



Discover. Read. Share.

WHY WE LOVE *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*

Dear Book Lover,

Cafés hold a certain ritual for us. I order a particular size of coffee just because that’s the ceramic mug that feels coziest in my hands. I don’t have a favorite seat—I might test out a few before picking the best one for the purpose of the day (probably looking a little strange to fellow customers in my solo and silent game of musical chairs). The best cafés can accommodate meet-ups, intensive work hours, and even quiet reading time.

The act of making beloved beverages feels a little magic too—from the meditative pour to that little three-hourglass timer some cafes offer up with tea, to the barista who goes above and beyond to make sure your regular choice is consistent from visit to visit. It’s really something else if you can sit there long enough to observe.

So it’s no wonder that Toshikazu Kawaguchi took that little bit of magic, that place we all know and love, and put it on another plane altogether. As a playwright, a sense of place and ritual is likely sacred to this author—after all, the settings and motions must be down to a science to pull off a seamless play for an audience! And once he had these guidelines down, he threw in just enough rules to make it maddening, and then let the magic of the café—the seats, the patrons, the staff, and that warm, shimmering beverage—run wild.

Time travel, in so many works of literature and in film, is rather scientific, but in *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* we aren’t encumbered by all that. We are only privy to a bit of magic. And though this café has a few rules—some would say a few too many—they never get in the way of the vividness of memories. And so, we can focus on the experience, the connection, and the longing of the traveler within each chapter.

This novel has become a bestseller in part because it has something everyone can identify with—the longing for a lost lover, rekindling a relationship with family, the very real fear of forgetting, or just a place where we feel at home. The world over, we all just want a cozy little seat, a delicious beverage, and a place to feel connected.

In this moment of disconnect, when so many are virtual and challenges abound, we at hoopla hope you will find a little bit of solace at Café Funiculi Funicula and connect with the characters inside. Put on a pot of coffee, find the best seat in your house, and dig into this book that is equal parts quirky, sentimental, revealing, maddening, and magical.

No matter where you are, we are all connected by something. And at hoopla, we love providing that magical bond via books.
Happy reading!

Lindsay Williams
Marketing Manager, hoopla Digital

P.S. We can’t wait to hear what your book club thinks about *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*! Share your favorite coffee photo and feelings on this book with @hoopladigital and form a connection with readers everywhere using #hooplalbookclub!





Discover. Read. Share.

WHY WE LOVE *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*

About the Author

Toshikazu Kawaguchi was born in Osaka, Japan, in 1971. He has produced, directed, and written for the theatrical group Sonic Snail. As a playwright, his works include *Couple*, *Sunset Song*, and *Family Time*. His play *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* won the grand prize at the Suginami Drama Festival. This is his debut as an author. *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* has become an international bestseller, and has been adapted for the screen in Japan.



Selected Praise

"In the absence of a magical café in real life, Kawaguchi encourages readers to value the time they have with their loved ones...*Before the Coffee Gets Cold* is perfect for anyone who wants to feel connected right now."

– Allison Lee, *Bookreporter*

"A story about human relationships, missed opportunities and the enduring power of love."

– *The Gryphon*

"Kawaguchi's tender look at the beauty of passing things, adapted from one of his plays, makes for an affecting, deeply immersive journey into the desire to hold onto the past. This wondrous tale will move readers."

– *Publishers Weekly*

"Kawaguchi's characters are the real stars here, and their empathy for one another is powerful...sweet, warm, and moving."

– *The Chicago Review of Books*

"This is a sweet, fable-like tale about a magical seat in a cafe where you can, if you wish, go back in time."

– *The Sydney Morning Herald*

OVER ONE MILLION COPIES SOLD

•

NOW AN INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

•

Indie Next Pick

•

Library Reads Pick

theclub.hoopladigital.com