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TOPIC

2021 Seoul International Book Fair (SIBF)

Theme - 굿닛:斷續 punctuation

Written by Kim Sun-Mi
(International & Project Department, Korean Publishers Association)

The 2021 Seoul International Book Fair (SIBF) is set open at S-Factory in Seongsu-dong for 5 days from September 8th to 12th under the theme of “굿닛:斷續 punctuation.” This year’s fair will have its role as “market” complemented, which was assessed to be lacking in last year’s fair when it was open online for the first time due to the pandemic. In addition, reflecting the readers’ demands for an offline meeting, this year’s fair will be more compact though smaller in size compared to last year.

굿닛:斷續 punctuation

The theme of the 2021 Seoul International Book Fair “굿닛” read as “*gutnit*” is an old Korean word meaning close to the state of “intermittent,” pausing and continuing repeatedly. It also has the meaning of comma (,) and full stop (.).

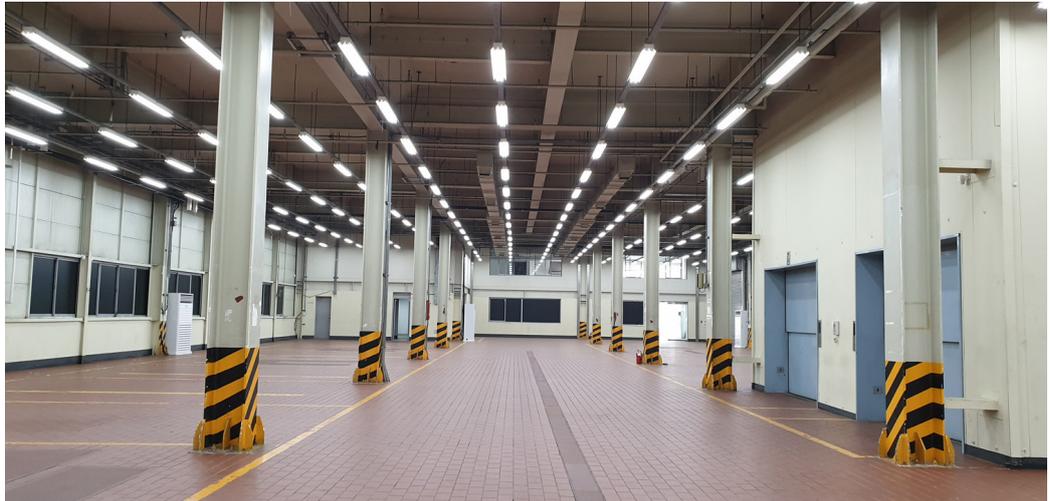
Topic of 2021 SIBF

At this juncture, the 2021 Seoul International Book Fair approaches. While vaccines and medical treatments are being developed at lightning speed, rapidly emerging one after the other, the next step remains unclear. Which punctuation can be used at this point? It may be a period to indicate a full stop or a comma that grants us temporary rest before we continue with our previous lives. Perhaps it is a colon that signals clarification about human existence, or a question mark to query the issues inherent in our lives. This year, we are in search of a new path connecting the disconnected at this time of utmost caution with a yearning for connection.

The Seoul International Book Fair shifted the venue from COEX (convention center) to S-Factory for safety and the exclusive concept of the book fair this year. The regional characteristics of Seongsu-dong where it used to be a factory area in the past, and of S-Factory, which was formerly a car repair shop, will be blended for the concept of “warehouse.” Tables for participants will be made of pallet racks, standard materials in warehouses. Also, “pre-cycled” items will be used for interior structures utilizing ready-made goods, minimizing trash thrown away after the fair. This is an improvement from last year’s fair, where installations could not be reused afterward.



Sector A, the exhibition hall



View inside sector D, which will be used as a marketplace for participants
* Previously used as a car repair shop

For the book fair's PR ambassadors who are usually under the spotlight of readers' attention, novelist Chung Se-Rang, biologist Choi Je-Cheon, and musician Hwang So-Yoon will be joining this year. They will be taking a photograph for the main poster and have discussions with readers on-site about the fair's theme "*gutnit* (punctuation)" Also, architect Noh Eun-Joo, actress Moon So-Ri, and performance artist Lee Ja-Ram will be standing on the stage as keynote speakers. This year's SIBF will be a venue for

people to have discussions and thoughts about the topic from various viewpoints by expanding the topic into not only books but also cultural art.

Meanwhile, experts from each field will open “topic seminars” where they link key points of the current generation with the theme and look at them from various perspectives, examining social phenomenons from various angles.



Main poster of 2021 SIBF (from left, novelist Chung Se-Rang, musician Hwang So-Yoon, and biologist Choi Je-Cheon)

Various programs to be open at the Seoul International Book Fair

The program “Time with Authors” will be inviting more writers from overseas online for participants to interact in real-time, as it is difficult to meet them offline due to the pandemic. Bernard Werber, one of the most beloved foreign authors in Korea, Jonas Jonasson, no.1 author in Sweden (*The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* (The Open Books Co.)), Douglas Kennedy (*The Big Picture* (Balgunsesang)),

Chan Ho-kei (13.67 (Hans Media)), and a number of other foreign writers will be joining Korean readers through on-site live programs and pre-produced videos. Also, representative Korean writers such as novelist Han Kang and Chung Yu-Jung will also take part, enriching the book fair. Plus, through the programs and events designed by publishers, the participants, it will be a festive fair where publishers, authors, and readers communicate both online and offline.

The 2021 Seoul International Book Fair will be presenting the expansive nature of books linked in various forms as colorful contents including “*Gutnit* (punctuation): New World’s Coming,” the topic exhibition, “Best Book Design from all over the World and Korea (BBDWK),” and e-book exhibition.

In “*Gutnit: New World’s Coming*,” which reflects the theme of the fair “*gutnit* (punctuation),” the exhibition will be in the style of an archive that reviews the 70-year-history of SIBF launched in 1946. The exhibition will serve as a window where we can take a sneak peek at the advancement of the publishing industry and social growth, looking back at the traces of the fair’s history in which the fair halted and stopped in between time but got back on track again soon.

Meanwhile, the “Best Book Design from all over the World and Korea (BBDWK)” exhibition offers a chance to take a detailed look at what elements make a book beautiful by displaying the winners of the Best Book Design in Korea Contest hosted in cooperation with Goethe-Institut of Germany, winners of the Best Book Design from all over the World Contest in 2021, and all-time

winners of the best prize “GOLDEN LETTER.”

Also an e-book exhibition will be held focusing on webtoons and webnovels, the original sources for IP in the story business, by expanding the scope of e-books. It offers readers various opportunities to experience programs combined with digital technologies.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 34 – Article on the “Best Book Design in Korea Contest”

Meet the 2021 Seoul International Book Fair through Books

Program “Book-City-Stroll,” designed for readers that are unable to attend the offline book fair to join in, will be run in Daejun, Busan, and Jeju this year after improving the scheme from last year where it was only run in Seoul. A total of 139 bookstores (71 from Seoul, 13 from Daejun, 24 from Busan, and 31 from Jeju) will participate, and more readers will be able to enjoy the book fair through the programs and stamp events prepared by each bookstore.

Plus, some books will be meeting the readers for the first time at the book fair, and some others will only be available during the fair. For example, *Sweets but Sours* will be exclusively premiering ten new titles during the five days of the book fair. Readers will be the first to meet the books and authors debuting at the book fair. Also, *Oldies but Newies* will be introducing re-covered editions of books, the hidden gems that readers did not know or loved for a long time. These books will be exclusively showcased at the SIBF. Meanwhile, *Limited Edition* is the book fair’s original content where the fair requests authors to write a book with

the fair's topic as the keyword. Produced in small quantity, this year's *Limited Edition* will include works of 27 authors, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, photograph, and plays.

On top of all this, the Seoul International Book Fair runs the SIBF Rights Center (rights-center.sibf.or.kr) in a bid to establish a network for domestic and foreign publication and culture industries through the exchange of copyright import and export. Shifted from offline to online, it provides a platform for anyone to have counseling on copyright export regardless of time and space. Private online meetings based on pre-registered information will take place to expand export routes of domestic publication rights. Also, the participants will have a moment to examine the changes and possibilities in the publishing industry, along with ways to respond to such cases, through the online seminar where publishing trends and issues at both home and abroad are shared.

This year's SIBF will only receive a limited number of visitors adhering to the COVID-19 guidelines of the government. Tickets for the offline book fair are available on Naver, and during the pre-reservation period from July 23rd to August 31st, they are to be offered at a discounted price. Please refer to the website and Instagram for more information on the programs and details.

Website sibf.or.kr/2021

Instagram [@sibf_2021](https://www.instagram.com/sibf_2021)

SPECIAL PROJECT

Protect the Ecosystem and Environment with Books**Earth, the planet we must protect**Written by Kang Chan-Hwi

Climate crisis, zero waste, and sustainability; these are keywords commonly found these days. They seem to have become more common after the outbreak of COVID-19, as more people are interested in environmental issues due to this unprecedented disease. Also, as the social distancing period is extended, the increasing amount of daily trash such as plastic and single-use products rose as a social issue. Alert consumers are actively participating in solving environmental problems by carrying out campaigns such as zero waste, using environment-friendly products, and carrying reusable containers instead to reduce single-use packages. Efforts continue in the publishing industry as well. With public interest, books about ecosystems and the environment increased greatly. Also, books about the environment and zero waste are published, interacting

with readers. Following is an introduction to books about the environment, featuring various ideas and practices for protecting Earth and the environment, which has become a duty more than just a trend.

Step by step towards zero waste

Zero waste is a hot topic in many media outlets with much public attention. Still, it is never easy to practice it in daily life, as it's hard to give up the convenience of using single-use products.



It's My First Zero Waste, For You Who Start a Harmless day, Because We Are Not Single-Use

The book *It's My First Zero Waste* (Panmidong (Minumsa)) is the author's 5-year-long zero-waste record. The author provides a detailed explanation about ways to practice zero waste in daily life, such as eating out, make-up, and recycling, for novice “zero-wasters.” It will be of great help for those thinking of becoming a “zero-waster” and those who agree about issues such as

climate change and a sustainable society but do not know how to respond to them. We might not be able to reduce trash by 100%, but if you are thinking about how to throw away less garbage, you are already a “zero-waster.”

Meanwhile, there are people who believe in the power of little practices rather than resigning to the current situation. For example, *For You Who Start a Harmless Day* (Bottle Press) enlightens readers that cynical smiles do not change anything, but proceeding with little movements can make great changes. The author introduces herself as a “reductionist” who makes the world a better place no matter how imperfect one might be. She looks for better ways, recognizing that things she does for the environment have several sides. Perhaps a good world is created when little efforts to protect the ordinary daily life gather – rather than great power?

The book *Because We Are Not Single-Use* (Slobbie) focuses on disposable products thrown away in large quantities. The author, an environmentalist, wrote this book dreaming of a world where not a single thing or person is treated as garbage. Plastic gives us convenience, but it eventually turns into trash and destroys nature, not to mention building up inside our bodies and the Earth. The author desperately shouts to the world in front of the damaged environment and offers ways to live “plastic-free” in this society full of trash. Our world will become clearer if we pay heed to the determined voice of the author.

It's okay not to be an expert, if only we have an interest in it

Even a tiny amount of interest in daily life can change the world. Individuals' interests become the community's interest, and then the society's. Such interests have always led the world in a better direction.



There's Going To Be Only Plastic Left on Earth!, Omniscient Earth, Teen Expert: Climate Change

There's Going To Be Only Plastic Left on Earth! (Book Sense) is a book that discusses such interests. The book explains all types of plastic produced with different additives and how to remove substances left inside, detach labels, and recycle them properly. Also, readers will be able to understand that there's no plastic on Earth that entirely decomposes. It is time we, as individuals and as a society, all have an interest in the environment, keeping in mind the warning from Earth, and giving up a bit of convenience. There's a saying, "Put yourself in someone else's shoes." It means to think from the other person's point of view. The

book *Omniscient Earth* (Woods of Mind's Books) is a book that encourages readers to review their life from the perspective of Earth, just like the title. Thinking from Earth's side means recognizing Earth as a living being and looking back on how we're living our daily lives on it. This book helps readers change the little things we do every day from the Earth's point of view. Of course, it doesn't force them to do so. The readers, you, can just do as much as you can, as there's nothing more complicated than modern people's lives. If your life is so full of things, you can start by making some space – reducing unnecessary consumption and pursuing a minimal life. The humane interest in Earth, though it might be small, will be the first step to saving the world.

The age group that is most sensitive and active in responding to climate change is teens. The teenagers, the next generation to live in an uncertain future induced by climate change, are already aware of how serious it is right now and have started to take action. The book *Teen Expert: Climate Change* (Pulbit) is about the environment and ecosystem written in accessible language for teens to understand. It uncovers the reality of climate change seen from the eyes of science and emphasizes that it is not climate “change” but a “crisis.” It implies that we can overcome this crisis by making little actions – the “climate action.” Teenagers are already changing the world by taking climate action. How about learning about the climate change they are paying attention to and seek ways to solve it through this book?

Environment-related picture books for the future

Efforts to protect the environment and ecosystems are drawn as picture books as well. Perhaps picture books are the medium that talks about the most important environmental issues for future generations in a serious but warm and touching tone.



We Exist Everywhere, Our Island, Tuvalu, The Half Island

The book *We Exist Everywhere* (Liri) is a picture book where you can listen to the story of forests, rivers, and various animals and learn that we all live together. Their different voices acknowledge that humanity coexists on this planet with other valuable beings. And it also gives us a wake-up call that our perfectly normal actions could be driving them to extinction. Readers will have a chance to think deeply about whether they have been ignorant of how precious other beings are, blinded by convenience and entertainment. And they might be able to take a whole new view towards the relationship among people, animals, rivers, and forests through the book.

Meanwhile, *Our Island, Tuvalu* (CrayonHouse Co., Ltd.) is a

story about Tuvalu, an island in the South Pacific ocean far away from us, which is in danger of submerging under the ocean due to global warming. Kids on the island live with nature as their partner, but they might be losing their homes due to adults destroying nature on the other side of Earth. This book raises the alarm about such a tragic situation and encourages its readers to mull over ways to solve global warming. How about we practice climate actions in life with children, though small, for Tuvalu which is in danger?

