

# Genji Monogatari



Tosa Mitsuoki (1617-1691) *Murasakishikibu*

The Tale of Genji is considered to be one of the earliest novels in world's history. It was written in the 11th century by a female writer, Lady Murasaki (1). The scenes from this novel are frequent subjects of ukiyo-e. The story is basically about the love affairs and adventures of Prince Genji, a kind of aristocratic womanizer.

## Overview

The Genji, as the work is commonly called by aficionados, was written for the women of the aristocracy, the Yokibito (2) and has many elements found in a modern novel : a central character and a very large number of major and minor characters, well-developed characterization of all the major players, a sequence of events happening over a period of time covering the central character's lifetime and beyond. The work does not make use of a plot ; instead, much as in real life, events just happen and characters evolve simply by growing older. One remarkable feature of the Genji, and of Murasaki's skill, is its internal consistency, despite a dramatis personae of some four hundred characters. For instance, all characters age in pace and all the family and feudal relationships are consistent among all chapters.

## The tale

The work recounts the life of Genji, a son of the Japanese emperor, also known as Hikaru Genji, or the Shining Genji. Neither appellation is his actual name. Genji is simply another way to read the Chinese characters for the real-life Minamoto (3) clan, to which Genji was made to belong. For political reasons, Genji is relegated to commoner status and begins a career as an imperial officer.

The tale concentrates on his romantic life and describes the customs of the aristocratic society of the time. Much is made of Genji's good looks. His most important personality trait is the loyalty he shows to all the women in his life, as he never abandons any of his wives. When he finally becomes the most powerful man in the Capital, he moves into a palace and provides for each of them.

Genji's beloved wife, Murasaki dies. (Note that Murasaki Shikibu, whose real name is unknown, is named after this character, not vice-versa.) In the following chapter, "Maboroshi" or "Illusion", Genji contemplates how fleeting life is. The following chapter begins sometime after Genji's passing and we do not know how he dies.

The rest of the work follows Nioi and Kaoru, who are best friends. Nioi is an imperial prince but secretly Genji's son, while Kaoru is known to the world as Genji's son but is in fact fathered by Genji's nephew. The tale ends abruptly, with Kaoru wondering if the lady he loves also loves him.

## Literary context

Because it was written to entertain Japanese court women of the 11th century, the work presents many difficulties to modern readers. First and foremost Murasaki's language, Heian (4) court Japanese, was highly inflected and had very complex grammar. Another problem is that naming people was considered rude in Heian court society, so none of the characters are named within the work ; instead, the narrator refers to men often by their rank or their station in life, and to women often by the colour of their clothing, or by the words used at a meeting, or by the rank of a prominent male relative. This results in different appellations for the same character depending on which chapter you are reading.

Another aspect of the language is the importance of using poetry in conversations. Modifying or rephrasing a classic poem according to the current situation was expected behaviour in Heian court life, and often served to communicate thinly veiled allusions. The poems in the *Genji* are often in the classic Japanese tanka (5) form. Many of the poems were well known to the intended audience, so usually only the first few lines are given and the reader is supposed to complete the thought herself, much like today we could say "a rolling stone..." and leave the rest of the saying unspoken.

As for most Heian literature, the *Genji* was written entirely in [Kana](#) (Japanese phonetic script) and not in Chinese characters because it was written by a woman for a female audience. Writing in Chinese characters was at the time a masculine pursuit, women were generally discrete when writing in Chinese, confining themselves mostly to pure Japanese words.

Murasaki was neither the first or the last writer of the Heian period, nor was the *Genji* the earliest example of a "monogatari". Rather, the *Genji* stands above other tales of the time much as Shakespeare's plays stand above other Elizabethan drama.

Reading the *Genji* today

Translations into modern Japanese and other languages solve these problems by modernizing the language, unfortunately losing some of the meaning, and by giving names to the characters, usually the traditional names used by academics. This gives rise to anachronisms; for instance *Genji*'s first wife is named Aoi because she is known as the lady of the Aoi chapter, in which she dies.

