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Guilty of Dancing the Chachachá

A dark lament reflecting the macabre aspects of today's world follows the experiences of a man who navigates Manhattan's art and literary scenes before touring Taipei, where he confronts family origins, suffers a breakup and pursues an internet affair that culminates in a gaudy Vegas wedding. Original.

Grotesque

Iron Man

When Luke investigates an eerie blue glow in the woods behind his house, he doesn't know what he'll find there. But a scientist, a robot Abraham Lincoln riding a friendly dinosaur, and a sassy ghost were the last things he could have imagined stumbling upon. Now as Luke and his new companions are pursued by a bickering trio of bumbling henchmen who are after the strange device locked to his arm, he's forced on a crazy, headlong adventure in a parallel dimension! Will he find his courage in time to save the day and get home or will he be trapped in a weird alternate reality forever?

Audition

The definitive story of Harley Quinn by her co-creator, Paul Dini, and Pat Cadigan, revealing the secrets of her history even as she seeks to kill Batman. When she was only seven years old, Harleen Quinzel witnessed her father being beaten up by thugs, and then arrested by the police. That night she ran away to the safest place she could think of: Coney Island amusement park. But there, pursued into the Funhouse by the men who brutalised her father, she beheld unimaginable horrors. Years later, Harleen has put her past behind her, and used her intelligence and ambition to escape her childhood of poverty with a career in psychiatry. Assigned to her first position at Arkham Hospital, she will discover, deep in the asylum, something dangerous and alluring, something quite unlike anything else she has ever known before: The Joker. Because why would you settle for love, when you could have MAD LOVE? From the moment that Harleen finds a rose on her desk, to the moment she dons her harlequin hat, this is the definitive story that chronicles

the obsession, the burning desire, the manic laughter, and the birth of one of the most controversial and popular comic book supervillains ever created: Harley Quinn. Copyright © 2017 DC Comics. BATMAN, THE JOKER, HARLEY QUINN, SUICIDE SQUAD and all related characters and elements © & TM DC Comics and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

A Quiet Place

Life at the prestigious Q High School for Girls in Tokyo exists on a precise social axis: a world of insiders and outsiders, of haves and have-nots. Beautiful Yuriko and her unpopular, unnamed sister exist in different spheres; the hopelessly awkward Kazue Sato floats around among them, trying to fit in. Years later, Yuriko and Kazue are dead — both have become prostitutes and both have been brutally murdered. Natsuo Kirino, celebrated author of *Out*, seamlessly weaves together the stories of these women's struggles within the conventions and restrictions of Japanese society. At once a psychological investigation of the pressures facing Japanese women and a classic work of noir fiction, *Grotesque* is a brilliantly twisted novel of ambition, desire, beauty, cruelty, and identity by one of our most electrifying writers. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Almost Transparent Blue

A former police officer awakens after a night of sex with a strange woman to find that one of his kidneys has been removed, an event that sends him into a drugged-out underworld.

Coin Locker Babies

A quixotic and funny tale about first love - from the Akutagawa Prize-winning author. A boy is obsessed with a woman who sells sandwiches. He goes to the supermarket almost every day, just so he can look at her face. She is beautiful to him, and he calls her "Ms Ice Sandwich", and endlessly draws her portrait. But the boy's friend hears about this hesitant adoration, and suddenly everything changes. His visits to Ms Ice Sandwich stop, and with them the last hopes of his childhood. A moving and surprisingly funny tale of growing up and learning how to lose, Ms Ice Sandwich is Mieko Kawakami at her very best.

Rent Boy

In Autumn Creek, Halloween is no longer a harmless holiday of make-believe for children. It's a night of survival. The onslaught starts with a brutal murder of a woman. Cars are vandalized, stranding the residents, rendering them vulnerable to the looming chaos. With no chance of escape, the town becomes a battleground as one by one, the residents fall prey to Prank Night. Terror will flow through the quaint village, flooding the streets with blood.