The book *The Half Island* (SOWONDAMU PUBLISHING) is about five siblings wandering in the ocean before settling on a safe and warm island. In the story, the five siblings recklessly throw away garbage and turn a blind eye to their contamination of the island to the extent that the island becomes uninhabitable for them, let alone the living beings that settled there long before them. The book shows how serious the situation we are in is, not to mention Earth's current condition, through the five siblings symbolizing humanity. It also implies that we must cure and protect our sick Earth before it becomes a barren land where nothing can live.

Interest in climate change, environmental pollution, and the ecosystem is steadily increasing. As more teenagers are taking climate actions mainly led by Greta Thunberg, Korean teens are also making efforts for the environment with support from adults. If such small efforts gather to make great power, we might be able to ease the pain of Earth through the accumulation of small actions.

EXPORT CASE

**Korean Books Loved by
German Readers**

Written by Lee Ki-Hyang (Korean-German translator)

K-pop and K-drama are hot in Germany as well. According to a news article released by Yonhap News Agency on February 9 this year, the number of freshmen choosing to study Korean Studies at the Free University of Berlin, Germany, increased from 25 in 2008 to 350 in 2021. Also, we are receiving almost 200 applicants for the Korean class open at the Language Center of the Technical University of Munich each semester where I'm teaching students. On top of these two cases, I can also recall the days where we struggled and worked so hard to find a publisher that would accept our first translated book in 1993. This is why the recent boom in Germany about Korean culture, including the language and literature, is more vivid to me.

Korean literature has been translated and published in Germany mainly with the support of the Daesan Foundation and the

Literature Translation Institute of Korea. It received attention in 2005 when Korea was selected as the guest of honor at Frankfurt Book Fair and introduced about 100 titles, but it was short-lived. It is not an exaggeration to say that the immense interest in Korean literature of the German literary circle began with *The Vegetarian* (Changbi Publishers, Inc.), written by Han Kang in 2016. The book's winning of the Man Booker International Prize brought about a huge sensation across Germany, which was not a common thing at all. Media outlets were eager to talk about the book as soon as its German edition was published, and even critics that had little understanding of Korean literature enthusiastically reviewed the book. It was the moment when Korean literature began to show its commercial potential, moving out of the shadow into the spotlight.



German edition of *The Vegetarian*, *Human Acts*, *Your Cold Hands*, *The White Book*

The Vegetarian had its literary value proved once again when it became a shortlist nominee for the international literary award (Der Internationale Literaturpreis – Haus der Kulturen der Welt,

grants 35,000 EUR (about 45 million KRW)) in 2017 presented by the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW, House of the Cultures of the World). As the venue for international cultural exchange for modern non-Europeans supported by the German government, the HKW selects one of the literary works translated into German and awards its writer and the translator as a team. The German publisher of *The Vegetarian*, Aufbau Verlag, has been introducing one of Han Kang's works every year, including *Human Acts* (Changbi Publishers, Inc.), *Your Cold Hands* (Munji Books), and *The White Book* (Munhakdongne Publishing). And the German literary world's interest in her and her books remains heated.

Before *The Vegetarian* made its debut in Germany, the German edition of *Seven Years of Darkness* (EunHaeng NaMu), a full-length fiction of Jeong You-Jeong, was chosen to be listed on the reading list of detective fictions announced by *Die Zeit* – a popular weekly newspaper in Germany, for the first time as Korean detective fiction. The publisher of the book, Unions in Switzerland, has been actively introducing world literature in Germany and has published other Korean books such as *The Good Son* (EunHaeng NaMu) of writer Jeong You-Jeong, Oh Jeong-Hee's *Bird* (Munji Books), Lee Mun-Yeol's *Our Twisted Hero*, and Lee Seung-Woo's *Private Life of Plants* (Munhakdongne Publishing).

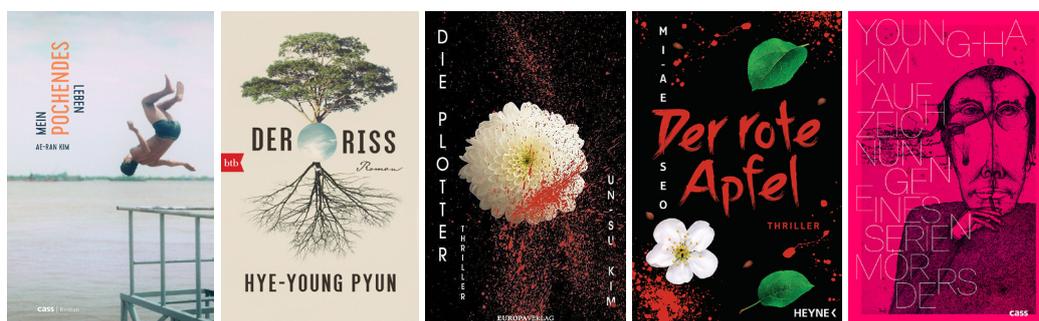


German edition of *Seven Years of Darkness*, *The Good Son*, *Bird*, *Our Twisted Hero*, *Private Life of Plants*

Writer Oh Jeong-Hee was the first Korean author to win the LiBeratur Award (liberaturpreis) in 2003 presented by Litprom, an organization that promotes literature from Asia, Africa, and South America. This literary award that awards one female writer each year was first presented in 1987 with an aim to promote Asian, African, and South American literature in Germany. Other works of Korean female writers have been nominated for the award after writer Oh Jeong-He. For example, Kim Ae-Ran's *My Palpitating Life* (Changbi Publishers, Inc.) and Han Kang's *Human Acts* were nominated in 2017, and Jeong You-Jeong's *The Good Son* and Pyun Hye-Young's *The Hole* (Munji Books) had the honor in 2020.

Starting with writer Jeong You-Jeong, Korean thriller writers have been making notable accomplishments in Germany for the past several years. Kim Un-Su's *The Plotters* (Munhakdongne Publishing), which surprised the Korean literary circle for its hundreds of millions of won of contract fee in the United States, was published by Europa Verlag in Germany in 2018, after which it was added to the reading list of detective fiction by *Die Zeit*,

drawing a positive reaction from many media outlets. Also, the publication rights of Suh Mi-Ae's *Good Night Mom* (Elixir) were sold at 50 thousand euros in advance to publisher Heyne Verlag. Kim Young-Ha's *A Murderers' Mnemonics* (Munhakdongne Publishing) also received good reviews when it was published in 2020 by Cass Verlag. The head of the publisher, Cass, who majored in Japanese, said she decided to publish *A Murderer's Mnemonics* in Germany when she read the first sentence of its Japanese edition at a booth installed by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea (LTI) at Frankfurt Book Fair. The book earned her the Hotlist Award in Germany that year.



German edition of *My Palpitating Life*, *The Hole*, *The Plotters*, *Good Night Mom*, *A Murderer's Mnemonics*

Publisher Europa that owns a number of imprint brands, is the one that has been producing the greatest number of Korean literary works in Germany. For example, beginning with Haemin Sunim's *The Things You Can See Only When You Slow Down* (Suo Books) in 2017, it has been showing much interest and love in Korean literature with other books of Haemin Sunim, including *Love for Imperfect Things* (Suo Books), *Haemin*

Sunim's Warm Cheer (Suo Books), and *The Things That Shine Brighter When It's Silence* (Suo Books), not to mention Kim Un-Su's *The Boiling Blood* (Munhakdongne Publishing), Ryu Shiva's *Good or Bad, Who Knows?* (The Forest Book), Eo Dan-Bi's *Eclipse* (CABINET), Hwang Suk Yeong's *Shim Chung, The Way of the Lotus* (Munhakdongne Publishing) and *Dusk* (Munhakdongne Publishing), and Ryu Shiva's *Birds Don't Look Back As They Fly* (The Forest Book) scheduled to be published in fall this year.



German edition of *The Things You Can See Only When You Slow Down*, *Love for Imperfect Things*, *Haemin Sunim's Warm Cheer*, *The Things That Shine Brighter When It's Silence*



German edition of *Good or Bad, Who Knows?*, *Birds Don't Look Back As They Fly*, *Shim Chung, The Way of the Lotus*, *Dusk*

If Han Kang's *The Vegetarian* gave a fresh shock to the German literary world in 2016, Cho Nam Joo's *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* (Minumsa), followed in her footsteps in 2021. The book, which received focused attention from various media outlets when it was published in February, printed a whopping 35 thousand copies in only two months. This implies that the issues the book covers are universal and that not only Koreans but also German readers can relate to them.

Also, writer Shin Kyung-Sook's *Please Look After Mom* (Changbi Publishers, Inc.) and North Korean writer Bandi's *The Accusation* (Dasan Books) published by Piper Verlag in 2014, writer Lee Ji-Min's *The Starlet and the Spy: A Novel* (That Book Co.) published by Harper Collins in 2020, Korean American writer Lee Min-Jin's *Pachinko* (Grand Central Publishing), and writer Hwang Sun-Mi's *The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly* (SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.) are still beloved as well.



German edition of *The Boiling Blood*, *Eclipse*, *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*, *Please Look After Mom*



German edition of *The Accusation*, *The Starlet and the Spy: A Novel*, *Pachinko*,
The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly

When I began my career as a translator, it was almost impossible to find a Korean literary work that was translated into German. Therefore it is astonishing and fun to experience the advancement of Korean literature in the German literary world as a person who has been translating works into German for the past 20 years. I hope that more Korean literature is translated and meets more various German readers.

BOOK TRIP

Dangjin, Chungcheongnam-do

A city of daily leisure

Written by Lee Ji-Hyeon



Dangjin-si, or Dangjin City, located in the northernmost coastal area of Chungcheongnam-do, got its name from the region's history of a harbor city that used to be the gateway to Tang during the Silla Dynasty. It neighbors Asan and Seosan of Chungcheongnam-do to the East and West respectively. As it

faces Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi-do Province, to the North, it is the first region people reach when they ride down the Seohaean Expressway out of the province. The vast ocean spreads out to the South, and you can have a good time on the foreshore by renting gear at local stores. Waegok Village is the only place in Korea where you can enjoy sunrise, sunset, and moonrise at one spot, making it the perfect place to relish leisurely time. As such, Dangjin-si has recently become a rising star on the west coast, offering various things to see and enjoy. Every part of Dangjin-si is full of unique regional characteristics and charm, such as the AMI Art Museum – formerly an abolished school, Goljeongji – a beautiful pond decorated with cherry blossoms in spring and lotus in summer, Nanjido Beach- a famous ecological repository inside the island, and Sapgyoho Tourist Spot – a tourist destination where people can embrace the lake and ocean along with Seohae Bridge in one glance. Following is an introduction of some bookstores in Dangjin, which catch our eyes with different appeals alongside tourist spots.

A symbol of transformation and effort: DangJin Books

DangJin Books, opened in 1988, is the oldest bookstore in Dangjin-si, where the daughter of the founder, her father, took over his family business. Just like the bold resolution of the bookstore owner to make DangJin Books the representative bookstore in the city, it is the first bookstore that comes to mind when thinking of bookstores in Dangjin-si. The efforts of the

bookstore owners – the father and daughter – are infused in the bookstore where they identify the different needs of customers in line with the changing era with their weapon of consistency. People who find DangJin Books are mainly students and parents who come to purchase reference books for school, as the bookstore is located in the old town, central and in between schools. Hence, it is full of diverse books for anyone to enjoy as well as reference books. While bookstores that focus on reference books tend to reduce shelves for monographs, DangJin Books has been steadily increasing their number for more people to enjoy various books. From several years ago, the bookstore has been hosting various cultural events with hopes for DangJin Books to serve as a venue where people can embrace regional culture rather than as mere booksellers. One day, they learned about the support project hosted by the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA) for cultural activities of local bookstores, after which they removed stands and brought in tables instead. The bookstore manager hesitated at first as stands have a close relationship with sales, but it was a good decision as visitors showed a positive response. DangJin Books has been hosting “*Dalbit Dokseo* (meaning ‘reading under the moonlight’),” where they keep the bookstore open until late at night for more citizens, such as students and workers who have spare time in the later part of the day, to read books at ease. As more people participated in the program than the manager expected, the meeting has been held for three years. This has

been a meaningful time for the bookstore manager to think about the potential of bookstores.



Views of DangJin Books

Meanwhile, there's a seminar room in one corner open for free. Anyone can use it after making a reservation. And next to the seminar room, there's a place that promotes coexistence with local residents. DangJin Books seeks various ways to coexist with the neighborhood, cooperating with local residents such as opening classes with workshop owners or lecture-at-your-service providers in town and selling hand-made kits. The bookstore manager said it is hard to find the right balance between her will to invest more in cultural activities and reality. She began to think about the strengths of DangJin Books and herself as more small- and large-sized bookstores were established in Dangjin-si from several years ago. As a result, she decided to run diverse events to create a bond of sympathy with people aged between their 20s and 40s, similar to her age. Interacting and communing with peers were great fun for the manager as well. The keyword of the bookstore she dreams of is “a casual mill for sparrows.” She hopes DangJin Books becomes a place where people can stop by

anytime they want without pressure to buy books – dropping by for a short talk and getting their body chilled with the cool air on hot summer days. In fact, there’s a mill behind the bookstore where an old woman squeezes oil with sparrows stopping by in between. As such, the bookstore manager hopes DangJin Books to be a place with a low barrier for local residents.



Views of DangJin Books

A place where your mind rests: Ancient Futures

Bookstore Ancient Futures, located in “*myeon* (administrative unit in South Korea similar to the unit of town),” is a place where the name suits perfectly with its exterior and interior design. While the book-lover bookstore owner was looking around for an appropriate spot to open Ancient Futures, he found this spot and soon thought of the book *Ancient Futures* (Joongang Books) by Helena Norberg-Hodge. This was how the bookstore got its name. As the author talks about various stories from the Ladakh region in the book, bookstore Ancient Futures also reflects the owner’s will to create a true future dreamed by various people who meet through the medium called “books,” an old item, and

“Myeoncheon-eup,” the region with old stories. Most visitors are aged between their 20s and 50s, and moms find the bookstore to buy a book for their child or picture books suitable for prenatal education. Also, some people are attracted by the power space has. The current location of Ancient Futures is where there used to be an old bicycle shop in town. The landlord designed the rooms in a peculiar structure where it is difficult to find a similar style anywhere else in the country. Bookstore Ancient Futures used this structure and displayed book collections the owner likes along with new books on the first floor, placed old comic books and graphic novels on the second floor, and put chairs and a swing where people can sit and read books conveniently on the rooftop. Hence, the 20s find the bookstore to enjoy the retro-style space and the 40s and 50s come to recall memories from the past. Recently, as the bookstore went viral along with the cultural heritage of Myeoncheon-eup, Ancient Futures is receiving more visitors as the must-go spot in the township. Bookstore Ancient Futures is a good place for bookstore tours, dates, and for sharing memories across generations.