Because of the cultural difference, reading an annotated version of the *Genji* is quite common, even among Japanese. Many works including comics and television dramas are derived from the Tale of *Genji*. A comic manga version by Yamato Waki, *Asakiyumemishi*, is widely read among Japanese youth.

## Notes :

(1) **Murasaki Shikibu** (紫式部 *Murasaki Shikibu*, c. 973–c. 1014) was a novelist, poet, and servant of the imperial court during the Heian period of Japan. She is well known as the author of *The Tale of Genji*, written between about 1000 and 1008, one of the earliest and most famous novels in Japanese. Lady Murasaki's mother died while she was a child, so Murasaki was raised, contrary to customs of the time, by her father Tametoki, a scholar and officer of the imperial court. During Heian-era Japan, couples lived separately and children were raised by the mother and her family. Also contrary to customs of the time, her father gave her a male's education. Males were educated in and taught Chinese, the official language of the court, while females were taught kana (**Kana** is a general term for two types of syllabic Japanese script: *hiragana* (ひらがな) and *katakana* (カタカナ). These were developed as an alternative and adjunct to ideograph based characters of Chinese origin, or *Kanji* (漢字) and poetry. Her father praised her intelligence and ability, but lamented she was "born a woman". At the royal court, she was the lady in waiting for Empress Shoshi/Akiko, and may have been hired by Fujiwara Michinaga to serve the Empress. Three works are attributed to Murasaki, the most important being *The Tale of Genji*. [The Murasaki Shikibu Diary](#) and [The Murasaki Shikibu Collection](#) were arranged and published posthumously. The Murasaki Shikibu Collection was a compilation of 128 poems written by Murasaki. Her real name is unknown. Her diary states that she was nicknamed "Murasaki" at court, after a character in *The Tale of Genji*. "Shikibu" refers to her father's position in the Bureau of Ceremony (*shikibu-shō*). A fictionalized biography of Murasaki called *The Tale of Murasaki : A Novel* was written by [Liza Dalby](#), who is the only Westerner to have been trained as a geisha.

(2) The **Yokibito** are the Japanese aristocracy of the Heian Period. At the time of Murasaki Shikibu and Sei Shonagon (6), around the year 1000, they numbered about five thousand in a land of perhaps five million. The word *yokibito* literally translates as "the good people" but could be better rendered as "The Beautiful People" or "The Fortunate Ones".

(3) The first emperor to start granting the name Minamoto was Emperor Saga. Afterwards, Emperor Seiwa, Emperor Murakami, Emperor Uda, and Emperor Daigo, among others, also gave their sons the name Minamoto. These specific hereditary lines coming from different emperors developed into specific clans and are often referred to as the *Genji* (源氏). These specific hereditary lines from these emperors is referred to by the emperor's name followed by *Genji*, e.g., *Seiwa Genji*. The Seiwa *Genji* line proved to be the most strong and dominant Minamoto line during the late Heian period with Minamoto no Yoritomo eventually

forming the Kamakura Shogunate and becoming shogun in 1192. Also, it is from the Seiwa Genji line that the later Ashikaga - founders of the Ashikaga shogunate, Nitta, and Takeda clans come. The protagonist of the classical Japanese novel *The Tale of Genji*, Hikaru no Genji, was bestowed the name Minamoto for political reasons by his father, the emperor, and was delegated to civilian life and a career as an imperial officer. [↗](#)

(4) The **Heian period** (平安時代) is the last division of classical Japanese history that runs from 794 to 1185. The Heian period is considered the peak of the Japanese imperial court and noted for its art and especially in poetry and literature. The name *heian* is a word that means "peace" in Japanese. [↗](#)

