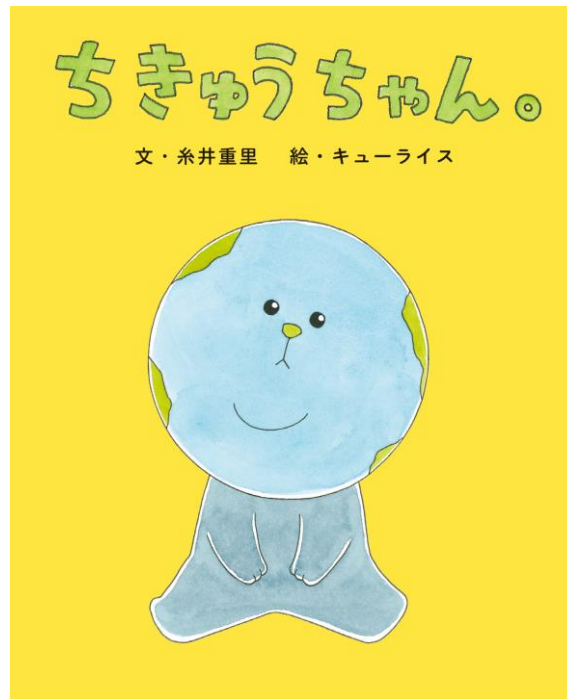
**Selected for distribution in the McDonald's Happy Meal Readers Series**

After playing late in the forest on a cold winter day, three good friends—a polar bear, an alpaca, and a cat—are hungry and exhausted. To get home faster, they decide to take a shortcut but a delicious smell floating in the air once again leads them astray. They soon find out that the smell comes from a huge pumpkin brimming with warm, creamy soup and overtaken with joy they run towards the ladder perched around its perimeter. As they are about to climb up the ladder, they notice a sign. “Pumpkin soup bath. Please come in and warm yourself up! But beware, under no circumstances are you to drink the soup.” Will the three friends be able to control their appetites? A laugh-out-loud picture book exploring what happens when one is told not to do something but can’t help doing it anyway.

ISBN: 978-4-09-725207-8  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: November 2022  
 Age: 0+



**Keiko Shibata** is an illustrator and picture book author based in Kochi Prefecture. Since 2002 she has been active as a freelance illustrator in a wide range of areas, including books, magazines and advertising. Her first picture book, *Meganeko* (The Cat Who Wore Glasses), was published in 2016. She is the author of the *Pan dorobo* (Bread Thief) series that has sold more than 1,600,000 copies in Japan and won numerous awards, such as the Libro Picture Book Award and the Tsutaya Picture Book Award.



ISBN: 978-4-09-726842-0  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: March 2019  
 Age: 3+

# Earthy

*Chikyu-chan* / ちきゅうちゃん

Written by **Shigesato Itoi**, Illustrated by **Qrais**

One day, a boy receives a strange gift from his father. His name is Earthy and his round head looks just like planet Earth with oceans, mountains, and people all peacefully living together on its surface. As days go by, the boy grows increasingly fond of his new friend. Earthy gets on well with everyone and, even though he cannot speak, he is always there by his side. When the boy wonders what he can do for Earthy, a voice suddenly responds, "Why don't you just love him?" Shigesato Itoi's gentle but profound words remind us to show appreciation and love to the precious beings that surround us.



**Shigesato Itoi**, born in 1948 in Gunma Prefecture, is a Japanese copywriter, essayist, lyricist, and actor, but outside Japan he is best known as the game designer of Nintendo's *EarthBound* series of games. He is the editor-in-chief of *Hobo Nikkan Itoi Shinbun* (Almost Daily Itoi Newspaper), which receives more than 1.2 million hits per day. Itoi has voiced Satsuki's father, Tatsuo Kusakabe, in the 1988 Studio Ghibli film *My Neighbor Totoro* and made his acting debut in 2010 in the film adaptation of Haruki Murakami's *Norwegian Wood*. He is the author of many books for children, including a picture book in verse, *Omedetou no ichinensei* (Congratulations on Starting First Grade) and the translator of the Japanese edition of the *Can You See What I See* series, illustrated by Walter Wick.

**Qrais** was born in 1985 in Tochigi Prefecture. In high school he taught himself to make puppet animations, and later at university he learnt *kirigami* animations. After graduating from the Animation Department of Tokyo Zokei University, he joined a video production company in 2009. While working as a commercial director on various audiovisual products, he also created short animations, cartoons, and illustrations. His main picture books include *Chikyu-chan* (Earthy) and *Don Ussa sora o tobu* (Don Ussa Flies Up to the Sky).





ISBN: 978-4-09-725138-5  
 Pages: 48 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: February 2022  
 Age: 5+

# The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises

*Daipinchi zukan* / 大ピンチずかん

Noritake Suzuki

2022 Miraiya Picture Book Grand Prix

2022 Libro Picture Book Award Grand Prix

2022 MOE Picture Booksellers Grand Prix

Over 130,000 copies printed to date

In this illustrated guide, the many possible major crises faced by children in their daily life are categorized according to “level of crisis” and “likelihood of occurrence,” from the least urgent crisis to the most serious one. In addition, each item is accompanied by a description of a similar crisis and suggestions on how to cope with it. With this one book, you will be prepared to overcome whatever obstacle comes your way.

**Noritake Suzuki** was born in 1975 in Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka Prefecture. After working as a company employee and graphic designer, he became a picture book author. He won the 17th Readers’ Prize at the Japan Picture Book Awards for *Boku no toire* (My Toilet) and the 62nd Shogakukan Children’s Publishing Culture Award for *Shigotoba Tokyo Sukai Tsuru* (Workplaces: Tokyo Sky Tree). Major works include the *Shigotoba* (Workplaces) series, *Kawa* (River), and *Oshiri wo shiritai* (I Want to Know More About Butts).



