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K-Book Trends

offers Korea's highly informative publishing content
to those in the global publishing industry.

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TOPIC

The Future of Korean Novels: Gen-MZ Writers

Written by Kim Seul-Gi
(Journalist at the Department of Culture of *Maeil Business Newspaper*)

There is a new wind blowing into Korean literature. With the emergence of new media, we hear that literature will soon face its demise every time. However, even in the era of YouTube and Netflix, Korean literature still keeps its blood young with the inflow of new writers. At the center of the new flow stands the so-called Gen-MZ (Millennials + Gen Z) writers, born in the 1980s and 1990s. Gen MZ writers, such as Choi Eun-Yung, Chung Se-Rang, Jang Ryu-Jin, Park Sang-Young, Kim Cho-Yeop, and Cheon Seon-Ran, are highlighted as the future of Korean literature. As the new year 2023 loomed, many publishers released a list of books to be published, which includes Gen-MZ writers' names.



Writer Choi Eun-Yung, Park Sang-Young, and Chung Se-Rang (©Munhakdongne Publishing Group)



Writer Cheon Seon-Ran, Kim Cho-Yeop (©East-Asia Publishing Co.),
and Writer Jang Ryu-Jin (©Changbi Publishers, Inc.)

The New Troika

It is no exaggeration to say that the new Troika leads the Korean novel market in the 2020s: Writer Chung Se-Rang, Choi Eun-Yung, and Kim Cho-Yeop. The three achieved the challenging feat of selling more than 100,000 copies with their first and representative writings, demonstrating their long reign on the top list of best sellers since their books were released. It reminds me of the 1990s and 2000s. Writers Shin Kyung-Sook, Gong Ji-Young, and Eun Hee-Kyoung were the Troika during that time, being young female writers in their 30s and selling

hundreds and thousands of copies since their debut. Their influence was genuinely formidable. The metaphor for the three, Troika, was meaningful in that each writer's influence had considerable power when collected. With rivalry, the writers were summoned in articles together whenever one released a new piece, and the competition fueled the Korean literature market to grow further. The feminist literature era started with the successive hits of writer Shin Kyung-Sook's *Deep Sorrow* (Munhakdongne Publishing Group), Eun Hee-Kyoung's *A Bird's Gift* (Munhakdongne Publishing Group), and Gong Ji-Young's *Go Alone Like a Rhinoceros Horn* (Hainaim Inc.).

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 52 - Go to the interview with writer Eun Hee-Kyoung
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1097&page=1&code=interview&category=66

Munhakdongne Publishing Group, the publisher of their books, rose fresh and held a powerful position in the literature market while crushing the strong reign of the three publishers: Changbi Publishers, Inc., Moonji Publishing, and Minumsa Publishing. Therefore, the recent emergence of three famous female writers with unique styles may change the landscape of Korean literature in the 2020s.

Writer Choi Eun-Yung, born in 1984, rose like a quiet miracle. Only a few knew her when her short story collection *Shoko's Smile* (Munhakdongne Publishing Group), a book that takes her first story *Shoko's Smile* as a title piece, was published in 2016. The book tells warm stories of two individuals of different

nationalities and languages meeting, growing together, and overcoming challenges. Without the writer's fame or spotlights shone by media outlets, the novel collection silently became a steady seller with only readers' word of mouth. The sales continued to increase, and the first novel collection of a new writer categorized as a writer of pure literature sold more than 200,000 copies for the first time in almost ten years.



Shoko's Smile, Someone Harmless to Me, Bright Night, and No Need to Struggle

Writer Choi Eun-Yung says she came to have the desire to write her own stories after reading female writers like Yang Gui-Ja and Eun Hee-Kyoung, and soon released *Someone Harmless to Me* (Munhakdongne Publishing Group) in 2018. She gained attention with her works, showing in-depth reflection and insight into social issues, such as feminism, immigration, and LGBTQ, and a warm sensibility that keeps affection and belief towards humanity. In addition to winning five or more literary awards and getting good comments from the industry, writer Choi Eun-Yung sold more than 100,000 copies of each novel collection released after her debut, becoming a commercially successful writer.

She published her first full-length novel, *Bright Night* (Munhakdongne Publishing Group), in 2021 under much expectation. Shedding light on the lives of a family of four generations – from great-grandmother to grandmother, mother, and the main character – the story naturally covers 100 years. It was a successful start as a writer of full-length novels. Also, writer Choi Eun-Yung released a short-story collection, *No Need to Struggle* (Maumsanchaek), last year, paving her path. Since writer Choi Eun-Yung and Shin Kyung-Sook are both franchise stars of Munhakdongne Publishing Group, the biggest literature publisher in Korea, it seems like both readers and the literature industry are looking forward to the new rising writer Choi Eun-Yung, winner of multiple literary awards, to play the role of Shin Kyung-Sook in the new era.

The New Sensibility in SF Novels



School Nurse Ahn Eunyoung, Jane, Jaewook, Jaehoon, Han-A from Earth, and From Sisun

Among the three writers, the emergence of Chung Se-Rang and Kim Cho-Yeop had a massive impact on expanding Korean

literature genres. Sci-Fi novels used to be a permanent peripheral of Korean literature, but they are now leading the era. Writer Chung Se-Rang, born in 1984, debuted with the SF magazine *Fantastic* in 2010. She had long unknown days but kept her identity as an SF genre writer and continued to release long novels.

While continuing her work, *School Nurse Ahn Eunyoung* (Minumsa Publishing), an SF novel that feels close to life released in 2015, became a hit. The novel sets its stage at a private high school named M, where the main character Ahn Eun-Young works as a school nurse who can see ghosts while serving as an exorcist. The novel unravels small and big incidents happening in school. The writing was created as a six-episode drama produced by director Lee Kyong-Mi, which helped boost sales of the original piece. Writer Chung Se-Rang also wrote *Jane, Jaewook, Jaehoon* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing), and *Han-A from Earth* (Nanda Publishing), continuing to release SF novels. *Fifty People* (Changbi Publishers), a novel released after becoming famous, showed her imagination in the era when disaster became a part of everyday life. *From Sisun* (Munhakdongne Publishing Group) tells stories from women's points of view, landing a punch on patriarchal society, and gets the active support of female peer readers.

* [K-Book Trends Vol. 20 – Go to the interview with writer Chung Se-Rang](http://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=677&page=3&code=interview&category=66)
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=677&page=3&code=interview&category=66



If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light, Greenhouse at the End of the Earth, Meuraemosa, and Planet Language Bookstore

Kim Cho-Yeop is a writer who fits the nickname “monster newbie.” Her first book, *If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light* (East-Asia Publishing), was a surprise. She became notable by winning the grand prize and honorary award in the field of mid- and short-length stories in the 2nd Korea Science Literature Award, with *Missing Inside a Library* and *If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light* in 2017. The fact that the writer was a 26-year-old graduate student at Pohang University of Science and Technology majoring in chemistry and biochemistry surprised many. In 2019, when she released *If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light*, her piece topped the list of the Book of the Year of major media outlets and sold more than 100,000 copies in one year. Seven short stories in her first collection clearly show female identity and have deep philosophy enough to make it challenging to categorize it as a mere SF novel. The 6th piece, *Missing Inside a Library* especially brings out the writer's humanistic imagination as the story is about the main character going on a journey searching for her mom's record in a library

where people's minds are uploaded after death.

After releasing her first piece, writer Kim Cho-Yeop has continued to publish her works actively. She wrote two full-length novels, *Greenhouse at the End of the Earth* (Blossom Books) and *Meuraemosa* (Hyundae Munhak), and novel collections named *The World We Just Left* (Hanibook) and *Planet Language Bookstore* (Maumsanchaek), releasing four novels in 2021 alone. In addition, the writer, who is also a person with hearing impairment, published *Becoming a Cyborg* (Sakyejul Publishing) with lawyer Kim Won-Young to show consideration of disability and Korean society, making the piece her 5th book to release in one year. In 2022, she wrote her first non-fiction, *Books and Coincidences* (Yolimwon Publishing Group). Therefore, we believe there is a high chance that we will also see her new books this year.

* [K-Book Trends Vol. 19 – Go to the interview with writer Kim Cho-Yeop](http://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=688&page=5&code=interview)
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=688&page=5&code=interview

* [K-Book Trends Vol. 50 – Go to the interview with writer Kim Won-Young](http://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1062&page=1&code=interview&category=66)
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1062&page=1&code=interview&category=66

Cheon Seon-Ran is also a new rising SF novel writer. She was born in 1993 and majored in creative writing. She started her career by winning the 4th Korea Science Literature Award with her piece *A Thousand Blues*. The novel garnered attention for it is a story about life and relations between a racehorse near its euthanasia and a robot rider. *A Thousand Blues* (East-Asia

Publishing) depicts a story of the hurt and the weak. It consoles people feeling dizzy from the speed of ceaselessly developing technologies and sheds light on beings blurred amongst technologies.



A Thousand Blues, Nine, The Savior at Night, and Rang and My Desert

Writer Cheon Seon-Ran released *Nine* (Changbi Publishers) and *The Savior at Night* (Safehouse) in 2021, and *No Land* (Hanibook) and *Rang and My Desert* (Hyundae Munhak) in 2022. Her most recent book, *Rang and My Desert*, tells a story filled with longing for human beings from a robot's viewpoint. Likewise, the writer continues to release pieces drawing relations among humans, nature, and animals.

- * *K-Book Trends* Vol. 30 – Go to the interview with writer Cheon Seon-Ran
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=485&page=3&code=interview&category=66
- * *K-Book Trends* Vol. 42 – Go to the article about *Nine*
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/info.php?ptype=view&idx=903&page=1&code=info&category=69

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, we are now living in an era of bigger fears of climate change driven by drastic shifts in the climate and the relationship between humans and nature. Therefore, the young generation actively supports the two young SF novel writers, Kim Cho-Yeop and Cheon Seon-Ran, for having a new sensibility, such as climate crisis and feminity, and the relationship between nature and humans.

Have You Ever Heard of “Pangyo Literature” or “Queer Literature”?



The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work and To The Moon

Writer Jang Ryu-Jin, born in 1986, has a unique history of becoming famous even before releasing her first piece. Before writing her novel, she worked for IT companies in Pangyo for more than seven years after graduating from college. After her first piece, *The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work*, was released in October 2018 on Changbi Publishers' website for free, the book recorded more than 400,000 views, gaining incredible

popularity among workers in Pangyo. The book wittingly depicts the pettiness in daily life the main character experiences while enjoying his small hobby as he goes through ups and downs in life working at a small IT company. With lively depictions of work life, the book became popular among people working in the same area, creating a new term, “Pangyo Literature.”

In addition to her novel collection, *The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work* (Changbi Publishers), her first full-length novel, *To The Moon* (Changbi Publishers), was released after the first one. It was renowned for its cheerful style showing sides of the young generation wanting to get rich quickly through investments in cryptocurrency rather than working at an office while setting three female workers in their thirties as the main characters.

Jang Ryu-Jin writes the daily lives of workers in their 20s and 30s as the main themes of her books. Therefore, her books are particularly popular as readers aged similar to the writer could relate to the book a lot. For example, a phrase from *The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work*, “Work less and earn more while you live,” is a famous remark among young corporate workers.

* [K-Book Trends Vol. 45 – Go to the interview with writer Jang Ryu-Jin](http://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=977&page=1&code=interview&category=66)
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=977&page=1&code=interview&category=66



The Tears of an Unknown Artist, or Zaytun Pasta, I Want to be One-Dimensional, and Love In the Big City

Writer Park Sang-Young, born in 1988, is a male writer struggling alone while female writers dominate the scene. He brought a genre called “Queer Literature” into the mainstream category of Korean literature by making homosexuality the central theme of his books since his debut. *The Tears of an Unknown Artist, or Zaytun Pasta* (Munhakdongne Publishing Group) - his first novel released in 2018 - was shocking in many ways. Including his cover piece, he wrote many short stories with unusual titles, like *Fake Viagra and Drugs Made in China*, *a Short Joke About Urine that Doesn't Collect Anywhere*, or *Missing: Paris Hilton*. There is no one to beat writer Park Sang-Young in depicting the lives of Gen-MZ, who seek to build human relationships through Tinder, share moments in life through Instagram, and fight to win love and work. He also released his first full-length romance and thriller novel, *I Want to be One-Dimensional* (Munhakdongne Publishing Group), in 2021, which starts with a corpse being

found at a lake. The book *Love In the Big City* (Changbi Publishers) is a novel published in 2019 and translated into English. It became a preliminary candidate for the Man Booker International Prize in 2022, making Park a globally famous novelist.