(5) **Tanka** consists of five units (often treated as separate lines when Romanised or translated) with the following mora pattern : 5-7-5 / 7-7. The 5-7-5 is called the *kami-no-ku* ("upper phrase") and the 7-7 *shimo-no-ku* ("lower phrase"). *Tanka* is a much older form of Japanese poetry than haiku ([7](#)). In ancient times poems of this form were called **hanka** ("reverse poem"), since the 5-7-5-7-7 form derived from the conclusions (*envoi*) of *choka*. The Heian period saw many *tanka* written by the [six best Waka poets](#) and the thirty-six best Waka poets. The Heian period also saw the invention of a new *tanka*-based game: One poet recited or created half of a *tanka*, and the other finished it off. This sequential, collaborative *tanka* was called **renga** ("linked poem"). (The form and rules of *renga* developed further during medieval times; see the *renga* article for more details.) The modern revival of *tanka* took place under the wing of contemporary poet Tawara Machi. [↗](#)

(6) **Sei Shonagon** (清少納言, ~965-10??) was a Japanese author. Sei (清) comes from the Kiyohara (清原) clan and Shonagon was a government post. Her real name is unknown. It has been a topic of interest among scholars, who generally favour **Kiyowara Nagiko** as a likely possibility. Shonagon is famous through her major work, [The Pillow Book](#) (Makura no Soshi). *The Pillow Book* is a collection of lists, gossip, poetry, observations, complaints and anything else she found of interest during her years in the court during the Heian Period. The daughter of Kiyowara no Motosuke, she was a Court lady at the time of Emperor Ichijo and served Empress Sadako. She is known for her rivalry with her contemporary Lady Murasaki, the author of *The Tale of Genji*. There are no details about Shonagon's life after the death during childbirth of Empress Sadako in 1000, though *The Pillow Book* is thought to have been finished sometime between 1001 and 1010. [↗](#)

(7) **Haiku** (俳句) is one of the most important forms of traditional Japanese poetry. Haiku is a very short poetic form. Traditional Japanese haiku consisted of three lines of 5, 7, and 5 units each, which are generally applied as syllables, and contained a special word—the *kigo*—that indicated the season in which the haiku was set. Some consider that a haiku must also combine two different images, be written in present tense, have a focus on description and have a pause (the *kireji* or "cutting word") at the end of either the first or second line. All such rules are based in the Japanese language and literary tradition and are habitually broken by most poets, especially when adapted for languages other than Japanese (where they can seem arbitrary). [↗](#)

## [Structure](#)

### [Table of Characters](#)

### [Table of Genji crests \(Genjimon\)](#)

Illustration by : [Kunichika](#) [Kuniyoshi](#) [Kunisada](#)

## Structure

The novel is traditionally divided in three parts, the first two dealing with the life of Genji, and the last dealing with the early years of two of Genji's prominent descendants, Niou and Kaoru. There are also several short transitional chapters which are usually grouped separately and whose authorship is sometimes questioned.

1. Genji's rise and fall
  1. Youth, chapters 1-33: Love, romance, and exile
  2. Success and setbacks, chapters 34-41: A taste of power and the death of his beloved wife
2. The transition (chapters 42-44): Very short episodes following Genji's death
3. Uji, chapters 45-53: Genji's official and secret descendants, Niou and Kaoru
4. The Floating Bridge of Dreams, chapter 54: Seems to continue the story from the previous chapters, but has an unusually abstract chapter title.

The chapters are :

- 1 - **Kiritsubo** Paulownia Court (setting in the Court of Emperor Kiritsubo)
- 2 - **Hahakigi** Broom Tree ("The Belvedere")
- 3 - **Utsusemi Shell of Locust** ("A Cicada, Empty Within", a Name of the Heroines.)
- 4 - **Yugao** Evening Faces ("The Moonflower", a Name of the Heroines.)
- 5 - **Wakamurasaki** Lavender ("Purple Like Lavender")
- 6 - **Suetsumuhana** Safflower (The Safflower", a Name of the Heroines. It is a pun ; A safflower and red-nose have same pronunciation in Japanese.)
- 7 - **Momiji no ga** Autumn Outing ("An Autumn Excursion")

