



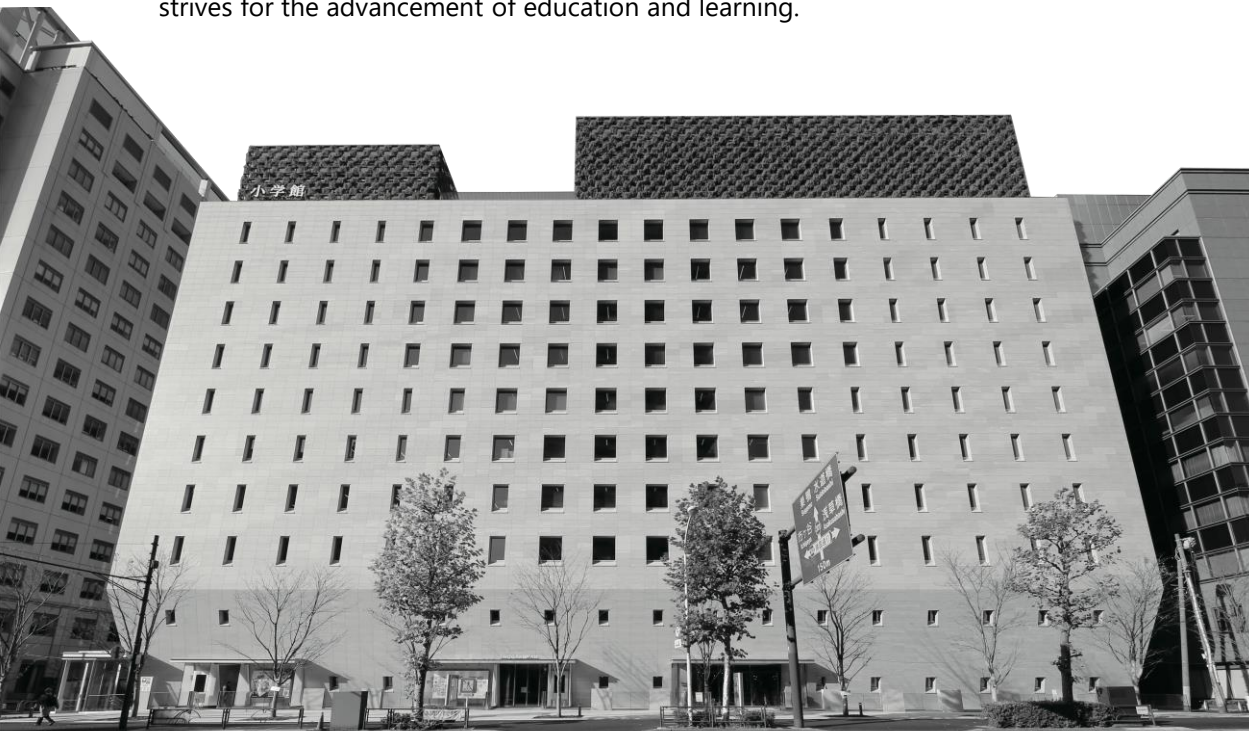
# *Shogakukan*

**FALL 2023 Rights Guide**

# 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 across print, digital and audio—comic books for children and adults, educational and entertainment magazines and 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.



For information, please contact:

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✉ [rights\\_inquiry@shogakukan.co.jp](mailto:rights_inquiry@shogakukan.co.jp)

Company Name: SHOGAKUKAN Inc.  
Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan  
Founded: August 8, 1922  
President: Nobuhiro Oga  
Capital: 147 million yen  
Sales: 108.4 billion yen (2022 fiscal year)  
Employees: 696 (as of March 2023)

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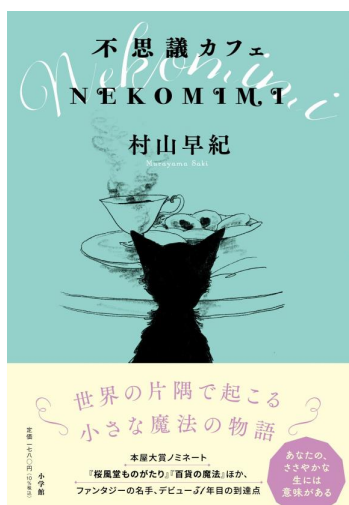
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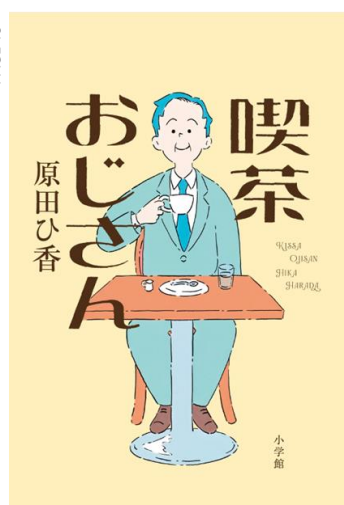
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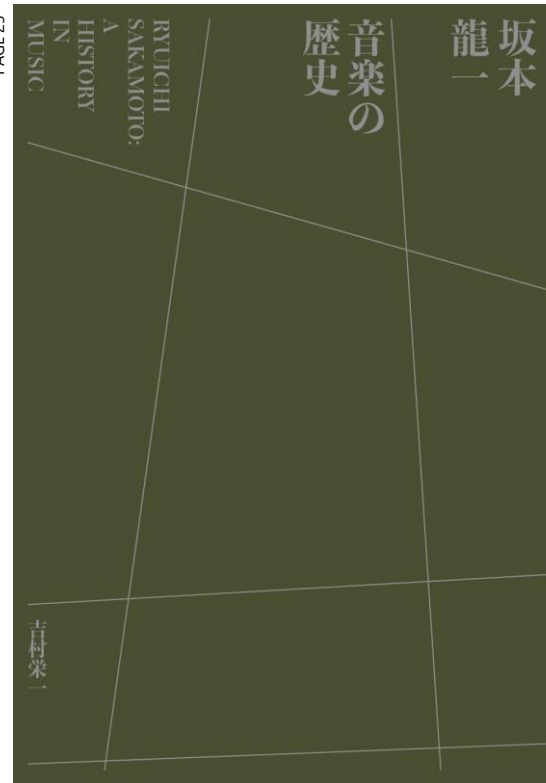
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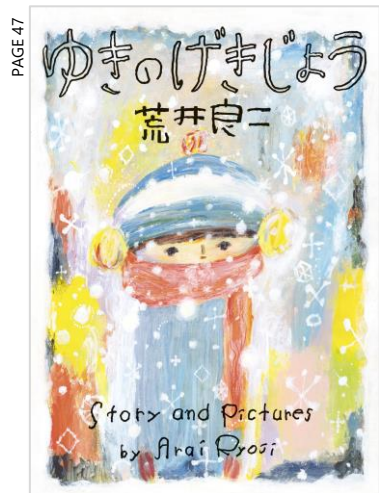
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**FICTION**





Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: To be confirmed  
 Pages: 250 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: February 2024  
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
[English sample translation available on request.](#)

# The Cat Who Saved You

*Kimi o mamoro to suru neko no hanashi* / 君を守ろうとする猫の話

Sosuke Natsukawa

**The long-awaited sequel to *The Cat Who Saved Books*, the international sensation that sold over 125,000 copies in Japan and was translated in 39 languages**

A chronic asthma condition prevents 13-year-old Nanami from joining sports or hanging out with her friends after school. However, she loves reading and is happy to spend most of her free time in the school library, cocooned by stacks of books in all directions. One day, Nanami notices that, despite the library remaining as deserted as ever, her favorite *Arsène Lupin*, *Gentleman Burglar*, *Anne of Green Gables* and other classic works of literature are gradually disappearing from the shelves. When she alerts the library staff, no one seems to take her seriously. Her concerns are brushed off as a product of her imagination. Just as Nanami is about to go back to her reading, she spots between bookshelves a suspicious man in a gray suit. She follows the man hoping to find out what he is up to, but an asthma attack cuts the chase short and all that is left behind is a mysterious light filtering through the library's familiar passageways. That's when, to the delight of readers all over the world, talking tabby cat Tiger comes once again to the rescue.

Will Nanami and Tiger overcome the challenges of the dangerous adventure ahead? Why are faceless gray soldiers burning books in a stone castle? And what happened to Rintaro, the socially withdrawn hero of the first novel? In the age of book banning, Sosuke Natsukawa urges us not to underestimate the power of great literature and to be prepared to defend our freedom to choose.

**Sosuke Natsukawa** is a doctor and novelist based in Nagano, Japan. He was born in Osaka Prefecture in 1978 and graduated from Shinshu University School of Medicine. While practicing the medical profession, he made his debut as a writer in 2009 with the multivolume novel *Kamisama no karute* (God's Medical Records), which sold over three million copies in Japan and was adapted into a film. His most famous work, published in English as *The Cat Who Saved Books* (tr. Louise Heal Kawai), was an international bestseller and won several prizes both in Japan and abroad.



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-407192-4  
 Pages: 320 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: October 2022  
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
 Rights Sold: [Chinese \(Traditional\)](#)  
[English synopsis and sample translation available on request.](#)

# The Stationery Store in Ginza

*Ginza "Shihodo" bunboguten* / 銀座「四宝堂」文房具店

Kenji Ueda

## *Miracles of the Namiya General Store meets Before the Coffee Gets Cold*

Tucked away down an alley in Tokyo's most exclusive shopping district, stands a three-story stationery store dating back to the early 19th century. "Shihodo" read the golden letters on the glass front door and, despite the old letterpress in the basement, customers setting foot in the store are greeted not by spiderwebs and dust but a composed, awe-inspiring sense of history. The Takarada family has been running Shihodo for generations, skillfully sourcing both from Japan and further afield a wide assortment of notebooks, writing utensils, letter sets, scissors and more. But make no mistake, Shihodo is no ordinary stationery store, just as Ken Takarada, the current owner, is no ordinary clerk. City dwellers wandering the busy streets of Ginza in search of super-efficient, speedy customer service should turn to the nearby department store. At Shihodo, Ken offers nothing but warmth, affability and an in-depth knowledge of every single item he sells.

A thank-you letter from a company employee to the grandmother who raised him as her own child on the day of his first paycheck. A resignation form from the hostess of an elegant club to the manager who dissuaded her from giving up her day job upon graduation. A notebook for the captain and vice-captain of a high-school archery team to exchange notes about day practice. A tin full of postcards handed to a husband on the day of the funeral of the wife he repeatedly betrayed. An invitation to the opening of a new high-end sushi bar from a formerly homeless sushi chef to the man who gifted him his first knife. By attending with care to customers' wishes, Ken unintentionally unravels their troubled hearts and unearths the true feelings behind the stationery items they seek. As posts, images and videos endlessly scrolling on social media lure us into a state of constant distraction and emotional detachment, *The Stationery Store in Ginza* reminds us to look at the simple objects we hold every day in our hands and reflect on how they connect us to our loved ones.

**Kenji Ueda** is a Japanese novelist known for blending fantasy with the charm of everyday life. Born in Tokyo in 1969, he made his debut as a writer in 2021 with *Teppan* (The Iron Griddle), the revised version of a work he wrote in 2019 for the 1st Japan Delicious Fiction Award.



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-406409-4  
 Pages: 392 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: April 2017  
 Rights Sold: **Korean**  
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
[English synopsis available on request.](#)

# The Regret Ward

*Kokai byoto* / 後悔病棟

Miu Kakiya

**If you could live your life all over again and correct past regrets, would you?**

**125,000 copies sold in Japan**

Rumiko has been treating terminally ill cancer patients for nearly ten years. Although she has already cared for hundreds of patients, she lacks confidence in her skills as a doctor. As an experienced practitioner she is expected to understand how her patients feel, but every time she is in front of a patient she can't help fretting and blurting out something inappropriate. Much more talented doctors and nurses have either left their jobs after having children or changed careers and she is at a loss over whether she should stay. One day, while she is quickly polishing off her lunch on a bench in the hospital's courtyard, she notices in the flowerbeds a shiny object which turns out to be a stethoscope. This apparently unremarkable find marks for Rumiko the beginning of a strange new journey of self-discovery and growth. By placing the stethoscope on her patients' chests, Rumiko can hear their thoughts. The stethoscope also opens a door to the past and gives patients the chance to experience the life that would have been possible had they made different choices.

What if Satoko had not given up on her dream of becoming a great actress like her mother? Keiichi is about to die, so why can't his wife stop talking about money? What if Chitose had not opposed her daughter's marriage and could now hold a grandchild in her arms? What if in junior high Koji had taken the blame for the girl he loved stealing money from a teacher's purse, instead of his best friend Sumio? At various stages of our life, we all get stuck on the thought of what we should have done differently. By exploring the possible alternatives, Miu Kakiya's new book gives us the courage to look back on our lives and understand the importance of owning the choices we made no matter their outcome.

**Miu Kakiya** was born in Hyogo Prefecture in 1959. Her debut work, *Tatsumaki garu* (Tornado Girl), was published in 2005 and won the Mystery Novel Newcomer Award. Her books include *Rogo no shikin ga arimasen* (I Don't Have Any Money Left in My Retirement Account) adapted into the 2021 homonymous film. *The Regret Ward* is the first installment in a three-volume series, followed by *The Hope Ward* and *The Prison Ward*.



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-406891-7  
 Pages: 224 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: March 2021

# The Candy Shop's Backroom

*Kasugai shokudo* / かすがい食堂

Keiichi Kakoya

**A kids-only cafeteria serving up delicious and heartwarming dishes of meddlesomeness!**

Fourth grader Kakeru walks in the Kasugai candy shop at the same time every evening, buys exactly three coins worth of sweets and walks away. Sixth grader Akane is repeatedly seen picking up candies from the floor and popping them into her mouth. Teenage idol, Karen, eats nothing at all after a trivial comment by a TV personality pushed her into anorexia. These are the names and faces 25-year-old Fuko Kasugai catches sight of in and around her grandma's candy shop in downtown Tokyo, as the disappointment of a botched career in the film industry gradually fades away through her interactions with regular customers.

Fuko learns from Kakeru that the three coins worth of sweets he buys every evening function as his dinner and decides to use those three coins to buy ingredients for a meal Kakeru, Fuko and her grandma can enjoy together in the candy shop's backroom. When Kakeru's mother accuses the shop of treating her child as an object of pity and charity, the response is prompt: "This is the Kasugai Cafeteria, an authentic kids-only cafeteria!"

Juicy hamburger steaks, stir-fried vegetables with plenty of rice, a hot pot for all to gather around, *The Candy Shop's Backroom* depicts Japan's *kodomo shokudo*, or children's cafeterias, a fast-growing grassroots movement to fight child poverty and social isolation by offering children low-cost, nutritious meals and a safe place to stay. This is the first installment of a three-volume series. The first volume tackles issues such as bullying, child neglect and poverty, the second focuses on diversity and discrimination, while the third portrays young carers of family members unable to cope on their own due to illness or other problems. A heartwarming series about eating well and connecting with society.

**Keiichi Kakoya** was born in Osaka in 1972. His debut work *Pachipuro kodo* (The Pachinko Player's Code) was published in 2010 and won the This Mystery Is Excellent! Grand Prize. His many books include *Nen'neko shobo nazotoki* (The Nenneko Mystery Solving Bookstore) about the owner of an antiquarian bookstore solving mysteries in Tokyo's Jimbocho book district.



