

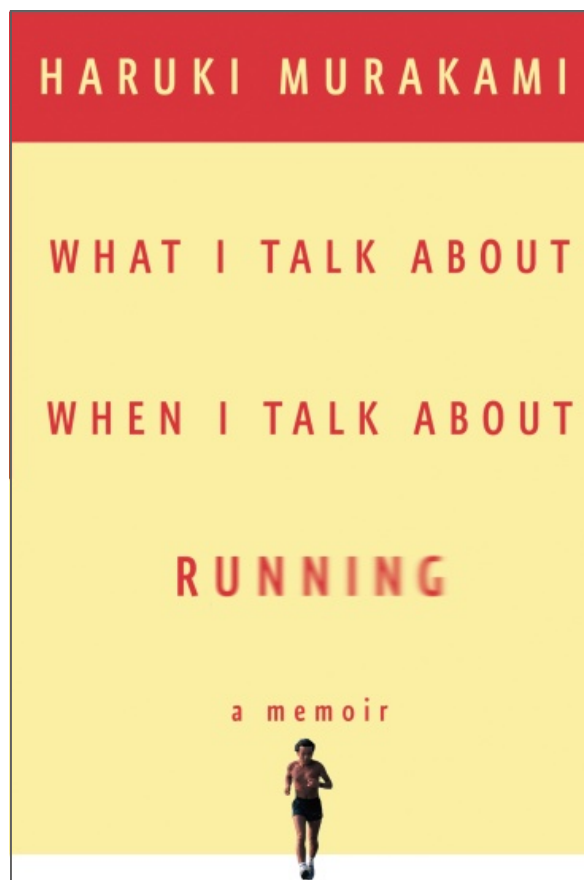
A Vintage Mass Market Export Edition ■ On Sale: April 2, 2009

**FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE WIND-UP
BIRD CHRONICLE AND KAFKA ON THE
SHORE. HARUKI MURAKAMI'S NEW YORK
TIMES HARDCOVER BESTSELLING MEMOIR
IS NOW AVAILABLE IN PAPERBACK.**

In 1982, having sold his jazz bar to devote himself to writing, Murakami began running to keep fit. A year later, he'd completed a solo course from Athens to Marathon, and now, after dozens of such races, not to mention triathlons and a dozen critically acclaimed books, he reflects upon the influence the sport has had on his life and on his writing.

Equal parts training log, travelogue, and reminiscence, this revealing memoir covers his preparation for the 2005 New York City Marathon and takes us to places ranging from Tokyo's Jingu Gaien gardens, where he once shared the course with an Olympian, to the Charles River in Boston among young women who outpace him. Through this marvelous lens of sport emerges a panorama of memories and insights: the eureka moment when he decided to become a writer, his greatest triumphs and disappointments, his passion for vintage LPs, and the experience, after fifty, of seeing his race times improve and then fall back.

By turns funny and sobering, playful and philosophical, *What I Talk About When I Talk About Running* is rich and revelatory, both for fans of this masterful writer and for the exploding population of athletes who find similar satisfaction in running.



"If we all ran like brilliant Japanese novelist Murakami, would we write as well as he does?" —*Library Journal*

"[Murakami] has turned something seemingly mundane—his running journals—into a brilliant meditation on how his running and writing nurture and sustain each other." —*Sports Illustrated*



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