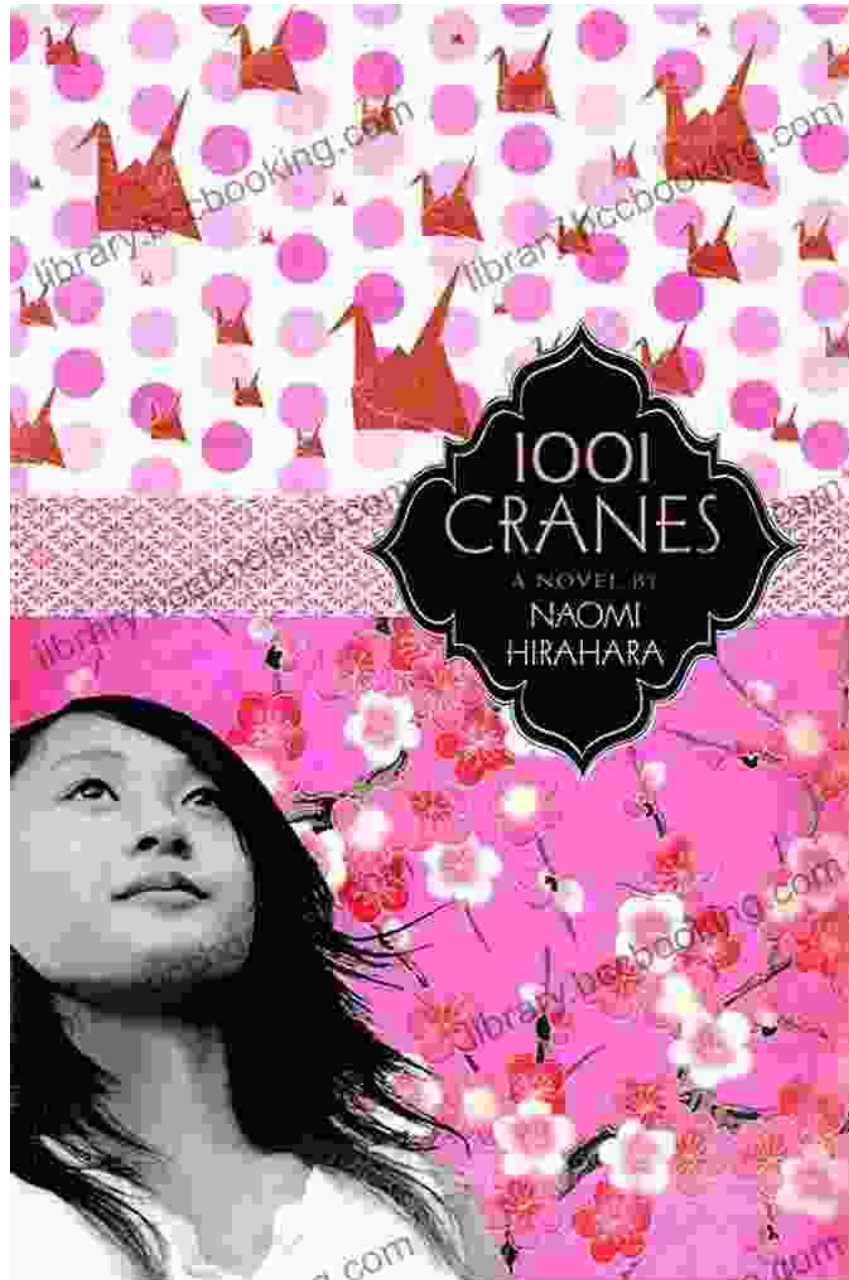


# 1001 Cranes: A Compelling Tale of Identity, Culture, and Belonging



**1001 Cranes by Naomi Hirahara**

**Genre:** Historical fiction

**Pages:** 304



**1001 Cranes** by Naomi Hirahara

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 544 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 242 pages
Screen Reader	: Supported
Paperback	: 32 pages
Item Weight	: 3.53 ounces
Dimensions	: 8.5 x 0.08 x 8.5 inches



**Publisher:** Picador

**Publication Date:** 2011

: 9780312686258

**A Heartbreaking and Hopeful Story of Resilience**

1001 Cranes by Naomi Hirahara is a beautifully written and emotionally resonant novel that explores the complexities of identity, culture, and belonging. Set against the backdrop of World War II, the novel tells the story of the Hamamoto family, Japanese immigrants living in California. Through their experiences, the novel sheds light on the complexities of assimilation, prejudice, and the resilience of the human spirit.