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386645-3  
 Pages: 368 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: May 2022  
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional), Italian, Korean, Thai  
[English synopsis and sample translation available on request.](#)

# Sora's Recipes

*Sora gohan* / 宙ごはん

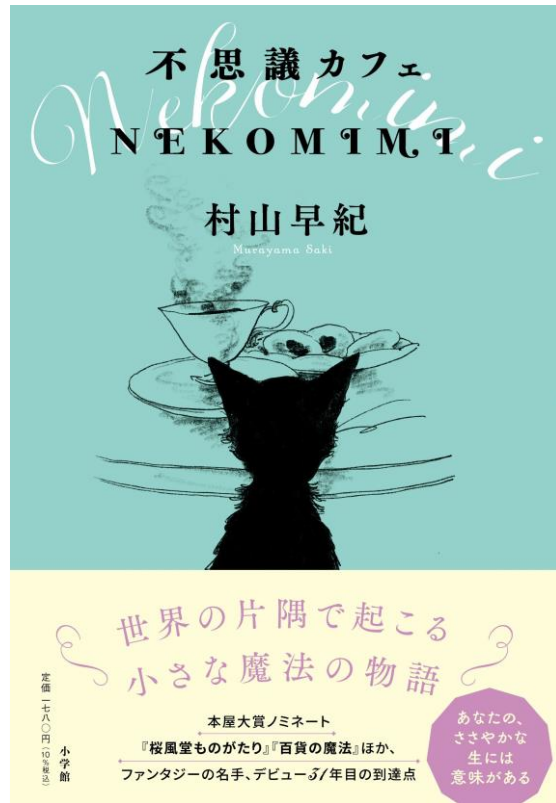
Sonoko Machida

**Japan Booksellers' Award winner Sonoko Machida explores the community's crucial role in addressing maternal ambivalence in contemporary Japan**

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 newfound 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 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. Her novels *Hoshi o sukuu* (Scooping Up the Stars) and *Sora gohan* (Sora's Recipes) were nominated for the award respectively in 2022 and 2023.



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386668-2  
 Pages: 296 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: January 2023  
 Agent: Japan Uni Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
[English synopsis and sample translation available on request.](#)

# The Incredible Nekomimi Café

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

Saki Murayama

**A black cat, a flying car and an itinerant café—the Japanese master of fantasy writing takes us on a magical new adventure**

Ritsuko, a woman in her fifties 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 and in between the interstices of time swirl at the gentle touch of Ritsuko's magic. Interspersed into 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 *Chiisai 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 into 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 was received with both critical and popular acclaim.



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386696-5  
 Pages: 258 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: October 2023

# The Coffee Man

*Kissa ojisan* / 喫茶おじさん

Hika Harada

**The bestselling author of *How to Use 3,000 Yen* explores food's power to redeem people**

Despite being fifty-seven years old, Junichiro Matsuo has no job prospects or hobbies of his own. He took early retirement from a major construction company and is currently unemployed. His wife, Akiko, moved into the apartment of their daughter, second-year university student Arisa, and so, for about six months, he has been living on his own.

One day he casually wanders into a coffee shop and orders an egg sandwich with a cup of coffee. He has such a pleasant time that he decides he might as well look for another place to eat. That's when the idea springs to mind. "From now on, this will be my hobby. I will visit coffee shops, especially the classic, old-fashioned ones where no alcohol is served!" Higashi-ginza, Shimbashi, Gakugei Daigaku, Ameyoko, Shibuya, Ikebukuro, Kyoto... "This taste, this taste. Delicious!" Junichiro travels around the country and enjoys the signature coffee flavor of various establishments. But his new hobby hides a bitter past. Despite the objections of his wife, he had used his severance pay to start a coffee shop, which he had to shut down in half a year.

His estranged daughter, his wife, an old colleague and all the other people he meets tell him the same thing. "You don't understand anything." And yet, through old school friends, he starts helping out at a local coffee shop and eventually lands a job as a sales representative at a new company. From January to December, *The Coffee Man* follows a year in the life of Junichiro Matsuo, a middle-aged man who, bouncing from one coffee shop to the other, navigates the challenges of maintaining meaningful human connections in the later part of his life.

**Hika Harada** was born in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1970. In 2005, she received the NHK Original Radio Drama Grand Prize for *Ritoru purinsesu 2 go* (Little Princess No. 2) and in 2007, the Subaru Literary Prize for *Hajimaranai ti taimu* (The Tea Time That Never Comes). Her 2018 novel *San zen en no tsukaikata* (How to Use 3,000 Yen) has sold over 750,000 copies to date in Japan and has been translated in English among many other languages.



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386676-7  
 Pages: 400 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: February 2023  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional)

# Piano Man

## The Story of *Blue Giant's* Yukinori

*Piano man* BLUE GIANT *Yukinori no monogatari* / ピアノマン 『BLUE GIANT』雪祈の物語

Eito Nanba

### Turn up *Piano Man's* volume and let words drown out all other sounds

A spin-off of the record-breaking, award-winning manga *Blue Giant* about high-school student Dai and his journey to become the greatest saxophone player in the world. This novel focuses on the life of pianist Yukinori, one of the members of Dai's jazz band. As a young boy, Yukinori learned sounds before he even learned words. Music appeared in front of his eyes as a limitless variation of colors. Eventually Yukinori became fascinated with jazz music and dreamt of changing the jazz scene in Japan by performing at the best jazz clubs in the country. However, the night before the band achieved their goal of performing at Japan's number one jazz club, So Blue, Yukinori is run over by a truck at his part-time job at a construction site and loses the use of his right arm. The three members of the band decide they will perform no matter what. Will Yukinori still be able to prove his worth in a solo? Will his perseverance earn him a standing ovation?

Praise for the *Blue Giant* manga

**"Ishizuka's page-turner applies the gung-ho spirit of action manga to an unlikely subject: jazz music...Combining optimistic storytelling with intense emotion, this bighearted musical celebration is a delight."** *Publishers Weekly*

**Eito Nanba** is a Japanese manga artist, an editor and a scriptwriter. In close collaboration with Shinichi Ishizuka, he developed both the story for the popular manga *Blue Giant*, which sold more than eleven million copies in Japan, and the script for the homonymous movie. This is his first full-length novel.





Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386683-5  
 Pages: 210 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: April 2023

# Happiness Ending Corporation

*Hapinesu endingu kabushiki gaisha* / ハピネスエンディング株式会社

Toianna

## A normal internship, at a company for not quite so normal funerals!

Second-year university student Tomoya decides to intern at the Happiness Ending Corporation, a company that performs mock funerals for people who want to cut ties with their parents. The nature of the work horrifies Tomoya, who having grown up in a peaceful home struggles to understand the company's motives. However, after witnessing the actual funerals, Tomoya is shocked by what the clients reveal about their past. Excessive parental interference, corporal punishment, sexual abuse, rape...Tomoya soon discovers that these seemingly disturbing funeral services have the power to set people free. The popular Japanese author and columnist with over 70,000 followers on Twitter tackles the sensitive subject of toxic parenting and shows how its effects can be overcome.

**“Far preferable to dying or being killed. This novel offers tips for survival.”** Suzumi Suzuki, Akutagawa Prize nominated novelist

**Toianna** is a Japanese businesswoman, writer and romance columnist. Born in 1987, after graduating from the Department of Political Science at Keio University, she worked in the marketing department of a multinational consumer goods corporation. She currently runs a content agency providing professional writing services to businesses and individuals. Toianna is the author of a wide range of books, from essays and manuals to novels.



Category: Non-Binary Fiction

ISBN: 978-4-09-386584-5

Pages: 256 pages

Printing: Black & White

Publication: October 2020

[English synopsis and sample translation available on request.](#)

[Listen to an extract read by English translator Emily Balistreri, here.](#)

# Whiskers and Pads

*Hige to napukin* / ヒゲとナプキン

Hiroitada Ototake, Fumino Sugiyama

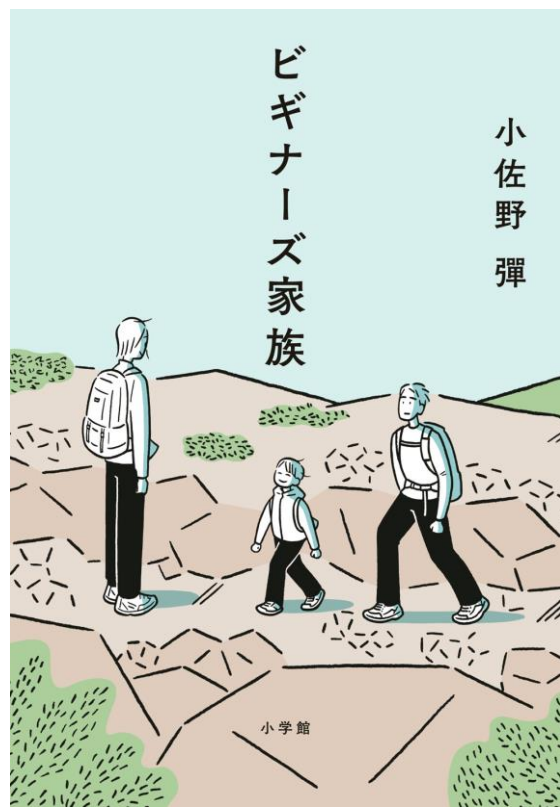
**“What are we afraid of? What are we protecting? This is what I want you to rethink.”** Ryuchell, TV personality and LGBTQ+ rights advocate

Trans man Itsuki wants to marry his girlfriend, Satoka, but with same-sex marriage not an option in Japan, he would have to change his sex officially for that to be possible. The other issue is that in Japan, trans people face a lot of barriers to changing their sex. For one thing, Itsuki would have to get his uterus removed to be legally recognized as a man. It turns out what Satoka wants most of all is to have children, which is a whole other challenge. Sperm donation from a relative of Itsuki’s would mean they could both have blood ties to the child, but he hasn’t talked to his father in eight years.

Work, love, family, will Itsuki be able to find a path forward after facing in the flesh the unreasonableness of established social norms and the anguish they entail? The author who redefined the meaning of “normal” with his six-million-copies bestseller *No One’s Perfect*, captures what it’s like for trans men in contemporary Japan and questions our assumptions about what it means to be a man, to be a woman and ultimately to be a family.

**Hiroitada Ototake** was born in Tokyo in 1976. Due to a congenital condition called tetra-amelia, he was born with almost no arms and legs. In 1998, while he was still a student at Waseda University, his memoir *Gotai fumanzoku* (published in English as *No One’s Perfect*, tr. Gerry Harcourt and John Brennan) became a six-million-copy bestseller. Following graduation, he worked jobs such as sports writer and elementary school teacher. Other books include *Jibun o ai suru chikara* (The Power to Love Yourself) and *Sharin no ue* (Over Wheels).

**Fumino Sugiyama** is a Japanese transgender activist, born in Tokyo in 1981. Co-representative director of the NPO Tokyo Rainbow Pride and former member of Japan’s women’s Olympic fencing team, he learned gender studies in graduate school and wove what he studied in with his personal experience of gender dysphoria to write *Daburu happinessu* (Double Happiness). Other works include *Moto joshikosei ga papa ni naru* (A Former High-School Girl Becomes a Father) and *Sannin de oya ni natte mita* (We Tried Being Parents as a Trio).



Category: Non-Binary Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386685-9  
 Pages: 320 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: May 2023

# Family for Beginners

*Biginazu kazoku* / ビギナーズ家族

Dan Osano

## The touching story of a family breaking a new path to love and acceptance

Born into a celebrity family, Aki lives a quiet life with his same-sex partner, Tetsuhiro. But after the sudden death of his biological father, destiny's path opens up before him as he discovers that he has a 2-year-old half-brother, Ren. Under Japanese law, Aki and Tetsuhiro cannot marry and have long given up on the idea of starting a family. But under the encouragement of his mother Chika, Aki decides to become Ren's guardian and give the life he has always dreamt of a try. Unfortunately, unexpected challenges lie in wait.

Heiress to one of the most prestigious families in Japan, Chika demands that Ren is enrolled in the private missionary elementary school both she and Aki graduated from. Aki doubts a school founded on traditional family values will accept a child raised by a same-sex couple and is worried about his sexual identity being put on public display, but follows the advice of his former homeroom teacher, a reformist in the school, and transfers Ren to a private kindergarten with a reputation for preparing students for prestigious elementary school entrance examinations.

As muffled remarks and outright scandals start to threaten Ren's peaceful upbringing, Aki's enthusiasm for this new path of life gradually fades. Stuck in a hotel at the foot of Mount Fuji, bad weather preventing the climb, Aki, Tetsuhiro and Ren open up about their true feelings and realize for the first time that they have already become the "real family" they were waiting for others to acknowledge.

**Dan Osano** is a Japanese poet, author and entrepreneur. Born in Tokyo in 1983, he graduated from the Faculty of Economics at Keio University. He is currently based in Taiwan where he runs Tsujiri, a century-old Japanese tea house and dessert chain with branches all over the world. In 2017, he won the 60th Newcomer Award for the Study of Tanka for *Mukuna Nihon de* (In Innocent Japan) and in 2018 he published his first poetry collection, *Metarikku* (Metallic). He is the author of six novels, including *Boku wa nakushita koi shika utaenai* (I Can Only Sing About Lost Love) and *Shajiku* (Axle) whose film adaptation was released in Japan in September 2023.



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 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: July 2020  
 Rights Sold: [Chinese \(Traditional\)](#), [Korean](#)  
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
[English sample translation available on request.](#)

# What Did You Do That Day?

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

Toshika Masaki

**A gripping mystery delving into the clashing emotions of two mothers whose ideal family image is suddenly shattered**

**Over 300,000 copies sold in Japan**

Izumi Mizuno's uneventful life as an ordinary housewife drastically ends when her son, junior-high-school student Taiki, is mistaken for a suspect in a serial murder case for acting suspiciously late at night. When the police tries to question him, he flees on his bicycle, crashes into a parked truck and tragically dies. What was Taiki up to the night he snuck out of the house and rode away on his bicycle?

Fifteen years later, a young woman is stabbed in her apartment in Tokyo. The man she was cheating with, Tatsuhiko Momoi, a company employee, goes missing, so the police consider him a key witness. 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. Prolific mystery writer Toshika Masaki investigates one of the most difficult relationships in the world, the one between a parent and a child.

**Toshika Masaki** was born in 1965 and currently resides in Sapporo. She won the Hokkaido Shimbun Literature Award in 2007 for her story *Chiru saku meguru* (Fall Bloom Repeat). The next year the story was collected in her first book *Yoru no sora no hoshi no* (Of Night, of Sky, of Stars). Renown for writing mysteries with a heavy emphasis on psychological depictions, her latest novel published by Shogakukan is *Kanojo ga saigo ni mita mono wa* (What Was the Last Thing She Saw?).



Category: Crime & Mystery  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-407250-1  
 Pages: 416 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: May 2023

# I Killed Our Teacher

*Watashi ga sensei o koroshita* / 私が先生を殺した

Mina Sakurai

## The dark specter of youth violence looms over a classroom just like any other

“Hey...is someone up there?” The students of a high school are assembled in the courtyard for an evacuation drill when one of them points to the rooftop. Jun Okuzawa, the most popular teacher in the school, has climbed over the fence and is about to jump. “Don’t do anything stupid!” Students and teachers scream, but amid the shocked looks of them all Okuzawa’s body flutters in the air.

What could have pushed the 27-year-old teacher to such an act? An earlier graduate of that same school and close in age to the students, Okuzawa was known among other veteran teachers for taking great care of his students. He would offer advice to those in need and tutor students whose grades were falling behind. Utter disbelief seems the only reaction possible, when the words “I killed our teacher” are found written on the blackboard of Okuzawa’s classroom. Who is the “I” behind the teacher’s death?

