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TOPIC

Book Communities Create a New Cradle for Readers

Written by Kim Young-lhm

Different values and meanings are created through books. Books allow us to acquire knowledge. We are also enlightened by the teachings portrayed in them, and they sometimes even set the path for our lives based on this enlightenment. However, reading regularly by oneself is easier said than done. Furthermore, reading books on a broader spectrum than what one's interested in is something even more difficult to do. More and more people have been reading and having discussions within book clubs all around. There are people who take a further step and pursue positive development by planning a variety of events and taking part in a society with reading as a medium. They want to achieve positive development through various activities and playing social roles by using the act of reading. This refers to creating

book communities. Book communities mostly start as book clubs and have the purpose of existing under a stronger connection while having good influences on society through deeper thoughts and roles and sharing tastes and different lives. Let's take a look into the book communities that branch out in various ways with their unique characteristics.

Reading That Creates a Safe Connection Between People

Lee Hwa-Jeong, who plays many roles as a book coordinator and published the books, *Reading for All* (The One Books), *Reading and Shining Together as Book Coordinators* (Bookbee), *A Beautiful Journal Collection* (Book Cloud Publisher), runs a variety of book communities. These book communities serve different purposes based on the preferences and the will of the people who join her in those book communities. Lee Hwa-Jeong started the book communities with a couple of people who joined her with the same goal of “having good influence that shines by sowing seeds of books every day.” After that, more and more people joined, and as a result, there now are a total of six book communities.



“Sunhyang Book Club”, “Twinkling Calendar Club”, “Book Coordinator Training Club” (L to R)



“Picture Book Club”, “Theme Book Club”, “Online Book Club” (L to R)

Seven years ago, The “Sunhyang Book Club” marked the start of the development of book communities, and its members consist of housewives who read one book per month and spread the act of reading to their children and husbands. By reading books together, they are finding their places in society as more than just housewives. This community has also attracted people who do not have the habit of reading books. “Cheo-Eum Book Club” is a monthly club that is three years old, and its members include people from the United States, Gyeonggi-do Province, Busan, and Jeolla-do Province. The club covers a variety of genres, including classics, science, history, novels, storybooks, poems, etc., and members also share copied pictures and recital files. Members of the “Twinkling Calendar Club” form connections through books as they build long-term companionships. In the club, members share assignments in a group chat twice per

month and have an online meeting once per month. Every year, members decide a theme, and as an example, last year's keyword was "poems," which means that the club read collections of poetry all year long. This year's keyword is "trees," which means this year's content will include poems, novels, movies, documentaries, picture books, and science books about trees. "Fifties' Book Club" consists of members who aim to grow older as fantastic role models for younger people through reading and sharing stories from books they have absorbed in their lives. The members of "Poetry Club: Let's Get Honey" recite and transcribe poems as well as enjoy them in a variety of ways through picture books, storybooks, and movies. Both of these communities carry out activities that connect and strengthen the lives of one another through reading. There also is a program led by Lee Hwa-Jeong, an active book coordinator, that trains potential book coordinators. The book coordinator program consists of members who aim at refining and looking after their lives through books. The program serves its purpose as it is divided into the following categories: moms, book stores, book clubs, and writing.

"Book communities all have different characteristics. Some communities have regular meetings and feel a sense of community through emotional connections by communicating through books in social networks. While there are some exclusive communities, there also are communities that focus on public activities. For me, the ideal book community is a community

with people who believe that reading is an “important part” of their lives. I want to have a minor yet good influence on others by becoming a person who has a strong and healthy influence on what’s near me in my life in a book community where people read, write, and share.”

The message from the book coordinator and leader of many book communities, Lee Hwa-Jeong, pertains to the vital life created by reading books together.

For a Sustainable Community Where People Share Tastes Through Books

Lee Sun-Kyeong of “Choco Book Cafe” created a book community as the first step to create a space that provides people comfort in a generation where people face struggles in their lives.



Image of the “Risky Book Club”

“A community can be created by people with the same purpose, but sometimes, it is also created naturally from some kind of occurrence. We naturally met through reading, and now, we are

able to share our thoughts comfortably. We provide comfort for one another in times of loneliness and hardship and share joy when there's something to be happy for.”



The Risky Book Club Magazine

Instead of adding a significant modifier and setting a big goal, the club took the first steps as it developed a bond between people by allowing them to share personal preferences and communicate through reading. Every Saturday at 11, book meetings are held with members from their twenties to sixties who share similar preferences for books. Also, there are events in which members eat out or have snacks together in a bookstore. In addition, members choose movies, plan parties and lectures, and even give lectures or cooking lessons. The club's members also started to write magazines together with the same purpose as the meetings continued. It started as a small club and went on to produce new cultural content as it developed as a community. The new magazine with the same name as the community, the

Risky Book Club, is funded by the Art Masulso, a community art establishment. The community members are putting a lot of affection and passion into this year's issue as well. The magazine's publication is the result of pride in the community, which makes it much more valuable and meaningful. It is now the source of sustainable growth for the "Risky Book Club," which got its name from the members' uncertainty of how long the community might last. It was an unexpected result from its members reading books together while going on with their lives.

Participation of the Local Government in the Activities of Book Communities

The local government of Paju-si, where the greatest publishing complex of Korea is established, is running a project to support book communities. The "2021 Book Community Funding Project," which is the title of the project, serves the purpose of creating environments where people voluntarily read and establishes a Paju-si full of readers through the revitalization of book clubs that form the basis for local residents to read books. Book clubs within schools, public, small, and military libraries, book communities based in local bookstores, book clubs in the workplace, book communities based in community education centers (ones that use education centers when they are empty, local community education centers where locals learn and share through educational activities) in Paju-si will be

funded. Communities that apply for the fund will go through an evaluation process and receive funds for books, lectures, consumable supplies, promotion/printing, field trips/hands-on activities, and more.

In Nowon-gu, Seoul, there's a project called "Book Momo" that funds book communities. It supports book communities with the motto, "Read together, talk together, and live together!" It has a program for leaders and provides a center for public opinion until the end of the year. Moreover, the project selects 40 Book Momo teams and funds 500,000 won for each team for book purchases and reading activities. This year, in particular, it designated a librarian for each of the book communities in public libraries and funds community activities by using the libraries' infrastructure and content. Nowon-gu anticipates that reading and sharing thoughts will become the basis of development for town communities.

In addition, small and big book communities are playing active roles all around Korea. "Namwon Book Club" in Jeju shows a new possibility by selling regional products and being a guest house by establishing 'Living in Jeju,' a local business. It started as a book club for reading and developed into a Seogwipo Return Farm Cooperative. The "Boryeong Village of Readers," now leading the famous "Boryeong Literature Festival" that attracts people nationwide with its lectures, also started as a book club of best friends. The members of this community aim to create

a book community that lasts for generations and have been actively participating for years while maintaining their identity as a community. There is also a book community that focuses on performing social responsibilities through roles. The “Joy of Reading Books” in Gimhae is a book club established by local government employees that started with the purpose of creating a city full of readers and provided an opportunity for really listening to the voices of locals.

Book communities have their unique identities and are growing. They show the power of books and the importance of togetherness in setting out into the world where we live together and yield a variety of social values.

SPECIAL PROJECT

Advanced Korea: Finding the Right Path for Society

Written by Kim Young-lhm

Korea has become the 9th largest economic powerhouse in the world. It has shown its enhanced reputation as a special guest at the G7 hosted by the United Kingdom. There is also the prospect that the G7 will add more members to become the G10. Korea, which has built economic strength at a rapid pace, driving industrial and economic progress, has become an advanced country. However, Korea's reputation as an advanced nation goes further than economic power. All varieties of the Korean Wave showing Korean culture, such as the Oscar winning film "Minari" and BTS sweeping the charts, are captivating the world. Also, the Korean public showed a high-level of democracy through the candlelight demonstration. In the midst of the pandemic that brought the world into chaos, Korea responded remarkably to the

disease, campaigning for "K-quarantine." In short, Korea already had the dignity and reputation of an advanced country in many ways. Its next task would be to identify more important roles to play while maintaining its status as an advanced country. Here, some of the recently published books speak of the next step for Korea as an advanced country through various approaches.

The rise of the young generation, the leaders of advanced Korea



*Korea, Transforming into an Economic Powerhouse,
Thinking about K: How the youth born in the 1990s sees Korea*

The older generation has made a tremendous contribution to the growth of Korea as an advanced country with outstanding passion and effort. However, the next leaders to keep Korea alive are those born in the 1990s. This generation has been blessed with advanced culture and education, let alone economic bounty. This means that they are equipped with the basic requirements as individuals from an advanced country. Therefore, some books

talk about this generation as the next leaders of Korea; the best examples are *Korea, Transforming into an Economic Powerhouse* (Hwang Tae-Gyu, Good Plus Books) and *Thinking about K: How the youth born in the 1990s sees Korea* (Lim Myeong-Mook, Sideways Publishing).

The book *Korea, Transforming into an Economic Powerhouse*, which talks about economically powerful Korea led by the young generation born and raised in the advanced environment, says that our society has more things to learn from them. It emphasizes that the young generation has vested rights that the older generation does not have, which stretches from politics to the psychological realm. Society will be able to witness maximized outcomes if society gives practical power to them. The writer suggests the older generation leave our future to the hands of the young generation, drawing a “new national model” where they will continue to live in the advanced country, keeping its strong position in the world, imagining the future of Korea. He says that the young generation is equipped with relatively more outstanding elements as the first generation to receive advanced education. Hence, they are fully ready to live as individuals of an advanced country. He also points out things the society needs to prepare for the future they will lead.

Meanwhile, *Thinking about K: How the youth born in the 1990s sees Korea* also talks about similar things. Writer Lim Myeong-Mook, born in 1994, targets the keyword “K” (the first letter of the name Korea) and looks into the sharpest issues that most

symbolically represent “Korea in the world.” He focuses on five things closely related to each other in the book: “people born in the 90s,” “K-quarantine,” “nationalism and cultural diversity,” “386,” and “issues surrounding college admission and educational system.” He analyzes why people are so enthusiastic about the keyword “K” by looking at aspects such as the hierarchical structure created by people’s pride, stress, desire, and control, contending desire to survive in the pyramid of hereditary social class and order, the collision of outwardly-promoted morality and secular desires hidden inside, and paradoxical aspiration and defiance to a powerful country. The book also suggests a new outlook on the reality facing Korea today. The author's analysis opens a new window for readers by carefully examining the origin and context of each issue, rather than urging or criticizing them in haste. Thus, readers will be able to have a more in-depth understanding of the multiform dynamics surrounding the keyword "K."

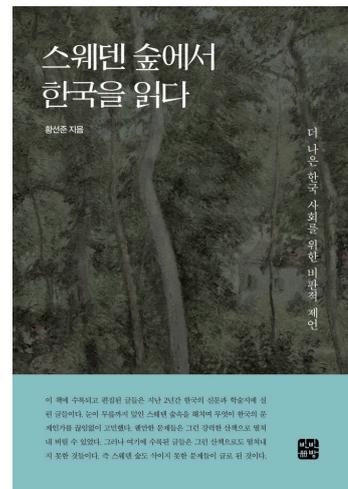
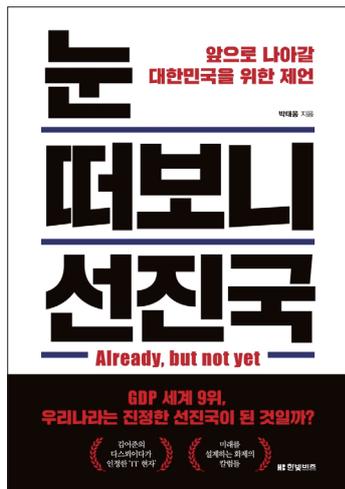
Korea’s advancement into an economic powerhouse comes with numerous tasks

Becoming an advanced country is not only followed by pride and admiration; there is a mountain of work to be done. The book *Advanced Country Already, But Not Yet: Advice for the Future of Korea* (Hanbit Biz) written by Park Tae-Woong advises on issues Korea should address as a country that has rapidly become an

economic powerhouse. Emphasizing that Korea should pay attention to other factors than just its GDP as it joins other advanced countries, the writer mentions that the historically proven best scale to measuring the healthiness of a society is the proportion of middle-income families. He underlines that societies with a strong backbone of middle-income families are always the healthiest, which in turn promotes other policies to be implemented in pursuit of this goal as it is the best indicator of state affairs. After tough years to make the country powerful, we should now wait for the soul to catch up with the body that has run so fast to this point and address issues of “cultural lag” piling up ahead. As an IT specialist, the writer keenly points out where Korea stands today, core indicators that decide an advanced country, issues of our social system, and how we should change the country to make it a truly advanced one, through various facts and insights. The book *Advanced Country Already, But Not Yet: Advice for the Future of Korea* enlightens readers that Korea now stands at a new starting point, providing sharp insights about issues that need to be addressed and the direction in which Korea should take to make a greater stride forward, not just satisfied with flying the flag of an advanced country.

