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## A Personal Matter Kenzaburo Oe

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Rouse Up O Young Men of the New Age!

Tokyo Ueno Station

Picnic in the Storm

Escape from the Wasteland

4 Short Novels

The Silent Cry

Somersault

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SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2011 MAN ASIAN LITERARY AWARD

The Extraordinary Story of Hikari and Kenzaburo Oe

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Romanticism and Realism in the Fiction of Mishima Yukio and Oe Kenzaburo

Nobel Prize Edition

Hiroshima Notes

The Crazy Iris and Other Stories of the Atomic Aftermath

Fire from the Ashes

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Stories

An Artist of the Floating World

a walk through Provincetown

*A Personal Matter* Kenzaburo Oe

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## JAYVON JOHNNY

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*Rouse Up O Young Men of the New Age!* Routledge

WINNER OF THE 2020 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD IN TRANSLATED LITERATURE A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR A surreal, devastating story of a homeless ghost who haunts one of Tokyo's busiest train stations. Kazu is dead. Born in Fukushima in 1933, the same year as the Japanese Emperor, his life is tied by a series of coincidences to the Imperial family and has been shaped at every turn by modern Japanese history. But his life story is also marked by bad luck, and now, in death, he is unable to rest, doomed to haunt the park near Ueno Station in Tokyo. Kazu's life in the city began and ended in that park; he arrived there to work as a laborer in the preparations for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and ended his days living in the vast homeless village in the park, traumatized by the destruction of the 2011 tsunami and shattered by the announcement of the 2020 Olympics. Through Kazu's eyes, we see daily life in Tokyo buzz around him and learn the intimate details of his personal story, how loss and society's inequalities and constrictions spiraled towards this ghostly fate, with moments of beauty and grace just out of reach. A powerful masterwork from one of Japan's most brilliant outsider writers, *Tokyo Ueno Station* is a book for our times and a look into a marginalized existence in a shiny global megapolis.

*Tokyo Ueno Station* New Directions Publishing

An affectionate portrait of the author's Abyssinian cat interspersed with practical advice about the care of cats

*Picnic in the Storm* Grove/Atlantic, Inc.

The first new novel Oe has published since winning the Nobel Prize, *Somersault* is a magnificent story of the charisma of leaders, the danger of zealotry, and the mystery of faith. A decade before the story opens, two men referred to as the Patron and Guide of mankind were leaders of an influential religious movement. When a radical faction of their followers threatened to unleash an apocalypse, they recanted all of their teachings and abandoned their followers. Now, after ten years of silence, Patron and Guide begin contacting their old followers and reaching out to the public, assisted by a small group of young people who have come to them in recent months. Just as they are beginning this renewed push, the radical faction kidnaps Guide, holding him captive until his health gives out. Patron and a small core of the faithful, including a painter named Kizu who may become the new Guide, move to the mountains to establish the church's new base, followed by two groups from Patron's old church: the devout Quiet Women, and the Technicians, who have ties to the old radical faction. The Baby Fireflies, young men from a nearby village, attempt to influence the church with local traditions and military discipline. As planning proceeds for the summer conference that will bring together the faithful and launch the new church in the eyes of the world, the conflicting agendas of these factions threaten to make a mockery of the church's unity—or something far more dangerous.

*Escape from the Wasteland* Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Tells the story of Hikari Oe, the brain-damaged son who inspired his novelist father, and who is the only disabled classical music prodigy

*4 Short Novels* Picador

First pub. 1964. Author's most dramatic work, won him the prestigious Shincho Literary Prize. In the novel the narrator tells how he responds to the birth and problems posed by his handicapped child. Recipient of the 1994 Nobel prize.

