

Chapter 1 : "My Year of Meats" by Ruth L. Ozeki - A book review by Nora Cody / Healthcare / In Motion Ma

*Her first two novels are My Year of Meats () and All Over Creation (). Ruth Ozeki is a novelist, filmmaker, and Zen Buddhist priest. Her latest novel, A Tale for the Time-Being, was published in and shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.*

Her three novels, My Year of Meats , All Over Creation , and A Tale For the Time Being all revolve around the complex relationship between humans and their environment, through a transnational lens. Notably, Ozeki crystallizes the interpersonal conflicts, identity issues, and psychological developments of her characters around such themes as the use of GMOs and hormones in the agricultural and meat industries, and the shadow of the nuclear age we still live in. These narratives flip the conventional apocalyptic story on its head: If something can be changed, then the immediate questions that emerge are ones about power: What are the unforeseen ramifications? All Over Creation has us confronting the responsibility of interfering with others, and this points to the tenuous boundaries between self and not-self. The main character comes back to Idaho to care for her aging parents, who are former potato farmers, and finds herself embroiled in the growing local controversy around GMOs and the ownership of seeds. The neoliberal state and the ensuing deregulation are part and parcel of the apocalyptic arc in this novel: How may our own bodies be treated like GMOs by the powers that be? The representation of the consequences of using hormones in food plays along similar lines. In My Year of Meats, the protagonist goes on a road trip across America to document the various ways meat is prepared for a Japanese TV show. On the way, the main character unearths evidence of illegal hormone use and repulsive treatments of animals. What affects one organism can, in our interconnected world, affect thousands more. Who takes responsibility for the transmission? Accountability and responsibility are at the heart of nuclear anxieties, too. The journal is most likely part of the first wave of debris from the tsunami that struck Japan in , causing nuclear accidents that turned the area around Fukushima into a post-apocalyptic wasteland. The apocalypse is the work of forces that transcend us. It puts us back into context. The end of all that was. They buck against norms. This allows them to identify the ongoing apocalypse:

Chapter 2 : My Year of Meats (Audiobook) by Ruth Ozeki | [blog.quintoapp.com](http://blog.quintoapp.com)

*My Year of Meats is a sensitive and compelling portrait of two modern women." —Arthur Golden, author of Memoirs of a Geisha "Canny, cunning, muckraking, and lusty, weaving hormones and corporate threats, fertility and independence."*

She worked in commercial television and media production for over a decade and made several independent films before turning to writing fiction. Film and novels Ozeki returned to New York in and began a film career as an art director, designing sets and props for low budget horror movies. She switched to television production, and after several years directing documentary-style programs for a Japanese company, she started making her own films. She was ordained as a priest in June, Book Reviews Ozeki skillfully tackles hard-pressing issues such as the use and effects of hormones in the beef industry and topics such as cultural differences, gender roles, and sexual exploitation. Her work is unique in presentation yet moving and entertaining. Character gems and exquisite plotting make this a treasure to read, but the real sizzle is in the take on beef Kirkus Reviews Discussion Questions 1. How does this interjection from the past enrich the novel? How does the Shonagon voice shape your relationship to the characters? On the surface, Jane and Akiko appear to be opposites. Jane is physically strong while Akiko is frail. Jane is fiercely independent while Akiko is submissive to her husband. Are there any similarities between the two? How do they complement each other? In the beginning of chapter 3, Jane makes this comment: If not, at what point in the novel do you think she changed her mind? Our exposure to the media has reached a fever pitch. Increasingly, we are bombarded by instant information via television, print, radio, and the Internet. Is this a positive development? Has your reading of My Year of Meats suggested any new possibilities for your own relationship with media sources? How does this novel treat the question of cultural, ethnic, and gender stereotypes? Did it challenge any of your own perceptions or biases? Chapter 2 begins with this quote from The Pillow Book: Of all of the women featured in the novel, with whom did you most identify? Were there any that you upheld as models for what women should aspire to be? Think about some of the male characters in My Year of Meats. If so, do you perceive it as a step toward a more peaceful, accepting world, or as a step away from a diverse, well-textured world? Is it possible to maintain cultural diversity without prejudice? It seems that the same qualities that make Jane successful in her career—strength and control—become obstacles in developing an intimate relationship with Sloan. Have you encountered this problem in your own relationships? At any point did you find yourself impatient with Jane or Sloan? Were you surprised to see them together in the end? Do you think that the novel is optimistic about intimacy? As a documentarian I think about this a lot. In the edit, timing is everything. There is a time to peel back. What does the novel imply about denial in our world today? Questions provided by the publisher.