When thinking of an advanced country, the first thing in mind would be an ideal country where no one is left behind in terms of welfare. Welfare is one of the main topics in speeches about an advanced country. The book *Strange Success: What Made Korea an Unequal Welfare State?* (Hanibook) written by Yoon Hong-Sik

sharply points out welfare issues in Korea, a developed country. To summarize briefly, the author asserts that "Korea is an advanced country, but also an unjust welfare state." Starting with the question "Why did Korea become an unfair welfare state?", the book touches upon several grave issues in the complex reality giving clear answers to questions such as "Why are we unhappy even with all the success (becoming an advanced country)," "Why does Korean society not allow its youth to have time thinking about the climate crisis and world peace?", and "What made Korea's welfare policies only focus on full-time workers?" The writer argues, "Our success has become a trap that makes us unhappy. Paradoxically, we are unhappy because of the success we have made, not because of failure." He thoroughly analyzes some of the issues such as why Korea has become a highly unstable country where 6 out of 10 people are "resentful" even though the country has ranked 9th in terms of the size of GDP and why increased welfare spending each year fails to lift Korea from the stigma of having the no.1 suicide rate from economic, political, historical, and social welfare perspectives. The book *Strange Success: What Made Korea an Unequal Welfare State?* talks about the painful reality of our society and offers solutions that will guide Korea to a more advanced country.



*Advanced Country Already, But Not Yet: Advice for the Future of Korea,
Strange Success: What Made Korea an Unequal Welfare State?
Reading Korea in the Forest of Sweden: A Critical Suggestion for a Better Korean Society*

Meanwhile, there is a book that attempts to find answers in exemplary cases from other advanced countries. The book *Reading Korea in the Forest of Sweden: A Critical Suggestion for a Better Korean Society* (Binbin Books), written by Hwang Sun-Jun looks at Korean society from the writer's viewpoint who has experienced the educational system, politics, and culture of the two countries which seemingly have nothing in common. The writer explains how Sweden coped with issues the Korean society is struggling with today through cases, suggesting alternatives that can suit the Korean atmosphere rather than just arguing that we should follow their method. Critical thinking, which he learned from experience in Sweden, relies on this set of processes. These critical insights are also applicable to Swedish society. The book suggests that Swedish society also has its own struggles in various fields and is taking on challenges to resolve them. In other words, there is no society without problems,

and how a society treats problems determines its future. The book covers general issues of society with five key topics of “education,” “political structure,” “climate crisis,” “human rights,” and “COVID-19,” pointing out that the role of politics is the key above all to address social issues. The author says that we should take a step back and have a broader view of interrelated political power and institutions to solve problems in each area. He argues, “It starts with issues and ends with solutions.” His sharp criticism encourages readers to reflect on how the advanced country of Korea can overcome numerous tasks ahead while suggesting solutions.

Becoming an advanced country is not the end. It is evident that we need to think again about various societies while maintaining the status and dignity as a developed country, and prepare for the next generation that will lead the country. Making various attempts and efforts to make this country a truly advanced country and paying attention to books that help us gather strength to seek solutions for a rightful path are indeed the beginning of a positive change.

EXPORT CASE

Success Stories of Japanese Publisher Kobunsha - Importer of Korean Books

I Want to Die but I Also Want to Eat Tteokppoki,
a Book That Targets Young Readers of Japan

Written by Ms. Amiko Kitagawa of Kobunsha
(株式会社光文社ノンフィクション編集部 北川編子)



Book Covers of the Japanese Translations of *I Want to Die but I Also Want to Eat Tteokppokki 1, 2*

The first time I saw *I Want to Die but I Also Want to Eat Tteokppokki* (HEUN) was in a bookstore on my trip to Seoul in 2018. I stopped in front of the book display shelf without even

realizing it, mesmerized by the soft and cozy illustrations and beautiful colors of the cover.



Book covers for the Japanese translations of *KIM JI YOUNG BORN 1982*, *The Vegetarian*

That same year in December, the Japanese translation of *KIM JI YOUNG BORN 1982* (Minumsa Publishing) attracted public attention at the entrances of many bookstores in Japan. Many works of Korean literature have been translated and published over the years. After *The Vegetarian* (Changbi) by Han Kang received the Man Booker International Prize in 2016, there has been a wider range of works of Korean literature stocked in bookstores. However, what has really attracted the attention of readers since 2018 are works of literature or non-fiction targeting “light readers” (those who have a slight interest in book charts and Korean books), with *KIM JI YOUNG BORN 1982* being in the lead. In particular, teenagers of the younger generation have shown a rising interest in cultural aspects of Korea such as K-POP, make-up, fashion, interior, and food which has also led to

the rise in interest in Korean literature. *I Want to Die but I Also Want to Eat Tteokppokki* is a book that had the initial intention of targeting young readers, mostly consisting of Millennials.

As mentioned at the beginning of the article, these books can be purchased as products of display “not read but stocked” as part of an interior design since their stylish cover designs attract consumers of the generation that uses social network systems centered on visuals such as Instagram or TikTok. That’s why the covers of the translated versions were designed nearly the same as the originals. The only additional touch to add some nuance was the font style of the title, which was changed to a handwritten version to make it look softer.

In January of 2020, 10,000 initial copies were first published, and the second batch of copies was issued in just a single week due to the increase in sales mostly centered around Amazon Japan. Within ten days of being published, 30,000 copies were sold. As intended, the number of purchasers in their teens and twenties increased significantly, drawing attention mainly on social networks. One factor of this increase might have had to do something with the increasing number of fans who became obsessed with every single bit of idol members as K-POP gained great popularity in Japan. Fans reading the books and posting reviews of books on the SNS of popular idol members has become a trend. Many reviews were posted mostly by the fans of idols, including BTS members as *I Want to Die but I Also Want to Eat Tteokppokki* appeared on the SNS of those idol members.

Since then, sales have increased, and an additional 40,000 copies were printed in 2020, just in time for summer vacation at schools. The additional copies planned were not enough to meet the demand, so another 10,000 copies were printed. The age group expanded into an older age group from teenagers, and sales in local bookstores also increased following the sales increase in central cities. In 2021, there were a total of 140,000 copies printed and sold. The sequel, *I Want to Die but I Also Want to Eat Tteokppokki 2*, has sold 60,000 copies. The two books were a hit as they sold a total of 200,000 copies altogether.

The question is, how did this book attract the minds of the younger generation? I plan on listing the reasons one after the other.



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shinjuku honten

This book is a record of the experience the writer has when encountering the unstable inner mind and the struggles faced while accepting the unstable state of mind. A characteristic of this book is that the beginning of each piece of writing starts out as a dialogue. There are many non-fiction works in Japan that portray a character overcoming depression, but in this book, the troubled mind is prescribed as a “dysthymic disorder (slight depression),” but does not fall under a single category of diseases, is recorded in detail. The book does not provide a clear ending as the writer’s mental state bounces around from the beginning to the end, although it foreshadows a bright ending. The part which makes this book interesting might be the acceptance of the uncertainty of “not being resolved.” When readers read a book that reflects what’s similar to their mental state of being unstable, some readers might realize that they are trapped in their own obsession of having to “resolve it no matter what,” “be healthy,” “move forward” as they get closer to the ending.

The theme of the book that perceives the unstable mental state is portrayed well in the title. The two contrasting desires of “wanting to die” and “wanting to eat tteokppoki” are displayed. The contrast between the seriousness of the problem in the former and the lightness or greed revealed in the latter has a subtle effect that highlights the author's unstable psychological state, which cannot be expressed in words. The book highlights the desire for a stable conclusion without being able to relieve

the unstable contrast of emotions. The author did a splendid job of portraying this kind of mental state.

This book is more than just an essay as it is similar to the text website in the form of a journal that was popular from the late 1990s to the early 2000s on the internet in Japan. The websites that attracted readers with journals and sensible poems as their main content were followed by the “SNS literature” of Instagram, Twitter, note (Japan’s SNS platform), but it seems there’s a common factor seen in this book as well since most readers are teenagers or the young generation in their twenties that know how to handle SNS well. So, for example, the main content that reads like a journal and the prose at the end of the book have common factors.

Although the type of oppression differs in Japan and Korea, minorities of society, including young people and women, do face oppression. Suppose literature has the power of fighting against oppression by speaking up in resistance. In that case, this book has the power of making readers examine their own mental states and come to realizations by empathizing with the mental state of those who send an SOS in circumstances where they get weary and hurt from oppression.

Translated from Japanese to Korean by Oh Kyoung-Soon
(Adjunct Professor of Japanese Language & Culture at Catholic University of Korea)

BOOK TRIP

Cheongju, Chungcheongbuk-do

The Active Role Independent Bookstores Play in Leading the Regeneration of Urban Culture in the Old Downtown Area

Written by Kim Young-lhm



Chungcheongbuk-do Province is the only province in Korea that does not embody a coastal area. However, in Cheongju, located in the central part of the inland area of the Chungcheongbuk-do Province, is Daecheong Lake, also known as the sea of the

inland. Daecheong Lake, with its vastness, provides a rich supply of water, making Cheongju a city of plentifulness with magnificent scenery. You can enjoy a stroll or drive along with the scenery of Daecheong Lake that changes throughout the four seasons. Cheongju has an abundance of tourist locations such as the Cheongnamdae, the presidential villa with the name in Korean that means “Blue House of the South.” It also has a well-preserved earthen fortification representing Korea called Sangdangsanseong Fortress, and Suamgol Village with its old alleys also used as the filming spot for many Korean dramas including “Bread, Love and Dreams,” “Cain and Abel,” and “Honorary Jaein.” There is also a drama-themed alley and the Kim Soo-Hyun Drama Art Hall in the Suam-gil, inspired by the filming of dramas, has added a bigger attraction to the city. When you travel to Cheongju, you must visit the Cheongju Early Printing Museum, where you can appreciate the culture of early printing. You should also visit the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Cheongju, which is a reconstructed version of the cigarette manufacturing storage that used to play a major role in the local economy.

A Married Couple’s Bookstore Offering Unexpected Encounters with Books: Bookstore of Dreams

A great city for people to live in must provide great job opportunities, plentiful life amenities, and diverse cultural spaces

all at once. Cheongju has an industrial complex that fulfills the role of providing great job opportunities. Also, it lives up to being a part of the Chungcheongbuk-do Province by offering a variety of life amenities. However, although these two aspects are fulfilled, the city relatively lacks cultural spaces. Bookstore of Dreams is a bookstore run by a married couple who have the purpose of making it the pivot of culture within the area so that Cheongju can be a much better place to live in and advance as a much more attractive city. Bookstore of Dreams was named by its employees to express their hope of providing a space where one can escape from one's not-so-easy life to the bookstore and find great dreams and pursue goals they want to achieve. The married bookstore managers, who already have quite a lot of experience in running a bookstore and a liberal arts academy in Cheongju, opened Bookstore of Dreams in Cheongju in 2015 as they felt the need and potential for a bookstore that plays a central role in the local culture of Cheongju.





The couple explains that the reason for local bookstores to stay firmly in their places is that people can have unexpected encounters with books in bookstores. However, the number of readers is decreasing, and there are more and more options online through which people can purchase and come across books. Bookstore of Dreams is a space where you can acquire information about books and see and experience many more aspects as you come across different books. Daily, about 100 books are stocked and displayed in the bookstore, while the total number of books equals more than 10,000 books. The bookstore aims to provide opportunities for locals to experience change by displaying newly published books weekly to help readers understand book trends and expand their range of options. In addition to this, it plans on creating a space for writers and readers to meet and hold lectures on liberal arts that may be helpful to locals. Currently, it runs a “Bookstore Tong Tong Program” with the poet, Kim Eun-Sook, who is also from the region. The program includes a recital and literary debate held twice every month and a time for sharing stories that are helpful

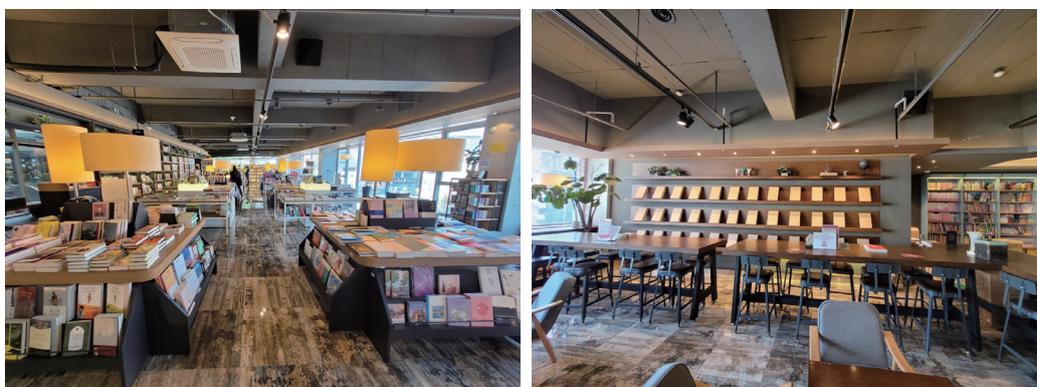
to society with local seniors once every month. The main goal of Bookstore of Dreams of being able to provide opportunities for local readers to easily come to think upon and participate in sharing stories about the cultural events and the region is ripening.

