
69 Ryu Murakami

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EarthlingsKodansha Amer
Incorporated

An old bamboo cutter finds a tiny child in the hollow of a bamboo stalk. Thus begins the beloved story of the Moon Princess, whose unearthly beauty brings her fame and would-be husbands from throughout the land, but whose destiny shines far off in the sky.

The delicate color and detail of Kancho Oda's illustrations, painted over half a century ago, create a mood of charm and mystery, admirably accompanied by the lilting verse of writer, translator, and lyricist Ralph F. McCarthy.

????? Storybook ND

English professor
Karen Holloway finds
herself in the midst

of fierce competition when she attempts to track down the origins of an 18th century manuscript found on a Virginia estate, whose writer is only identified by the name Ismene

Piercing Pushkin Press

A cream-of-the-crop selection of Murakami's brilliance and piercing wit. This collection shows sides of Ryu Murakami that even avid fans may not be expecting. The intriguing, somewhat disturbing stories that Topaz was based on are included here, as are three

entertaining and revealing portraits of the artist as a young man back in the Transparent Blue period of the late sixties and early seventies. We hear tales told by four very different individuals living in eighties Tokyo, each with his or her own problems but all with a thing about a certain pro baseball player, and we meet a brokenhearted young woman who finds an unexpected moment of love in the nineties and a single mother who stumbles on a ray of hope in the hard times of the noughties. Mixed in there somewhere are three linked stories about desire

and obsession, with the timeless, seductive rhythms of Cuban music in the background. This book contains explicit content and is not suitable for minors.

About the author: Ryu Murakami was not yet 24 when he won the prestigious Akutagawa Prize for his debut novel, *Almost Transparent Blue*. He has now published some forty best-selling novels, a dozen short-story collections, an armful of picture books, and a small mountain of essays. In his spare time, Ryu hosts a popular and long-running weekly TV show focusing on business and economic topics,

and has for many years promoted tours and produced records for Cuban musicians. He has written and directed five feature films, of which *Topaz* a.k.a. *Tokyo Decadence* (1992) is probably the best known, and many of his novels have been made into films by other directors (notably Takashi Miike's *Audition*). Translated novels include *Coin Locker Babies* (Noma Prize for New Writers), *Sixty-Nine*, *Popular Hits of the Showa Era*, *Audition*, *In the Miso Soup* (Yomiuri Prize for Literature), *Piercing*, and *From the Fatherland, with Love* (Noma

Prize for Literature and Mainichi Publishing Culture Award).

[Dave Barry Does Japan](#)
Vintage

From the author of *Audition*, a wickedly satirical and wildly funny tale of an intergenerational battle of the sexes. In his most irreverent novel yet, Ryu Murakami creates a rivalry of epic proportions between six aimless youths and six tough-as-nails women who battle for control of a Tokyo

neighborhood. At the outset, the young men seem louche but harmless, their activities limited to drinking, snacking, peering at a naked neighbor through a window, and performing karaoke. The six "aunties" are fiercely independent career women. When one of the boys executes a lethal ambush of one of the women, chaos ensues. The women band together to find the killer and exact revenge. In turn, the boys buckle down, study

physics, and plot to take out their nemeses in a single blast. Who knew that a deadly "gang war" could be such fun?

Murakami builds the conflict into a hilarious, spot-on satire of modern culture and the tensions between the sexes and generations.

In The Miso Soup Ballantine Books

Two babies are left in a Tokyo station coin locker and survive against the odds, but their lives are forever tainted by this inauspicious

start. As they grow up, they join the ranks of Toxibown: a district of addicts, freaks and prostitutes. One becomes a bisexual rock star and looks for his mother, while the other one, an athlete, seeks revenge. This savage and stunning story unfolds in a surrealistic whirl of violence.

Sixty-nine A&C Black '69' is a roman de clef about coming of age during a time that left its mark on baby boomers around the world, and a certain amount of intrigue for their children - a time when they really believed they could

change the world before it changed them.

Sixty-Nine Deep Vellum Publishing

In a small, inconsequential city in Japan, all that matters to 17-year-old Kensuke Yazaki and his friends is girls, rock music and, to a much lesser extent, school. Told at high speed and with irresistible humour by Kensuke himself, this is the story of their 1969, as they engage in heated conversations about Marxism, Rimbaud, Godard, the Beatles and the Stones, set up a barricade in their school, organise a rock festival and

map out a highly successful strategy in girl-winning. This is a young Japan entirely turned towards the West, pervaded by Western music, where the girls have nicknames pulled from famous British films, but still locked in a fight with the rigid post-war conservatism of the older generation.