	<b><u>8- Hana no en</u></b> <b>Festival of Cherry Blossoms</b> ("The Feast of Flowers")	<b><u>9- Aoi</u></b> <b>Heartvine</b> ("Heart vine", used to refer to Genji's first wife)	<b><u>10-Sakaki</u></b> <b>Sacred Tree</b>	<b><u>11- Hanachirusato</u></b> <b>Orange Blossoms</b> ("The Village Where Flowers Spread Around", a Name of the Heroines.)	<b><u>12-Suma</u></b> <b>Suma</b> (A place of exile for Genji)
<b><u>13-Akashi</u></b> <b>Akashi</b> (A second place of exile for Genji, Genji's wife from Akashi is known simply as the Akashi Lady)	<b><u>14- Miozukushi</u></b> <b>Channel Buoys</b> ("Buoyancy")	<b><u>15-Yomogiu</u></b> <b>Wormwood Patch</b> ("The Wasteland", A Land in which the Mugwort has Grown.)	<b><u>16-Sekiya</u></b> <b>The Gatehouse</b>	<b><u>17-E awase</u></b> <b>Picture Contest</b>	<b><u>18-Matsukaze</u></b> <b>Wind in the Pines</b>
<b><u>19-Usugumo</u></b> <b>Wisp of Clouds</b> ("A Cloud Too Thin")	<b><u>20- Asagao</u></b> <b>Morning Glory</b> (Ipomoea violacea) ("Colours of Morning")	<b><u>21-Otome</u></b> <b>The Maiden</b> ("The Little Girl", "The Second Daughter")	<b><u>22-Tamakazura</u></b> <b>Jewel Garland</b> ("The Climbing Hydrangea", a Name of the Heroines.)	<b><u>23-Hatsune</u></b> <b>First Warbler</b> ("The First Sound")	<b><u>24-Kocho</u></b> <b>Butterflies</b>
<b><u>25-Hotaru</u></b> <b>Fireflies</b>	<b><u>26-Tokonatsu</u></b> <b>Wild Carnations</b>	<b><u>27- Kagaribi</u></b> <b>Flares</b> ("The Fire within the Bamboo Basket")	<b><u>28- Nowake</u></b> <b>Typhoon</b>	<b><u>29- Miyuki</u></b> <b>Royal Outing</b> ("Imperial Visit")	<b><u>30- Fujibakama</u></b> <b>Purple Trousers</b> Thoroughwort Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)
<b><u>31- Makibashira</u></b> <b>Cypress Pillar</b> ("The Pillar of Cypress Wood", a Name of the Heroines.)	<b><u>32-Umegaye</u></b> <b>Plum Branch</b>	<b><u>33-Fuji no uraba</u></b> <b>Wisteria Dreams</b> ("Wisteria Leaves"? "Skirts Made of Wisteria")	<b><u>34- Wakana no Jo</u></b> <b>New Herbs (Part I)</b>	<b><u>35- Wakana no Ge</u></b> <b>New Herbs (Part II)</b>	<b><u>36- Kashiwagi</u></b> <b>Oak Tree</b> ("The Daimyo Oak", Symbol of Imperial Guards. Also the Name of Genji's Rival's Eldest Son.)
<b><u>37- Yokobue</u></b> <b>The Flute</b>	<b><u>38- Susumushi</u></b> <b>Bell Cricket</b> ("The Bell-ring Cricket")	<b><u>39- Yugiri</u></b> <b>Evening Mist</b> ("A Mist by the Dawn" It's	<b><u>40- Minori</u></b> <b>The Rites</b> ("The Law")	<b><u>41- Maboroshi</u></b> <b>The Wizard</b> "Mirage", "Illusion"	<b><u>42- Niou no Miya</u></b> <b>His Perfumed Highness</b>