## monpoké Series

monpoké ehon / モンポケえほん



Rikako Matsuo

The first picture book series released by monpoké, the official Pokémon brand for babies. Babies can now explore the wonderful world of Pokémon with Pikachu and his friends!



ISBN: 978-4-09-725136-1  
Pages: 32 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: December 2021  
Age: 3+  
Rights Sold: [English](#)

## Pikachu's First Friends

Pikachu to hajimete no tomodachi / ピカチュウとはじめてのともだち

Rikako Matsuo

Traveling on a small boat, Pikachu discovers an island where many Pokémon live, called monpoké Island. As Pikachu wanders around the island, he meets a very special friend.



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TM, ®, and character names are trademarks of Nintendo.



ISBN: 978-4-09-725187-3  
Pages: 32 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2022  
Age: 3+

## Pikachu's Night Adventure

Pikachu to yoru no tanken / ピカチュウとよるのたんけん

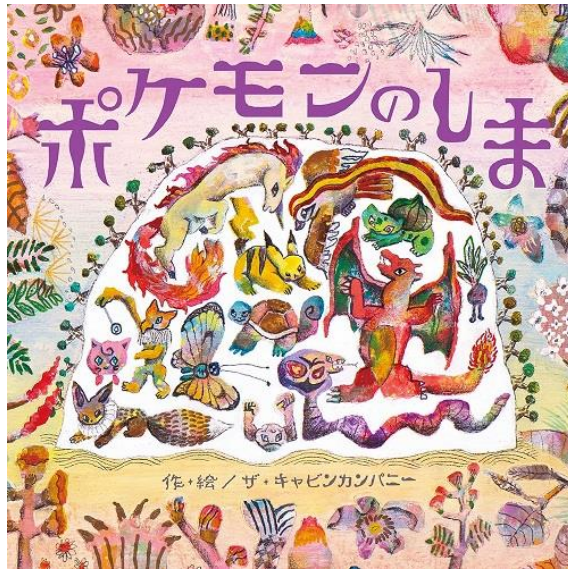
Rikako Matsuo

The second installment of the popular monpoké series takes place on the night of a full moon, ideal for ghosts and other scary surprises. Pikachu and his friends decide to climb Makkuroyama, the so-called pitch-dark mountain. In addition to Pikachu, Dedenne, and Eevee, the book features many other Pokémon that can be encountered at night.



**Rikako Matsuo** was born in 1989 and currently lives and works in Tokyo. A graduate of the printmaking course at the Joshibi University of Art and Design in Tokyo, she has loved Pokémon since she was a primary school student. Her most famous picture books include *Itsutsugo usagi no kissaten* (The Coffee Shop of the Quintuplet Bunnies), *Itsutsugo usagi to umi no houseki* (The Quintuplet Bunnies and the Sea Gem), *Takaramono no anata* (You Are My Treasure), *Ofuro daisuki! Shirokuma kyodai!* (The Polar Bear Siblings Love Taking Baths!), *Sutekina okurimono nakami ha nani?* (What Is in This Beautiful Gift?).





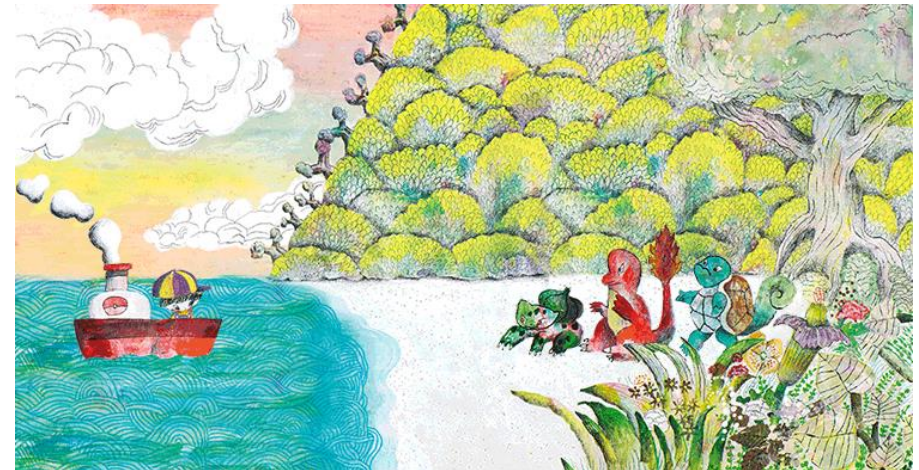
ISBN: 978-4-09-725058-6  
 Pages: 36 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: March 2020  
 Age: 5+

# Pokémon Island

*Pokémon no shima* / ポケモンのしま

**The Cabin Company**

From The Cabin Company art collective, a picture book for Pokémon fans of any age. A young boy reaches the Pokémon Island on his small boat. As soon as the anchor is set, the boy and the Pokémon are best friends and enjoy their time together.



They fly in the sky, dig holes, take naps in the fields, and eat curry. Good times quickly pass by and, as the boy grows up, the day comes to say goodbye. But the time spent together is never to be forgotten. The scene where 151 Pokémon appear is breathtaking.

**The Cabin Company** is the nickname of Kentaro Abe and Saki Yoshioka, a duo of children's book artists. Both were born in Oita Prefecture in 1989 and graduated from the Faculty of Education and Welfare Science at Oita University. They are active in a wide range of fields, mainly in their hometown of Oita, including exhibitions, picture books, illustrations and workshops in galleries and shops. They are currently working in a former elementary school, which they renovated into their studio.