Audition

"Like the rhythm of the chachacha, the three short stories in this collection are

marked by repetition and contrast. They all begin with the same scene: on a rainy afternoon, a man and woman are having lunch in a restaurant in the center of Havana. Each time, however, this scene is the genesis of a different love story, each corresponding to the vision of three distinct islands: the island of African rites and sacred tambours; the island of luxury hotels and American tourists; and finally, an island of communist utopia and political persecution. In this humorous, ironic and touching work, Cabrera Infante invites the reader on a journey through time, and a quest to discover the many faces of his beloved Cuba."--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

In The Miso Soup

After strangling her husband, Masako Katori, a middle-aged wife and mother working the night shift at a Tokyo factory, enlists the aid of four co-workers to conceal the crime. Reprint. 50,000 first printing.

Kiss Me, Judas

The casting director for Chicago, Pippin, Becket, Gypsy, The Graduate, the Sound of Music and Jesus Christ Superstar tells you how you can find your dream role! Absolutely everything an actor needs to know to get the part is here: What to do that moment before, how to use humour; create mystery; how to develop a distinct style; and how to evaluate the place, the relationships and the competition. In fact, Audition is a necessary guide to dealing with all the "auditions" we face in life. This is the bible on the subject.

The Wandering Pine

When everything began so well, how could it turn out so badly? A blisteringly frank autobiographical novel by Sweden's great man of letters - for readers of K. O. Knausgaard's My Struggle. "Some life. Some novel . . . Wonderful, brave, evocative . . . It is a remarkable story, and Enquist is remarkably frank in narrating every last detail" Herald What was it about Hjoggböle, a farming village in the northernmost part of Sweden, that created so many idiots - and writers? There was nothing to indicate that P.O. Enquist would be stricken by an addiction to writing. Nothing in his family - honest, hardworking people. Not a trace of poetry. And yet he worked his way, via journalism, novels and plays, to the centre of Swedish politics and cultural life. His books garnered prize after prize. His plays ran for decades and premiered on Broadway. Why then, living with a new wife in Paris, does he hole up in their palatial Champs-Élysées apartment, talking only to his cat? How is it that he wakes to find himself in an uncoupled carriage on a railway siding in Hamburg, two - or was it three? - days after the first-night party finished? And what is it that drives him to run shoeless through the deep January snow of an Icelandic plain, leaving the lights of the drying out clinic far behind? Narrating in the third person, as if he were merely a character in the eventful, perplexing and ultimately triumphantly redemptive drama of his own life, P.O. Enquist is as elliptical as Karl Ove Knausgaard is exhaustive. Clear-eyed, rueful, written with elegance and humour, this is the singular story of a remarkable man.

From the Fatherland, with Love

Danny is a rent boy, an architecture student, a waiter, and hot! Working his way through school seemed pretty easy: he serves ego-obsessed writers their cocktails at the Salamagundi Club; he has his toes and other appendages sucked by horny businessmen; and he escorts anyone - male, female, or otherwise - who can afford him. But then his liaison with another rent boy gets him involved with an organ theft ring centering around a crazy old doctor and a crackpot nurse. A relentless stream of social commentary, careening between sex, comedy, and murder. Rent Boy is a hysterical romp through the worlds of contemporary culture and crime.

Piercing

One by One in the Darkness follows a week in the lives of three sisters shortly before the start of the IRA ceasefire in 1994, undercut with the story of their childhood in Northern Ireland of the 1960s and 1970s. The history of both a family and a society, One by One in the Darkness confirms Deirdre Madden's reputation as one of Irish fiction's most outstanding talents.

Death By Choice

Every night, Kawashima Masayuki creeps from his bed and watches over his baby girl's crib while his wife sleeps. But this is no ordinary domestic scene. He has an ice pick in his hand, and a barely controllable desire to use it. Deciding to confront his demons, Kawashima sets into motion a chain of events seeming to lead inexorably to murder

Sixty-Nine

Yoshio Kita's hopelessness and lack of faith in his future crystallizes into a decision to commit suicide by what he calls 'capital punishment at free will', meaning his only pressing problem now is how to spend both his remaining self-allocated seven days on earth and all his worldly money. From fine dining with a former porn actress to insuring his life, from pursuing an ex-girlfriend to an entanglement with an assassin, Yoshio's last seven days on earth take on unexpected twists and turns in this darkly comic exploration of the cult of suicide in Japan and the culture that has created it.