Narrated in alternating voices, different versions of the same tale exquisitely intertwine in student’s separate accounts of the incident, until the last chapter told from Okuzawa’s point of view brings the whole heart-wrenching truth to light. Reminiscent of Kanae Minato’s bestselling thriller *Confessions*, this gripping and profoundly unsettling new novel by Mina Sakurai delves into the darkest corners of human psyche.

**Mina Sakurai** debuted in 2013 with *Kijikakushi no niwa* (Garden of Asparagus Fern), which won the 19th Dengeki Novel Prize, the largest prize for light novels in Japan. Her most famous work is *Hei no naka no biyoshitsu* (Beauty Salon in Prison, also known as *The Depth of the Sky*), whose manga adaptation, illustrated by Marco Kohinata, received an Excellence Award at the 24th Japan Media Arts Festival in 2021.



Category: Crime & Mystery  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-407008-8  
 Pages: 304 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: April 2021  
 Rights Sold: Korean

# The Murdered Husband Returns

*Koroshita otto ga kaette kimashita* / 殺した夫が帰ってきました

Mina Sakurai

For fans of Natsuo Kirino and Hideo Yokohama

170,000 copies sold in Japan

Mana Suzukura, the young employee of a clothing manufacturer in Tokyo, is troubled by the persistent advances of Hodaka, one of her clients. One day, on her way home, Mana is ambushed by Hodaka, who tries to force himself into her house, ignoring her pleas to stop. At that moment, a man claiming to be Mana's husband appears and turns Hodaka away. There is no doubt the man is Kazuki Suzukura, Mana's husband. However, Mana does not feel relieved. She is terrified. Wasn't Kazuki the husband who subjected her to the most horrific domestic violence? Wasn't he the same man she pushed off a cliff and killed five years ago?

Kazuki claims to have lost all memories of their past life together due to an accident. There seems to be no trace of violence in his calm and kind demeanor, so Mana reluctantly agrees to have him move back into their former home. Just as Mana settles into the life she always wished for and her desire to trust Kazuki grows stronger, a letter from an unknown sender is delivered. "I know about Mana Suzukura's past." Around the same time, a detective informs Mana that Kazuki's skeletal remains have been found in the mountains of Miyagi Prefecture.

Who is the man at Mana's side? What terrible secret does a wife who cannot recognize her husband's face hide? A page-turning psychological thriller whose plot twists and questionable characters will leave you breathless.

**Mina Sakurai** debuted in 2013 with *Kijikakushi no niwa* (Garden of Asparagus Fern), which won the 19th Dengeki Novel Prize, the largest prize for light novels in Japan. Her most famous work is *Hei no naka no biyoshitsu* (Beauty Salon in Prison, also known as *The Depth of the Sky*), whose manga adaptation, illustrated by Marco Kohinata, received an Excellence Award at the 24th Japan Media Arts Festival in 2021.

# NON-FICTION



Category: Art  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-682434-4  
 Pages: 192 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2023

**“Be humble for we are made of the earth  
 yet be noble for we are also made of stars.”**  
 Yukimasa Ida

# A Letter to the Next 100 Years

*100-nen go e no okitegami / 100年後への置き手紙*

Yukimasa Ida

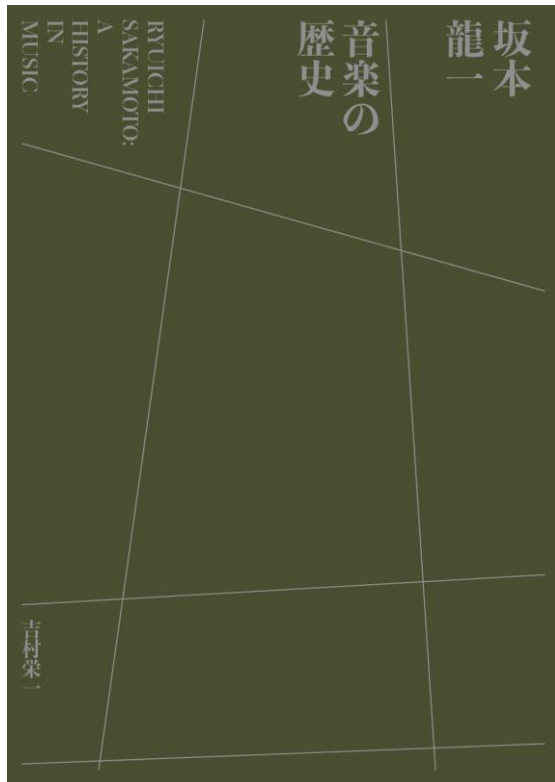
## A rare look into the creative process of one the most promising contemporary artists in Japan

The work of contemporary Japanese artist Yukimasa Ida has been in the spotlight in recent years for its high prices fetched at overseas art auctions. Despite being still in his early thirties, Ida became the first Asian artist to hold a solo exhibition at the Picasso Museum in Spain and his works were not only exhibited in galleries all over the world, but also brought to the International Space Station (ISS). This book is published in conjunction with *Panta Rhei – For as long as the world turns*, Ida’s first solo exhibition in Japan, initially held in his hometown at the Yonago City Museum of Art from July 2023 and then at the Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art from September 2023. Paintings, sculptures, screen prints, photographs, sketches as well as lines of poetry and handwritten notes are scattered throughout this compact monograph, highlighting the multifaceted nature of Ida’s accomplishments and the distinctive character of his aesthetic choices. Inspired by the Japanese concept of “*ichi-go ichi-e* (one time, one meeting),” Ida’s work strives to capture the unrepeatability of a moment and, oscillating between realism and abstraction, questions the impermanence of our existence. The result is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



**Yukimasa Ida** is a Japanese artist born in Tottori Prefecture in 1990. He graduated in 2019 with a Masters in Oil Painting from Tokyo University of the Arts. In 2016, Ida won the CAF Special Jury Award and in 2018, he was selected as one of *Forbes Japan’s* “30 Under 30” in the art category. Major exhibitions include *King of limbs* (Kaikai Kiki Gallery, Tokyo, 2020), *Here and Now* (Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Chicago, 2021), *YUKIMASA IDA visits PABLO PICASSO* (Picasso Birthplace Museum, Malaga, 2022), and *Now is Gone* (Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Paris, 2022).





Category: 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

**Biography, complete discography and photobook available for the first time in a deluxe boxed-set edition**

Ryuichi Sakamoto was the trailblazer of Japan's contemporary music scene, winning 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, producer, actor and 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's and this biography, published on the 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 firsthand 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 eighty 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 iseijin* (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.



Category: Art  
 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

Kotobuki Shiriagari

### Contemporary manga artist Kotobuki Shiriagari meets Edo-period ukiyo-e master Katsushika Hokusai

Manga artist Kotobuki Shiriagari presents his comical take on the world of ukiyo-e master Katsushika Hokusai with eighty 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.

**Kotobuki Shiriagari**, pseudonym for Toshiki Mochizuki, 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 "Kotobuki Shiriagari," 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 and contemporary art. In 2014, the Japanese government awarded him the Medal with Purple Ribbon for his artistic accomplishments.



Category: Art  
 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

Experience the four seasons in Japan with Tatsuya Tanaka's unique miniature art

Over 20,000 copies sold in Japan

A 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 *sajiki*, 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 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 overseas, had a total of over 2 million visitors and his Instagram account (@tanaka\_tatsuya) 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.



Category: Art  
 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

Take a seat and get ready to fly anywhere you want. "It's a small world after all."

In this second volume, Tatsuya Tanaka leaves the familiar shores of his home country to take us on a trip around the world. Featuring ninety 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.

**Tatsuya Tanaka** is a miniature artist and 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 overseas, had a total of over 2 million visitors and his Instagram account (@tanaka\_tatsuya) 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.





Category: Self-Help  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-388398-6  
 Pages: 160 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: January 2015  
 Agent: TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY (World, excluding Asia)  
 Rights Sold: Vietnamese



# Chair Meditation for a Simple Life

*Ikiru no ga raku ni naru isu zazen / 生きるのがラクになる椅子坐禅*

Shunmyo Masuno

A step-to-step guide to achieving the unwavering mind of a Zen monk

10,000 copies sold in Japan

Popular Zen monk and million-copy bestselling author, Shunmyo Masuno, argues that the key to solving our problems and the pain and suffering that arise from them lies in “*zazen* (seated meditation),” a meditative discipline that is typically the primary practice of the Zen Buddhist tradition. According to Shunmyo Masuno, *zazen* releases the tension in our mind, regulating mental patterns and cognitive functions. However, it is also true that those not familiar with Zen practice might perceive *zazen* as difficult to approach. This book intends to address such concerns and offer a simple alternative, easily available to all.

With plain black-and-white line drawings and succinct instructions, Shunmyo Masuno introduces readers to the little-known techniques of “chair *zazen*,” a style of Zen meditation that, as the name suggests, can be practiced while sitting on a chair. The book shows how incorporating as little as ten minutes of chair *zazen* in our daily routine directly affects our mind helping us to cope with the inevitable difficulties and hardships that mar our everyday life. By simply sitting on a chair, stop running away from pain and learn to accept it as an essential element of 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) and *Okoranai Zen no saho* (Anger-Free Zen Practice) among other bestselling books.



Category: Self-Help  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-310674-0  
 Pages: 144 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: January 2021  
 Rights Sold: **Spanish**

# 10-Minute Bedtime Yoga

## Fall Asleep as If by Magic

*Neru mae juppun maho no neochi yoga* / 寝る前10分 魔法の寝落ちヨガ

**B-life**

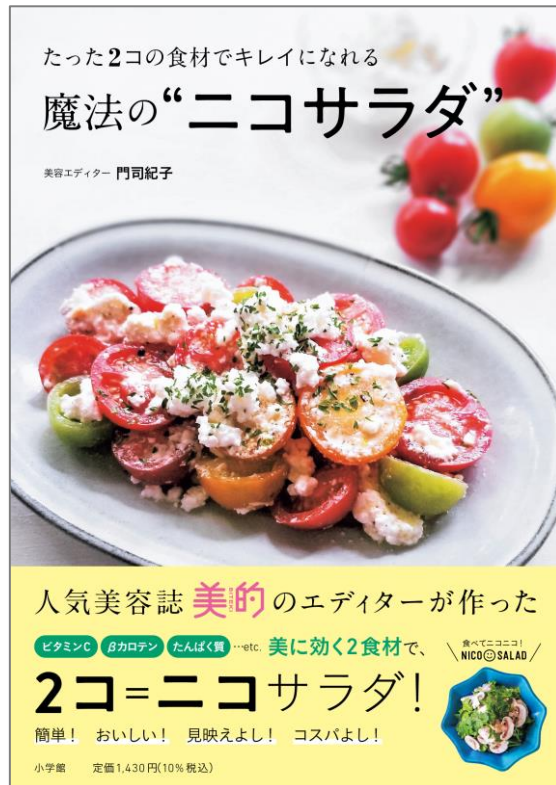
**Relaxing yoga for a good night's sleep. Over 90,000 copies sold in Japan!**

By popular demand, the bedtime relaxation routine that helped thousands of viewers fall asleep during live-stream lessons is finally available in book form. Clear away the stress and fatigue of a long day and learn how to gently fall asleep.

Ninety percent of the yoga poses can be done while lounging on the floor or lying down on a bed, so you can fall asleep right where you are. Change into your pajamas and get ready for a good night's sleep.

**B-life** is one of the most popular yoga YouTube channels in Japan. Started in 2016 by yoga instructor Mariko and her husband Tomoya, as of July 2023 the number of subscribers to the channel exceeds 1.97 million. Their books include *Jiritsu shinkei mirumiru totonou maho no yoga* (Magical Yoga for Autonomic Nervous System Regulation), *Mirumiru bi bodi maho no piratisu* (Magical Pilates for a Beautiful Body) and *B-life Mariko no saikyo! Bi fukkin toreningu* (B-life Mariko's Strongest! Beautiful Abs Training) among many others.





Category: Food, Crafts & Hobbies  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-310691-7  
 Pages: 128 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: October 2021

# Boost Your Beauty with the Magic Two Ingredient Salad

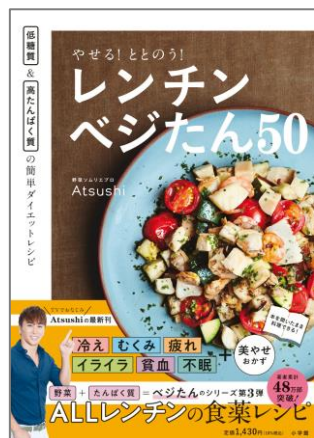
*Tatta 2-ko no shokuzai de kirei ni nareru maho no "niko sarada" / たった2コの食材でキレイになれる魔法の“ニコサラダ”*

Noriko Monji

**What if you could make a delicious, stylish, beauty-boosting, nutrient-rich salad with just two ingredients?**

Over 180 nutritionally balanced and colorful recipes that with just two ingredients will not only improve the health of your skin, body and mind, but will also have you smiling as you eat them. Popular health and beauty writer Noriko Monji proves that depending on the combination of ingredients and seasoning, the possible salad variations are endless. The book is organized in sections focusing on key “beauty foods,” such as avocado, tomatoes, carrots, kale, root vegetables, herbs, eggs, tuna and tofu. Each salad is accompanied by icons indicating its beauty benefits: moisturized and translucent skin, anti-aging, a toned body, healthy-looking hair, detoxifying. At the end of the book, tools and favorite utensils, as well as an index organized by ingredient, are included for ease of use. Throw your shopping list to the wind with these easy, cost-effective recipes just about anyone can make!

**Noriko Monji** is a freelance editor and writer. She is in charge of content planning, art direction and writing for fashion and lifestyle magazines for women such as *Biteki* and *Oggi*. Her articles cover a wide range of topics, from beauty, nutrition and cooking to travel, fashion and golf. She is the author of *Taipei higaeri dangan tabi tabemakuri! 1-nen 12-kai* (One-Day Trip to Taipei: Never Stop Eating! 12 Times in a Year) and *Dangan torabe raita no Taiwan moso tabi gohan* (The Travel Writer's Dream Gourmet Trip to Taiwan), both published by Shogakukan. She can be found on Instagram at @norikomoni.



Category: Food, Crafts & Hobbies  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-311532-2  
 Pages: 112 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: November 2022

## High-Protein, Veggie-Rich: 50 Microwave Recipes

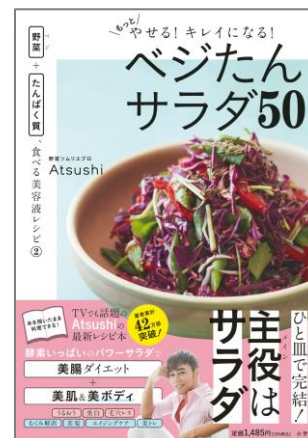
*Renchin bejitan 50 / レンチンベジたん50*

Atsushi

**Slim down and tone up with Japanese lifestyle guru, Atsushi!**

Directly from Japan comes an easy and healthy way to lose weight. The latest addition to Atsushi's *Bejitan* (High-Protein, Veggie-Rich) series of cookbooks includes fifty new recipes low in carbohydrates and rich in protein and dietary fiber. Combining principles of Chinese medicine and nutritional science, the recipes in this book are specifically designed to ease minor ailments such as cold, swelling, fatigue, irritability, anemia and insomnia. Simply cut the ingredients, place them in a heatproof bowl and microwave! The result is so tasty and full of flavor that you will hardly believe it was made in a microwave.

