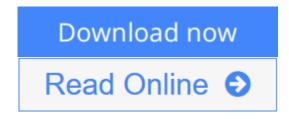


# **Out: A Novel**

By Natsuo Kirino



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Nothing in Japanese literature prepares us for the stark, tension-filled, plot-driven realism of Natsuo Kirino's award-winning literary mystery **Out**.

This mesmerizing novel tells the story of a brutal murder in the staid Tokyo suburbs, as a young mother who works the night shift making boxed lunches strangles her abusive husband and then seeks the help of her coworkers to dispose of the body and cover up her crime. The coolly intelligent Masako emerges as the plot's ringleader, but quickly discovers that this killing is merely the beginning, as it leads to a terrifying foray into the violent underbelly of Japanese society.

At once a masterpiece of literary suspense and pitch-black comedy of gender warfare, **Out** is also a moving evocation of the pressures and prejudices that drive women to extreme deeds, and the friendships that bolster them in the aftermath.

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#### Out: A Novel By Natsuo Kirino Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

#### From Publishers Weekly

Four women who work the night shift in a Tokyo factory that produces boxed lunches find their lives twisted beyond repair in this grimly compelling crime novel, which won Japan's top mystery award, the Grand Prix, for its already heralded author, now making her first appearance in English. Despite the female bonding, this dark, violent novel is more evocative of Gogol or Dostoyevsky than Thelma and Louise. When Yayoi, the youngest and prettiest of the women, strangles her philandering gambler husband with his own belt in an explosion of rage, she turns instinctively for help to her co-worker Masako, an older and wiser woman whose own family life has fallen apart in less dramatic fashion. To help her cut up and get rid of the dead body, Masako recruits Yoshie and Kuniko, two fellow factory workers caught up in other kinds of domestic traps. In Snyder's smoothly unobtrusive translation, all of Kirino's characters are touching and believable. And even when the action stretches to include a slick loan shark from Masako's previous life and a pathetically lost and lonely man of mixed Japanese and Brazilian parentage, the gritty realism of everyday existence in the underbelly of Japan's consumer society comes across with pungent force. FYI: This novel has been made into a Japanese motion picture.

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#### From **Booklist**

A suburban Tokyo woman fed up with her loutish husband kills him in a fit of anger, then confesses her crime to a coworker on the night shift at the boxed-lunch factory. The coworker enlists the help of two other women at the factory to dismember and dispose of the body. Readers beware--Kirino's first mystery to be published in English (it was a best-seller in Japan) involves no madcap female bonding. The tenuous friendship between the four women, all with problems of their own even before becoming accessories to murder, begins to unravel almost immediately. Money changes hands. The body parts are discovered. The police begin asking questions, and a very bad man falsely accused of the crime is determined to find out who really deserves the punishment. The gritty neighborhoods, factories, and warehouses of Tokyo provide a perfect backdrop for this bleak tale of women who are victims of circumstance and intent on self-preservation at all costs. *Carrie Bissey* 

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#### Review

A nervy thriller. . . . **Out** has the force of a juicy tabloid scandal. . . . A potent cocktail of urban blight, perverse feminism and vigilante justice." –*The New York Times Book Review* 

"Scarily omniscient. . . . Like Walter Mosley, [Kirino] exploits the beat-down potential of the hard-boiled novel to depict life on society's bottom in ways that subtly read as one part social protest, one part sadomasochistic entertainment." *–The Village Voice* 

"A gutsy, unflinching foray into the darkest, most dangerous recesses of the human soul. . . . Riveting, hairraising . . . definitely not for the faint-of-heart." –*Minneapolis Star-Tribune* 

"Mingling biting feminist commentary with engrossing storytelling . . . a scathing allegory about the subjugation of women in Japanese society and the secret lives this forces them to lead." –*The New York Times* 

"Masterful and psychologically astute." -San Francisco Chronicle

"A brutally realistic picture of contemporary society. . . . Spare, unsentimental." -Newsweek

"So dark, so gruesome . . . it left this reader reeling. No gritty urban American tale of violence can match the horror of *Out*." –Carol Memmott, *USA Today* 

"Daring and disturbing, **Out** is prepared to push the limits of this world–not only in violence and sex but also in human outlook.... Remarkable." –*Los Angeles Times* 

"Truly a universal tale. . . . Kirino knows not only everybody's business but everybody's mind-her way with interior monologue is pungent and prismatic." *–The Village Voice* 

"Brings the mystery thriller to new levels of intensity and realism. . . . *Out* has great plot twists, vigor, and an ending that would make Hannibal Lecter smile." *–Library Journal* (starred review)

"Sensational." -Time Out, NY

"Finally, a masterpiece in this genre . . . . a novel that realistically shows how ordinary people can be drawn into committing brutal crimes." — Prize Jury, Mystery Writers of Japan

"Forget about flower arranging and geisha girls. . . . *Out* offers an intriguing look at the darker sides of Japanese society while smashing stereotypes about Japanese women." –*Washington Post Book World* 

"A knuckle-clenching thriller." - Entertainment Weekly

"Grimly satisfying . . . like no one you've ever read before." -Kirkus Reviews

"*Out* descends beneath the genre's foundation to provide a remarkable series of insights into the forces that drive the charnel house of a postindustrial culture." –*American Book Review* 

"Dark, seductive and occasionally brutal, **Out** explores the lower classes of Japanese society with a distinctive gallows humor." –*Book* 

"A gutsy, unflinching foray into the darkest, most dangerous recesses of the human soul. And the book's riveting, hair-raising final scenes, although definitely not for the faint-at-heart, serve as an unsettling reminder that the desperate desire for freedom has the potential to set any ordinary individual among us off down a very dark and lonely road." *–Minneapolis Star-Tribune* 

"Out turns the whole subservient geisha image on its head." -Jane

"Absurdly compellingÉa superb and riveting thriller." -Book Trust (UK)

"An exciting, disturbing read. . . . Kirino's Tokyo is an unexpected place, far from the glamorous stereotype." –*Telegraph* (UK)

"A feminist revenge plot meets social critique and hardcore horror in a startling Japanese mix of satire and sensation."–*The Independent* (UK)

"A page-turning thriller that at the same time delivers one of the most powerful wallops for feminist literature in recent memory."–Telegraph Magazine (UK)

## **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### **Terry Hayes:**

Now a day those who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by match the internet and the resources in it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each info they get. How a lot more to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Looking at a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information mainly this Out: A Novel book as this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

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#### **Ryan Calhoun:**

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#### **Rafael Perez:**

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