

FRANKFURT INT. BOOK FAIR 2025

**BOOKS
FROM JAPAN**

FICTION

J F C



SHUEISHA, 2022

Short Stories

The Stage That Lies in Your Palm

This is a collection of eight short stories, all of those are related to plays or stages in some way. In "Let Me Hold the Unicorn," a high school girl spends five days with her "Aunt Laura," a distant relative who used to be an actress, during her college entrance exams. At her aunt's house, a line of dialogue from Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie" is written in small letters on all the dishes. When the words appear at the bottom of a cup of tea, the aunt suddenly speaks the line. Her voice is taut, a far cry from her previous voice. In "The Prophecy of the Double Fault," the story is about the former owner of a clothes shop who dutifully watches all seventy-nine performances of the musical "Les Miserables" and is eventually invited to the room of a woman who "lives" at the Imperial Theatre. The protagonist of "Ms. Flower-Pattern" is a woman known in the neighborhood for her flower-patterned skirts, who waits at the backstage entrances of various theaters for performers in plays she has never seen, and collects pamphlets signed by them. After her death, a stack of tightly packed pamphlets under her bed was found, like a geological formation..... Every character's action is a secret, secretive affair... The serenity common to all eight plays is born from the fact that they are pre-destined to "become something that never happened. The power of the brush to reveal the impossible, the impossible person, and the wonder and mystery it spins out. The stage that lies in the palm of your hand" itself is a play of Ogawa.

— from the commentary by Kazuko Matsuoka, the translator and the stage critics, run on Sep. 2022 issue of *Seishun to Dokusho*, the PR magazine by Shueisha



KODANSHA, 2015

Novel

Blink of Amber

The story begins with an anonymous elderly woman. Once a pianist, her hands are now deformed with arthritis, and her favorite pastime is writing "suggestions" to the facility in which she lives as she waits for a daughter who never comes. The nameless woman treasures time spent with a fellow resident, a man called Amber who has an amber-colored eye. In an almost inaudible voice, he shares episodes from his life. It is his story that dominates, interspersed with snippets of the woman's current existence.

When Amber is eight years old, his three-year-old sister dies from an illness. Amber's mother is distraught. Deciding that her daughter's death was caused by the curse of an evil dog, she takes Amber, his eleven-year-old sister and his five-year-old brother to a secluded villa far from town to protect them from a similar fate. This property was the only thing bequeathed to her by the father of her children, a publisher of encyclopedias to whom she had been not a wife, but a mistress. She had met him when she modeled for his encyclopedia of household items... In the isolation of their family life, each of the three children grows up spreading the wings of their imagination in abundance, but...



Who's OGAWA?

Born in Okayama City in 1962. Graduated from Waseda University, Faculty of Literature. Won the Kaien New Writers Award for *When Butterflies Break* in 1988, the Akutagawa Award for *Pregnancy Calendar* in 1991, the Yomiuri Literary Award and the Honya Taisho Award Bookstore Award for *The Housekeeper and the Professor* in 2004, and the Izumi Kyoka Literary Award for *The Burial of Brahman* the same year. In 2006, he won the Tanizaki Junichiro Prize for *Mina's March*. In 2007, she was awarded the Chevalier de la Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France. In 2013, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's Art Encouragement Prize for *Little Bird*. In 2020, she received the Noma Prize for Literature for *Little Box*.



KADOKAWA, 2018

Short Stories

The Good Whistling Snow White

A woman whose job is to take care of babies in a public bathhouse. A mother who reunites with her dead son at the theater. A receptionist who leaves books of her beloved authors all over the place... The earnest steps of these people, who cannot be mended, strike a deep chord in the heart. A serene and beautiful collection of masterpiece short stories.



SHINCHOSHA, 2013

Short Stories

Always They Are Somewhere Else

Like a banded horse with a full mane, standing still and close to Deep Impact, the king of the racehorses. Like the beaver in the deep forest, wrestling with a large tree with its small teeth. Like the rabbit, the symbol of the village, even now extinct... Animals and people are living their lives, fulfilling their roles. Eight stories filled with the warmth of those who find themselves beside us.

001

002



ことり
小川洋子

Little Bird

An elder brother who cannot speak human language but understands birdsong, and a younger brother who is the only one who can understand his brother's words. The two live modestly, supporting each other. Eventually, the older brother dies, and the younger brother is called "Little Bird's Father". A tender and sad depiction of the lives of these modest brothers.

ASAHI SHIMBUN PUB., 2012

Novel

003



最果てアーケード
小川洋子

The Farthest End Arcade

Used postcards, artificial eyes, emblems, blasts, toy musical instruments, doll hats, doorknobs, fossils.... Who in the world would buy such a thing? The smallest arcade in the world, where all the stores selling "who in the world would buy such a thing? Even if there is only one person who needs it, we patiently wait until that one person arrives.

KODANSHA, 2012

Short Stories

004



人質の朗読会
小川洋子

Hostages' Reading

From a distant and isolated place, their voices reached us. The reading session begins with the sound of turning papers, coughing, and modest applause. Listening carefully to this act, which resembles a prayer, are the hostages, the criminal on guard, and... A deeply moving and profoundly moving novel in the unique world of Ogawa.

CHUOKORON-SHINSHA, 2011

Novel

005



細を抱いて象と泳ぐ
小川洋子

Swimming With the Elephant While Cradling the Cat

Growing up is a tragedy. With this warning, the boy, who has stopped growing while still in the body of an 11-year-old, manipulates a doll to play chess. His name is Little Alyokhin. He sees infinite possibilities in the sea of the board. The novel wistfully depicts the strange fates with his imaginary friends Indra and Mummy, the undersea chess club, the girl with a white dove on her shoulder, and the old woman's daughter

BUNGEISHUNJU, 2009

Novel

006



ミナのマーズ
小川洋子

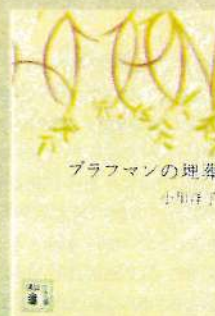
Mina's March

Mina was beautiful, strong, and loved books. The memories of you will never be lost. This is the story of two girls and their family who were brought up in a Western-style house in Ashiya during the year of the Munich Olympics. A new masterpiece of a full-length novel by Yoko Ogawa with warm illustrations. Winner of the 42nd Tanizaki Junichiro Award.