Views of Ancient Futures

An unusual thing about the bookstore is that it doesn't do online marketing at all. It doesn't have an account on any Social Media, which is deemed a common channel for advertisement. Ancient Futures sticks to an analog system where you must visit the bookstore in person to learn about new releases, news, and programs it runs. Nonetheless, people love going to Ancient Futures because of the special curations it offers. As various age groups find the bookstore, the owner chooses and curates books that many people can relate to. Books brought in by the owner are from diverse fields, except professional practical books, but are mainly fiction. Many of the books in Ancient Futures are mind-soothing, with stories about women, moms, and parents. One of the eye-catching books the bookstore manager recommends is *The Lost Soul* (Sakyejul), a picture book by Joanna Concejo. As a story about a man who takes enough rest to find his body living a busy life and his soul can't catch up with the body, the book suggests busy modern people need some time to breathe. The bookstore manager hopes Ancient Futures to be a place where the man, from the book, stays and rests waiting for his soul – a comfortable place, where people can rest their minds for a moment. Various classes are held in the bookstore as well. As the owner wanted to make the bookstore a cultural space rather than a mere bookstore even before setting it up, various classes are steadily open at Ancient Futures, including history, knitting, and calligraphy classes, not to mention book talks. The number has dropped significantly since last year due to the pandemic, but it still ran a small book talk in June this

year when the situation temporarily got better. If things are good, it is planning to open classes in September and December as well. In particular, the DIY book-making class for independent publishing opened in September last year could reap fruition as two of the participants published their books. Hence, Ancient Futures is planning to continue opening fine classes for local residents to enjoy various cultural activities.



Second floor (left) and rooftop (right) of Ancient Futures

A place filled with children's laughter: Han Sunye's Dreaming Stories

Bookstore Han Sunye's Dreaming Stories, located in Shinpyeong Traditional Market, is a place filled with the laughter of children, for children. The owner majored in early childhood education as she loved kids and worked as a teacher at a kindergarten. Then, she went to a graduate school to become a better teacher and eventually became a professor teaching literature for children based on on-the-ground experience and expertise. Then, in December 2017, she opened a picture book store with her name on it. The bookstore's name was inspired by the autograph of Ryu Je-Su, a writer she respected. His message "Dear Dreaming

Han Sunye” resonated powerfully in her heart. When she was working at the kindergarten, when she was reading books for children, and when she was studying in graduate school, she was always dreaming. So, there was always the idea that she will write the verb “dream” in present progressive as “dreaming” when she does something. And she named the bookstore “dreaming stories” with hopes to make the space filled with great stories. She opened the bookstore thinking that as she fell in love with picture books, anyone would do so when they indulge in reading one. However, her passion alone was not enough. As it was difficult to make profits by just running the bookstore, she had to work as a teacher at a kindergarten, childcare teacher, part-time instructor, and freelance worker and run the bookstore on the weekend or at night. Her closest people were the customers, and her co-working teachers and students who recognized her pride in picture books began to visit the bookstore. And now, there are more visitors at Han Sunye’s Dreaming Stories participating in various programs such as meet & greet and art-print exhibitions.



Views of Han Sunye's Dreaming Stories

The bookstore manager's love for picture books has never changed since she decided to major in early childhood education. If she, at first, liked picture books as a means to communicate with children and have easy and fun activities, now they have become inseparable as she loves picture books as much as children. As she is a teacher, she has a special standard when curating books. She should be able to use the books to have fun activities and communicate with children. She also introduces how to have a class with picture books and what fun activities they can enjoy with them. That's why the majority of customers are children, parents, and kindergarten teachers. As picture books have become ever more popular these days, teachers of low- and high-grade elementary school students find the bookstore more often. A better way to enjoy Han Sunye's Dreaming Stories to the fullest is by making a reservation in advance. As the space is quite limited, the manager accepts only a few people to enter at once, adhering to the social-distancing measures of COVID-19. Also, Han Sunye's Dreaming Stories recommends the right books for visitors after the manager has enough talks with the one that will be reading the books, identifying their age and interests. And as the manager reads the stories with her unique, bright voice, kids who are not that fond of reading books come to accept it as a form of play. The manager picks "communication" as the keyword of the bookstore. It means that once you come around and have fun conversations, people will feel the bookstore is not just a home

for books but a place where stories are alive. To become a bookstore that kids want to come again, and a bookstore that offers a comfortable space where grown-ups can turn into a child when their minds are exhausted, Han Sunye's Dreaming Books is again, open wide today.



Views inside Han Sunye's Dreaming Stories

ONE-LINER QUOTES

BookTuber's Pick: A Book-to-Read During Summer Vacation

Written by Lee Ga-Hee
(Owner of Youtube channel "Chaekilkjira (Reading Jiayi)",
Head of NEWDHOT)



On a Moonlit Night, at Hansungbu

Written by Kim Isak, Gozknock Entertainment

Listening to the voice of the dead is
what the living ones should willingly do.



Autopsies appear very often in today's detective and thriller dramas. Yet, how would it have been hundreds of years ago? Would they have also conducted an autopsy to reveal innocent deaths? Indeed, in Korean history, there were "*gumhum sanpas*," coroners who disclosed causes of death by examining dead bodies during the Joseon Dynasty. The book *On a Moonlit Night*,

at Hansungbu is the story of Aran, a female *gumhum sanpa*.

One day at dawn, a fire breaks out at Mokmyeoksan mountain. This fire uncovered a cave hidden deep in the mountain, and six horribly murdered bodies are found lying inside. Aran finds out that they were all killed for different causes. Meanwhile, one of them was wearing particularly expensive silk clothes, who was found out to be Heo Chung, the only son of the minister of defense. Aran went to the minister to tell him about his son's death, but he doesn't seem to bother that much about his gone son.

Some days later, Aran hears a story about a puppet show popular in Hansungbu. As she watches the show, each of the puppets talks about why they were killed, hoping to resolve their grudges. One puppet with the voice of a middle-aged man says he was strangled, and another one with a young man's voice moans that his Adam's apple was cut. Aran realizes that they are talking about the bodies she examined in Mokmyeoksan mountain. Only the examiners have the knowledge of dead bodies' causes of death. Then, who could the murderer be? The puppets say that they will reveal the killer next time.

Aran tenaciously digs into the truths behind the murders, and she faces the moments from her past where she lost her parents for unjust reasons. Aran is an impressive character who lives up to her destiny regardless of the fact that she is a woman and a daughter born of a concubine. And her efforts to put to rest the victimized souls continue amidst the situation where she is

unable to punish the murderer after discovering the truths. Summer vacation is the perfect time to read detective fiction. How about meeting Aran, a bold and courageous coroner, and feel the chill down your spine as she solves the case?



Three of Us Live Together in a House We Built
Written by Ueong, Buchu, and Dolgim, 900KM



The laborious time building the house and the loan we borrowed together bound us as a community - a loan community, too.

I am really satisfied with these - my people' - the loan has put on my side.

Books might be the most unbiased, open-minded media in popular culture. You can read about what the LGBTQIA has to say without reserve, and there are many cases where the unique stories of the minority are more loved than universal stories in society. Recently, I was particularly impressed by a couple of new-styled books about family and fell in love with them. They were *Two Girls Live Together* (Wisdom House) by Kim Hana and Hwang Sun-Woo, who are not a couple but roommates, and *I Live With Two Partners* (Little Mountain Publishing) by Hong Seung-Eun, a story about three people in a polyamorous relationship living together. And the book I would like to introduce today is *Three of Us Live Together in a House We Built*, where a couple and a friend live together under the same roof.

Hold on. Don't misunderstand that the three are in a close

relationship like polyamory. They are just roommates who built a house outside the urban area and run a bookstore. As friends, they had been thinking so hard about how to live a life they want at the book-reading meetings they had. As a result, they chose to live in nature in the suburban area near Seoul rather than in expensive apartments in the city. Yet, as beginners in society, they needed money. They had to get a loan as much as they could, and they also needed much time and patience. This book is a record about the alternative life they chose and a realistic guide for those who dream of building a house of their own.

It's been only a generation or two, and now there are more single-households or families without children, dismantling the traditional family structure. This led to new types of households that are not bound to kinship or marital relationships. There could be communities where they have fewer responsibilities and duties as a traditional family but have more fun and happiness in the future.

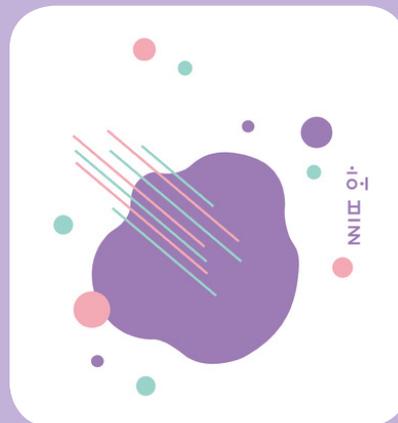
Why not add a book that might break your stereotype to your book-to-read list during summer vacation? Perhaps it might be able to expand your mind.

KOREAN PUBLISHERS

Hubble

The Happy Imagination of Tomorrow

Organized by Lee Ji-Hyeon



Logo of publisher Hubble

We are living in an era where Sci-Fi has become mainstream. The genre grew exponentially in Korea compared to 5 years ago, and the readership has become younger. Hubble, the Sci-Fi brand of publisher East Asia Books, stands as a leading publisher in Sci-Fi literature in Korea, hosting and organizing the Korean Science

Literature Award. Following is an interview with publisher Hubble, which creates Korean-style Sci-Fi books that add stories of the marginalized such as the socially weak and minorities, to traditional Sci-Fi and interprets them from various perspectives.

Please introduce yourself to overseas publishers.

Hi, I'm Kim Hak-Je, the lead editor at Hubble. We borrowed the name "Hubble" from the Hubble Space Telescope. Just like how the telescope observes "stars' past" 100 million light-years away, publisher Hubble aims to become a telescope that observes the "future of Korean Sci-Fi" and the "universe between the readers and us." Hubble was founded in 2016 along with the establishing of the first Korean Science Literature Award, the one and only literary award for amateur Sci-Fi writers in Korea. Our representative titles are *If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light* and *A Thousand Blues*, which were loved by 200 thousand and 50 thousand readers, respectively. Both are the debut works of writer Kim Cho-Yeop and Chun Sun-Ran at the Korean Science Literature Award. Along with such success cases, the award is increasing the scale of prizes in line with its growing reputation. In addition, Studiodragon, one of the greatest drama production companies, will be joining them from this year.

What is the screening standard of the Korean Science Literature Award hosted by Hubble?

The award gives full responsibility to the juries. Hence, we only have an indirect influence on how the juries are selected. We don't have a particular criterion or standard for choosing the juries – we tend to invite writers and critics recognized in the Sci-Fi world. Yet, as we will be hosting the award with Studiodragon from this year and on, we are thinking of recruiting people prominent in the film and drama industries. Studiodragon also does not interfere with the screening.

What is the export status of Hubble's works?

The publication rights of writer Kim Cho-Yeop's *If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light* were exported to Japan, China, Taiwan, and Spain, while those of Chun Sun-Ran's *A Thousand Blues* were exported to Japan and Germany. The one that was actually translated and published was *If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light*, with the Japanese title *わたしたちが光の速さで進めないなら*. And Hubble also recently participated in the Online Publishers Roundtable hosted by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea. In the course of exchanging thoughts with literary people from around the world, we could see that many of them were highly interested in Korean Sci-Fi and especially Hubble, the publisher at its center. We expect Hubble to export

more works, including the aforementioned two titles taking this opportunity.

What is the reason Hubble chose to specialize in Sci-Fi among all other genres?

Publisher East Asia is renowned for transforming science as a genre into liberal arts. As it was the first publisher to realize that the generational discourse is eyeing scientific thinking, it could see that literary discourse was also heading towards science. And as publisher East Asia had a firm foundation of science writers and readership, it could launch a Sci-Fi brand relatively without difficulty.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 15 – Interview of publisher East Asia

What does publisher Hubble think is the appeal of Sci-Fi genre literature?

Let's begin with how the Sci-Fi boom in Korea began in the first place. Sci-Fi in Korea has met a new readership. If it was mainly the 40s reading Sci-Fi works, it is the 20s and 30s, women, today. As the new readers came from the existing literary world, the "Sci-Fi boom" can be referred to as the "readers' shift from traditional literature to Sci-Fi." The female readers in their 20s and 30s have been yearning for language that represents the socially weak and minorities, including women. The literary

world responded to their demand to a certain extent, but as they directly discuss the indifferent reality, they were not an adequate “tool for solidarity.” Meanwhile, Sci-Fi can indirectly touch upon such topics through the virtual world derived from the physical world. So, even though Sci-Fi books talk about the apathetic society just like traditional literature, they might sound softer, as they have a filter called the virtual world. We think that such softness of Sci-Fi books was found attractive by female readers in their 20s and 30s. In other words, we believe that the appeals of Sci-Fi today come from the genre’s nature which makes it adequate as a language of solidarity and sympathy against social discrimination and violence.

Is there a fun way readers can enjoy Hubble’s books?

Many readers pick the cover designs when they think of publisher Hubble. Before the rise of the Sci-Fi boom in 2019, Sci-Fi was regarded as a groundless and childish genre. Such stereotypes made it hard for us to interact with readers. No matter how good the work could be, it is useless if there are no readers. So, we first had to handle the stereotype surrounding “Sci-Fi fiction.” The solution we came up with was realizing the world view of Sci-Fi in the cover design. If traditional literature expresses a human’s inner self with writing style and sentences, Sci-Fi uses its scientific world view as the window. We believed that if we show the extraordinary worldview unique to Sci-Fi

collaborating with famous illustrators, we might be able to at least clear the false understanding that the genre is just dreamy. And fortunately, the readers were positive about this strategy. Hubble will continue our efforts in cover designs. Even the tiny illustrative details on the cover are all related to the work. If you read the story and compare it with the cover design in between, you might be able to find more fun reading it.

Please recommend to us some of your popular books.



