

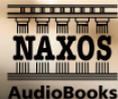


THE
COMPLETE
TEXT

South of the Border,

West of the Sun

Read by Eric Loren



NAXOS
AudioBooks

Haruki Murakami

1	One	10:35
2	During phys. ed. she sat on the sidelines...	10:03
3	I gave the same answer to Shimamoto...	10:07
4	Two	8:40
5	When Izumi left me that day, she thanked me...	9:28
6	Three	9:59
7	Oh God, I thought. I wanted to curl up and die.	10:50
8	Four	9:13
9	In truth, I damaged Izumi beyond repair.	4:51
10	Five	5:31
11	Two years after I started work, I had a date...	7:12
12	Six	8:52
13	She had her hand up, trying to flag down a cab.	8:44
14	Seven	8:26
15	When I turned thirty-six, I bought a small cottage...	10:41
16	He ordered another Wild Turkey on the rocks.	11:51
17	Eight	12:58
18	'You're married?' she asked, changing the subject.	9:51
19	She reached out a hand and lightly brushed mine...	10:35
20	Nine	11:28
21	Shimamoto extracted a Salem from her small purse...	12:26

22	Ten	9:05
23	As she crouched by the river...	10:45
24	By the time we reached the airport...	6:59
25	Eleven	7:10
26	I didn't say anything for a while.	11:25
27	I took a shower, then went back to bed...	8:16
28	Twelve	8:47
29	She drank Perrier with a twist of lemon.	9:05
30	A few unsettled weeks like this...	9:37
31	Thirteen	9:36
32	After lunch, I returned to my office to continue work.	6:13
33	Fourteen	9:03
34	She smiled too. The rain has stopped...	7:19
35	It was only the beginning of October...	9:20
36	Shimamoto wrapped both her arms around me...	10:38
37	I closed my eyes tight. And drove those memories...	7:20
38	Fifteen	10:28
39	Starting that night, I slept on the sofa...	10:39
40	The following week, as if lying in wait...	9:06
41	I walked back to my car and slumped into the seat.	10:35
42	Yukiko was silent for a long time.	9:07

Total time: 6:33:22



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.



Eric Loren works extensively as a voice artist. Originally from Boston, Eric trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. His theatre work includes World and British Premieres in the West End, Royal Court, Soho, Kings Head, Bush and Hampstead Theatres.

His television work includes Mr Diagoras and the Dalek Sec in *Doctor Who*, as well as regular and guest leads in numerous series, and his film work includes *Red Lights*, *Mr Nice*, *The Fourth Kind*, *Until Death* and *Saving Private Ryan*.

Credits

Translated by Philip Gabriel

Produced by Nicolas Soames

Edited and mastered by Sarah Butcher

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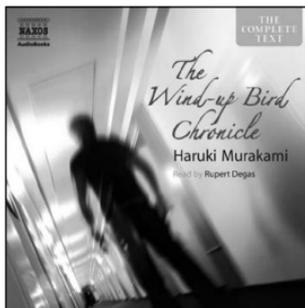
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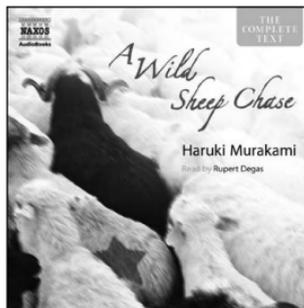
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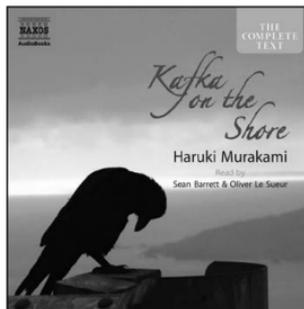
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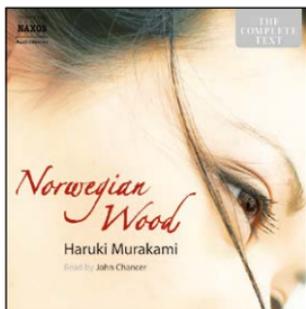
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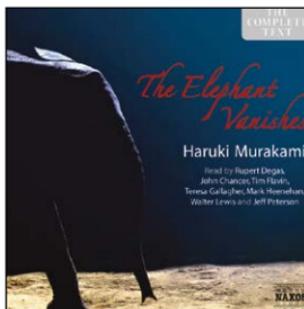
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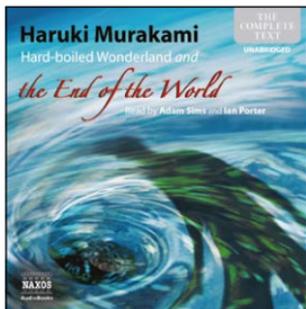
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The Elephant Vanishes

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Read by Rupert Degas and others



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Dance, Dance, Dance

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Haruki Murakami

South of the Border,

West of the Sun

Read by **Eric Loren**

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.

South of the Border, West of the Sun is his seventh novel, written in 1992. Hajime tells the story of his relationship with Shimamoto, an unconventional girl, from their first meetings as children through to life as students. They drift apart, but come together years later when Hajime is married and a father of two. Are those former feelings of close friendship still real – real enough to upset a functioning family life? Or are they haunted by intense memories? And who is Shimamoto, and what has she become?

South of the Border, West of the Sun is typically intimate, illusive, unpredictable and absorbing in a way that is uniquely Murakami.



Eric Loren works extensively as a voice artist. Originally from Boston, Eric trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. His theatre work includes World and British Premieres in the West End, Royal Court, Soho, Kings Head, Bush and Hampstead Theatres. His television work includes Mr Diagoras and the Dalek Sec in *Doctor Who*, as well as regular and guest leads in numerous series, and his film work includes *Red Lights*, *Mr Nice*, *The Fourth Kind*, *Until Death* and *Saving Private Ryan*.

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