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Edited by Andrew Bennett
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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO KAZUO ISHIGURO

The Cambridge Companion to Kazuo Ishiguro offers a wide-ranging introduction to key aspects of the novelist's remarkable body of work. The volume addresses Ishiguro's engagement with fundamental questions of humanity and personal responsibility, with aesthetic value and political valency, with the vicissitudes of memory and historical documentation, and with questions of family, home, and homelessness. Focused through the personal experiences of some of the most memorable characters in contemporary fiction, Ishiguro's writing speaks to the major communitarian questions of our time – questions of nationalism and colonialism, race and ethnicity, migration, war, and cultural memory and social justice. The chapters attend to Ishiguro's highly readable novels while also ranging across his other creative output. Gathering together established and emerging scholars from the UK, Europe, the USA, and East Asia, the volume offers a survey of key works and themes while also moving critical discussion forward in new and challenging ways.

Andrew Bennett is Professor of English at the University of Bristol.

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THE CAMBRIDGE
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EDITED BY
ANDREW BENNETT
University of Bristol



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LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

London Literature: Writing Architecture and the Body (2013). She also co-edited *The Routledge Research Companion to Ford Madox Ford* (2018) and the special issue of *Textual Practice* on ‘Narrating the (Non)Human: Ecologies, Consciousness and Myth’ (2022). She sits on the editorial board of the Oxford University Press complete edition of Ford’s works.

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ULRIKA MAUDE is Professor of Modern Literature at the University of Bristol, where she is also Director of the Centre for Health, Humanities and Science. She has published widely on modernism and on Samuel Beckett, including *Beckett, Technology and the Body* (2009) and the forthcoming *Samuel Beckett and Medicine*. She is co-editor of *Beckett and Phenomenology* (2009), *The Cambridge Companion to the Body in Literature* (2015), and *The Bloomsbury Companion to Modernist Literature* (2018).

PETER SLOANE is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Buckingham. He is the author of the monographs *David Foster Wallace and the Body* (2019) and *Kazuo Ishiguro's Gestural Poetics* (2021), and the editor of the forthcoming collections *Kazuo Ishiguro: New Insights* (2023) and *ReFocus: The Films of Claire Denis* (2023). His current monograph project explores the experience of refugees in world literature and film.

IVAN STACY is an associate professor in the School of Foreign Languages and Literature at Beijing Normal University. He is the author of *The Complicit Text: Failures of Witnessing in Postwar Fiction* (Lexington 2021) and has published on complicity and the carnivalesque in the work of Ishiguro, W. G. Sebald, Thomas Pynchon, and China Miéville, as well as the American television series *The Wire*. Ivan has lived and taught in the UK, China, South Korea, Thailand, Libya, and Bhutan.

YOSHIKI TAJIRI is a professor at the University of Tokyo. He has published extensively on modernism in English literature, Samuel Beckett, J. M. Coetzee, Ishiguro, Yukio Mishima, and other authors. He has published *Samuel Beckett and the Prosthetic Body: The Organs and Senses in Modernism* (2007) and co-edited *Samuel Beckett and Pain* (2012), *Samuel Beckett and Trauma* (2018), *Reading Kazuo Ishiguro's 'Never Let Me Go'* (in Japanese, 2018), and *Kazuo Ishiguro and Japan* (in Japanese, 2020). He has also translated Ishiguro's 'A Family Supper' into Japanese.

JERRINE TAN was born and raised in Singapore. She received her BA in English and Economics from University of California, Berkeley and her MA and PhD in English from Brown University. She is Assistant Professor of English at City University Hong Kong. Her research interests include world literature and film, contemporary fiction, twentieth-century American literature, and gender and sexuality studies. Her academic essays have appeared or are forthcoming in *Modern Fiction Studies* and *Wasafiri* among other journals. She writes regularly for public-facing platforms such as *Literary Hub*, *WIRED*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Brooklyn Rail*, and *Asian American Writers' Workshop*.

YUGIN TEO is Senior Lecturer in Communications and English at Bournemouth University. He is the author of *Kazuo Ishiguro and Memory* (2014) and his research on memory, care technologies in science fiction, and contemporary

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

literature has been published in the journals *C21: Journal of 21st-Century Writings*, *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*, *Medical Humanities*, and a special issue of *Science Fiction Film and Television*. Together with Aris Mousoutzanis, he co-edited a special issue of *Science Fiction Studies* on nostalgia published in 2021. He is currently working on a chapter on controversies for a companion to literary media.

