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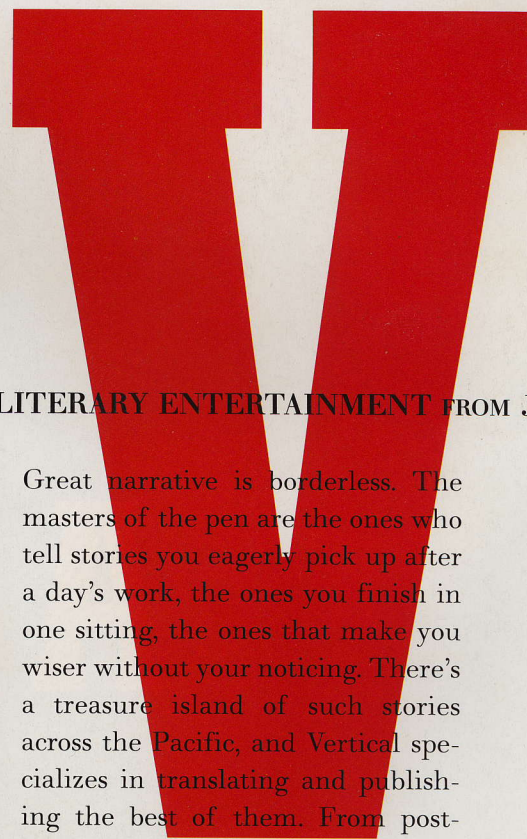
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Kenzo Kitakata

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ASHES

The vices and virtues of middle age are espied with an eagle eye in this contemporary classic by Japan's don of the hardboiled novel, Kenzo Kitakata. None of the famed stylist's more than one hundred titles has ever gone out of print in Japan. *Ashes*, Kitakata's most admired work, follows the fortunes of a mid-career yakuza mobster as his moment of truth approaches. Bad guys don't always win; sometimes worse guys do.

June, ISBN 1-932234-02-0, \$23.95
Cloth, 224 pp, 5 3/4 x 8 3/4

RING

Finally! The novel that spawned blockbuster horror films on both sides of the Pacific.

Despite the immensely popular horror movies Koji Suzuki's thriller has inspired, *Ring* is in essence a mystery novel. The creepy, brainy page-turner will delight not only the horror fans that have been clamoring for it, but also any lover of puzzles, clues, and false leads. After a journalist watches an accursed videotape, he has exactly one week to figure out the key that will save him—but imperil the world.

April 15, ISBN 1-952234-00-4, \$24.95
Cloth, 288 pp, 6 1/2 x 9 1/2



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K O J I S U Z U K I

*Twinkle
Twinkle*

Shoko and Mutsuki appear at first to be an ordinary newlywed couple. Appearances can be deceptive. Shoko is emotionally unstable and drinks too much, while Mutsuki is gay and has a boyfriend. And even marriages of convenience take work.

Kaori Ekuni is worshipped by fans for her simple but subtle style. This comedy of manners, her English-language debut, won the prestigious Lady Murasaki Award and was a bestseller.

May, ISBN 1-932234-01-2, \$19.95
Cloth, 176 pp, 5 1/2 x 7 3/4

a novel

Kaori Ekuni

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THE GUIN SAGA

Book One: The Leopard Mask

KAORU KURIMOTO

The Guin Saga is one of the world's great fantasy epics. Currently eighty-eight installments strong (on its way to a projected one hundred) in Japan, Kaoru Kurimoto's lifework will enthrall readers of all ages with its universal themes and stunning scope. Equal parts myth, allegory, and action adventure, the uncommonly rich saga begins with *The Leopard Mask*...only Jarn the fate-weaver knows where it will end.

June, ISBN 1-932234-51-9, \$22.95
Cloth, 240 pp, 5 3/4 x 8 3/4