CHUOKORON-SHINSHA, 2006

Novel

007



ブラフマンの埋葬
小川洋子

The Burial of Brahman

According to the will of the president of a publishing company, the "Creator's House" provides a place to work for artists who are engaged in all kinds of creative activities. Brahman came to me, the caretaker of that house - . This is a story of a summer spent in contact with and watching over this beloved creature, whose name means "mystery" in Sanskrit.

KODANSHA, 2004

Novel

008



SHINCHOSHA, 2003

Novel

Gift of Numbers

"My memory only lasts 80 minutes." This was written on an old note pinned to the sleeve of his suit. I was always the "new" housekeeper for the professor, who had lost his memory. He asked my shoe size and my birthday. Numbers were his words. Soon my 10-year-old son joined us, and the awkward days turned into ones of wonder and joy. A miraculous love story that is so sad and warm. Winner of the 1st Honya Grand Prize.

009



ASAHI SHIMBUN PUB., 2002

Novel

Resurrection of Lady A

The narrator is me, a college student. The characters include my aunt, who calls herself Anastasia, a Romanov princess; my boyfriend, Nico, who has trouble getting through doors because of his OCD; and Ohara, a disreputable taxidermy enthusiast, and the world unfolds in a dimension different from our own.

010



SHINCHOSHA, 2001

Short Stories

Eye Lid

A swimmer who remembers his previous life. Two strange men show up at a cooking class. An old woman who meets with an plane accident on the way back from visiting the grave of her pen friend. Where do they appear from and where do they disappear to? Even after waking up, they go into the nightmare where numbness remains in their bodies.... A collection of masterpiece short stories.

011



CHIKUMA SHOBO, 2000

Novel

Museum of Silence

A scalpel specially designed for ear reduction surgery, a bison pelt, cut-off nipples... "What I sought was the most vivid and most faithful memory of the evidence that the body had undoubtedly existed" - a young museum technician, hired by an old woman to visit the village, steals mementos of the dead. What stories do these mementos tell? Who is responsible for the frequent murders in the village? An unforgettable story that speaks to the depths of your memory.

012



GENTOSHA, 1998

Novel

Frozen Perfume

A perfumer and lover suddenly commits suicide. There we learn for the first time about his brother and his lover's background. He had a genius mathematical mind since he was a boy, and his mother had high expectations for him. He was also an expert at skating, an occasional pastime of his, as if based on calculation. Then she arrived at the international mathematical competition in Prague, where she faced an accident that his lover had experienced...

013



BUNGEISHUNJU, 1996

Novel

Gentle Complaint

Hurt by her husband's constant visits to women, she hides out in a mountain cottage. In a workshop in the deep forest, she meets a harpsichord maker and his female apprentice, and begins to feel at home again, but gradually her passion begins to take over the relationship between the three of them...

014



GENTOSHA, 1996
Novel

Hotel Iris

In a crumbling, seaside hotel on the coast of Japan, quiet, seventeen-year-old Mari works the front desk as her mother fusses over the off-season customers. When, one night, they are forced to eject a prostitute and a middle-aged man from his room, Mari finds herself drawn to the man's voice, in what will become the first gesture of a long seduction.

015

小川
洋子



KADOKAWA, 1996
Short Stories

Embroidering Girl

In the hospice where my mother is, I reunited with a girl I played with on the plateau as a child. She was embroidering like squashing insects one by one— As an asthmatic, I am held by a stranger on the third Tuesday of the month and have an attack. A woman who tries to live like a parasite that discards her eyeballs when it finds a host—. Ten beautiful and terrifying "cruel tales" inhabited by death, madness, and strangeness.

016



SHINCHOSHA, 1994
Short Stories

The Specimen of Ringfinger

A note on a sheet of music, the bones of a beloved bird, a burn scar. I work in the "specimen room" where people bring in their memorabilia, and one day the specimen technician gave me a pair of nice shoes. "I want you to wear those shoes every day." The shoes fit my feet so well that... Strange and too secretive, their love. Two gems depicting the pain and ecstasy of love with transparent writing. Includes the title story and "Small Hexagonal Room".

017



KODANSHA, 1994
Novel

The Secret Crystallization

On an unnamed island, objects are disappearing: first hats, then ribbons, birds, roses. . . . Most of the inhabitants are oblivious to these changes, while those few able to recall the lost objects live in fear of the draconian Memory Police, who are committed to ensuring that what has disappeared remains forgotten. When a young writer discovers that her editor is in danger, she concocts a plan to hide him beneath her floorboards, and together they cling to her writing as the last way of preserving the past. (from Penguin Random House)

018



BUNGEISHUNJU, 1991
Short Stories

The Pregnancy Diary

A young woman records the daily moods of her pregnant sister in a diary, taking meticulous note of a pregnancy that may or may not be a hallucination—but whose hallucination is it, hers or her sister's? (from Macmillan Publishers)

019



CHUOKORON-SHINSHA, 1989
Short Stories

The Perfect Sick Room

This collection includes four short stories: "The Perfect Sick Room," about the memory of a younger brother who died at the age of 21; "When Butterflies Break," the protagonist looks at her own grandmother who has become demented; "The Tea That Never Cools," the death of a classmate triggers a death trap; and "The Diving Pool," the protagonist sees the orphan Rie's crying and her distorted sense of wonder.

020



BUNGEISHUNJU, 1977

Rights Sold
Romanian/Editura Humanitas Fiction
Traditional Chinese/Fine Press

The Blue Vase by ARIYOSHI Sawako

A stunningly colored blue vase is fired by chance in a rural kiln. This blue base, made by an unknown potter, then unintentionally ends up on the shelves of a department store's high-end gift section. Through various connections and a series of strange twists and turns, the blue pot passes through the hands of many different people. The struggles of a single mother, a couple at odds, a daughter and her parents struggling with an inheritance dispute... the lives of people of all ages and social classes, and the deepest recesses of the human psyche are vividly and briskly portrayed in this 13-chapter novel. Written half a century ago, Sawako Ariyoshi's novel is now attracting renewed attention as an exquisite entertaining novel, having already sold over 800,000 copies.