# EARLY YEARS

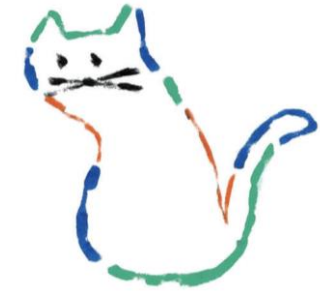


ISBN: 978-4-09-725110-1  
Pages: 28 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: June 2021  
Age: 0+

# Let's Get Striped!

*Shima shima shimasho / しましましましよ*

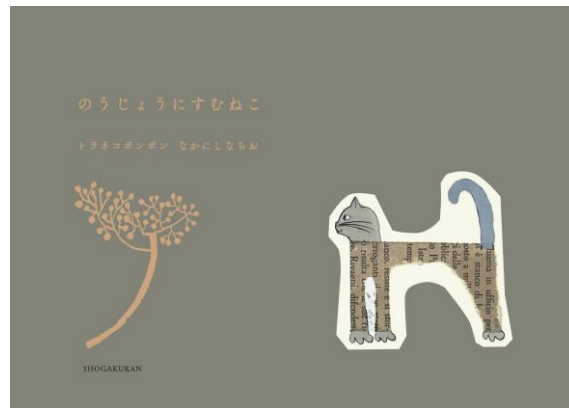
# Jin Kitamura



"Let's get striped!" A zebra runs at full gallop through the pages of the book and, as if in response to its call, a cat, a fish, tree trunks, grass, people, houses, cars, trains, the sky, the sea, the whole world around the zebra gets striped. Jin Kitamura's line drawings have a calming effect on the reader, while the fast-paced crescendo of the story creates a fun sense of rhythm that is perfect for reading aloud.



**Jin Kitamura** was born in Tokyo in 1981. After graduating from the Department of Arts at the School of Humanities and Culture at Tokai University, in 2006 he started his career as a freelance illustrator. His work can be found across various media such as picture books, book covers, merchandising and other products. The minimalist style of his crayon drawings is inspired by everyday life and aims to celebrate the beauty of the ordinary. He was awarded the bronze prize at the 2007 competition of the Tokyo Illustrators Society (TIS) of which he is a member and he is currently a lecturer at the Kobe Design University.



ISBN: 978-4-09-725130-9  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: November 2021  
 Age: 3+

# The Cat on the Farm

*Nojo ni sumu neko* / のうじょうにすむねこ

Nachio Nakanishi

A cat lives on a farm. When it wakes up in the morning, it takes a walk and greets the various friends it encounters. Birds, goats, buffaloes, horses, rabbits, chickens, the animals on the farm are introduced from the cat's unique perspective. The child-like, playful illustrations featuring richly textured collages where animals take the center stage will appeal to both children and adults alike.



**Nachio Nakanishi** was born in Kochi Prefecture and is at the same time a chef and an illustrator. Since 2007, she has been running Toraneko Bonbon, an itinerant restaurant that changes its menu according to the season and location Nakanishi travels to. As an illustrator, she is active in a wide variety of fields, including children's books and other goods. She is the author of *Neko goyomi 365 nichi* (365 Romantic Cat Days) and *Toraneko Bonbon no omotenashi* (Toraneko Bonbon's Hospitality).



## Fingertippy

*Yubisashi-chan / ゆびさしちゃん*

The Cabin Company



ISBN: 978-4-09-726752-2  
Pages: 24 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: November 2017  
Age: 0+

Fingertippy's black and round face hides in unexpected corners of the page. Point your finger and find her! The act of pointing is an important developmental milestone for babies. This picture book encourages the development of new skills while being playful and fun.



**The Cabin Company** is the nickname of Kentaro Abe and Saki Yoshioka, a duo of children's book artists. Both were born in Oita Prefecture in 1989 and graduated from the Faculty of Education and Welfare Science at Oita University. They are active in a wide range of fields, mainly in their hometown of Oita, including exhibitions, picture books, illustrations and workshops in galleries and shops. They are currently working in a former elementary school, which they renovated into their studio.

## Hoo Hoo

*Hoho / ほーほー*

The Cabin Company



ISBN: 978-4-09-726774-4  
Pages: 24 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: February 2018  
Age: 0+

The owl goes "hoo hoo hooooo," the frog "ribbit ribbit." No baby could resist the colorful costumes and amusing expressions of these cute animals, each emitting its own sound. As their eyesight develops, babies begin to respond to colors other than black and white. This new book by The Cabin Company with its rich and beautiful tints is sure to nurture your baby's emotional development.







ISBN: 978-4-09-725158-3  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: April 2022  
 Age: 3+

# Am I a Good Girl?

*Watashi wa ii ko? / わたしは いいこ?*

Michiko Egashira

One day a little girl is asked by her mother, "Can you clean up after yourself like a good girl?" But what does being a "good girl" exactly mean, the girl suddenly wonders. Is a girl good when she tidies up her toys, greets people in a clear voice, refrains from buying sweets, and is happy to lend toys to her friends when asked? Is this really what it takes to be a good girl? Michiko Egashira helps young readers examine and understand simple, everyday situations.



**Michiko Egashira** was born in 1978 in Fukuoka Prefecture and graduated from the Faculty of Education at Kumamoto University. She is the author of many picture books, including the *Osanpo* (Walking) book series published by Kodansha.

## Touch!

*Sawatte sawatte / さわって さわって*

Michiko Egashira



ISBN: 978-4-09-725090-6  
Pages: 24 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: November 2020  
Age: 0+

This picture book encourages parents to communicate with their babies through tactile experiences. Finger and body play help parents connect to their babies and truly enjoy their time together. Especially recommended for first-time mothers and fathers.



## Many Ways to Help

*Iroiro otetsudai / いろいろおてっだい*

Michiko Egashira



ISBN: 978-4-09-725045-6  
Pages: 32 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: March 2020  
Age: 3+  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Thai

Hana wants to help preparing a meal. What can she do to help? A picture book that nurtures children's desire to be independent and try something new.



