



THE
COMPLETE
TEXT

*Sputnik
Sweetheart*

Haruki Murakami

Read by Adam Sims



NAXOS
AudioBooks

1	Foreword	1:02
2	Chapter 1	5:55
3	Sumire wanted to be like a character in a Kerouac novel...	7:37
4	Sumire was born in Chigasaki.	5:41
5	Sumire was living in a one-room apartment in Kichijoji...	7:05
6	'My head is like some ridiculous barn...'	6:54
7	'How could my mother give me the name of such an awful song?'	7:28
8	'My father's company originally imported dried foods...'	7:28
9	Chapter 2	7:22
10	'You should try being an elementary-school teacher sometime.'	6:48
11	Chapter 3	6:57
12	'I'd like to pick up where we left off yesterday,' Miu said...	5:28
13	Chapter 4	6:46
14	Sumire steered the conversation back on track.	7:48
15	Miu examined the colour of the 1986 Médoc...	7:34
16	'Tell me,' Sumire said...	7:08
17	Chapter 5	5:44
18	I started college and lived by myself in a small apartment.	6:30
19	One Saturday at the beginning of July my class had an outing.	5:55
20	I took a sip of my cold beer and gathered my thoughts.	5:34

21	I was sitting on the bare floor of the new apartment...	6:43
22	Chapter 6	6:29
23	The Alfa Romeo we rented was a manual shift...	6:32
24		
25	Five days later...	7:52
26	Chapter 7	7:23
27	At dawn I boarded the Chuo Line to Shinjuku...	7:30
28	The evening ferry was still in port.	7:34
29	More than two thousand years ago...	7:19
30	Miu popped an olive into her mouth...	7:51
31	Chapter 8	5:40
32	'Sumire and I got up early every morning...'	5:43
33	'And what was the fate of the cats, one wonders,' ...	5:49
34	'Speaking of cats,' Sumire had blurted out...	6:44
35	Chapter 9	5:38
36	'What's the matter?' Miu called out.	5:52
37	Miu nodded and handed Sumire a fresh bath towel...	4:40
38	I've never had a homosexual experience...	6:09
39	I explained everything to one of the policemen...	5:42
40	Chapter 10	6:21

41	As the sun rose higher it grew fiercely hot.	7:46
42	Chapter 11	7:26
43	The joints of my hand and the rest of me...	7:25
44	They say it's a dangerous experiment to include dreams...	7:53
45	Chapter 12	6:31
46	She was lucky enough to find a furnished apartment...	6:49
47	Miu bought some ice cream and sat on a bench to eat it...	7:20
48	Miu was dressed only in a light blouse and short cotton skirt...	7:56
49	Miu's mind went blank.	7:20
50	'Not being able to play the piano any more was definitely a shock...'	7:34
51	Chapter 13	6:02
52	What was she trying to convey?	5:27
53	In the end the phone didn't ring...	5:33
54	An awful chill swept through me and I felt choked.	6:08
55	Chapter 14	7:43
56	Before I knew it, the world around was drained of colour.	6:42
57	Chapter 15	6:29
58	My girlfriend had on a simple blue half-sleeve dress.	6:42
59	Carrot had been staring the whole time at the floor...	6:07
60	'OK – you're absolutely right.'	5:17

61	She'd parked her red Toyota Celica in the parking lot...	6:38
62	'When I entered college, though...'	6:27
63	'Do you think my son senses what's going on?'	5:50
64	Chapter 16	6:07
65	Lying there, I close my eyes for a time...	6:05
66	I dream.	5:54

Total time: 7:06:01



Haruki Murakami was born in Kyoto on 12 January 1949. He began writing at the age of 24. The impulse to do so first struck him, he says, during a baseball match, at the very moment when a famous player hit a home run. He went straight home and started to write.

His first book, *Hear the Wind Sing*, was published in 1979 and won the Gunzou Shinjin Sho, an award for new writers. At that point he was running a jazz bar called Peter Cat in a quiet corner of Tokyo.

In 1981, he started to write for a living and the following year published one of his most extraordinary novels, *A Wild Sheep Chase*, which bears all the Murakami hallmarks of superb writing, compelling plot, zany happenings and erotic moments. It was an extraordinary achievement for a relatively inexperienced writer, especially because it was strongly original in style and content.

