

- 'he aligns himself as a binary to Midori's role' ¹
- 'The pull between real and ideal, deferred communion and immediate love, establishes a counterpoint that drives Toru and fuels the book.'²
- 'The dilemma that powers the novel comes out of the directions Toru Watanabe is pulled in by different versions of love, affection and attachment.'³
- 'the common Asian awareness of life as balances between the opposites yin and yang. But the use of two women to symbolize different mental states in their male lover is a common device in classic Western fiction'-Bradley Winterton.⁴
- "And yet the narrator, Toru Watanabe, is just as baffled by life. At one point he writes: "I have never lied to anyone, and I have taken care over the years not to hurt other people. And yet I find myself tossed into this labyrinth." There is no moral justice in Murakami's world; there is only the duty - both epistemological and moral - to try to understand."⁵ Steven Poole
- "The first chapter dreamily foreshadows the entire novel."⁶ Steven Poole
- "For all its metaphysical gloom, however, Norwegian Wood also flutters with sympathetic comedy."⁷ Steven Poole
- "This ambiguity of outcomes persists to the book's final pages, with many questions about Toru life and loves remaining unanswered at the novel's conclusion."⁸ Ted Gioia
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¹GETTING TO THE PULP OF HARUKI MURAKAMI'S NORWEGIAN WOOD: TRANSLATABILITY AND THE ROLE OF POPULAR CULTURE. Page 68 http://etd.fcla.edu/CF/CFE0000258/Zuromski_Jacquelyn_L_200412_MA.pdf

² Justin Bauer <http://archives.citypaper.net/articles/100500/bq.wood.shtml>

³ <http://archives.citypaper.net/articles/100500/bq.wood.shtml>

⁴ Bradley Winterton(2001) <http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/feat/archives/2001/01/07/68847>

⁵ Steven Poole <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2000/may/27/fiction.harukimurakami>

⁶ Steven Poole <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2000/may/27/fiction.harukimurakami>

⁷ Steven Poole <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2000/may/27/fiction.harukimurakami>

⁸ Ted Gioia http://www.greatbooksguide.com/norwegian_wood

'What on first glance appear to be bathetic lapses into jovial innuendo or irrelevant cookery chat between characters make the point that people in real life do not react to alarming or tragic situations in consistent or appropriate ways.'⁹

'Some older Japanese critics consider Murakami frivolous because his characters seem disinterested in politics and social issues.'¹⁰

'This is a love story that becomes a metaphysical mystery and a meditation on human connection.'¹¹

"The novel does not present a nostalgic picture of carefree adolescents in the swinging sixties. Instead, it captures the confusion, egoism and melodrama of youth."¹²

'multiple characterizations a half dozen really intriguing figures orbiting each other uncomfortably; and each pulls away from the action like a whole, layered slice of Japanese culture.'¹³

'The sensation of loss and lack of direction the outcome of the Second World War has occasioned.'¹⁴

'The pattern is basically one of imaginative verbal excess, in which two motionless people absent them from the world through a regressive, semi-mythic fantasy'.¹⁵

⁹ Tunnel vision, **Steven Poole**.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2000/may/27/fiction.harukimurakami>

¹⁰ Mark Lindquist (2001) Same link as below.'

¹¹ Mark Lindquist

<http://community.seattletimes.nwsources.com/archive/?date=20010603&slug=murakami03>

¹² Gabriel-

<http://writeronwriter.wordpress.com/2009/10/13/norwegian-wood-by-haruki-murakami/>

¹³ **John Holbo**

http://www.thevalve.org/go/valve/article/norwegian_wood/

¹⁴ **Rebecca hinchliffe**

¹⁵ Joseph Kugelmass

http://www.thevalve.org/go/valve/article/norwegian_wood_postmodern_love_and_people_as_art/