Writer Park Sang-Young continues to tell the young to love relentlessly, and he diligently writes novels without any rest. In the last series of *Love Trilogy* released in 2022, *About Trust* (Munhakdongne Publishing Group), following *Love In the Big City* and *I Want to be One-Dimensional*, he draws a clear portrait of the COVID-19 stricken era. The book follows the lives of four male characters, depicting workers' plights, a sense of isolation given by social distancing during the pandemic, and discrimination and exclusion against the sexual minority.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 48 – Go to the interview with writer Park Sang-Young
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1021&page=1&code=interview&category=66

Young Gen-MZ novelists are versatile and diligent. They release one or more novels annually and write non-fiction on diverse topics. They are flexible in choosing themes, like SF and work life, and they deny a dichotomous approach dividing high and pop culture, unlike writers of the past. They are not dwindled by literary discussions made by critiques and build their unique world. In that sense, the landscape of Korean literature will widen thanks to those young writers.

SPECIAL PROJECT

[Book & Media ①]

Diary of a Murderer

An In-depth Reflection on the Life and Death of
a Murderer Losing His Memory

Written by Choi Ha-Yeong

A walk through the life and death
of a serial murderer with Alzheimer's.

A life-and-death battle with another serial killer
who shows up in the vicinity.

What is true and what is not?
The book even confuses the reader.

What would it be like if you found out one day that your world of memories has begun to break down little by little? It is the story of *Diary of a Murderer* (Bokbok Seoga, first edition published by Munhakdongne), a thriller fiction written by Kim Young-Ha published in 2013, and the movie (The title of the movie is

“Memoir Of A Murder”) based on the novel produced in 2017. The novel *Diary of a Murderer* won the Japan Translation Award in 2018 and was selected as the best mystery novel in Germany. It also won the Hotlist award and the Deutscher Krimipreis award in Germany, which is the most prominent literary award for mystery, in December 2020. With such a history going beyond the linguistic barrier, *Diary of a Murderer* left a powerful impression on readers’ hearts at home and abroad. Receiving comments such as “a movie that doesn’t leave my head” from thriller fans, its movie was also released in the US and Japan.



Cover of the first edition and the main poster of the movie

Plot - The Horror of the World Breaking Down

Diary of a Murderer, available as both a book and a movie, describes the horror of a man’s world breaking down in a cold but profound way. The protagonist, Kim Byung-Soo, who has

been a murderer for 30 years, is a patient with Alzheimer's. He's been living with his daughter Eun-Hee since he decided not to kill again 26 years ago. He writes a journal to hold onto his memories. But, regardless of his efforts, his memories fade away at the speed of a sand castle hit by a wave, and the symptoms only get worse.

Then, as there's news that a series of murders have been happening in the neighborhood, he first suspects himself for the crime - "Perhaps it was me?" But, soon, he is assured that there is another murderer in the village. Just like the saying, "A devil recognizes a devil," Kim Byung-Soo meets Min Tae-Joo by accident and sees the cold-hearted, heartless eyes of a murderer, just like himself. However, Kim does not realize at first that it is Min whom his daughter brought to introduce him. Kim's memories flash like a broken lightbulb, and as he belatedly discovers that his daughter is meeting a murderer, he is determined to kill him before Min harms her.

Book vs Movie - Similar but Different

#1. The book's tension and the movie's immersion

The book *Diary of a Murderer* takes the form of a diary written by Kim Byung-Soo. Readers can enjoy reading an actual diary, one day on one page. It also gives a slight tension as such a format gives readers the impression they are sneaking a look at a murderer's diary. There are pages with many blanks left on

the bottom following the narration of Kim Byung-Soo; they leave the readers to imagine the situation from his view. In the movie, the content of the diary was read in the voice of actor Sol Kyung-Gu, who played Kim Byeong-Soo. The monologue of a murderer performed by a good actor makes the audience shiver. The performance of the actors/actresses as well as scene transitions, music, and art enable the audience to be more immersed in the movie.

#2. Different character settings

It is also another fun to compare how the characters described in the book are portrayed in the movie. Characters that do not have much influence in the book appear as the icing on the cake in the movie, and there are parts where the same characters appear in different settings. For example, while Kim Byung-Soo is a psychopath that kills people for satisfaction in the book, he is drawn as a vigilante that punishes the bad in the movie. Of course, characters are portrayed differently depending on the type of media, whether a book or a film, but they also depend on the screenwriter and the director. As such, *Diary of a Murderer*, both the book and the movie, have many points to compare from various perspectives.

#3. Different ending, different impression

It is a great error to think that the plot of the film would be the same as that of the book just because it is based on it. Apart from the different character settings mentioned earlier, the plot after Min Tae-Joo appears in a different form in the movie by large. The book maximizes the readers' imagination until the end and destroys it completely with a twist. Meanwhile, the film has a different ending, immersing the audience even more in the match between Kim Byung-Soo and Min Tae-Joo. As one more step could be a spoiler, I recommend you discover the breathtaking battle between the two killers in the book as well as the movie. It would be a unique experience to enjoy the two versions of *Diary of a Murderer* and compare the differences between the two worlds.

* Main trailer of the movie "Memoir Of A Murderer" – youtu.be/kCatTbXRByM

EXPORT CASE

Successful Import Case of Korean Literature in the U.S.A.

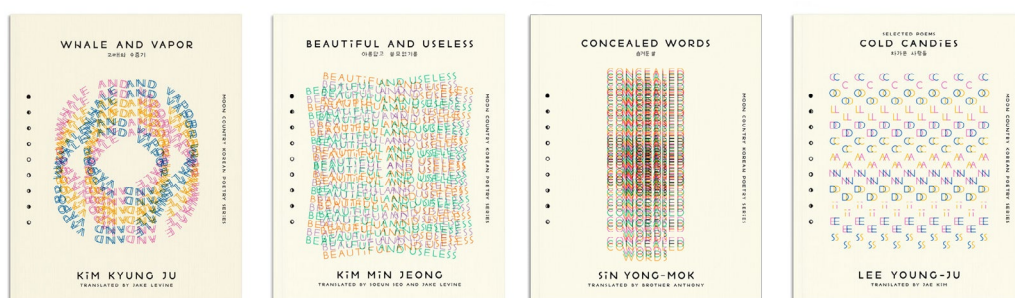
Black Ocean, Lee Young-ju,
the 2022 Lucien Stryk Asian Translation Prize for *Cold Candies*

Written by Jake Levine (Editor, Black Ocean)

The idea for doing *Moon Country*, the contemporary Korean poetry series at Black Ocean, started around the time Janaka Stucky, the publisher, came to Korea for a series of readings and literary events in 2017. Along with the editor Carrie Olivia Adams, we decided we'd like to publish work that stood on its own, but also would be in conversation with the other Black Ocean titles. So that is why we set out to publish edgy, avant-garde, contemporary work published in Korea within the last 25 years or so.

The series' name comes from the famous poem and book *Moon Country Mischief* (the title of a Korean book: 『달나라의 장난』) by Kim Soo-young. A goal we have is that we want these books to challenge national literature discourses, we want to invite readers

to inhabit these books as bodies of experience rather than view them as objects of knowledge or history, and we want to be a platform for readers to be radically altered by the power of the work. Even though Kim Soo Young's poem is about Korea after the war, it is also about make-believe, the Moon Country, written in a language of his own invention. People think translation is from language A to language B, but really poets often use their own invented language that is used in the country they are the founders of. When you really get into a poem, you enter a portal into an imagined country. When I first read Jae Kim's translation of Lee Young Ju's *Cold Candies*, I had a tingly feeling that it was a special book. His translation style, especially the way he mimics the syntactic grammar of the source text, the fluidity of that defamiliarization, and the attention to detail, teaches you how to read the language. He creates a philosophy, a blueprint for his aesthetic choices, and those choices give you special access to Lee Young-Ju's poetic country.



Moon Country series –
Whale and Vapor, Beautiful and Useless, Concealed Words, and Cold Candies

Looking back, I think Jae was really systematic in the way that he went about translating and editing the manuscript. When he received feedback, oftentimes a choice he made in one poem led to him changing all the other poems in order to achieve consistency. This book has a lot of surreal imagery, fluidity, and ambiguity; it speaks in the language of sibling intimacy, but also has a lot of strikingly sharp, shocking, and dark moments. By being consistent, Jae does an excellent job of balancing the tension between those disparate elements. But also, in the music, you can feel the artistry and love Jae has for the language. Like *Cold Candies*, the dissonance between something sweet and cold, the beauty of the consonance, these poems sing and break your heart. So, I think that has a lot to do with why the book was able to find such success.

Another reason probably has to do with Jae's advocacy for the work. The translated Korean titles you see winning awards have to do with not only the quality of the work and the translation, but also the effort and enthusiasm of the translator. Jae submitted his translations to all kinds of contests and publications, so by the time he submitted his manuscript to us of his work, we knew that he was going the distance to introduce Lee to an English language audience. Especially with poetry, it is really important for translators to be advocates for the work that they translate if they want to find readers. Lots of books get translated and published, but not all of them get read and recognized. In poetry, you don't have agents, and the small presses that publish poetry

are primarily run by small groups of dedicated volunteers. Submitting to journals, and contests, finding reviewers, and building an audience for poetry, especially poetry in translation, is energy intensive. Editors at presses can only do so much, and the majority of this outreach work falls upon poets and translators. I think Lee Young-Ju was fortunate her work found Jae.

Finally, although it is not the primary reason, I think why you see a lot of Korean books winning and getting nominated for these international awards, is because of the cumulative labor of a big community of writers, scholars, translators, and presses that built up this momentum over time. I think of Don Mee Choi's groundbreaking translations of the generation of Korean women writers that came before Lee Young-Ju, her translations of Kim Hyesoon and Choi Seung-ja in particular, the tireless effort of the editors at presses like Action Books, Wave Books, Noemi Press, Open Letter, Zephyr Press, Tilted Axis, etc. who are publishing so much great work in English translation, the many and often young and first-time translators making this literature happen, the readers and reviewers who open themselves up to the work, editors at journals and magazines like *Asymptote* that actively seek out and promote works in translation, and finally, the consistent institutional support granted to us by LTI (Literature Translation Institute of Korea), without which a series like this would not be possible.

BOOK TRIP

[Celeb's Book Spot ①]

Chosochaekbang

A Book Place for Book-loving Korean Celebrities

Written by Kim Jeong-Yeon

Unique places for book lovers have been in the limelight recently. Reading books in a quiet environment at home or a library is good for concentrating, but reading in a cozy place where the sound and smell we find familiar in daily life is also a new experience. With more unique places to read books now, famous people in Korea have had special reading experiences. Then, what kind of places are they?

RM from BTS, an idol group promoting K-Pop around the world with their various musical genres, is known as a heavy reader among celebrities. On his Social Media, where he shares moments of his daily life, you can easily find out that he is very much into reading books. Reading a broad range of genres ranging from Korean to foreign books, he is known to be a great

lover of books, recommending books that he read to others. There's another person that has fallen in love with books. It is Fabien, a French actor and model. Although he's French, his love for Korea is real, as evidenced by his recent acquisition of permanent residency in Korea. He is also known to be greatly interested in Korean history and culture. His passion for reading never cools down as he pursues his studies of Korea, the Korean language and history. Following is an introduction to Chosochaekbang, which is a book cafe visited by the best book-lover celebrities in Korea.



