



Summary

What are you looking for? So asks Tokyo's most enigmatic librarian. For Sayuri Komachi is able to sense exactly what each visitor to her library is searching for and provide just the book recommendation to help them find it. A restless retail assistant looks to gain new skills, a mother tries to overcome demotion at work after maternity leave, a conscientious accountant yearns to open an antique store, a recently retired salaryman searches for newfound purpose. In Komachi's unique book recommendations they will find just what they need to achieve their dreams. What You Are Looking For Is in the Library is about the magic of libraries and the discovery of connection. This inspirational tale shows how, by listening to our hearts, seizing opportunity and reaching out, we too can fulfill our lifelong dreams. Which book will you recommend?



About the Author

Born in 1970 in Aichi prefecture, and currently living in Yokohama, Michiko Aoyama worked for two years as a reporter for a Japanese newspaper in Sydney after graduating from university. After her return to Tokyo, she started to work as a magazine editor at a publishing house before turning to full time writing. Her work has won the 1st Miyazakimoto Prize, the 13th Tenryu Literary Prize, and has been a runner up of the 2021 Japan Booksellers Awards. This is her English-language debut.

Discussion Questions

- Would you recommend this book to someone? Why or why not (or with what caveats)? What kind of reader would most enjoy this book?
- Did you find the author's writing style easy to read or hard to read? Why? How long did it take you to get into the book?
- Who was your favorite character? What character did you identify with the most? Were there any characters that you disliked? Why?
- Did any part of this book strike a particular emotion in you? Which part and what emotion did the book make you feel?
- How much did you know about this book before picking it up? What surprised you the most about the book?
- Was there any part of the plot or aspects of the characters that frustrated or upset you? If so, why?
- How thought-provoking did you find the book? Did the book change your opinion about anything, or did you learn something new from it? If so, what?
- Did you highlight or bookmark any passages from the book? Did you have a favorite quote or quotes? If so, share which and why?
- From your point of view, what were the central themes of the book? How well do you think the author did at exploring them?
- Compare this book to other books you have read by the same author, or other books you have read covering the same or similar themes. How are they the same or different?
- How would you adapt this book into a movie? Who would you cast in the leading roles?

Reviews

“A delightful, gentle unfolding of stories that offer hope and joy to those who find themselves in a pivotal moment in life.”—Kirkus

“A comforting read filled with serendipity and simple wisdom, this is a celebration of community, connection, and the transformative power of libraries.”—Booklist

“There’s more to Aoyama’s novel than kindness. There is a subtle, provocative thread about misremembering; a pageant of interesting jobs; and a suite of mature, cooperative relationship. [T]he novel is an undeniable page-turner, its mechanism energized by a simple question, posed again and again by the uncanny librarian, Mrs. Komachi.”—Robin Sloane, New York Times Book Review