ISBN: 978-4-09-726760-7  
Pages: 32 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: March 2018  
Age: 3+  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Thai

## Many Ways to Get Ready

*Iroiro oshitaku / いろいろおしたく*

Michiko Egashira

Turn the pages and find out how Hana, the main character, wakes up in the morning and gets ready to go to school. A picture book that encourages children to find excitement in their morning routine.



ISBN: 978-4-09-726702-7  
Pages: 32 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: March 2017  
Age: 3+  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Thai

## Many Types of Letters

*Iroiro otegami / いろいろおてがみ*

Michiko Egashira

Hana loves receiving letters. Every day she waits in front of the mailbox for her letters to arrive. A fun play book that invites children to imagine where each letter came from.

# PICTURE BOOKS

## Vroom Vroom, Splosh

*Buroron dororon / ブロロンどろん*

Nao Takabatake



ISBN: 978-4-09-725149-1  
Pages: 36 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: March 2022  
Age: 0+  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified)

On the sidewalk a can of paint has fallen over, spilling paint on the main road. When cars rush by, over and over people on the sidewalk are splashed with colorful paint. Every time you turn the page, you will be amazed by the outlandish shapes people's silhouette leave impressed on the wall. Welcome to the spontaneous and richly imaginative world of Nao Takabatake.



**Nao Takabatake** was born in Gifu Prefecture in 1978 and graduated from the Department of Painting at Tokyo Zokei University. In 2003 he won the Kodansha Award for New Writers of Children's Literature for *Mukatta saki wa* (The Destination) and in 2013 he received the Japan Picture Book Award for *Kaeru no odekake* (Frog's Day Out). He is the son of Jun Takabatake, one of Japan's best-loved illustrators of children's literature.

## Climbing a Cow

*Ushi tozan / うしとざん*

Nao Takabatake



ISBN: 978-4-09-725085-2  
Pages: 32 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: December 2020  
Age: 3+

2021 Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award  
2021 Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award

Cows are easy to climb. Let's give it a try. Grab and hold on tightly! Grab and hold on tightly! By grabbing on to the hair of the cow's front hooves, up the man climbs. What will he find once he reaches the top? Why is he climbing a cow?

Nao Takabatake's unique charm is on full display in this eccentric and unexpected story that will make you smile no matter how many times you read it.







ISBN: 978-4-09-725115-6  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2021  
 Age: 3+

# The Space Department Store

*Uchu hyakkaten* / うちゅうひゃっかてん

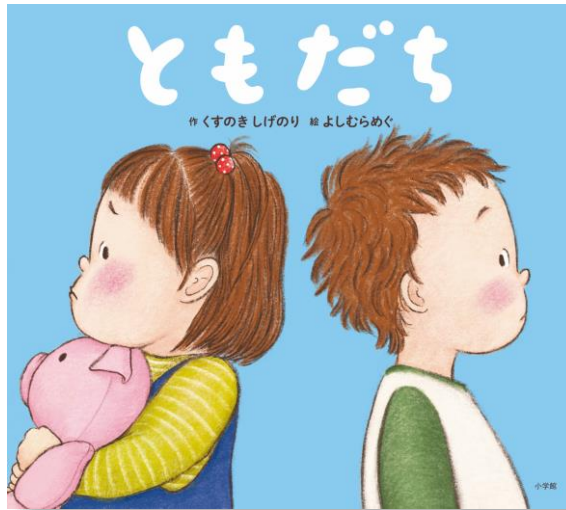
Mayu Kuroiwa

Welcome to the Space Department Store, where even screaming children can't hold back their laughter! Make yourself comfortable and enjoy the best selection of goods and hospitality in the whole wide universe. With a satisfied look on his face, the director monitors from his office customers from different planets as they swarm in and out of the various sections of his store. In the midst of it all, he can't believe what he spots. Are those two sad faces!? Promptly the clerks are instructed to take the matter in their hands and make sure the little child and his mum have the best time of their lives. Will the director succeed? Does the entire universe express happiness with a smile? The first picture book by a contemporary artist transposing on page the bewitching atmosphere of her art installations.

**Mayu Kuroiwa** is a contemporary artist based in Kanagawa Prefecture. Her works have been exhibited in galleries throughout Japan, including the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum and the Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre. Renowned for her eclectic use of a variety of materials and techniques, Mayu Kuroiwa's work ranges from two-dimensional and three-dimensional installations to picture books.







ISBN: 978-4-09-725141-5  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: March 2022  
 Age: 3+

# Friends

*Tomodachi* / ともだち

Written by **Shigenori Kusunoki**, Illustrated by **Megu Yoshimura**

On a bright sunny day, a little boy of about Mizuki's same age moves into the house next door. When she sees him standing on the street, Mizuki timidly walks closer and, hoping they can become friends, she says hello. The boy doesn't even turn to look at her and, only after she raises her voice, he notices her presence and responds with a strange hand gesture. Not understanding the meaning of the gesture, Mizuki pulls a face that startles the boy and makes him run back into the house. Including an illustrated guide to simple one-word signs, this book introduces children to sign language and conveys the importance of trying to understand each other without mental preconceptions.



**Shigenori Kusunoki** was born in Tokushima Prefecture in 1961 and graduated from the Naruto University of Education. After working as an elementary school teacher and deputy director of a municipal library, he became an author of children's books and a lecturer. Published by Shogakukan and translated into many languages, *Okodademasen-youni* (I Hope I Don't Get Scolded) sold 350,000 copies and *Megane wo kaketara* (When She Put on Her Glasses) sold 130,000 copies.