The beautiful landscape of Inwangsan Mountain caught the hearts of RM and Fabien

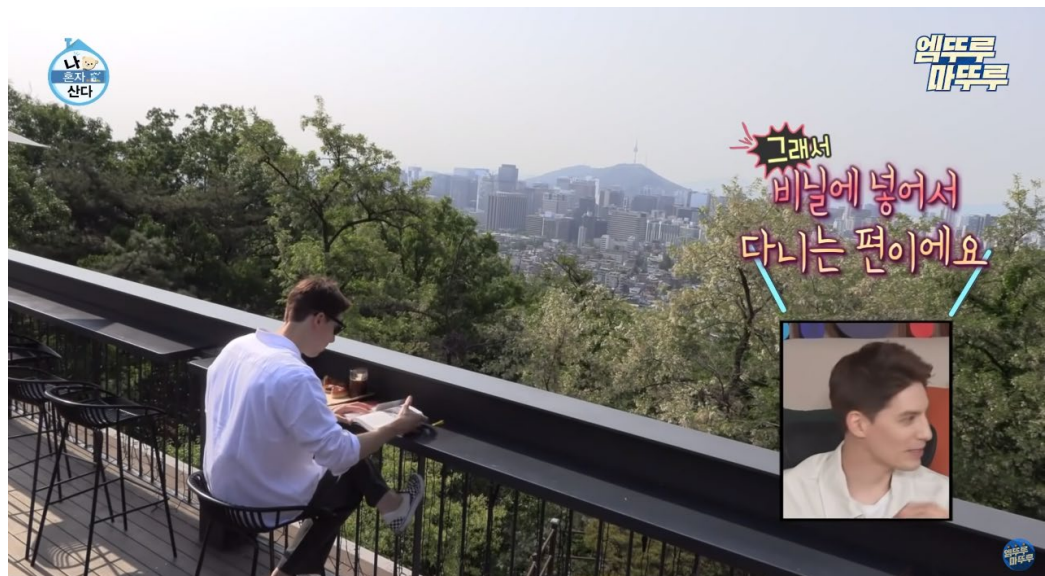
Chosochaekbang is a book cafe located in Inwangsan Mountain in Jongno-gu, Seoul. There are various paths that lead to the cafe; it is good to walk along the tracking course for a little exercise, and it is also great to take the forest path of the mountain, enjoying the deep forest scent. A little walk through nature, and you will get to Chosochaekbang, sitting quietly on the hill of Inwangsan mountain. Surrounded by nature, Chosochaekbang soothes your heart and lets you relax. It is a perfect place to read books with a cup of tea in nature, away from the city where everything flows so quickly. When you read outside on the terrace, the vivid sounds of nature, such as birds chirping and leaves rustling in the wind, will relax your mind and body. Also, Seoul, seen from the outside terrace, is simply unbelievable, with the clear sky adding more beauty.

RM and Fabien have also been on the open-air terrace. RM once said he enjoys reading books, showing a particular love for books. He also said that he goes to places, such as cafes and parks, to read books outside. He once uploaded photos of Chosochaekbang and Inwangsan Mountain on Instagram as well, adding that he searches for special places to read books. Also, Fabien even moved to Seochon, a neighborhood near Inwangsan Mountain, having fallen in love with the scenery that the mountain provides. When he appeared on “I Live

Alone,” an entertainment program on MBC, he took a light walk to Chosochaekbang as a resident of Jongno-gu, showing his everyday life of reading books and studying.



Outdoor terrace and Seoul seen from the cafe



Episode 447 of "I Live Alone"

(Source: Official YouTube Channel of MBC(www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3kwtGVlg_8))

A bookstore that cares about the environment

You can meet various types of books on the first floor, full of the just-baked smell of bread. A section with books on environmental issues draws our attention in particular – it was motivated by the movie "Save the Green Planet!" by director Jang Joon-Hwan in 2003. Environmental issues didn't get a lot of attention when the film was released. However, over time we have come to a point where we can feel the changes happening around the planet. Environmental issues have become critical issues to which any person living on Earth should be concerned. Thus, curations like this organized to deliver a significant message have special meanings. Displaying books about organisms and space, going further than the basics, visitors can have more in-depth thinking and reflection on environmental issues.

On top of the books about the environment, the book cafe has various types of books that help readers have the time to look back at themselves and prepare for future life. Also, as there are popular bestsellers, anyone, even those who have yet to be book-friendly, can easily pick one up and read. Meanwhile, there are picture books on the second-floor stairway. Picture books and the cafe filled with low, calm sounds make good harmony. Even those who never knew the charm of picture books will fall in love with them.



Shelves on the first floor and the staircase displaying picture books

A cultural complex with books



The exhibition place on the first floor, and the view from the second floor

While Chosochaekbang is a cafe, it is also a bookstore and a place to relax. It also serves as a cultural complex rich in diverse cultural elements. Although small, there is space for art displays on the first floor, which sometimes becomes a small gallery. The second floor can also be converted into a meeting area. Cozier and delicately designed, it is more suitable for reading books as it has both regular and low tables. At some point, the sitting area where you can gather around in small groups and share stories transforms into a place for book meetings. So, how about you

take a little time to come sit down with book lovers, read books, and share opinions?

Chosochaekbang is an amazingly charming place blended with Inwangsan Mountain as well as a variety of books, all sorts of desserts, and breathtaking architectural elements. Boasting different charms, the book cafe's name "Choso" came from the Korean word *choso* (guard post), as the spot used to be a lookout point in the past to guard the Blue House. You can still find traces of the old guard post in some areas outside the cafe, reminding us of the origin of the name. You can walk up to the second floor wherever you are outside the building as well. In addition, as the four sides are glass walls, you can have the outdoor landscape in your eyes from anywhere you are inside. Such accessibility to the building conveys that this is an open space that anyone can visit. It would be great to take the time to relax in Chosochaekbang - read books in this open shelter for tired city dwellers to rest.

Chosochaekbang

Website: <https://chosobooks.com/>

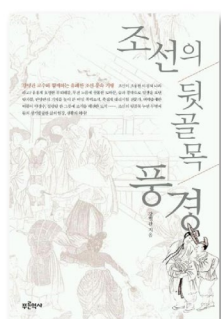
Contact: +82-2-735-0206

Address: 172, Inwangsan-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul

ONE-LINER QUOTES

Museum Curator's Pick

Written by Yoo Jei-Wook (Art and Science Researcher at Cheongwadae Cultural Promotion Task Force of the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation)



Landscape of Joseon's Backstreet

Kang Myung-Kwan, Purunyeoksa

Joseon was by no means a country befitting the image of the Land of Morning Calm.

... the country wasn't calm at all.

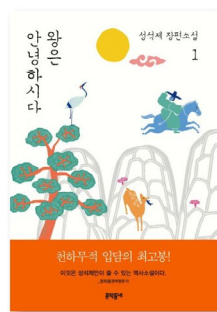


Westerners who visited “*Joseon* (the previous name of Korea)” in the 19th century described the country as the “Hermit Kingdom” or the “Land of Morning Calm.” Since that was how *Joseon* was depicted by foreigners, a third party, I just thought so, too. However, was *Joseon*, a dynasty that lasted for as long as 500

years, nothing but a reclusive and silent country? *Landscape of Joseon's Backstreet* (Purunyoksa) by Kang Myung-Kwan is filled with content that would be exciting for those who usually get overwhelmed and bored by the word "history." I used to know *Joseon* as a country dominated by strong Confucian culture and noble *seonbi* (scholars), but I wondered what made the author so eager to depict the landscape of the kingdom's alleys. Even now, alleys are riskier and scarier than main roads as we don't know what lies ahead of us.

The author studied the realm of Sino-Korean literature of *joongin* (the middle class), who accounted for the majority of the population, unlike *yangban*, a handful of noblemen in power. Based on a personal collection of works and a wealth of Sino-Korean literature records, the author has compiled real stories about *Joseon's* ordinary people, almost forgotten, rather than the higher-ups that we find hard to relate to. The book contains vivid stories of gangsters, gamblers, thieves, swindlers, and *kisaeng* (trained courtesans) who used to make a scene in the back alleys of *Joseon*, to which mainstream history didn't pay attention. Further, the book introduces various stories about *byulgam* (royal officials) who took care of all the chores in the royal palace in close proximity to the king but ruled over the prostitution business outside the palace as well as people at the *gwageo* (civil service examination) site who hired poxy test-takers. By reading the book, one can picture the boisterous scene of *Joseon's* night that overlaps with today's Jongno street. I recommend this book

with great confidence that you will no longer see *Joseon* as the “The Land of Morning Calm” after reading stories that would never be covered in history exams, such as the drinking and gambling practices of the country, the world of thieves and thugs, and *byulgam* who were at the forefront of the latest fashion at that time.



King is Fine
Sung Seok-Je, Munhakdongne

As the story was on everyone's lips,
people started to gather around storytellers ...



But no one knew that the lead character of
the story was grandmother.

If you pictured the noisy streets of *Joseon* after finishing *Landscape of Joseon's Backstreet*, try *King is Fine* (Munhakdongne) by Seong Suk-Je which takes us to the time when King *Sukjong* reigned. Interestingly, the lead character's job is *byulgam*, who had control over *Joseon's* prostitution business as described above, but what is more interesting is that his grandmother is “Seong Choon-Hyang.”

Who is Seong Choon-Hyang? “Lee Mong-Ryong and Seong Choon-Hyang” are the Korean version of “Romeo and Juliet.” It seems that love stories that overcome social taboos between men and women have always been popular regardless of nationality

and age. Novelist Seong Suk-Je, one of the most outstanding storytellers in Korea, wrote the tale featuring Seong Choon-Hyang's grandson, which is not limited to her touching love story. The lead character is indeed unique and intriguing, as he is a sworn brother of King *Sukjong*, who led the age of peace and prosperity of *Joseon*, and a royal *daejeon byulgam* (king's guard), but at the same time a libertine who had quite a reputation outside the royal palace in *Joseon's* prostitution business.

The book offers its readers an extraordinary experience to view complicated political disputes in late Joseon from the perspective of a libertine instead of a solemn historian. For instance, the readers would feel as if they are right next to the king of the late *Joseon*, who seeks to reinforce royal families' authority and his subjects who support or object to his ideas by forming *seoin* and *namin* political parties. Moreover, the book becomes even more immersive when Jang Ok-Jung (also known as "Jang Hee-Bin"), a royal concubine of King *Sukjong*, occasionally shows up in the story and shares jokes with the main character, blurring the boundary between reality and fiction. Of special note, the book also features Kim Man-Joong (whose penname was Seopo), the author of the first Hangul-based novel of Korea *Guwoonmong*, who visits the main character's *kisaeng* chamber and listens to Seong Choon-Hyang talk about her love story with Lee Mong-Ryong. This scene is a perfect device for the readers to learn the history of *Joseon* in a more friendly way.

What has always been regrettable as a specialist in history and

art history and a museum curator is that a museum can only display history in two dimensions. Conveying more vivid images of the old times to visitors is always a big challenge for curators. *King is Fine* is a book that gives life to the muted figures in a history book that we often find irrelevant and helps the readers to feel as if they live right next door. I recommend this book to those who want to walk through the age of *Joseon* in an easy way.

KOREAN PUBLISHERS

Balgeunmirae Publishing Co.

Children's Laughter is Our Bright Future



밝은미래

The logo of Balgeunmirae Publishing Co.

Laughing children are strong enough to make people around them feel happy. Like the phrase “children’s laughter is the bright future of our time,” one publisher has been giving children a big smile, building a brighter future with their books - Balgeunmirae Publishing Co. Since it was founded in 2005, Balgeunmirae Publishing Co. has released many books for children until now, hosted contests and meetings with readers, and published its content through diverse platforms. Let’s take a moment to listen

to a story of Balgeunmirae Publishing Co., which makes children smile with tales they are familiar with.

Welcome. It's a pleasure to have you on *K-Book Trends*. Please tell our overseas readers what Balgeunmirae Publishing Co. is and its mission.

Balgeunmirae Publishing Co. started as a children's book publisher in 2005. It has planned and developed many children's books, like original children's stories, picture books, educational comics, and study materials. Like its name, Balgeunmirae Publishing Co. was established to produce books that can help children build a bright future. We will continue to work to let children laugh joyfully with books and shine brighter.

Balgeunmirae Publishing Co. has continued to walk its path since starting as a children's book publisher. So, which part did the company focus on the most during the past 18 years?

Throughout the 18-year journey, the company has experienced many changes in the environment surrounding all publishers, including children's book publishers. The changes also once seemed like a threat to the conventional publishing market. Many changes driven by smartphones brought changes in books' content and forms as well as demography, not to mention library and education policies, significantly impacting the children's book market. Amongst the changes, we continued to ask what we

had to do. We asked ourselves, “What books do children need?”, “Why do children have to read books?”, and “What can books give to children?” While asking these fundamental questions, we tried many things and experienced failures. Yet, we will continue to make books to help children realize their dreams.

Many unique books produced by Balgeunmirae Publishing Co. catch our attention. Please introduce some of your representative series and their characteristics.

