

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910416520203321
Autore	Strecher Matthew
Titolo	Dances with Sheep : The Quest for Identity in the Fiction of Murakami Haruki // Matthew Carl Strecher
Pubbl/distr/stampa	2020 Ann Arbor, MI : , : Center for Japanese Studies/University of Michigan, , 2002 ©2002
ISBN	9781929280070 1929280076
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvii, 234 p.)
Collana	Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies ; ; v.37
Classificazione	LAN000000SOC000000SOC008000
Disciplina	895.6/35
Soggetti	Social Science / Cultural & Ethnic Studies / General Social Science Social sciences
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 216-225) and index.
Sommario/riassunto	As a spokesman for disaffected youth of the post-1960s, Murakami Haruki has become one of the most important voices in contemporary Japanese literature, and he has gained a following in the United States through translations of his works. In Dances with Sheep, Matthew Strecher examines Murakami's fiction-and, to a lesser extent, his nonfiction-for its most prevalent structures and themes. Strecher also delves into the paradoxes in Murakami's writings that confront critics and casual readers alike. Murakami writes of "serious" themes yet expresses them in a relatively uncomplicated style that appeals to high school students as well as scholars; and his fictional work appears to celebrate the pastiche of postmodern expression, yet he rejects the effects of the postmodern on contemporary culture as dangerous. Strecher's methodology is both historical and cultural as he utilizes four distinct yet interwoven approaches to analyze Murakami's major works: the writer's "formulaic" structure with serious themes; his play with magical realism; the intense psychological underpinnings of his literary

landscape; and his critique of language and its capacity to represent realities, past and present. *Dances with Sheep* links each of these approaches with Murakami's critical focus on the fate of individual identity in contemporary Japan. The result is that the simplicity of the Murakami hero, marked by lethargy and nostalgia, emerges as emblematic of contemporary humankind, bereft of identity, direction, and meaning. Murakami's fiction is reconstructed in *Dances with Sheep* as a warning against the dehumanizing effects of late-model capitalism, the homogenization of the marketplace, and the elimination of effective counterculture in Japan.

---