Dance Dance Dance Penguin Every night, Kawashima Masayuki creeps from his bed and watches over his baby girl's crib while his wife sleeps. But this is no ordinary domestic scene. He has an ice pick in his hand, and a barely controllable desire to use it. Deciding to confront his demons, Kawashima

sets into motion a chain of events seeming to lead inexorably to murder...

The Elephant Vanishes
Kodansha Amer Incorporated

From the beloved author of cult sensation *Convenience Store Woman*, which has now sold more than one million copies worldwide and has been translated into thirty-three languages, comes a spellbinding and otherworldly novel about a woman who believes she is an alien Sayaka Murata's *Convenience Store Woman*

was one of the most unusual and refreshing bestsellers of recent years, depicting the life of a thirty-six-year-old clerk in a Tokyo convenience store. Now, in *Earthlings*, Sayaka Murata pushes at the boundaries of our ideas of social conformity in this brilliantly imaginative, intense, and absolutely unforgettable novel. As a child, Natsuki doesn't fit in with her family. Her parents favor her sister, and her best friend is a plush toy hedgehog named Piyyut, who talks to her. He tells her that he has come from the planet Popinpobopia on a special quest to help her save the Earth. One summer, on vacation with her family and her cousin Yuu in her grandparents' ramshackle wooden house in the mountains of Nagano, Natsuki decides that she must be an alien, which would explain why she can't seem to fit in like everyone else. Later, as a grown woman, living a quiet life with her asexual husband, Natsuki is still pursued by dark shadows from her childhood, and decides to flee the "baby factory" of society for good, searching for answers about the vast and frightening mysteries of the universe—answers only Natsuki has the power to uncover. Dreamlike, sometimes shocking, and always strange and wonderful, *Earthlings* asks what it means to be happy in a stifling world, and cements Sayaka Murata's status as a master chronicler of the outsider experience and our own uncanny universe.

Pygmy Vintage

Reads from back to front and
from right to left.

As She Climbed Across the
Table Springer

Early Light gathers three
tales by Osamu Dazai,
author of the wildly popular
No Longer Human

In the Miso Soup Vintage

From the acclaimed author of
Taipei, a bold portrait of a writer
working to balance all his
lives—artist, son, loner—as he spins
the ordinary into something
monumental. An engrossing,
hopeful novel about life, fiction,
and where the two blur together.
In 2014, a novelist named Li
leaves Manhattan to visit his
parents in Taipei for ten weeks.

He doesn't know it yet, but his life
will begin to deepen and
complexify on this trip. As he flies
between these two worlds--year
by year, over four years--he will
flit in and out of optimism,
despair, loneliness, sanity, bouts
of chronic pain, and drafts of a
new book. He will incite and
temper arguments, uncover secrets
about nature and history, and try
to understand how to live a
meaningful life as an artist and a
son. But how to fit these pieces of
his life together? Where to begin?
Or should he leave society
altogether? Exploring everyday
events and scenes--waiting rooms,
dog walks, family meals--while
investigatively venturing to the
edges of society, where culture

dissolves into mystery, Lin shows
what it is to write a novel in real
time. Illuminating and deeply felt,
as it builds toward a stunning, if
unexpected, romance, *Leave
Society* is a masterly story about
life and art at the end of history. A
VINTAGE ORIGINAL
First Person Singular A&C
Black

Anna Karenina left her
husband for a dashing officer.
Lady Chatterley left hers for
the gamekeeper. Now Alice
Coombs has her boyfriend for
nothing ... nothing at all. Just
how that should have come to
pass and what Philip
Engstrand, Alice's spurned
boyfriend, can do about it is