CYNTHIA F. WONG is Professor of English at the University of Colorado, Denver, where she teaches modern and contemporary world literature. She is the author of *Writers and Their Work: Kazuo Ishiguro* (3rd ed., 2019) and co-editor, with Brian Shaffer, of *Conversations with Kazuo Ishiguro* (2008) and with Hülya Yıldız of *Kazuo Ishiguro in a Global Context* (2015). She has published essays on Asian American authors Jhumpa Lahiri, Karen Tei Yamashita, Joy Kogawa, and Julie Otsuka.

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It was a great pleasure to meet with many of the contributors to this volume at the Twenty-First Century Perspectives on Kazuo Ishiguro conference in Wolverhampton at the beginning of February 2020, just as the project was getting off the ground but also just before conferences and other in-person events suddenly stopped for many months. I also enjoyed meeting many of the contributors again in June 2021, but online this time at a workshop that we organized to share our initial thoughts on Ishiguro's new novel, *Klara and Sun*. First and foremost, I want to thank all of the contributors for their excellent chapters and for their good-humoured and graceful co-operation at all stages.

The volume was initiated at the suggestion of Bethany Thomas, my editor at Cambridge University Press, who offered wise and astute advice on the project as a whole and on individual chapters. She has been ably supported by others at Cambridge University Press, including especially George Paul Laver (editorial assistant) and Aiswarya Narayanan (project manager). I am also indebted to Penny Harper for her expert copy-editing, and to Ben Hickey for his great work in compiling the index.

Ulrika Maude has not only contributed a chapter to the book but lived with it as it evolved from an initial idea to a completed typescript: many, many are the occasions on which we have shared our interest in and love for Kazuo Ishiguro's work over the last few years, and neither the book as a whole nor my contributions to it would be what they are without her input – my warm thanks go to Ulrika for her ideas, her inspiration, and her continuing support.

Key sections of the Introduction began as part of a paper on 'The Author Oeuvre' that I presented at the launch of *The Cambridge Handbook of Literary Authorship* at the University of Ghent in October 2019: I would like to thank Gert Buelens for inviting me to speak and for starting me thinking about Ishiguro and the profession of authorship.