Chapter 3 : My Year of Meats by Ruth Ozeki | [blog.quintoapp.com](http://blog.quintoapp.com)

*My Year of Meats has 12, ratings and 1, reviews. Aubrey said: /5 In this root sense, ignorance is an act of will, a choice that one makes over.*

My Year of Meats, by Ruth L. It is at times hilarious and absurd, at times shocking and heart wrenching. Jane is a young Japanese-American independent filmmaker who is hired to produce a series of documentaries for Japanese television. Funded entirely by the American meat export industry and designed to sell meat to the Japanese market, the series is called "My American Wife. Or as the producer reminds Jane: On the other side of the globe, Akiko, the wife of the Japanese producer, watches and prepares the recipes for her abusive husband. He encourages her to eat large amounts of meat in the hope that it will add weight to her thin body and improve her fertility. As she travels around the United States, scouting families for the program, Jane begins to stretch the boundaries of what her producers consider "normal, wholesome" wives and families. Her attempt to film a poor African-American family proves unsuccessful, but she manages to slip in a show about a large inter-racial family with many adopted children. Eventually her subversive impulses take over and she presents a show featuring a lesbian, inter-racial, vegetarian couple. This is not well-received by her producer. Watching in Japan, Akiko becomes inspired by the shows and increasingly radicalized as she quietly plots her escape from the life-threatening abuse she endures. There is irony and brilliance in the bond between Akiko and Jane that is forged through the unlikely medium of "My American Wife. After years of coping with gynecological problems, she stumbles upon the knowledge that she is a DES daughter. The health effects of DES, through prenatal exposure, via meat consumption, and through exposure to cattle feed, become interwoven into the story. Descriptions of a livestock feedlot and slaughterhouse are truly harrowing. Ozeki has clearly done her research and manages to make the complex subject of hormone exposure both clear and compelling. There is so much to this novel. Japanese culture, American culture, race, love, sex, fertility and its destroyers. Beyond that, this is a very good read and one I highly recommend. Ozeki has included information on how to contact DES Action at the back of her book. This must be a first -- a novel with resources listed. We are grateful for the listing. Published in In Motion Magazine May 24, If you have any thoughts on this or would like to contribute to an ongoing discussion in the.

## Chapter 4 : My Year of Meats by Ruth Ozeki

*About Ruth Ozeki. Ruth Ozeki is a novelist, filmmaker, and Zen Buddhist priest. She is the award-winning author of three novels, My Year of Meats, All Over Creation, and A Tale for the Time Being, which won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and was shortlisted for.*