		the Name of Genji's Son.)		(*)	
<a href="#">43- Kobai</a> Rose Plum (The name of Genji's rival's second son.)	<a href="#">44- Takegawa</a> The Bamboo River	<a href="#">45- Hashihime</a> Lady at the Bridge	<a href="#">46- Shii ga moto</a> Beneath the Oak ("Base of the Oak Tree")	<a href="#">47- Agemaki</a> Tasseled Knots ("The Hairstyle of boyhood")	<a href="#">48- Sawarabi</a> Early Ferns ("A Fern of the Morning")
<a href="#">49- Yadorigi</a> The Ivy ("The Wood for Living?")	<a href="#">50- Azumaya</a> Eastern Cottage	<a href="#">51- Ukifune</a> Boat on the Water	<a href="#">52- Kagero</a> Drake Fly ("The Dragonfly")	<a href="#">53- Tenarai</a> Writing Practice ("The Scribble")	<a href="#">54- Yume no Yukihashi</a> Floating Bridge of Dreams

(\*) *Kumogakure* ("Disappearance", Like Sun retreating behind the Cloud) Additional chapter.

Character	Chapters	Notes
<b>Akikonomu</b>	<a href="#">17</a> , <a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">24</a> , <a href="#">28</a> , <a href="#">34</a>	Former high priestess of Ise, and ally of Genji in the court intrigue.
<b>Aoi-no-Ue</b>	<a href="#">1</a> , <a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">10</a>	First wife of Genji. She was the daughter of the Minister of the Left to Emperor Kuritsubo, and the mother of <a href="#">Yugiri</a> . A unsympathetic character, she dies after insulting the <a href="#">Lady of Rokujo</a> , who then sent her an evil spirit.
<b>Asagao</b>	<a href="#">20</a> , <a href="#">32</a>	Princess Asagao rejected Genji advances.
<b>Azechidainagon</b>	<a href="#">43</a> , <a href="#">49</a>	Eldest son of <a href="#">To-no-Chujo</a> , later become Lord Inspector. Married <a href="#">Makebashira</a> , who was his second wife.
<b>Ben</b>	<a href="#">9</a>	Son of <a href="#">Shonagon</a> .
<b>Benn</b>	<a href="#">45</a> , <a href="#">49</a> , <a href="#">50</a>	Cousin of <a href="#">Kojiju</a> , the servant of the <a href="#">Third Princess</a> . She told <a href="#">Kaoru</a> the true story of his birth. She was also the daughter of <a href="#">Kashiwagi</a> 's nurse.
<b>Chujo</b>	<a href="#">4</a> , <a href="#">41</a>	Maid to the <a href="#">Lady of Rokujo</a> , and later of <a href="#">Murasaki</a> .
<b>Eighth Prince</b>	<a href="#">45</a> , <a href="#">46</a> , <a href="#">47</a>	Father of <a href="#">Oigimi</a> and <a href="#">Nakanokimi</a> .
<b>Fujitsubo</b>	<a href="#">1</a> , <a href="#">5</a> , <a href="#">7</a> , <a href="#">8</a> , <a href="#">10</a> , <a href="#">12</a> , <a href="#">17</a> , <a href="#">19</a> , <a href="#">33</a> , <a href="#">34</a>	The new ladyfriend of the old Emperor Kuritsubo. Aunt of <a href="#">Murasaki-no-Ue</a> and sister of <a href="#">Prince Hyobu</a> . She become a lover of Genji and gave birth to his child, who the Emperor thinks is his.
<b>Hanachirusato</b>	<a href="#">11</a> , <a href="#">14</a> , <a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">25</a> , <a href="#">41</a>	Lady with whom Genji had a couple of encounters, and who later lived with him in his house. Also known as the lady of the orange