SHINCHOSHA, 1964

Rights Sold
French/Editions Mercure de France
French Graphic Novel/Editions Sarbacane
Spanish/Errata Naturae Editores
Romanian/Editura Humanitas Fiction
English/Penguin books
Portuguese/Alma Dos Livros

The River Ki by ARIYOSHI Sawako

The River Ki, short and swift and broad like most Japanese rivers, flows into the sea not far south of Osaka. On its journey seaward, it passes through countryside that has long been at the heart of the Japanese tradition. And it flows too past the mountains and the villages, past the dams, ditches and rice fields that provide such a richly textured backdrop to this novel. Powerful enough to sweep away people on its banks and placid enough to carry along with its flow a sumptuous wedding procession, The River Ki dominates the lives of the people who live in its fertile valley and imparts a vital strength to the three women, mother, daughter and granddaughter, around whom this novel is built. It provides them with the courage to cope, in their different ways, with the unprecedented changes that occurred in Japan between the last years of the last century and the middle of this century... Sawako Ariyoshi, one of Japan's most successful modern novelists, describes this social and cultural revolution largely through the eyes of Hana, a woman with the vision and integrity to understand the inevitability of the death of the traditional order in Japan. Ariyoshi writes with a love for detail bound to a broader understanding of the importance of the geographical and biological forces that mold her characters-and the result is a story that flows with all the vitality of The River Ki itself. —Amazon website

Who's ARIYOSHI?

A prolific novelist. She dramatised significant issues in her fiction such as the suffering of the elderly, the effects of pollution on the environment, and the effects of social and political change on Japanese domestic life and values, especially on the lives of women. Her novel *The Twilight Years* depicts the life of a working woman who is caring for her elderly, dying father-in-law. Among Ariyoshi's other novels is *The River Ki*, an insightful portrait of the lives of three rural women: a mother, daughter, and granddaughter. Her novel *The Doctor's Wife*, a historical novel dramatising the roles of nineteenth-century Japanese women as it chronicles the experience of a pioneer doctor with breast cancer surgery, has identified her as one of the finest postwar Japanese women writers.

AWARDS:

1967, *Hanaoka Seishu no Tsuma/The Doctor's Wife* won the 6th Japanese Women's Literature Award
1970, *Izumo no Okuni, The Kabuki Dancer* won the 20th Minister of Education and Culture Award
1979, *Kazunomiya-sama Otome/The Princess Kazu* won the 20th Mainichi Art Award



SHUEISHA, 2010

Hugging, or Salt on Rice

by EKUNI Kaori

This is the story of the Yanagishima family, who live in Kamiyachō, an area near Tokyo Tower where embassies are clustered. The Yanagishimas lead a lifestyle very different from that of a typical Japanese family, dwelling in a Taishō era (1912–26) Western-style house almost like an art museum. For one thing, they are always hugging, which seems a very Western and somewhat odd habit to the people around them. What is more, the four children do not attend school. The parents believe that compulsory education only means they must provide education to their children, and that it is fine to do so at home. Based on this policy, they hire tutors to educate their children thoroughly. It is clear that this family has a distinctive, one might say aristocratic, view of duty. Gradually, the reader figures out that this refined and close household is of a composite nature, including children from extramarital affairs by both husband and wife. Ekuni Kaori jumps easily backward and forward through time as she portrays this family and its rebellion against the standardization of Japanese society. Skillfully interweaving the proud and freedom-loving voices of family members with the testimony of outsiders, the story is filled with the interest and excitement of multiple perspectives. Ultimately, as time moves on, family ties begin to unravel as members pass away or find partners and leave home. In lyrical sentences, Ekuni movingly depicts this utopian family thoroughly until its last days. — *from Worth Sharing by Japan Foundation*



SHINCHOSHA, 1999

God's Boat

by EKUNI Kaori

The author comments in the afterword as follows: "This is a small, quiet tale, but a tale of madness. And of all the books I have written so far, I think it is the most dangerous." Set in our times, it is a profound tale of the madness of romantic love. The main character, Yoko, lives alone with her daughter, Soko. In the daytime she teaches piano, and at night she works in a bar. Once she had a passionate, "bonemelting" love affair, out of which Soko was born. Ten years ago the man disappeared after promising, "Wherever you are, whatever you're doing, I swear I will find you again." Yoko believed him without question. The story picks up in 1997, when Yoko is thirty-five and Soko is ten, and covers more than seven years of their daily life from the alternating perspectives of mother and child. Their life is quiet in the extreme. Yoko has three treasures: the piano, "him," and Soko. She works without pushing herself, careful to make time for the pleasures of reading, drinking, and relaxing. She takes every opportunity to sing the praises of Soko's father, and let her know what a wonderful man he was. From their conversation, little by little Yoko's past emerges. When Soko asks, "Why do we have to move all the time?" Yoko answers, "Because we're in God's boat." In order that "he" can someday find her, she keeps from forming deep attachments and avoids blending into her surroundings; every year or so they move someplace new. In Yoko's phrase, they are "birds of passage." Amid this peaceful life, Yoko encounters "the greatest crisis of [her] life." Soko, who is now taking high school entrance exams, says she wants to live in a dormitory. Fearful that she will never be reunited with her lover, and will now lose Soko as well, Yoko grows frightened and distraught. In the midst of ordinary, matter-of-fact life, a lurking madness; love and parting, and death: the author excises them with surgical precision. This is one of the most important works by an author who has extraordinary sensitivity to loss and conveys it with technical skill of the highest order. — *Japanese Literature Publishing and Promotion Center*

Rights Sold
Korean/Sodam & Taeil

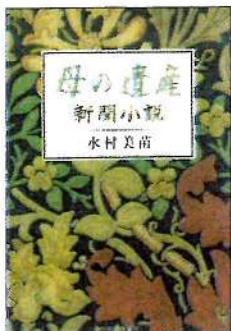


Who's EKUNI?