Taking Off As a Cultural Complex by Enlightening Reading Culture, HYGGE books



Once it grows to a certain extent, a city must increase its quality along with its increasing quantity. Since this also applies to cultural spaces, a space that fulfills the needs of locals and creates diverse cultures is a necessity. Hygge Books, which opened in 2017 near Musim River, located in the downtown area of Cheongju, has been more than just a space selling books and aims to mass-produce new cultural content. HYGGE books has created a cozy and comfy space of happiness where people can feel relaxed. It centers on the emotional stability inspired by the meaning of “hygge” in Norwegian, which means well-

being. HYGGE books also has a cafe and a stationery store so that anyone can easily come in and read books as well as enjoy the cultural aspects. The bookstore aims to provide opportunities for readers to enjoy reading and culture in a natural environment by expanding the target consumers with a wider range of options and more reasons to visit.



HYGGE books has positive reviews from students, parents, and even teachers for its field trip program for nearby elementary schools so that children can get into the habit of being familiar with books and reading a lot from an early age. In addition to this program, it has an event where you can meet authors, which is often held by small bookstores. It also holds a variety of cultural events with municipal libraries. It has been benchmarked in nearby small and medium-sized cities with its clear identity as a bookstore that ponders upon co-existing within the area. This attracted other regions, leading to the opening of the bookstore in Daejeon, Daegu, and Uiwang, displaying its growth. The efforts of HYGGE books to be successful as a complex cultural space by

creating a reading culture and inviting cultural businesses within the region will show the potential of medium-sized bookstores that play the role of a makeshift bridge between large bookstores and independent bookstores.

A Cultural Community Created from the Good Cycle of Literary Circles, Moon Flower

“Moon Flower,” also the nickname of the first owner of the bookstore, was given its name in hopes of radiantly blooming a culture like a “flower” on a “moon.” Moon Flower was established thanks to people who share the hobby of reading wanting to do a wider range of activities together. People in literary circles together felt the necessity of a space and thought that it would be a great idea to create a space in the form of an independent bookstore. Since it was a place created together under the same purpose, the current owner did not hesitate to take responsibility for Moon Flower and kept it running when the initial owner couldn’t be in charge anymore under personal circumstances.





Moon Flower, located in the old downtown area of Cheongju, mainly has picture books for adults. Moon Flower is an independent bookstore that started out as a book club and became a cultural community. Moon Flower hopes to provide the time to soothe the inner mind and provide comfort when readers read picture books that relax the mind. There are now a variety of book clubs as more and more people with the same purposes and hobbies would come to the bookstore. Currently, Moon Flower is the center for many activities, including Healing Book Talks, “Gojeon Dojeon,” (a book club for classics), “Geu-ullim” (a book club for picture books), “Shim-in-book,” (a book club for psychology books), “Reanema (Read + Cinema),” (a movie book club), “Gargle,” (a writing club without pretense) and more. Thus, the bookstore has a cultural community where members can share valuable results by cooperating and doing things together if they want to or by creating other programs. The manager of Moon Flower hopes for more people to come to the bookstore and pursue happiness through books since it is a space open to anyone without the burden of having to read through the

whole book or having to mandatorily participate. The positive energy that comes from a community linked together through books, created by the cozy Moon Flower, shines radiantly.

ONE-LINER QUOTES

TV Producer's Pick

Korean Wave Seen From Another Perspective:
Kim Ok-Young's *The Art of Documentary* and Kim Ho-Yeon's
Uncanny Convenience Store

Written by Son Young-Gon (Producer of SBS talk show "Good Morning")



The Art of Documentary

Kim Ok-Young, Munji Books



Author Kim Ok-Young, © Yonhap News 00:00

"The dream of documentary shows
lies beyond the screen."

Director Bong Joon-Ho's film "Parasite" won four awards at the 92nd Academy Awards in 2020, making a splash around the world. Meanwhile, director Lee Seung-Joon's "In The Absence" was nominated for the Oscar for Best Documentary (Short Subject) as well, although he didn't get much spotlight. The progression of Korean video content has become a global trend,

as can be seen with "Squid Game," an original Netflix drama that is expected to win the Emmy Awards. Though not well known, Korean documentary films have also won awards at several international film festivals such as the Berlin International Film Festival, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, Moscow International Film Festival, and Sundance Film Festival. One thing that non-fiction and fiction have in common is that they are based on human life. However, documentaries reveal the other end of fact-based reality. What you need to reason and reveal the "other side" are imagination and insight. This book suggests clues to how the characteristics of Korean films with strong social colors are displayed through which process and imagination.

Writer Kim Ok-Young, who has been producing documentaries on TV for the past 40 years since 1982, is a poet, scriptwriter, director, and producer. As such, the title of the book *The Art of Documentary* (Munji Books) might be "The Art of Documentary," but it is closer to a humanities book that looks at life and imagines beyond it rather than being a technical book.

Fake news has become a serious social issue all over the world in the era of social media. In the deluge of excessive information and fake news, we need to strengthen our thinking on reality and on the other side.

Philosopher Gilles Deleuze said, "Someday our world will become like a film." Today, we are always connected to at least one type of social media, and watch movies at home so easily with OTT as

if we were choosing food at a restaurant. The world has become a movie. But choosing interesting worlds does not make our lives better. The book *The Art of Documentary* gives readers a light walkthrough of “skills” that we use to look at our society, neglected in the reality where the world has turned into a movie. So, all the readers of *The Art of Documentary* can be called “documentarists.” Plus, if you can have the chance to watch all the 98 documentaries introduced at the end of the book, you will be able to have a more joyful experience.



Uncanny Convenience Store

Kim Ho-Yeon, Namu Bench

“How can you trust me,
When I don't even know about myself...?”



The career of the young Korean writer Kim Ho-Yeon is unique. He began writing screenplays in a film-producing company as he graduated from college. He became a screenwriter when the screenplay he collaborated on was made into the film "Double Agent." His second workplace was as a publisher. As his *Experiment Zone: Human* (Bucheon Cartoon Information Center), which he wrote as a cartoon story designer at the publisher, won the grand prize at the 1st Bucheon Cartoon Story Contest, he became a cartoon story writer. Then he went on

to become a novelist when he won the 9th Saegae Literature Award in 2013 with his novel *Mangwon-dong Brothers* (Namu Bench). It is not enough to explain writer Kim Ho-Yeon with the title “novelist.” It would be better to call him a “storyteller” who tells all sorts of stories through films, cartoons, and novels. His journey as a novelist will help you understand his book.

Kim Ho-Yeon's *Uncanny Convenience Store* (Namu Bench) is fiction, but it's like a drama, a movie, and a cartoon. The easy-to-read writing style allows readers to have a multi-dimensional imagination of the scenes. The protagonist of this story is not a fancy hero, but someone from around us who we might have passed in the morning or on our way back home after work. In the story, a homeless man at Seoul Station who has lost his memory due to alcohol-related dementia meets a woman in her 70s as he finds her wallet. He then begins to work at a convenience store she owns at night. Is he, a man who stammers and struggles with bad behavior, going to be able to work properly at the convenience store? Breaking people's expectations, he saves the convenience store that was almost bankrupt and makes it the brightest place at night in the village, oddly captivating customers. The delicate expression of emotions and humor specific to Korean films or dramas can be found in parts of the book. This novel is anticipated to meet the audience as a movie or drama in the near future.

The polarization in the world has worsened due to the pandemic that began two years ago, and due to the prolonged social

distancing, we began to use the virtual world more comfortably than the real world. The author employs a humorous approach to console and see human beings' vague fear and loneliness in the upcoming post-COVID-19 era. You will be able to experience the freshness of “stories” that become the foundation for Korea’s video content in this small story where people find comfort in each other and escape the loneliness of our world.

KOREAN PUBLISHERS

ACHIMDAL BOOKS

Never Changing Literary Value Rises Radiantly and Brightly

Organized by Kim Young-Ihm



아침달

Logo of ACHIMDAL BOOKS

Literature is a genre with deep roots in the publishing market, but there is an increasing number of cases where the genre is excluded from the mainstream. On top of this, there aren't too many literature publishers that completely fulfill their roles properly. In a reality like this, we cannot help but approve of ACHIMDAL BOOKS for fulfilling its role as a publisher of literature and continuing to make efforts, including the expansion of opportunities for poems, essays, and other works of literature to be published. Although it is a small publisher, there

seems to be a light that shines with the rapid advancement of ACHIMDAL BOOKS, which works to broaden the literature base by searching for new ways of publishing literature in a clever way.

Please tell foreign publishers what ACHIMDAL BOOKS does and what meaning lies behind the name.

ACHIMDAL BOOKS is a publisher that focuses on Korean literature. We publish poems, essays, picture books, and other genres of literature written by Korean authors. “ACHIMDAL” in Korean literally means a moon that rises in the morning. We could make the connection to literature since it always stays in the same place, whether it is visible or not, just like the moon. We plan on continuing to publish works of literature that provide comfort and strength in our daily lives.

The publisher displays an eye-catching existence to the point where it has become the talk of poetry lovers. Please tell us why you established a publisher that focuses particularly on poems.

The main reason why we decided on this is because we all liked poems. We started with publishing poetry collections since it was relatively less difficult to publish than planned publications since they took much less time and money.

It's the unwritten law that poetry collections are not so easy to approach without working together with a large publisher or well-known and established poets. However, ACHIMDAL BOOKS has come up with a new way to publish poetry collections of established poets as well as debuting poets, covering a wide range of poets. So how did ACHIMDAL BOOKS come up with impressive methods of its own such as funding or Q-rating?

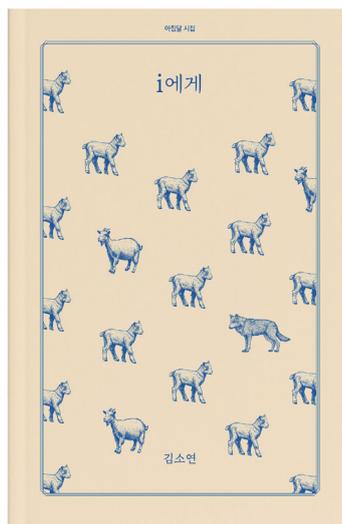
The literary world can be defined as a big concept to refer to authors and readers. They already had the thirst for having books published through small publishers instead of all being published by large publishers. It might seem like authors want their works to be published by big publishers, but some authors do not. Also, some authors cannot get their books published although they've made literary accomplishments. The reality is that there aren't many publishers of literature that these kinds of authors can go to as an alternative to get their works published.

When we first started as a publisher, it was when issues arose due to the power and authority of the literary world in society. There were discussions on how these issues were linked to the "platform system" custom where those who haven't won literary awards or spring literary contests would not be acknowledged as real authors. ACHIMDAL BOOKS began with this in mind. So we decided to discover the works that we wanted to and receive submissions and publish them regardless of whether the writers made a debut with literary awards or got the approval

of editors, known to be an authoritative factor of publishers and literary circles. It goes along the same lines for the name, “Q-rating,” which means that we introduce works to readers while maintaining the uniqueness of our line of poets.

I think it's not an exaggeration to say that you thought out of the box and suggested a new direction in publishing. Despite this, it is evaluated as the success of a small publisher. Please tell us about your key to success and the competitiveness of ACHIMDAL BOOKS.

To reflect, I'd say we just let the publishing industry know of our name and provided an alternative that can be used to publish Korean literature. The task we have to accomplish is to make it possible to continue with this flow.