		blossoms.
Higeguro	<a href="#">29</a> , <a href="#">30</a> , <a href="#">31</a> , <a href="#">35</a>	A general and stepson of Prince <a href="#">Shikibukyo</a> . He became enamored to <a href="#">Tamakazura</a> , whom she married. This marriage caused his divorce from the daughter of <a href="#">Shikibukyo</a> . Father of <a href="#">Makibashira</a> .
Inuki	<a href="#">5</a> , <a href="#">7</a>	Little girl, friend of <a href="#">Murasaki-no-Ue</a> .
Kaoru	<a href="#">36</a> , <a href="#">42</a> , <a href="#">43</a> , <a href="#">44</a> , <a href="#">45</a> , <a href="#">46</a> , <a href="#">47</a> , <a href="#">48</a> , <a href="#">49</a> , <a href="#">50</a> , <a href="#">51</a> , <a href="#">52</a> , <a href="#">54</a>	Son of the illicit love of <a href="#">Kashiwagi</a> and the <a href="#">Third Princess</a> (wife of Genji). After being briefly attracted with the oldest daughter of <a href="#">Tamakazura</a> , he becomes attracted to <a href="#">Oigimi</a> , who wanted him to marry instead <a href="#">Nakanokimi</a> , her younger sister. To clear his way he arranged for <a href="#">Nakanokimi</a> to become <a href="#">Niou</a> 's wife. He then become attracted to her, and ended marrying the <a href="#">Second Princess</a> , daughter of the Emperor. Unable to forget <a href="#">Oigimi</a> he tried to meet her stepsister <a href="#">Ukifune</a> .
Kashiwagi	<a href="#">33</a> , <a href="#">34</a> , <a href="#">35</a> , <a href="#">36</a> , <a href="#">37</a> , <a href="#">44</a> , <a href="#">45</a>	Son of <a href="#">To-no-Chujo</a> , friend of <a href="#">Yugiri</a> and husband of the <a href="#">Second Princess</a> . He betrays Genji with the <a href="#">Third Princess</a> , his wife. Of this illicit love a son, <a href="#">Kaoru</a> , is born. Dies of shame.
Koi	<a href="#">1</a>	Mother of Genji. Late wife of the emperor Kuritsubo.
Kojiju	<a href="#">35</a> , <a href="#">45</a>	Cousin of <a href="#">Benn</a> , and servant of the <a href="#">Third Princess</a> .
Kokiden	<a href="#">8</a> , <a href="#">10</a> , <a href="#">12</a> , <a href="#">17</a>	Wife of the old Emperor. Enemy of Genji in the court intrigue.
Kokimi	<a href="#">2</a> , <a href="#">3</a> , <a href="#">16</a>	Younger brother of <a href="#">Utsusemi</a> . Genji used him as a messenger to her. He later become Uemonsa.
Koshosho	<a href="#">39</a>	Servant of the <a href="#">Second Princess</a> .
Koremitsu	<a href="#">4</a> , <a href="#">5</a> , <a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">13</a> , <a href="#">14</a> , <a href="#">15</a> , <a href="#">21</a>	Son of Genji's old nurse. He become one of Genji's closest servants.
Kumoinokari	<a href="#">26</a> , <a href="#">33</a> , <a href="#">39</a>	Daughter of <a href="#">To-no-Chujo</a> .
Lady Ichijo	<a href="#">37</a> , <a href="#">39</a>	Mother of the <a href="#">Second Princess</a>
Lady of Rokujo	<a href="#">4</a> , <a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">10</a> , <a href="#">14</a>	Lover of Genji. Insulted by <a href="#">Aoi-no-Ue</a> , she sent her an evil spirit, causing her death.
Lieutenant	<a href="#">44</a>	Son of <a href="#">Yugiri</a> , he felt in love with the oldest daughter of <a href="#">Tamakazura</a> .
Little Princess Akashi	<a href="#">14</a> , <a href="#">18</a> , <a href="#">19</a> , <a href="#">22</a> , <a href="#">32</a>	Daughter of Genji and <a href="#">Princess Akashi</a> .
Makibashira	<a href="#">31</a> , <a href="#">43</a>	Daughter of <a href="#">Higeguro</a> . Second wife of the <a href="#">Azechidainagon</a> .
Murasaki-no-Ue	<a href="#">5</a> , <a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">7</a> , <a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">12</a> , <a href="#">13</a> ,	Niece of <a href="#">Fujitsubo</a> and daughter of <a href="#">Prince Hyobu</a> . Genji takes her