Born in Tokyo in 1964. After graduating from junior college, attended the Ath.n.e Fran.ais language school before studying abroad in the United States. Made her debut as a children's writer in 1987 and has gone on to be active in a variety of literary fields.

AWARDS:

1992, *Kirakira Hikaru/Twinkle Twinkle* won the Murasaki Shikibu Prize for Literature
2002, *Oyogunoni Anzen demo Tekisetsu demo Arimasen/Not appropriate nor Safe for Swimming* won the 15th Yamamoto Shogoro Award
2004, *Gōkyū suru junbi wa dekite ita/I Was Prepared to Wait* won the Naoki Award
2012, *Inu to Hamonika/Dog and Harmonica* won the Kawabata Yasunari Literary Award
2015, *Yamori Kaeru Shijimicho/Gecko, Frog and Butterfly* won the Tanizaki Junichiro Award



CHUOKORON-SHINSHA, 2000

Rights Sold
Spanish/Adriana Hidalgo Editora
Slovak/Zalza Litera
Korean/Bokbokseoga
Macedonian/Slovenika Doel
Portuguese(Brazil)/Carambaia

Inheritance from Mother – A Newspaper Novel by MIZUMURA Minae

This novel focuses on the life of Mitsuki, a fifty-something woman who works part-time as a university lecturer. There are two main strands to the plot: the prolonged strains the family undergoes as they care for Mitsuki's elderly mother and the story of her husband's affair with another woman. Mitsuki's mother, the daughter of a geisha, remains her freewheeling, selfish, and extravagant self to the end, pushing the two daughters who look after her—Mitsuki and her older sister, Natsuki—to their limits. The novel traces the frenzied final days of the mother's life, as she is hospitalized for a fracture and then admitted to a nursing home, where she eventually dies. In parallel with these events, the novel depicts Mitsuki's shock when she discovers her husband's affair and follows her as she uses her inheritance to achieve independence and divorce her husband. Despite these weighty subjects, the novel is saved from becoming grim reading by the invigorating clarity of the prose and skillful realism with which Mizumura depicts the lives of the comfortably well-off. It is an accurate depiction of a portion of Japanese society that stands apart from the commonly discussed "working poor." The tone of the novel's strategy is set from the outset, when the story begins in medias res with a discussion of money in the course of which the death of the mother is revealed. The book's subtitle, *Shimbun shōsetsu/A Newspaper Novel*, makes it clear that this is an homage of sorts to a whole literary genre. The novel was serialized in the Yomiuri Shimbun, appearing in weekly installments in the newspaper for over a year. Novel serialization continues to hold considerable significance for literature in Japan. — *from Worth Sharing by Japan Foundation*



SHINCHOSHA, 2010

Rights Sold
Spanish/Adriana Hidalgo Editora
Polish/Tajfuny
Albanian/Ombra GVG Pub.
English/Colombia Univ. Press
Korean/Munhakdongne

A True Novel by MIZUMURA Minae

A True Novel begins in New York in the 1960s, where we meet Taro, a relentlessly ambitious Japanese immigrant trying to make his fortune. Flashbacks and multilayered stories reveal his life: an impoverished upbringing as an orphan, his eventual rise to wealth and success—despite racial and class prejudice—and an obsession with a girl from an affluent family that has haunted him all his life. A True Novel then widens into an examination of Japan's westernization and the emergence of a middle class. The winner of Japan's prestigious Yomiuri Literature Prize, Mizumura has written a beautiful novel, with love at its core, that reveals, above all, the power of storytelling. — *from Amazon website*

"Concentric narratives connect and transform into a critical appraisal of commercial expansion and cultural decline...notable are Minae's edgy insights into class distinctions, trans-Pacific cultures, and modernization's spiritual void. A transparent translation and the author's stylistic clarity smooth navigation between storylines. Photographs create the sense of browsing through an album—a nearly 900-page album encompassing two continents and several decades." — *Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)*



Who's MIZUMURA?

Born in Tokyo and grew up in New York. After studying fine art in Boston and then living in Paris, she studied French Literature in USA. Upon finishing her M.Phil. program, she returned to Japan and began writing fiction in her native language.

AWARDS:

1991, Minister of Education Award for New Artists for *Zoku Meian* (Light and Dark Continued)
1996, Noma New Author Award for *An I-Novels*
2003, Yomiuri Prize for Literature for *A True Novel*
2009, Kobayashi Hideo Award for *The Fall of Language in the Age of English*
2012, Osaragi Jiro Award for *Inheritance from Mother*



BUNGEISHUNJU, 2010

Rights Sold
Italian/Atmosphere Libri
Spanish/Nocturna

Journey Along the Riverbank by YUMOTO Kazumi

One day, the first-person narrator of the story is in the kitchen making shiratama dumplings. Suddenly, there in the semidarkness behind the serving table is her husband, Yūsuke—he has come back. He has been missing ever since he disappeared three years previously but has returned to eat her dumplings, which he loved. Yet Yūsuke says he has been eaten by crabs at the bottom of the sea. And now he is preparing to go somewhere again. "Come on, hurry up. It will soon be daybreak." The two pack their things and set out. The husband is no longer living but cannot die without closure. There is something he has to tell his wife, and their journey retraces the path he has taken to do so. The couple visits a newspaper delivery shop and a maker of gyoza meat dumplings; they then help out with the work in a tobacco field in the hills. They are interacting with people who know the husband, but it is hard to tell whether they are living or dead. However, as the couple drift along, the people they meet accept them completely naturally. While going back and forth between this world and the next, the narrator fills in the blanks of her husband's three-year absence. "I wanted to apologize properly," says Yūsuke, gazing out to sea. As the two sit together on the shore, a Jacob's ladder to heaven finally appears. The narrator tells Yūsuke's soul that it is time to part, and, carrying both of their bags, once more starts to walk. This beautifully peaceful tale tells of a present-day descent into the realm of the dead. — *from Worth Sharing by Japan Foundation*



SHINCHOSHA, 2015

Rights Sold
Spanish/Nocturna
Vietnamese/Nha Nam Pub.