**Atsushi** is a Japanese lifestyle guru, who is active in a variety of fields including fashion, beauty and nutrition. After handling public relations for international fashion brands such as Diesel, D&G, and Versace, he became an independent producer of content and products related to health and wellness. In particular, he rose to fame in Japan for his healthy approach to weight loss, which has been widely publicized not only in books and women's magazines, but also on TV and social media. He runs the natural skincare brand "abotanical" and, in 2016, became a professional vegetable sommelier after obtaining a degree in Chinese herbal medicine. He is the author of *Maho no eijingu kea reshipi* (Magical Anti-Aging Recipes) and the *Bejitan* (High-Protein, Veggie-Rich) series of cookbooks published by Shogakukan, among many other books. He can be found on Instagram at @atsushi\_416.



Category: Food, Crafts & Hobbies  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-310682-5  
 Pages: 128 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: May 2021

## High-Protein, Veggie-Rich: 50 Salads

*Bejitan sarada 50 / ベジたんサラダ50*

Atsushi

The days of boring salads carelessly dished out before the main meal are finally over. Vegetables, meat, grilled fish, canned tuna and a wide variety of other ingredients are combined in recipes that are at the same time nutritious, beautiful to look at and rich in flavor. Focusing on foods that contain natural digestive enzymes, Atsushi's salads specifically address common beauty concerns and promise moist, brighter and poreless skin, swelling prevention, healthy-looking hair, anti-aging care and body strength.



Category: Food, Crafts & Hobbies  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-310652-8  
 Pages: 112 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: May 2020

## High-Protein, Veggie-Rich: 50 Soups

*Bejitan supu 50 / ベジたんスープ50*

Atsushi

Tired of buying expensive beauty products that never quite seem to deliver? What if something as simple as a bowl of soup could make you thin and beautiful in one go? Mushroom and avocado potage, squid and pumpkin soy milk curry, tofu and cauliflower soup—Atsushi's recipes suggest creative new combinations of ingredients that will keep you amused and satisfied at the same time. Just chop the ingredients, put them in a pot, and in under ten minutes get ready to enjoy a healthy and delicious meal.



Category: Food, Crafts & Hobbies  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-388385-6  
 Pages: 96 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: September 2014  
 Bilingual Edition: Japanese and English

## Jiro Gastronomy

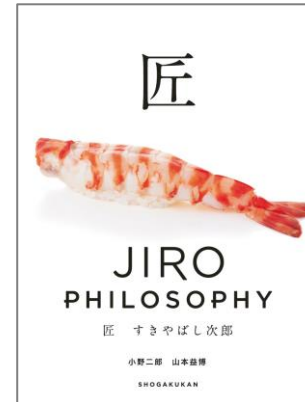
*Sushi Sukiyabashi Jiro* / 鮨 すきやばし次郎

Jiro Ono

All you need to know about the world's greatest sushi in a compact handbook

Ever since the success of the documentary *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*, around the world ordinary people and top chefs alike have become fascinated with Sukiyabashi Jiro and its culinary philosophy. In this practical handbook, readers will learn the secrets behind the flavors, sushi dining dos and don'ts, as well as information on reservations and dress code. The images of leading photographers Hiroshi Suga and Kenta Izumi complement the foreword by renowned food critic Masuhiro Yamamoto. With bilingual Japanese and English text, this is a must-read for sushi enthusiasts and anyone who loves trying out new dining experiences.

**Jiro Ono** was born in 1925 in present-day Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture. At the age of eight, he became an apprentice at a local restaurant-inn. He was so skilled that, by the time he was thirteen, he was in charge of creating the cuisine for wedding banquets. At sixteen he was sent to work in a munitions factory and at nineteen joined the military. Following the war, he became a sushi craftsman at the famous Yoshino restaurant in Kyobashi, Tokyo. In 1965, he struck out on his own and, for over fifty years, he has been the chef and owner of Sukiyabashi Jiro, a Japanese sushi restaurant in Ginza, Tokyo. He was awarded Japan's prestigious Medal with Yellow Ribbon for dedication to his profession and is regarded by his contemporaries as one of the greatest living sushi craftsmen and innovators.



Category: Food, Crafts & Hobbies  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-388497-6  
 Pages: 96 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2016  
 Bilingual Edition: Japanese and English

## Jiro Philosophy

*Takumi Sukiyabashi Jiro* / 匠 すきやばし次郎

Jiro Ono

A visual guide to the philosophy of internationally renowned sushi craftsman, Jiro Ono

This bilingual handbook details the principles, style and philosophy behind the craftsmanship of Sukiyabashi Jiro. In addition to chef Jiro Ono's sayings, food critic Masuhiro Yamamoto reviews the master's career and the secrets behind his craft. Will the apprentices working under the tutelage of the world's greatest sushi craftsman Jiro Ono be able to absorb the master's secrets and continue creating the world's finest sushi? This beautifully illustrated book, full of hints about Jiro's work and work ethics, makes an ideal gift.

**Jiro Ono** was born in 1925 in present-day Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture. At the age of eight, he became an apprentice at a local restaurant-inn. He was so skilled that, by the time he was thirteen, he was in charge of creating the cuisine for wedding banquets. At sixteen he was sent to work in a munitions factory and at nineteen joined the military. Following the war, he became a sushi craftsman at the famous Yoshino restaurant in Kyobashi, Tokyo. In 1965, he struck out on his own and, for over fifty years, he has been the chef and owner of Sukiyabashi Jiro, a Japanese sushi restaurant in Ginza, Tokyo. He was awarded Japan's prestigious Medal with Yellow Ribbon for dedication to his profession and is regarded by his contemporaries as one of the greatest living sushi craftsmen and innovators.





Category: Food, Crafts & Hobbies  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-310681-8  
 Pages: 100 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: April 2021

# Food with a Face

*Kao gohan to kao oyatsu / 顔ごはんとおやつ*

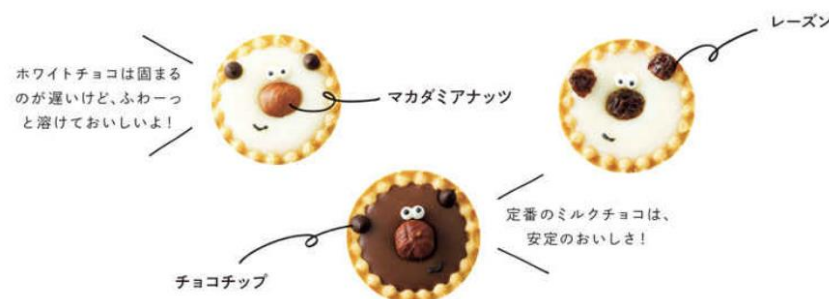
Perori

## Fun, simple ideas for food that winks right back at you

Sesame seed eyes on a bowl of white rice. Corn grain lips on fried eggs. Pinkish ham noses on Chinese dumplings. Chocolate chip ears on freshly baked cookies. Simple and effective food-decorating techniques and examples to make every meal bright and fun. With full-color, step-by-step instructions and recipes for all sorts of occasions from packed lunches to home parties, even the busiest of parents will be tempted to give it a try. All you need to capture your child's attention and help them eat properly is a cute face smiling right back at them!



**Perori** is the nickname of former figure skater Momoe Nagumo. Her Instagram account (@peroriiiii) is popular for the cute and sometimes humorous faces she adds to her meals such as rice balls and steamed Chinese dumplings. With her creations she hopes to bring a smile to her followers' faces and lighten up their day. She is currently a figure-skating coach and lives in Tokyo with her husband and son.





Category: Food, Crafts & Hobbies  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-307011-9  
 Pages: 144 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: April 2022

## How to Get Started with Embroidery

*Shishu no hajime kata / 刺繡の始めかた*

atsumi

A basic introduction to the refined minimalist world of Japanese embroidery artist, atsumi

Back in print by popular demand, an expanded new edition of *How to Get Started with Embroidery*, the basic introduction to the skills and techniques of the craft by popular Japanese embroidery artist, atsumi. The book contains a detailed explanation of thirty-nine basic embroidery stitches and how they can be used individually or in combination. It also includes eight new designs with notes on how to embroider them, as well as clear and detailed instructions on the materials and tools required. It will inspire not only those who are just starting embroidery, but also more experienced crafters who want to brush up their techniques, broaden the range of their stitch use and look for patterns that are clean and simple.

atsumi studied at Tama Art University in Japan. After working with textiles, she became an embroidery artist and in 2009 established her own embroidery brand, Itos. In addition to holding solo exhibitions of her embroidery-based work, she also collaborates with various artists, provides materials for animations, creates illustrations and conducts workshops.



Category: Food, Crafts & Hobbies  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-310886-7  
 Pages: 128 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: April 2019

## An Embroidered Book of Natural History Motifs

*Shishu hakubutsu-zu / 刺繡博物図*

atsumi



A collection of embroidery designs inspired by natural history. Plants, leaves, flowers, fishes, shells, ores, snow crystals, minerals, this book will challenge your assumption of what can be achieved with embroidery thread and needle. Modern, stylish and fun designs to make or simply look at.



Category: Food, Crafts & Hobbies  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-307010-2  
 Pages: 128 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: December 2021

## An Embroidered Book of Natural History Motifs 2

*Shishu hakubutsu-zu 2 / 刺繡博物図 2*

atsumi



A new collection of natural history motifs imbued with atsumi's sense of appreciation and fascination for nature. Insects, spiders and other arthropods, plants and fungi, rare vegetables, birds, amphibians and reptiles, mammals and fishes—this book collects all those beautiful things “we don't want to see disappear.”

# CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Look  
Inside

かどこいった?

鈴木 のりたけ



小学館

Category: Early Years  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726820-8  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: November 2018  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified)  
 Age: 0+



# Where Did the Mosquito Go?

*Ka doko itta?* / か どこいった?

Noritake Suzuki

## Turn the page and snap! A new type of interactive picture book

A mosquito landed on my hand. Ready, turn the page and snap! Ah, it escaped. Where did the mosquito go? On the building blocks. One more time, turn the page and snap! It escaped again. From the bestselling author of *The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises* and the *Workplaces* series, a new type of interactive picture book, simple yet packed with interesting ideas. Read the story and try to catch the mosquito by turning the thick, hefty pages with a mighty snapping sound. A perfect summer read-aloud, with humorous illustrations and repetitive text to help children focus on the activity at hand and share in the fun. A surprise awaits at the end!

**Noritake Suzuki** was born in 1975 in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture. After working as a company employee and graphic designer, he became a picture book author. He won the Readers' Prize at the Japan Picture Book Awards for *Boku no toire* (My Toilet) and the Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award for *Shigotoba Tokyo Sukai Tsuri* (Workplaces: Tokyo Sky Tree). Major works include the *Shigotoba* (Workplaces) series, *Kawa* (River), and *Oshiri o shiritai* (I Want to Know More About Butts). *Daipinchi zukan* (The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises), published by Shogakukan in 2022, sold 400,000 copies to date in Japan and was awarded the Miraiya Picture Book Grand Prize, the Libro Picture Book Award Grand Prize and the MOE Picture Booksellers' Grand Prize.



Look  
Inside

Category: Early Years  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725234-4  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2023  
 Age: 3+

# I'm Home

*Tadaima* / ただいま

**Makiko Toyofuku**

**A gentle story celebrating the comfort to be found in kindness and care for others**

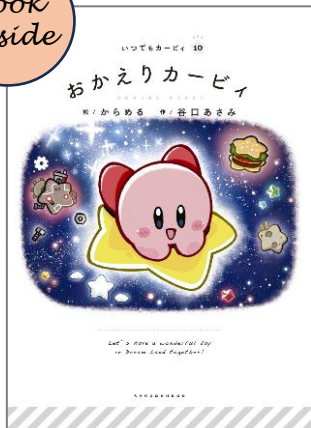
Pon is a plush raccoon, with a soft fluffy tail. One day, he is abruptly packed into a box and sent to a toy hospital, the tail he always considered his pride and joy completely torn off and packed in the box right beside him. At the hospital, Pon encounters many other toys waiting to be treated—a toy truck with a missing tire, a marionette with torn strings, a doll with ripped lace on its French-made intricate dress.



As the damaged toys are gently laid in wicker baskets by the toy doctor, Pon starts sharing with his fellow inpatients the thoughts that have been troubling him since his arrival. The two children in his family tore off his tail while pulling him back and forth in a fight. Is the family now trying to get rid of him? Will he ever be able to return? A heartwarming story whose soft water-colored illustrations and simple narrative help children address feelings of insecurity and anxiety and reassure them of their family's unshakable love.

**Makiko Toyofuku** is a Japanese author whose works range from picture books to illustrations for newspapers and magazines. She was born in Tokyo and graduated from the College of Art and Design at Musashino Art University. After working as a graphic designer at an advertising agency, she became a freelance illustrator. *Odoritai no* (I Want to Dance) published by Kane Miller Books in 2020 is her first book to be translated in English.

Look Inside



# Welcome Back, Kirby

Okaeri Kabi / おかえりカービィ

Written by **Asami Taniguchi**, Illustrated by **Karameru**

**Kirby is lost in outer space. Will he be able to find his way home?**

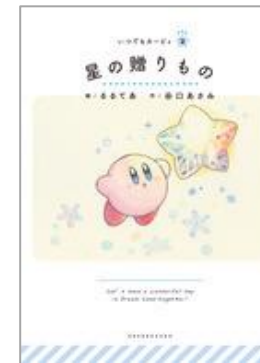
While playing along the Milky Way, Kirby falls asleep and gets swept away by the Sea of Stars. "Where am I?" As much as he tries to get his bearings, Planet Popstar, Kirby's home planet, is nowhere to be found. So, Kirby hops on a bright yellow star and starts his long journey back home. On the way, he experiences life on all sorts of different planets. Planet Robostar, Burgerstar, Fluffystar, Playstar...Will Kirby make it home safely or will he be tempted to stay? In the latest installment in the popular *It's Kirby Time* series, Kirby explores the outer space for the first time. Illustrated throughout in bright, lively colors and with an extraordinary wealth of landscapes and characters drawn in painstaking detail, this is a story about returning to that "important place" we all hold dear in our hearts.

**Asami Taniguchi** is a manga artist born in Tokyo in 1981. She is notable for being the author of the *Kirby of the Stars! Moretsu Pupupu Hour!* manga series. In her occasional manga appearances, she draws herself in a kimono with an Asian conical hat with the characters of her surname (谷口) imprinted on it and a large fountain pen. In 2002, she won an honorable mention in the children's section of the Shogakukan New Comic Award and, in 2003, made her debut in *Bessatsu CoroCoro* magazine.

Category: Early Years  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725230-6  
 Pages: 18 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2023  
 Age: 3+



**Sweet Dreams, Kirby**  
 Illustrated by RURUTEA



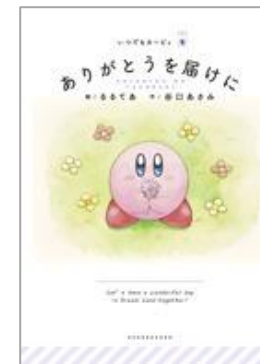
**The Gift of a Star**  
 Illustrated by RURUTEA



**Take Courage**  
 Illustrated by HYOGONOSUKE



**Kirby's Tiny World**  
 Illustrated by HYOGONOSUKE



**Thank You**  
 Illustrated by RURUTEA



**A Hug from Kirby**  
 Illustrated by Caho



**Together with Kirby**  
 Illustrated by Karameru



**Kirby's Birthday**  
 Illustrated by Caho



**Kirby's Alone Time**  
 Illustrated by HYOGONOSUKE

Look Inside



Category: Early Years  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725136-1  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: December 2021  
 Rights Sold: English  
 Age: 3+



## 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

### Will Pikachu be able to make any new friends?

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!

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.

**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 hoseki* (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 wa nani?* (What Is in This Beautiful Gift?).

