

# VOLUNTEER PICK

## BEFORE THE COFFEE GETS COLD

NOVEL BY TOSHIKAZU KAWAGUCHI

*Before the Coffee Gets Cold* is about a café in Tokyo that lets you travel back in time. While that may seem like an amazing opportunity, the time travel restrictions are enough to deter most people. The book has four chapters, with each chapter following a different customer that visits the café to see someone important to them. I really enjoyed this book. There's a good balance between plot and character development. The staff and regulars at the café came off as a little unlikeable at first, but by the

end of the book, you understand their behaviour. I felt like the book was sweet without becoming cheesy. The writing style reminds me of how a play might be written so if you love flowery writing this book may not be for you. My favourite chapter was "Mother and Child" even though it was obvious what was going to happen. I would recommend this book for those who like magical realism, sentimental books and a matter-of-fact writing style.

— Anette, Library Volunteer  
May, 2020

### ABOUT AUTHOR

**Toshikazu Kawaguchi** was born in Osaka, Japan, in 1971. He formerly produced, directed and wrote for the theatrical group Sonic Snail. As a playwright, his works include *COUPLE*, *Sunset Song*, and *Family Time*. The novel *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* is adapted from a 1110 Productions play by Kawaguchi, which won the 10th Suginami Drama Festival grand prize.

— from Publisher



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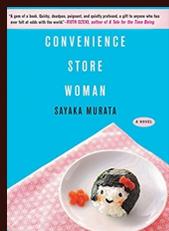
Translated by  
Geoffrey Trousselot

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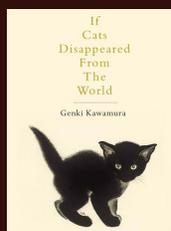
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Kohi ga samenai uchini  
コーヒーが冷めないうちに  
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