Until now, Balgeunmirae Publishing Co. has released many books and series, and I would pick the original children’s story series *i-Storyville* and the picture book series *Balgeunmirae Picture Book* as our representative series. The series *i-Storyville* delivers many stories children can relate to and hidden facts in tales. The *Balgeunmirae Picture Book* series is a collection of quality picture books from Korea and other countries. Recently, we’ve been releasing more books written by Korean picture book authors. Among the series, the rabbits in the recently released *Rabbit Bakery on the Green Hill* are adorable. Also, the picture book *Smoke Looking for Friends* helps children view the environment from a different perspective.

We heard that Balgeunmirae Publishing Co.'s educational comics are being produced as webtoons. Please tell us about your work in changing books into webtoons, such as which piece is under work and what you expect from making it into a webtoon.

It is said that webtoon viewers' age is getting younger and younger. However, it is also true that there are few webtoons for young children. We were interested in webtoons or web novels for elementary school students. We came to make books into webtoons after hearing that Jellypage (www.jellypage.com/intro) was preparing to launch a webtoon platform. The first book we made into a webtoon was *No.1 Safety Comics*. The book has the same name as an entertainment show that KBS aired to deliver safety information. We worked with the program to make it into an educational cartoon. In total, there are 39 books from seasons 1 and 2, and we are changing all of them into webtoons. People read paper books and webtoons differently as one can scroll down the pages to read webtoons, which makes it hard to convert. Regardless, we continue our work as we can feel the love children show. We wish our content meets more readers as the webtoon and web novel platform for children advances and collaboration between paper books and e-books continues.



Rabbit Bakery on the Green Hill and Smoke Looking for Friends



No.1 Safety Comics Vol. 1-34

Your company is organizing the “Dasaessu (meaning ‘to rewrite’) Bang Jeong-Hwan Literature Contest,” along with the Korea Bang Jeong-Hwan Foundation. Please tell us about the contest and the impressive winners.

We’ve been hosting the “Dasaessu Bang Jeong-Hwan Literature Contest” with the Korea Bang Jeong-Hwan Foundation (children365.or.kr) for six years. Bang Jeong-Hwan is the one who made Children’s Day in Korea, the first person to announce

the children's rights declaration, and the person who made a magazine for children, contributing to improving the lives of countless children. He also wrote, adapted, and translated literature for children. He significantly impacted Korean children's literature, but children might find him unfamiliar. Only a few of his writings are read as well. Therefore, the Korea Bang Jeong-Hwan Foundation and Balgeunmirae Publishing Co. created the "Dasaessu Bang Jeong-Hwan Literature Contest" to show children Bang's writings by developing new original children's stories inspired by Bang's works and spirit.

We announced the 5th award winner in 2022 and are getting applications for the 6th contest. The winner of the 5th award – the book – will be published in May 2023. Five books won the contest, from the 1st one to the 4th one, and every award winner takes a special place in our hearts. If asked to pick only one book to introduce, we would recommend the 4th contest winner, *In Order to Get BFF Cone*, published last year. The book depicts the friendship of four children in many ways and makes one's heart warm and feel good with its story.

You meet many readers through book-related events, such as the Seoul International Book Fair and the Korean Reading Fair. Do those activities help you learn about young readers?

Even if Balgeunmirae Publishing Co. is a children's book publisher, the ones who plan, edit, and design are adults. So,

it's hard to understand children's hearts and what they want completely. For that matter, we ask people around, teachers, experts, or parents, for their opinion whenever we have the chance. Of course, we get to introduce our books at events, but it is an exceptional experience for us as we listen to what readers think and see how children react to our publications. We will join the Seoul International Book Fair in 2023 and try to participate in other book-related events, such as Paju Children's Book Party, as much as the situation allows. We also plan to host lectures and illustration exhibitions at writers' schools or libraries, and our employees will participate in talks to communicate with children.



Promotion image of the 6th Dasaessu Bang Jeong-Hwan Literature Contest and the 4th contest winner In Order to Get BFF Cone



Balgeunmirae Publishing Co. booth installed at the Seoul International Book Fair

Balgeunmirae Publishing Co. is famous for releasing diverse and quality original children's stories. What are the standards in selecting stories to show to your readers?

When we plan or select children's stories, we first consider how much children can relate to the story. Brilliant topics or unique settings can draw attention, and distinctive characters can give temporary popularity. However, we focus more on the connection. We see if the piece can draw readers into the construct of the story, make the characters' emotions and attitudes sound persuasive, and strike a chord while keeping the worldview consistent. In other words, rather than the genre being fantasy, life, or history, we concentrate more on how

much the characters' actions and lines can touch readers' hearts. Stories can only have a long life and meet more readers when they are relatable.

Please introduce the original children's stories that many readers loved.

There are many that we would like to tell, but we recommend reading *Half My Mother*, *Truth or Dare*, and *The Reason to Protect the Dog*. The book *Half My Mother*'s main character Songju feels terrible for her mom as she has to care for Rumi, a 9-year-old kid with a developmental disorder. Songju feels like she only gets to take half of her mom. The book shows how Songju grows as she embraces Rumi after overcoming jealousy and loneliness.

Truth or Dare is a detective children's story written from Minwoo's viewpoint, who was accused of being a thief when there was a mysterious robbery in his class. It shows that children's memory and what they saw may not always be right and depicts Minwoo's feelings well. The thief revealed at the last moment is also shocking as the story is filled with plot twists.

The Reason to Protect the Dog is a novel for juniors. However, the book is written more like a novel. It is about six 6th graders competing in games to take care of a stray dog. As they play games, the characters get to understand each other and share why they want to raise the stray dog, which makes us feel a lot of

things as we read.



Half My Mother, Truth or Dare, and The Reason to Protect the Dog

Please share Balgeunmirae Publishing Co.'s goal for this year and its plan.

Balgeunmirae Publishing Co. will continue to try to make its content present on diverse platforms. As books in bookstores and as e-books, audiobooks, webtoons, and web novels, we aim to make this year the time we provide our content in various forms on various platforms. We also plan to write an environment-related book series for children. Environmental issues, including climate change, are significant ones everyone on Earth has to deal with, and it is a matter of survival. One cannot emphasize how critical the environmental issue is too much. Along with it, class, gender, and generational conflicts are not resolved but are getting more serious. Therefore, we are planning to discuss relevant topics in our books. Just like our company name, we will continue our efforts to build a bright future. Thank you.



Balgeunmirae Publishing Co.'s office

KOREAN AUTHORS

Writer Lee Byung-Ryul

A Traveler that Sings About Love

Traveling gives you the hope that something new will begin, as you walk away from monotonous daily life and meet new people and new things, in a fresh environment. There is a writer looking to live an adventurous life, traveling and embracing the unknown experiences that travel offers. Writer Lee Byung-Ryul sometimes comforts readers with poems and prose touching the emotional realm, and sometimes he sings about love. Following is an interview with writer Lee Byung-Ryul, who hopes to tell more people that love is absolute and is a necessity in our lives.



It's an honor to have you on *K-Book Trends*. Please introduce yourself to our subscribers.

Hello, everyone. I'm Lee Byung-Ryul. I write poems and prose and take photographs, too. I'm a person that prefers doing things on the desk to things that involve having to move a lot.

From your introduction, the sentence "I became a writer after writing things I like and don't like" is pretty impressive. It's been 28 years since you debuted as a writer. Compared to the very first list that you wrote, how have you changed today?

Some things have frequently replaced the old ones on the list. I don't think the things I like have changed very often, but the

things I don't like have changed a lot. Learning unknown aspects of the new people I meet has always been fun. Writing poems and taking pictures have always been my interests. People say that life is filled with new tastes, but I realized once more that people don't change so easily.

Your career spans a variety of areas, just like your works - you are a writer, the head of a publishing house, and the owner of a flower garden. So what motivated you to try different things?

I don't like spending much time in a particular field. That's a bit stifling. I think I have DNA for wandering around a lot, but I'm also a very curious person. Take away my curiosity, and I won't be alive. I'm always excited to new learn new things. Rather than completing things that I want to do one after another, my thoughts and actions are synchronized. I have no hesitation in doing the things I wish to do. I think I was born like that.

You're currently making books as the head of Dal Publishers. As you have been writing for a long time, there must be a special standard for choosing books for publication. What is the difference between selecting books to publish and writing a book yourself?

While working at Dal Publishers, I found it fun to work with people publishing their first book. The style and mentality of those who write their first book are so different. They're fresh,

if I can put it that way. So, I often choose books based on such elements that cannot be found in the existing writers.

As for my own works, I try to write prose as if I were talking to someone close to me about things I saw and felt. For poems, I try to write about things that can trigger people's memories, so that when they read my poems, they can realize, "Ah, yes. I feel the same way." So, my state of mind to write is like wanting to sing about things that might be very trivial or very intimate.

The common thing about choosing a book for publishing and writing my own work is that I hope many people will read it. Aside from book production, if you think the book you made is on display in a bookstore, anyone in the publishing industry would have the same hope. Well, we live in a time when there are fewer people reading books.

You've been writing both poems and prose. Where does a poem start, and what leads to prose?

Poems begin with little things. They may be a few lines written after watching through the window of a train or studio. Things I feel, but other people don't, become poems, too. The process of rewriting the same line several times, sometimes concealing resonant expressions and sometimes enlarging love, can also be called a poem itself.

In the meantime, I think prose is a medium to deliver an incident or episode I've been through to another person. So, it might be

something like a radio commentary or chatting. I believe that an artist's achievement by completing a poem is more important than focusing on "delivering" the message it has. And I believe prose is a genre that makes me aware of the audience's face – whether they are listening to what I have to say in writing.

You have written many works about love, such as *And I Heard That You're Happy* (Dal Publishers). What is "love" to you? And what message did you intend to convey by choosing love as the topic?

People with love energy have less of a hard time living their lives. They have a fountain of energy in them. Some are born with it. But, I came to think that those who were not born a fountain of energy might live a harder life very often. Love follows those with good attitudes and behavior. Rather than saying that people trying to cut off love from others live a difficult life, I want to say that people should try to become a loving person themselves first, discovering and sharing love with others. People with a high energy of love are more favorable to others, have a lot of things they want to do, and are active in everything they do. Maybe it's a pretty obvious fact. Yet I will not teach love through books. Love is absolute, and I wanted to remind people that love plays a large part in our existence.



And I Heard That You're Happy and Drawn

The book *Drawn* (Dal Publishers), first published in 2005, is still regarded as one of the best travelogues. What motivated you to write works about traveling, including *Drawn*?

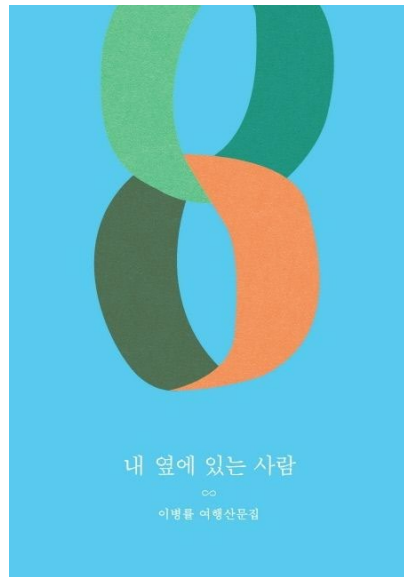
I have been traveling a lot. One clear thing is that I travel alone. If you travel alone, you can hear stories of people you encounter. You can't do that when you're traveling with somebody. I mean, if there was someone next to me on the trip, there wouldn't be foreigners starting a conversation or sharing food with me. And I try to have my heart open while traveling. People I've met during the trips treat me like a "guest." Exchanging the very humane parts of each other encourages me to make a record of it, which eventually becomes a travelogue.

You must have had a variety of experiences while traveling to other countries. Is there an episode or a thought that you haven't discussed in your books but would like to share with us?

Well, Iceland has a population of 340,000. They live tranquil lives, respecting peace. They say that young people find it boring to live there because there is not enough entertainment, and that is true. So they use an application to meet and hang out with new people. It's an app that checks whether the person they're interested in is in a kinship relationship because the population is so small. So, this app tells you people that you shouldn't be in love with. I call it "no-love-allowed app," but I feel a little sad that they had to use such an application first. I'm thinking of writing about this someday.

Your world would be far more expansive as you have traveled to many countries. Can you introduce one of your books to our international readers?

I would choose *The Person Next to Me* (Dal Publishers). I wrote it on my travels in Korea. It has many stories about "people." The person next to you and the scenery before my eyes are different from each other's point of view, aren't they? Because if you get used to something or someone, you tend to overlook their value.