**Megu Yoshimura** is a Japanese illustrator, born in Osaka in 1973. She graduated from the Department of Aesthetics and Art History, Faculty of Letters at Otemae Women's University. A former art teacher, she studied picture book making at Yuyu Ehon Correspondence Course and she won in 2019 the MOE Picture Booksellers Grand Prix for *Mamezara-chan* (The Bean Plate), written by Masumi Asano. For Shogakukan she has illustrated the series of children's written books by Eiko Kadono, including *Neko ni natchatta* (I Turned into a Cat).



ISBN: 978-4-09-725073-9  
 Pages: 28 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2020  
 Age: 3+  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified)

## I Turned Into a Cat

*Neko ni natchatta / ねこになっちゃった*

Written by **Eiko Kadono**, Illustrated by **Megu Yoshimura**

Stuffed animals, Tiger-Tiger and Bear, are Ako's best friends. They always play together. One day their favorite cat, Mimi, pays them a visit. Ako and her friends draw whiskers on their faces, meow and purr. They all pretend to be cats.



ISBN: 978-4-09-725106-4  
 Pages: 28 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: June 2021  
 Age: 3+

## A Spell for Those in Pain

*Itaitoki no omajinai / いたいときのおまじない*

Written by **Eiko Kadono**, Illustrated by **Megu Yoshimura**

One day Ako is in a bad mood. She kicks a rock and hits by mistake a polar bear, causing him to get a huge bump on his head. As the polar bear is fussing and screaming in pain, Ako comes up with a special spell. Parents can practice counting with their children, as they cast Ako's spell to alleviate pain.

**Eiko Kadono** is a Japanese author of children's literature, picture books, non-fiction, and essays. *Kiki's Delivery Service*, released in 1985, is her most famous work and was made into an anime film by Hayao Miyazaki. In 2018, she won the Hans Christian Andersen Award.



ISBN: 978-4-09-725095-1  
 Pages: 28 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: March 2021  
 Age: 3+  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified)

## Reach for the Sun

*Poka poka guun / ぽかぽかぐーん*

Written by **Eiko Kadono**, Illustrated by **Megu Yoshimura**

On a warm and sunny day, Ako stretches out and all of a sudden, strangely enough, she seems to have grown a little taller. Then the cat also stretches out, and the dandelion, the caterpillar, the house, the tree, they all stretch out. A picture book that makes you want to grow taller as you read.



ISBN: 978-4-09-725092-0  
 Pages: 28 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: December 2020  
 Age: 3+  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified)

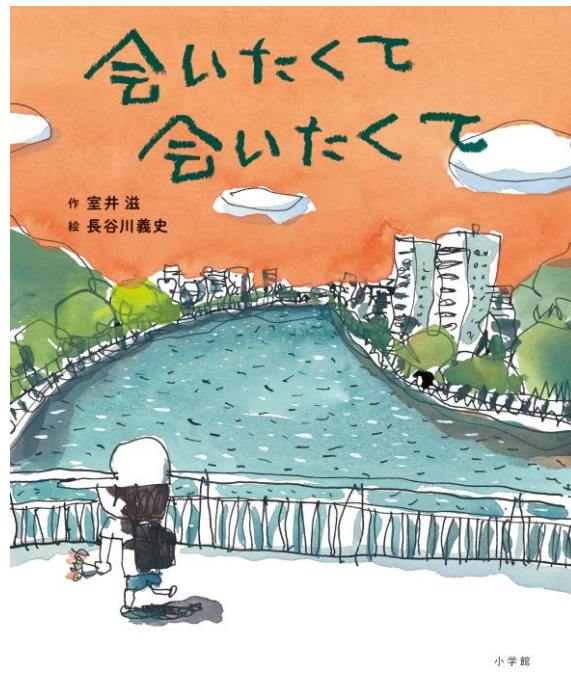
## Santa's Three Hugs

*Dakko sankai santa kurosu / だっこさんかいサンタクロース*

Written by **Eiko Kadono**, Illustrated by **Megu Yoshimura**

It's Christmas Eve! Will Santa visit Ako's house? Barely able to contain her excitement, Ako gets ready to welcome Santa with her stuffed animal friends, Tiger-Tiger and Bear. Just as they are falling asleep, Santa arrives. What will his special present be?

**Megu Yoshimura** is a Japanese illustrator, born in Osaka in 1973. She graduated from the Department of Aesthetics and Art History, Faculty of Letters at Otemae Women's University and won in 2019 the MOE Picture Booksellers Grand Prix for *Mamezara-chan* (The Bean Plate), written by Masumi Asano.



ISBN: 978-4-09-725096-8  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: January 2021  
 Age: 3+  
 Rights Sold: Korean

# I Miss You So Much

*Aitakute aitakute* / 会いたくて会いたくて

Written by **Shigeru Muroi**, Illustrated by **Yoshifumi Hasegawa**

An official selection of the Japan School Library Association

40,000 copies sold in Japan

Kei loves his grandmother and wishes they never had to be apart. No matter how many times his mother tells him it is impossible to meet, one day he sneaks out after school and heads straight to the nursing home where she lives. He knows he won't get to meet her, but stands under the window of her third-floor room and throws erasers, hats, shoes at it to catch her attention. Just as he is about to give up, Kei's grandmother waves from the window and a note flutters down to the ground. "Please come back next week!"

When he returns to the same spot the following week a toilet paper core tied to a red string is hanging from the window. He holds it against his ear, and as if by magic he can finally hear his grandmother's voice. "Even if you can't meet a person you love, if your feelings for them are strong enough the world around you will start shining brightly. All you have to do is look carefully." And sure enough, on the same old way home a four-leaf clover stands out among the grass.