Overview[ edit ] Jane Takagi-Little is a Japanese-American documentary filmmaker who is hired to work for a Japanese production company. Jane works as the host and creative producer for the show, on which every week an American wife is shown living "her life" and cooking meat. Her husband cares only that Akiko has a baby and forces her to watch My American Wife and cook the recipes, believing that it will allow her to conceive. For Jane the plot is told through faxes and journal entries, for Akiko the plot is told through third person omniscient point of view. In America, Jane works with the Japanese film crew under the direction of Joichi "John" Ueno to film American housewives as they prepare their favorite dishes. The show My American Wife! John, however, has an allergic reaction to the antibiotics in veal and the on-site production is handed over to Jane. Jane is intrigued by the existence of antibiotics in meat and she begins to dig deeper into beef production while trying to show more diverse families and dishes in her episodes of My American Wife!. As Jane pushes to show families of various ethnic backgrounds and physical abilities while showcasing dishes of pork, lamb, and vegetables she strains her relations with John Ueno her boss. In an attempt to pacify him, Jane takes him out drinking. When she takes him to his hotel room afterward he attempts to rape her but she escapes. Eventually Jane becomes pregnant but persists in her quest for knowledge. Akiko is malnourished and as such has stopped menstruating. This angers John as he desperately wants a child. Akiko, desperate for happiness, secretly faxes Jane Takagi-Little. When John finds out Akiko has not only faxed Jane but has indicated that she does not want to be with him, John beats and rapes Akiko, impregnating Akiko and sending her to the hospital. However, the experience of watching My American Wife! While John is away on another trip, Akiko leaves him and decides to move to the United States, inspired by the location and fascinated by one of the families she saw in My American Wife! The children of the family running this feedlot exhibit symptoms of hormone poisoning. After she gets out of the hospital her former co-workers admit to copying the footage of the slaughterhouse and the hormone poisoned children for her and Jane edits the tape herself into a documentary. The documentary is widely distributed by the family of the hormone poisoned children and Jane and Sloan attempt to fix their relationship despite the miscarriage. Akiko arrives in the United States, where she meets Jane and stays with her for a short time before Jane uses the connections she made during the filming of My American Wife!

**Chapter 5 : My Year of Meats - Summary Guide - Book Club Discussion Questions**

*Ruth Ozeki is a novelist, filmmaker, and Zen Buddhist priest. She is the award-winning author of three novels, My Year of Meats, All Over Creation, and A Tale for the Time Being, which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award.*

If I had to pick a book to transport me back to the s, My Year of Meats would be it. The main character Jane Takagi-Little is tasked with directing a reality TV show for Japanese television and her brief has basically two features: "I am haunted by all the things" big things and little things, Splendid Things and Squalid Things that threaten to slip through the cracks, untold, out of history. The main character Jane Takagi-Little is tasked with directing a reality TV show for Japanese television and her brief has basically two features: The show is supposed to portray the all-American family; and 2. Because the show is sponsored by the beef industry, it needs to have a central focus on foods - and predominantly, the consumption of quality meat. So, she and her team set out on a journey across America to find the perfect participants for the show. Lamb was Lovable, and I had just shot the most mouth-watering show of the season. And with that thought, I unbuckled my seat belt and walked to the lavatory at the back of the plane, closed the flimsy folding door behind me, and vomited into the metal toilet. She is why I chose to make TV. I wanted to think that some girl would watch my shows in Japan, now or maybe even a thousand years from now, and be inspired and learn something real about America. We are paralyzed by bad knowledge, from which the only escape is playing dumb. Ignorance becomes empowering because it enables people to live. Stupidity becomes proactive, a political statement. There is also so much more to the story. And this other aspect presents herself in the form of Akiko. How someone just drops into your life like that. I mean, there we were, minding our own business. What did we do to deserve her? These were tears of admiration for the strong women so determined to have their family against all odds. And tears of pity for herself, for the trepidation she felt in place of desire and for the pale, wan sentiment that she let pass for love. And when the book does all of this without trying to manipulate an opinion or drawing at your heart strings to evoke a response - yes, looking at you here J. I will certainly do my best to imagine one, but in reality I will just have to wait and see. For now, though, it is January again. Whatever people may think of my book, I will make it public, bring it to light unflinchingly. That is the modern thing to do.

**Chapter 6 : My Year of Meats (Ozeki) - LitLovers**

*At first glance, a novel that promises to expose the unethical practices of the American meat industry may not be at the top of your reading list, but Ruth Ozeki's debut, My Year of Meats is well worth a second look.*

