

# STAFF PICK

## THE TRAVELLING CAT CHRONICLES

NOVEL BY HIRO ARIKAWA

I first picked up this book because of its beautiful cover and the tradition of cats appearing in Japanese literature.

*The Travelling Cat Chronicles* by Hiro Arikawa is about Nana, a former stray cat who gets rescued by a man named Satoru. After sharing their lives for five years, Nana and Satoru embark on a road trip across Japan to visit Satoru's old childhood friends from elementary to high school. As they meet these childhood friends, more of Satoru's backstory and character is revealed. Learning about Satoru's past and the bonds he has shared in childhood, we come to understand why Nana, a

proud cat, has come love and care for his gentle owner.

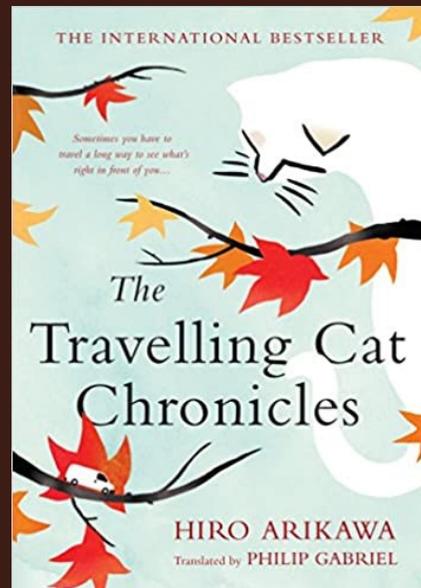
The book is genuinely funny to read as half the book is narrated by the cat Nana, and it gives the novel almost a cartoonish feature. Nana is proud and witty but also warm-hearted and loyal that you can't help but fall in love with his character. His narration keeps a light-hearted tone throughout the novel as it overlays the sense of sadness that is accompanied by nostalgia, loss and bonds shared between childhood friends. The novel was also made into a film in 2018 and premiered in Toronto at JCCC's TJFF in 2020.

— Haram, Library Assistant  
November, 2020

### ABOUT AUTHOR

Hiro Arikawa (有川 浩) is a renowned author from Tokyo. Her novel *The Travelling Cat Chronicles* is a bestseller in Japan and is due to be published around the world.

— from Publisher



Title: *The Travelling Cat Chronicles*

Author: Hiro Arikawa

Publisher: Viking  
Year: 2018

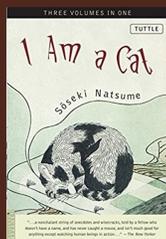
Pages: 288

Translated by Philip Gabriel (translated Haruki Murakami's *Kafka on the Shore* (2005), Kanae Minato's *Penance* (2017), and many others.)

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Original Japanese:  
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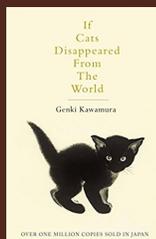
I am a Cat



Kafka on the Shore



The Guest Cat



If Cats Disappeared from the World