If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light, A Thousand Blues, Gipa

Kim Cho-yeop's novel collection: *If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light*

If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light played a major role in the Sci-Fi boom in Korea in 2019, loved by 200 thousand readers until today. The collection includes the winning work of the Korean Science Literature Award in 2017 and runner-ups. The charming point of the collection and the keyword that represents

seven short novels is “sympathy and solidarity.” Abnormal people, losers, and those stigmatized as minorities appear in her stories. However, as they are not alone, they grow their communal imagination together. The imagination of solidary they struggled to preserve expands into the imagination of the entire world. Such a storyline asks readers what makes us thrive in a world filled with hatred and discrimination.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 19 – Interview of writer Kim Cho-Yeop

Chun Sun-Ran’s full-length novel: *A Thousand Blues*

Beloved by 50 thousand readers up to date, *A Thousand Blues* is the work that continued the Sci-Fi boom in Korea until 2020. It won the grand prize in the 2019 Korean Science Literature Award for full-length novels. The keyword and charming points of this book are also “sympathy and solidarity.” Yet, as the solidarity it talks about is of animals, robots, and species beyond humanity, its topic encompasses many issues such as animal rights, going beyond human rights. In a world where minors and the weak are marginalized, the protagonists show themselves how not to leave anyone behind and rather go together. The strong solidarity of those in the shadows makes readers feel strong happiness.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 30 – Interview of writer Chun Sun-Ran

Park Hae-UI’s full-length novel: *Gipa*

Gipa won the grand prize for full-length novels in the 2018 Korean Science Literature Award. The keyword and appealing

points of this work are “*Changiparangga* (poem to honor Giparang, a “*Hwarang* (also known as Flowering Knights, an elite warrior group of male youth in Silla, an ancient kingdom of the Korean Peninsula)”)” and “Sci-Fi mystery.” As a thriller-mystery featuring cases that take place on a super luxurious space cruise where only perfect human beings work as staff rather than poor machine-humans, the story’s motif came from “*Changiparangga*,” an old Korean folk song in a poetry style written during the Silla Dynasty. To the question “Can scientific advancement really improve the quality of life?”, the world view of *Gipa* replies that it can’t be positive. However, at the same time, it shows hope in this world through the characters that struggle and thrive together.

Please introduce and recommend Hubble’s new titles.



We Have Decided to Leave This Planet, Word is Coming Down, Faces of the Night

Chun Sun-Ran and 4 others: We Have Decided to Leave This Planet

This is a women's Sci-Fi anthology published on March 8, International Women's Day. Four of the authors are former winners of the Korean Science Literature Award. The keyword and the appealing point encompassing the five short stories are "feminism" and "planet." Each of the five stories is a shining story where women live as their own amazing beings anywhere they are. Sci-Fi imagination is added to expand their space into the outer universe going beyond the planet Earth.

Oh Jeong-Yeon's short story collection: Word is Coming Down

This is the first short story collection of writer Oh Jeong-Yeon, the winner of the runner-up award for short- and medium-length stories of the Korean Science Literature Award in 2017. She has quite a unique career – she studied video management and preservation in five cities, four countries, and three continents. The keyword and charming points that penetrate the seven short stories are "sentiments of strangers" and "feminism." The "strangers' sentiments" inside the writer are transformed into beings floating around the universe alone. The collection consists of stories where such beings obtain the gravity of mind and live on their life in a new place they settle.

Hwang Mogua's short story collection: *Faces of the Night*

This is the first short story collection of Hwang Mogua, who won the grand prize for short- and middle-length stories of the 2019 Korean Science Literature Award. The writer has been working as an assistant illustrator for comics in Japan for 15 years. The keyword and the charming point of the six short stories are “the history of Korea and Japan” and “realization of memory.” All the stories in the collection have the unique jaunty style of Japanese cartoons, but inside, there are people who have lost their faces to the shadow of history and memory. They appear in front of us with Sci-Fi technologies, and the violence and oppression of the victims of historical incidents continue as our sorrow today.

What are your future plans?

As the answer to the question you asked earlier about the screening criteria, we said that Hubble hopes to become a language of sympathy and solidarity that goes beyond genres, generations, and national borders. So, as the plan for that, Hubble is preparing two new fiction series. One is a Korean fiction series titled “*Chowal* (meaning transcendence).” With the goal of surpassing the genre's limitations, we are preparing to present Sci-Fi stories written by traditional literature writers or those of other genres who have never written a Sci-Fi story before. Another one is titled “*Warp*,” which is a foreign fiction series. Aiming to progress beyond the era's limitations, the series

will be showcasing Sci-Fi that suits the taste of current Korean readers, not that of the American readers from the past. We will first successfully launch the two series transcending the boundaries of genre and generation, and then prepare other series that even go beyond national borders.

Publisher Hubble has been presenting the freshest works to domestic readers through *SFnal*, a yearly collection of Sci-Fi stories released each year worldwide with the fastest translation along with the one and only Sci-Fi literary award for amateur writers “Korean Science Literature Award.” Also, we are thinking of making works that break down the boundaries that we think are dividing realms through *Chowal* and *Warp*. We ask for your continuous support. Thank you.

Website hubble.page

Blog blog.naver.com/dongasiabook

Facebook ko-kr.facebook.com/dongasiabooks

Twitter twitter.com/in_hubble

KOREAN AUTHORS

Winners of the 2021 Bologna Ragazzi Award

Korean picture books spread their wings around the world

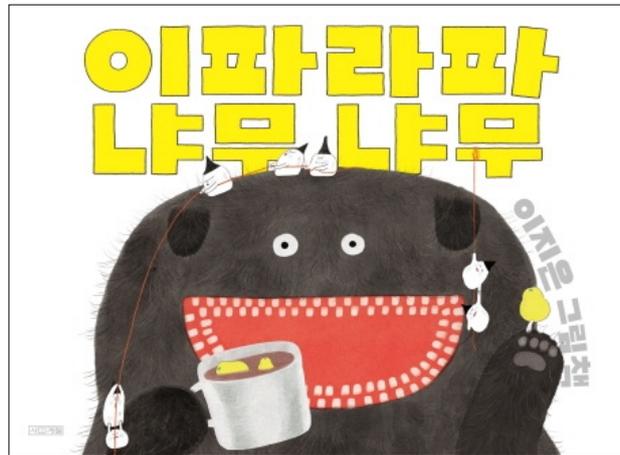
Organized by Choi Ha-Yeong

There was good news in the publishing industry in June – four Korean picture books won the “Bologna Ragazzi Award,” which is the most authoritative award for children’s books in the world. It was not only this year that Korean picture books received attention abroad, but now they have become more prominent, and stronger on the global stage with their literary value recognized. Korean picture books have thawed the hearts of global citizens strained by the COVID-19 pandemic. Following is an introduction of the four authors and their works who won the Bologna Ragazzi Award, the “Nobel Prize for Children’s Books.”

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 35 – Juries’ review of the winners of the 2021 Bologna Ragazzi Award

Comics-Early Reader:

IPARAPA YAMOOYAMOO, Yi Gee Eun, SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.



The story that begins with “Iparapa Yamooyamoo” raises the tension and curiosity of its readers with a speedy storyline. The pages that are delicately divided following the character’s movement make us think as if we are reading a comic book. Author Yi Gee Eun, talented at writing absorbing stories with unique characters, as can be seen in her *The Story How the Korean Shaved Ice Dessert was Born* (Woongjin Thinkbig) and *A Red Fruit* (SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.), carries on the humorous story of *IPARAPA YAMOOYAMOO*, the winner of the Comics-Early Reader category, with cute characters. The different visuals of characters “Marshmellong” and “Tulsoongsoongi,” who look completely opposite on the outside, begin as a “misunderstanding,” but they soon lead to “understanding.” As you read through the book, you will find yourself smiling with your heart warmed up by the author’s message about “understanding each other.”

Comment from author Yi Gee Eun

Hello, I'm picture book writer Yi Gee Eun. I had been thinking that the Bologna Ragazzi Award judges work based on strict artistic values. As I thought that it is far from what I'm writing, I had been a complete outsider when it comes to the contest. This is why I was happy but at the same time puzzled when I heard the news that my work had won the award.

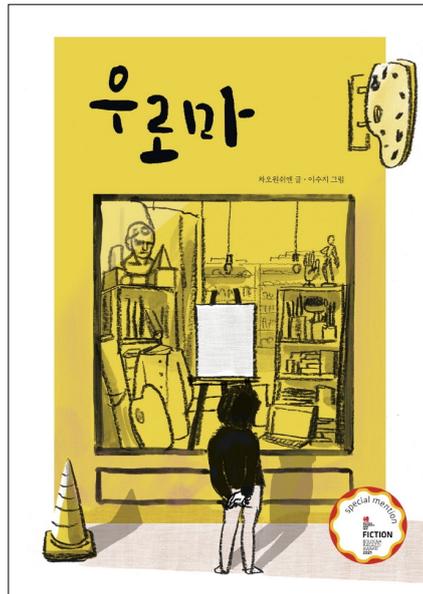
Besides, in the initial stage of detailing *IPARAPA YAMOOYAMOO*, I thought that it would be tricky to publish it overseas, as it seemed quite difficult to translate the linguistic elements unique to the Korean language. When you look at what the juries said after the official announcement, some of them mentioned the topic and simple illustrations of *IPARAPA YAMOOYAMOO*. Perhaps the book having less text and drawn in a cartoon format helped them read it more easily. I had some time to talk with the juries online after the announcement, and I was surprised to see how they pronounced "Iparapa Yamooyamoo" without any difficulty and had fun talking about it. People in Korea found it difficult to read the title when it was first published. I thought that the misinterpretation of "Iparapa Yamooyamoo" was a vital device in the story, but they didn't seem to get a hold of it. But rather, they seemed to have fun with it as an alien language. They might have had more fun if the pun was perfectly translated, but I get to think that perhaps it's just my stereotype as I look at the juries laughing, saying, "Iparapa Yamooyamoo!"

I felt like in this book's story, that even though you don't speak perfect language, many other elements all become a medium for delivering your true mind. It was a great thing for me to learn. They also left a comment that *IPARAPA YAMOOYAMOO* could be appealing to young readers in other countries, and it really gave me strength. I felt as if the award was sending support to some parts of my work. "You're doing good, keep up the good work."

I'll continue writing good stories of mine. Thank you.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 37 – Interview with writer Yi Gee Eun

Fiction 2021 Special Mention: *THE YULU LINEN*, written by Cao Wenxuan, illustrated by Lee Suzy, Bear Books Inc.



Author Lee Suzy is a beloved author across the world, winning the “Korea Book Awards,” “New York Times Best Illustrated Children’s Book,” and the “Boston Globe-Horn Book Award.” The book *THE YULU LINEN*, written by Cao Wenxuan from China, who won the Hans Christian Andersen Award with cozy pictures illustrated by Lee Suzy, is a story about drawing. But as you flip through the pages, you will be able to think of the things you like. The odd atmosphere between protagonist “Uro,” who draws pictures, and the canvas emitting an oppressive aura makes readers hold their breath and watch. Readers who cheered for “Uro” throughout the book will be rooting for themselves at the end. The struggles “Uro” goes through in *THE YULU LINEN* give courage to children to fully indulge in what they like and gives

joy to grownups which they feel when they are immersed in doing things they like.

Comment from author Lee Suzy

I didn't know what was going on when people were congratulating me on the authors' group chat with a photo of the book's cover. I never expected to win such an award – I was more than astonished to hear that *THE YULU LINEN* won the Fiction 2021 Special Mention.

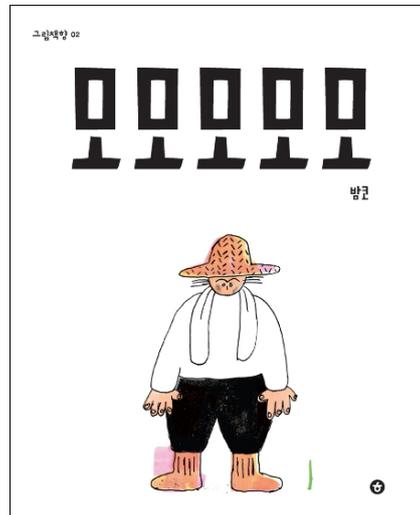
The book *THE YULU LINEN*, written by Cao Wenxuan and illustrated by me, is the bizarre story of “Uro” who draws pictures and a piece of canvas. When Uro finishes drawing a fabulous picture, it is ruined the next day, with paints on the canvas smudged. Author Cao Wenxuan and I decided to make this book when we were each nominated in the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2016 in the writers' and illustrators' category. I picked this story as I was drawn to the girl, a protagonist who draws pictures, but at the same time, I also wanted to describe the talents, passion for things we like, persistence, concentration, and growth implied in between the lines.

The juries' comments were very impressive as well. The Bologna Children's Book Fair was my first step in my journey into picture books. I always felt warmth and beauty in the book fair as the huge community welcomed each other through “picture books” and “children.” This is why the message from Bologna and the short comments that made me look back on my works both in the past and present were like a cheer to me. I could realize how abundant Korean picture books are by looking at the works of other Korean authors who won the award in different categories.

Ah, Bologna, the discerning eyes. Thank you for recognizing these unique picture books.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 37 – Interview with writer Lee Suzy

Non-Fiction 2021 Special Mention:
***RICE RICE RICE*, Bamco, HYANG**



The book begins with the phrase “Momomomomo (“Mo” means rice seedling in Korean),” which sounds like a riddle. The book *RICE RICE RICE* describes the journey of rice, our staple food on the table, from its production to delivery in a humorous tone. Farmers plant rice seedlings, grow, and harvest them... this is how “rice” is made before it reaches us. Author Bamco playfully expresses the sublime story of farmers and rice farming with repeated letters. The letters as big as the pictures make children find fun in letters, and adults too, with its fun pun. You will burst out laughing as you read the story out loud and see its play on words, but at the end, you will be thankful for the farmers with the last sentence, “Thank you for the meal.”

Comment from author Bamco

The book *RICE RICE RICE* is a non-fiction picture book describing the life of a rice seedling through simple illustrations and short words, but also a book dedicated to my dad, who has been a farmer all his life. Farming, seen over his shoulders, was a valuable and precious job as much as how laborious it is, but sadly, it did not pay that much. In this era where farming is losing its value, I wanted to talk about the great drops of sweat put into making one bowl of rice. I put my love, gratitude, and respect for my dad as the daughter of a farmer into the book, while explaining the rice-farming process as an author.