Dear I

ACHIMDAL BOOKS became a hit in the publishing industry that is not doing so well due to a variety of factors. In addition to this, poets who debuted through the publisher or published poetry collections play an active role. Please tell us about the main works and the authors.

Logically speaking, when considering the scale of the publishing market, no book has been a “hit.” I can say that many people continue to read our poetry collections, considering what they are and that they are the publications of a small publisher. Out of those poetry collections, many of our readers read *Dear I* by So-Yeon Kim. It is a poetry collection in which the scenarios in daily lives are observed with a cold heart, and the unpleasant words trapped inside us are unveiled.

The genre of literature, including poems, has a goal and purpose they have to fulfill in the publishing industry. I think this might be why ACHIMDAL BOOKS works as a publisher for poetry collections. What purpose should poems serve in publishing, and how do you think they have to grow and develop?

There was a time when people thought of poems as one of the most important aspects of art as they considered it the purest type of art. However, people don't think the same way about poems anymore. Nevertheless, poems are still a genre of art that can express a variety of thoughts, topics, social issues, ideas, and images in a short but impressive way. Moreover, there is the power of intuition and emotional comfort that you can only get

from poems. That's why serious readers still read thin poetry collections among thick books. This could be the same as why large publishers still publish poetry collections that are less profitable than other books.

Poetry collections act as a makeshift bridge that links literature, art, one's personal life, and society in compressed language. One of the tasks we must continue to accomplish is to publish unique poetry collections with refined and familiar cover designs so that more readers don't see poems as something difficult to approach.



Your Space-How to live as a tree, The Arboretum, I Had a Name



I Am Thankful for My Dog, Your Cat Would Be Affectionate

They continue to say that it is a publisher that creates best-selling poetry collections. Please introduce and select the popular books that ACHIMDAL BOOKS would proudly recommend.

In addition to *Dear I* by Kim So-Yeon, ACHIMDAL BOOKS has published *Your Space-How to live as a tree* by Yoo Hee-Kyeong and *The Arboretum* by Yoo Jin-Mok, *I Had a Name* by Oh Eun.

Yoo Hee-Kyeong is a poet who writes out what's inside in a monologue. He grabs the interest of many readers with his lyrical touches, and this kind of trait is especially emphasized in *Your Space-How to live as a tree*, where he compares his age to a tree and forest.

Yoo Jin-Mok is a poet who awakens the life and death of herself and others through her sensual language. In *The Arboretum*, the titles of all the poems are the names of plants, and she tells short stories of the memories and feelings linked to the flower.

Oh Eun is a poet who focuses on the power of words. He studies the pronunciation, meaning, and nuance of words and discovers new meanings of words as he writes sentences with words in different ways. In *I Had a Name*, the meanings of words he discovers weave their way into the lives of normal people and eventually lead to the universal truth of mankind.

Also, the poem collections are full of love poems written by many poets for their dogs, *I Am Thankful for My Dog* and *Your Cat Would Be Affectionate* and are loved by readers.

Please introduce and recommend recent publications.



The Mother Tongue Would Rather Be Silence



My Position from Now On, Glassed Eyes

The recently published *The Mother Tongue Would Rather Be Silence* by Mok Jung-Won is an essay that criticizes performing arts based on the plays, operas, dancing performances, and people the writer experienced for 6 years in France. The thought of disappearance, a characteristic of art about time, meets with the life of humans and leads to various topics such as sadness, women, and death.

ACHIMDAL BOOKS published the fourth poetry collection of Yoo Gye-Yeong, *My Position from Now On* and *Glassed Eyes* by Lee

Je-Jae, a new poet who just started writing poetry.

It is very difficult for poems to earn a spot in the foreign market since it's about emotional connections. What kind of efforts is the publisher making to be a part of the foreign market, and what is the reaction of those in foreign countries?

Korean poems are also being introduced with the rise in interest in Korean literature. Some foreign publishers interested in Korean poems reach out to us sometimes. For them, poems take a small part in the market due to the efforts of a small number of readers, so we think that they show curiosity from the sense of belonging they feel just by reading poems regardless of nationality or language.

In conclusion, getting more people to read poems, whether they are in Korea or in foreign countries, is what's important. That's why we are making efforts to expand the base for poetry in Korea and increase the number of its readers. We think that more people in foreign countries will show interest in Korean poems when an increasing number of readers in Korea show interest.

You expressed the aspiration to establish a literary community. We are excited to know about the next steps of ACHIMDAL BOOKS. Please tell us about the future that ACHIMDAL BOOKS is planning.

We have to keep making an effort so we can continue publishing literature. More and more readers need to know about our books for us to continue publishing literature. We try to publish great books so we can reach out with our books to more readers. That's the only honest thing a small publisher can do.

KOREAN AUTHORS

Author-illustrator Kim Sang Keun

* 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, it is nice to meet you. My name is Kim Sang Keun. I am an illustrator as well as a writer.

What kind of person do you think an author is?

A picture book illustrator is an “*Eoreune*”. “*Eoreune*” is a compound word meaning adult and child. In English, it is “Kidult”. The reason for my answer is that both my childhood as well as my adulthood are present in myself. I think it is the subject closest to “*Eoreune*”.

Do you have a specific reason for deciding to pursue the study of animation?

Throughout my childhood, I tended to encounter cartoons and animation when I watched television. At that time, I liked and earnestly watched shows such as Disney Cartoon Series and other entertaining TV programs in the evening. I would draw the characters and watch the recorded version over and over again when I was growing up. Naturally, I started developing a longing for animation and thinking about pursuing such a profession in the future, then I started building onto that dream, which eventually led to my joining the field.



Little Mole's Worry (SAKYEJUL), *Little Mole's Wish* (SAKYEJUL)

A lot of your stories are based on animals. What is your favorite animal?

Since my first book features a little mole, I started developing a fondness for the animal. So I would like to say that my favorite animal is the mole. I did find them cute when I saw them in real life. A little guy with such soft fur, crawling around, and I found this quite adorable. Also, I felt that we shared some similarities when I saw them getting nervous after leaving the darkness, as well as some habits and characteristics. I also felt that they resemble certain types of people from contemporary society. That is why I find moles especially charming.

How do you plan out your book?

When I find something I would like to work on or something I find entertaining, I try drawing the idea out a lot. Would this character be suitable as the main character? What kind of place would this guy live in? I start drawing them out and figure out details such as

colors and how scenes can be displayed. I create books by checking if the feelings and emotions between the pages are conveyed well, and then I work on illustrations.



What's in Your Bag? (Hollym publishes), *What's Inside the Cave?* (Hollym publishes)

How did you end up writing the first book?

It was one snowy winter night. I was walking along the road with a black bag on my back. I don't remember seeing the snow at all. My head was full of realistic concerns such as "what should I do to keep myself fed?" as I walked along the road. Since my mind was full of such thoughts, I missed my stop, and when I returned from the next stop I began to think that people tend to be foolish when they are worried. Everybody worries and I thought I could find many points of empathy if I talked about such concerns. So, writing this book ended up being a means to resolve that concern.

What are your plans for future?

I think I should pick up the speed on my unfinished works, so I can introduce my new works to readers. That is why my goal is to spend more time on work and release new books quickly. And since I have been gaining more interest in other fields aside from picture books, I have been thinking that I might want to try out new works as well.

Kim Sang Keun's One Line Reading - *Little Mole's Wish*

"There you are, little one. You're frozen solid."

Grandma's arms were warm.

She would just listen to the little mole as she has always done.

I chose this line because I liked the feeling from the image of a big presence like grandmothers holding onto us in their arms, sharing comforting messages, and listening to every story we have during difficult times, like these days.

* www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpCKRThyDOK

KOREAN AUTHORS

Writer Kim So-Young

* 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, my name is Kim So-Young. I have worked as an editor for children's books for a long time and now I meet children in

the book club I manage. Meanwhile, I also recently published a children's book titled *The World of Children* (SAKYEJUL).

Is there a specific reason you became a writer?

It has been a little over 20 years - if I count the years I have worked as a children's book editor and as an instructor in the children's reading club. There are things I have come to know and learn by working in the same field for a long time, and I wanted to share the knowledge, the impressions, and food for thought with many of those who also have these thoughts.



Speaking Reading Law (Dasan Edu), *How to Read Children's Book* (UU Press)

Is there a specific habit you have before you start writing?

Before I write, I tend to take a stroll outside however short it may be. If I have time, I spend about an hour walking around the neighborhood or walk around a park so that I could have at

least some time to walk. It is not because I get an epiphany of a great idea while walking. Walking calms my mind and as a result I might think of a new direction for my writing out of nowhere. This is why taking a pre-writing stroll is a sort of habit for me. I always set down a general outline for the story before I start writing. But one rule I have for preparing an outline is that my outlines are flexible so that I can make adjustments anytime later. This is because the when you write, you realize that it doesn't always follow the path you originally had in your mind.



The World of Children

Which book are you the most fond of?

The World of Children, which is my most recent release, holds a special place in my heart. Since I was very honest about my life, my feelings, and a few concerns I have had for a long time, it was like writing a diary. I did feel a certain amount of pressure. But many people shared their own feelings as well. This is why the book has become very special for me.

What kind of writer do you aspire to be?

What I am focusing on the most at the moment is what adults can do for children and what their roles are, that is what I would like to delve into. I will read more, think more and learn more to become a diligent and productive writer.

Kim So-Young's One Line Reading - *The World of Children*

The words that I tell children, I now also share with myself.

**On the other hand, I refrain from sharing with myself
the words I won't say to children.**

**The reason why I try to adhere to this principle is
that I believe my words gain strength by doing so,
however little it may be.**

I chose this line because, having spent a long time with and around children, I have come to realize that when I am choosing what I am going to say, those words are actually the ones that I also tell myself. By thinking back and checking what kind of messages our society is sending to children, I think we might come to understand that respecting children is beneficial for our society. This is why I chose this line.

* youtu.be/WOkHKwj86Fg

KOREAN AUTHORS

Writer Heo Kyo bum

* 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 debuted with *Twenty Questions Detective and Magician* (BIR Publishing Co., Ltd.) series. This is Heo Kyo bum, I have

been working as a writer for 8 years now.

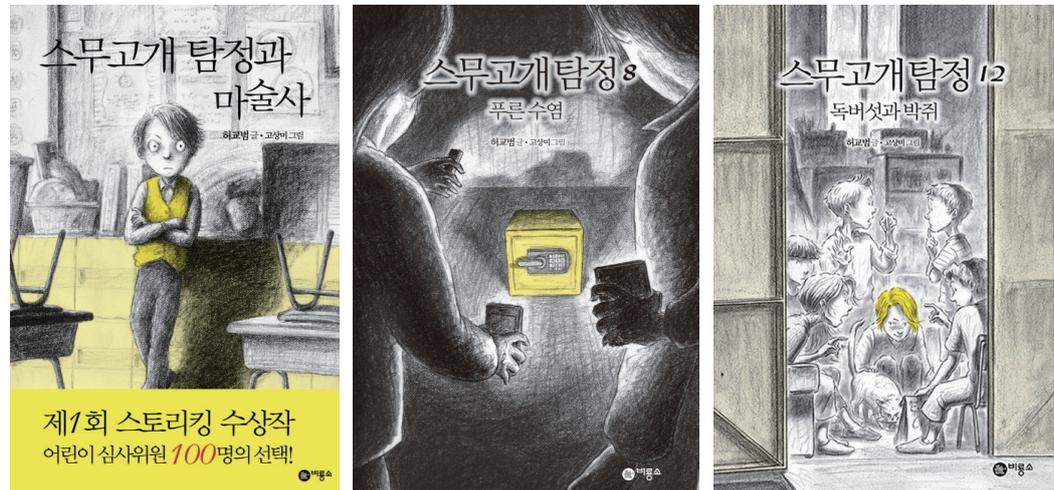
What motivated you to become a writer?

When I recall my childhood, I have more sad memories than happy memories. So if you ask why I became a writer, it's because I like stories. If you ask why I like stories, it's because when I was young, I immersed myself in the world of stories and I was able to forget the hardships of reality. That became an opportunity for stories to play an important role in my life. Then, by chance, I thought I might be able to make a career from this. From the moment I decided to do that, I realized that no other dream could have replaced it. No matter how good the job, a great job for other people, or even if it was a job that could make me a lot of money, none of that could feel as precious as this job does to me. Even with a very low chance of “making it” I didn't give up on my determination to become a writer. That's why I can do an interview like this now.

What kind of person do you think a writer is?

Usually when we think of a writer, we think they are a genius-like person who solves things and is inspired. After becoming a writer, I thought the job of being a writer was like creating stories every day. That's their day-to-day work and that work is combined and eventually comes out as a single book. “A worker

doing set labor every day to complete their work.” I came to think of it like this.