My Year of Meats is the first novel by award-winning writer, Ruth L. In this novel, Jane Takagi-Little takes a job as a producer on a Japanese reality show designed to encourage Japanese housewives to cook more beef. Jane is responsible for finding American housewives who are wholesome and attractive who will open her home to the cameras and make a meal whose centerpiece is some kind of beef dish. As Jane becomes more involved in the show, she begins to learn things about the beef industry that cause her to doubt her commitment to the show. My Year of Meats is not only a closer look into the controversial practices of the beef industry but also a story of self-discovery in the lives of two very different women. Jane Takagi-Little is living the life of a starving artist when she is offered a job producing a Japanese reality show to promote American beef. Jane is grateful for the job and quickly jumps into it despite a disastrous beginning with the first housewife that she features on the show. At the same time, Akiko Ueno, the wife of a Japanese advertising executive who is in charge of the production of My American Wife! Jane constantly butts heads with the Japanese producers as she attempts to include a variety of American housewives on the show and not just the attractive white women they would prefer. Jane also wants to direct the show but again the Japanese want a Japanese director who will understand the standards by which the Japanese live. However, on the rare occasions when Jane gets her way, Akiko gives the show higher ratings in comparison to the shows that her husband finds more appropriate. During one day of filming, the director from Japan has a bad reaction to the meat he is eating at the home of a featured housewife. Jane learns from the doctor that all beef has some residual antibiotic in it from the antibiotics given to the cows at the feedlots to keep them from getting sick. Jane begins searching out more unusual housewives, such as a woman in Louisiana who has adopted ten Korean children with her chef husband. Unfortunately, the ad executive, John Ueno, does not like this episode because Jane allows the husband to cook the meal. Another controversial episode Jane films is one that centers around vegetarian lesbians. This episode causes a great deal of stress for John Ueno but his wife finds it inspiring, making her see how unhappy she is in her life. At the same time Jane is working on the show, pushing her bosses to their limits, she begins an affair with a musician. Jane believes she cannot get pregnant because of infertility experienced during her marriage a few years previously. However, Jane is shocked to learn she has in fact gotten pregnant. This pregnancy is unwanted initially but Jane quickly realizes she wants the baby. Across the ocean, Akiko has struggled with her own infertility issues. However, she has recently begun menstruating again and knows that a pregnancy is possible. Akiko thinks about the episode of My American Wife! John Ueno rapes his wife and leaves her badly injured, an injury that leads to hospitalization a few days later. Jane knows she needs her job but she also wants to expose the truth she has learned about DES to the public. Jane arranges to film a show with a family that owns a feedlot. Jane films the manager of the feedlot feeding the cows and his employees injecting new arrivals. During this visit, Jane comes into contact with some hormones and begins to fear for the health of her unborn child. The following day, Jane and her crew go to the slaughterhouse to film the process. Jane is injured when she accidentally falls against the knockout pen. When Jane wakes in the hospital, she learns that she has lost her baby. Akiko leaves her husband and goes to America. Once there, Akiko befriends Jane and visits some of the families who made the biggest impact on her through My American Wife! At the same time, Jane makes a documentary out of her footage of the feedlot in the aftermath of the accident that caused her to lose her job. This documentary sells to hundreds of media outlets in the aftermath of the revelation that the feedlot in question was using DES. At the same time, Jane reconnects with her lover and looks forward to a happier future. This section contains words approx.

**Chapter 7 : My Year of Meats - free PDF, DJVU, FB3, TXT**

*A much-hyped debut from documentary filmmaker Ozeki proves well worth the fuss, as a tale both heartwarming and horrific of two women—one American, one Japanese—curiously allied in a struggle against the determination of the meat industry to make the world safe for hormone-laced American beef.*

### Chapter 8 : My Year of Meats - Wikipedia

*My Year of Meats (titled *My Year of Meat in the UK*) is a novel by Ruth L. Ozeki. The book takes advantage of the differences between Japanese and American culture to comment on both. [1].*

### Chapter 9 : MY YEAR OF MEATS by Ruth L. Ozeki | Kirkus Reviews

*Ozeki's two earlier novels, *My Year of Meats* () and *All Over Creation* (), were both recognized as Notable Books by *The New York Times*. Ozeki currently divides her time between New York City and British Columbia, where she writes, knits socks, and raises ducks with her husband, artist Oliver Kellhammer.*