The Person Next to Me

We look forward to hearing more from your future career. What story do you want to share in the future? What are your plans and goals?

I'm preparing for a new poem collection set to be published in October this year. Unlike the prose I've published until now, I'm thinking of adding "experiential traveling" or the "story of living in one place for a long time" in the next prose collection. The stories for it will be collected naturally, I hope, as I walk slowly and reflect on many things.

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

“PDF/POD” - Korean Publishing Market Develop into Diverse Formats

Written by Kim Hye-Gyeong (Journalist at *Readernews*)



PDF/POD
lowered the barrier



Individuals can
easily distribute



The small
but unique story

The interesting promotional text of a self-published e-book, *How to Write a Profit Generating E-Book*, by writer Yoo Sung-Woo says, “The secret to earning 500 million won with a 10-page PDF e-book” on the page of a crowdfunding platform Wadiz. The

book successfully raised hundreds of million won of funding. Before the book was introduced to Wadiz, it was released on freelancer matching platforms, like Kmong, Taling, and Class 101, accumulating more than 500 million won in revenue. Though the book was not officially published in the market, and considering that selling 10,000 copies of a book was regarded as half of a success in the prolonged recession for publishers, an individual book recording such revenue was unprecedented.

An increasing number of people collect and sell their practical know-how into PDF e-books on freelancer matching or crowdfunding platforms. As the introduction of the book *How to Write a Profit Generating E-Book* says, “Small know-how and experiences of individuals become necessary information for some, and the collected information creates revenue in the current era.” Publishing projects that met their Wadiz funding targets have diverse topics, including ones on British English, how to design a webpage with a higher sales rate, how to make a game without coding, job market analysis for a wafer inspection equipment checker, and how to win a civil lawsuit without hiring a lawyer.



A captured page of a Wadiz funding page for *How to Write a Profit Generating E-Book*

In the past, publishing included planning, contributing, editing, designing, production, and distribution, requiring close collaboration among experts. However, with the universalization of e-books and the advancement of platforms, publishing became a tool for personal branding for everyone and a profitable side job for some. Even if one does not gain much from the publication, there is nothing to lose. Anyone can start without a separate production cost, and most of the revenue goes to the author, excluding the fee for using the platform. On the other hand, individually published e-books are published in the market without ISBN codes, and it is hard for self-publishers to advertise. Considering its characteristics, raising funds on renowned platforms is now highlighted as simply putting up an e-book on the platform itself can help promote the publication.

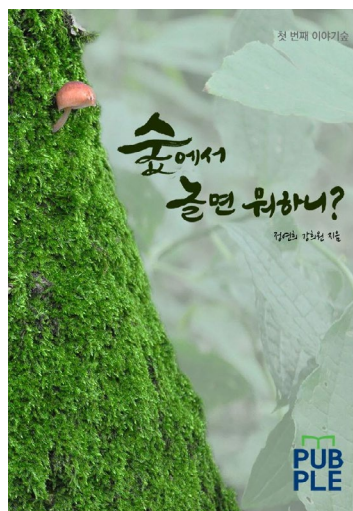
Likewise, the Korean publishing market is developing into diverse forms as the entry barrier for individuals gets lowered. Another example of self-publication is POD publication (Publish on Demand). POD publication is a type of paper book self-

publication, which consigned the publication process, such as production and distribution, to experts, like Bookk or Kyobobook's Pubple, connected to large bookstores. As long as the manuscript exists, one can select a paid or free template to design the cover and inside and set details, such as price and production conditions, to publish books. Once the book goes through the process, it is saved on a platform in a file format and is printed once there are actual orders made. Platforms replace specific roles of publishers in POD publication. Thus, the revenue is divided as 7:3 or 8:2 between the platform and the writer.

Conventional self-publication costs extra for production even if the published books are retrievable. Unlike regular publishing, the biggest benefit of the POD type is that it does not have any inventory left. Also, the POD type allows writers to publish the book in e-books in the future, as most platforms release ISBN for free. Books published in the POD method can be found in affiliated major online bookstores, such as Kyobobooks or Aladin. Kyobobook started running the POD service in 2012, and the service grew ninefold in around ten years. There are more than 20,000 books released through Kyobobook's POD service. In the 1st half of 2022 alone, there were 2,540 books published. Among those books, there were 710 books published by individuals, not publishers, and the age of individuals who published through the service spans from people born in 2006 to 1935 with 327 active writers. A member of Kyobobook said, "The service feels new to many yet, but the range of POD is expanding in the

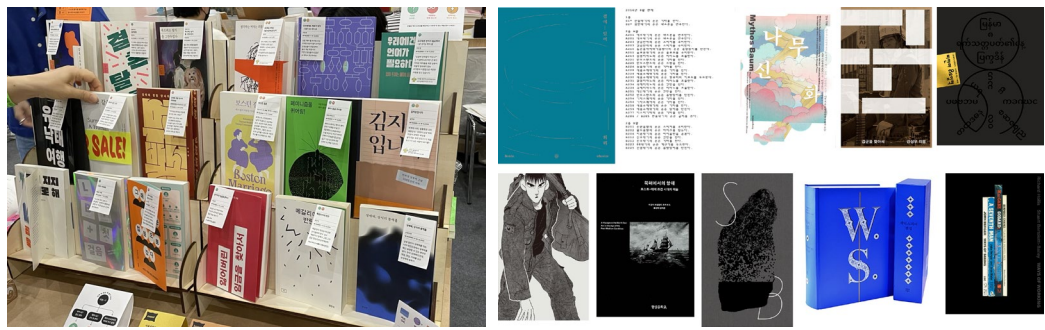
individual publishing market. Its usage is widening to cover from autobiographies to college textbooks.”

Most sold areas of the service are poems/essays, and employment/examination books, taking 21% and 13%, respectively, as of July 2022. Recently, there have been increasing cases of teenage writers publishing records of their school life, novels, or children’s books, along with their guardians. As it is easy to produce a small number of books through the service, most writers publish to collect or gift them to people. Still, purchases of commercial books, like college textbooks, are increasing continuously. The most sold POD book in the 1st half of 2022 was a non-face-to-face forest experiencing program manual named *What Can You Do to Play in Forests?*



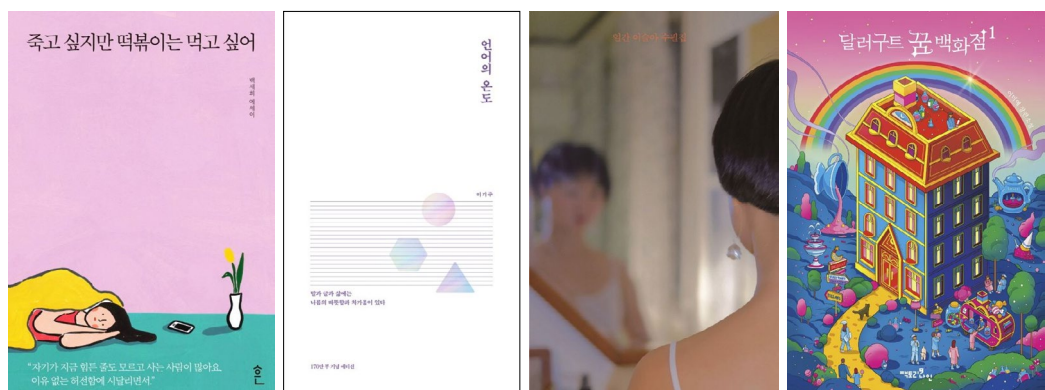
The book *What Can You Do to Play in Forests?*, published by Pubple, Kyobobook’s POD service

Some do not acknowledge PDF e-books or POD-published ones as a traditional form of books. Nevertheless, the rapid growth in self-publication shows changes in social recognition that one can



(Left) A visitor is selecting a book from the Book Village corner at the 2022 Seoul International Book Fair. (©Reporter Kim Hye-Gyeong)
 (Right) Indie publications were included in the ten Most Beautiful Books in Korea in 2022 and nominated by the Seoul International Book Fair. (©Korean Publishers Association)

Some non-fiction such as writer Baek Se-Hee's *I Want to Die but I Also Want to Eat Tteokppokki* (Heun), writer Lee Ki-Joo's *The Temperature of Language* (Malgeulteo), and writer Lee Seul-Ah's *Daily Lee Seul-Ah Essay Collection* (Hey Uhm Book) are the best-selling indie publications. Furthermore, writer Lee Mi-Ye's fiction *Dallergut Dream Department Store* (Sam & Parkers), which ranked 1st regarding the annual sales of Kyobobooks and Yes24 in 2021, also started as an indie publication through crowdfunding and got ecstatic feedback from its readers. After the fundraising, the book was published in its current form, selling more than a million copies.



I Want to Die but I Also Want to Eat Tteokppokki, *The Temperature of Language*, *Daily Lee Seul-Ah Essay Collection*, and *Dallergut Dream Department Store*

Indie publishing got attention from the market once crowdfunding platforms, such as Tumblebug and Wadiz, became universal distribution channels. Since one can print only the online-ordered number of books, writers no longer have to take the risk of doing the legwork to stock their books in bookstores, making early investments, and taking on the unsold inventory. The public's interest in crowdfunding platforms is increasing as publishers try out the publication by funding. As long as the concept is clear, it becomes easier to go viral.

Likewise, small stories, which used to be ignored by conventional commercial publications, small but unique stories to be clear, are now voiced in the publishing industry. For example, *I Want to Die but I Also Want to Eat Tteokppokki* is a book that shows the writer's consultation records with his psychiatrist as he suffered from dysthymic disorder and anxiety disorder. Mental illness was taboo in Korea when the book was published in 2018. Writer Baek Se-Hee said he only initially aimed to sell to 200 readers.

The biggest trait and charm of indie publishing is that it can get away from the logic of commercial publishers, who take universality as the standard of publication, as they have to meet the minimum number of copies in sales. In some cases, demands unnoticed by conventional publishers were pioneered through indie publishing. For example, in 2018, *The Collection of Eastern Ghosts and Monsters* (The Kooh) and *Korean Yokai Encyclopedia* each reached 100 million won and 70 million in funding on Tumblebug. The books recorded unexpected but

interesting results while sticking to yokai and monsters of Korea, an unknown topic to many. Writer Ko Seong-Bae's *The Collection of Eastern Ghosts and Monsters* was re-published as *Korean Yokai Encyclopedia* by Wisdom House Publishing Co., one of the biggest publishers in Korea.

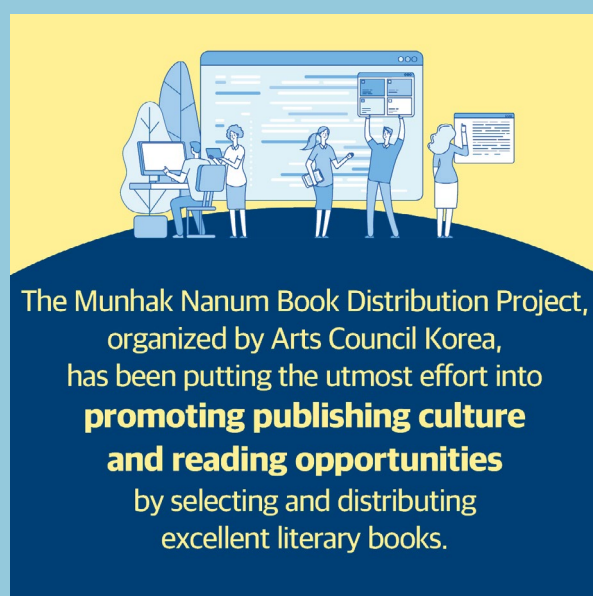
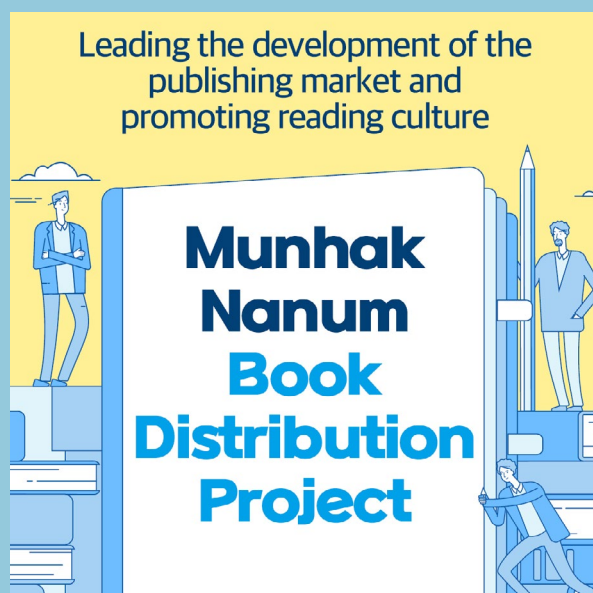


The Collection of Eastern Ghosts and Monsters and *Korean Yokai Encyclopedia*, re-published by Wisdom House Publishing after becoming popular on Tumblebug

Now, we live in an era when readers, not famous or authoritative writers or publishers, make best sellers, and an unknown individual can become a publisher. Earlier, Alvin Toffler predicted, “In the information revolution era, information would be the energy source, and many would become a producer as well as a consumer.” Correspondingly, small but unique stories out in the world are expanding through self-publication, including indie publishing, over the horizon of the publishing industry with their diversity and are expected to bring large-scale changes over time.