Twenty Questions Detective series

Is there any specific reason you write detective fiction?

The most fundamental attraction of detective fiction is that it can describe any criminal situation. A violation of another's rights or property or even the person's body. Detective fiction is different from other genres in that it deals with those things head-on. Using logic it tries to solve the crimes within the system. I started to like detective fiction because of that. I actually came to this interview reading detective fiction.

What is the secret of children's fandom?

First of all, I can't believe I have fans! If there is a reason they like me it is probably because I am a person who tells an interesting story. I am someone who has no intention of teaching them anything or wanting anything from them other than to give them stories they can enjoy. I think my fans notice that in the books I write, and I think they like me as they like my stories.

What are you planning to write in the future?

Now I'm writing three series at the same time. The first novel is a fantasy novel aimed at teenagers. The second novel is about a monster and is written for elementary school students. Finally, the third story is being published in a series in the elementary Reading Commentary right now. Actually, all three series have many volumes. Six to seven volumes are now completed. If possible, I want to publish these three series at the same time. So I can enjoy the rest of my 30s. That is my hope now.

Read a line by Heo Kyo bum -
Twenty Questions Detective 12. Poisonous Mushrooms and a Bat

Even if I know the name of Twenty Questions Detective
Twenty Questions Detective is still the same to me
Finally, Moonyang said.

The reason I like this paragraph is I made a giant world called *Twenty Questions Detective*. This big world looks like the door is closed at the end of the story. But in my mind the things in this world are alive and move and talk. Sometimes they talk to me. Also, it's not just me. Those who were impressed by my book are waiting for the sequel to come out I think they feel the same as well. That's why I picked that paragraph.

* youtu.be/gtyAJPOuHek

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

The Current State of Korea's Libraries and Their Relation to the Publishing Industry

Written by Lee Yong-Hun (Library Culture Critic)



Libraries have been around for a very long time in Korea, but the same cannot be said for libraries that fall under the modern definition. Pioneers who wanted to establish a new country as the late 19th century Joseon Dynasty passed, followed by the

early 20th century Korean Empire, had the goal of establishing libraries under the modern concept. However, due to the arrival of Japanese colonization, they could not achieve the goal, and the concept of libraries changed as they became more of a tool for colonization. Finally, in 1945, colonization was brought to an end, and the country was liberated, but hardship struck with the Korean War that followed soon after. However, with the growth of the economy and the expansion of democracy, libraries have been endlessly changing and advancing to support the growth of citizens, the real owners of Korea, which is now under a liberal democracy.

The Current State of Korea's Libraries

Korea's libraries are managed under the "Library Act." This act categorizes libraries into national libraries, regional representative libraries, public libraries (small libraries, children's libraries, libraries for the disabled, libraries in hospitals, army libraries, prison libraries, a total of 6 types), university libraries, school, and specialized libraries, depending on the founder and purpose of establishment. In addition to the "Library Act," the "Small Library Promotion Act," "University Library Promotion Act," and "School Library Promotion Act" are enacted and enforced on libraries that fall under the acts. The overall state of the libraries in Korea can be observed through the "National Library Statistics System (www.libsta.go.kr)." There are

a total of 20,580 libraries in Korea as of now, based on statistics from the end of 2020. There are a total of six national libraries such as the National Library of Korea established and run by the nation, 1,172 public libraries including regional representative libraries and children's libraries, 433 university libraries, 11,787 school libraries, 36 libraries for the disabled, 52 prison libraries, and 620 specialized libraries. Hospital libraries and army libraries are not included in the official statistics. However, if the 1,855 army libraries included in the evaluation process of library operations annually run by the government are added to the statistics, there are approximately 22,400 libraries in Korea.

While there hasn't been a significant fluctuation in the types of libraries, there are an increasing number of public and small libraries due to citizens' demands and positive responses. The local governments that began again in the 1990s have been a big source of power in the change. Recently, there has been about 40 additional public libraries every year. In 2016, there was one public library per 51,184 people, but in 2020, there has been one public library per 44,223 people, a 14% decrease in the population per public library. So citizens can use libraries in a better environment. Additionally, specialized libraries or small libraries providing library services in places closest to the residential areas, although not quite having great facilities or book collections as public libraries, have been grabbing the attention of many people. With hundreds of new small libraries added yearly, there were 6,672 small libraries in 2019. However,

the numbers have dropped to 6,474, with about 200 fewer libraries in 2020, due to the struggles in securing finances in the ongoing pandemic last year and this year since 70% to 80% of them are private libraries.

These libraries have around 450 million published books. National libraries have around 16 million books, public libraries have around 118.55 million books, university libraries own 174.52 million books, and school libraries have 196.5 million books. In 2020, national, public, small, university, and school libraries bought about 17.1 million books. The books cost national libraries around 13.79 billion won, public libraries 110 billion won, small libraries 16.3 billion won, university libraries 250 billion won, school libraries 112.2 billion won, which is around a total of 503 billion won. Most Korean libraries purchase books published in Korea, but university libraries use about 70% of the budget for purchasing materials needed to support a variety of academic studies for electronic materials and 24% of the budget for book purchases. Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, public libraries and school libraries are making more and more purchases of e-books and audiobooks since it has become difficult for people to visit libraries in person or have access to books. Also, with the increasing number of foreigners, including immigrant laborers or marriage immigrants, libraries in Korea have been purchasing an increasing number of foreign books. Under the “Library Act” of Korea, libraries must deposit a certain number of books to the National Library of Korea (<http://nl.go>).

kr) when books are published. In some cases, libraries must deposit books to the National Assembly Library. In 2020, 238,215 books were deposited to the National Library of Korea, and 53,465 books were deposited to the National Assembly Library. In 2015, the National Library of Korea became the 15th of the libraries worldwide to have more than ten million books. It is now Korea's biggest library, with more than 13 million books in its collections.

The Presidential Committee on Library and Information Policy of Korea (<http://www.clip.go.kr>) implements and is in charge of the library policies of Korea under the Library Act. The committee consists of civil experts and government ministers working in the field of libraries. They establish, review, and adjust the major details in library policies concerning the nation. It was established in 2007 and since then has been carrying forward with a national library policy plan, "Complex Plan for Library Advancement," three times every five years. The third most recently-established plan contains the direction of the policy and content of national libraries from 2019 to 2023. The Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism are responsible for carrying out this plan for the government ministry. In addition, the Ministry of Education that is in charge of elementary and middle school education, plays an important role in the revitalization of university libraries and school libraries.

Due to COVID-19, since 2019, many libraries in Korea have been struggling with being active like the libraries in other countries.

Although libraries could not provide proper services at the beginning of the pandemic as they had to close temporarily, the number of borrowed books increased with the addition of drive-thru services, deliveries, door-to-door services, automatic book return machines, and a variety of different non-face-to-face methods. Also, there have been a variety of library services, including online programs for citizens undergoing struggles due to the pandemic. However, the core problem is that these libraries lack experts like librarians on-site, but this is yet to be resolved.

Libraries and Their Relation to Publishing Industries

Libraries might as well be in the same boat as the publishing industries as they act as a medium linking writers and readers together in publishing or reading ecosystems. The two cannot be separated, but recently, they have been cooperating and conflicting on a few issues.

There's an issue regarding the book net price system. With the amendment of the Publishing Culture Industry Promotion Act in 2015 to reinforce the book net price system, libraries had to purchase books under the book price system. However, the problem is that the budget is not high enough for libraries to buy new books at their net price. The related law was amended so that public libraries can no longer get the 15% discount (10% off the net price) on book purchases. Since libraries have different opinions on the book net price system, it is necessary

to find a fitting solution by constantly consulting the publishing industry. Amidst all this, there has been an increasing number of purchases in local bookstores with the social demand and legal obligation to support small local libraries going through difficulties.

The publishing industry in Korea has recently faced difficulties with the decrease in its reading population for many reasons. To overcome this issue, the publishing industry started to demand Public Lending Rights for book loans from libraries. However, libraries are against the implementation of the Public Lending Right, saying that citizens who use the library often also buy more books. The government is currently researching to figure out the actual state, so it is uncertain how the discussion on this issue will go onwards.

On the other hand, with the increase of e-book purchases and library utilization, the number of solutions for the issue is increasing. Most libraries purchased e-books until now, but recently, more and more libraries have been using subscriptions. In this case, libraries can use a wider variety of e-books, but at the same time, they have to spend more depending on the subscriptions, so it can restrict active utilization. Also, there needs to be a specific solution since there are copyright issues between the copyright holders, distributors, and libraries.

Korea's Libraries Head Toward a New Era

With the arrival of a new standard era (new normal) following the 4th industrial revolution era in the pandemic, Korea's libraries are providing a wider variety of services through the expansion of electronic resources, including e-books and audiobooks and the expansion of a combined online and offline reading program or humanities program. Recently, libraries are also actively working to provide advanced services using advanced technology such as a metaverse system. On the other hand, there isn't enough budget to purchase materials and not enough experts, including librarians, with the increase of facilities and book collections. School libraries and university libraries are also undergoing struggles with the decrease in the number of students due to the population decrease in children and teenagers caused by the drop in birth rate. In addition, University libraries are facing difficulties as they cannot secure the material they need for subscriptions. However, the subscription fee for the textual database both in and out of the country will greatly increase.

Even through these difficulties, Korean libraries are becoming the center of community activities for citizens. They continue to provide proper library services to citizens and students who have to live in a new generation. Also, libraries are cooperating closely with publishing industries and bookstores to provide support for the reading activities of citizens. More importantly, libraries and

librarians are working together to resolve the given issue from the perspective and position of libraries. Hopefully, libraries and public industries worldwide can hold hands together for a better world.

Publishing Policy

Literary Awards of Korea

Literary Awards of Korea

We introduce the major literary awards and award winners that will become sales points for exporting publication rights abroad.



Adult Literature Awards

Today's Writer Award

Since 1977, Today's Writer Award has been providing a wider range of opportunities to younger writers as it is given to the debut publications of writers of Korean novels.

Recent Award Winners

- 2020. *You-won* by Baek On-Yu (Changbi)
- 2019. *If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light* by Kim Cho-Yeop (EAST-ASIA Publishing Co.) and *Juliana Tokyo* by Han Jung-Hyun (swimmingkul)



Adult Literature Awards

Daesan Literary Award

The most significant Korean literary award is given to works of literature published within the recent year that have outstanding literary value and can represent Korean literature.

Recent Award Winners

2020. Poem *Which Errands Are You Running?* by Kim Haeng-Sook (Moonji Publishing Co. Ltd.)
Novel *The Job of No. 9* by Kim Hye-Jin (hanibook)
Review *An Epic Architecture* by You Seong-Ho (Changbi)

Adult Literature Awards

Baeseok Literary Award

The Baeseok Literary Award is given to poetry collections that have been published within the recent two years that commemorate the spirit of literature that the poet Baekseok displayed as he made his mark on modern Korean poetry.

Recent Award Winners

2020. *Let's Let This Bus Go* by Hwang Kyu-Gwan (Munhakdongnae)
2019. *File Name: Lyric Poem* by Na Hee-Deok (Changbi)
2018. *Smiling Practice* by Park Seong-Woo (Changbi)



Youth Literature Awards

Jamobook Youth Literature Award

The Jamobook Youth Literature Award, with its 10th anniversary this year, has become the cradle for youth literature with public approval.

Recent Award Winners

2021. *I Witnessed a Murder* by Bu Yeon-Jeong
2020. *Six-Pack* by Lee Jae-Mun
2019. *The First Book* by Lee Min-Hang



Youth Literature Awards

Changbi Youth Literature Award

The award was established by Changbi Publishers, leaders in Korean literature and children's literature, to revitalize authentic youth literature.

Recent Award Winners

- 2020. None
- 2019. *You-won* by Baek On-Yu
- 2018. *Paint* by Lee Hee-Young



Youth Literature Awards

Munhakdongnae Youth Literature Award

This award is given to works that broaden the perspectives of children and teenagers as well as providing strength and warm comfort.

Recent Award Winners

- 2021. *Glass* by Mun Gyeong-Min
- 2020. *Som Crush* by Heo Jin-Hee
- 2019. *This Post Is Password Protected* by Hwang Yeong-Mi



Children's Literature Award

Ma Hae-Song Literary Award

Moonji Publishing made this award to commemorate Mr. Ma Hae-Song, who was the first to open up the way for creating children's stories. It is given to creations that are not yet released, and the winners are published the year they are awarded.

