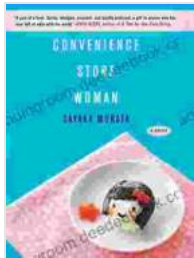


# Convenience Store Woman: A Novel of Self-Discovery and Quiet Triumph

Convenience Store Woman is a novel by Japanese writer Sayaka Murata that was first published in Japan in 2016. The novel follows Keiko Furukura, a 36-year-old woman who has worked at the same convenience store for 18 years. The novel explores themes of social isolation, conformity, and the search for self-identity.



## Convenience Store Woman: A Novel by Ginny Tapley Takemori

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3849 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 116 pages



## Plot

Keiko Furukura is a 36-year-old woman who has worked at the same convenience store for 18 years. She is content with her life, and she finds solace in the routine and simplicity of her job. However, Keiko's life is turned upside down when her younger sister becomes engaged and her family begins to pressure her to get married and settle down. Keiko is horrified at the thought of leaving her job and becoming a wife and mother. She believes that she is not suited for such a life, and she fears that she will lose herself if she gives up her job.

Keiko's struggle to reconcile her own desires with the expectations of her family and society is at the heart of *Convenience Store Woman*. The novel is a moving and insightful exploration of the challenges faced by women who choose to live outside of traditional societal norms.

## Characters

- **Keiko Furukura** is the protagonist of the novel. She is a 36-year-old woman who has worked at the same convenience store for 18 years. Keiko is content with her life, and she finds solace in the routine and simplicity of her job. However, her life is turned upside down when her younger sister becomes engaged and her family begins to pressure her to get married and settle down.
- **Shiraha** is Keiko's manager at the convenience store. He is a kind and understanding man who supports Keiko's decision to remain unmarried and childless.
- **Miyuki** is Keiko's younger sister. She is a successful businesswoman who is married with children. Miyuki is concerned about Keiko's life choices, and she tries to pressure her to get married and settle down.
- **Asano** is Keiko's coworker at the convenience store. He is a young man who is attracted to Keiko. Asano is confused by Keiko's refusal to date him, and he tries to understand her reasons for remaining unmarried.

## Themes

*Convenience Store Woman* explores a number of important themes, including:

- **Social isolation:** Keiko is a solitary person who finds it difficult to connect with others. She is content with her own company, and she does not feel the need to conform to societal expectations of marriage and family.
- **Conformity:** Keiko's family and society expect her to get married and have children. However, Keiko does not want to conform to these expectations. She believes that she is not suited for a traditional life, and she fears that she will lose herself if she gives up her job.
- **Self-identity:** Keiko is on a journey of self-discovery. She is trying to figure out who she is and what she wants out of life. Keiko's journey is not always easy, but she is determined to find her own path.

## Critical reception

Convenience Store Woman has received critical acclaim from critics around the world. The novel has been praised for its insightful exploration of social isolation, conformity, and self-identity. Convenience Store Woman has also been praised for its strong and relatable characters.

Convenience Store Woman is a moving and insightful novel that explores the challenges faced by women who choose to live outside of traditional societal norms. The novel is a must-read for anyone who is interested in contemporary Japanese literature or in the themes of social isolation, conformity, and self-identity.

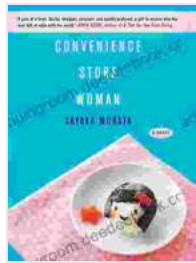
## Awards

- Akutagawa Prize (2016)
- Kenzaburo Oe Prize (2016)

- International Booker Prize (2021)

## Further reading

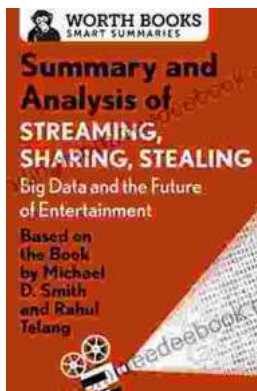
- The Guardian
- The New York Times
- NPR



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