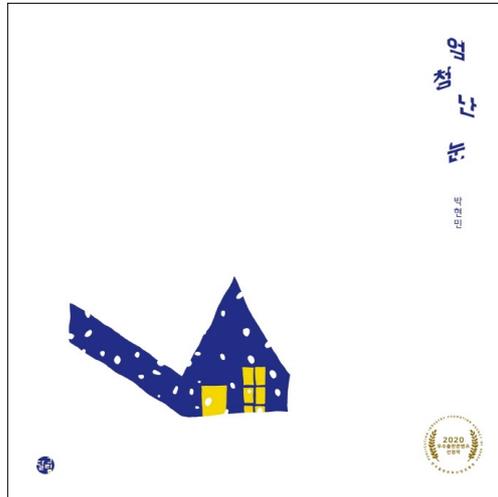
The most important element of the book is the text, which is as large as the pictures. I played with the words by splitting them or placing them vertically or repeatedly, hoping that the challenging farming process can be read as entertaining and accessible to the readers.

I was so surprised to hear that *RICE RICE RICE* won an international award as I thought it would be enough to be just loved by Korean readers as it is about traditional farming and a Korean pun. It couldn't be more meaningful. My dad was the happiest of all when he heard the news. As the daughter of a farmer, I'm proud to be able to return the story of my dad's valuable story of life with such an honorable award.

I would like to express my gratitude to the officials of the Bologna Ragazzi Award and Korean readers who enjoyed my *RICE RICE RICE*.

Opera Prima 2021 Special Mention:

SO MUCH SNOW, Park Hyun-Min, Dalgrim (Yellowpig Publisher)



All parts of the Bologna Ragazzi Award are meaningful, but author Park Hyun-Min's winning of the Opera Prima 2021 Special Mention award has more meaning as it is presented to the first book of a newly-debuted writer. The book *SO MUCH SNOW* by author Park Hyun-Min who studied space and scale and made a picture book that can materialize them all, may seem full of too much blank space. But if you look in more closely, the blanks become snow and snowman – literally turning into “so much snow.” The author chose not to add many letters to boost the imagination of those reading the book. There's no letter in the book *SO MUCH SNOW* after the first page, and in the white space covering the rest of the pages, readers can imagine and think of anything they want. As such, even though *SO MUCH SNOW* doesn't have much text, various colors, and many pictures, it provides the fun of imagining the story.

Comment from author Park Hyun-Min

The Bologna Ragazzi Award was my motivation for making picture books. It was the award of my dreams. I had to get my shirt changed twice as I sweat so hard when I heard the news that I won the award.

Some people said that they didn't know this book would win the award, but I was secretly looking forward to it. I had confidence that the juries will not miss the exclusive, unique concept and style of the book and recognize what I intended in each scene. Indeed, I believe that the goddess of luck was by my side as I know that there are many other, more outstanding books that failed to win the award.

As I have always been doubting my identity, there was a great desire in my mind to win an authoritative award and get recognition. I thought that winning an award would resolve the doubt, but eventually, I came to the conclusion that it is actually something I must solve on my own. The thing happier than the award itself is that I've earned the foundation on which I can write so many stories that I've been wanting to write.

But one thing I'm ashamed of is that I couldn't go to Bologna in person due to the pandemic. I've been telling my family that I will take them to Bologna and have good food and wine as much as they want to enjoy the moment when I win the Bologna Ragazzi Award. It is my little hope that one day after I become a professional picture book writer, I can have another chance to win the award and embrace the moment to the fullest.

KOREAN AUTHORS

Writer Yi Gee Eun

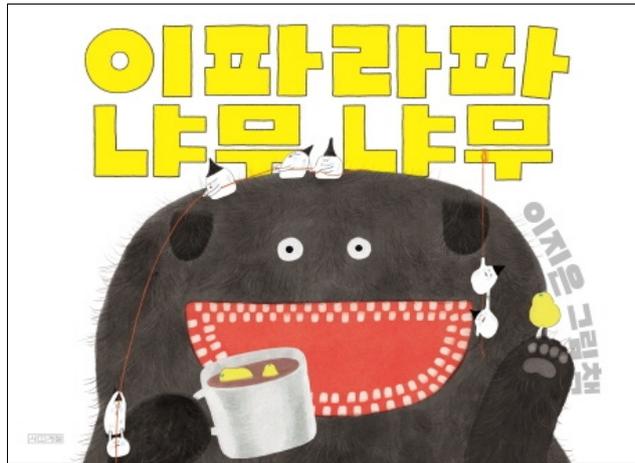
* The interview and video were produced as a part of the K-Book Online Marketing Support Project of the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA).



Please introduce yourself to our readers.

I'm really grateful to be able to work so happily like this. My name is Yi Gee Eun, author of the illustrated books *Iparapa*

Yamooyamoo (SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.) and *The Story How the Korean Shaved Ice Dessert was Born* (Woongjin ThinkBig Co., Ltd.).



Iparapa Yamooyamoo, The Story How the Korean Shaved Ice Dessert was Born

Why did you want to be a writer?

When I was young, I wasn't very good at drawing. One day my father and mother told me that actually I was good at drawing so I should become a painter. I thought I should be a painter and then that became my dream. Because I always lived with a lot of hunger for painting, working on writing and painting was a natural choice for me.

Your dog Kung-i is so cute, can you introduce your dog?

At first, it physically made me move. It's the only thing that made me move 365 days a year for the past 4 years. I used to be a couch potato. When my dog was young, I had to walk with it for two

hours in the morning, one hour at lunch time and two hours in the evening. I had to move every day. So thanks to Kung-i. I had time to enjoy nature in all four seasons. I found positivity doing this, which affected my work. My dog changed my life.

How do you work?

I think about the story first. Like a drama story. I think about a very specific story as a whole and then I do the writing and drawings to fit the story. I think about whether it has warmth and lightness which will make people laugh. I keep this in mind as I'm working on the rest of the story, centering myself on that fixed idea of lightness and warmth.

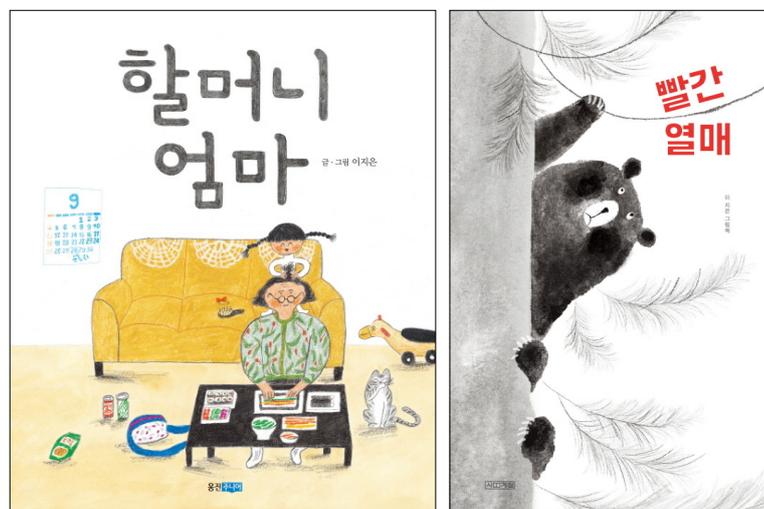
Where do you find inspiration when working?

I think physical time and habits need to be built up in order to find inspiration. It is like trying to find something. I don't have much intellectual curiosity and I don't really enjoy traveling either, so I find inspiration from the familiar things that are around me.

I heard that *My Grandma Mum* contains your precious memories.

Throughout my childhood, my mother and father always worked and were very busy, so my maternal grandmother was my

“mother”. So I wanted to spend time with my grandmother and show my grandmother to others. I made a picture book about my time with my grandmother as a child. It came out as a book called *My Grandma Mum* (Woongjin ThinkBig Co., Ltd.). All the grandmothers were so impressed they said thank you. I think it was like their own story.



My Grandma Mum, A Red fruit

Do you have any other books you would like to introduce?

I have a book that I thought more people would read. That's *A Red fruit* (SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.). The story for *A Red fruit* just came to me one night. The story appeared all of a sudden. It's a very rare experience for me, so I like it even more. Depending on the reader's age and period of life, it can be interpreted in various ways. At first, I only thought it was a baby bear's journey. When I read it now, there are many more stories interwoven there – more than I could tell when I wrote the book initially. So I hope you read it.

What are your plans for the future?

I will continue to live happily, making picture books. As more of my books are published I hope I can present them to a larger audience, and that the people who read them are very happy and having fun. That makes me excited. I want to run down that career path fast. I am working with this in mind.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3GH6lywofQ

KOREAN AUTHORS

Writer Lee Suzy

* The interview and video were produced as a part of the K-Book Online Marketing Support Project of the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA).



Please introduce yourself to our readers.

Hello, I'm Lee Suzy. I'm a picture book artist. Nice to meet you.

What kind of person do you think a picture book Artist is?

I think that a picture book writer is a person who builds and plays with the power of pictures and creates a story in a book. I was interested in the medium of books. Rather than just pieces of paper that contain a story. I'm also interested in books with power. In my case, I am interested in pictures with such power. In that sense, for me, "pictures" and "books" are equally important in picture books.



River (BIR)

How did you become a picture book artist?

I majored in painting at art college. I drew on large canvases and after graduating, I wanted to keep painting. I was thinking about how to make a living doing this and discovered the genre of picture books. I brought my portfolio to the publisher and said I wanted to work. I thought I would just draw pictures to match

some text. When I started, I thought it would be as simple as this. But then I realized it was a difficult job. The more I saw of great picture books, the more I realized it's a fun, deep, and mysterious world. I wanted to excel at this job and at the same time to study the genre more deeply.

I heard that you studied in the UK.

Before then, I just received the texts and drew pictures to illustrate them. But then I got tired of this formula and I wanted to create my own. While I was interested in writing my own for my work, I found out about book art. I had no idea what that was. But "book art" contains my favorite two words, so I wanted to study it. There was a short program in the UK which made me decide to study and work on my own pieces in that time.

What are your interests these days?

One of the things that particularly interests me for picture books is children's play. I really want to describe how children play. In my previous books *Wave* (BIR) and *Shadow* (BIR) I focus on a child's play. That's one of my interests. I'm also interested in music. So how to visually express the music? I want to combine these two. I'm trying to do a picture book like music expressed through children's play.



Wave, Shadow

Why do you make picture books without text?

It's a weakness that there's nothing to read because there's no writing. And at the same time it's a very interesting area. I want to focus on that. So, if there is nothing to read, you will try to find what to read in the details of the picture. However, the context of how to read writing is in the order of the words. Pictures don't actually have an order. I think of them as a whole. Because there are scattered things to read. Read each picture one by one and turn to the next page. When another image appears the connection is made in the mind. The reader has to make the narrative herself. I think it's possible because having no text is a very attractive way to do it. I like that; that's why I work on wordless picture books.

Do you have any books you are particularly attached to?

If you ask a writer about their favorite work, don't they answer "everything"? Me, too! I think mine are my most recent works. Because my past work contained my past concerns and issues,

and now they are resolved. Since my most recent works contain the “real me”, my favorites are the works I have completed most recently.

What are your plans for the future?

I always say that it's a problem because there are so many things I want to do. How to branch out the story, and my sketchbook, they are waiting for me. It is as if they are asking when I will take them out. If time allows, I want to continue to do this. There are actually some works that I do alone. In some cases, I take a text and illustrate it for them. I've just finished two types of book and I'm working on a new book. There are also two exhibits scheduled. I think I'm going to have a busy life for now.

<https://youtu.be/PVJ85tdRhYo>

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

Current Status of the Korean Standard Publishing Distribution Data Hub System (BookNet Korea)

Start-Challenge-Change-Global

Written by Kim Jin-Woo (Center Manager of the Department of Publishing Industry Support Book Distribution Advancement Center)

In terms of the market volume, Korea is the 6th largest publishing powerhouse in the world, following the United States, China, Japan, Germany, and Great Britain, who are leaders of the global publishing market, publishing more than 65 thousand titles each year. Various excellent K-books have been recently mesmerizing international readers alongside K-pop, K-drama, and K-movies as well.

Start

However, let's look into the environment surrounding the distribution of publications in Korea. Information exchanges among publishers, distributors, and local bookstores are not active, hampering systematic marketing activities. The reality in

the distribution part is failing to catch up with the advancement of the publishing market. Also, as publishers, distributors, bookstores, and libraries set up their own data network, there were raised voices saying that there needs to be a data hub system that manages publishing-related data in a systematic and integrated manner.

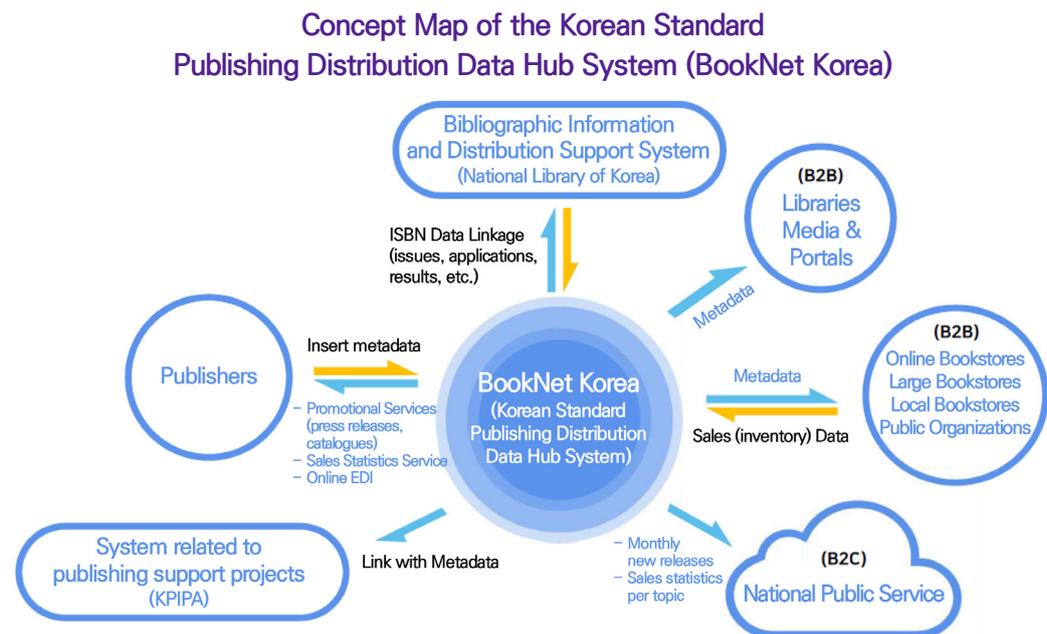
To respond to such needs of the market, the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism announced the “5-year plan for the promotion of the publishing and cultural industries (2017-2021),” which includes 4 major strategies (establishing a sustainable growth foundation for the Korean publishing industry, setting up a mutually-beneficial distribution system, etc.) and 16 tasks in February 2017. The Korean Standard Publishing Distribution Data Hub System (BookNet Korea) was born as a result of this plan.