Look Inside



Category: Early Years  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725187-3  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: September 2022  
 Rights Sold: English  
 Age: 3+



## Pikachu's Night Adventure

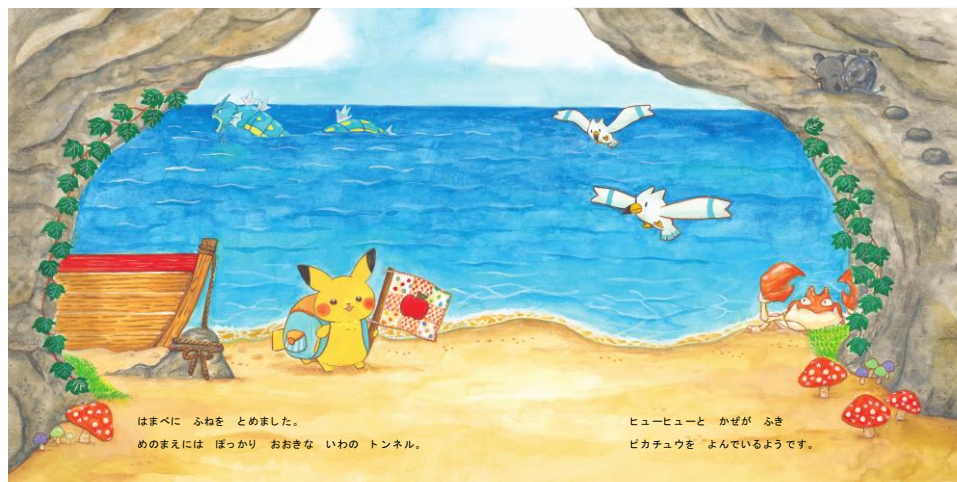
*Pikachu to yoru no tanken / ピカチュウとよるのたんけん*

Rikako Matsuo

### Time to venture out into the night!

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 hoseki* (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 wa nani?* (What Is in This Beautiful Gift?).



Look  
Inside

Category: 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

### How about we all get striped together?

"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 is currently a lecturer at the Kobe Design University.

Look  
Inside

Category: Early Years  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725130-9  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: February 2018  
 Age: 0+

## The Cat on the Farm

*Nojo ni sumu neko / のうじょうにすむねこ*

Nachio Nakanishi

### Let's go for a stroll around the farm and meet cat's animal friends

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—all the animals on the farm are introduced from the cat's unique perspective. The childlike, 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 both 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 omoenashi* (Toraneko Bonbon's Hospitality).





Look  
Inside

Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725229-0  
 Pages: 31 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2023  
 Age: 3+

# Melting into the Sunset

*Yuyake ni tokete iku* / ゆうやけにとけていく

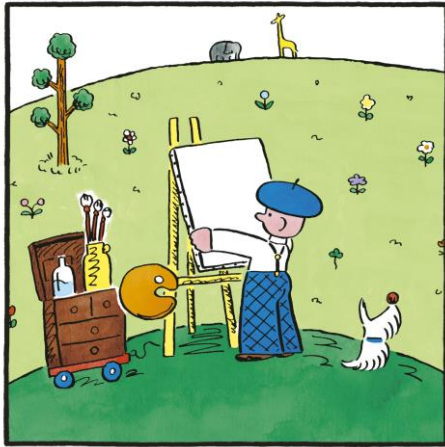
The Cabin Company



**Birds aiming at the sun, a train rushing in the distance, the glow of the setting sun enfolds joy and sorrow alike**

As the sun sinks beyond the horizon, a boy playing freely on a jungle gym, a girl kicking bitterly at a stone, a parent and child coming home from the grocery store...scenes that take in the spectrum of human emotion are depicted against the warm glow of the sunset in the background. Rich hues of red, orange, pink and yellow gradually melt into deep shades of green, turquoise, blue and purple until under a myriad of twinkling stars all is dark and quiet. "The joy and sorrow of people living here and there today turn into a stream of light that melts into the sky. And that's how this quiet night sky came to be. Sleep tight."

**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. Previous books published by Shogakukan include *Pokémon no shima* (Pokémon Island), *Yubisashi-chan* (Fingertippy), *Nyo-!* (Swoosh!) and *Nen neko* (It's Bedtime for Kitten) among many others.

Look  
Inside

fancomi

ガハクとブラシ

gahaku &amp; brush

小学館

Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725225-2  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2023  
 Age: 3+

# gahaku & brush

Gahaku to burashi / ガハクとブラシ

fancomi



## A day in the life of Gahaku the painter and his beloved dog Brush

One day, Gahaku the painter and his beloved dog Brush find a nice spot to paint outdoors. They are preparing their tools when all sorts of different creatures come out and ask to be painted. An elephant and a giraffe come running from far away and strike a weird pose. "Paint us!" They request in unison. "No, no, paint us!" Prairie dogs and moles pop out of the dirt one by one and state in reply. Then trees, clouds, thunders, rivers, fishes and birds, a mountain and the sun itself all fiercely ask for their portrait to be taken. Gahaku finishes up all their paintings amid a great hubbub of excitement, but in the end which is his favorite? The latest picture book by one of the most in vogue contemporary Japanese illustrators enchants readers with bright illustrations and a funny, rhythmical story.

**fancomi** is the nickname of illustrator and designer Jun Omori, born in Saitama Prefecture in 1980. After graduating in 2004 from the Department of Design at Tokyo Zokei University, he joined the A&A Masuteru Aoba Design Office. He is currently active as a freelance illustrator and designer in a wide variety of fields, ranging from product packaging, advertising, magazine and book design. He was a finalist in the 3rd "1\_WALL" Graphics Competition. His books include *Boku no hon* (My Book) and *Sore wa mata betsu no hanashi* (That's a Different Story), as well as the bilingual (Japanese and English) *Small Story* and *Neko ga taiyaki tabechatta* (The Cat Ate the Taiyaki).

Look  
Inside

Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726718-8  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: June 2017  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional)  
 Age: 5+

## The Dinosaur Audition

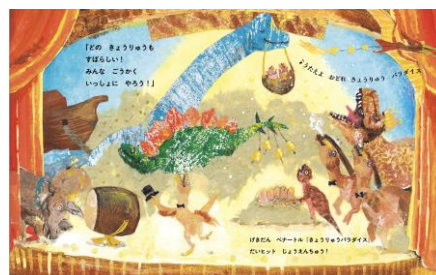
*Kyoryu odishon* / きょうりゅうオーディション

Chisato Tashiro

### Welcome to dinosaur paradise!

The dinosaur audition is held under the light-hearted supervision of Fukuivenator, a small dinosaur measuring 245 centimeters in length and weighing 25 kilograms. Various dinosaurs, keen to take part in his new musical, come to show their special skills. A long-necked Brachiosaurus, a Triceratops with a large bony frill and three horns, a singing Tyrannosaurus with a huge mouth... Who will win the competition and take part in the final musical? Based on thorough research at the Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum, one of the world-leading dinosaur museums, *The Dinosaur Audition* is representative of Chisato Tashiro's award-winning work, for the use of a variety of materials and painting methods such as printmaking and collage. In particular, the bow tie of the Fukuivenator, the audition's judge, is made from fossils excavated by Tashiro herself at the museum.

**Chisato Tashiro** is a children's book author and illustrator, born in Tokyo in 1969. She illustrated the picture book *Mori no koe* (Voices of the Forest) for EXPO 2005 in Aichi, Japan. Her 2003 picture book *Boku wa kameroon* (Chameleon's Colors) was published in English by North-South Books (tr. Marianne Martens) among other languages. In 2011, *Hikkoshi daisakusen 5 hiki no sutekina nezumi* (Five Nice Mice Build a House), published in English by minedition, won the Japan Picture Book Award. Her work was selected for the 21st Bratislava World Picture Book Original Illustration Exhibition.

Look  
Inside

Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725309-9  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: September 2023  
 Age: 5+

## The Dinosaur Sports Day

*Kyoryu undokai* / きょうりゅううんどうかい

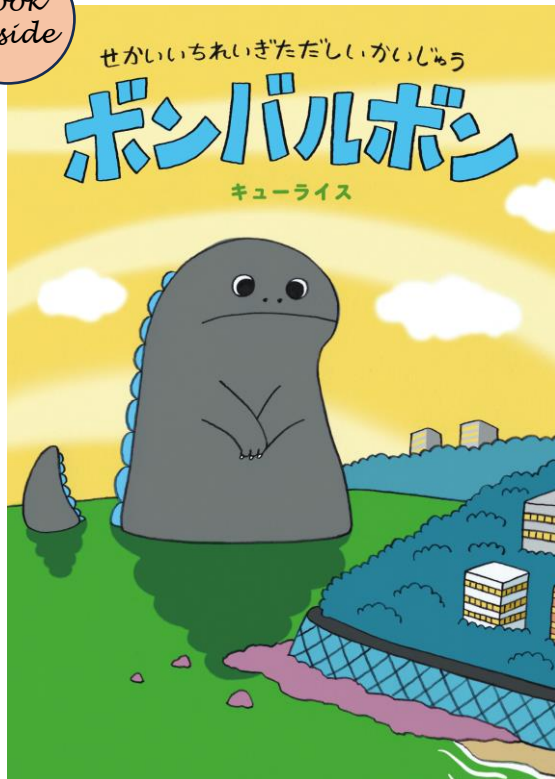
Chisato Tashiro

### At sports day it is dinosaur galore!

In this follow-up to *The Dinosaur Audition*, Ankylosaurus, Pachycephalosaurus, Psittacosaurus and a total of other twenty-one dinosaurs, pterosaurs, and sea creatures gather for sports day. Under the watchful eye and lively commentary of Fukuivenator, dinosaurs challenge each other in all sorts of races from carrying eggs while flying and rolling ammonites to pulling rope and speed racing. Is the Tyrannosaurus really faster than the Mamenchisaurus? Japan Picture Book Award-winning author, Chisato Tashiro, creates patterns and collages through humble materials such as wood, stones, and leaves to vividly depict the dinosaurs' endearing adventures and give a sense of just how long ago the dinosaurs lived.

**Chisato Tashiro** is a children's book author and illustrator, born in Tokyo in 1969. She illustrated the picture book *Mori no koe* (Voices of the Forest) for EXPO 2005 in Aichi, Japan. Her 2003 picture book *Boku wa kameroon* (Chameleon's Colors) was published in English by North-South Books (tr. Marianne Martens) among other languages. In 2011, *Hikkoshi daisakusen 5 hiki no sutekina nezumi* (Five Nice Mice Build a House), published in English by minedition, won the Japan Picture Book Award. Her work was selected for the 21st Bratislava World Picture Book Original Illustration Exhibition.



Look  
Inside

Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725233-7  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2023  
 Age: 3+



# Bonbalbon, the World's Kindest Monster

*Sekai ichi reigi tadashii kaiju bonbarubon / せかいいちれいきただしいかいじゅう ボンバルボン*

Q-rais

Cute, funny, and a little surreal—a new monster is in town!

One day, a humongous, enormous monster emerges from the sea. The town is in an uproar. With courage in hand, the mayor boards a helicopter and approaches the terrifying sea creature. Just as he is about to plead for the safety of the town and its people, the monster bows deeply and offers gifts. “I’d like to bask in the sun a little. May I come ashore?” He asks. How humble! How sweet! How polite! The mayor is impressed and welcomes the monster in town. Will the mayor regret his decision? Will the town come through unscathed? Rumble, rumble, the ground vibrates once again...Meet Bonbalbon, the latest surprising new character by popular Japanese artist Q-rais.



Yusuke Sakamoto, better known as **Q-rais**, has been making short animations since high school. After graduating from Tokyo Zokei University, he worked at Tohokushinsha Film Corporation and has been a full-time freelance animator, cartoonist and illustrator since 2017. He was the grand prize winner of the 19th DigiCon6 ASIA for his film *Kamo ga suki* (I Like Ducks). His picture books include *Chikyu-chan* (Earthy), *Don Ussa sora o tobu* (Don Ussa Flies Up to the Sky) and *Abare neko* (Rough Cat).

Look  
Inside

Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725217-7  
 Pages: 54 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: April 2023  
 Age: 3+

# What's for Lunch?

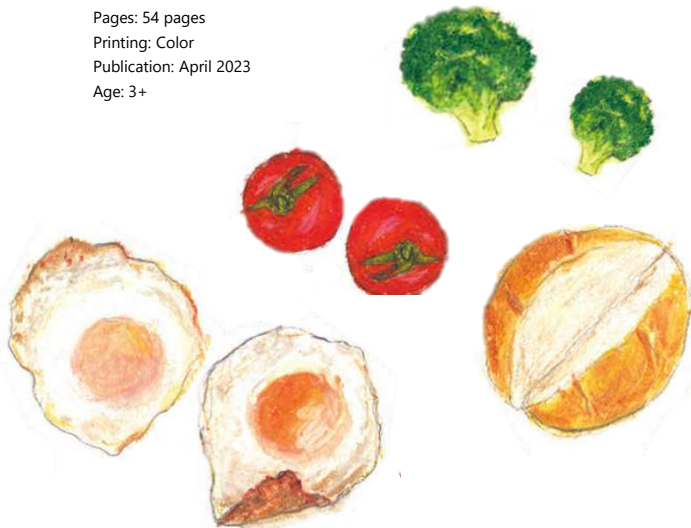
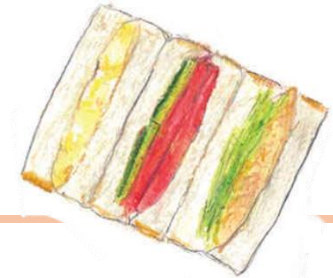
*Obento nani ireyou? / おべんとう なにいれよう?*

## Ikeda Mame

### Is it a hamburger or a spaghetti kind of day?

Mixed sandwiches for a playdate at the park. Fried chicken with plenty of rice and vegetables to take along on sports day. Sushi rolls with a sprinkling of pink petals to savor beneath the blooming cherry trees. Let's pack our own lunch boxes and go on an adventure! Includes a board book with four different lunch boxes and eighty-five cut out sheets with a large variety of fish, meat, fruit and vegetables to choose from. Cut your favorite foods with scissors, tear the paper rice and seaweed with your hands and place them in the lunch box that most inspires you. By putting together their own meals children are encouraged to think about what foods they like, what colors they want to use, and how to organize the space in their lunch boxes. This book not only stimulates parent-child communication, but teaches children to appreciate the warmth and love that goes into the preparation of a homemade meal. Part of Shogakukan's *Paperpuntas* series of activity books that allow young children (and children at heart) to experience the excitement of manipulating paper and creating something new with their own hands. Tear, cut, fold—the possibilities are endless!

**Ikeda Mame** is a Japanese manga artist and illustrator, born in Izumo City, Shimane Prefecture, in 1992. After graduating from high school, she worked as assistant chef for three years before moving to Osaka to paint. Her work mainly focuses on illustrations for book covers and exhibitions. In 2016, she was awarded the Masayoshi Nakajo Award at the HB File Competition. Her books include *Aji ga aru* (Tasty), *Onaka ga hetta* (I'm Hungry), *Watashi no kangaeru kotto* (This Is How I Feel About Antiques), *Ekiben to fukei* (Station Lunch Boxes and Landscapes). Eggs are her favorite food.