The Letters by YUMOTO Kazumi

Mother who lost her husband by suicide and a little girl Chiaki, age six. They moved into a tiny apartment as if invited by a tall standing poplar tree. Landlady was an weird old woman, looked a bit scary for Chiaki. But one day, the little girl and the woman encountered in heart. "I am a mail delivery to the heaven." Her old drawer was filled up with the letters written by anyone who lost beloved ones... After 18 years, the girl was now a young woman of heart break, giving up her life. She was on the way to attend landlady's funeral ceremony. The days under poplar tree revived onto Chiaki's mind vividly. Highly evaluated as "most tearful fiction" by a Japanese leading weekly magazine for middle-ages.



Who's YUMOTO?

Born in 1959 in Tokyo. After working as TV & radio script-writer, she began writing for young adults, and then fictions. *The Friends* was translated over ten languages. *Nishibi no Machi/The City of Western Light* was nominated for the Akutagawa Prize.

AWARDS:

1993, Rookie Award of Japanese Association of Writers for Children and Japan Juvenile Writers Association, for *Natsu no Niwa/The Friends*
1997, The Mildred Batchelder Award, for *The Friends* (US edition)



BUNGEISHUNJU, 2003

Rights Sold
Italian/Atomoshere Libri
English/Orion

Hell by TSUTSUI Yasutaka

"Hell" is the place where dead persons live actively. Yuzo, the gangster who was stabbed and died, Takeshi, a middle-aged man who was broken his leg by Yuzo in childhood and hit by a dump truck, and Izumi who's wife's adulterous lover was Takeshi, and he himself was killed by a plane accident... Characters in the novel relates in some way and some where when they were alive. They who killed, were killed, hated, were hated, seemed unconscious in Hell of no gods and no religious souls. The height of madness turned to a qualified fiction world of Yasutaka Tsutsui.



SHINCHOSHA, 1972

Rights Sold
English/Orion

The Maid - Eight Psychic Tales by TSUTSUI Yasutaka

Nanase the housekeeper hides her unusual ability. She can read people's minds, but her psychic powers inevitably draw her into the lives of her employers. Although each of eight employers' families looks ordinary and peaceful, Nanase sees their petit bourgeois morals are undermined with greedy selfish emotion. Fearful and ironical omnibus stories depicts human being's comical reality. Nanase series continues *Nanase Comes Again* and *The Oedipus' Lover*. This work was nominated for prestigious Naoki Literary Prize.



KADOKAWA, 1976

Rights Sold
Italian/Kappalab
French/l'ecole des loisirs
Simplified Chinese/Shanghai Translation
Korean/Bookstory

The Girl Who Leaped Through the Time by TSUTSUI Yasutaka

In the quiet science laboratory room after school, Kazuko, the student girl heard a glass crushed. Soon after smelling a fragrance of lavender wafted from a broken test tube, she fainted away. When she woke up, she was involved in a strange case running through time and memories... A girl in puberty's miracle story of time-travel and the sprout of first love that ends in bitter pain. Tsutsui's most popular juvenile SF novel in 1967, that was made into TV drama series, movies, animations and manga repeatedly and continues to gain fans.



Who's TSUTSUI?

Born in Osaka in 1934. A member of SF Writers Association of Japan. He won various awards that include, Izumi Kyoka Prize, 1981 for *Kyojin-Tachi/Fictional Characters*. Tanizaki Prize, 1987 for *Yumenokizaka-Bunkiten/The Yumenokizaka Intersection*. Kawabata Prize, 1989 for *Yoppa-dani eno Koka/Descent into the Yoppa Valley*. The Japan SF Award, 1992 for *Asa no Gasuparu/ Gaspard of the Morning*



BUNGEISHUNJU, 1973

Rights Sold
French/Actes Sud

The Great Kanto Earthquake

by YOSHIMURA Akira 1927~2006

At 11:58 am on Saturday, September 1, 1923, the great earthquake attacked the Kanto area of Japan. The terrible collapse of houses and buildings and the following huge fire in Tokyo and Yokohama recorded numerous numbers of dead people. The unexpected disaster evoked the disorder in people's minds, and rumors developed serious accidents in Japan's society. The historical record novel of the great disaster that lost 200,000 people's lives. Yoshimura has constructed the field of record novels and won Kan Kikuchi Literary Award by this work who had visited the first and second hand resources for years to describe human life that faced historical incident.



SHINCHOSHA, 1982

Rights Sold
French/Actes Sud
Korean/Thenan Contents Group

Shipwrecks

By YOSHIMURA Akira 1927~2006

In a coastal village in medieval Japan, a young boy called Isaku battles to keep his family alive against the odds. With his father gone, Isaku is forced to grow up well before his time. He must learn how to catch fish, how to distil salt, and about all the mysteries of the vast churning sea, not least the legend of O-fune-sama, of ships wrecked offshore providing the village with unexpected bounty. When a ship founders on the rocks, Isaku and the villagers rejoice. Long have they prayed for the sea's gifts. But the cargo is not at all the blessing they had hoped for. At first mystifying, then terrifying, something dark is coming ashore and it's about to change their lives forever.— *from Amazon website*



SHINCHOSHA, 1978

Siebold's Daughter

by YOSHIMURA Akira 1927~2006

Siebold, a physician who taught Western medicine in nineteenth century Nagasaki, was highly respected by the Japanese locals. However, he was actually an army surgeon sent by the Dutch government to investigate the state of affairs in Japan which were obscured by the veil of isolationist policy. Siebold fell in love with a prostitute called Sonogi, who bore his child. They named the baby girl Ine, but soon after, Siebold was accused of scheming to carry Japanese maps outside the country and deported from Japan after severe examination by the government. Left behind, Ine chose to pursue a medical career, tracing the footsteps of her father. In an era when it was unimaginable for a woman to become a doctor, Ine gained experience and capacity as an obstetrician by visiting her father's disciples around the country and learning from them. However, one of her teachers raped and impregnated her... A novel about the compelling life of one woman filled with unique challenges during Japan's transition to a modern state. Winner of the Yoshikawa Eiji Prize for Literature.



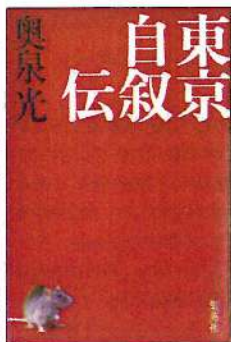
Who's YOSHIMURA?