Challenge

Discussions about the Korean Standard Publishing Distribution Data Hub System (BookNet Korea) included in the plan’s major policy tasks began to take place in earnest to facilitate exchanges of data related to books and sales. They are mainly carried out under the leadership of the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA), a public organization established to promote publishing and reading in Korea. KPIPA came up with optimal systematic components by analyzing

how similar systems are operated at home and abroad in order to set up a data hub system that is beneficial to all publishers, distributors, bookstores, and readers. It also set a direction for the to-be system by analyzing the demands of the publishing and distribution industries. Furthermore, to make the system function as a cooperative model for interested parties to devise practical plans for operation, the BookNet Korea is scheduled to be open in September (BookNetKorea, bnk.kpipa.or.kr) this year after three years of development.

The concept map of the BookNet Korea can be found below.

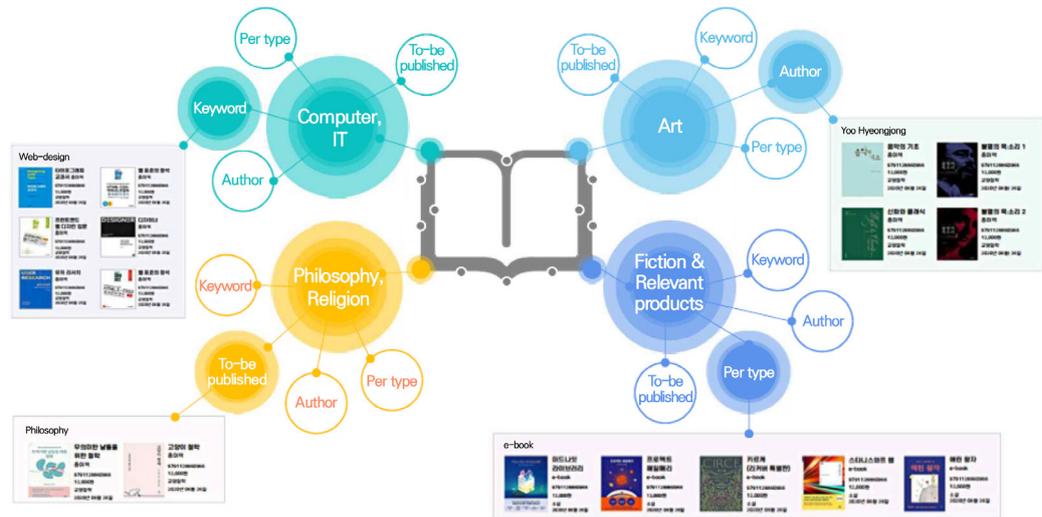


Change

KPIPA anticipates that parties involved in the system will be able to get support in various fields. For instance, publishers can

better expose their books to consumers (bloggers, librarians, journalists, and readers) through the up-to-date online/mobile service, which can improve the accuracy of market demand estimations enabling them to set a more reasonable number of copies for publication. Also, distributors and bookstores will be able to boost logistical efficiency and reduce cost through more efficient stock management, such as keeping the inventory more adequate, reflecting the sales status, and purchasing books more reasonably. In addition, they will be able to provide more various book curations for local readers as they might be able to find information about regional sales trends. Meanwhile, in the overall publishing distribution industry, it is expected that the system will facilitate the publishing industry and positively affect the overall increase in sales and readers as consumers will be able to better access information about books. From a longer-term perspective, the “Korean Publishing Distribution Data Center” will be established where data about International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and publishing/distribution are managed as a whole, and operate a publishing data system that provides an integrated service related to the production, distribution, and sales data of publications.

Searching Relevant Books by Topics



Global

This system is currently under development for domestic service in Korea. However, it has room for overseas advancement as well. The system was designed to meet the general demands of the global publishing industry by adopting the “Online Information Exchange (ONIX),” which is standard metadata used to exchange data related to books, and “Thema,” which is a subject category scheme of EDItEUR, an international non-profit publishing organization. I hope that the Korean Standard Publishing Distribution Data Hub System (BookNet Korea) can provide opportunities for publishers to introduce Korean books and the newest information about publishing to overseas publishers and related parties and grow as a global platform where they can interact with books and readers from across the world in a more varied way.

NEW BOOKS

I Play, Therefore I Am



Stereotypes about games!

Are games
useless?

Are Games
nothing
but harmful?

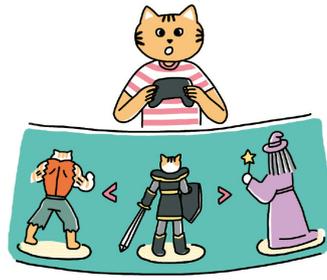
Not at all!

Did you know
that the top kid
in school also
plays games and
goes to dungeons?

GAME

No longer a mere
entertaining diversion –

it has become a culture.



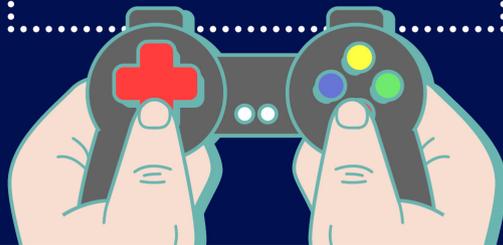
Games are **not only fun.**

They also have the values of **humanity** in their stories!

Everyone hop in -

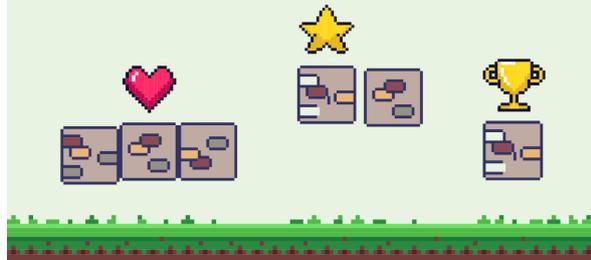
adults who think all games are bad,

and **teens** who only look for strong stimuli and fun in games.



Let's learn more about games through this book including their history, culture, and influence on modern technology!

A book that enables readers to
LEVEL UP! in reality
while realizing what it means to
play **REAL GAMES!**



A humanities class about
games for teens!



**I Play,
Therefore I Am**

Lee Dong-Eun,
Jaeum & Moeum Publishing Co., Ltd.

BEST SELLERS

2nd Week, July 2021

Bestseller Trends in the Four Biggest Online Bookstores in Korea

It's the second week of July, and the summer vacation season is back, signaling the beginning of a scalding hot summer. Comic books such as *Common Siblings* and *The Whale Star* are trending in bookstores celebrating summer vacation. These two comic series have been proving the love they receive from their readers with concrete figures, as they have been hitting the bestsellers' list as soon as a new volume is released. The *Common Siblings* series gives laughter to young readers with humorously drawn episodes of "Common Siblings" uploaded on Youtube. And *The Whale Star* series, originally created as a webtoon, was selected as the "2020 Cartoon of the Day" last year, keeping its place among the top-tier romance webtoons on Naver.

Many Korean readers are still highly interested in accumulating "wealth," as can be seen in books about business and money

such as *Scenario of Wealth* and *Oketing: You Don't Have to be Special to Become Rich*, becoming the talk of the town. Hence, it is notable that *Complete Happiness*, fiction, has taken the throne in the comprehensive bestsellers list. The book is the newest title by writer Jeong You-Jeong, who wrote *The Good Son* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing Co., Ltd.) and *Seven Years of Darkness* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing Co., Ltd.) that mesmerized readers across the world. Just follow how she skillfully creates suspense, and you will be able to hear her voice saying, “We are responsible for others’ happiness as well.”

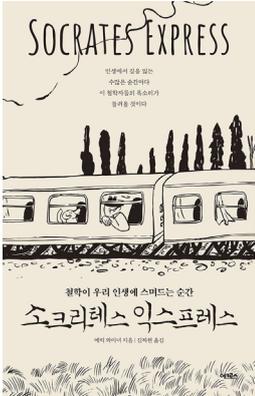
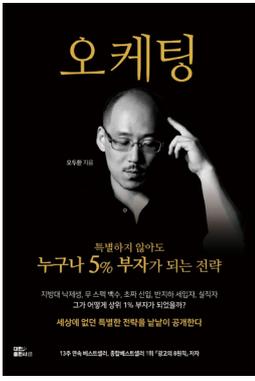
On the other hand, some young adult fiction books have dominated the top 5 bestselling young adult fiction list. Two books written by Lee Kkochnim have particularly put dominated the list. Also, the grand winner of the 8th Munhakdongne Award for Young People’s Literature – *I Will Cross Time For You* published in 2018 – is a book that makes you think about your relationship with your loved ones again and again. Meanwhile, *The Kid I Want to Kill*, published in June this year, is a story about fragmented truth and shattered trust, evaluated by young readers as an “unpredictable and immersive story with an amazing power.”

* The rank of bestsellers below was organized after integrating domestic best sellers in the second week of July from the four biggest online bookstores in Korea – Kyobo Bookstore, Aladdin, Yes 24, and Interpark.

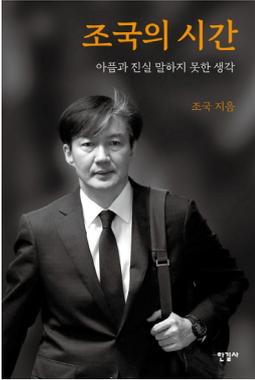
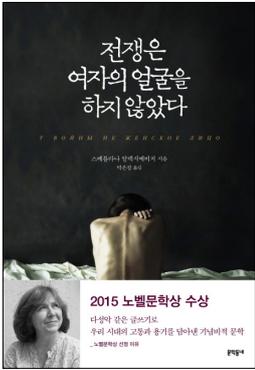
Top 10 Bestsellers for the 2nd Week of July

<p>1</p>	 <p>자기만의 놀이 해진 삶은 얼마나 위대하든가 다시, 장유정! 믿도적 서사 위 장교하고 사늘한 공포</p>	<p><i>Complete Happiness</i></p> <p>Author Jeong You-Jeong Publisher EunHaeng NaMu Publishing Co., Ltd. Genre Fiction</p>
<p>2</p>	 <p>인플레 공포 너머 다음 스텝을 준비하라! 금융 선제 오감영의 독특한 투자 프트물다오 불안한 금융시장, 중시할 주어를 선정하고 생생한 인사이트</p>	<p><i>Scenario of Wealth</i></p> <p>Author Oh Kun-Young Publisher Page 2 Books Genre Business & Money</p>
<p>3</p>	 <p>이상한과자 가게 전천당 II</p>	<p><i>The Mysterious Candy Store #11</i></p> <p>Author Reiko Hiroshima Publisher Gilbut School Genre Children</p>
<p>4</p>	 <p>흔한남매 8</p>	<p><i>Common Siblings #8</i></p> <p>Author Common Siblings Publisher Mirae N Co., Ltd. (I-Seum) Genre Children</p>

Top 10 Bestsellers for the 2nd Week of July

<p>5</p>		<p><u>The Midnight Library</u></p> <p>Author Matt Haig Publisher Influential Genre Fiction</p>
<p>6</p>		<p><u>The Socrates Express</u></p> <p>Author Eric Weiner Publisher Across Genre Liberal Arts</p>
<p>7</p>		<p><u>Oketing: You Don't Have to be Special to Become Rich</u></p> <p>Author Oh Doo-Hwan Publisher Daehan Publishing Company Genre Business & Money</p>
<p>8</p>		<p><u>The Whale Star #5</u></p> <p>Author Na Yoon-Hee Publisher RH Korea Co., Ltd. Genre Comics</p>

Top 10 Bestsellers for the 2nd Week of July

<p>8</p>		<p><i>Cho Kuk's Time</i></p> <p>Author Cho Kuk Publisher Hangilsa Corp. Genre Politics & Society</p>
<p>10</p>		<p><i>The Whale Star #4</i></p> <p>Author Na Yoon-Hee Publisher RH Korea Co., Ltd. Genre Comics</p>
<p>10</p>		<p><i>The Unwomanly Face of War: An Oral History of Women in World War II</i></p> <p>Author Svetlana Alexievich (СВЕТЛАНА АЛЕКСИЕВИЧ) Publisher Munhakdongne Publishing Group Genre Non-fiction</p>

Top 5 Young Adult Books for the 2nd Week of July

<p>1</p>		<p><i>The Moment When Studying Becomes Fun</i></p> <p>Author Park Sung-Hyuk Publisher Dasan Books Co., Ltd.</p>
<p>2</p>		<p><i>Paint</i></p> <p>Author Lee Hee-Young Publisher Changbi Publishers, Inc.</p>
<p>2</p>		<p><i>I Will Cross Time For You</i></p> <p>Author Lee Kkochnim Publisher Munhakdongne Publishing Group</p>
<p>2</p>		<p><i>The Kid I Want to Kill</i></p> <p>Author Lee Kkochnim Publisher Woori School</p>