Look  
Inside

Category: Picture Books  
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* / うさぎのさとくん あさひ

Yuki Ainoya

**One day Sato decides to become a rabbit and a rabbit he has been ever since. Welcome to the whimsical world of Sato the rabbit, where the ordinary becomes extraordinary!**

In this fourth installment of the endearingly surreal *Sato the Rabbit* series, Yuki Ainoya explores the theme of light, how it 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 a fire with it, 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 discovers inside 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*

**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.



## Sato the Rabbit

*Usagi no Sato-kun* / うさぎのさとくん

Yuki Ainoya

Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-727490-2  
Pages: 60 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: April 2006  
Rights Sold: [Catalan](#), [English](#), [Romanian](#), [Spanish](#)  
Age: 6+



## Sato the Rabbit, the Moon

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

Yuki Ainoya

Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-726352-4  
Pages: 60 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2008  
Rights Sold: [English](#), [Romanian](#)  
Age: 6+



## Sato the Rabbit, a Sea of Tea

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

Yuki Ainoya

Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-726552-8  
Pages: 60 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2014  
Rights Sold: [English](#), [Romanian](#)  
Age: 6+



Look  
Inside

Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725193-4  
Pages: 32 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: October 2022

Agent: Japan Uni Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), English, Korean  
Age: 3+



## The Snow Theater

*Yuki no gekijo* / ゆきのげきじょう

Ryoji Arai

**Under a blanket of white snow, a warm and gentle tale unfolds**

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 familiar voice suddenly calls from afar and before he knows it, his father is by his side.

**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 Honor 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 USBBY Outstanding International Book of 2022.

Look  
Inside

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



## The Lone Wolf and the Star

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

Maiko Matsumura

**A magical story about the healing power of twinkling stars shining bright in the sky**

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 that will allow them to enjoy 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).

Look  
Inside

Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725138-5  
 Pages: 48 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: February 2022  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Korean  
 Age: 5+



# The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises

*Daipinchi zukan* / 大ピンチずかん

Noritake Suzuki

The picture book that took post-COVID Japan by storm for teaching children easy but effective stress-coping techniques

Over 400,000 copies sold in Japan

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



**Noritake Suzuki** was born in 1975 in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture. After working as a company employee and graphic designer, he became a picture book author. He won the Readers' Prize at the Japan Picture Book Awards for *Boku no toire* (My Toilet) and the Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award for *Shigotoba Tokyo Sukai Tsuri* (Workplaces: Tokyo Sky Tree). Major works include the *Shigotoba* (Workplaces) series, *Kawa* (River), and *Oshiri o shiritai* (I Want to Know More About Butts). *Daipinchi zukan* (The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises) was awarded the Miraiya Picture Book Grand Prize, the Libro Picture Book Award Grand Prize and the MOE Picture Booksellers' Grand Prize.



Look  
Inside

Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725149-1  
 Pages: 36 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: March 2022  
 Rights Sold: **Chinese (Simplified)**  
 Age: 3+

## Vroom Vroom, Splosh

*Buroron dororon / ブロロンどろん*

Nao Takabatake

**A car is speeding by and there is paint on the road. Can you guess what will happen next?**

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 Fine Arts 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.

Look  
Inside

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

## Climbing a Cow

*Ushi tozan / うしとざん*

Nao Takabatake

**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 tight! Grab and hold on tight! 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.

**Nao Takabatake** was born in Gifu Prefecture in 1978 and graduated from the Department of Fine Arts 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.



Look  
Inside

Category: Chapter Books / Fantasy  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-289329-0  
 Pages: 120 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: June 2023  
 Age: 7+

# The Comet and the Last Dragon

*Suisei to saigo no ryu / 彗星とさいごの竜*

Written by **Kyoko Imai**, Illustrated by **Miho Satake**

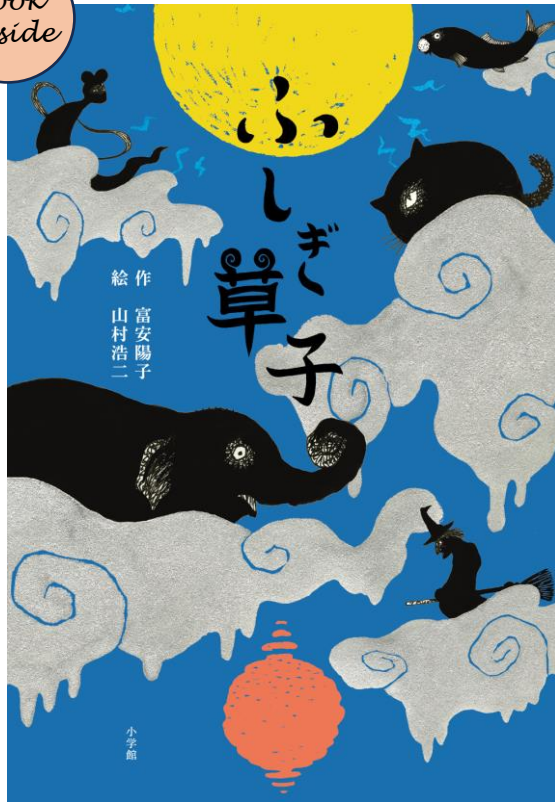
## A sweet dragon and a clever young girl team up in an epic mission to save planet Earth

In a faraway land, lost deep in the mountains, lives the last dragon. "Whatever you do, never stop being proud of who you are," his mother told him. But having lost his parents before he could even learn to fly, he never had any pride to begin with. He simply doesn't know what being a real dragon is supposed to feel like. One day as he is napping in the chest-high water of the marsh, a strangely dressed girl frightens him awake. "You can fly, can't you?" She is staring so intently at him that he thinks he might be about to be sold to a circus or to a zoo. As it turns out, the girl is on a mission. A large comet is about to destroy planet Earth. But, having come from a family of famous astronauts, astrologers, computer scientists and whatnot, the brave girl is not about to give in. She has a plan to correct the comet's orbit and avoid a collision with planet Earth. The only missing piece in her plan is the legendary star-swallowing dragon...With only seven days left before the end of all life on planet Earth, will the dragon learn to fly? Award-winning author of children's literature, Kyoko Imai, and master of fantasy illustration, Miho Satake, take us on a magic adventure showing the power of true friendship.

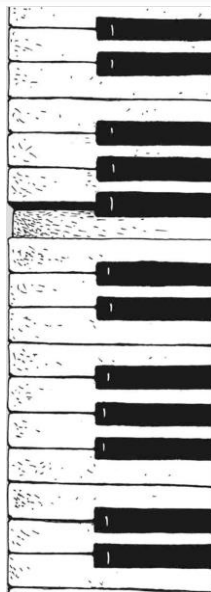
**Kyoko Imai** is a Japanese author of children's literature, born in Hiroshima Prefecture in 1949. In 1984, she started writing essays and novels, and later turned to children's literature. She is the recipient of many awards including the 2003 Ogawa Mimei Literary Award for *Aruki dasu natsu* (Walking Summer). In 2018, *Konpira inu* (Konpira Dog) won the Japanese Children's Literature Association Award, the Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award and the Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award.

**Miho Satake** is a Japanese artist and illustrator, born in Toyama Prefecture. She first made her debut as an illustrator in the science fiction magazine *Kiso Tengai* (Fantastic) and created numerous works in the fields of science fiction and fantasy. She is best known for illustrating the Japanese editions of several classic children's books including *Howl's Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones, *Kiki's Delivery Service* by Eiko Kadono, and the 20th anniversary edition of the Harry Potter series. The English-language edition of *Kimyoji yokocho no natsu* (Temple Alley Summer, tr. Avery Fischer Udagawa) written by Sachiko Kashiwaba and illustrated by Miho Satake won the 2022 Mildred L. Batchelder Award.



Look  
Inside

Category: Chapter Books / Mystery  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-289324-5  
 Pages: 192 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: April 2023  
 Age: 9+



# Eerie Tales

*Fushigi soshi* / ふしぎ草子

Written by **Yoko Tomiyasu**, Illustrated by **Koji Yamamura**

## A collection of eight stories of the eerie and strange

Strange noises coming from an unused music room. What is it that lurks inside, waiting behind its doors? A football kicked in a deserted park during morning practice disappears into the heavy fog. Driving towards a hot spring in the middle of a blizzard, the road becomes narrower and narrower until it is impossible to move. While playing on a swing, a little girl's shoe flies into the air and lands in a witch's garden...

With stunning black and white illustrations by internationally-acclaimed animation artist Koji Yamamura and references to contemporary issues such as global warming and declining birthrate, this collection of eight chilling (yet totally plausible) short stories will make you shiver with fear and excitement.

**Yoko Tomiyasu** is a fantasy writer of children's literature, born in Tokyo in 1959. Deeply attracted to stories of ghosts and ogres since she was a child, in her works she often adapts characters from Japanese folktales and legends. She is the recipient of the Newcomer Award from the Japanese Association of Writers for Children and the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for *Kunugi bayashi no zawazawa so* (Noisy House in the Chestnut Woods), the Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award for *Sora e tsuzuku shinwa* (The Nature God of the Skies), the 2002 IBBY Honor List Literature Award for *Yamanba yama no mokko-tachi* (Mokko in Mount Yamamba) and the Noma Prize for Juvenile Literature for *Bon maneki* (Invitation to the Summer Festival of Bon). She currently lives in Osaka with her husband and two sons.

**Koji Yamamura** is an animation artist and illustrator of children's literature. He was born in Nagoya in 1964 and studied painting at Tokyo Zokei University. His most famous films are the 2002 *Atama yama* (Mt. Head) nominated for the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film and winner of the Short Film Award at the Annecy International Animated Film Festival, and the 2007 animated adaptation of Franz Kafka's *A Country Doctor*, winner of the Ottawa Grand Prize. He is the only director to win the Grand Prize at all four major animation festivals in the world and in 2021 was selected as one of the 25 best short-film directors of the past 25 years. In addition, his picture book *Oyasai, oyasai* (Vegetables, Vegetables) written by Chihiro Ishizu has become a long-seller, having sold over 460,000 copies in Japan to date.

Look  
Inside

Category: Chapter Books / Fantasy  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-231437-5  
 Pages: 192 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: January 2023  
 Age: 9+

# Gold Kingdom and Water Kingdom

*Kin no kuni mizu no kuni* / 金の国水の国

Written by **Yui Tokiumi**, Illustrated by **Nao Iwamoto**

The manga that for the first time in history topped Japanese bestselling charts for two consecutive years comes to life in a new romantasy novel!

In a faraway land, war breaks out between two neighboring countries, the Gold Kingdom and the Water Kingdom, whose rulers are quarreling over trivial matters. The Gold Kingdom is rich and wealthy, but is on the verge of extinction due to a severe water shortage. On the other hand, the Water Kingdom boasts luxurious nature and water reserves, but its people are poor and out of work. Eventually the gods intercede and order that the most beautiful girl in the Gold Kingdom should marry the wisest young man in the Water Kingdom.

Princess Sarah is asked to travel to the Water Kingdom, but the Gold Kingdom actually sends a cat. A charming man named Naranbayar is chosen from the Water Kingdom, but a dog is sent to the Gold Kingdom instead. Fearing the truth might lead to a resurgence of war, Sarah and Naranbayar act as a married couple and pretend to be in love. This is the story of two intelligent and kind-hearted people whose plan to stop the conflict between their countries and open diplomatic relations, ends up moving their own hearts as well.

**Yui Tokiumi** was born in Nagano Prefecture. Before becoming a novelist, she worked at a history museum, where she was involved in the excavation of archaeological sites and in the research and study of historical and folklore materials. She is known for her adaptation of manga series, video games and other classics into literary form. *Shigatsu wa kimi no uso* (Your Lie in April), a light-novel spin-off of Naoshi Arakawa's homonymous manga series, was published in English by Vertical in 2014.

**Nao Iwamoto** is an award-winning manga artist born in Okayama Prefecture. In 2009, she won the Shogakukan Manga Award for *Machi de uwasa no tengu no ko* (Tengu Child of Town Rumors). Her manga *Marronnier okoku no shichinin no kishi* (Seven Knights of the Marronnier Kingdom) is currently being serialized in the monthly magazine *Flowers*. The anime film adaptation of *Kin no kuni mizu no kuni* (Gold Kingdom and Water Kingdom) was released in Japanese theaters in January 2023 and the English edition of the manga is scheduled for publication by Seven Seas Entertainment in November 2023.



Look  
Inside

Category: Chapter Books / Fantasy  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-227245-3  
 Pages: 256 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: March 2021  
 Age: 11+

# The Merry-Go-Round of Lost Stars

*Maigo no hoshi-tachi no meri go raundo* / 迷子の星たちのメリーゴーラウンド

Written by **Rieko Hinata**, Illustrated by **Munashichi**

## Unravel the mystery of a never-aging girl living alone in an abandoned amusement park

Haunted by the ghost of its founder, used as a base by aliens...the abandoned amusement park has been for years the object of all sorts of rumors. Mika, a mysterious girl who stopped growing at the age of three after an accident took place fifteen years ago, lives there alone. When the demolition of the park is finally approved, the local elementary and junior high schools are forced to close due to a series of strange incidents. Then, during summer vacation, in response to the girl's call five children with special powers gather at the park and through the diaries they keep the truth starts to unravel. Does Mika really hold the key to all the mysteries surrounding the abandoned amusement park!?

The five children's strange powers—communicating with whales, entering a bewildering world with fish heads in a shrine at night—evoke the loneliness many children experience as a consequence of being perceived as strange or living isolated in their communities. The extraordinary events taking place in the park, will inspire young readers to appreciate their individuality and help them understand that in our own peculiar way we all have a chance to find happiness.

**Rieko Hinata** is a Japanese author of children's literature. Her books include *Amefuru hon'ya* (The Rainy Bookshop), *Maho no niwa e* (To the Magic Garden) and *Nichiyobi no okoku* (The Kingdom of Sundays). In 2023, her series of fantasy novels *Hikari no o* (The Fire Hunter) was adapted into an anime TV series.

**Munashichi** is an illustrator well known in the anime and gaming industry for the concept design of the acclaimed video games *Tales of Zestiria* and *Tales of Berseria* and the concept artwork for the anime TV series *Princess Principal*. Popular for drawing extremely detailed retrofuturistic fantasy worlds, his books include *The Art of Munashichi* and *Entotsu machi no puperu* (Poupelle of Chimney Town).



Look  
Inside

Category: Chapter Books / Coming of Age  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-289311-5  
 Pages: 224 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: June 2021  
 Age: 11+

# The Garden

*Niwa* / 庭

Rui Kodemari



**In the lush Hawaiian nature, a mixed-heritage girl embarks on a journey to find her roots**

"I used to think of myself as fun. But I don't like what I have become. Oh, I wish I could escape to a desert island." In her second year of junior high, Mana is bullied by her Japanese classmates on social networking sites for her Hawaiian origins and correct English pronunciation. Her best friend fails to defend her, the two drift apart and eventually Mana stops going to school.

During spring break, in desperate need of a change of scenery, she heads on her own to Hawaii, her father's homeland, for a brief stay. The intoxicating fragrance of flowers, the bright blue sky, the seemingly limitless expanse of the ocean...Will Mana be able to find her place in the magnificent Hawaiian landscape?

Mana's grandmother Heidi is blind and lives with her family in a remote location. Every morning the two step out into the garden and as she cuts weeds, removes older flower stems, and tends to unruly branches Mana learns to listen to the voice of nature and to the voice of her own heart. Against the backdrop of Hawaii's rich nature and cultural heritage, Rui Kodemari introduces young readers to the complex and often difficult history of immigration in Hawaii.

**Rui Kodemari** is a Japanese novelist, poet and essayist, born in Okayama Prefecture in 1956. Based in the U.S. since 1992, she writes novels, poems, fairy tales and picture books, while living in the New York State's woodlands. In 2019, she won the Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award for *Aru hareta natsu no asa* (On a Bright Summer Morning) about eight American high school students of various descent debating the rights and wrongs of the atomic bomb blasts on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. An English edition of the same book (tr. Glenn Sullivan) was published in 2021.