Tokyo Decadence

With the death of one of the Gang (as they call themselves), the war games escalate, directed now against the adults they hold responsible for the loss of one of their soldiers.

Out

NATIONAL BESTSELLER In the spring of 1978, a young Haruki Murakami sat down at his kitchen table and began to write. The result: two remarkable short novels—Hear the Wind Sing and Pinball, 1973—that launched the career of one of

the most acclaimed authors of our time. These powerful, at times surreal, works about two young men coming of age—the unnamed narrator and his friend the Rat—are stories of loneliness, obsession, and eroticism. They bear all the hallmarks of Murakami's later books, and form the first two-thirds, with *A Wild Sheep Chase*, of the trilogy of the Rat. Widely available in English for the first time ever, newly translated, and featuring a new introduction by Murakami himself, *Wind/Pinball* gives us a fascinating insight into a great writer's beginnings. From the Hardcover edition.

The Forbidden Best-sellers of Pre-revolutionary France

Seit dem Tod seiner Frau vor 7 Jahren hatte Dokumentarfilmer Aoyama keine einzige Verabredung. Nachdem sogar sein 15-jähriger Sohn Shige zu einer neuen Heirat drängt, beschließt Aoyama, genau das zu tun. Um in möglichst kurzer Zeit, die Richtige zu finden, kommt für den erfolgreichen Geschäftsmann nur eine systematische Suche in Frage. Sein bester Freund Yoshikawa entwickelt den perfekten Plan: Unter dem Deckmantel eines Film-Castings, soll Aoyama seine zukünftige Braut finden. Tausende Frauen bewerben sich, doch es ist von Anfang an die hübsche Ballett-Tänzerin Yamasaki Asami, die Aoyamas Herz erobert. Betört und geblendet von ihrer Zerbrechlichkeit und dem schüchternen Lächeln, ignoriert er sein immer größer werdendes Gefühl, das mit Asami irgendetwas nicht stimmt. Was als zarte Liebesgeschichte beginnt, mündet bald in einen beklemmenden Alptraum. Mit *Das Casting* schuf Ryu Murakami einen fesselnden Psycho-Thriller, der tief unter die Haut geht und die Vorlage für den Kultfilm *Audition* (1999) von Takashi Miike. 2013 landete "Das Casting" auf der HotList unter den 10 besten Büchern Deutschlands. aus unabhängigen Verlagen.

How to Use Your Enemies

A cream-of-the-crop selection of Murakami's brilliance and piercing wit. This collection shows sides of Ryu Murakami that even avid fans may not be expecting. The intriguing, somewhat disturbing stories that *Topaz* was based on are included here, as are three entertaining and revealing portraits of the artist as a young man back in the Transparent Blue period of the late sixties and early seventies. We hear tales told by four very different individuals living in eighties Tokyo, each with his or her own problems but all with a thing about a certain pro baseball player, and we meet a brokenhearted young woman who finds an unexpected moment of love in the nineties and a single mother who stumbles on a ray of hope in the hard times of the noughties. Mixed in there somewhere are three linked stories about desire and obsession, with the timeless, seductive rhythms of Cuban music in the background. This book contains explicit content and is not suitable for minors. About the author: Ryu Murakami was not yet 24 when he won the prestigious Akutagawa Prize for his debut novel, *Almost Transparent Blue*. He has now published some forty best-selling novels, a dozen short-story collections, an armful of picture books, and a small mountain of essays. In his spare time, Ryu hosts a popular and long-running weekly TV show focusing on business and economic topics, and has for many years promoted tours and produced records for Cuban musicians. He has written and directed five feature films, of which *Topaz* a.k.a. *Tokyo Decadence* (1992) is probably the best known, and many of his novels have been made into films by other directors (notably Takashi Miike's *Audition*).

Translated novels include *Coin Locker Babies* (Noma Prize for New Writers), *Sixty-Nine*, *Popular Hits of the Showa Era*, *Audition*, *In the Miso Soup* (Yomiuri Prize for Literature), *Piercing*, and *From the Fatherland, with Love* (Noma Prize for Literature and Mainichi Publishing Culture Award).