**Shigeru Muroi**, born in 1958 in Toyama Prefecture, started her acting career while still a student at Waseda University and won the Best Supporting Actress Award at the 18th Japan Academy Prize for her role in the movie *Izakaya yurei* (Ghost Pub). She is the Japanese voice of Dory in the Disney animated films *Finding Nemo* and *Finding Dory* and is also the author of many picture books, including the *Shige-chan* series illustrated by Yoshifumi Hasegawa.

**Yoshifumi Hasegawa** was born in Osaka in 1961. After working as a graphic designer and illustrator, he made his debut as a picture book author in 2000 with *Ojiichan no Ojiichan no Ojiichan no Ojiichan* (Grandpa's Grandpa's Grandpa's Grandpa). In 2008, he was awarded the Japan Picture Book Award and the Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award for *Boku ga ramen tabeteru toki* (When I Eat Ramen).



ISBN: 978-4-09-725104-0

Pages: 40 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: April 2021

Age: 6+

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Korean

# In a World of Two Square Meters

*Ni heiho metoru no sekai de / 二平方メートルの世界で*

Written by **Mion Maeda**, Illustrated by **Koshiro Hata**

**Based on the essay that won the 2020 Children's Non-Fiction Literature Award**

A third-grade elementary school student living in Sapporo has had to be hospitalized from time to time due to a congenital brain disease. When she enters the hospital, her existence is temporarily confined to a bed. Her mother stays by her side, but during radiation treatment they are separated by a glass wall. She can't help feeling sorry about her elder brother, who is left at home on his own. Why is she the only one who is sick?

One day, she finds scribbles beneath the overbed table in her hospital room from the inpatients who used the bed before her and realizes that she is not alone. A heartwarming non-fiction picture book in which a ten-year-old girl recounts her own real-life experiences.



**Mion Maeda** was born in Takikawa, Hokkaido in 2010. She repeatedly entered and exited the hospital since the age of three with an intractable malformation of cortical development, called focal cortical dysplasia. She loves playing chess, swimming, and reading.

**Koshiro Hata** is a picture book author and illustrator, born in 1963 in Hyogo Prefecture. Graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Kyoto Seika University, besides picture books, he is active as an illustrator and book designer. His picture books include *Hajimete no okesutora* (My First Orchestra) and *Itazura no sukina kenchikuka* (The Mischievous Architect), both published by Shogakukan.



## My First Orchestra

*Hajimete no okesutora* / はじめてのオーケストラ

Written by **Yutaka Sado**, Illustrated by **Koshiro Hata**



ISBN: 978-4-09-726671-6

Pages: 40 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: October 2016

Age: 6+

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), French, Korean

The first picture book by world-renowned conductor, Yutaka Sado, written in the hope as many children as possible will be able to experience a classical music concert. The main character is a six-year-old girl, whose father is a conductor. But what does a conductor do? What does "orchestra" mean? When the long-awaited occasion arrives to attend her father's concert, all the family dresses up and heads to the concert hall. The hall is brimming with musicians. As the stage goes dark and the girl's father takes the podium, the magic begins...



**Yutaka Sado** was born in 1961 in Kyoto. He graduated from the Kyoto City University of Arts and studied under the late Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa, among others. Guest conductor of many prestigious orchestras in Europe, including the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, in September 2015 he was appointed as Music Director of one of Austria's leading orchestras, the Tonkünstler Orchestra.

## The Mischievous Architect

*Itazura no sukina kenchikuka* / いたずらのすきなけんちくか

Written by **Tadao Ando**, Illustrated by **Koshiro Hata**



ISBN: 978-4-09-725056-2

Pages: 40 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: February 2020

Age: 6+

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Korean

The first picture book by internationally renowned architect, Tadao Ando. The book is set in the Nakanoshima Children's Book Forest, a new library inaugurated in Osaka in spring 2020 and designed by Tadao Ando specifically for children, with floor-to-ceiling, outward-facing books. Two elementary school students visit the new library for the first time and are shown around by a mysterious man who looks very much like Mr. Ando. As they walk around, many questions surface. Why do you make these buildings? What does an architect do? The guide thoughtfully responds.

**Tadao Ando** was born in 1941 in Osaka. A self-taught architect, after traveling the world and admiring its architectural wonders, at the age of twenty-eight, he established the Tadao Ando Architectural Institute. His representative works include the Church of Light, Pulitzer Arts Foundation and Chichu Art Museum. He was awarded numerous prizes, including the AIJ Prize for *Sumiyoshi no nagaya* (Row House in Sumiyoshi) and the Pritzker Architecture Prize. He is actively involved in environmental activities such as the *Umi-no-mori* (Sea Forest) Project, which transforms landfill sites into forests, and the Osaka tree planting project, *Sakura no kai heisei no torinuke* (Tunnel of Cherry Blossom Trees).



# **H O M E   L E A R N I N G**



ISBN: 978-4-09-259207-0  
 Pages: 128 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: June 2022  
 Age: 8+

# Holes: An Illustrated Guide to Peeping

*Nozoku zukan ana / のぞく図鑑 穴*

Tamaki Miyata

Tunnels, manholes, stalactite caves, animal dens, no matter where you turn your gaze you will find a hole. But have you ever wondered what's behind those holes? From a five-yen coin to a black hole, more than 200 holes of various size and nature are organized into five categories: holes existing in nature, holes that provide shelter, micro holes, halls in science, man-made mines and tunnels. Illustrated in full color throughout and packed full of information, fun activities inspire a sense of curiosity for the world we usually take for granted.



Tamaki Miyata, born in Hyogo Prefecture in 1964, made his debut as a writer in 1995 with the travel essay *Tabi no rifujin Ajia monzetsu-hen* (The Inconvenience of Travelling: Asia in Agony). Since then, he has published books on such unique subjects as roller coasters, giant Buddhas, marine invertebrates, stones, and the Shikoku Pilgrimage, all told from his unique perspective. His main publications include *li kanji no ishikoro o hiroi ni* (To Pick Up a Nice Stone) and *Nippon 47 todoufukun shojiki kankou an'nai* (An Honest Tourist Guide to Japan's 47 Prefectures).