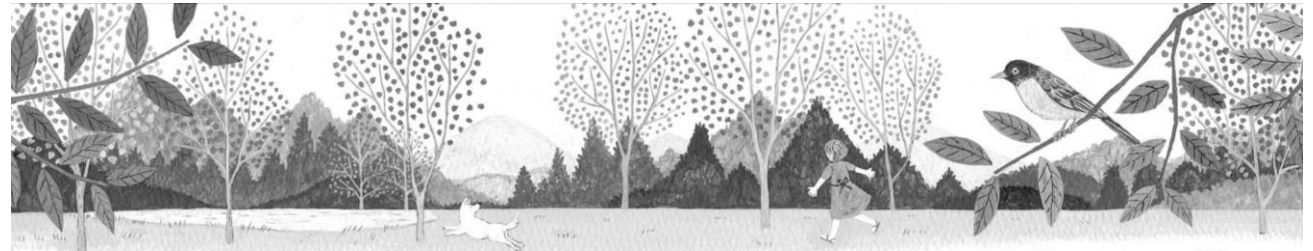
Look  
Inside

Category: Chapter Books / Coming of Age  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-289328-3  
 Pages: 224 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: May 2023  
 Age: 11+

# Birds

*Tori* / 鳥

Rui Kodemari



**A delicate exploration of the friendship between two young girls spreading their wings across different continents**

Fourteen-year-old Chika lives with her mom and dog Poirot in the woods of New York State, where her mom runs Nanae's House, a secluded bed-and-breakfast in close contact with nature. Chika's parents divorced when she was five years old and her Japanese father has been living in Japan ever since. When she travels to Japan, Chika always visits her father's new family and is particularly close to her stepsister Erina, who is about her age. From the first time they were introduced, the two hit it off and began corresponding via e-mail. Since they both share a love for birds, they also formed the "Little Bird Society" with just the two of them as members. Erina is the head of the society's Japanese branch and Chika is the head of the American branch. In their exchanges, they compare events in their daily routine to those in the life of a bird, talk about love and send each other poems. Seven o'clock in the morning on the East Coast of the U.S. corresponds to eight o'clock in the afternoon in Japan, so Chika always starts her mornings by reading the e-mail she just received from Japan. When Chika's dog Poirot suddenly passes away at the end of the book, how will the two girls learn to accept the transience of life? By verbalizing their thoughts and feelings to one another, the two young girls learn not only to care for each other, but also to treasure the nature and living beings that surround them.

**Rui Kodemari** is a Japanese novelist, poet and essayist, born in Okayama Prefecture in 1956. Based in the U.S. since 1992, she writes novels, poems, fairy tales and picture books, while living in the New York State's woodlands.

Look  
Inside

Category: Chapter Books / Romance  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-289318-4  
 Pages: 256 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: May 2022  
 Age: 11+

# Love Problems Never End

*Ren'ai mondai wa tomaranai* / 恋愛問題は止まらない

Mariko Yoshino

Love is like a rollercoaster—buckle up and enjoy the ride!

Rumor has it that the coach of the school's baseball team ordered all players to shave their heads by next week. They have been slacking off lately and the new hairstyle ought to strengthen their spirit. "Uesato has to shave off his soft curls?? I'll never allow that to happen!" Captain and attacker number four of the team, Uesato is everyone's dream boyfriend.



He claims to love baseball more than anything. But he and the head of his fan club are the official couple of the school. Is this true love? Will their relationship stand the test of time? Thirty-four episodes told from the point of view of thirty-four different schoolmates. Master Japanese screenwriter Mariko Yoshino skillfully navigates the daily ups and downs of school, love and friendship at a local junior high school.

**Mariko Yoshino** is a Japanese novelist and screenwriter, born in 1970 in Kanagawa Prefecture. After graduating from the Faculty of Humanities at Sophia University, she studied screenwriting in Osaka and worked in publishing. In 2005, she won the 1st Shincho Entertainment Award for *Aki no daisankaku* (Autumn Triangle) and has been writing literature for children and adults ever since. She won the Utsunomiya Children's Award and the Noma Prize for Juvenile Literature for both *Gekidan 6-nen 2-kumi* (Theater Company Year 6, Class 2) and *Himitsu no kotei* (The Secret Schoolyard). Her screenplay *73-nen mae no kamifusen* (The Paper Balloon from 73 Years Ago) won the Excellence Award in the Radio Drama Division at the 73rd Japan Arts Festival.





Look  
Inside

Category: Chapter Books / Non-Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-227258-3  
 Pages: 176 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: June 2022  
 Age: 8+

# The Canned Mackerel that Became Space Food

*Uchu-shoku ni natta saba kan* / 宇宙食になったサバ缶

Yasuyuki Kosaka, Yoshiko Besshi

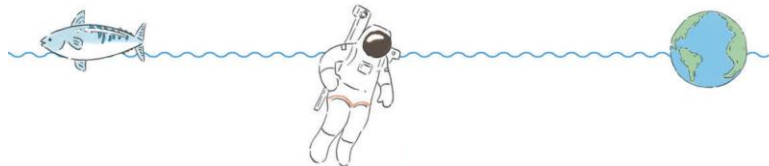


## The high school project that delivered food to space 8,500 copies sold in Japan

In November 2020, astronaut Soichi Noguchi released a video on YouTube in which he sampled in gravity-free conditions a dish of canned mackerel developed by high school students and praised it as “delicious.” *The Canned Mackerel that Became Space Food* covers the efforts of the over 300 students of Wakasa High School in Fukui Prefecture, who over the course of fourteen years turned canned mackerel into space food. The project started in 2006 with the simple suggestion of a student to develop a seafood product featuring the local specialty. But what kind of flavor would an astronaut want to taste in space? This is the story of a group of students who despite facing seemingly insurmountable difficulties were driven by their love for scientific exploration to persevere and make their shared dream come true. Their brainchild, a mackerel can reinforced by kudzu powder and strongly flavored with soy sauce, was granted Japanese-style space food status in 2018 by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). The book also includes a list of other Japanese-style space food in the JAXA-certified menu and essays on nutrition and health in space.

**Yasuyuki Kosaka** holds a Ph.D. in Bioresources and teaches a Marine Science Course at Wakasa High School in Fukui Prefecture. “Learning because it’s fun!” is his motto as he engages in marine education and inquiry-based learning. He has led marine restoration projects in cooperation with local communities and product development using local ingredients.

**Yoshiko Besshi** was born in Fukui Prefecture. A member of the Japanese Association of Writers for Children and of the Japan Juvenile Writers Association, in 2014, she won the Ogawa Mimei Literary Award for Excellence for *Ototsu aiueo no tegami* (The Embossed Letter). Her non-fiction works include *Kami ga tsunagu monogatari* (Stories Connected by Hair).



# BACKLIST



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386463-3  
 Pages: 224 pages  
 Publication: January 2017  
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
 Rights Sold: Arabic, Armenian, Bulgarian, Catalan, Chinese (Simplified, Traditional), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English(UK, US), Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil, Portugal), Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese

## The Cat Who Saved Books

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

Sosuke Natsukawa

“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 doctor and novelist based in Nagano, Japan. He made his debut as a writer in 2009 with the multivolume novel *Kamisama no karute* (God’s Medical Records), which sold over three million copies in Japan and was adapted into a film. *The Cat Who Saved Books* (tr. Louise Heal Kawai), his novel about a talking cat and the young owner of a second-hand bookshop going on an adventure to protect books, was an international bestseller and was translated into 39 languages.



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-388334-4  
 Pages: 208 pages  
 Publication: November 2013  
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
 Rights Sold: Catalan, Czech, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), English(UK), English(US), French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese (Portugal), Russian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish

## The Kamogawa Food Detectives

*Kamogawa shokudo* / 鴨川食堂

Hisashi Kashiwai

Taste one more time the food of your memories. Through ingenious investigations the owners of this inconspicuous eatery down a quiet backstreet in Kyoto are capable of recreating special dishes from their customers’ past that hold the key to unlocking forgotten memories and future happiness. A mouth-watering series celebrating the power of a delicious meal.

**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 *Ohitori kara no himitsu no Kyoto* (Exploring Secret Kyoto on Your Own) among many other books.



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-408545-7  
 Pages: 208 pages  
 Publication: September 2010  
 Agent: Emily Books Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
 Rights Sold: Catalan, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English(UK), English(US), French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Malay, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), 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

“A slender book, but one rich in experience, exactly like the tiny, crammed *Morisaki Bookshop* itself.” *New York Journal of Books*

“Yagisawa’s prose is clean and direct even as he describes the *Morisaki Bookshop* and the city that surrounds it with extraordinary care and detail. Readers will want to linger in this world. They will want more when this concise tale ends.” *Booklist*

**Satoshi Yagisawa** was born in 1977 in Chiba Prefecture and graduated from Nihon University. *Morisaki shoten no hibi* (Days at the Morisaki Bookshop), a tale of new romantic and family beginnings set in Tokyo’s Jimbocho book district, is his debut novel. After winning the Chiyoda Literary Prize, it became a publishing sensation. It was adapted into a film and a sequel was published in 2011.



Category: Trade Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386656-9  
 Pages: 256 pages  
 Publication: September 2022  
 English synopsis available on request.

## For Example, Grapes

*Tatoeba, budo* / たとえば、葡萄

Masumi Oshima

When the pandemic brings the world to a standstill and Mizuki is drowning in despair, she stumbles upon a grape juice made by a local winery and decides 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** won the Naoki Prize in 2019 for her novel *Uzu: Imoseyama onna teikin, Tamamusubi* (Whirlpool: Husband and Wife Mountains, A Mirror of Virtuous Women, Requiem). Her novel *Nijiuro tenki ame* (Rainbow Weather) and its sequel *Bita Shuga* (Bitter Sugar), were adapted into a 2011 NHK TV series.



Category: Trade Fiction  
ISBN: 978-4-09-386655-2  
Pages: 306 pages  
Publication: September 2022  
Rights Sold: **Korean**

## Life in the Share House

*Wakaba-so no kurashi* / 若葉荘の暮らし

Tomomi Hatano

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 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 they can define happiness on their own terms.

**Tomomi Hatano** is a Japanese novelist born in Tokyo in 1979. Her debut work, *Kokudo zoi no famiresu* (Family Restaurant on the National Highway), won the Shosetsu Subaru New Writers Award in 2010 and she was twice nominated for the Eiji Yoshikawa Literary Prize for New Writers.



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

## The Troublesome Dining Table

*Yakkaina shokutaku* / やっかいな食卓

Akari Mikimoto

“Why not all move in together?” Carefree mother-in-law Rinko and career-oriented daughter-in-law Yuki agree to move in together under the condition that dining tables are to be kept separate. However, as soon as the two families start living under the same roof, “troublesome” incidents start to occur. The two dining tables clash and the boundaries between meals become blurred. An exhilarating, laugh-out-loud read.

**Akari Mikimoto** is the pen name of essay writer Chizuko Kamiya. After her husband was transferred overseas, she resigned from her job at NHK and spent the next twenty-three years living in nine different countries as the wife of a diplomat. This is her first novel.



Category: Mystery & Crime  
ISBN: 978-4-09-386456-5  
Pages: 256 pages  
Publication: October 2016  
Rights Sold: **Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Korean**  
[English synopsis and sample translation available on request.](#)

## Endless Night

*Yako* / 夜行

Tomihiko Morimi

**Over 260,000 copies sold in Japan**

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. Do the *By Night* and *Dawn Light* copperplate engravings in the local gallery hold the key to the mystery?

**Tomihiko Morimi's** works have won important prizes and been adapted into critically acclaimed anime series and films. In 2010, *Penguin Highway* was awarded the Japan SF Grand Prize and in 2023, the English edition of *The Tatami Galaxy* (tr. Emily Balistreri) was shortlisted for the PEN Translation Prize.



Category: Trade Fiction  
ISBN: 978-4-09-406849-8  
Pages: 288 pages  
Publication: December 2020  
Rights Sold: **Chinese (Simplified)**  
[English synopsis available on request.](#)

## 3,000 Words Left to Live

*Yomei 3000 moji* / 余命3000文字

Gyatei Murasaki

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 that will transport you 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 turned by Shogakukan into the *5-Minute Reads* series.



Category: Literary Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386541-8  
 Pages: 320 pages  
 Publication: May 2019  
 Agent: Japan Uni Agency  
 Rights Sold: Italian  
[English sample translation 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***

On the banks of the Tama River on the outskirts of Tokyo, disgraced white-collar worker Bota and his high-school daughter Eri, who had a history of abuse, find a route to escape the darkness in their hearts, forever changing their fates. A gritty but authentic portrayal of homelessness, sex and violence in contemporary Japan with an uplifting message of hope for anyone struggling to rise above difficult circumstances.

**Durian Sukegawa** is renowned as a writer of non-fiction, essays and novels championing society's disadvantaged and downtrodden. His novel *Sweet Bean Paste* was an international bestseller, translated into 19 languages and adapted into the homonymous film. He is the recipient of the Prix Littéraire Domitys and Prix des Lecteurs du Livre de Poche.



Category: Literary Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-386626-2  
 Pages: 432 pages  
 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**

Misae has no recollection of her parents' faces. In 1945, when she was only 10 years old, she was sold to the Yoshioka family as a servant. Awaiting her were days of unimaginable cruelty. 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? Her son 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 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).



Category: Literary Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-356745-9  
 Pages: 416 pages  
 Publication: December 2022  
 Rights Sold: Korean, Thai, Vietnamese  
[English synopsis available on request.](#)

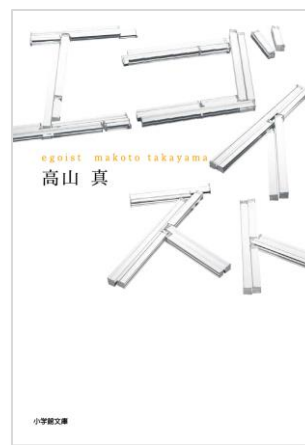
## Disconnect

*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

**"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*

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 social isolation. Simultaneously published in Korean by Munhakdongne and in Japanese by Shogakukan.



Category: Non-Binary Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-407175-7  
 Pages: 192 pages  
 Publication: August 2022  
[English synopsis available on request.](#)

## Egoist

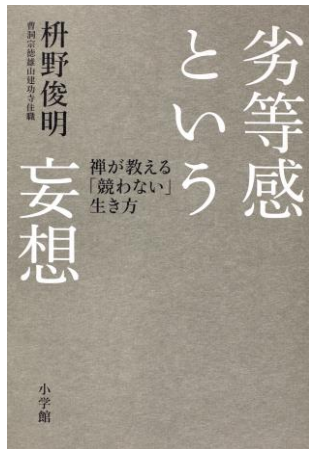
*Egoisuto / エゴイスト*

Makoto Takayama

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

Kosuke, a wealthy fashion magazine editor, becomes romantically entangled with his new personal trainer, Ryuta. When Ryuta abruptly breaks off the relationship, confessing that he has been a sex worker since his teens to support his ailing single mother, Kosuke steps in. Can love ever be authentic when it is driven by ego and self-interest? 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** was a prolific writer of essays among other types of books and also worked as an editor at a publishing company.



Category: Self-Help  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-388438-9  
 Pages: 194 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: December 2015  
 Agent: TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY (World, excluding Asia)  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional), Korean, Vietnamese

## The Delusion of Inferiority

*Rettokan to iu moso / 劣等感という妄想*

Shunmyo Masuno

As social media increasingly shape our relationships with others, it has become difficult not to wonder if we are measuring up. Masuno admonishes readers with the Zen expression “*maku mozo* (have no delusions)” and urges them to cast off their suffering by clearly separating themselves from others: “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. He is the million-copy bestselling author of *The Art of Simple Living*.