The images from Kazuo Ishiguro's manuscript notes in Chapter 6 are reproduced with kind permission from Kazuo Ishiguro and the Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1954 Born on 8 November in Nagasaki, Japan, to Shizuo Ishiguro and Shizuko (née Michida), a middle child with two sisters.
- 1960 The family move to Guilford in Surrey, UK, in April, when Shizuo, a research scientist, takes up a post at the National Institute of Oceanography in Wormley.
- 1966 Leaves Stoughton Primary School, Guildford.
- 1973 Graduates from Woking County Grammar School for Boys; undertakes various casual jobs on a gap year before university.
- 1974 Hitchhikes around the West Coast of the USA and British Columbia with a guitar, attempting to establish himself as a singer-songwriter as well as starting to draft stories. After returning to the UK, enrolls on a degree in English and Philosophy at the University of Kent.
- 1975 Suspends studies at university for the academic year 1975–6, taking up a job as a community worker in Renfrew, near Glasgow.
- 1978 Graduates from the University of Kent.
- 1979 Works with homeless people for the Cyrenians charity in Notting Hill, London. Meets Lorna MacDougal.
- 1980 Graduates with an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia (taught by Malcolm Bradbury; mentored by Angela Carter). Works in Cardiff as a social worker. ‘A Strange and Sometimes Sadness’ is published in the literary magazine *Bananas*.
- 1981 Moves to Sydenham, South London, working with the homeless until taking up full-time writing in 1982. Three stories published by Faber in *Introduction 7: Stories by New Writers* (‘A Strange and Sometimes Sadness’; ‘Getting Poisoned’; ‘Waiting for J’); ‘A Family Supper’ is published in *Quarto* magazine.
- 1982 *A Pale View of Hills* is published by Faber in the UK. Commissioned by Channel 4 to write two plays for television. Becomes a British subject.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1983 ‘A Family Supper’ published by Penguin in *Firebird* 2; ‘Summer after the War’ published in the *Granta* ‘Best of Young British Novelists’ volume. *A Pale View of Hills* awarded Winifred Holtby Prize for fiction.
- 1984 Commissioned TV script, *A Profile of Arthur J. Mason*, is broadcast by Channel 4.
- 1986 Publishes *An Artist of the Floating World*, which wins the Whitbread Book of the Year award and is shortlisted for the Booker Prize. Publishes an Introduction to Penguin the translation of Yasunari Kawabata’s *Snow Country* and *Thousand Cranes*. TV play *The Gourmet* is broadcast by Channel 4. Marries Lorna. Travels in East Asia (Singapore and Malaysia).
- 1989 Publishes *The Remains of the Day*, which wins the Booker Prize. Visits Japan for the first time since leaving the country in 1960. Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.
- 1992 Birth of daughter, Naomi.
- 1993 The film version of *The Remains of the Day* (dir. James Ivory with film script by Ruth Prawer-Jhabvala; starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson) is released and is nominated for eight Oscars, five Golden Globe awards, and six BAFTAS.
- 1995 Publishes *The Unconsoled*, which is shortlisted for the Booker Prize. Awarded the OBE for services to literature, and Italy’s Premio Scanno prize.
- 1998 Awarded the Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government.
- 2000 Publishes *When We Were Orphans*, which is shortlisted for the Booker Prize and the Whitbread award.
- 2003 Contributes liner notes to the American jazz vocalist Stacey Kent’s *In Love Again* CD.
- 2004 Release of *The Saddest Music in the World* (dir. Guy Madden), for which Ishiguro originally wrote the screenplay.
- 2005 Publishes *Never Let Me Go*, which is shortlisted for the Booker Prize.
- 2006 *The White Countess* (dir. James Ivory; starring Ralph Fiennes and Natasha Richardson), for which Ishiguro wrote the screenplay, is released in the UK.
- 2007 Shizuo Ishiguro dies. Begins collaboration with Stacey Kent: lyrics appear on four songs on her *Breakfast on the Morning Tram* CD.
- 2009 *Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall* is published and is shortlisted for the James Tait Black Memorial Prize.

CHRONOLOGY

- 2010 Film version of *Never Let Me Go* is released (dir. Mark Romanek, screenplay by Alex Garland; starring Carey Mulligan, Keira Knightley, and Andrew Garfield).
- 2011 Lyrics for ‘Postcard Lovers’ on Stacy Kent’s CD *Dreamer in Concert*.
- 2013 Lyrics for three songs on Stacy Kent’s CD *The Changing Lights*.
- 2015 *The Buried Giant* is published. Papers, including drafts, letters, and notes, are bought by the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas, Austin.
- 2017 Awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. Lyrics for ‘Bullet Train’ on Stacy Kent’s *I Know I Dream* CD.
- 2018 Awarded the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun.
- 2019 Awarded a British knighthood for services to literature. Shizuko Ishiguro dies.
- 2021 *Klara and the Sun* is published. Lyrics for three songs on Stacy Kent’s *Songs from Other Places* CD.
- 2022 Release of *Living* (dir. Oliver Hermanus; starring Bill Nighy), for which Ishiguro wrote the screenplay based on Akira Kurosama’s *Ikiru* (1952).

Major Publications in Date Order

- 1982 *A Pale View of Hills*
- 1986 *An Artist of the Floating World*
- 1989 *The Remains of the Day*
- 1995 *The Unconsoled*
- 2000 *When We Were Orphans*
- 2005 *Never Let Me Go*
- 2009 *Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall*
- 2015 *The Buried Giant*
- 2021 *Klara and the Sun*

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------|---|
| AFW | <i>An Artist of the Floating World</i> |
| BG | <i>The Buried Giant</i> |
| CKI | <i>Conversations with Kazuo Ishiguro</i> |
| KS | <i>Klara and the Sun</i> |
| N | <i>Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall</i> |
| NLMG | <i>Never Let Me Go</i> |
| PVH | <i>A Pale View of Hills</i> |
| RD | <i>The Remains of the Day</i> |
| TCE | <i>My Twentieth Century Evening and Other Small Breakthroughs</i> |
| U | <i>The Unconsoled</i> |
| WWWO | <i>When We Were Orphans</i> |