ISBN: 978-4-09-259206-3

Pages: 128 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: June 2022

Age: 8+

# Buttons: An Illustrated Guide to Pressing

*Osu zukan botan* / 押す図鑑 ボタン

Masayuki Nishimura

From bus and elevator buttons to the "Like" button on social media, buttons are an essential component of our daily lives and their use is so extensive both in the physical and virtual world that it seems no movement would be possible without pressing a button. Transport-related buttons, buttons for calculating, buttons for ordering food, buttons in our homes, safety buttons, buttons emitting sounds, more than 50 types of buttons and switches are introduced by theme. Illustrated in full color throughout and packed full of information, find out what is hiding just under your fingertips.



**Masayuki Nishimura** was born in Tottori Prefecture in 1975. He is the author of *Fushigina kenzakai arukeru, matageru, tanoshimeru* (Mysterious Prefectural Borders to Walk, Cross, and Enjoy) and the co-author of *Tanoshii rosenzu* (Fun Route Maps) and *Nihon no rosenzu* (Route Maps of Japan). He is renowned for his ability to stimulate interest into subjects of the most different kind.





ISBN: 978-4-09-227251-4  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: November 2021  
 Age: 6+

# An Illustrated Guide to the World's Most Confusing Animals

*Sekaichi magirawashii dobustu zukan* / 世界一まぎらわしい動物図鑑

Tadaki Imaizumi

From the bestselling author of *Zannenna ikimono jiten* (Dictionary of Unfortunate Creatures), a fascinating introduction to the wonders of "convergent evolution," the process whereby organisms not closely related, independently evolve similar traits. Leopards and jaguars, alpacas and llamas, many animals look and behave exactly alike, but belong to completely different species. How could this have happened? Why are there so many confusing animals? The body shape of animals is determined by where they live and what they eat. A long tail is useful for balancing on trees, while a lean body is useful in water. Carnivores need sharp fangs, while herbivores need strong front teeth to bite off stems. In order to survive, animals of different species have adapted to their natural environment and some of their features have over time come to converge. Solve the mysteries of evolution through zoologist Tadaki Imaizumi's photo quizzes and analytical spreads.



Tadaki Imaizumi was born in Tokyo in 1944 and was greatly influenced in his childhood by his father who was a zoologist. After graduating from the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, he studied mammalian ecology and taxonomy as a special research student at the National Museum of Nature and Science in Tokyo. He worked as a zookeeper at the Ueno Zoo and later became the director of the Izu-Kogen Cat Museum. He also served as director of the Japan Institute of Animal Science and the Japan Cat Science Institute. His books have sold a total of 3.5 million copies and in 2004 he received the Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award for *Edokko garasu* (The Crow of Edo).

## Fun to Touch Tactile Books

*Sawatte tanoshii rerifu bukku / さわってたのしいレリーフブック*

**Junko Murayama**

Unique picture books with accordion-style binding that blind, visually impaired and sighted children can enjoy together. Published in collaboration with the Association for the Publication and Dissemination of Braille Picture Books in Japan, these illustrated tactile books encourage children to study with their fingertips the distinctive shape and features of different animals.



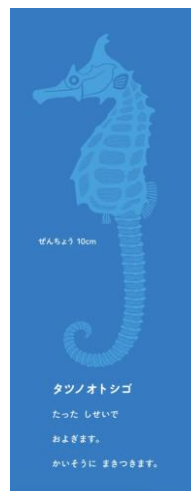
ISBN: 978-4-09-725101-9  
Pages: 12 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2021  
Age: 0+

## Fish

*Sakana / さかな*

**Junko Murayama**

Discover amazing aquatic creatures with your fingertips. White sharks, coelacanths, seahorses, flying fish, and boxfish, more than twenty species of marine fish are included in this new illustrated tactile book by Junko Murayama. The surprising shape of bodies, scales, and thorns will blow your mind away.



## The Animal Cracker Zoo

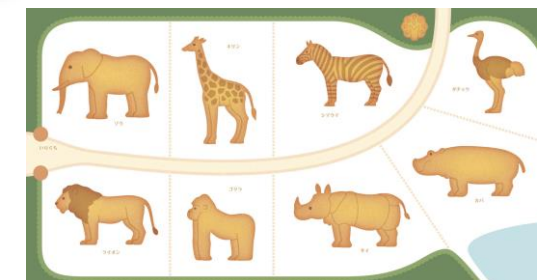
*Okashi no dobutsuen / おかしのどうぶつえん*

**Junko Murayama**



ISBN: 978-4-09-725195-8  
Pages: 12 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2022  
Age: 0+

Explore the paths of this deliciously intricate zoo by tracing the embossed animal crackers with your fingertips. Elephants, lions, giraffes, zebras, rhinos, hippos and other irresistible animal-shaped crackers are lined up in clearly distinct sections one after the other and are easily recognizable thanks to their different shapes.



**Junko Murayama** is a book designer. She graduated from the Department of Visual Communication Design at Musashino Art University and has designed many books for children. The award-winning three volumes of the *Sawaru meiro* (Touch and Feel Mazes) series were her first braille picture books.

