



Prison Reading Groups

## Before The Coffee Gets Cold

By Toshikazu Kawaguchi



*Before The Coffee Gets Cold* takes us to a small back alley in Tokyo where there is a cafe which has been serving coffee for more than 100 years. But this is not your ordinary coffee shop. This cafe gives customers the opportunity to travel back in time. In this opening volume of a four-part series, we meet 4 visitors to the cafe each of whom have a rhyme and reason to go back in time. Each with regrets. Their journey to the past is not without risk, as with all wishes there are conditions: a particular chair, a particular time, and a mandate to return to the present before the coffee gets cold.

Toshikazu Kawaguchi tackles the age-old question: what would you change if you could travel back in time? More importantly, who would you want to meet, maybe for one last time?

### Discussion Questions:

1. What's your go to cafe order?
2. Which of the four stories did you like the most: The Lovers, Husband and Wife, The Sisters, or Mother and Daughter?

3. If you could visit this cafe and have the opportunity to time travel, what would you do?
  
4. Toshikazu Kawaguchi is a playwright and *Before The Coffee Gets Cold* was originally a play. How do you think it would have compared to experience this story as a play instead of a book?
  
5. One of the major themes in this book is regret and relationships. It focuses on how to move through these feelings of acceptance and release over rumination and ruin. Does this come across to you?
  
6. This book is by a Japanese author - how do you think translation affects the delivery of key themes in the story?

*Thank you to our volunteer Holly for choosing this title.*