Publishing Policy

Arts Council Korea's Munhak Nanum Book Distribution Project



The Munhak Nanum Book Distribution Project, organized by Arts Council Korea, has been putting the utmost effort into **promoting publishing culture and reading opportunities** by selecting and distributing excellent literary books.

Among a total of 6 categories - poetry,
fiction, non-fiction, review, play,
children/young adult, and literature,
the project selects and supports first-edition
literary books (non-co-written) published
within the specified period!

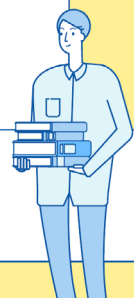


About 500 titles
are chosen each year,
then distributed to various organizations
such as libraries, local cultural centers,
and social welfare facilities!



Selection Criteria

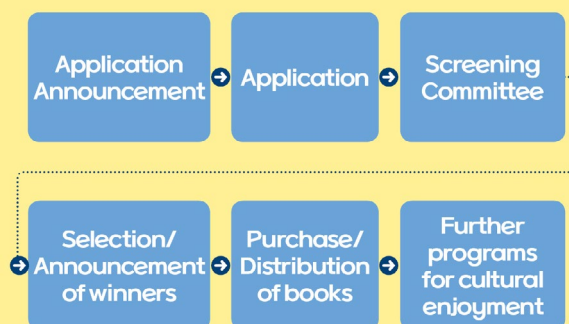
- ✓ Creativeness and completeness
- ✓ Contribution to literary advancement
- ✓ Ripple effect and future potential



Project Overview

Government Sponsor	Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism
Project Organizer	Arts Council Korea
Frequency	3 times a year, once a quarter
Method	Step 1: Pre-screening Step 2: Screening Step 3: Final adjustment review
Purchase of the Selected Books	Selected books are purchased at a maximum of 8.5 million won per book at 90% of the list price

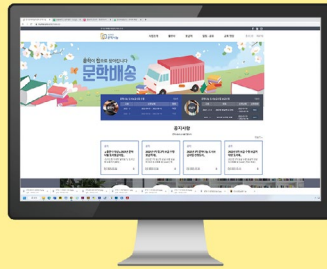
Project Progress



Meet outstanding Korean books
contributing to the development of
the publishing culture through the
Munhak Nanum Book Distribution Project!



For more information,
please refer to the website!



Go to the website of Arts Council Korea's
Munhak Nanum Book Distribution Project



munhak.arko.or.kr/index.do

NEW BOOKS

Always Smile

The story of Ahn Soo-San,
daughter of independent fighter
Ahn Chang-Ho

Always Smile

**The first history novel
by Park Kyeong-Hee,**

who has been writing the stories of
adolescents through various novels.





**The stories about
Dosan Ahn Chang-Ho,**
an independent activist
traveling between Korea,
the US, and China,

**and his family that has
yet to be known.**

**What life would the daughter of
an independence fighter have lived?**

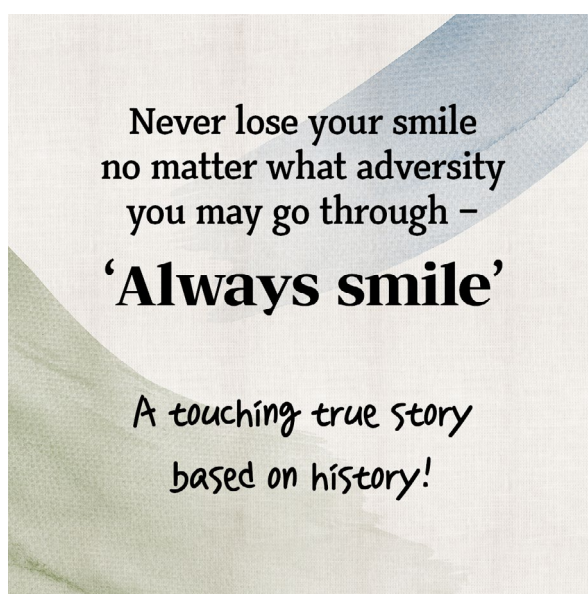
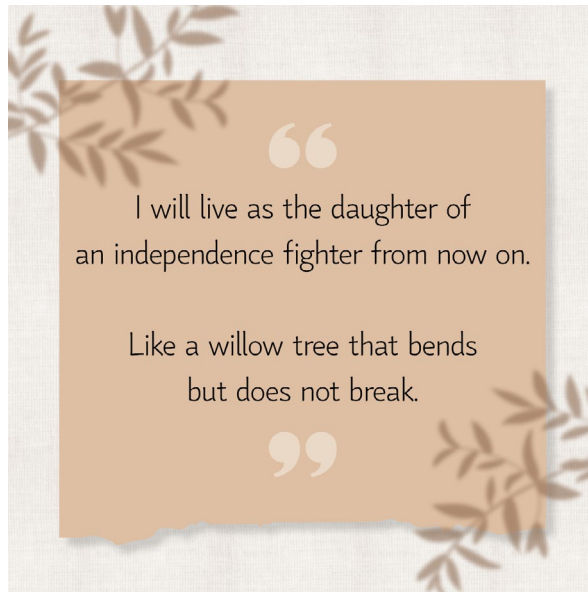
'Ahn Soo-San, daughter of
Dosan Ahn Chang-Ho,
serves as the first female
gunnery officer in the US Navy!'



In the letters the father and
daughter exchanged,
there was a phrase of desire for
the dreams and hopes for independence –

'Always smile'





A touching story about the life of
an independence activist's family



Always Smile

Park Kyoung-Hee, Booksea Publishing Co.

BEST SELLERS

3rd Week, January 2023

Best Seller Trends in the Four Biggest Online Bookstores in Korea

In January 2023, authors who have diligently performed their role in one field captured Korean readers with their candidly written books. For example, the book *I'm Thankful for My Life*, written by Kim Hye-Ja, one of the representative actresses in Korea, ranked 1st on the integrated list of best sellers. The book melted the hearts of many readers with truthful stories about her 60 years of life as an actress. Also, former secretary Tak Hyun-Min who served as the protocol secretary to former president Moon Jae-In, met readers with the book *Mr. President*. The book provides a glimpse into the hidden efforts that Tak had put into during his service through the small episodes related to former president Moon Jae-In as well as stories about all sorts of government events that Tak had organized.

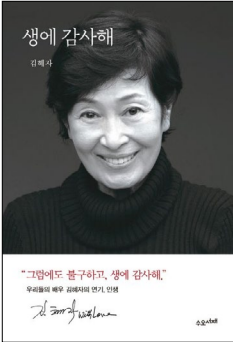

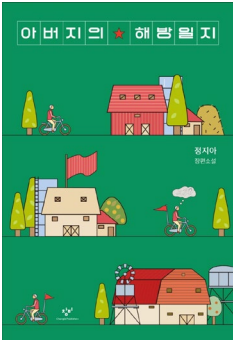
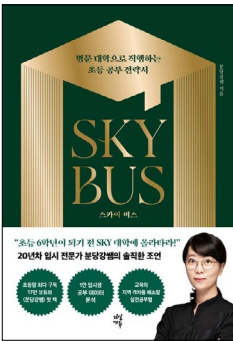
Once again, Koreans' zeal for learning has heated up entering the new year. For example, the book *Sky Bus* written by YouTuber

Bundang Gangssem, who has 170k subscribers, is a strategy guide for entering prestigious universities. It has been serving as a guide for parents by sharing secret tips for learning for elementary school students. Likewise, lawyer Lee Yoon-Gyu, who also runs a YouTube channel about studying, published *Memorizing Techniques that Never Fail*, which introducing practical memorizing skills for complex studies.

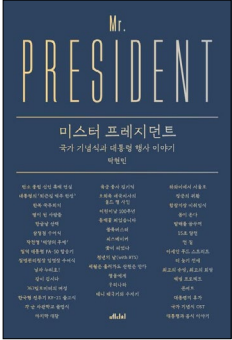
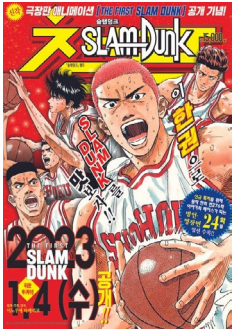

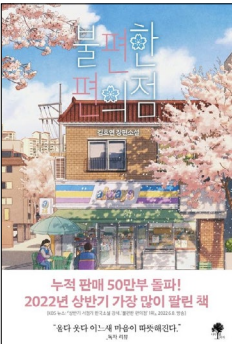
Meanwhile, in non-fiction, *Don't Let Your Emotions Become Your Attitude* ranked 2nd. Anyone might have hurt others' feelings because they acted emotionally one day. This book offers tips for keeping your mind centered from turbulent emotions and enlightens the importance of human relationships and emotion control. Also, *Everything Begins from the Basics* is a book written by Son Woong-Jung, father of world-renowned football player Son Heung-Min. It was published in 2021, but it once again gained the spotlight as Son's performance at the 2022 Qatar World Cup led Korea to the round of 16. How about setting some new year resolutions and goals with this book, reading Son Woong-Jung's philosophy in life as a football player, father, and leader?

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

Top 10 best sellers for the 3rd week of January

1		<p><u><i>I'm Thankful for My Life</i></u></p> <p>Author Kim Hye-Ja Publisher Suo Books Genre Non-fiction</p>
2		<p><u><i>If I Were to Re-live My Life (special edition commemorating 100 thousand copies sold)</i></u></p> <p>Author Kim Hye-Nam Publisher Maven Genre Humanities</p>
3		<p><u><i>Father's Liberation Diary</i></u></p> <p>Author Jung Ji-Ah Publisher Changbi Genre Fiction</p>
3		<p><u><i>Sky Bus</i></u></p> <p>Author Bundang Gangssem Publisher Dasan Edu Genre Family</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 3rd week of January

5		<p><u>Mr. President</u></p> <p>Author Tak Hyun-Min Publisher Medici Media Genre Politics / Society</p>
6		<p><u>Slam Dunk Champ Comics</u></p> <p>Author Takehiko Inoue Publisher Daewon CI Genre Comics</p>
6		<p><u>Choi Tae-Sung's Korean History Exam 2023 (Difficult) Vol. 1</u></p> <p>Author Choi Tae-Sung Publisher ETOOS Genre Exam</p>
8		<p><u>Uncanny Convenience Store (Cherry blossom edition commemorating 400 thousand copies sold)</u></p> <p>Author Kim Ho-Yeon Publisher Namu Bench Genre Fiction</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 3rd week of January

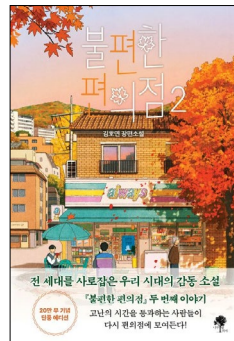
8



Memorizing Techniques that Never Fail

Author | Lee Yoon-Gyu
Publisher | The Quest
Genre | Self-help

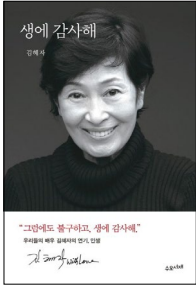

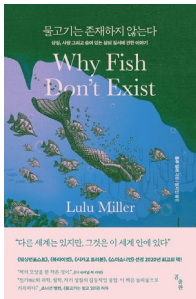

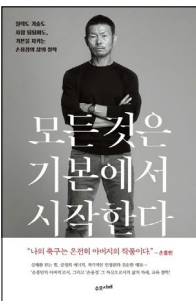
10



**Uncanny Convenience Store 2
(Maple leaf edition)**

Author | Kim Ho-Yeon
Publisher | Namu Bench
Genre | Fiction

Top 5 non-fiction for the 3rd week of January

1		<p><i><u>I'm Thankful for My Life</u></i></p> <p>Author Kim Hye-Ja Publisher Suo Books</p>
2		<p><i><u>Don't Let Your Emotions Become Your Attitude</u></i></p> <p>Author Kim Soo-Hyun Publisher Highest</p>
2		<p><i><u>Why Fish Don't Exist</u></i></p> <p>Author Lulu Miller Publisher Gom Books</p>
4		<p><i><u>To You, Who is Bound to Succeed</u></i> <i><u>(Cheer-up edition celebrating 100 thousand copies sold)</u></i></p> <p>Author Choi Seo-Young Publisher Book Romance</p>
4		<p><i><u>Everything Begins from the Basics</u></i></p> <p>Author Son Woong-Jung Publisher Suo Books</p>

KOREAN TRANSLATOR

Helen Cho

Helen Cho is a freelance translator and interpreter based in Seoul and London. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in English Literature from University College London, UK. She won the 46th Modern Korean Literature Translation Commendation Award in Fiction, and multiple Translation Grants from the Literature Translation Institute of Korea. She has translated numerous literary works, films, plays, and musicals. As an interpreter, her areas of expertise include literature, art, film, performing arts, culture, media, and education.