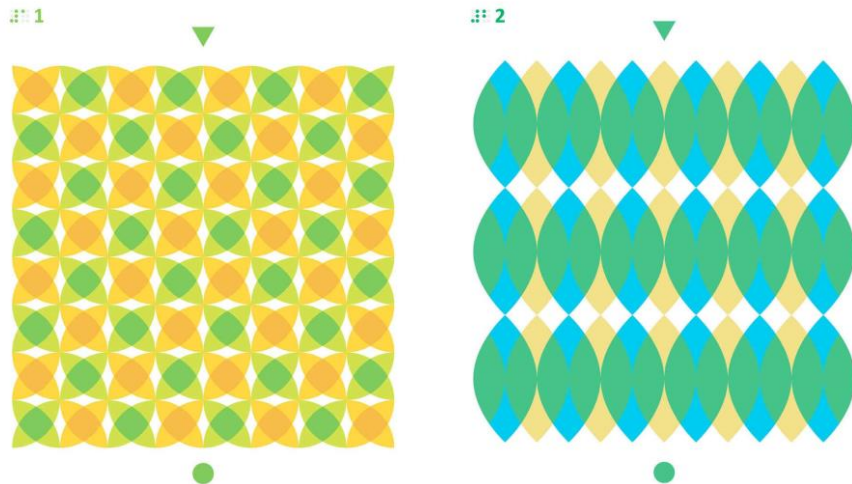


# Touch and Feel Mazes Series

*Sawaru meiro / さわるめいろ*

**Junko Murayama**

Sharpen your fingertips and solve these tactile mazes by tracing the lines of raised dots. Designed for visually impaired and blind people, anyone from preschool children to adults can play. Each book starts with an easy maze where a single line needs to be followed, before moving on to more difficult ones. Dots, embossed with resin ink, are 0.4 mm high and the accordion-style binding makes this series much more affordable than ordinary braille books.

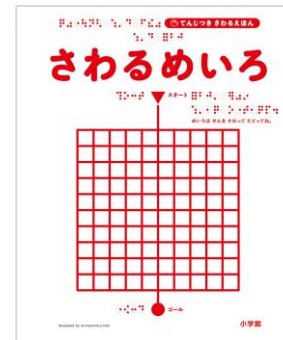


Recommended by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)

Exhibited at the 2017 Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB)

2014 Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award

2015 Japan Book Design Awards, Jury's Encouragement Prize



## Touch and Feel Mazes 1

*Sawaru meiro / さわるめいろ*

**Junko Murayama**

ISBN: 978-4-09-726497-2

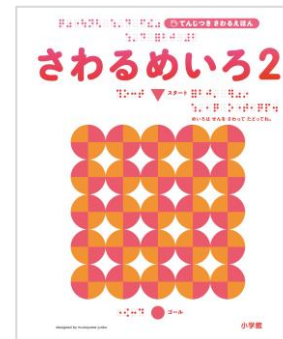
Pages: 12 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: February 2013

Age: 5+

Rights Sold: English, Chinese (Traditional), German



## Touch and Feel Mazes 2

*Sawaru meiro 2 / さわるめいろ2*

**Junko Murayama**

ISBN: 978-4-09-726575-7

Pages: 12 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: January 2015

Age: 5+

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), German



## Touch and Feel Mazes 3

*Sawaru meiro 3 / さわるめいろ3*

**Junko Murayama**

ISBN: 978-4-09-725011-1

Pages: 10 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: September 2019

Age: 5+

# The First Time King Series

*Hajimete okoku / はじめて王国*

Written by **Tojo-san**, Riddles by **Hironori Ozawa**, Illustrated by **Michiko Tachimoto**

Riddle books for early elementary school students written in collaboration with prestigious cram school Hama Gakuen under the supervision of Shogakukan's Dictionary Department. Easy-to-read and accompanied by fun, full-color illustrations, riddles, jokes, brainteasers challenge readers to think outside the box and cultivate a natural inclination to scientific inquiry and mathematical thinking. A series that is sure to make you smarter.



**Michiko Tachimoto** was born in Ishikawa Prefecture in 1976 and graduated from the Department of Design at Osaka University of Art. In 2001, she launched the "colobockle" label, which produces multimedia projects for children. She creates illustrations for picture books, textbooks, dictionaries, TV programs and toys for children with an educational purpose, but is also active in a number of other fields, such as advertising and product design.



ISBN: 978-4-09-289777-9  
Pages: 80 pages  
Publication: December 2019  
Age: 3+  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified),  
Chinese (Traditional)

## The Mandatory Solo Concert

*Soro konsato wa zettai zetsumei / ソロコンサートはぜったいぜつめい*

Written by **Tojo-san**, Riddles by **Hironori Ozawa**, Illustrated by **Michiko Tachimoto**

The king who loves doing things for the first time wants to organize a solo concert. The whole kingdom is buzzing in preparation. However, as the king soon finds out, singing on one's own is not as easy as it seems.



ISBN: 978-4-09-289779-3  
Pages: 80 pages  
Publication: March 2020  
Age: 6+  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified),  
Chinese (Traditional)

## The Unprecedented Strawberry Festival

*Zendaimimon no ichigo fesu / ぜんだいみもんのいちごフェス*

Written by **Tojo-san**, Riddles by **Hironori Ozawa**, Illustrated by **Michiko Tachimoto**

The king who loves doing things for the first time wants to host a strawberry festival where he can pick an unprecedented number of strawberries. In order to fulfill his wish, all the strawberries in the kingdom are gathered. However, on the night before the festival, a mysterious shadow looms large over the strawberries...



ISBN: 978-4-09-289310-8  
Pages: 80 pages  
Publication: April 2021  
Age: 3+  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified),  
Chinese (Traditional)

## The Zoo in Dire Straits

*Dobutsuen wa isskokusokuhatsu / どうぶつえんはいっしょくそくはつ*

Written by **Tojo-san**, Riddles by **Hironori Ozawa**, Illustrated by **Michiko Tachimoto**

The king who loves doing things for the first time holds a one-day zoo at his castle. After closing time, someone unlocks the cages and the animals come out. Who freed the animals? Is the lion's den also unlocked?