Audition

In this thriller from the best-selling Japanese author, a widower stages an open casting call with his filmmaker friend to attract the perfect wife and is taken in by a striking young ballerina with a mysterious past. Original.

Deep Red

Higuchi Ichiy, Japan's first woman writer of stature in modern times, was born in 1872 and died at the age of twenty-four. In her brief life she wrote poems, essays, short stories and a great, multivolume diary. This book is made up of a critical biography, interlaced with extracts from the diary, and Robert Danly's translations of nine representative stories.

Ms Ice Sandwich

Rin is twenty-two, with a troubled adolescence behind her. She is flying back from her honeymoon, madly in love with her husband, Shin, and the future looks rosy. Then Shin disappears to the bathroom while he thinks Rin is sleeping and she starts to imagine that he has gone to seduce the flight attendant. As her thoughts spiral out of control the phrase 'madly in love' takes on a more sinister meaning. Prizewinning author Hitomi Kanehara's sensational new novel, *Autofiction*, follows Rin's life backwards through time from this moment so that we see her when she is eighteen, sixteen and finally fifteen, and a picture of the dark heart and violent past of this disturbed young woman gradually develops.

SMALL BUILDINGS OF KYOTO

Deep Red is a novel about anger, of the slow burn and the itch for violence, and the unexpected places that fury can take us. Sixth grader Kanako was looking forward to her school trip, and she sure is enjoying it. At night, as she and her friends exchange scary stories after lights-out, her teacher barges into their room to summon her. Yet he seems more solicitous than scolding, and when he asks her to pack her things so he can take her back to Tokyo in a cab, Kanako realizes that something terrible has happened to her family. Educational supplies salesman Norio Tsuzuki was bamboozled into co-signing a fraudulent loan agreement by a business relation of his to whom he couldn't say no. Enticed by the unscrupulous entrepreneur to recover the sum by unethical means, Tsuzuki indeed descends into criminality—by brutally murdering the man and his family. The only survivor, a daughter the same age as Tsuzuki's own, just happened to be away on a school trip... When the orphaned Kanako grows up into a young woman, she cannot but feel vengeful toward Miho, the fiend's daughter, and seeks her out under false pretenses. What follows is a memorable waltz of two unmoored souls.

DC Comics novels - Harley Quinn: Mad Love

Stunning, cutting-edge thriller with a chilling supernatural twist from Japan's stylish new literary star. Asakawa is a hardworking journalist who has climbed his way up from local-news beat reporter to writer for his newspaper's weekly magazine. A chronic workaholic, he doesn't take much notice when his seventeen-year-old niece dies suddenly -- until a chance conversation reveals that another healthy teenager died at exactly the same time, in chillingly similar circumstances. Sensing a story, Asakawa begins to investigate, and soon discovers that this strange simultaneous sudden-death syndrome also affected another two teenagers. Exactly one week before their mysterious deaths the four teenagers all spent the night at a leisure resort in the same log cabin. When Asakawa visits the resort, the mystery only deepens. particular videotape. When he watches it, instead of a movie he finds an odd collection of disparate images with a portentous message at the end: Those who have viewed these images are fated to die at this exact hour one week from now. Asakawa finds himself in a race against time -- he has only seven days to find the cause of the teenagers' deaths before it finds him. The hunt puts him on the trail of an apocalyptic power that will force Asakawa to choose between saving his family and saving civilization.

Time Shifters

This controversial novel touched the raw nerves of the Japanese and became a million seller within six months of publication. It is a semi-autobiographical tale of the author's youth spent amidst the glorious squalor of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll in 1970s Japan. Almost Transparent Blue is a brutal tale of lost youth in a Japanese port town close to an American military base. Murakami's image-intensive narrative paints a portrait of a group of friends locked in a destructive cycle of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll. The novel is all but plotless, but the raw and

Inheritance from Mother

From the Fatherland, with Love is set in an alternative, dystopian present in which the dollar has collapsed and Japan's economy has fallen along with it. The North Korean government, sensing an opportunity, sends a fleet of 'rebels' in the first land invasion that Japan has ever faced. Japan can't cope with the surprise onslaught of 'Operation From the Fatherland, with Love'. But the terrorist Ishihara and his band of renegade youths - once dedicated to upsetting the Japanese government - turn their deadly attention to the North Korean threat. They will not allow Fukuoka to fall without a fight. Epic in scale, From the Fatherland, with Love is laced throughout with Murakami's characteristically savage violence. It's both a satisfying thriller and a completely mad, over-the-top novel like few others.

