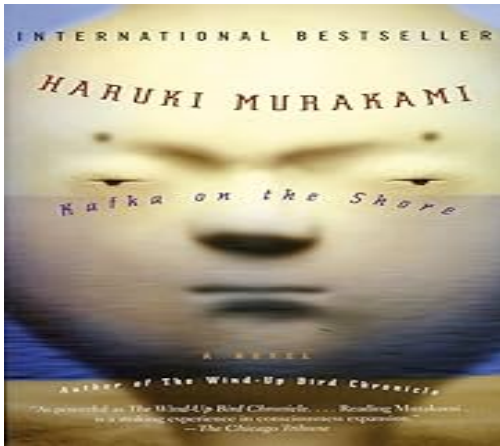


## Kafka on the Shore By Haruki Murakami



With *Kafka on the Shore* Haruki Murakami gives us a novel every bit as ambitious and expansive as *The Wind Up Bird Chronicle* which has been acclaimed both here and around the world for its uncommon ambition and achievement and whose still growing popularity suggests that it will be read and admired for decades to come. This magnificent new novel has a similarly extraordinary scope and the same capacity to amaze, entertain and bewitch the reader. A tour de force of metaphysical reality it is powered by two remarkable characters: a teenage boy Kafka Tamura who runs away from home either to escape a gruesome oedipal prophecy or to search for his long missing mother and sister; and an aging simpleton called Nakata who never recovered from a wartime affliction and now is drawn toward Kafka for reasons that like the most basic activities of daily life he cannot fathom. Their odyssey as mysterious to them as it is to us is enriched throughout by vivid accomplices and mesmerizing events: cats and people carry on conversations, a ghostlike pimp employs a Hegel-quoted prostitute, a forest harbors soldiers apparently unaged since World War II and rainstorms of fish and worse fall from the sky. There is a brutal murder with the identity of both victim and perpetrator a riddle—yet this along with everything else is eventually answered just as the entwined destinies of Kafka and Nakata are gradually revealed with one escaping his fate entirely and the other given a fresh start on his own. Extravagant in its accomplishment *Kafka on the Shore* displays one of the world's truly great storytellers at the height of his powers. With *Kafka on the Shore*.

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