

SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF HARUKI MURAKAMI

Haruki Murakami is a Japanese novelist and translator. An important asset to the Japanese literature of the 20th century, Haruki has received several noted awards for his fiction and non-fiction works. He was also referred to as one of the world's greatest living novelists by The Guardian.

After spending some time moving to Fujisawa and then Sendagaya, Haruki published *Hard-boiled Wonderland and the End of the World* in 1985. This book was also immensely praised and received the Junichi Tanizaki Award. Haruki then moved to Oiso and travelled to Rome and Greece before publishing *Norwegian Wood* (1987), an extremely popular novel among the Japanese youth and abroad. Haruki won the Yomiuri Literary Award for *Wind-up Bird Chronicle* in 1996. Some of his more recent novels include *The Sputnik Sweetheart* (1999), and *Kafka on the Shore* (2002). *The Elephant Vanishes*, A collection of Murakami's short stories published in 1993 was also liked well by his fans. *Underground* (2001) is a significant non-fiction work of Haruki Murakami based on the gas attacks by religious extremists in the Tokyo subway in 1995.

In January 1991, Murakami moved to New Jersey and became an Associate Researcher at Princeton University. A year later he was promoted as an Associate Professor at Princeton University. In 1993, Haruki started teaching at William Howard Taft University in Santa Ana CA.

Murakami was born in Kyoto, Japan on January 12, 1949. Haruki probably inherited the passion for writing from his parents who were teachers of Japanese literature. Haruki, however, was never a big fan of Japanese literature and was instead under heavy influence of Western culture. He has been criticized on being overly westernized by the Japanese on several occasions. In 1968 Haruki attended Waseda University as a Theater Arts major student. Not very studious by nature, Murakami would spend hours reading film scripts at the Theater Museum at the university. He also met his wife for the first time in Waseda University and they married in 1971. Together they opened a Jazz Bar named Peter Cat in Kokobunji, Tokyo which was later shifted to Sendagaya, Tokyo, a quite locality.

Haruki Murakami is an iconic figure of postmodern literature known mostly for his unreal, humorous work focusing on the loneliness and empty mindedness of Japan's work dominated generation. He now resides in The United States and is an enthusiastic marathon runner, a hobby he acquired at the age of 33.

(<http://www.famousauthors.org/haruki-murakami>).