Top 5 Young Adult Books for the 2nd Week of July

5



This Post is Password Protected

Author | Hwang Yeong-Mi
 Publisher | Munhakdongne Publishing Group

5



All About Your Body: Doctor's Guide for Girls

Author | Yoon Jung-Won, Kim Min-Ji
 Publisher | Woori School

KOREAN TRANSLATOR

Anton Hur

About Anton

“A little too fluent”—South China Morning Post

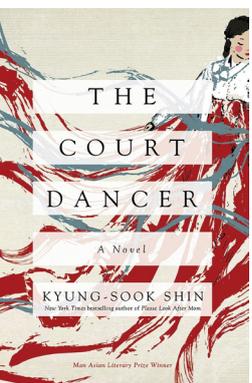
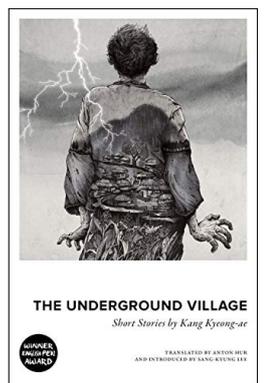
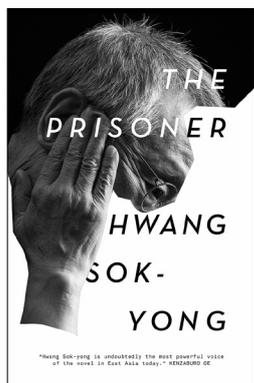
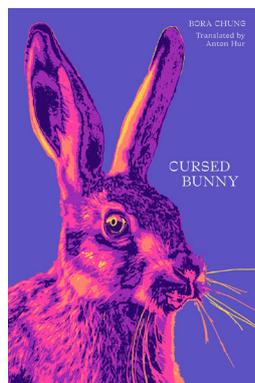
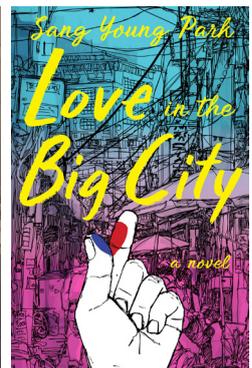
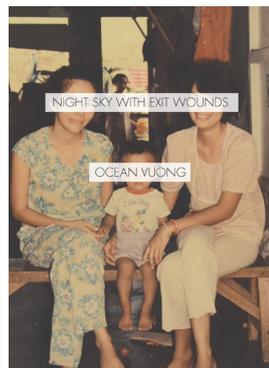
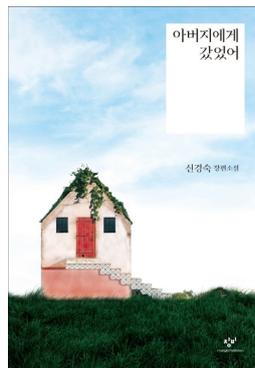
I am a writer and translator working in Seoul. I was born in Stockholm, Sweden, and raised in British Hong Kong, Ethiopia, and Thailand, but mostly in Korea, where I’ve lived for thirty years. I was awarded the title of Person of Distinguished Service to the Nation after serving in the Korean Army.

- Twitter: @AntonHur, Instagram: @AntonHur, Website: antonhur.com

Book translations

- *I Went to See My Father* by Kyung-Sook Shin (Astra House, 2023)
- *Violet* by Kyung-Sook Shin (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, Feminist Press, 2022)

- *Night Sky with Exit Wounds* by Ocean Vuong (Moonji Books, 2021)
- *Love in the Big City* by Sang Young Park (Grove, Tilted Axis, 2021)
- *Cursed Bunny* by Bora Chung (Honford Star, 2021)
- *The Prisoner* by Hwang Sok-yong (Verso, Penguin Random House US, 2021)
- *The Underground Village* by Kang Kyeong-ae (Honford Star, 2018)
- *The Court Dancer* by Kyung-Sook Shin (Pegasus Books, 2018)



Book chapters

- *What Does It Mean to Decolonise Translation?: “The Mythical English Reader”* (Tilted Axis, 2021)
- *International LGBTQ+ Literature for Children and Young Adults: “Boys Who Wear Dresses: Queer Narrative Strategies in Korean Children’s Literature”* (Anthem, 2021)
- *The Valancourt Book of World Horror Vol. 2: “Masks”* by Bora Chung (Valancourt, 2021)

Other translations

- *Samovar*: “The Head” by Bora Chung
- *Words Without Borders*: “Genesis” by Jeon Sam-hye, “The Tears of an Unknown Artist, or Zaytun Pasta” by Sang Young Park, “About My Daughter” by Kim Hye-jin, guest editor for 2019 feature on queer Korean literature
- *The Guardian*: Kyung-Sook Shin for “Seven novelists from around the world living with the pandemic”
- *Asymptote Journal*: “Aficionados” by Jung Young Su
- *The Offing*: “The Embodiment” by Bora Chung
- *Chogwa*: “The Snail” by Jin Eun-Young and others
- *Modern Poetry in Translation*: Chogwa revisions issue
- *Anomaly*: “A Spell to Invoke the White Dolphin” by Jeon Sam-hye
- *Columbia Journal*: “Nights in Lebanon” by Jung Young Su
- *Westerly Magazine*: Poetry by Shim Bo-seon and others
- *Slice Magazine*: Exquisite corpse project by Jeon Sam-hye

- *Queen Mob's Tea House*: “The Joy of Music” by Jung Young Su
- *Korean Literature Now*: Poetry by Kim Un and others
- *Cordite*: “Was” (poem)

Writing

- The Great White Canceling
- Fictional Notes toward an Essay in Translation
- How to Write Queer Korean Lit: A Manual
- The Emerging Literary Translator Valley of Death
- From the Translator: A Lunar Sorority
- On writing:
 1. On silence
 2. On exile
 3. On cunning
- 24 March 2020

Interviews

- Shondaland
- *Prism* magazine
- KBS World Radio Korea24 (audio)
- National Centre for Writing Podcast (with Jeremy Tiang)
- Books & Bao: Meet the Translator
- Arts Council Korea, Music of the Sentences (Korean): Part 1, Part 2
- EBS Morning Date: Part 1, Part 2

- *Korean Literature Now* interview (with Sang Young Park)
- Matthew Sciarappa's YouTube channel

Grants and Awards

- PEN/Heim Translation Fund grant (2020)
- PEN Translates award (2017)
- Daesan Foundation literary translation grant (2017)
- GKL Korean Literature Translation Award (2018)
- Multiple grants from the Literary Translation Institute of Korea
- Multiple grants from the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea
- Multiple grants from Arts Council Korea
- Translator-in-residence at the National Centre for Writing, UK
- Translator-in-residence at Queen's College Translation Exchange, University of Oxford



Photo credit: Anita Staff, Daniel Hahn

#K-BOOK

#Travel in KOREA

KPIPA Introduces K-Books for Global Publishing Markets through K-Book Platform

A Day in Forest

1. Publication Details

Title | A Day in Forest
 Subtitle | The Finest Pieces of Memory in the Seasons an Adventurous Couple Collected
 Author | Bigchoi
 Publisher | sorosoro
 Publication Date | 2018-07-02
 ISBN | 9791196409906
 No. of pages | 264
 Dimensions | 150 * 200

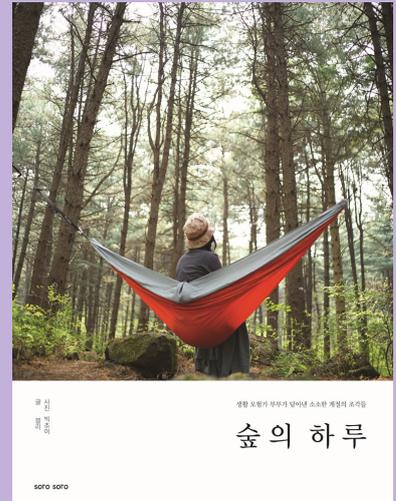
2. Copyright Contact

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3. Book Intro

A Day in Forest is a photo essay written by an adventurous couple who enjoy multitudes of adventures through their everyday life and travel. Every page of the book provides readers with photos along with short essays describing their vivid experience during the seasons the authors spent in nature and helps the readers feel comfortable.

The small pieces of their memory captured through the eyes of photographer Big



Choi and the writings by Bliee will bring people living in the modern world the healing effect of the forest.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=188

Sanbok Road Story

1. Publication Details

Title | Sanbok Road Story
Subtitle | Storyteller Son Banjang offers unique tour of Busan
Author | Son Minsu
Publisher | INDIEPAPER
Publication Date | 2017-06-02
ISBN | 9791195966226
No. of pages | 396
Dimensions | 140 * 195

2. Copyright Contact

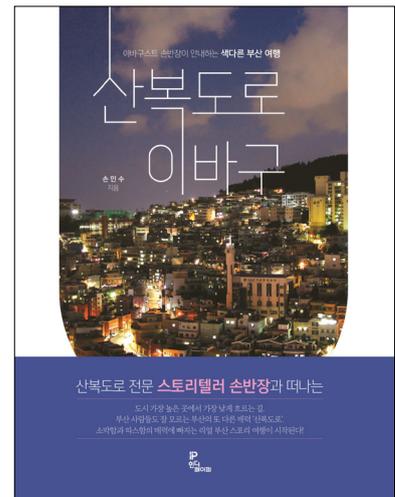
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3. Book Intro

Busan is a city where the oldest and the newest coexist. The lowest road on the highest place in the city is called Sanbok Road. The streets are unorganized, making it easy for someone to get lost, the alleys are too narrow for even one person to pass through, and a number of houses stand in these alleys. Walking in these areas, you can encounter the most ordinary stories during daytime and the most beautiful nightscapes at night.

The beach is the first thing that comes to people's minds when they think of Busan. Haeundae, Gwanganri, or Taejongdae, to be specific. But actually, Busan is surrounded more by hills and mountains than flat areas. That is why an array of houses is closely packed together on the hilly areas even when there is not much space to build a house. This also explains why there are so many steep stairs in Busan.

Sanbok Road is a unique road that goes around the mountainside, and this road has become one of the most popular travel spots in Busan. The number of visitors have been also skyrocketing. Several major news organizations such as Dong-a Ilbo, The Hankyore, The Chosun Ilbo, and Hankook Ilbo have covered



Sanbok Road from different perspectives. Sanbok Road is not just a road but a repository of historical evidence of modern and contemporary Korea, telling people the stories buried within the area. In addition, Sanbok's Road appeals to visitors with its simplicity and warmth that they can never experience in the fancy beach.

Sanbok Road Story is the first travel book that covers only Sanbok Road. It is written by Son Minsu who designed Sanbok Road travel program for the first time while traveling himself.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=478

Spicy, Salty, Sour and Sweet

1. Publication Details

Title | Spicy, Salty, Sour and Sweet
Subtitle | A Korean Food Trip in a Campervan
Author | Kim Inhye
Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.
Publication Date | 2019-01-28
ISBN | 9791160944105
No. of pages | 40
Dimensions | 217 * 290

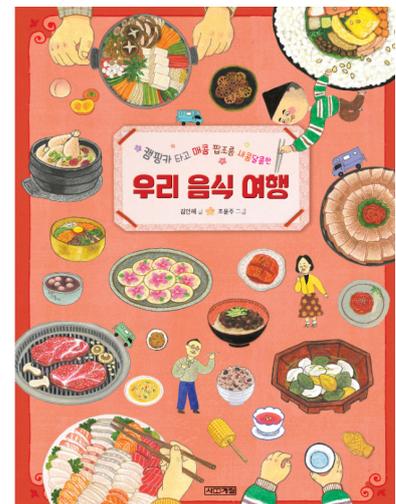
2. Copyright Contact

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3. Book Intro

This picture book is designed to introduce various funny foods and the eating culture of each region to children, so that they can know Korean food well. However, *Spicy, Salty, Sour and Sweet: A Korean Food Trip in a Campervan* doesn't only focus on traditional Korean foods. It features a variety of interpretation and food knowledge (including the foods that were introduced from other countries to Korea and localized, modern Korean foods loved by foreigners, and favorite street foods) along with big, mouth-watering pictures. By reading this book, readers can get a general overview of Korean food and local characteristics. A lot of information about food and popular food trends can be found throughout the book, which adds more fun.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1471



The Busan Gastronomy Project

1. Publication Details

Title | The Busan Gastronomy Project

Author | Choi Wonjun

Publisher | SANZINI

Publication Date | 2018-11-15

ISBN | 9788965455660

No. of pages | 288

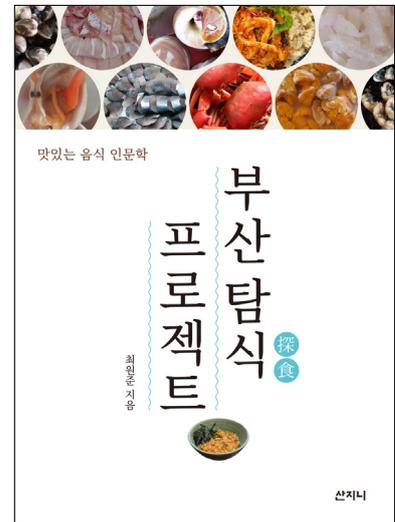
Dimensions | 152 * 210

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3. Book Intro

Busan was at the center of it all during some noteworthy times of history, such as the Japanese Colonial Period, the Korean War, and modern Korean history. For that reason, the Japanese food culture entered the lives of the people of Busan during the Colonial era and during the Korean War; furthermore, regional foods of different refugees were also introduced to Busan. Consequently, to this day there remain unique blends of diverse food. Choi Wonjun, poet and food columnist has explored the people, history, and culture of Busan through this phenomenon of food and published the book, *The Busan Gastronomy Project*.

Like a traveler, the author wandered around Busan, trying out its food. In the book, he has come up with forty-seven types of food according to the four regions of Nakdong River, Gijang, Central City, and Alley. He introduces the seaweed from Nakdong River that has an amazing flavor, for it is from the area where the river meets the sea, and the renowned Gupo noodles from the Gupo Market. From the region of Gijang, a particular type of fish with its refreshing taste of sea, and Korean beef that melts in your mouth are presented.

In the Central City section, the author talks about the humble food that was brought by the refugees during the Korean War. Shark dish and beef tripe dishes were the inevitable food that were born of a particular era but the restaurants have carried on their famed heritage, embracing the sadness of the times not only of Busan but also of Korea in general. He also goes into how the pork soup and milmyeon (the wheat noodles) that were not original to Busan but became one of the most popular dishes there, explaining how it was created, became widespread, and its method of cooking.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1848

You and Me on Jeju Island

1. Publication Details

Title | You and Me on Jeju Island

Author | Cho Jiouk

Publisher | FlyingStar Books

Publication Date | 2015-07-27

ISBN | 9791195380152

No. of pages | 60

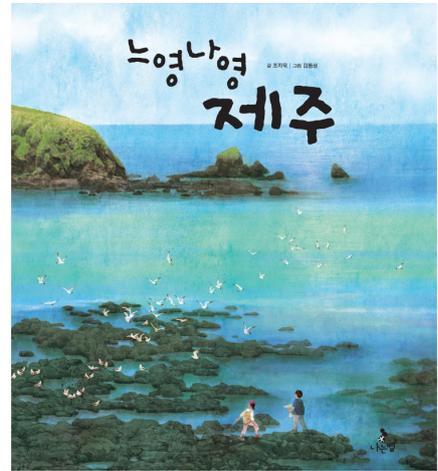
Dimensions | 260 * 280

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3. Book Intro

Meet the precious and beautiful treasures of Jeju Island, from Gosan Harbor on the western side to Jeoji Oreum observatory.