PROFILE

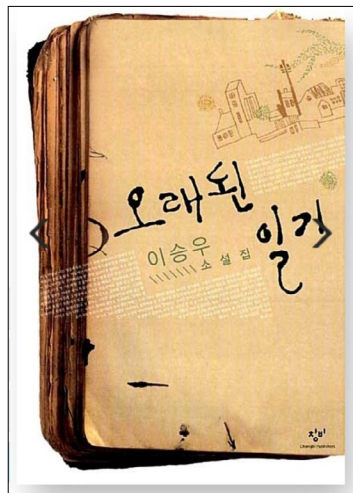
- Korean-English translator/interpreter
- solongoshelen@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- 2009: University College London, UK - Master of Arts in English Literature
 - Course title: Shakespeare in History
- 2008: University College London, UK - Bachelor of Arts in English Literature

ACHIEVEMENTS/AWARDS

- Translation Grants, Literature Translation Institute of Korea
 - *The Old Diary* by Lee Seung-U (2015)
 - *Stranger than Paradise* by Lee Jangwook (2018)



The Old Diary, Stranger than Paradise

- Korea Times Modern Literature Translation Award.
 - Commendation Prize (2015)

SELECTED TRANSLATIONS

- Fiction

- *The Old Diary* by Lee Seung-U
- *In Search of Lost G* by Kyung Hyun Kim
- *Seol* by Sim Yunkyung
- *Light from Anywhere* by Jeong Jidon
- *The Golden Age* by Kim Heesun
- *The Grammar of Possession* by Choe Yun
- *Even in the Faintest Light* by Choi Eunyung
- *Logic* by Kim Mella
- *The Number One World* by Kim Ki-chang
- *An Earnest Man* by Ji-Young Gong

- Plays

- *We Are Brothers*
- *Manseon: The Yearning of a Fisherman*
- *Faust Ending*
- *Theare Geobbels*
- *Helmet Avataar*
- *I Like Sugunga*
- *Hwajeonja: Song of Spring Blossoms*
- *Climate Emergency: A Rehearsal*

- Musicals

- *Dead Dog in a Suitcase*
- *Along with Gods*
- *Navillera*

- *The Seven Bastards*
- *The Promise of the Day*
- *Chunhyang Prison Break*
- *The Last Empress*



Dead Dog in a Suitcase, Along with Gods, Navillera

● Films

- *Heavenly Homecoming Stars*
- *People in a Slum*
- *A Bed sore*
- *The Bell Tower*
- *Jeoh Island*
- *Flowers of Mold*



Heavenly Homecoming Stars, People in a Slum, A Bedsore

INTERPRETATION

The British Council, UNESCO, CJ E&M, Korea Foundation (KF), Art Council Korea, LG Arts Center, The Swedish Embassy in Seoul, Korea Educational Broadcasting System (EBS), Korea Disability Arts and Culture Center, The Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture (SFAC), Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE), Korean Cultural Center UK, The Busan International Film Festival, The Jeonju International Film Festival, Korean Film Archive, London Korean Film Festival, The London Book Fair, The Seoul International Book Fair, Korean Publishers Association, International Literature Festival Dublin, Literature Translation Institute of Korea, The Seoul International Writers' Festival, WOW Book Festival, The National Theater Company of Korea, A Festival of Korean Dance in the UK, Korea National Contemporary Dance Company, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA), Seoul Museum of Art, etc.

#K-BOOK

#Travel in Korea

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

Man of Facts and Woman of Feelings

1. Publication Details

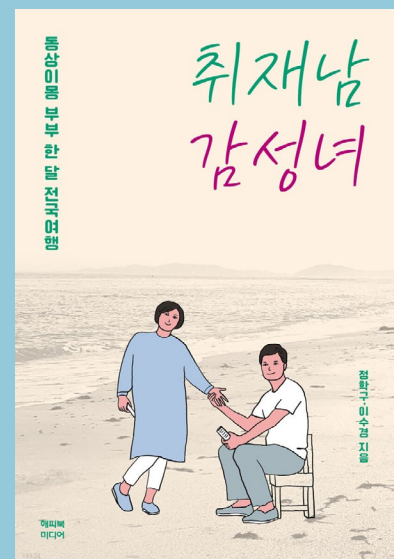
Title | Man of Facts and Woman of Feelings
 Subtitle | An Opposite Couple's One-Month Travel in South Korea
 Author | Hakgu Jeong, Sukyeong Lee
 Publisher | Happybookmedia
 Publication Date | 2021-12-13
 ISBN | 9788998079451
 No. of pages | 304
 Dimensions | 150 * 220

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Kwon Kyoungok
 Email | doheene@naver.com
 Phone | +82-051-555-9684

3. Book Intro

Since meeting at a newspaper company and getting married, this agile couple have been busy going on road trips – even after their children were born. Always with an excuse of having to see the world, they are travel enthusiasts who have been all over the country and even all the way to Russia on the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Then their dream opportunity comes along □ domestic travel for a whole month – not too long and not too short. The husband was planning a trip



for his sabbatical before retiring, and the wife took a month from work due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A man who always plans everything and does things exactly as planned, and a woman who is just happy to go anywhere. They chronicle their journey of traveling together and rediscovering their differences, only to reaffirm that they are each other's perfect life companions.

Starting from Jeju Island, they travel around the country from the West Coast, the Armistice Line, and the East Coast to Busan. It is true that this trip reflects the husband's tastes and is a bit of a history tour, but it doesn't stop there. They visit the wounds of modern history that cannot be seen in famous tourist attractions and observe ordinary people's way of life as well as the other side of a glamorous city. The book makes us look into the heartbreaking fragments that we're not aware of, or perhaps we want to look away from, in many corners of the country. Furthermore, you will see with fresh eyes the beautiful nature admired by a sentimental lady as well as charms in arboretums, museums, art galleries, and parks that have been well maintained. All this, and the couple's love for each other.

Their one-month travel starts in Jeju Island. The scenery around the island is enchanting, but the tour starts off in a "dark" way. Part 1 depicts the couple's week in Jeju. From the airport, they head to Hangpaduri Castle in Aewol for the first stop on their itinerary, and look back at the history of Anti-Mongol struggle. The Sambyeolcho resistance is well known, but the Mokho who settled down after defeating the Sambyeolcho is unfamiliar to us. When the man accidentally discovers the word "extermination of the Mongols" on a stone monument on the shore, his guts are activated. He pauses and searches the Jeju Provincial Office website to find relevant historical facts. After suppressing Sambyeolcho as members of the Goryeo-Mongol Allied Forces, some Mongolian soldiers who remained in Jeju lived with the native people for 100 years. The word "extermination" refers to the annihilation of Mokho, or former Mongolian soldiers, by General Choi Young during the reign of King Gongmin at the end of the Goryeo period. Yet, there is a view held by some Jeju people that Sambyeolcho, the Mongolian army, or the Goryeo army were all foreign powers after all. The man is lost in thought. Is it appropriate that General Choi Young is accepted as a guardian deity by the Jeju people? Is the history we know true?

Such questions arise not only on Jeju, but also at various other destinations, and the man does not hesitate to pause and investigate. At night, he goes back to his room and scours the internet and belatedly studies history. When still not resolved, he tries to find data and even go on a follow-up trip after completing the one-month trip. The Yeosu-Suncheon Rebellion is another historical scene that he digs into.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=6722

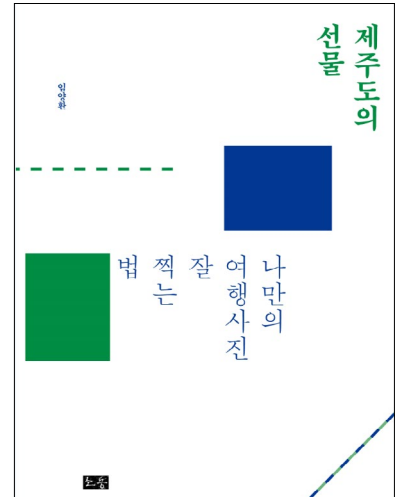
The Present of Jeju Island

1. Publication Details

Title | The Present of Jeju Island
Subtitle | How to Take Your Own Travel Photos
Author | Lim Yanghwan
Publisher | Sodong Publishers
Publication Date | 2017-04-26
ISBN | 9788994750200
No. of pages | 320
Dimensions | 152 * 210

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Kim Namki
Email | sodongbook@gmail.com
Phone | +82-31-955-6202



3. Book Intro

Jeju island's beautiful scenery is like an unexpected gift.

Lim Yanghwan, the author of this book, fell in love with the island and felt sad that people only visits famous touristic spots for a short while. That is why he wrote this book to introduce the true beauty of Jeju island. He visits unknown places in the island and guides you to the photo spots where you can take photos from your own points of view. On top of that, Lim uses the know-how he acquired over decades of teaching students on how to take your own travel photos together with general photography tips.

The book divides the island into five big regions (the mountains in the center, and the east, north, west, and south sea). There are a lots of free, unique photos that will make you want to go to the island right away. The scenery of Hallasan mountain, the Oreum (volcanic cones), and the sea in the morning, afternoon, evening, and night as well as the changes in the four seasons uncover the true beauty of nature in the island.

There are two big reasons why you should read this book.

First, instead of banal places like famous touristic sites, it introduces a number of unique places (photo spots) that the author found on his own while walking everyday around the island. Second, every photo is accompanied by photography tips (know-how) to clearly solve the problems that photographers always face in photo spots.

There is also a supplementary book consisting of 12 tips, "How to take your own travel photos," to help beginners to easily learn the mechanism of photography. At the end of the book, there is a map marked with all the photo spots to help you plan for your own photo trip. It is recommended that you read the supplementary

book first and learn the basics of photography before heading to Jeju island. Even if you have already visited the island many times, it is never easy to decide where to visit and when. Try to make your own travel plan with the map and follow the tips to develop your own ways to take nice travel photos.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1885

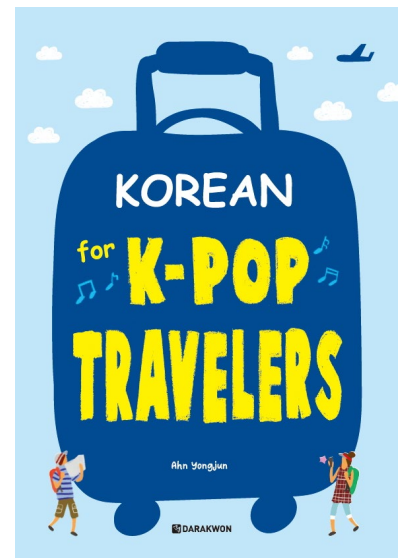
Korean for K-Pop Travelers

1. Publication Details

Title | Korean for K-Pop Travelers
Author | Ahn Yongjun
Publisher | DARAKWON, INC.
Publication Date | 2018-09-27
ISBN | 9788927732181
No. of pages | 224
Dimensions | 150 * 210

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Lee Dongho
Email | dongho1967@gmail.com
Phone | +82-70-4712-7440



3. Book Intro

This is the most essential traveling conversational book, specially customized for K-pop fans and foreigners who are interested in travelling to Korea. This book includes real Korean expressions that are used in daily life as well as vocabulary that is essential with the theme of a five-day trip to Seoul. It also provides travel information and Korean expressions with vivid videos taken by members of the six-member idol star "Favorite", who are currently popular in Japan.