Category: Self-Help  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-388322-1  
 Pages: 194 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: September 2013  
 Agent: TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY (World, excluding Asia)  
 Rights Sold: Vietnamese

## Zen and Food

*Zen to shoku / 禅と食*

Shunmyo Masuno

*Zen and Food* introduces readers to the basic principles of the Zen diet, originally conceived for Buddhist monks in training, and shows how they can easily be adapted to everyday living. Masuno explains the Zen Buddhism commandments of not eating meat or fish, striving to use all parts of an ingredient and not strongly flavoring food. From the mental attitude of the cook to food preparation and table manners, these apparently simple rules for eating are meant as rules for living.

**Shunmyo Masuno** is a Japanese monk and garden designer. He is the million-copy bestselling author of *The Art of Simple Living*.



Category: Photography  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-388346-7  
 Pages: 96 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: December 2013  
 Agent: TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY (World, excluding Asia)

## Zen Contemplation for a Lighter Heart

*Nagameru Zen / 眺める禅*

Shunmyo Masuno

Praise for Shunmyo Masuno

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

By encouraging connectedness, harmony and tranquility, gardening teaches us the sacredness of the everyday and a sense of respect for the environment at large. With stunning pictures of the gardens Masuno has designed and accompanied by Masuno’s words of wisdom, just by gazing at an open page of this book every day before bedtime, worries and troubles will slip away.

**Shunmyo Masuno** is a Japanese monk and garden designer. He is the million-copy bestselling author of *The Art of Simple Living*.



Category: Photography  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-311151-5  
 Pages: 192 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: May 2022

## Tono Cuisine

*Tono kyujinju / 遠野キュイジーヌ*

Yotaro Sasaki

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

The city of Tono, a rural location in Iwate Prefecture, has in recent years established a reputation both in Japan and overseas as a gourmet destination thanks to the efforts of Yotaro Sasaki and his restaurant Tonoya Yo. 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 chef, organic rice farmer and brew master, who has earned international acclaim for his contribution to gastronomy.



Category: 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 twenty-five 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** is a former Japanese soldier born 1999. In 2022, she started a public campaign about the sexual abuse she was subjected to by fellow members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force. 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.



Category: Current Affairs  
 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

In 2022, former prime minister Shinzo Abe was fatally shot during a campaign rally in Nara. The assassination raised questions about Japan's ruling party's association with the South Korean religious group known as Unification Church, which was said to be the killer's motive. Was Abe's relationship with the group a rushed assumption, or can the group's influence on his political career be backed up with a degree of certainty? This book traces the trajectory that led to the murder of the longest-serving leader in modern Japan.

**Eito Suzuki** is a freelance journalist and anti-cult activist.

## Cult Children

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

Sayuri Ogawa



Category: Current Affairs  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-380125-6  
 Pages: 266 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: March 2023

Sayuri Ogawa's parents joined the Unification Church at around the age of twenty 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. Why did she decide to leave and what path did she follow to build an independent life? As the fatal shooting of former prime minister Shinzo Abe sheds light on the plight of thousands of children of church adherents who faced abuse and neglect, Sayuri Ogawa shares a firsthand account of the heartbreaking first half of her life.

**Sayuri Ogawa** is the pseudonym of a second-generation member of the Unification Church, who after the murder of Shinzo Abe decided to publicly discuss the extreme hardship she endured as the daughter of devout followers and called for the disbandment of the group.



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

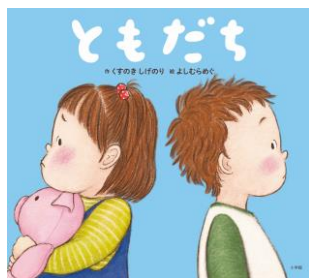
## Chit, the Witch in Training

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

Akiko Tanji

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. However, as the day of her first 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. Strawberry shortcakes, blueberry pies, after tasting the gorgeous creations of the other aspiring little witches, what will the teacher think of Chit's shapeless blob? A book about the happy place in between success and failure.

**Akiko Tanji** is an illustrator and picture book author born in 1972. She currently lives in Tokyo with her cat, who is often portrayed in her artwork.



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

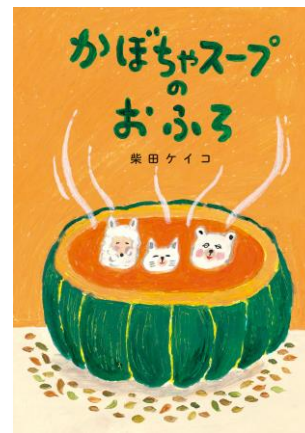
## Friends

*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 age moves into the house next door. Mizuki walks by timidly and says hello. When the boy responds with a strange hand gesture, Mizuki pulls a face that startles the boy and makes him run back into the house. With an illustrated guide to simple one-word signs, this book introduces young children to sign language.

**Shigenori Kusunoki** is a popular author of children's books and a lecturer. His bestselling books *Okodademasen-yoni* (I Hope I Don't Get Scolded) and *Megane o kaketara* (When She Put On Her Glasses) have been translated into many languages. **Megu Yoshimura** is a Japanese illustrator, who won in 2019 the MOE Picture Booksellers' Grand Prize for *Mamezara-chan* (The Bean Plate), written by Masumi Asano. For Shogakukan she has illustrated a series of children's books written by Eiko Kadono.



Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725207-8  
Pages: 40 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: November 2022  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Korean  
Age: 3+

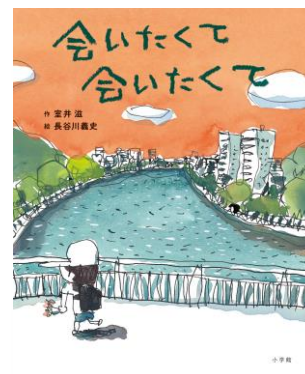
## The Pumpkin Soup Bath

*Kabocha supu no ofuro* / かぼちゃスープのお風呂

Keiko Shibata

On their way home, three good friends—a polar bear, an alpaca and a cat—are led astray by a delicious smell floating in the air. The smell comes from a huge pumpkin brimming with warm, creamy soup. A sign perched on the pumpkin reads, "Pumpkin soup bath. Please come in and warm yourself up, but 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.

**Keiko Shibata** is an illustrator and picture book author based in Kochi Prefecture. 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.



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

## I Miss You So Much

*Aitakute aitakute* / 会いたくて会いたくて

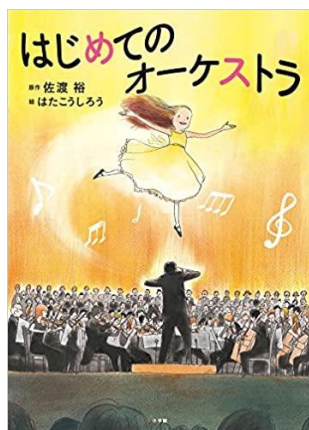
Written by **Shigeru Muroi**, Illustrated by **Yoshifumi Hasegawa**

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. One day he sneaks out after school and heads straight to the nursing home where she lives. After several unsuccessful attempts to meet her, he finds a toilet paper core tied to a red string hanging from her window. He holds it against his ear, and as if by magic he can finally hear his grandmother's voice.

**Shigeru Muroi** is an award-winning actress, as well as the author of many picture books. **Yoshifumi Hasegawa** made his debut as a picture book author in 2000. 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).





Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726671-6  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: October 2016  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), French, Korean  
 Age: 6+

## 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**

A six-year-old girl has a conductor for a father. But what does a conductor do? What does "orchestra" mean? When the occasion finally 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...The first picture book by world-renowned conductor, Yutaka Sado.

**Yutaka Sado** 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 Austria's Tonkünstler Orchestra. **Koshiro Hata** is a picture book author, illustrator and book designer.



Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725056-2  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: February 2020  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Korean  
 Age: 6+

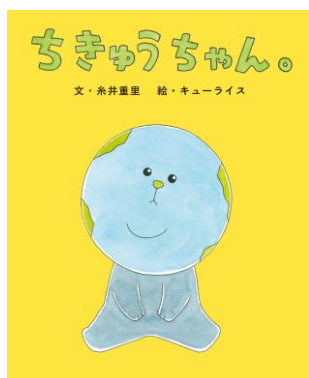
## The Mischiefous Architect

*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**

Set in Nakanoshima Children's Book Forest, the new library in Osaka Tadao Ando specifically dedicated to children, with floor-to-ceiling, outward-facing books. As two elementary school children are shown around by a mysterious man who looks very much like Mr. Ando, many questions surface. Why do you make these buildings? What does an architect do? The guide thoughtfully responds.

**Tadao Ando** is a self-taught architect, who at the age of twenty-eight established the Tadao Ando Architectural Institute. The Church of Light, the Pulitzer Arts Foundation and the Chichu Art Museum are among his most representative works. He was awarded numerous prizes, including the AIJ Prize and the Pritzker Architecture Prize. **Koshiro Hata** is a picture book author, a illustrator and book designer.



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

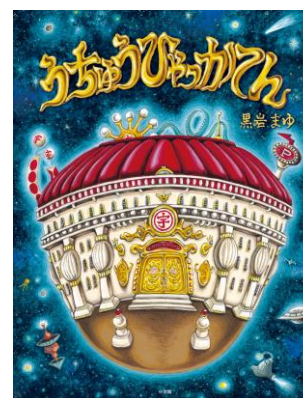
## Earthy

*Chikyu-chan* / ちきゅうちゃん

Written by **Shigesato Itoi**, Illustrated by **Q-rai**

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. 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** is a copywriter, essayist, lyricist, and actor, but outside Japan he is best known as the game designer of Nintendo's *EarthBound* series of games. **Q-rai** is a full-time freelance animator, cartoonist and illustrator.



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

## The Space Department Store

*Uchu hyakkaten* / うちゅうひゃくかてん

Written by **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 world. 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. But does the entire universe express happiness with a smile?

**Mayu Kuroiwa** is a contemporary artist whose works have been exhibited in galleries throughout Japan, including the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum and the Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre. In her first picture book, *Uchu hyakkaten* (The Space Department Store), she transposes onto paper the bewitching atmosphere of her art installations.



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

## Fingertippy

*Yubisashi-chan / ゆびさしちゃん*

The Cabin Company

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. With playful and fun illustrations, this picture book encourages early shape and color recognition.

**The Cabin Company** is the nickname of creative duo Kentaro Abe and Saki Yoshioka. 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.



Category: Early Years  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726774-4  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: February 2018  
 Age: 0+

## Hoo Hoo

*Hoho / ほーほー*

The Cabin Company

The owl goes "hoo hoo hooooo," the frog "ribbit ribbit." Babies won't be able to 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.

**The Cabin Company** is the nickname of creative duo Kentaro Abe and Saki Yoshioka. 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.



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

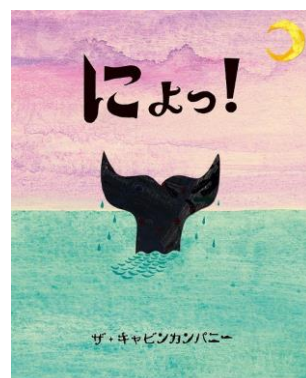
## Pokémon Island

*Pokémon no shima / ポケモンのしま*

The Cabin Company

A young boy reaches Pokémon Island on his small boat. As soon as the anchor is dropped, 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. All too soon the time comes to say goodbye, but the time spent together is never to be forgotten. Don't miss the breathtaking scene where 151 Pokémon appear. A picture book for Pokémon fans of all ages.

**The Cabin Company** is the nickname of creative duo Kentaro Abe and Saki Yoshioka. 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.



Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726690-7  
 Pages: 34 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: December 2016  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified)  
 Age: 3+

## Swoosh!

*Nyo-! / にょっ!*

The Cabin Company

Beneath the surface of the beautiful sea, "swoosh" and something appears. A silhouette is barely visible. "What is that?" is the question posed asked at every page. This picture book with its question-and-answer format and creative ideas will flex the muscles of your imagination.

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Category: Braille Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725195-8  
Pages: 12 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2021  
Age: 3+

## The Animal Cracker Zoo

*Okashi no dobutsu en / おかしのどうぶつえん*

Junko Murayama

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 and are easily recognizable thanks to their different shapes. Published in collaboration with the Association for the Publication and Dissemination of Braille Picture Books in Japan, Junko Murayama's unique tactile books with accordion-style binding can be enjoyed together by blind, visually impaired and sighted children.

**Junko Murayama** became a book designer after graduating from the Department of Visual Communication Design at Musashino Art University. The award-winning three volumes of the *Sawaru meiro* (Touch and Feel Mazes) series were her first braille picture books.



Category: Braille Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725101-9  
Pages: 12 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2021  
Age: 3+

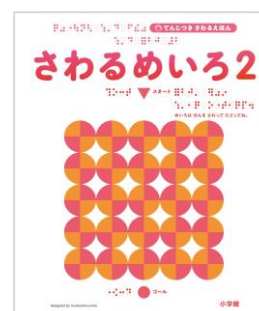
## Fish

*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 you away. Published in collaboration with the Association for the Publication and Dissemination of Braille Picture Books in Japan, Junko Murayama's unique tactile books with accordion-style binding can be enjoyed together by blind, visually impaired and sighted children.

**Junko Murayama** became a book designer after graduating from the Department of Visual Communication Design at Musashino Art University. The award-winning three volumes of the *Sawaru meiro* (Touch and Feel Mazes) series were her first braille picture books.



## Touch and Feel Mazes

*Sawaru meiro / さわるめいろ*

Junko Murayama

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

Category: Braille Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-726497-2  
Pages: 12 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: February 2013  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional), English, German  
Age: 5+

## Touch and Feel Mazes 2

*Sawaru meiro 2 / さわるめいろ2*

Junko Murayama

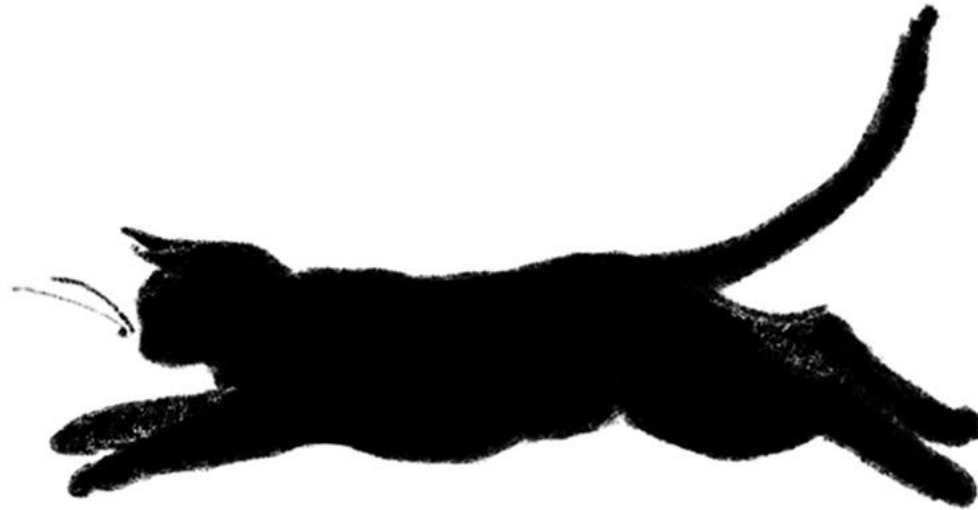
Category: Braille Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-726575-7  
Pages: 12 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: January 2015  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), German  
Age: 5+

## Touch and Feel Mazes 3

*Sawaru meiro 3 / さわるめいろ3*

Junko Murayama

Category: Braille Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725011-1  
Pages: 12 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2019  
Age: 5+



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