Recent Award Winners

- 2020. *Athena and Ares* by Sin Hyeon
- 2019. *Purple Cat* by Song Eun-Hye
- 2018. *Magic Ttakji* by Ju Mi-Kyung



Children's Literature Award

Kwon Jung-Saeng Literary Award

This award was established to continue the love shown towards a neglected main character from Mr. Kwon Jung-Saeng through his work. Whether the literary value and the author's walk of life match the mind of Mr. Kwon Jung-Saeng are the factors of evaluation.

Recent Award Winners

2021. *What you requested* by Jin Hyeong-Min (Munhakdongne)

2020. *Plop Plop, Crossing the Night* by Lee Sang-Gyo (Munhakdongne)

2019. *A Refugee One Day* by Pyo Myeong-Hee (Changbi)

Children's Literature Award

Biryongso Story King

This is a literary award for children's literature established by Biryongso, which started as a children's books publisher in 1994. It's the first award in Korea in which children participate as judges.

Recent Award Winners

2021. *Here Comes the Ghost Hunter* by Cheon Neung-Geum

2020. *Monster Academy MS* by Cho Young-Ah

2019. *Poong-woon Tak, the Ghost Supervisor #1* by Choi Ju-Hye

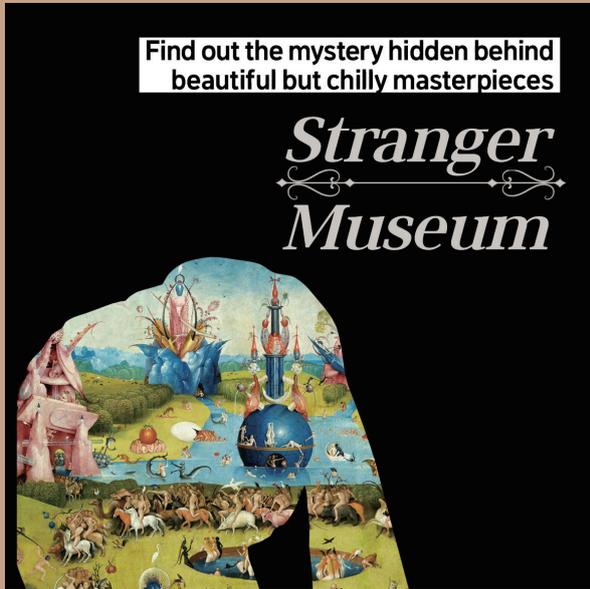
Korea's Literary Awards
that read the present of
Korean literature and plan the future.

We would like to ask for your interest in
literary award winners
approved for their literary value,
popularity, and originality.



NEW BOOKS

Stranger Museum



Théodore Géricault
who searched for dead bodies



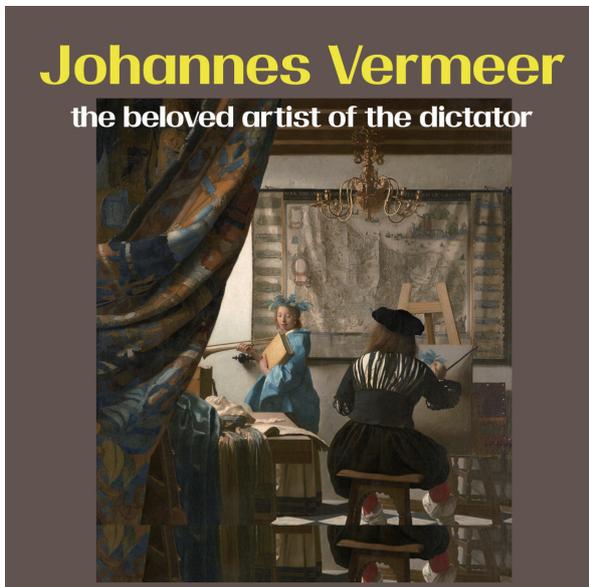
Ferdinand Hodler

who drew the day before his loved one's death



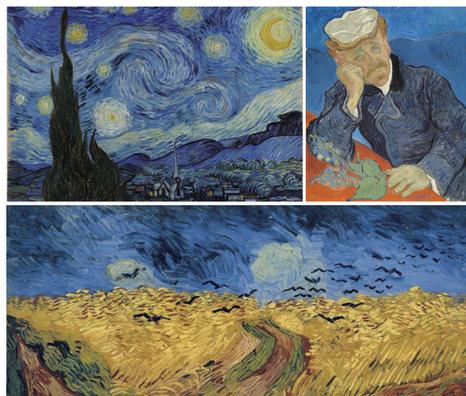
Johannes Vermeer

the beloved artist of the dictator



Vincent Willem van Gogh

who killed himself or
was perhaps killed by someone else?



Behind-the-scenes of masterpieces about

life and death,
challenge and frustration,
unseemliness and beauty,
wealth and power...

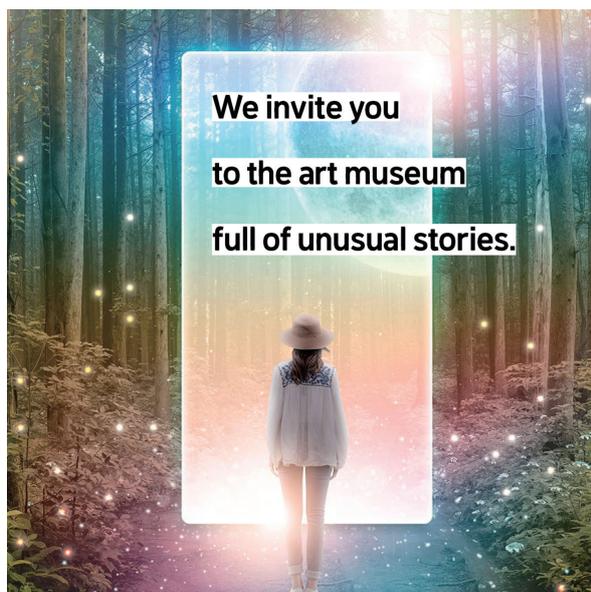
covered by their splendid colors and beauty.



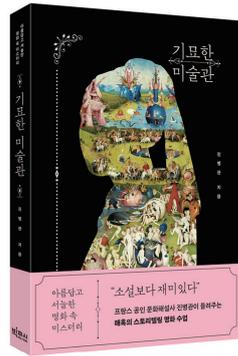
The world of noble paintings where strangeness and beauty co-exist:



Stranger Museum is a strange, realistic, and intriguing class
on beautiful works of international art narrated by writer
JIN Byung-Kwan, an official French cultural interpreter.



This book offers you a greater joy than novels.



Stranger Museum

JIN Byung-Kwan,
BIG FISH BOOKS INC.



BEST SELLERS

2nd Week, October 2021**Bestseller Trends in the Four Biggest Online Bookstores in Korea**

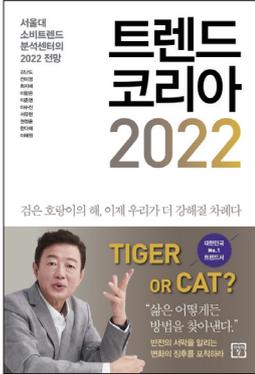
While literary works including the *Dollagoot Dream Department Store* series, *I Do Not Bid Farewell*, and *I am a Shining, Little Star* are steadily being loved by readers throughout the 2nd week of October, a new title from the field of business and money topped the bestsellers' list. It is *Trend Korea 2022*, written by the Seoul National University Consumer Trend Analysis Center led by professor Kim Nan-Do. The *Trend Korea* series releases a new volume every second half of the year that provides an overview of the year ahead. The series, which started in 2009, has been ranking in the top tier among other bestsellers every time a new volume is released, having a significant influence on the Korean publishing industry and Korean society. The newest volume introduces the 10 keywords representing the consumption trends of the year 2022, starting with "TIGER OR CAT." It asks its readers, "Will you be a loudly roaring tiger or just a cat?"

Meanwhile, *Hometown Cha-Cha-Cha 1* and *2* are the unedited manuscripts of the drama currently airing with the same title. Drama "Hometown Cha-Cha-Cha" is loved by viewers across the world, ranking 9th among global TV shows on Netflix. Featuring the heartwarming story of villagers and the protagonist taking place in a small village by the shore, "Hometown Cha-Cha-Cha" taps into our "longing for people" in the era of COVID-19. *Hometown Cha-Cha-Cha 1* and *2* have both joined the bestsellers' list, proving the popularity of their drama and the power of K-content that does not go away.

On the other hand, among the bestselling self-help books, the new title of Kim Yoo-Jin, a lawyer in the United States who brought about a great sensation of waking up early at dawn with her *I Start My Day at 4:30 AM* (Tornado Media Group), ranked 2nd on the list. The book, *It's Time for Myself Now*, talks about how spending some time for yourself away from the noisy daily life becomes a great driver in your life and helps you realize your potential. Meanwhile, *Reconciliation* by Oh Eun-Young, published in 2019, has become popular once again as the writer has been appearing on several media outlets giving courage and warm words to many people. The book offers heartwarming advice to people with a wounded mind so that they, who hated themselves for having such a bruised heart, can reach out a hand of reconciliation to their inner selves.

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

Top 10 Bestsellers for the 2nd week of October

1		<p><u>Trend Korea 2022</u></p> <p>Author Kim Nan-Do, Jeon Mi-Young, Choi Ji-Hye, Lee Hyang-Eun, Lee Joon-Young, Lee Su-Jin, Seo Yu-Hyun, Kwon Jeong-Yoon, Han Da-Hye, Lee Hye-Won Publisher Miraebook Genre Business & Money</p>
2		<p><u>Dollagoot Dream Department Store 2</u></p> <p>Author Lee Mi-Ye Publisher Sam & Parkers Genre Novel</p>
3		<p><u>Jujutsu Kaisen Fan Book</u></p> <p>Author Gege Akutami Publisher Seoul Media Comics Genre Comics</p>
3		<p><u>Hometown Cha-Cha-Cha 2</u></p> <p>Author Shin Ha-Eun Publisher Book Log Company Genre Art/Pop Culture</p>

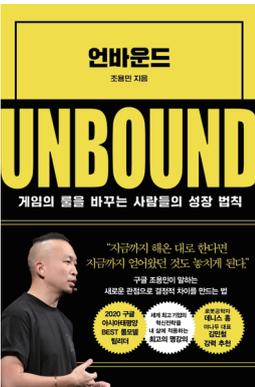
Top 10 Bestsellers for the 2nd week of October

5	 <p>신하은 대본집</p>	<p><u>Hometown Cha-Cha-Cha 1</u></p> <p>Author Shin Ha-Eun Publisher Book Log Company Genre Art/Pop Culture</p>
6	 <p>인생은 실전이다.</p> <p>이동 작은 불꽃의 시대</p> <p>양양스튜디오</p>	<p><u>Life is Real</u></p> <p>Author Joo Eun-Gyu, Shin Young-Jun Publisher Sangsang Square Genre Non-fiction</p>
7	 <p>작별하지 않는다</p> <p>부커상 수상 이후 5년, 한강 문학이 도달한 곳 "여정이 사라진 사랑에 대한 소망이기를 본다." ..한강 문학사</p>	<p><u>I Do Not Bid Farewell</u></p> <p>Author Han Kang Publisher Munhakdongne Genre Fiction</p>
8	 <p>달라구트 꿈백화점</p> <p>이미예 강원출판사</p> <p>장르이론만 읽을 수 있는 신비하고 흥미로운 미학, '달라구트 꿈 백화점'으로 초대합니다.</p> <p>평판액 10126 9.8점 종합 1위 베스트셀러</p>	<p><u>Dollagoot Dream Department Store</u></p> <p>Author Lee Mi-Ye Publisher Sam & Parkers Genre Novel</p>

Top 10 Bestsellers for the 2nd week of October

<p>9</p>		<p><i>Lucky</i></p> <p>Author Kim Do-Yoon Publisher Book Romance Genre Self-help</p>
<p>9</p>		<p><i>I am a Shining, Little Star</i> (Limited Edition Commemorating the Sales Record of 100 Thousand Copies)</p> <p>Author Soyoon Publisher Book Romance Genre Essay</p>

Top 5 Self-help books for the 2nd week of October

<p>1</p>		<p><i><u>Lucky</u></i></p> <p>Author Kim Do-Yoon Publisher Book Romance</p>
<p>2</p>		<p><i><u>It's Time for Myself Now</u></i></p> <p>Author Kim Yoo-Jin Publisher Tornado Media Group</p>
<p>3</p>		<p><i><u>Unbound</u></i></p> <p>Author Cho Yong-Min Publisher Influential</p>
<p>4</p>		<p><i><u>Reconciliation by Oh Eun-Young</u></i></p> <p>Author Oh Eun-Young Publisher Korea.com</p>

Top 5 Self-help books for the 2nd week of October

5



The Principles of Delivering Your Message

Author | Motohashi Ado
Publisher | Million Publisher

KOREAN TRANSLATOR

Yoon Sunme

Profile

Born in Seoul, Yoon Sunme settled in Argentina at the age of five and stayed there for 20 years. She finished her elementary, middle, and high school studies and graduated from a college in Argentina. She later finished her Ph.D. in Spain. She's been in Korea for the last 24 years. Currently, she is working as a Spanish professor at the Translation Academy of the Literature Translation Institute of Korea (LTI) and as a freelance writer and anchor at KBS World Radio Spanish Service. For more than 20 years, she has dedicated herself to translating social and cultural books as well as literary works. She was awarded the 17th LTI Korea Award for Aspiring Translators in 2019 with her translation of *Human Acts* (Changbi), written by Han Kang.

