



A Tale for the Time Being: A Novel (Ala Notable Books for Adults)

By Ruth Ozeki

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A Tale for the Time Being: A Novel (Ala Notable Books for Adults) By Ruth Ozeki

A brilliant, unforgettable novel from bestselling author Ruth Ozeki—shortlisted for the Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award

“A time being is someone who lives in time, and that means you, and me, and every one of us who is, or was, or ever will be.”

In Tokyo, sixteen-year-old Nao has decided there's only one escape from her aching loneliness and her classmates' bullying. But before she ends it all, Nao first plans to document the life of her great grandmother, a Buddhist nun who's lived more than a century. A diary is Nao's only solace—and will touch lives in ways she can scarcely imagine. Across the Pacific, we meet Ruth, a novelist living on a remote island who discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore in a Hello Kitty lunchbox—possibly debris from the devastating 2011 tsunami. As the mystery of its contents unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao's drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future.

Full of Ozeki's signature humor and deeply engaged with the relationship between writer and reader, past and present, fact and fiction, quantum physics, history, and myth, *A Tale for the Time Being* is a brilliantly inventive, beguiling story of our shared humanity and the search for home.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Ozeki has shown herself, in the novels *My Year of Meats* (1998) and *All over Creation* (2003), to be a careful, considerate writer who obviously insists on writing what she wants to write and in the fashion she prefers. That special care and concern are also detectable in her latest novel, an intriguing, even beautiful narrative remarkable for its unusual but attentively structured plot. Ruth—the character Ruth—is a writer living in a remote corner of the Pacific coast of British Columbia who is currently thwarted by writer’s block as she attempts to compose a memoir. One day she finds a collection of materials contained in a lunchbox that has washed up on the beach. As if she has unleashed a magical mist, the items she finds inside, namely a journal and a collection of letters, envelop her in the details—the dramas—of someone else’s life. The life she has stumbled into is that of a Japanese teenager, who, believing suicide is the only relief for her teenage angst, nevertheless is determined, before she commits that final act, to write down the story of her great-grandmother, a Buddhist nun. We go from one story line to the other, back and forth across the Pacific, but the reader never loses place or interest. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** The publisher is in love with this novel and will do everything from providing an author tour to presenting extensive radio and online publicity campaigns to bring its virtues to a wide reading audience. --Brad Hooper

Review

"a masterpiece, pure and simple" - *Kirkus Reviews*

"Saturated with love, ideas and compassion. It is, in short, an absolute treat." - *The Sunday Times* (UK)

Like a wise but playful teacher, [Ozeki] guides us through her latest novel by periodically questioning what we know of the story and how we know it...This book pays its deepest homage to Marcel Proust’s *In Search of Lost Time*, but it also shares much in common with the books of Kurt Vonnegut and Robert Anton Wilson. Like them, Ozeki manages to turn existential conundrums into a playful, joyful and pleasantly mind-bending dialogue between reader and writer. - *Globe and Mail*

In clever and deeply affecting ways, Ruth Ozeki’s luminous new novel explores notions of duality, causation, honour, and time. - *Quill & Quire*

“Ozeki has great fun in this novel...Fiction and non-fiction blend and dissolve, creating an intriguing, fluid form of storytelling.” - *Chatelaine*

“*A Tale for the Time Being* is a timeless story. Ruth Ozeki beautifully renders not only the devastation of the collision between man and the natural world, but also the often miraculous results of it. She is a deeply intelligent and humane writer who offers her insights with a grace that beguiles. I truly love this novel.” - Alice Sebold, author of *The Lovely Bones*

“*A Tale for the Time Being* is equal parts mystery and meditation. The mystery is a compulsive, gritty page-turner. The meditation—on time and memory, on the oceanic movement of history, on impermanence and uncertainty, but also resilience and bravery—is deep and gorgeous and wise. A completely satisfying, continually surprising, wholly remarkable achievement, this is a book to be read and reread.” - Karen Joy Fowler, author of *The Jane Austen Book Club*

“There is far too much to say about this remarkable and ambitious book in a few sentences. This is for real and not just another hyped-up blurb. *A Tale for the Time Being* is a great achievement, and it is the work of a writer at the height of her powers. Ruth Ozeki has not only reinvigorated the novel itself, the form, but she’s given us the tried and true, deep and essential pleasure of characters we love and who matter.” - Jane Hamilton, author of *A Map of the World*

"Ingenious and touching, *A Tale for the Time Being* is also highly readable. And interesting: the contrast of cultures is especially well done. I greatly look forward to Ruth Ozeki’s next book." - Philip Pullman, *New York Times* bestselling author of His Darkest Materials trilogy

“*A Tale for the Time Being* is a downright miraculous book that will captivate you from the very first page. Profoundly original, with authentic, touching characters and grand, encompassing themes, Ruth Ozeki proves that truly great stories—like this one—can both deepen our understanding of self and remind us of our shared humanity.” - Deborah Harkness, bestselling author of *A Discovery of Witches* and *Shadow of Night*

“*Ruth Ozeki is a fearless writer, and this novel is terrific in every sense: beautiful, gripping, thought-provoking. A story I savored and will return to.*” - Madeline Miller, author of the Orange Prize winner *The Song of Achilles*

“*A Tale for the Time Being* is an extraordinary novel about a courageous young woman, riven by loneliness, by time, and (ultimately) by tsunami. Nao is an inspired narrator and her quest to tell her great grandmother’s story, to connect with her past, with the world, is both aching and true. Ozeki is one of my favorite novelists and here she is at her absolute best—bewitching, intelligent, hilarious, and heartbreaking, often on the same page. *A Tale for the Time Being* is one of those novels that will renew your faith in literature.” - Junot Díaz, National Book Award finalist and author of the Pulitzer Prize winner *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

About the Author

RUTH OZEKI is an award-winning writer and filmmaker. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Shambhala Sun*, and *More*, among other publications. In June 2010, she was ordained as a Zen Buddhist priest and is affiliated with the Brooklyn Zen Center and the Everyday Zen Foundation. She lives in British Columbia and New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joshua Ricker:

Do you considered one of people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained inside straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This *A Tale for the Time Being: A Novel* (Ala Notable Books for Adults) book is readable simply by you who hate the straight word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable looking at experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to offer to you. The writer associated with *A Tale for the Time Being: A Novel* (Ala Notable Books for Adults) content conveys the thought easily to understand by many people. The printed and e-book are not different in the written content but it just different available as it. So , do you nonetheless thinking *A Tale for the Time Being: A Novel* (Ala Notable Books for Adults) is not loveable to be your top record reading book?

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Maria Smith:

Precisely why? Because this A Tale for the Time Being: A Novel (Ala Notable Books for Adults) is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will distress you with the secret that inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book have such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I were you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Helen Samuel:

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