

# Her Eyes Were the Moon and Was the Waves: An Exploration of Female Identity in Japanese Literature

Hiromi Kawakami's novel *Her Eyes Were the Moon and Was the Waves* is a lyrical and introspective exploration of female identity in modern Japan. The novel tells the story of a 30-year-old woman named Miyu, who is struggling to find her place in a society that often marginalizes women.



## Her Eyes Were the Moon and I Was the Waves: A Poetry Collection by Caroline Lawrence

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2690 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 38 pages  
Lending : Enabled



Miyu is a complex and contradictory character. She is intelligent and ambitious, but she is also insecure and self-destructive. She longs for love and connection, but she is afraid of being hurt. Miyu's relationships with the two men in her life, a married man named Koji and a younger man named Tanabe, reflect her own ambivalence about her identity.

Koji is a successful businessman who is kind and supportive, but he is also married with children. Miyu knows that she can never have a future with

him, but she is drawn to his stability and security.

Tanabe is a young artist who is passionate and idealistic. He sees Miyu as a muse and an inspiration, but he is also immature and irresponsible. Miyu is attracted to Tanabe's vitality and passion, but she is also aware of his flaws.

Through her relationships with these two men, Miyu begins to explore her own identity. She realizes that she is not the woman that society expects her to be. She is not a good wife or a good mother. She is a woman who is still searching for her own path.

*Her Eyes Were the Moon and Was the Waves* is a beautifully written and thought-provoking novel that explores the complex and contradictory nature of female identity. Kawakami's prose is lyrical and evocative, and her characters are deeply drawn. The novel is a must-read for anyone interested in Japanese literature or women's studies.

### **The Eyes of the Moon: Miyu's Struggle for Identity**

The title of the novel, *Her Eyes Were the Moon and Was the Waves*, is a reference to a line from a poem by the Japanese poet Basho. The poem describes the moon as a woman who is both beautiful and unattainable. This image of the moon reflects Miyu's own struggle for identity. She is a beautiful and intelligent woman, but she feels like she is always out of reach.

Miyu's struggle for identity is also reflected in her relationships with men. She is attracted to men who are strong and successful, but she is also

afraid of being dominated by them. She longs for love and connection, but she is also afraid of being hurt.

Through her relationships with Koji and Tanabe, Miyu begins to explore her own desires and needs. She realizes that she is not the woman that society expects her to be. She is a woman who is still searching for her own path.

### **The Waves: A Symbol of Miyu's Transformation**

The image of the waves in the novel is a symbol of Miyu's transformation. The waves are constantly changing and moving, and they represent Miyu's own journey of self-discovery. Miyu is a woman who is constantly evolving and changing. She is not afraid to take risks and to challenge the status quo.

The waves also represent Miyu's strength and resilience. Despite the challenges she faces, Miyu never gives up. She continues to fight for her own identity and for her own happiness.

*Her Eyes Were the Moon and Was the Waves* is a powerful and moving novel that explores the complex and contradictory nature of female identity. Kawakami's writing is lyrical and evocative, and her characters are deeply drawn. The novel is a must-read for anyone interested in Japanese literature or women's studies.



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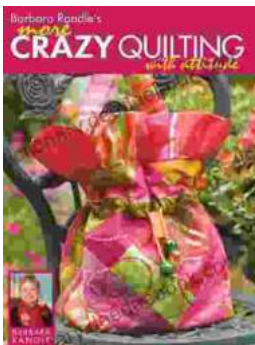
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