	<a href="#">19</a> , <a href="#">20</a> , <a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">24</a> , <a href="#">34</a> , <a href="#">35</a> , <a href="#">40</a>	to his home when she was still a young girl. She later becomes his second wife, after the death of <a href="#">Aoi-no-Ue</a> .
Myo-bu	<a href="#">1</a> , <a href="#">5</a> , <a href="#">10</a>	Messenger between the old Emperor and his grandmother.
Naishi	<a href="#">7</a>	Maid to the Emperor Kiritsubo. She become a lover of Genji.
Nakanokimi	<a href="#">47</a> , <a href="#">48</a> , <a href="#">51</a>	Younger daughter of the <a href="#">Eighth prince</a> . Her older sister <a href="#">Oigimi</a> tried to make <a href="#">Kaoru</a> marry her. At <a href="#">Kaoru</a> 's insistence <a href="#">Niou</a> become attracted to her, who took her as his wife. She gave birth to a son.
Niou	<a href="#">41</a> , <a href="#">42</a> , <a href="#">43</a> , <a href="#">46</a> , <a href="#">47</a> , <a href="#">48</a> , <a href="#">49</a> , <a href="#">50</a> , <a href="#">51</a> , <a href="#">52</a> , <a href="#">54</a>	Third son of the Emperor. At the insistence of <a href="#">Kaoru</a> he become attracted to <a href="#">Nakanokimi</a> , whom he married. He later also married <a href="#">Rokunokimi</a> , the sixth daughter of <a href="#">Yugiri</a> . He become attracted to
Oborozukiyo	<a href="#">8</a> , <a href="#">10</a> , <a href="#">12</a> , <a href="#">34</a>	Sixth daughter of the Minister of the Right. Become a lover of Genji in a fortuitous situation, while engaged to marry the crown prince.
Oigimi	<a href="#">45</a> , <a href="#">47</a> , <a href="#">48</a> , <a href="#">49</a> , <a href="#">50</a>	Older daughter of the <a href="#">Eighth prince</a> . <a href="#">Kaoru</a> was attracted to her but he wanted him to marry <a href="#">Nakanokimi</a> , her younger sister.
Omi-no-kimi	<a href="#">26</a>	Daughter of <a href="#">To-no-Chujo</a> .
Prince Hotaru	<a href="#">12</a> , <a href="#">17</a> , <a href="#">25</a> , <a href="#">29</a> , <a href="#">30</a> , <a href="#">32</a> , <a href="#">34</a> , <a href="#">38</a>	Brother of Genji
Prince Hyobu	<a href="#">5</a>	Father of <a href="#">Murasaki-no-Ue</a> . Brother or <a href="#">Fujitsubo</a> .
Princess Akashi	<a href="#">13</a> , <a href="#">14</a> , <a href="#">18</a> , <a href="#">19</a> , <a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">22</a> , <a href="#">32</a> , <a href="#">34</a> , <a href="#">35</a> , <a href="#">40</a> , <a href="#">41</a>	Daughter of a monk in Suma. Become Genji's lover. Mother of his daughter and, later, of his son. This son will then became Crown Prince.
Princess Hitachi	<a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">7</a> , <a href="#">15</a> , <a href="#">23</a>	Her name was Suetsumuhana. Also known as the Safflower princess. Genji was briefly attracted to her. He also felt sorry for her and helped support her.
Reikeiden	<a href="#">11</a>	One of Emperor Kiritsubo ladies
Rokunokimi	<a href="#">49</a>	Sixth daughter of <a href="#">Yugiri</a> . Married <a href="#">Niou</a> .
Second Princess	<a href="#">36</a> , <a href="#">37</a> , <a href="#">39</a>	Daughter of former Emperor Suzaku and of <a href="#">Lady Ichizo</a> . Wife of <a href="#">Kashiwagi</a> .
Second Princess (II)	<a href="#">49</a>	Daughter of the Emperor. Married <a href="#">Kaoru</a> .
Shikibukyo	<a href="#">31</a>	Father in law of <a href="#">Higeguro</a> .
Shonagon	<a href="#">5</a> , <a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">12</a>	Nurse of <a href="#">Murasaki-no-Ue</a> . Mother of <a href="#">Ben</a> .

