

“Ganbaru,” Katsuyori Murakami would often say. The Japanese term means “Persevere. Don’t give up, don’t allow weakness or evil to have the upper hand and don’t be content with second-best.”

In this book, Rose Murakami tells the inspiring story of her family. Pioneers on Salt Spring Island, they were incarcerated in 1942 and forced to spend years of their lives in filthy, cold and crowded prison camps. Their bank accounts were frozen. Their land and possessions were seized and sold without their consent for a tiny fraction of their value. The proceeds were used to pay the costs of their incarceration. The Murakami family lost everything. With incredible courage and determination, they finally returned to Salt Spring Island in 1954. When they could not regain the land that had been taken from them they started from scratch, building a good life in the face of enduring racism. The Murakamis are the only Japanese Canadian family to return to the Gulf Islands, to start over and to stay.



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author Rose Murakami