You can see the wind power generators on the shore of Sinchang, Haenyeo, and the cuttlefish of Gosan Harbor, the Neolithic site beneath Dangsang Peak, Jeju ponies, a part of Jeju Island's Natural Heritage, the chair park in Ahopgut village, and rapeseed and radish flowers that bloom in spring besides the white tangerine blossoms in the orchards.

"To capture the real Jeju Island where people live, not the tourist areas, I climbed up a 20-meter-tall crane and took one step after another with my whole heart."

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2037

Along the Walk: Seoul

1. Publication Details

Title | Along the Walk: Seoul
Author | Kim Hyeyoung
Publisher | SIGONGSA Co., Ltd.
Publication Date | 2019-05-13
ISBN | 9788952798381
No. of pages | 344
Dimensions | 143 * 210

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3. Book Intro

45 Walkways of Seoul you will want to walk every day.

Working as a travel writer, author Kim wrote *Weekend Travel Bucket List 99* and *Seasonal Travel Destinations Searched by 50 Million Koreans*, but she always wanted to make a record of her hometown, Seoul. There are many ways to travel Seoul, which has a rich heritage of history, culture, nature and food, but she chose to "walk slowly through the alleys." She pulled out a map of Seoul and, like the pieces of a puzzle coming together, she completed 45 different walking routes.

She covered all four seasons over 2 years and spent several more months collecting the latest information before publishing this book. Finished with Kim's extraordinary love and passion for Seoul, it proposes new ways to travel through the city.

The book introduces various walking routes, beginning from beginner courses and going up to intermediate course that require about a half day's walk. These routes are diverse, and include easy, family-friendly walks for children and the elderly. Shorter courses are easy to find and the table of contents is separated into districts. The author suggests the best routes for different seasons and walking companions, and provides the distance and an estimates of the time it takes to walk from the starting point to the finish.

The book also contains a varied list of dining and cafe recommendations. Look inside for the hottest places on SNS, traditional restaurants that have been located in the same neighborhood for several decades, and some great travel tips. In particular, this book is a great guide for solo travelers looking for restaurants that are great to eat at alone.

5 things that make *Along the Walk: Seoul* special!

One, the book contains a full list of the most walk-able routes in Seoul, making it easy for everyone to walk.

Two, the book is an excellent travel navigator, guiding you by subway stations.

Third, the book suggests great photo spots and viewpoints in Seoul.

Fourth, the book introduces Seoul's hidden gems for foreign travelers.

Fifth, the book is great for solo travelers who are looking for restaurants and shopping spots.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2438

Going for a short while

1. Publication Details

Title | Going for a short while

Subtitle | A light and easy half-day walking journey

Author | Lim Woonseok

Publisher | SIGONGSA Co., Ltd.

Publication Date | 2019-09-20

ISBN | 9788952738660

No. of pages | 320

Dimensions | 135 * 205

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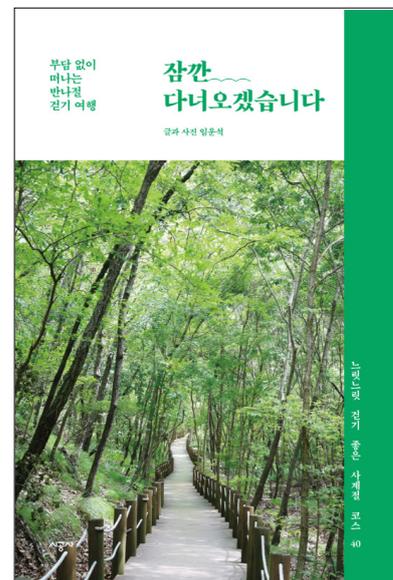
3. Book Intro

How about a little walk to give your mind and body a stretch?

Light and easy half-day trips.

This book introduces the concept of the short “walking trip,” for those who can't spare much money, time or mind.

A walking trip feels more like a leisurely stroll where you are not bound by travel itineraries. It also frees you from tight schedules, complications of trip-packing and preparing, and allows for a more generous travel budget. We often think that we must do certain things to make a trip complete. Is it true that we must cross off everything on our to-do list to make a trip a successful one? When it is not work-related we travel for pleasure, and walking trips are the perfect way to achieve this goal.



Check out the six chapters that illustrate different concepts of traveling. Roads for walking alone, roads for walking with a companion, roads close to the Seoul metropolitan area, roads filled with phytoncide, and choose the one that best fits your travel needs. Each chapter starts by introducing the course and must-stroll spots. Readers can read about ways to get to their destination, information about the course, and also eating spots and nearby attractions. Most walking courses take between 40 minutes and 2 hours, but this is merely an average estimate. How much of the course is to be explored is entirely up to the traveler. Have you chosen your destination? Then just grab a bottle of water and walking shoes, and you're good to go. Let us embark on this short, but truly healing walking trip, together.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2626

Travel & Walk to the Shooting Places of the Drama (Date Courses in Seoul, Korea)

1. Publication Details

Title | Travel & Walk to the Shooting Places of the Drama (Date Courses in Seoul, Korea)
Author | JISUNG LEE
Publisher | uldo nation
Publication Date | 2016-11-20
ISBN | 9788997372973
No. of pages | 250
Dimensions | 148 * 225

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3. Book Intro

The popularity of Korean dramas spread to China with the advent of Song Joong-ki in "The Sun's Descendants", Kim Soo-hyun in "You from the Star", Lee Min-ho in "Heirs", and Lee Jong-seok in "W".

Tourists who are interested in the Korean Wave travel to the places related to K-drama, and even purchase products related to it.

The author went to the drama shooting locations for several years to experience them.



More than 100 photos of the shooting locations add vividness and stimulate the desire to travel.

The book introduces highly rated dramas and emotionally conveys the locations and story of the dramas to the fans.

I hope that your imagination becomes the reality while the book delivers you realistic information rather than appreciations to the dramas created based on imaginations.

Traveling through places where the main characters play, eat, and live will be a dreamy and pleasant walk for those who enjoy dramas and media.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=3031

Tripful: Jeju

1. Publication Details

Title | Tripful: Jeju
Author | easyandbooks
Publisher | easyand
Publication Date | 2020-06-24
ISBN | 9791185831978
No. of pages | 144
Dimensions | 180 * 234

2. Copyright Contact

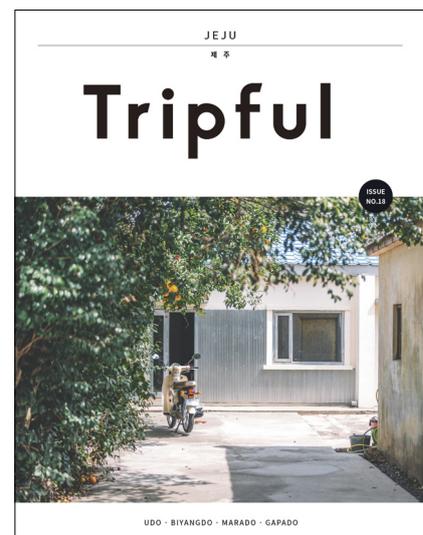
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3. Book Intro

This travel book delves into the traditions and culture of Jeju, which is uniquely based on nature, and covers the scenery and stories of the island where trendy migrants live in harmony.

Readers will discover people, spaces, and stories that embrace the past and permeate the future of Jeju.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=4240



Gyeongju Healing Road 1

1. Publication Details

Title | Gyeongju Healing Road 1

Author | Kang see Yil

Publisher | Artificial Pond

Publication Date | 2017-10-25

ISBN | 9791185821108

No. of pages | 204

Dimensions | 130 * 210

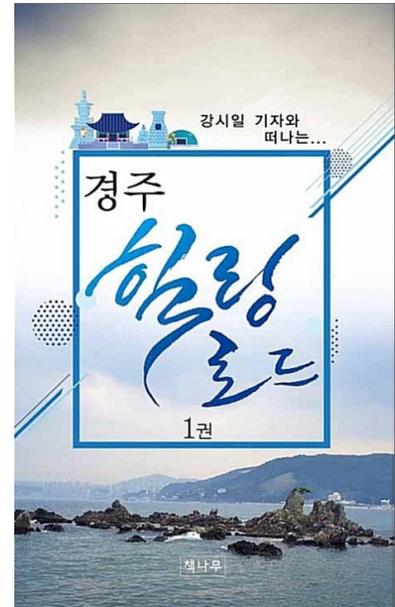
2. Book Intro

There is a saying, "Life is a travel." Traveling in Gyeongju begins with visiting the town's royal tombs that are as big as a small mountain.

Looking deep into the slowly accumulated time embodied in the royal tombs, stone towers, stone Buddhas, and temple sites arouses

unique inspiration and expands the window of thought. Sometimes, we find the dreams of future in the past. That is also the purpose of traveling Gyeongju, the city of history and culture. In the first volume, the book introduces the town area centering around the Daereungwon Ancient Tombs, Go-Bun Park, and historic sites in the whole area of the Cheomseongdae Observatory, as well as things to enjoy around the Bomun Tourist Complex; Gyeongju EXPO, Gyeongju Folk Craft Village, etc. on Bobul-ro; and the Haeparang Road that stretches from Yangnam to Gampo.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5094



INFO

Announcement on 2021 K-Book Translation Contest



The Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA) hosts the <2021 K-Book Translation Contest: Reading Korea, Bridging Cultures> in a novel attempt to provide a space of cultural exchange through publication and increase the international attention to and base of Korean culture and

publication. The contest is open to the general public. Therefore, much attention and participation of resident foreigners in South Korea who are interested in Korean culture will be appreciated.

Purpose of the Contest

- To expand international exchange/cooperation and increase attention on Korean books through the K-book Translation Contest in connection with commemorative establishment of diplomatic relations.

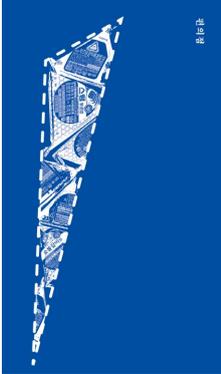
Outline of the Contest

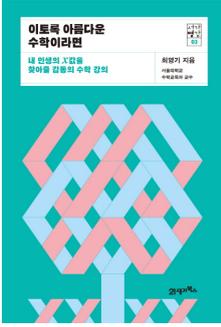
- Contest title : 2021 K-Book Translation Contest: Reading Korea, Bridging Cultures
- Applicable language : English, (Simplified) Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese
- Qualification
 - Resident foreigners and students from abroad in South Korea (non-resident foreigners are unqualified for the contest)
 - Resident foreigners who have never received any official translation support nor published any translated work in the applicable language
- Timeline for application : From 12:00 July 19 (Mon.) to 24:00 Oct. 15 (Fri), 2021 (Korea Standard Time), for three months.
- How to apply : Via website (www.k-booktranscon.kr)

- Result announcement : Scheduled on Nov. 30 (Tue), 2021 (to be notified individually and to be announced on the contest website)
- Awards ceremony : Scheduled in Dec. 2021 (to be informed individually later)

Contest Application

- Books for the contest : Choose one from the below list to apply for the contest (translation pages requirement should be strictly followed)

Category	Title	Cover	Translation pages	Author	Publisher
Literature	편의점		Pages 9 to 22	류연웅 외 4인	안전가옥
Humanities	신화의 언어		Pages 15 to 33	조현설	한겨레출판(주)

Category	Title	Cover	Translation pages	Author	Publisher
Philosophy	다산은 아들을 이렇게 가르쳤다 : 아버지 정약용의 인생강의		Pages 11 to 23	정약용, 오세진	(주)홍익출판사
Social Science	평등, 헤아리는 마음의 이름		Pages 8 to 23	오준호	(주)생각과느낌
Juvenile	이토록 아름다운 수학이라면		Pages 17 to 36	최영기	21세기북스

● Required Documents : To be filled out and submitted on the website's contest application page

① Translation Manuscript - The manuscript form shall be downloaded from the website first. After completing the translation, the file should be converted to a pdf file and attached on the website for submission.

* Translation pages of each book should be strictly followed

* No personal information (name, school, address, etc.) should be indicated on the translation manuscript

- ② Letter of application, etc. - Letter of application for the 2021 K-book Translation Contest, Consent to the Collection of Personal Information (to be filled out on the website's contest application page).

Awards Ceremony

- Awards : Total KRW 54 million (Grand Prize : KRW 3 million, Excellence Prize : KRW 2 million, Merit Prize : KRW 1 million)

Category	English	Chinese	Spanish	Vietnamese
Grand prize	KRW 3 million (one winner)			
Excellence prize	KRW 2 million (two winners)			
Merit prize	KRW 1 million (8 winners)			

Other Information

- The copyright of the submitted work belongs to the applicant, the author, and KPIPA can consult with contest winners to produce secondary writings with the award-winning works for the purpose of public benefits including promotions, exhibitions as well as publication production and distribution.

- Award-winning works for each language will go public on the contest website and can be used in various ways as KPIPA's publicity materials.
- In principle, submitted works shall not be returned and collectively discarded after the contest is over.
- Exclusion criteria : submitted works shall be excluded from the contest in case any of the following applies.
 - If submitted information and documents are not valid.
 - If the applicant has ever officially been supported by being selected for any translation contest hosted by other institutions or local governments (e.g. Rookie Translator Award of the Literature Translation Institute of Korea).
 - If the applicant has ever published a translated work in the applicable language.
- Award cancellation: An award winner may have his/her award cancelled if any of the following applies. In this case, the winner may be subject to disciplinary actions including return of the paid prize money and be fully responsible for any issue arising therefrom.
 - If any of the above exclusion criteria applies.
 - If any clear reason for disqualification including copyright infringement (plagiarism and copying) is confirmed even after the award winners are announced.
 - If any statement included in the submitted documents is different from the truth, falsely entered or omitted.

Inquiries

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- E-mail: kbooktranscon@gmail.com

* The above announcement is subject to change due to circumstances.