There was a three-year gap before the publication of his next work, *Hard-boiled Wonderland and the End of the World*, his most metaphysical, and perhaps strangest, novel. Three years after that, in 1988, came the sequel to *A Wild Sheep Chase*: *Dance, Dance, Dance*. By this time his reputation as Japan's most popular contemporary literary novelist was assured.

This was achieved with the publication of *Norwegian Wood* in 1987 which sold four million copies in Japan alone. After *Dance, Dance, Dance* there was a four-year gap as he started a new chapter in his life, living and teaching in America. *South of the Border, West of the Sun* then came in 1992; his collection of short stories *The Elephant Vanishes* was published in 1993; and finishing this burst of creativity was *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, widely regarded as his masterpiece, in 1994.

He returned to Japan in 1995 after the Kobe earthquake, but it was not until 1999 that his next novel, *Sputnik Sweetheart*, emerged. This

is another gentle study of the isolated individual, a theme that runs as a thread through much of his fiction.

after the quake, his intriguing collection of short stories centred around, but not in, the Kobe earthquake, came in 2002. And *Kafka on the Shore*, which saw a return to his quizzical, off-beat fantasy style, was published in 2004.

Since then there have been further novels which have enhanced his reputation as one of the foremost writers on the international scene today: *After Dark* (2004), *IQ84* (2009); and a distinctive personal memoir about his interest in marathon running: *What I Talk About When I Talk About Running* (2007).

His new work is immediately translated into many languages, and audiobook recordings are now welcomed by his expanding fan base.



Adam Sims trained at LAMDA. His recordings for radio include *The World According to Humphrey* and *The Salamander Letter* for the BBC. His film and theatre credits include *Band of Brothers* (HBO), *Lost in Space*, *The Madness of George III* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Alice in Wonderland* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Regent's Park) and *Snake in Frigate* (Manchester Royal Exchange), for which he won the award for Best Actor at the Manchester Evening News Theatre Awards. For Naxos AudioBooks, he has read Murakami's *after the quake* and *Hard-boiled Wonderland and the End of the World*.

Credits

Translated by Philip Gabriel

Produced by Nicolas Soames

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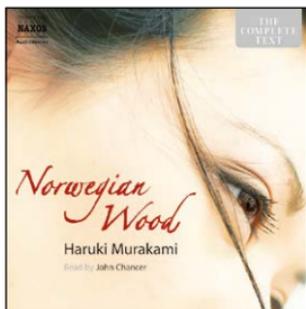
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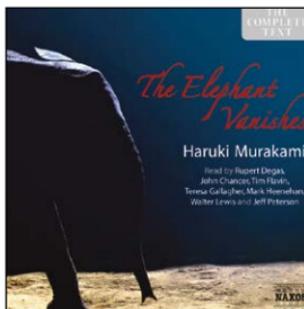
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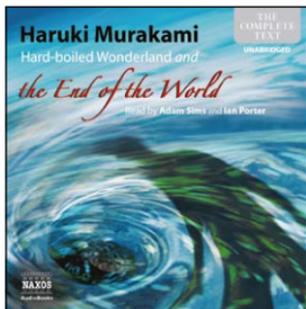
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The Elephant Vanishes

(Murakami) ISBN: 9789626344064

Read by Rupert Degas and others



Hard Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World

(Murakami) ISBN: 9789626343388

Read by Adam Sims and Ian Porter



Dance, Dance, Dance

(Murakami) ISBN: 9789626344354

Read by Rupert Degas

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Sputnik Sweetheart

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Translated by **Philip Gabriel**

Haruki Murakami is unquestionably Japan's leading novelist with his many works – fiction and non-fiction – consistently reflecting contemporary Japanese life while, unusually, sustaining an international appeal through a deeply human perspective.

Sputnik Sweetheart is his ninth novel, written in 1999, and tells the story of a young woman – Sumire, an aspiring writer – who falls in love with an older, successful businesswoman and wine expert, Miu. Their relationship is told through the eyes of Sumire's close (male) friend. It is a curious, mysterious tale, told with the compassion and quirkiness that is the hallmark of Murakami's writing.



Adam Sims trained at LAMDA. His film and theatre credits include *Band of Brothers*, *Lost in Space* and *Alice in Wonderland* (Royal Shakespeare Company). For Naxos AudioBooks, he has read Murakami's *after the quake* and *Hard-boiled Wonderland and the End of the World*.

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Total time
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NA0165D

CD ISBN:
9781843798040