Das Casting

Exploring the cultural and political significance of forbidden books in France, a historian considers the ideological origins of the Revolution and its connections with the Enlightenment by examining what the French read in the eighteenth century--with substantial excerpts included.

Deadkidsongs

Two babies are left in a Tokyo station coin locker and survive against the odds, but their lives are forever tainted by this inauspicious start. As they grow up, they join the ranks of Toxitown: a district of addicts, freaks and prostitutes. One becomes a bisexual rock star and looks for his mother, while the other one, an athlete, seeks revenge. This savage story unfolds in a surrealistic whirl of violence.

Blood in the Water

A selection of deliciously spooky short stories from the Japanese master of suspense, the acclaimed author of RING. The film DARK WATER is based on the first story in the collection.

Autofiction

'69' is a roman de clef about coming of age during a time that left its mark on baby boomers around the world, and a certain amount of intrigue for their children - a time when they really believed they could change the world before it changed them.

Ring

The long-awaited translation of the novel behind the cult classic Japanese movie. In this gloriously over-the-top tale, Aoyama, a widower who has lived alone with his son ever since his wife died seven years before, finally decides it is time to remarry. Since Aoyama is a bit rusty when it comes to dating, a filmmaker friend proposes that, in order to attract the perfect wife, they do a casting call for a movie they don't intend to produce. As the résumés pile up, only one of the applicants catches Aoyama's attention—Yamasaki Asami—a striking young former ballerina with a mysterious past. Blinded by his instant and total infatuation, Aoyama is too late in discovering that she is a far cry from the innocent young woman he imagines her to be. The novel's fast-paced, thriller conclusion doesn't spare the reader as Yamasaki takes off her angelic mask and reveals what lies beneath.

Taipei

'Better mad with the crowd than sane all alone' In these witty, Machiavellian aphorisms, unlikely Spanish priest Baltasar Gracián shows us how to exploit friends and enemies alike to thrive in a world of deception and illusion. Introducing Little Black Classics: 80 books for Penguin's 80th birthday. Little Black Classics celebrate the huge range and diversity of Penguin Classics, with books from around the world and across many centuries. They take us from a balloon ride over Victorian London to a garden of blossom in Japan, from Tierra del Fuego to 16th-century California and the Russian steppe. Here are stories lyrical and savage; poems epic and intimate; essays satirical and inspirational; and ideas that have shaped the lives of millions. Baltasar Gracián (1601-1658). Gracián's work is available in Penguin Classics in The Pocket Oracle and Art of Prudence.

Audition

It's just before New Year, and Frank, an overweight American tourist, has hired Kenji to take him on a guided tour of Tokyo's nightlife. But Frank's behaviour is so odd that Kenji begins to entertain a horrible suspicion: his client may in fact have murderous desires. Although Kenji is far from innocent himself, he unwillingly descends with Frank into an inferno of evil, from which only his sixteen-year-old girlfriend, Jun, can possibly save him.

Wind/Pinball

"A master crime writer . . . Seicho Matsumoto's thrillers dissect Japanese society."—The New York Times Book Review "A stellar psychological thriller with a surprising and immensely satisfying resolution that flows naturally from the book's complex characterizations. Readers will agree that Matsumoto (1909–1992) deserves his reputation as Japan's Georges Simenon.—Publishers Weekly. While on a business trip to Kobe, Tsuneo Asai receives the news that his wife Eiko has died of a heart attack. Eiko had a heart condition so the news of her death wasn't totally unexpected. But the circumstances of her demise left Tsuneo, a softly-spoken government bureaucrat, perplexed. How did it come about that his wife—who was shy and withdrawn, and only left their house twice a week to go to haiku meetings—ended up dead in a small shop in a shady Tokyo neighborhood? When Tsuneo goes to apologize to the boutique owner for the trouble caused by his wife's death he discovers the villa Tachibana near by, a house known to be a meeting place for secret lovers. As he digs deeper into his wife's recent past, he must eventually conclude that she led a double life Seicho Matsumoto was Japan's most successful thriller writer. His first detective novel, *Points and Lines*, sold over a million copies in Japan. *Vessel of Sand*, published in English as *Inspector Imanishi Investigates* in 1989, sold over four million copies and became a movie box-office hit.

