

# Booklist Review

## Adult Books - Fiction - General Fiction

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### **Manazuru.**

Kawakami, Hiromi (author).

Sept. 2010. 224p. Counterpoint, paperback, \$15.95 ([9781582436005](#)). [REVIEW](#). First published [September 1, 2010 \(Booklist\)](#).

amazon.com



The Manazuru of Kawakami's is a dream state as much as a place, a seaside town visited often by the restless narrator, Kei. Kei's husband vanished more than a decade ago, and only now, living in Tokyo with her mother and sullen 16-year-old daughter, is she compelled to put his memory to rest. Kei is haunted not only by her husband but also inexplicably by other shadowlike entities. She is drawn again and again to Manazuru, where she enters a world where time stops, sound evaporates, women hang from trees, boats spark into flame and disappear, and ghosts come and go like smoke. Yet the fantasy has purpose as a manifestation of Kei's sense of displacement, and of her estrangement from her daughter and mother. The action convincingly moves in waves between Kei's past and present, the surreal and the everyday. Part ghost story, part meditation on life and death, family and self, this slim novel is captivating and suspenseful, and sure to satisfy not only fans of ghost fiction but all readers. — *Annie Tully*