- E-Mail: yuniwan@hanmail.net

Latest Translated Books

- Han Kang, *The Vegetarian* (Bajo La Luna Editorial 2012, Rata Editorial 2017)
- Han Kang, *Human Acts* (Rata Editorial 2018)
- *Why do you Insist on Suffering? Pioneers of Korean Feminism* (Hwarang Editorial 2019)
- Sohn Won-pyung, *Almond* (Temas de hoy 2020)
- Chung Serang, *Hana from Earth* (Hwarang Editorial 2021)



Grants and Awards

- LTI Korea Translation Award at 2019 for Hang Kang, *Actos humanos* (Rata, 2018)
- Multiple translation grants from Literary Translation Institute of Korea
- Multiple translation grants from Daesan Foundation
- Multiple translation grants from Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea

Education

- Licentiate in Literature from Universidad de Buenos Aires
- Ph.D. in Medieval Spanish Literature from Universidad Complutense de Madrid

#K-BOOK

#Poem

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

MY HEART IS BEING TILTED TO YOU

1. Publication Details

Title | MY HEART IS BEING TILTED TO YOU
Author | Nah Taeju
Publisher | RH KOREA.CO.,LTD
Publication Date | 2019-02-18
ISBN | 9788925565736
No. of pages | 220
Dimensions | 135 * 192

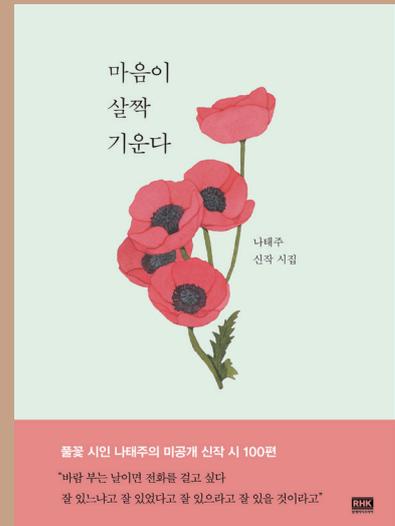
2. Copyright Contact

Name | Seongah Bak
Email | sabak@rhk.co.kr
Phone | +82-2-6443-8845

3. Book Intro

Words of regards written with all kindness and refined words.

This is a book of poems by Na Tae Joo, who looks at the world and its people with a warm gaze. Greatly loved for the poems that brings sympathy to many people, Na has portrayed a heart full of gratitude this time. This book contains 100 unpublished poems by the Na Tae Joo, who says that the role of the poet is to collect beautiful things from here and there and write them down into poetry, as a bee taking nectar from a pretty flower to make honey. As always, the poet's works are filled with a lingering afterglow and affection, giving us comfort, care



and happiness in our daily lives.

This book contains poems written about a wide range of emotions, such as gratitude, longing, love, and sorrow for lovers, family, and friends, as well as for nature and memories of the past. This makes it possible for many people to feel deep emotions and excitement through poetry. Reading this poem gradually will help you to feel empathy and comfort. Also, the watercolor illustrations with sensual colors are combined to attract more attention. This poetry will gently embrace you when you are in need of support.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2318

The Dawn of Labor

1. Publication Details

Title | The Dawn of Labor

Subtitle | A Poetry Collection by Park Nohae:
30th Anniversary Edition

Author | Park Nohae

Publisher | Slow Walking

Publication Date | 2014-12-23

ISBN | 9788991418172

No. of pages | 172

Dimensions | 145 * 218

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Im Sohee

Email | slow-walk@slow-walk.com

Phone | +82-10-8897-7690

3. Book Intro

In 1984, a collection of poetry written by an anonymous poet at the age of 27 rocked the nation. The immortal poetry collection has been sold about one million copies and emerged itself in Korean literature despite the censorship of the military regime. Park Nohae's songs for the thousands of workers who had been oppressed with no rights moved their souls. "For those who lived in the 1980s, Park Nohae was a historical figure, a symbol, and a legend. I doubt we'll be able to see a person like him again, an important figure in both Korean society and in the history of literature." (Taken from a commentary by literary critic Do Jeongil) *The Dawn of Labor* is still respected and loved by readers even though 34 years have passed since its publication, and the book has shown the power of poetry



for those who are living in an unjust society with unstable souls. The strength of Park's poems will empower his readers.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=324

Married Life: The Poetry of Life

1. Publication Details

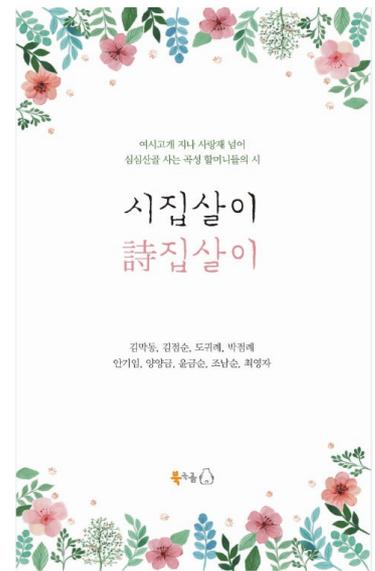
Title | Married Life: The Poetry of Life
Author | Kim Makdong
Publisher | BookGoodCome
Publication Date | 2016-04-15
ISBN | 9791186797280
No. of pages | 184
Dimensions | 123 * 200

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Lee Soonyoung
Email | bookgoodcome@gmail.com
Phone | +82-2-359-5220

3. Book Intro

Married Life: The Poetry of Life is a collection of poems about joy and sorrow written by old ladies from Gokseong, South Jeolla Province. The title of the book contains two meanings: the harsh and sorrowful life of a married woman (시집살이, "*sjibbsali*" in Korean) and the life as a poet who just learned how to read and write Korean (詩집살이, "*sjibbsali*" in Korean). The nine poets from Gokseong draw out the emotions of readers through 124 poems that sing honest, sometimes sorrowful stories of life. Poet Lee Yeonggwang has expressed his high regards for the collection, claiming that these poems are outstanding not just because they are written by old ladies new to Korean writing but also because they are "astonishing and touching." After noticing the old ladies who helped organize books at the library cannot read Korean, Director Kim Seonja, who works as a traveling librarian for Gokseong and director of the "Small Roadside Library," proposed that she teaches the ladies how to read and write. Soon, the old ladies, who learned Korean writing through drawings and children's poems, began to receive awards from various local culture festivals. Realizing their potential, Director Kim decided to put together a collection of poems written by the old ladies. After much trouble, they were published with the help from the editor at BookGoodCome. The honest poems from the old ladies touched many people's



hearts, eventually leading to the production of the documentary *Granny Poets* featuring the lives of the elderly poets.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1300

Poetry and Walks

1. Publication Details

Title | Poetry and Walks
Author | Han Jeongwon
Publisher | Deltatime
Publication Date | 2020-06-30
ISBN | 9791196517199
No. of pages | 176

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Choi Sunhye
Email | deltatime.co@gmail.com

3. Book Intro

The Flow of Words series consists of 10 volumes that build on each other through Korean wordplay. When one person offers two words, the next person has to build upon the first two words and present an entirely new third word. Readers anticipate the literary effect that results when two authors share the same word. This effect exists as an unwritten narrative between the books, remaining solely in the imaginations of the readers who also participate in this wordplay.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5151



Let's Talk About Something Else

1. Publication Details

Title | Let's Talk About Something Else

Author | Jo Haeju

Publisher | ACHIMDALBOOKS

Publication Date | 2018-01-31

ISBN | 9791189467104

No. of pages | 104

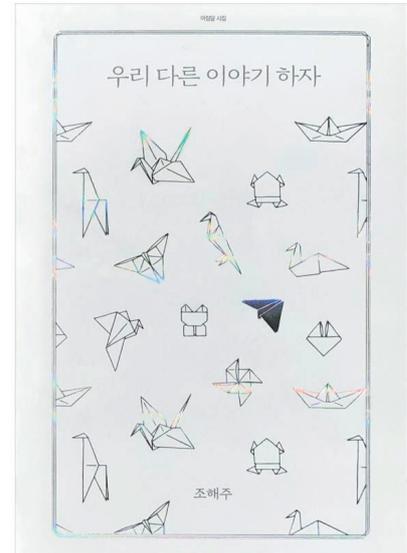
Dimensions | 125 * 190

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Son Moonkyung

Email | achimdaldbooks@gmail.com

Phone | +82-2-3446-5202



3. Book Intro

A poem maintaining an accurate temperature,
Recovers the joy of poetry reading

Maintaining emotional balance is a major characteristic of Jo Haeju's poems. Jo keeps a certain distance from the dramas scattered throughout people's daily lives. As such, her tone of voice may sound emotionless, but Jo Haeju seems well-aware that this kind of emotionless position hurts neither herself nor her subject. By using only the words necessary, the author comfortably guides readers towards different thoughts. From this perspective, *Let's Talk About Something Else*, the title of this collection, perfectly represents the characteristics of the poems within. Words and emotions that maintain their exact temperature will comfort readers by filling the void which is believed to be lacking in modern poems.

Strange aspects

Observed in our daily lives

Jo's emotions are strong rather than unstable, and the sentences following such emotions are simple. But the natural aspects that arise from such are not about everyday life. Common scenes one might easily ignore take center stage when they go through the eyes and words of Jo. This movement into center stage is particularly noteworthy as it mostly takes place through the "words" of Jo. Jo's words which sometime go weird transform the ordinary things in daily life into something strange. Paradoxically, such strangeness discovered in daily life in turn exposes the strangeness of practices for our daily lives.

However, this exposure should not be taken as a revelation. As poet Kim Eon said, "they drive us to hold different thoughts comfortably." Jo's poems are neither comforting nor discomfoting. They offer the reader an experience of discovering

the strange aspects of things we take for granted in our daily lives, through a wide yet bold voice and warm emotions.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2188

We May See the Rainy Season Together

1. Publication Details

Title | We May See the Rainy Season Together

Author | Park Jun

Publisher | Moonji publishing co.,Ltd.

Publication Date | 2018-12-13

ISBN | 9788932034942

No. of pages | 115

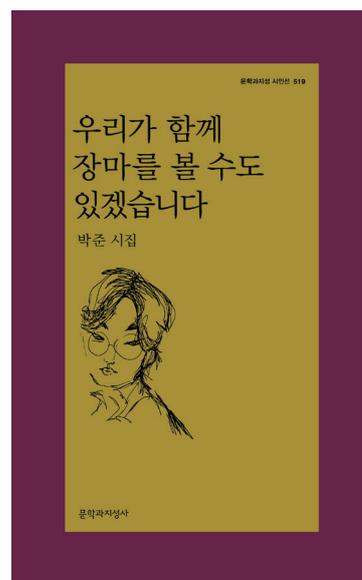
Dimensions | 128 * 205

2. Copyright Contact

Name | YUN SeoHee

Email | copyright@moonji.com

Phone | +82-2-338-7224



3. Book Intro

This is the second book of poems by Park Jun, who gained the love of Korean readers with a single book of poems and a single book of essays. In the words of the poet, "We may see the rainy season together." There is no word of desire, like "want," nor of the past, such as "saw." Instead the poet indicates the future – "may see" – to depict a time when they may be together.

The speaker of this collection of poems is someone who is waiting. "Questions during the day" can only be answered "when the night comes." But the speaker is waiting for things of the past not things in the future. The words of greetings that you exchanged in the past, the words that you use every day so you might forget easily, or the words that reaches me today -- all of which are, in fact, from memories.

