



## The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle: A Novel

By Haruki Murakami

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Japan's most highly regarded novelist now vaults into the first ranks of international fiction writers with this heroically imaginative novel, which is at once a detective story, an account of a disintegrating marriage, and an excavation of the buried secrets of World War II.

In a Tokyo suburb a young man named Toru Okada searches for his wife's missing cat. Soon he finds himself looking for his wife as well in a netherworld that lies beneath the placid surface of Tokyo. As these searches intersect, Okada encounters a bizarre group of allies and antagonists: a psychic prostitute; a malevolent yet mediagenic politician; a cheerfully morbid sixteen-year-old-girl; and an aging war veteran who has been permanently changed by the hideous things he witnessed during Japan's forgotten campaign in Manchuria.

Gripping, prophetic, suffused with comedy and menace, **The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle** is a tour de force equal in scope to the masterpieces of Mishima and Pynchon.

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## The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle: A Novel By Haruki Murakami Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #5141 in Books
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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

Bad things come in threes for Toru Okada. He loses his job, his cat disappears, and then his wife fails to return from work. His search for his wife (and his cat) introduces him to a bizarre collection of characters, including two psychic sisters, a possibly unbalanced teenager, an old soldier who witnessed the massacres on the Chinese mainland at the beginning of the Second World War, and a very shady politician.

Haruki Murakami is a master of subtly disturbing prose. Mundane events throb with menace, while the bizarre is accepted without comment. Meaning always seems to be just out of reach, for the reader as well as for the characters, yet one is drawn inexorably into a mystery that may have no solution. *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* is an extended meditation on themes that appear throughout Murakami's earlier work. The tropes of popular culture, movies, music, detective stories, combine to create a work that explores both the surface and the hidden depths of Japanese society at the end of the 20th century.

If it were possible to isolate one theme in *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, that theme would be responsibility. The atrocities committed by the Japanese army in China keep rising to the surface like a repressed memory, and Toru Okada himself is compelled by events to take responsibility for his actions and struggle with his essentially passive nature. If Toru is supposed to be a Japanese Everyman, steeped as he is in Western popular culture and ignorant of the secret history of his own nation, this novel paints a bleak picture. Like the winding up of the titular bird, Murakami slowly twists the gossamer threads of his story into something of considerable weight. --*Simon Leake*

### From Publishers Weekly

Amazingly long, incredibly pricey, wildly experimental, often confusing but never boring, Murakami's most famous novel has been brought to audio life with extreme dedication: by Naxos, a company that regularly wins prizes, and by a reader with an uncommon combination of skills. Degas is already a Murakami veteran, having read the audio version of *A Wild Sheep Chase* (Naxos), and has worked on radio, stage and even cartoon voice (including *Mr. Bean*). He catches the constantly changing mental landscape of Murakami's fertile imagination—which moves from detective story to explicit sexual fantasy, heartbreaking Japanese WWII historical flashback, everyday details of married life (cooking, shopping and pet care) and even the occasional burst of satiric humor. Degas treats it all with the clarity and calmness of a very deep, very still pool. Certainly not for everyone's taste or budget, but anyone interested in this important author will find something to enlighten them. *Available as a Vintage paperback (Reviews, Aug. 18, 1997). (Nov.)*  
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### From Library Journal

Kumiko Okada has a satisfying career and comes from a wealthy family. Toru, her husband, is a lawyer. Little mars this young Tokyo couple's life other than the disappearance of their cat. From that minor event, however, their life together devolves into a confusing web of intrigue. Kumiko disappears, telling Toru not to look for her. Then a collection of mystics, clairvoyants, and healers enter Toru's life. Reeling, he begins to spend hours in meditation at the bottom of a dry well, becoming a healer of sorts, until his work brings him into conflict with Kumiko's powerful brother-in-law? a conflict cast in moral terms, with Kumiko's soul in the balance. This very long journey is much less magical than simply strained. There are detours into the history of Japan's occupation of Manchuria and accounts of Japanese prisoners' lives in Siberian coal mines. Though interesting in parts, taken as a whole, this latest from Murakami (*Dance, Dance, Dance*, LJ 1/94) labors diligently toward some larger message but fails in the attempt.?Paul E. Hutchison, Bellefonte, Pa.  
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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jon McKibben:**

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or go to the outside with their friends and family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle: A Novel* it is rather good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can more easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

#### **Mary Fleming:**

The book untitled *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle: A Novel* contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains her idea with easy approach. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read it. The book was written by famous author. The author gives you in the new period of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice read.

#### **Elliott Preciado:**

That book can make you to feel relax. This book *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle: A Novel* was vibrant and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle: A Novel* has many kinds or category. Start from kids until adolescents. For example *Naruto* or *Private investigator Conan* you can read and think that you are the character on there. So , not at all of book tend to be make you bored, any it makes you feel happy, fun and loosen up. Try to choose the best book for you and try to like reading that will.

#### **Valery Carpenter:**

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