Dark Water

Since the death of his wife seven years ago, documentary maker Aoyama has not dated anyone else. Now even his teenage son, Shige, thinks that he should remarry and his best friend Yoshikawa comes up with a plan: to hold fake film auditions from which, he can choose a new bride. Of the thousands who apply, it is a beautiful ballerina, Yamasaki Asami, who captivates Aoyama. Infatuated by her fragile nature and nervous smile, he ignores his increasing sense of unease, putting aside his doubts about his new love, until it may be too late In *Audition*, Ryu Murakami delivers his most subtly disturbing novel yet, confirming him as Japan's master of the psycho-thriller.

Popular Hits of the Showa Era: A Novel

Shinya Tsukamoto has become one of the most widely praised filmmakers in Japan today. Edgy, intense and overwhelming, Tsukamoto's films are nightmarish visions of a world in which man's greatest enemy is his own environment of cold concrete and twisted technology. Illustrated with hundreds of stills, behind-the-scenes

pictures and rare photographs from the director's own collection, Iron Man reveals the mind, methods and madness of Japan's most unique and influential filmmaker.

In the Shade of Spring Leaves

Jack Flynn's *Blood in the Water* is an edge-of-the-seat ride in a roller coaster, action-packed thriller with international terrorism at its core and family at its heart. Boston is in the grip of the coldest winter on record, but in its criminal underworld the temperature is rising. Harbor chief Cormack O'Connell has lived his life close to the wire - above and below the law. He knows every movement on his waterfront, and that's why someone wants him out of the way, fast. Homeland security agent Kit Steele is committed to avenge terrorism. Also known as The Hunter, she's got her eye on the prize. This time it's personal, and she has nothing left to lose. Her prey is Vincente Carpio, one of the world's most dangerous criminals. He is clever, calculating and he's biding his time. Diamond O'Connell is a daughter, a lover and a fighter. She's seen things most nineteen-year-old girls couldn't even begin to imagine. And she's about to become a pawn in a deadly game of cat and mouse. Everyone has their part to play, but now it seems that there are much darker, far-reaching forces at work which look to be preparing for the international stage.

Prank Night

From the author of *Audition*, a wickedly satirical and wildly funny tale of an intergenerational battle of the sexes. In his most irreverent novel yet, Ryu Murakami creates a rivalry of epic proportions between six aimless youths and six tough-as-nails women who battle for control of a Tokyo neighborhood. At the outset, the young men seem louche but harmless, their activities limited to drinking, snacking, peering at a naked neighbor through a window, and performing karaoke. The six "aunties" are fiercely independent career women. When one of the boys executes a lethal ambush of one of the women, chaos ensues. The women band together to find the killer and exact revenge. In turn, the boys buckle down, study physics, and plot to take out their nemeses in a single blast. Who knew that a deadly "gang war" could be such fun? Murakami builds the conflict into a hilarious, spot-on satire of modern culture and the tensions between the sexes and generations.

One by One in the Darkness

Award-winning novelist Minae Mizumura demystifies the notion of the selfless Japanese mother and the adult daughter honor-bound to care for her. Mitsuki Katsura, a Japanese woman in her mid-fifties, is a French-language instructor at a private university in Tokyo. Her husband, whom she met in Paris, is a professor at another private university. He is having an affair with a much younger woman. In addition to her husband's infidelity, Mitsuki must deal with her ailing eighty-something mother, a demanding, self-absorbed woman who is far from the image of the patient, self-sacrificing Japanese matriarch. Mitsuki finds herself dreaming of the day when her mother will finally pass on. While doing everything she can to ensure her mother's happiness, she grows weary of the responsibilities of a doting daughter and worries she is sacrificing her chance to find fulfillment in her middle

age. Inheritance from Mother not only offers insight into a complex and paradoxical culture, but is also a profound work about mothers and daughters, marriage, old age, and the resilience of women.

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