Taifunogen	<a href="#">22</a>	Young gallant of Kyushiu.
Tamakazura	<a href="#">2, 4, 21, 22, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 43, 44</a>	Daughter of <a href="#">Yugao</a> and <a href="#">To-no-Chujo</a> . Raised by her nurse, she was later adopted by Genji. Later she married General <a href="#">Higeguro</a> . His older daughter attracted both <a href="#">Kaoru</a> and the <a href="#">lieutenant</a> , son of <a href="#">Yugiri</a> .
Tayu	<a href="#">6</a>	Nun of Genji's old nurse.
Third Princess	<a href="#">33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 45</a>	Daughter of former Emperor Suzaku. Marries Genji and betrays him with <a href="#">Kashiwagi</a> . Of this illicit love a son, <a href="#">Kaoru</a> , is born. Ashamed, she then become a nun.
To-no-Chujo	<a href="#">1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 17, 22, 26, 29, 33, 34, 35, 43, 49</a>	Brother of <a href="#">Aoi-no-Ue</a> , and so brother in law of Genji, of whom he was friend. Father of <a href="#">Azechidainagon</a> , <a href="#">Kashiwagi</a> , <a href="#">Kumoinokari</a> , <a href="#">Omi-no-kimi</a> and <a href="#">Tamakazura</a> .
Tokikata	<a href="#">51, 52</a>	Companion of <a href="#">Niou</a> , helped him to contact <a href="#">Ukifune</a> .
Ukifune	<a href="#">49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54</a>	Stepsister of <a href="#">Oigimi</a> . Both <a href="#">Kaoru</a> and <a href="#">Niou</a> become attracted to her and jostled for her love. Unable to stand the stress of the situation she threw herself to the river, and was given up for dead. She later reappeared and become a nun.
Ukon	<a href="#">4, 22</a>	Maid to <a href="#">Yugao</a> .
Ukon (II)	<a href="#">51, 52</a>	Maid to <a href="#">Ukifune</a> .
Utsusemi	<a href="#">2, 3, 16</a>	Wife of the father of the governor of Kii in Kyoto. Older sister of <a href="#">Kokimi</a> . Genji is attracted to her.
Yoshikiyo	<a href="#">12, 13, 14</a>	Officer in Suma. Helped Genji when he was exiled.
Yugao	<a href="#">2, 4, 22</a>	Lover of <a href="#">To-no-Chujo</a> . Mother of <a href="#">Tamakazura</a> . Later become lover of Genji. Killed by a spirit, Genji fell ill because her death.
Yugiri	<a href="#">9, 12, 14, 21, 25, 26, 28, 30, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 46, 47, 49</a>	Son of Genji and <a href="#">Aoi-no-Ue</a> , born just before his mother's death. He is attracted by <a href="#">Kumoinokari</a> , whom she marries. Friend of <a href="#">Kashiwagi</a> . After his friend died he become attracted to his wife, the <a href="#">Second Princess</a> , but the affair his folded by <a href="#">Kumoinokari</a> . He had a son who become <a href="#">lieutenant</a> , and a daughter, <a href="#">Rokunokimi</a> , who married <a href="#">Niou</a> .