

Books in Translation

[*Before the Coffee Gets Cold*](#) by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

At a century-old Tokyo coffee shop rumored to offer patrons the chance to travel back in time, four customers reevaluate their formative life choices.

[*The Eighth Life \(for Brilka\)*](#) by Nino Haratischwilli

At the start of the twentieth century, on the edge of the Russian empire, a family prospers. It owes its success to a delicious chocolate recipe, passed down the generations with great solemnity and caution. A caution which is justified: this is a recipe for ecstasy that carries a very bitter aftertaste.

[*An Elderly Lady Is up To No Good*](#) by Helene Tursten

Maud is an irascible 88-year-old Swedish woman with no family, no friends, and... no qualms about a little murder. This funny, irreverent story collection by Helene Tursten, author of the Irene Huss investigations, features two-never-before translated stories that will keep you laughing all the way to the retirement home.

[*Fly Already*](#) by Etgar Keret

There is no one quite like Etgar Keret as his stories end in places you could have never imagined! This unpredictable anthology of 22 short stories ranges from fantastical to humorous. The themes include everyday things, like parenting, cake, and suicidal thoughts. He finds the extraordinary in the ordinary, while always keeping his readers hooked till the last line.

[*My Brilliant Friend*](#) by Elena Ferrante

Translated from Italian, the way this book understands women is nothing short of a masterpiece. It's the story of Elena and Lila, very poignant and intuitive in its style and would most definitely leave the readers in awe of Ferrante's writing. This book is not just a thoughtful sketch of Elena and Lila, but also a tribute to their friendship and their relationship, which is ever-evolving to keep up with the times.

[*The Travelling Cat Chronicles*](#) by Hiro Arikawa

An ode to kindness, sacrifice, and the power of small things traces the experiences of adventurous Nana the cat and his owner, Satoru, as they embark on a road trip across Japan to visit three old friends.

[*Where the Wild Ladies Are*](#) by Aoko Matsuda

When it comes to fast technological advancement, Japan's progress is amazing. But under the veneer of urban planning, Japan still harbors a regressive attitude towards its women. The author goes back to the world of Japanese folk tales and ghost stories and situates them in modern Japan to expose the country's injustice when it comes to women. A perfect blend of magical realism, horror, and dark humor.

[*Your Second Life Begins When You Realize You Only Have One*](#) by Raphaëlle Giordano

All Camille wants is to find the path to joy and fulfilment. When Claude, a "routinologist", offers his unique advice to help get her there, she seizes the opportunity with both hands. Camille's journey is full of surprising, creative and richly meaningful lessons, as she sets out to transform her life and realize her dreams one step at a time. This is a charming story of one woman's journey from boredom and dissatisfaction to happiness and fulfilment.

Sources:

The Best Translated Books You Missed in 2020

<https://www.wordswithoutborders.org/dispatches/article/the-best-translated-books-you-missed-in-2020>

Five Translated Works of Fiction About Life and Culture That You Need to Read Right Away

<https://bookriot.com/translated-works-of-fiction/>

Novelist Plus

<https://www.scls.lib.wi.us/cgi-bin/libauth.cgi?connectto=NOVPLUS>