the premise for this vertiginous speculative romance by the acclaimed author of *Gun*, with *Occasional Music*. Alice Coombs is a particle physicist, and she and her colleagues have created a void, a hole in the universe, that they have taken to calling Lack. But Lack is a nullity with taste—tastes; it absorbs a pomegranate, light bulbs, an argyle sock; it disdains a bow tie, an ice ax, and a scrambled duck egg. To Alice, this selectivity translates as an irresistible personality. To Philip, it makes Lack an unbeatable rival, for how can he win Alice back from something that has no flaws—because it has no qualities? Ingenious, hilarious, and genuinely mind-expanding, *As She Climbed Across the Table* is the best boy-meets-girl-meets-void story ever written. *At the Lucky Hand* A&C Black
 Keller is your basic urban Lonely Guy. He makes a decent wage, lives in a nice apartment. Works the crossword puzzle. Watches a little TV. Until the phone rings and he packs a suitcase, gets on a plane, flies halfway across the country...and kills somebody. It's a living. But is it a life? Keller's not sure. He goes to a shrink, but it doesn't work out the way he planned. He gets a dog, he gets a girlfriend. He gets along. *Haruki Murakami* Pushkin Press
 Sixty-Nine
Leave Society Bloomsbury Paperbacks
 As a spokesman for disaffected youth of the post-1960s, Murakami Haruki has become one of the most important voices in contemporary Japanese literature, and he has gained a following in the United States through translations of

his works. In *Dances with Sheep*, Matthew Strecher examines Murakami's fiction—and, to a lesser extent, his nonfiction—for its most prevalent structures and themes. Strecher also delves into the paradoxes in Murakami's writings that confront critics and casual readers alike. Murakami writes of "serious" themes yet expresses them in a relatively uncomplicated style that appeals to high school students as well as scholars; and his fictional work appears to celebrate the

pastiche of postmodern expression, yet he rejects the effects of the postmodern on contemporary culture as dangerous. Strecher's methodology is both historical and cultural as he utilizes four distinct yet interwoven approaches to analyze Murakami's major works: the writer's "formulaic" structure with serious themes; his play with magical realism; the intense psychological underpinnings of his literary landscape; and his critique of language and its capacity to represent

realities, past and present. *Dances with Sheep* links each of these approaches with Murakami's critical focus on the fate of individual identity in contemporary Japan. The result is that the simplicity of the Murakami hero, marked by lethargy and nostalgia, emerges as emblematic of contemporary humankind, bereft of identity, direction, and meaning. Murakami's fiction is reconstructed in *Dances with Sheep* as a warning against the dehumanizing effects of late-model capitalism, the

homogenization of the marketplace, and the elimination of effective counterculture in Japan. *The Inch-high Samurai* W. Norton & Company This controversial novel touched the raw nerves of the Japanese and became a million seller within six months of publication. It is a semi-autobiographical tale of the author's youth spent amidst the glorious squalor of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll in 1970s Japan. Almost Transparent Blue is a brutal tale of lost youth in a

Japanese port town close to an American military base. Murakami's image-intensive narrative paints a portrait of a group of friends locked in a destructive cycle of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll. The novel is all but plotless, but the raw and **69. Sixty-nine** Vintage A pulsating cult-favorite psycho-thriller soon to be a major motion picture starring Christopher Abbott and Mia Wasikowska *One of Literary Hub's "Ten Works of Literary Horror You Should Read (Even if

You Don't Think You Like Horror)* Kawashima Masayuki is a successful graphic designer living in Tokyo with his loving wife, Yoko, and their baby girl. Outwardly, their lives are a picture of happiness and contentment, but every night while his wife sleeps Kawashima creeps from his bed and watches over the baby's crib with an ice pick in his hand and an almost visceral desire to use it. One night, as this struggle unfolds once more, Kawashima makes a decision to confront

his demons and sets into motion an uncontrollable chain of events seeming to lead inexorably to murder. The follow-up to *In the Miso Soup* from a cult favorite writer, Piercing confirms Murakami as the master of the psycho thriller—terrifying, sickening, and utterly gripping

Hit Man Penguin UK

This fantastically varied and exciting collection celebrates the great Japanese short story, from its modern origins in the nineteenth century to the remarkable works being

written today. Short story writers already well-known to English-language readers are all included here - Tanizaki, Akutagawa, Murakami, Mishima, Kawabata - but also many surprising new finds. From Yuko Tsushima's 'Flames' to Yuten Sawanishi's 'Filling Up with Sugar', from Shin'ichi Hoshi's 'Shoulder-Top Secretary' to Banana Yoshimoto's 'Bee Honey', The Penguin Book of Japanese Short Stories is filled with fear, charm, beauty and comedy. Curated by Jay Rubin, who has himself freshly translated several of the stories, and

introduced by Haruki Murakami, this book will be a revelation to its readers. *Mary Toft; Or, the Rabbit Queen* TokyoPop
In this thriller from the best-selling Japanese author, a widower stages an open casting call with his filmmaker friend to attract the perfect wife and is taken in by a striking young ballerina with a mysterious past. Original.