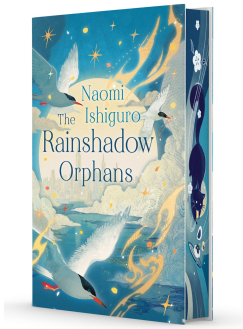


# The Rainshadow Orphans

Compiled by Naomi Ishiguro



[Click the link to read more](#)

**ABOUT BOOK** Featuring stenciled edges and original art for the front and back endpapers. The first novel in a dazzling fantasy trilogy inspired by Japanese folklore and Studio Ghibli films like *Spirited Away*, set within a mythical archipelago brimming with dragons and Sun Spirits, high-tech hackers and bubble tea. Life is hard for the inhabitants of Rainshadow City, a place where poverty and corruption are rife and where they are terrorized by an underground criminal organization known as the Lucky Crows. Toshiko, Jun and Mei Kawakami are a family, bonded through loyalty if not blood, who live outside the increasingly corrupt law and who are seeking revenge for the murder of their beloved “aunt” Reiko by the Lucky Crows. Haru is the son of the Emperor, destined to one day rule over the Archipelago and uphold his mother’s ignoble legacy, but he is more interested in making friends with the magical Sun Spirits it seems only he can see. Theo, forced to leave his homeland, is a reluctant foot-soldier for the Lucky Crows. He doesn’t want to be a gangster, but as an illegal immigrant to the city, his choices are severely limited. When Toshiko steals a dragon pearl from the leader of the Crows, it sets them all on a thrilling path which will determine the future of Rainshadow City. Tightly set across two days and peopled with unforgettable characters, *The Rainshadow Orphans* blends the anime fantasy of works like *Pokémon* and Studio Ghibli and the anime science fiction of revolutionary cyberpunk like *Akira* to explore what it means to stand up to corruption and take charge of destiny. The story’s conclusion aligns well with the journey that precedes it, offering resolution without unnecessary excess. This thoughtful ending contributes to overall satisfaction. One of the reasons this book resonates with readers is its emphasis on relatable experiences. Even within a fictional framework, the situations and emotions portrayed feel familiar. This relatability helps bridge the gap between the story and the reader’s own perspective.