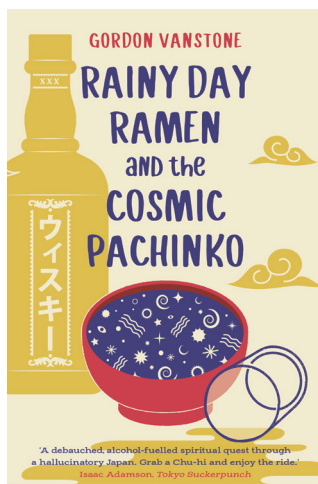


Screen Adaptation Pitch

Rainy Day Ramen and the Cosmic Pachinko



BOOK DETAILS

Rainy Day Ramen and the Cosmic Pachinko

AUTHOR	Gordon Vanstone
ISBN	9781912049820
PUBLISHER	Monsoon Books
PUB DATE	2021
GENRE	Fiction
	Japan
AGE RANGE	General adult
URL	Click for webpage
RIGHTS	World print/screen
TRAILER	click for Vimeo

Author Information

Gordon Vanstone is a Canadian working in academic publishing in Asia following eight years as an international school teacher in Tokyo. This, his first novel, is an ode to the country which captured a piece of his heart.

Praise

'Takes the reader on a debauched, alcohol-fueled spiritual quest through a hallucinatory Japan of cursed *Gaijin* houses, seedy hostess bars and mysterious internet cafés.' Isaac Adamson, author of *Tokyo Suckerpunch*

Relevant screenplays

Love Death + Robots (animated series)
Weathering With You (animated movie)
Kabukicho Sherlock (anime)
Giri / Haji (mixed media)
Pan's Labyrinth (magical realism movie)
Big Fish (magical realism movie)
Stranger Things 'upside down' world (magical realism in a TV show)
American Gods (magical realism TV show)

TAGLINE	The tale of Gaijin: a gonzo odyssey through a hallucinatory Japan
LOGLINE	Can Fred, a broke, unemployed, drunken Gaijin, ever escape Tokyo's neon undertow and find freedom from his own delusions?
GENRE	Drama / light fantasy (magical realism like Murakami or Neil Gaiman)
SUBJECT	Coming of age / quest for self-knowledge
THEMES	The quest for one's identity and destiny; love vs loneliness, finding self-love, regret over lost love

TOPE The overarching mood is restless and anxious. Fred blindly gropes for happiness in bars, liquor and women, but can't find where he belongs. Gradually he realizes he's never been in control, he is just another ball bearing falling through the cosmic pachinko and if he can accept that and let go, he may find redemption and happiness.

SYNOPSIS After 3 years in Japan, Fred Buchanan is broke, unemployed and engaged in a telepathic turf war with a feral cat behind an Okinawa convenience store. Thus begins his metaphysical odyssey back to Tokyo. Along the way, symbols and sages materialize in the form of a two-fingered jazz musician, the faded tattoo on an ex-yakuza lover, an odd brood of internet café refugees, the kite flyer of Kabukicho, and Yukie, an alluring hostess with strips of delicious thigh. Charging through Shinjuku's neon jungle, enveloped in a boozy, nicotine-stained haze, past and present collide as an empty orchestra croons a slow dance of people and place, memory and madness, loss and love. Fred struggles to be an agent of his destiny and not another ball bearing bouncing through the cosmic pachinko.

CHARACTERS **Fred** narrator, flawed protagonist, anti-hero, Gaijin, 28. He exists in a constant state of restlessness, ego, and self-seeking, and when he encounters a series of symbols and sages, he is unsure whether he's losing his mind or is being guided by cosmic signs.

Yukie An alluring hostess, confident, independent and mysterious, who teaches Fred some valuable lessons on life and love.

Hideki An old man & former member of the student protest movement in 60s Tokyo, who asks Fred to seek out his old comrades.

Akiko Fred's former lover commits suicide; he must deal with guilt.

Gertie Irish girl. Fred's first good friend in Japan. Likes Fred but isn't shy about pointing out his selfish and self-centred actions.

Jae-Hyun North Korean refugee & former Pachinko boss, takes Fred under his wing & guides him through his current struggles.

ENDING When we leave Fred, he's back in Okinawa running a beach bar with Hideki, making sense of his adventure and still trying to digest the life lessons learned along the way. He's by no means perfect, but he's learnt that he's never been in control, no life can be lived on self-will alone, true contentment comes from within, you can't truly love someone until you learn to love yourself. There is a planned sequel: a severed finger etched with an eye is delivered to Fred, which sets off a new odyssey from Hokkaido to Tokyo with new and returning characters and an all-new adventure ensues.