He was a prize winning Japanese writer, published over 20 novels and short stories. *Yami ni Hirameku/Flash in the Dark* was made into a movie as *The Eel* directed by Shohei Imamura that won Palme d'Or of Festival de Canne.

AWARDS:

He won numerous awards that include:

1973, Kikuchi Kan Award for *Senkan Musashi/Battleship Musashi*, *Mutsu Gekichin/Battleship Mutsu Sank*, *Kanto Daishinsai/The Great Kanto Earthquake*
1979, Yoshikawa Eiji Literary Award for *Fon Shihoruto no Musume/Siebold's Daughter*
1985, Yomiuri Prize, for *Hagoku/Prison Break*, based on the true story



SHUEISHA, 2014

Tokyo: The Autobiography by OKUIZUMI Hikaru

The protagonist and first-person narrator of this novel is the city of Tokyo itself, the numinous genius loci of Tokyo that abides through a series of incarnations beginning long before the end of the Edo period in 1867 and continuing to the present day. At times the spirit has been reborn not only as a human being but also as an animal. One incarnation was as the cat that lived with the great writer Natsume Sōseki (1867–1916) when he wrote his novel *Wagahai wa neko de aru* [trans. *I Am a Cat*]. The narrator experiences the tumultuous history of the city as it moves from militarism to postwar growth and postbubble stagnation. Long years of experience seem to bring neither wisdom nor philosophical maturity, to judge by the narrator's total lack of introspection and refusal to accept responsibility: "Whatever will be will be." This fatalism turns out to be the leading principle of Tokyo as a metropolis and of the wider Japan that emulates its example. While enjoying the narrator's garrulous and humorous account of Tokyo's history, readers will detect foreboding signs of catastrophe. If everything is to be destroyed sooner or later, the narrator suggests, where's the sense in thinking too deeply about it? The premonition turns into reality in the final chapter. The disaster of March 11, 2011, was a hint of what lies ahead for Tokyo's future. Okuizumi takes the fate of a metropolis and spins it into a picaresque novel of heroic resolve in the face of looming disaster. In this feat of literary daring, he achieves astonishing success. — *from Worth Sharing, by Japan Foundation*



Who's OKUIZUMI?

Born in 1956. Professor at the Faculty of Literature, Arts, and Cultural Studies of Kinki University. Received the Akutagawa Prize in 1994 for *Ishi no Raireki/The Stones Cry Out*, the Noma Prize for Literature in 2009 for *Shinki: Gunkan Kashihara Satsujin Jiken/Sacred Treasure The Kashihara Warship Murders*, and the Tanizaki Junichirō Prize in 2014 for *Tōkyō jijoden/Tokyo: the Autobiography*



SHINCHOSHA, 1964

The House of Nire by KITA Morio 1927~2011

The House of Nire will come as a surprise to readers who expect a Japanese novel to be a mixture of gloom and sensitivity. This one is unashamedly comic, and its view of human life derives from a warm curiosity that accepts the world as it is and wastes no time complaining about it. Readers will feel themselves in the company of somebody who understands with intelligence, judges with generosity, and often, sometimes uproariously, laughs and enjoys. The book relates the history of the Nire family from the end of the First World War to the end of the Second. We meet Kiichiro Nire, founder not only of the family mental hospital but of the family itself, for he has changed their real name to something more sophisticated. Kiichiro, in all his vanity, selfishness, and absurdity, is one of the great comic creations of Japanese literature. His children, adopted children, grandchildren, and any number of hangers-on including a friendly but flabby sumo wrestler whose career is going nowhere, form a cast of characters who, for all their oddities, tell us more about actual Japanese people and their lives than almost anything we have yet seen in English. And when, with the eventual fall of the House of Nire, the mood changes and the laughter dies away, one recognizes just how true to life this novel is and how involved in it one has become. — *From Amazon website*

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Who's KITA?

While working as a psychiatrist, he published novels in the coterie magazine *Literary Capital* and thereafter began his career as a novelist in earnest. In 1958, he became a ship's doctor on a fisheries research vessel for the Fisheries Agency, and *Dr. Mambo's Voyage* became a bestseller, describing his experiences. In 1960, *Night and Fog in the Corner* won the 43rd Akutagawa Award. In his prime, he began suffering from manic depression and wrote humorously about his illness in essays and other writings.



KODANSHA, 2022

Bread and Circuses by SHIMADA Masahiko

Originally, "Bread and Circuses" was written by the Roman satiric poet Decimus Junius Juvenalis, who pointed out that Roman citizens had become politically apathetic due to "bread = food" and "circus = entertainment" given free of charge by the authorities. The author overlaps this with the present situation in Japan. What kind of resistance is possible for the people when those in power try to present as "entertainment" everything that shakes the hearts and minds of the people, such as wars, crimes, natural disasters, epidemics, etc., and the anxiety, excitement, and fear in the city?

In high school, two young men, Choji Mikage and Kuya Hibako, created a secret circle called "Contra Mundi" ("Enemy of the World" in Latin). Choji became a CIA agent to avenge his father's death, who was the victim of a corruption cover-up. Kuya, whose father was a gang leader, worked for a staffing agency owned by his father's acquaintance, but was approached by a big-time fixer with an offer to "fix the world". The two work together to deceive both the Japanese and U.S. governments and to change the world, involving various people, including Soraya's younger sister, Maria. A group drama of world reformation featuring a total of more than 50 people.



Who's SHIMADA?

Born in Tokyo in 1961. Graduated from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Department of Russian. In 1983, while still a university student, he published *Yasashii Sayoku no tame no kurayukyoku/A Joyful Music for the Gentle Leftwings*, nominated for Naoki Award. His works include *Music for the Kingdom of Dreams* (Noma Literary Newcomer Award), *Higan Sensei* (Izumi Kyoka Literary Award), *Degenerate Sisters* (Ito Sei Literary Award), *Daughter of Chaos: Shaman Detective Naruko* (Art Encouragement Prize, Minister of Education, and Culture Award), *Kyojin no Hoshi* (Mainichi Publishing Culture Award), *When You Were Heretics* (Yomiuri Literary Award), and more. He has written numerous books, including plays, opera scripts, poetry collections, essays, and dialogues.



