



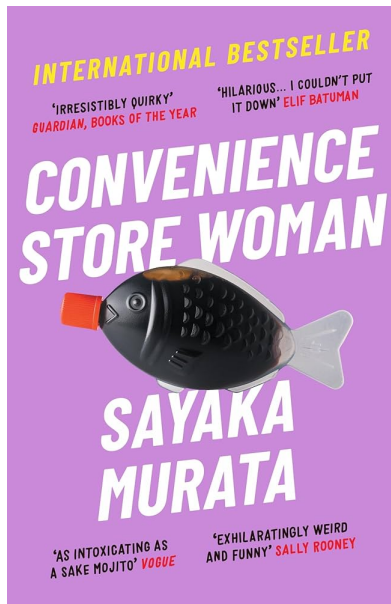
Prison Reading Groups
25 years
1999-2024

Book Talk

Convenience Store Woman

by Sayaka Murata

Number of pages: 176



Keiko Furukura is 36 years old and has worked in the same convenience store for 18 years. She is perfectly happy and loves her job, but her friends and family are worried that her life is going nowhere, and that she's never had a boyfriend. As the pressure mounts on Keiko to make changes in her life, she is compelled to take drastic measures...

This is a quirky Japanese novel that subtly comments on the unrealistic societal expectations of women through its deadpan humour.

We recommend this book if you enjoyed *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi, or *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* by Ottessa Moshfegh's, which touches upon similar themes.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Keiko's loves the convenience store she works in?

2. How do you think gender norms are explored in this novel?

3. What are the similarities between Keiko and Shiraha? What are the differences between them?

4. Which of the characters did you relate to the most?

5. Why do you think Shiraha cares about what Keiko's family and friends think of her?