The novel begins with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, which sends shockwaves through the Hamamoto family. The family's patriarch, Henry, is

taken away by the FBI and sent to an internment camp. His wife, Keiko, and their three children, Jimmy, Ruth, and John, are left to fend for themselves. They are forced to leave their home and their community, and they are subjected to prejudice and discrimination.

Despite the challenges they face, the Hamamotos refuse to give up hope. They find strength in their family and in their culture. They learn to adapt to their new surroundings, and they find ways to make a life for themselves. The novel follows the family through the war years and beyond, and it shows how they are able to overcome adversity and build a new life for themselves.

1001 Cranes is a moving and inspiring story about the power of resilience and the importance of family and community. It is a novel that will stay with you long after you finish reading it.

## **Themes of Identity, Culture, and Belonging**

1001 Cranes explores a number of important themes, including:

- **Identity:** The novel explores the complex issue of identity, both personal and cultural. The Hamamotos are Japanese immigrants living in the United States, and they struggle to find their place in both worlds. They are American citizens, but they are also Japanese, and they are often treated as outsiders by both groups.
- **Culture:** The novel also explores the role of culture in shaping our lives. The Hamamotos are proud of their Japanese heritage, and they find strength in their culture. However, they also recognize that they are living in a different culture, and they have to learn to adapt to their new surroundings.

- **Belonging:** The novel also explores the importance of belonging. The Hamamotos are a close-knit family, and they find strength in their relationships with each other. However, they also long for a sense of belonging to a larger community. They want to be accepted as Americans, but they also want to be true to their Japanese heritage.

## **Historical Context and Impact**

1001 Cranes is set against the backdrop of World War II, and the novel sheds light on the experiences of Japanese Americans during the war. The novel shows the prejudice and discrimination that Japanese Americans faced, and it also shows the resilience and strength of the Japanese American community.

The novel has been praised for its historical accuracy and its sensitivity in portraying the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II. The novel has also been praised for its literary merit, and it has won a number of awards, including the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association Award for Literature and the California Book Award for Fiction.

## **Acclaim for 1001 Cranes**

1001 Cranes has received widespread critical acclaim. Here are a few excerpts from reviews of the novel:



***“A beautifully written and emotionally resonant novel that explores the complexities of identity, culture, and belonging.”***  
**— The New York Times Book Review**

***"A moving and inspiring story about the power of resilience and the importance of family and community."***

***—The Washington Post***

***"A powerful and important novel that sheds light on the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II."***

***—The Los Angeles Times***

### **About the Author**

Naomi Hirahara is a Japanese American writer. She is the author of several novels, including *1001 Cranes*, *The Sum of Us*, and *Clark and Division*. Hirahara's work has been praised for its historical accuracy, its sensitivity to cultural issues, and its literary merit. She is a recipient of the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association Award for Literature and the California Book Award for Fiction.

Hirahara was born in Los Angeles, California, to Japanese immigrant parents. She grew up in a Japanese American community in the city's Little Tokyo district. Hirahara's experiences as a Japanese American woman have influenced her writing, and her work often explores issues of race, ethnicity, and identity.

Hirahara is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. She currently lives in Los Angeles, California.

*1001 Cranes* is a powerful and moving novel that explores the complex issues of



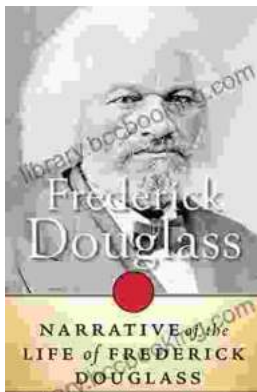
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