BUNGEISHUNJU 1988

Yokai vs. Onmyoji series by YUMERAMKURA Baku

In Heian period (794-1185), the spirits of dead or living people and ghosts infested actively. Seimei Abe, a noble young imperial servant, worked as a shaman for the emperor. Seimei, as an expert of astrology or almanac, solved bloody and spiritual yokai incidents happened in Heian-kyo, the city of Mikado, cooperating his best friend soldier Hiromasa Minamoto. Chained short stories of two buddies' battles against yokai in fantastic kyoto city describe human sorrows. Made into theater movie, manga and TV drama.

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Traditional Chinese/Ecus Pub.



Who's YUMEMAKURA?

Born in 1951. The SF author for yokai fantasy. *Onmyoji/The Imperial Shaman* series invited big hits in novels, comics, TV dramas and movie. His devotion on journey, climbing, fishing and martial arts are well-known. His works received several awards that include The Japan Science Fiction Award, 1989 for *Jogen no Tsuki wo Taberu Shishi/The Lion who Eats the Crescent Moon*. The Shibata Renzaburo Prize, 1998 for *Kamigami no Itadaki/The Summit of Gods*. The Yoshikawa Eiji Prize, 2012 for *Oedo Chokakuden/The Great Fishing in Edo*.



Freezing Point by Miura Ayako 1922~1999

In 1946, Keizo Tsujiguchi, a doctor living in Hokkaido, had his three-year-old daughter Ruriko killed by Tsuchio Saishi while his wife Natsue was secretly meeting Yasuo Murai. When Natsue begged for a girl to take Ruriko's place, but Keizo took in a little girl, the supposed daughter of the murderer Saishi, without informing Natsue as revenge. The girl was named Yoko, and grew up to be cheerful and obedient under Natsue's affection. One day, when Yoko was in the first grade, Natsue found Keizo's unfinished letter in the study room and learned that Yoko was the daughter of a murderer. She could no longer show Yoko honest affection and became mean to her. Yoko, on the other hand, realized that she was not the real daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tsujiguchi and tried to live cheerfully despite her heartbreak.... The "freezing point" represents the moment when Yoko's heart, which tried to live positively no matter what, finally froze. This work questions the "original sin" that human beings are born with.

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Who's MIURA?

Recommendation:

Miura Ayako (1922~1999) rose from obscurity to literary stardom on the basis of her first novel, *Hyōten*, published serially in 1964~5, and became in the process not only one of Japan's best-selling novelists but also one of its leading Christian voices. *Hyōten* (Freezing point), one of the best-known and most widely read novels of the past few decades, follows the travails of one family in Hokkaido as they struggle with marital infidelity, death, deception and betrayal, and was written to illustrate the Christian notion of original sin. It fails fully to address this notion, however, with the intended religious theme muted in favor of achieving success as a serialized novel. The novel thus raises interesting questions regarding the nature of so-called 'evangelistic literature' and the continuing debate in Japan over the relationship between 'pure' and 'popular' literature. This article argues that it is only in the sequel to *Hyōten*, *Zoku Hyōten* (serialized from 1970 to 1971), that Miura, now firmly established as a Christian novelist, returned to the characters and situations in her first novel and adequately depicted the religious themes of sin and forgiveness. — from the article entitled *The frozen soul: sin and forgiveness in Miura Ayako's Freezing Point* by Philip Gabriel



SHINCHOSHA, 1965

Owl's Castle by SHIBA Ryotaro 1923~1996

Ten years after Nobunaga Oda's invasion of Iga, Iga ninja Shigezo Tsuzura was living in seclusion. Nobunaga, who had been his avenger, was no longer a man of this world, and he had lost all hope for life. However, he received a request from his former master, Jirozaemon Shimotsuge, to assassinate Hideyoshi, who had succeeded Nobunaga as the ruler of the country. Shigezo, who had only wanted to end his life as a ninja with a flourish, accepted the request and set out to assassinate Hideyoshi. On his way to Munehisa Imai, a wealthy merchant in Sakai, he met an adopted daughter of Munehisa named Kohagi, and the two began to secretly love each other. However, she was a female ninja who was in charge of keeping an eye on Shigezo. Shigezo, together with Kisaru, Kuroami, and others, confronted Kazama Gohei and others who betrayed the Iga, and infiltrated Hideyoshi's castle in Fushimi.

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Simplified Chinese/Chongqing Pub.

Who's SHIBA?

Born in Osaka City. Graduated from the Mongolian Department of the Osaka School of Foreign Languages. In 1960, while working in the Culture Department of the Sankei Shimbun, he won the Naoki Prize for *Owl's Castle*. Since then, he has published a series of popular works that have revolutionized historical fiction, winning numerous awards, including the Kikuchi Kan Award in 1966 for *Ryoma ga yuku* (Here Goes Ryoma) and *Kunitori monogatari*. His works include *Saka no ue no kumo* (Clouds over the Hill) and many others dealing with the Warring States period, the last days of the Tokugawa shogunate, and the Meiji period.



ASAHI SHIMBUN PUB., 2007

A Dog's Body by MATSUURA Rieko

Matsuura Rieko's *Kenshin* is based on the extraordinary premise of a woman transformed into a dog that becomes the pet of the woman she loves. At the same time, it presents a brutally realistic family relationship, overflowing with feelings of abnormal love and hate, which contrasts sharply with the pure meeting of souls of the dog and owner. Matsuura made her biggest splash with the 1993 *Oyayubi P no shugyō jidai/The Apprenticeship of Big Toe P*, a novel with an unconventional plot that shocked readers in which she explored her unique outlook on sexuality. In this work, unbound by the conventions of an ordinary story, she gives her imagination even freer rein, and by doing so strikes a chord in readers' hearts. In the novel, the heroine in the form of a dog tells the Mephistopheles-like man who demands her soul, "My soul is damaged and must taste extremely bad." "Don't worry," he replies, "A well-beaten soul tastes good, just like certain kinds of meat." With the kind of exquisite humor and earnestness epitomized in this dialogue, the story cultivates new ground for the contemporary novel. Dog-related puns feature throughout. Even the title has a double meaning: "a dog's body" and "devotion." — *from Worth Sharing by Japan Foundation*

Who's MATSUURA?

