



# READING GUIDE

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## The Convenience Store By The Sea

Sonoko Machida

### In short

The quirky, charming Japanese sensation with over half a million copies sold worldwide.



### Synopsis

Welcome to Tenderness! A quaint seaside town in Kitakyushu, Mojiko is full of hidden delights. And one unexpected treasure is the 24/7 convenience store, Tenderness.

At first glance, it's a store like any other. Sure, it's a bit odd that the handsome manager has his own fan club. And perhaps the customers are somewhat eccentric. But there's a warmth about Tenderness that draws you in. The bright lights are always on. The employees know you by name. And the shelves are stacked with delicious treats, from strong hot coffee to sweet parfaits, egg sandos to ramen, crispy fried chicken to refreshing soba.

After a while, you get the feeling that whatever you need might just be waiting for you here...

### Discussion points

1. How does the convenience store "Tenderness" function as more than just a shop? What emotional or symbolic role does it play in the lives of the characters?
2. The novel features multiple interconnected stories. Which character's journey resonated most with you, and why?
3. One of the book's themes is the quiet heroism of everyday connection. How do small acts of kindness shape the narrative?
4. If you could visit Tenderness, what would you hope to find there? How might it change you?

## **Next you should listen to**

*The Book Swap* by Tessa Bickers

*The Golden Oldies' Book Club* by Judy Leigh

*The Music Shop* by Rachel Joyce