

books

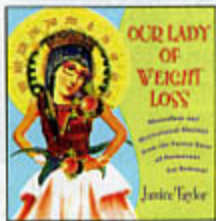


BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING WOMAN

**Haruki
Murakami**

(Knopf)
The latest short-
story collection
from beloved

Japanese writer Murakami will delight fans. For those who generally shy away from short stories, this accessible, poignant read will win you over.



OUR LADY OF WEIGHT LOSS

**Janice
Taylor**

(Studio)
Taylor pro-
vides whimsi-
cal secrets to keeping trim, channeling

her desire to eat into craft projects inspired by the kindly nuns of her childhood. Her inner voice, *Our Lady of Weight Loss*, provides a refreshing spin on the stale genre.



FAMILY AND OTHER ACCIDENTS

Shari Goldhagen

(Doubleday)
When Jack and
Connor Reed's par-
ents die within years
of one another,

25-year-old lawyer Jack returns to Cleveland to look after his 15-year-old brother. Natural prose and smooth dialogue between the brothers create a moving family portrait.



STUPID AND CONTAGIOUS

Caprice Crane

(5 Spot)
If the banal plot
doesn't force you
to close the book
(PR exec-turned-
waitress meets

cute music producer, but they hate each other — or do they?), you might enjoy this story that's both humorous and chock-full of pop-culture references.



— BY LINDSEY HUNTER —