Born in Ehime Prefecture in 1958. Became an avid reader of writers including Cesare Pavese from her teens. While still an undergraduate, debuted with *Sōgi no hi/The Day of the Funeral*, which won the Bungakukai New Writers Award in 1978. Received the 1994 Women's Literary Prize for *Oyayubi P no Shugyō Jidai* and the 2008 Yomiuri Prize for Literature for *Kenshin/A Dog's Body*.



SHINCHOSHA, 2001

Places by SETOUCHI Jakuchō 1922~2021

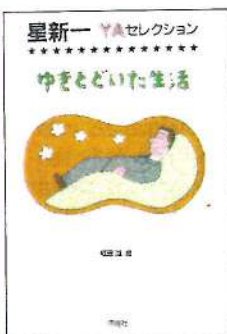
"Few authors have led as storied a life as Setouchi Jakuchō. Writer, translator, feminist, peace activist, Buddhist nun . . . even this list cannot contain the impressive sweep of her career. Along the way she has also been daughter, wife, mother, mistress, lover, role model, and femme fatale. Through each twist and turn, she has reacted with both feisty verve and self-reproving reflection. *Basho (Places)*, superbly translated here by Liza Dalby, enjoins readers to accompany the author as she travels again over the familiar terrain of her life story, journeying through the places where she once lived, loved, suffered, and learned." — *from the Foreword by Rebecca L. Copeland*

In this scintillating work of autobiographical fiction, Setouchi Jakuchō recalls with almost photographic clarity scenes from her past: growing up in the Tokushima countryside in the 1920s, the daughter of a craftsman, and in Tokyo as a young student experiencing the heady freedom of college life; escaping to Kyoto at the end of a disastrous arranged marriage and an ill-starred love affair before returning to Tokyo, with its lively community of artists and writers, to establish herself as a novelist. Throughout, Jakuchō is propelled by a burning desire to write and to make a living as a writer. Her memories, sharp and clear, also provide a fascinating picture of everyday life in Japan in the years surrounding World War II. — *from the English publisher/University of Hawai'i Press' website,*

Who's SETOUCHI?

Born Setouchi Harumi in Tokushima Prefecture in 1922. In 1973, took the tonsure at Chūsonji Temple in Hiraizumi, Iwate Prefecture. In 1998, completed a 10-volume modern Japanese translation of *Genji monogatari/The Tale of Genji*. Won the Noma Prize for Literature for *Basho/Places* in 2001. *Setouchi Jakuchō zenshu (The Collected Works of Setouchi Jakuchō)*, completed in 2002, spans 20 volumes. In 2006, received the Order of Culture.

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RIRONSHA, 2008

A Well-Kept Life

Shinichi Hoshi Short-Short Collection Vol. 1

by HOSHI Shin'ichi 1926~1997

A Well-Kept Life is an emotional rollercoaster ride of science fiction by renowned Japanese author Shinichi Hoshi. A few of these famously "short-short" stories are as sweet and light as meringue; others will stew in the subconscious indefinitely. Hoshi nimbly reveals the gawky, awkward nature of modern man. He points out that we rarely talk face to face anymore; we've lost our connection to the natural world. Shiny, new technologies and bureaucracies continually promise to alleviate our existential discomfort. Yet, as Hoshi shows, the inventions that comprise *A Well-Kept Life* don't eliminate the pain. They simply reconfigure it. Many of Hoshi's stories were written for a multi-age audience. But these are decidedly adult. Never graphic, nor gory, nor vulgar in any way, Hoshi manages to unnerve his readers with the simplest of language and barest of plots. Written between 1960 and 1984, these parables grow increasingly more spot-on with age. *A Well-Kept Life* is a blast of warning signals for today, a whistle-blower's global call to attention. — *from The Hoshi Library official website*

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Italian/Atmosphere Libri
Simplified Chinese/Shanghai Gaotan Culture Co., Ltd.
Polish/University of Warsaw Press

For the full information on Shinichi Hoshi,
you can see on the Hoshi Library at
<https://shinichihoshi.com/>



Who's HOSHI?

Recognized as one of Japan's most influential science fiction writers of all time, Shinichi Hoshi published more than 1,000 of his signature "short-short" stories. Some call his crisp, no-frills prose the "Haiku of Science Fiction."

AWARDS:

1968, *Delusion Bank* won
Mystery Writers of Japan Award



Japan Sinks

by KOMATSU Sakyo 1931~2011

After dropping anchor for the night near a small island to the south of Japan, a crew of fishermen awaken to find that the island has vanished without a trace. An investigating scientist theorizes that the tiny island has succumbed to the same force that divided the Japanese archipelago from the mainland — and that the disastrous shifting of a fault in the Japan Trench has placed the entire country in danger of being swallowed by the sea. Based on rigorous scientific speculation, *Japan Sinks* recounts a completely credible series of geological events. The story unfolds from multiple points of view, offering fascinating perspectives on the catastrophe's political, social, and psychological effects. Winner of the Mystery Writers of Japan Award and the Seiun Award, this prescient 1973 science-fiction novel foreshadowed the consequences of the 1995 Osaka-Kobe earthquake and the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. — *from Amazon website*

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Spanish/Planeta

"A chillingly realistic work of science fiction." — *The New York Times*.

Who's KOMATSU?

Born in Osaka. Graduated from the Faculty of Letters, Kyoto University, majoring in Italian literature. After working as a reporter for an economic magazine and as a broadcaster, he appeared in SF Magazine in 1962. His representative works include *Fukukatsu no Hi/Resurrection Day*, *Hateshinaki Nagare no Hate ni/The End of the Flow*, *Nippon Chinbotsu/Japan Sinks* (Japan Mystery Writers Association Award), and *Shuto Shoshitsu/Disappearance of the Capital* (Japan Science Fiction Grand Prize). *Japan Sinks* became a bestseller, selling over 4 million copies. A major writer of science fiction novels who continued to explore the possibilities of mankind and civilization.

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