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**UNDERSTANDING KAZUO ISHIGURO**
Brian W. Shaffer

One of the most closely followed British writers of his generation, the Japanese-born, English-raised and -educated Ishiguro is the author of six critically acclaimed novels, including *A Pale View of Hills* (1982, Winifred Holtby Prize of the Royal Society of Literature), *An Artist of the Floating World* (1986, Whitbread Book of the Year Award), *The Remains of the Day* (1988, Booker Prize), and *The Unconsoled* (1995, Cheltenham Prize). Ishiguro’s reputation also extends beyond the world of English-language readers. His work has been translated into twenty-seven foreign languages, and the feature film version of *The Remains of the Day* was nominated for eight Academy Awards.

Brian W. Shaffer’s study reveals Ishiguro’s novels to be intricately crafted, psychologically absorbing, hauntingly evocative works that betray the author’s grounding not only in the literature of Japan but also in the great twentieth-century British and Irish masters—Joseph Conrad, Ford Madox Ford, E. M. Forster, and James Joyce—as well as in Freudian psychoanalysis. All of Ishiguro’s novels are shown to capture first-person narrators in the intriguing act of revealing—yet also of attempting to conceal beneath the surface of their mundane present activities—the alarming significance and troubling consequences of their past lives.

*Understanding Contemporary British Literature* • Matthew J. Bruccoli, series editor

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Here are 25 Kazuo Ishiguro quotes that reveal the beauty within our lives. Writing fiction for the win, Kazuo Ishiguro is known as one of the greatest contemporary British authors (despite having been born in Japan, Nagasaki in 1954, his family moved to England in 1960.) Ever since Ishiguro published his first novel, A Pale View of Hills, he became a literature prize darling: the Winifred Holtby Memorial Prize, the Man Booker Prize, the Whitbread Prize and the Cheltenham Prize. Kazuo Ishiguro was born in Nagasaki, Japan, on 8 November 1954. He came to Britain in 1960 when his father began research at the National Institute of Oceanography, and was educated at a grammar school for boys in Surrey. Afterwards he worked as a grouse-beater for the Queen Mother at Balmoral before enrolling at the University of Kent, Canterbury, where he read English and Philosophy. Kazuo Ishiguro – Nobel Lecture. English English [pdf]. Swedish Swedish [pdf]. I suddenly felt I understood better why in the past various aspects of my work had failed, despite my applying desperate remedies. The thought came to me as I continued to stare at John Barrymore that all good stories, never mind how radical or traditional their mode of telling, had to contain relationships that are important to us; that move us, amuse us, anger us, surprise us.