*The Silent Cry* M.E. Sharpe

*A Personal Matter* Grove Press

*Somersault* Kodansha Amer Incorporated

Kenzaburo Oe was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for creating "an imagined world, where life and myth condense to form a disconcerting picture of the human predicament today." In *Death by Water*, his recurring protagonist and literary alter-ego returns to his hometown village in search of a red suitcase fabled to hold documents revealing the details of his father's death during WWII: details that will serve as the foundation for his new, and final, novel. Since his youth, renowned novelist Kogito Choko planned to fictionalize his father's fatal drowning in order to fully process the loss. Stricken with guilt and regret over his failure to rescue his father, Choko has long been driven to discover why his father was boating on the river in a torrential storm. Though he remembers overhearing his father and a group of soldiers discussing an insurgent scheme to stage a suicide attack on Emperor Mikado, Choko cannot separate his memories from imagination and his family is hesitant to reveal the entire story. When the contents of the trunk turn out to offer little clarity, Choko abandons the novel in creative despair. Floundering as an artist, he's haunted by fear that he may never write his tour de force. But when he collaborates with an avant-garde theater troupe dramatizing his early novels, Kogito is revitalized by revisiting his formative work and he finds the will to continue investigating his father's demise. Diving into the turbulent depths of legacy and mortality, *Death by Water* is an exquisite examination of resurfacing national and personal trauma, and the ways that storytelling can mend political, social, and familial rifts.

*Faraway* Vintage

Wise and illuminating, *Rouse Up O Young Men of the New Age!* is a masterpiece from one of the world's finest writers, Kenzaburo Oe -- winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. K is a famous writer living in Tokyo with his wife and three children, one of whom is mentally disabled. K's wife confronts him with the information that this child, Eeyore, has been doing disturbing things -- behaving aggressively, asserting that he's dead, even brandishing a knife at his mother -- and K, given to retreating from reality into abstraction, looks for answers in his lifelong love of William Blake's poetry. As K struggles to understand his family and assess his responsibilities within it, he must also reevaluate himself -- his relationship with his own father, the political stances he has taken, the duty of artists and writers in society. A remarkable portrait of the inexpressible bond between this father and his damaged son, *Rouse Up O Young Men of the New Age!* is the work of an unparalleled writer at his sparkling best.

*Pouliuli* Random House

"With the approach of the 75th anniversary of Citizen Kane in May 2016, Harlan Lebo has written the full story of Orson Welles' masterpiece film. The book will explore: --Welles' meteoric rise to stardom in New York and the real reason behind his arrival in Hollywood --Welles' unprecedented contract with RKO Studios for total creative control and the deeper issues that impeded his work instead -- The dispute over who wrote the script --The mystery of the "lost" final script, which the author has in his possession, and the missing scenes, which answer questions relating to the creation of the film -- The plot by Hearst to destroy Welles' project through blackmail, media manipulation, and other tactics --A detailed look behind the scenes of a production process that was cloaked in secrecy --The surprising emergence of Citizen Kane as an enduring masterpiece Using previously unpublished material from studio files and the Hearst organization, exclusive interviews with the last surviving members of the cast and crew, and what may be the only surviving copy of the "lost" final script of the film, *Citizen Kane: A Filmmaker's Journey* recounts the making of one of the most famous films in Hollywood history"--

**An I-Novel** Grove Press

WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE 2013 *Vintage Readers* are a perfect introduction to some of the greatest modern writers presented in attractive, accessible paperback editions. "In Munro's hands, as in Chekhov's, a short story is more than big enough to hold the world—and to astonish us again and again." —Chicago Tribune In an unbroken procession of brilliant, revelatory short stories, Alice Munro has unfolded the wordless secrets that lie at the heart of all human experience. She has won three Governor General's Literary Awards in her native Canada, as well as the National Book Critics Circle Award. *Vintage Munro* includes stories from throughout her career: The title stories from her collections *The Moons of Jupiter*; *The Progress of Love*; *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*; "Differently," from *Selected Stories*, and "Carried Away," from *Open Secrets*.

**Teach Us to Outgrow Our Madness** Penguin

While struggling to help an agoraphobic friend cope, Martie Rhodes, a young video game designer, suddenly falls prey to her own traumatic autophobia, a fear of herself.