If the past reaches the present, it means that our current moment is connected to the future. Let us take a look at the poem *Rainy Season – A Letter Sent from Taebaek*. The speaker writes two letters from Taebaek. The first letter talks about the "miners who died in the mine," but the writer soon "crumples the paper." The second letter begins anew with the phrase, "We may see the rainy season together." While the first letter described the incident that already happened, the second letter describes what can happen in the future. While this future has not

come yet, if they spend the present faithfully, they will be able to reach it, the time when they can spend the rainy season together.

So what exactly is the speaker waiting for? As said earlier, the words that you exchanged in the past reach you in the present. What the speaker has been waiting for may be the person with whom those words were shared. As described on page 84, despite saying goodbye, this person is someone the speaker wants to care for, who will cause the speaker to immediately "stop what he/she's doing now" at even a small gesture of "your" opening "the window." The feeling of waiting for the rainy season while remembering the words shared with the person. This collection of poems is like a letter filled with such emotions.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2196

The Night Is Long and Painful

1. Publication Details

Title | The Night Is Long and Painful

Author | Park Yeonjun

Publisher | Alma

Publication Date | 2018-05-07

ISBN | 9791159921452 03810

No. of pages | 212

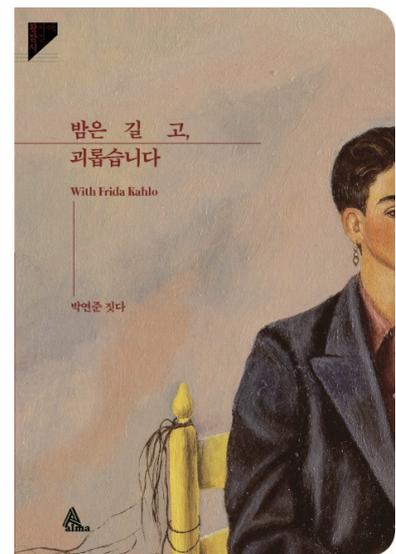
Dimensions | 134 * 195

2. Copyright Contact

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Phone | +82-2-324-2846



3. Book Intro

Frida Kahlo's love and art are "a much darker red than blood."

Frida Kahlo's immortal paintings and the poet's variation

A beautiful conversation between two artists

The Night Is Long and Painful is the fourth book in the essay series of poems immersed in print that feature poems and drawings. This book is a record of poet Park Yeonjun's poetic thinking on the art and love of Frida Kahlo, the Mexican painter who lived an "endlessly tumbling life" full of pain and wounds, which led her to create works "a much darker red than blood."

The poet walks into Frida's poetic paintings and reads the artist's state of mind, which has yet to be transformed into the paintings, and explores the true nature

of Kahlo's love for Diego Rivera by ruminating on Kahlo's language from her diary and letters. The poet, in an infinitely pungent and warm style, tells readers about the "love" that she needed to survive her pain, which had destroyed her thousands of times, and her works that eventually survived the destruction. The poet hovers between the inside of Frida's works and the reality to which she belongs and confesses her private feelings that are trivial but candid, and also absurd but humorous.

The writer Jeong Yeo Wul says, "If Frida Kahlo had read this book, she would have been greatly pleased. It would be like her meeting a genuine soulmate all the way from Korea, a country she can get to from her mother country of Mexico by flying halfway around the globe, transcending the gap of time and space, through this book."

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=4290

Whole

1. Publication Details

Title | Whole
Author | Ahn, Miok
Publisher | Changbi Publishers, Inc.
Publication Date | 2017-04-17
ISBN | 9788936424084
No. of pages | 136
Dimensions | 125 * 200

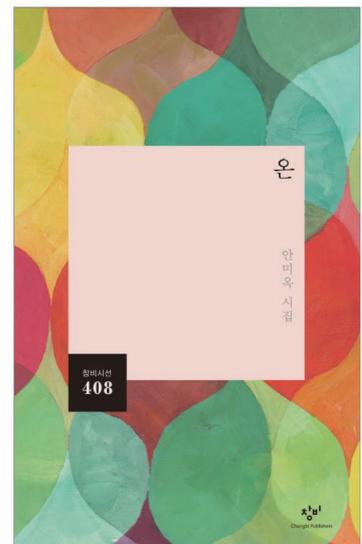
2. Copyright Contact

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3. Book Intro

Poet Ahn Miok has shown how to "find the unfamiliar in the familiar and the non-trivial in the trivial" with her "unique imagination and unspoiled voice" in her debut poems *At The Table* and *My Orphanage*. In the book which is published 5 years after her debut, she sings "others' pain and sorrow" with a language like bare skin. She painstakingly weave "the feeling of becoming weak to pain and sorrow" (Kim Haeng Sook, from recommendation remark) into the beautiful poems "in a low yet sound voice." (Kim Young Hee, from commentary).

It is neither bridle nor prison // nor salvation. // in the eyes of the carpenter's eyes



// when checking wood // like the indescribable weather. // sitting down // saying
// tulips, tulips, // it seems to be said all. // sharp and pointy // didn't know how to
use comfortably // as if we didn't know how to live comfortably. // (···) // Does it
really start with the heart? // When I see a bee flying in the middle of winter. // is it
a transparent wing? // If so, // It is terrible // that all these are a matter of the heart
(From The Poem Collection)

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2236

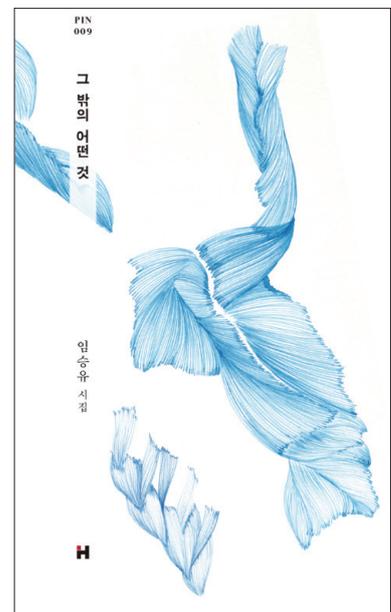
Everything Else

1. Publication Details

Title | Everything Else
Author | Lim Seung-yu
Publisher | Hyundae Munhak Publishing Co.,
Ltd.
Publication Date | 2018-08-31
ISBN | 9788972759102
No. of pages | 76
Dimensions | 104 * 182

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3. Book Intro

The Volume 2, Modern Literature Pin series is a poetry collection of 6 poets, Kim Haengsook, Oh Eun, Lim Seung-yu, Lee Won, Kang Sungeun, and Kim Kitaek. The book proposes a reader to read poems in a different way, in a hope that the book serves as a pin that connecting literature and readers. While the Volume 1 focused on exploring the current address and direction of Korean poetry, this Volume 2 seeks to reveal the uniqueness of each of 6 writers.

"By making us smaller and giving more space to others," (commentary by poet Sung Donghyuk) twenty poems included in Everything Else by Lim Seung-yu allow us to enjoy her profound and unique poetic world, who won the Kim Joonsung Literary Award and the Hyundae Literary Award in succession after her poetry debut in 2011 with I Gave Birth to a Baby because I Thought I Am Not Enough by Myself.

Six poets in Volume 2, Modern Literature Pin series also wrote essays with the theme of "bodies" for the collection. Lim Seung-yu's essay Only Bones Remain

adopts an impressive episode of cartoon characters to delve into the human relationship as if by "deboning." It is an essay where the aesthetic of the poet, who approaches things meticulously, really stands out.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2296

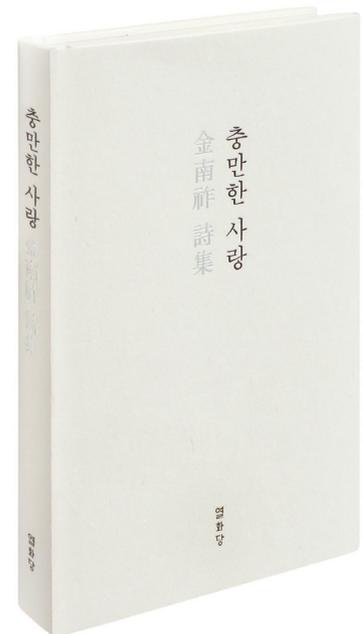
The Fullness of Love

1. Publication Details

Title | The Fullness of Love
Subtitle | Poems by Kim Namjo
Author | Kim Namjo
Publisher | Youlhwadang
Publication Date | 2017-09-26
ISBN | 9788930105958
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Dimensions | 135 * 220

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3. Book Intro

“You have lived ninety years / The clock says / I reply, I know // The clock asks, / What is your wish? / I reply, / An ego born of my heart / And effort to do my best / But a moment passes / And I change my reply / Love, wealth / And longevity // Bursting into laughter, the clock says: / From the most worldly of men / I expected no less... / Without rest, the clock / goes and waits” – “Clock” by Kim Nam Jo

Youlhwadang is proud to present the 18th poetry anthology by the poet Kim Nam Jo, who celebrates his 90th birthday this year. This anthology includes “Clock,” winner of the Jeong Jiyong Literature Prize, and 63 new compositions.

Kim’s first anthology *Life* was published in 1953, kicking off a 64-year career as a poet. As the oldest member of the world of Korean poetry, Kim confesses, “For the past decade, I’d wanted to lay down my pen and spend my time reading poetry and books by other people. But every time I saw something or thought about something, the poetry would overflow inside me, and the words wouldn’t let me go until I’d put them to paper.” In the preface to this anthology, Kim writes, “Even now, in the twilight of my years, the fact that I still see, feel, learn, and

resonate with the world remains the same.” In spite of the unspoken rigors of the artistic process, it is clear that poetry is Kim’s calling in life.

In the preface, Kim also remarks, “The significance of life, the awe of responding to that revelation, and the slow but reverent growth of our outlook on it—all these things are a curious blessing, a source of gratitude, and the wellspring of our most fervent desires. These notions occupied my mind all throughout the writing process.” He adds, “I would like to publish another anthology after this one.”

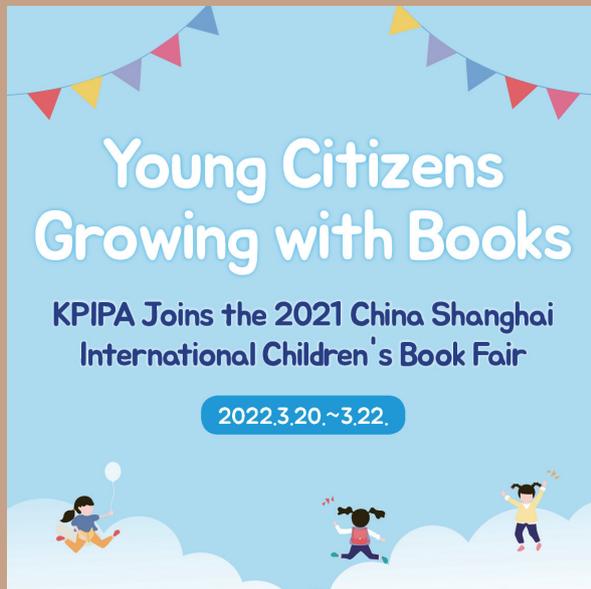
Kim’s powerful validation of a life filled with love and hope rings loud and clear in this anthology.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=454

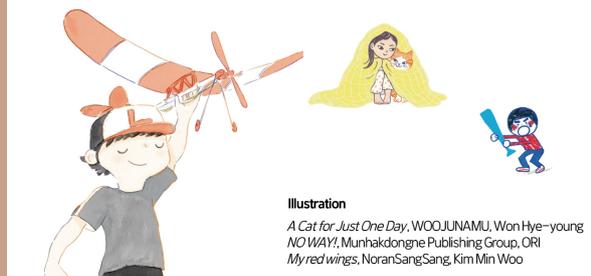
INFO

KPIPA Joins the 2021 China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair (CCBF)

Young Citizens Growing with Books



During the 2021 China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair (CCBF) held from 20 to 22 March 2022, The Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA) will be showcasing Korea's 'killer content.'



Illustration

A Cat for Just One Day, WOOJUNAMU, Won Hye-young
NO WAY!, Munhakhongne Publishing Group, ORI
My red wings, NoranSangSang, Kim Min Woo



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Various books ranging from picture books, children's books, educational books, and fiction for children and young adults matching the fair's theme will be presented at the fair this year.



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You will also be able to look at the Chinese portfolios made by Korean publishers and books recommended by the Korean Board on Books for Young People (KBBY) in the Copyright Zone 2B08.

KPIPA will continue

to make every endeavor to globalize K-books, participate in international book fairs, and increase copyright sales and exchanges.



Illustration *My Research Project on My Little Brother*, WOOJUNAMU, Myo Yim

For inquiries, don't hesitate to get in touch with KPIPA's Export Support Team

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