Open Road + Grove/Atlantic

"In Hoshino's dystopia, identities are fluid and any one is as good as another. . .Hoshino's ambitious novel is pleasingly uncomfortable." —Publishers Weekly "Hoshino's latest-in-translation (rendered by De Wolf) begins as black comedy and devolves into an antisolipsistic treatise on the impossibility of individual identity." —Booklist Online "Part existential fable, part 'Night of the Living Dead,' Mr. Hoshino's inventive novel, accessibly translated by Charles De Wolf, paints a nightmare vision of Japan's rootless millennials, who work grinding dead-end jobs that leave them little time for family or individual passions...At first Hitoshi and his fellow MEs are happy to band together against an uncaring world. But the camaraderie doesn't last, since every time one reveals a character flaw the others take it as an indictment of themselves. As the MEs' failures and weaknesses become intolerably magnified onto the 'living but useless rabble' they're gripped by a suicidal impulse that unleashes a crazed murder spree. The frenetic, knife-wielding finale reaches its climax in—a McDonald's, of course. None of them can think of any place else to eat." —Wall Street Journal, included in Best New Fiction column "The imaginative story of a rather unimaginative camera

salesman, ME features Hitoshi Nagano; his troubles begin with his impulsive theft of a cell phone from another customer at a McDonald's. They end with a post-apocalyptic future for everyone in Japan." —New York Journal of Books "[Some passages] surpass even Kobo Abe. . .The author has leaped to a higher level." —Kenzaburo Oe, Nobel Prize-winning author of *The Silent Cry*, from the afterword With an afterword by Kenzaburō Ōe. Translated from Japanese by Charles De Wolf. This novel centers on the "It's me" telephone scam—often targeting the elderly—that has escalated in Japan in recent years. Typically, the caller identifies himself only by saying, "Hey, it's me," and goes on to claim in great distress that he's been in an accident or lost some money with which he was entrusted at work, etc., and needs funds wired to his account right away. ME's narrator is a nondescript young Tokyoite named Hitoshi Nagano who, on a whim, takes home a cell phone that a young man named Daiki Hiyama accidentally put on Hitoshi's tray at McDonald's. Hitoshi uses the phone to call Daiki's mother, pretending he is Daiki, and convinces her to wire him 900,000 yen. Three days later, Hitoshi returns home from work to discover Daiki's mother there in his apartment, and she seems to truly believe Hitoshi is her son. Even more bizarre, Hitoshi discovers his own parents now treat him as a stranger; they, too, have a "me" living with them as Hitoshi. At a loss for what else to do, Hitoshi begins living as Daiki, and no one seems to bat an eye. In a brilliant probing of identity, and employing a highly original style that subverts standard narrative forms, Tomoyuki Hoshino elevates what might have been a commonplace crime story to an occasion for philosophical reflection. In the process, he offers profound insights into the state of contemporary Japanese society. Charles De Wolf, PhD, professor emeritus, Keio University, is a linguist by training, though his first love was literature. Multilingual, he has spent most of his life in East Asia and is a citizen of Japan. His translations include *Mandarins*, a selection of short stories by Ryunosuke Akutagawa (Archipelago Books) and collections of folktales from *Konjaku Monogatari-shu*. He has written extensively about *The Tale of Genji*; and is currently working on his own translation of the work.

**Citizen Kane** Corsair

*Hiroshima Notes* is a powerful statement on the Hiroshima bombing and its terrible legacy by the 1994 Nobel laureate for literature. Oe's account of the lives of the many victims of Hiroshima and the valiant efforts of those who cared for them, both immediately after the atomic blast and in the years that follow, reveals the horrific extent of the devastation. It is a heartrending portrait of a ravaged city - the "human face" in the midst of nuclear destruction.

**The Changeling** Parnassus Press (IL)

Minae Mizumura's *An I-Novel* is a semi-autobiographical work that takes place over the course of a single day in the 1980s. This formally daring novel radically broke with Japanese literary tradition and offers a luminous meditation on how a person becomes a writer.

*Death by Water* Grove/Atlantic, Inc.

*The Silent Cry* traces the uneasy relationship between two brothers who return to their ancestral home, a village in densely forested western Japan. While one brother tries to sort out the after-effects of a friend's suicide and the birth of a retarded son, the other embarks on a quixotic mission to incite an uprising among the local youth. Oe's description of this brother's messianic struggle to save a disintegrating local culture and economy from the depredations of a Korean wheeler-dealer called "The Emperor of the Supermarkets" is as chillingly pertinent today as it was when first

published in 1967. Powerful and daring, *The Silent Cry* is a thoroughly compelling classic of world literature.

*A Novel* Atlantic Books Ltd

NATIONAL BEST SELLER • A mind-bending new collection of short stories from the internationally acclaimed, best-selling author. • “Some novelists hold a mirror up to the world and some, like Haruki Murakami, use the mirror as a portal to a universe hidden beyond it.” —The Wall Street Journal The eight stories in this new book are all told in the first person by a classic Murakami narrator. From memories of youth, meditations on music, and an ardent love of baseball, to dreamlike scenarios and invented jazz albums, together these stories challenge the boundaries between our minds and the exterior world. Occasionally, a narrator may or may not be Murakami himself. Is it memoir or fiction? The reader decides. Philosophical and mysterious, the stories in *First Person Singular* all touch beautifully on love and solitude, childhood and memory. . . all with a signature Murakami twist.

*The Music of Light* Kodansha Amer Incorporated

The Nobel Prize-winning “master of the bizarre plunges the reader into a world of tortured imagination” in this four-novella collection (*Library Journal*). In this startling quartet of his most provocative stories, the multiple prize-winning author of *A Personal Matter* reaffirms his reputation as “a supremely gifted writer” (*The Washington Post*). In *The Day He Himself Shall Wipe My Tears Away*, a self-absorbed narrator on his deathbed drifts off to the comforting strains of a cantata as he recalls a blistering childhood of militarism, sacrifice, humiliation, and revenge—a tale that is questioned by everyone who knew him. In *Prize Stock*, winner of the Akutagawa Prize, a black American flier is downed in a Japanese village during World War II, where the local children see him as some rare find—exotic and forbidden. In *Aghwee the Sky Monster*, the floating ghost of a baby

inexplicably haunts a young man on the first day of his first job. And in the title story, a devoted father believes he is the only link between his mentally challenged son and reality. “[A] remarkable book.” —*The Washington Post* “Ōe is definitely one of the Modern Masters.” —*Seattlepi.com*  
*J, Seventeen* Columbia University Press

This is the story of a mother's grief. Her divorced husband has died of cancer and her sons have taken their own lives. To escape her sorrow and guilt, she leaves Japan and travels to Mexico where she settles in a remote village.

**Sōseki** Macmillan

This novel offers a contemporary and explosive picture of the nuclear family, which pivots on the bizarre odyssey of a Japanese father and son.

*SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2011 MAN ASIAN LITERARY AWARD* Grove/Atlantic, Inc.

In each section of Michael Cunningham's bold new novel, his first since *The Hours*, we encounter the same group of characters: a young boy, an older man, and a young woman. "In the Machine" is a ghost story that takes place at the height of the industrial revolution, as human beings confront the alienating realities of the new machine age. "The Children's Crusade," set in the early twenty-first century, plays with the conventions of the noir thriller as it tracks the pursuit of a terrorist band that is detonating bombs, seemingly at random, around the city. The third part, "Like Beauty," evokes a New York 150 years into the future, when the city is all but overwhelmed by refugees from the first inhabited planet to be contacted by the people of Earth. Presiding over each episode of this interrelated whole is the prophetic figure of the poet Walt Whitman, who promised his future readers, "It avails not, neither time or place . . . I am with you, and know how it is." *Specimen Days* is a genre-bending, haunting, and transformative ode to life in our greatest city and a meditation on the direction and meaning of America's destiny. It is a work of surpassing power and beauty by one of the most original and daring writers at work today.

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