A must-have travel Korean for K-Pop fans and people planning a trip to Korea!

* A Korean speaking practice book for traveling with essential real-life expressions and vocabulary!

* Watch video clips of a 5-day trip to Seoul and witness the Korean expressions and vocabulary being used in real situations

* Learn about various aspects of the Korean language and culture, while picking up some helpful tips for your trip!

* You can use the QR code to check out the video featuring the Korean idol group 'Favorite' on YouTube.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=3519

I'll Go Step by Step Until I Get There

1. Publication Details

Title | I'll Go Step by Step Until I Get There

Author | Ra Heeduk

Publisher | dalpublishers

Publication Date | 2017-03-31

ISBN | 9791158160586

No. of pages | 208

Dimensions | 140 * 200

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Park Sunjoo

Email | bigsun1217@munhak.com

Phone | +82-31-8071-8683



3. Book Intro

Ra Heeduk has put the ordinary landscape of her daily life into words, making them shine as a pearl found in a mudflat. If capturing fleeting moments through one's own eyes and interpreting all the mysterious things in the world with language is what poets do, they will catch what they see even while walking the trails through their delicate and warm glances.

Ra saw the back of an old man walking with a cane, the back of an old woman sitting in the shade, and the back of a couple hugging each other, and thought of the frail back that all humans have. A person who lives on the streets with a dog and the "mother of pigeons" who displays pigeons made of felt also prompted the poet to feel the warm hearts of people that care about animals. Ra has occasionally followed the footsteps of artists who lived miserable lives and died young, such as Franz Kafka, Van Gogh, and Anne Frank. Ra also encountered an old man in Sorokdo Island who had stunted fingers from leprosy and a treasure hunter who was searching for something at a beach on a summer night.

The landscape, people, and objects that the poet has portrayed all have their own distinctive colors and stories. The poet's eyes have captured scenes that one may easily pass by. The things that are around us but not so noticeable shine brightly in this book and catch our eyes. The scenes reinterpreted by the poet and put into poetic words will also touch readers deeply inside their hearts without any exaggeration or flowery description.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=226

Jeju Story

1. Publication Details

Title | Jeju Story
Author | Jeon Seoksoon, Kim Kyounghee,
SOOJA, Yi Eun-sun, Yoon Yihyung, Gu
Byeongmo
Publisher | ARTIZAN
Publication Date | 2018-07-14
ISBN | 9791196373801
No. of pages | 217
Dimensions | 124 * 188

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Kim Byoungsoo
Email | artizanbooks@daum.net
Phone | +82-10-3332-8384



3. Book Intro

These stories about Bellongjang Market, which opens only twice a month in Gujwa-eup; the beautiful emerald beach of Hyeopjae; Songdang village with its numerous Oreums; Saryeoni Forest with its trees filled with burgeoning buds; Jeolmul Recreational Forest; Gangjeong Village; and Yongmeori Beach will urge you to pack your bags and hop on a plane to Jeju Island. Six young Korean writers have put their memorable moments from Jeju Island into a book. This short story collection will inspire readers to reflect on themselves when they feel lost in their daily lives. Those who are living in the city with anxiety in their hearts as though holding a balloon that is about to explode will be able to put on a smile and find comfort with this book.

Jeju Story is the first volume of the *Nouvelle Vague* series, which aim at blending together regions, cultures, and people through encounters with various cities and writers across the world. Following *Jeju Story*, the books *Tokyo Story*, *Busan Story*, and *New York Story* will be published.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=878

Happy Memories, Corner Shops in Korea

1. Publication Details

Title | Happy Memories, Corner Shops in Korea

Author | Lee Mekyeoung

Publisher | Namhaebomnal

Publication Date | 2017-02-10

ISBN | 9791185823133

No. of pages | 208

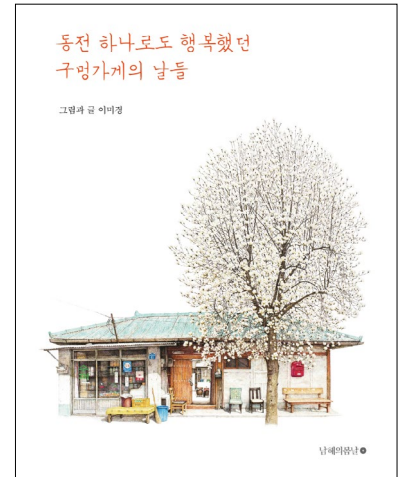
Dimensions | 150 * 195

2. Copyright Contact

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3. Book Intro

Some 20 years ago, out of compassion and nostalgia for corner stores that are now fading away, Mekyeoung Lee started her journey looking for those places around the country. Encountering unknown old corner stores like they were her fate, the author has chronicled their stories through her pen drawings. She has been invited to showcase her artwork at numerous art galleries and art fairs, and the images have moved and comforted audiences with their affectionate viewpoints on life. Among the hundreds of portraits of corner stores the author has drawn over the past 20 years, 80 have been selected for this book, which also includes the author's narratives about these stores.

Mekyeoung Lee began using pens for her art when she was pregnant, fearing that the smell of oil paints would have negative effects on her baby. She soon became fascinated by the charms of pen strokes, and she has continued to draw corner stores with this tool for 20 years. Readers will be awed by the delicate lines and subtle gradations formed by overlapping pen strokes. Bearing numerous stories from all these years, a gentle smile of a corner store becomes alive again through the author's vibrant pen strokes.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1839

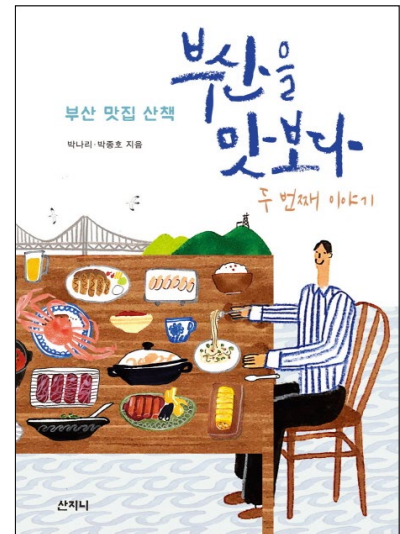
Taste of Busan: Part 2

1. Publication Details

Title | Taste of Busan: Part 2
Author | Park Jongho, Park Nari
Publisher | SANZINI
Publication Date | 2016-11-07
ISBN | 9788965453819
No. of pages | 262
Dimensions | 152 * 223

2. Copyright Contact

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3. Book Intro

This book describes the flavors and stories of modern-day Busan. Two leading food columnists travel around Busan in attempts to discover the choicest offerings from a city filled with fantastic restaurants. With their column “Food and Things,” they go beyond simply introducing restaurants by providing musings on culinary culture. The most important part about traveling? Tasting the foods that can only be found in that region! There are various cuisines that the city of Busan has become known for via mass media. These include slow-cooked pork stew, Busan wheat noodles, diced fish cakes (sold nationwide in various forms and by many franchise restaurants), as well as tender swellfish soup and Busan’s famous mackerel dishes. But where exactly do you go to find the best? This book provides answers to all your questions regarding Busan’s culinary offerings. Along with information on the best of Busan’s soul food, the authors have also packed the book full of tips on the trendiest restaurants offering the latest gimbap, beer, and pastry selections, as well as the most popular cafes. If you’re feeling lost as to where to eat in Busan, look no further than this book. It will take you on a journey to the culinary smorgasbord that is Busan. Good food comes in many different styles. As such, this book also pays close attention to the atmosphere, mood, and presentation of the restaurants. Rather than pointing to a restaurant and claiming it to be the best, or ranking the restaurants along a points system, the book leaves the decision up to readers, to choose at will what they prefer, as it has become a popular concept to respect and honor one’s individual tastes. The authors provide colorful descriptions on the menu offerings of restaurants, their individual charm, and their atmosphere. Along with descriptive photographs, more practical details such as price, location, address, and contact information are also provided. For any readers planning a trip to Busan, this book will be their ultimate foodie road trip guide.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=3877

The Hidden Colors of Seoul

1. Publication Details

Title | The Hidden Colors of Seoul
Author | Cho Jiouk, Shin Youngwoo
Publisher | FlyingStar Books
Publication Date | 2015-04-17
ISBN | 9791195380145
No. of pages | 60
Dimensions | 260 * 280

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3. Book Intro

Seoul, a complex city of buildings, cars and people, may seem gray at first glance. But there are pretty colors all over the city: the red of Jongmyo, the green of Seoul plaza, the orange of Namdaemun market, the white of Itaewon, the yellow of Seorae Island... What other colors are hidden? This is a documentary picture book of travelling around Seoul for 3 days via public transportation and getting to know the city through colors.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2036

Tasty Guys

1. Publication Details

Title | Tasty Guys

Subtitle | A Food Guide to Korea from a Group That Really Knows How to Eat!

Author | iHQ media

Publisher | Sung An Dang, Inc.

Publication Date | 2020-02-10

ISBN | 9788931589030

No. of pages | 248

Dimensions | 172 * 230

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3. Book Intro

Korea's top *meokbang* program *Tasty Guys* comes to you in book form. It covers local specialties, foods that must be tried at least once, and must-see travel points by region. Also included is a map of the best spots as selected by the Tasty Guys. Plus, the book describes memorable foods and includes tips for taking already-delicious food to the next level.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=4486



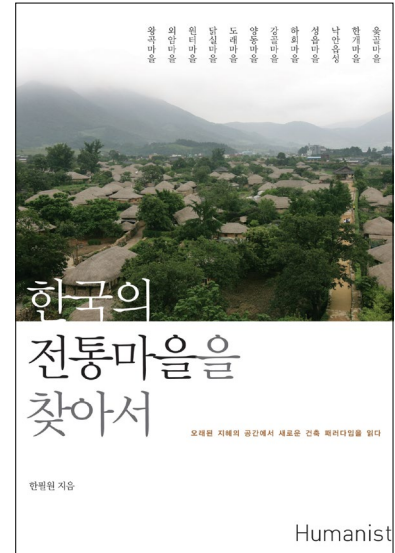
Visit a Traditional Village in Korea

1. Publication Details

Title | Visit a Traditional Village in Korea
Subtitle | Read a new architectural paradigm in the space of old wisdom
Author | Han Pilwon
Publisher | Humanist Publishing Group Inc.
Publication Date | 2011-06-27
ISBN | 9788958624035
No. of pages | 520
Dimensions | 175 * 245

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3. Book Intro

The 'traditional village' referring to a historical village which was created in the pre-modern era and where people have lived until today, is a space of old wisdom of Korean ancestors who lived in harmony with nature. Among them, Hahoe Village and Yangdong Village were listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List in August 2010. Then, what are truly the values of traditional Korean villages that shine across history? At what and how should we look in this space of old wisdom?

This book is an architectural pilgrimage that explores the values of traditional Korean villages from the perspective of an architect. Han Pilwon, an architectural scholar who has been studying traditional villages for 26 years since his graduate school years in 1985, macroscopically looks at the spatial arrangement of 'village' that is a huge collective space and thereby illuminates the old architectural wisdom of ancestors that was captured in 'traditional villages.'

The author presents the traditional village theory as a universal theory that has transformed an architectural paradigm through undertaking an escape from the yardstick of the existing Western architectural theory and finding the philosophy and principles implied in the traditional Korean villages. The author visited the 12 representative traditional villages of Korea and disclosed the logic and order, and the values hidden in the traditional Korean villages from the four viewpoints of 'Ideology, culture, society and environment' that are very comprehensive and universal.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=604

INFO

Killer-content Exhibition at the 2023 Bologna Children's Book Fair





This March, we open the
“Killer-content Exhibition”

at the Bologna Children’s Book Fair,
the biggest book fair where copyrights
for children’s books are most
actively traded worldwide!

2023 Bologna Children’s Book Fair

Period March 6 (Mon.) -
March 9 (Thu.), 2023 (4 days)

Venue Bologna Fiere (Scheduled to be
held locally in Bologna)

Programs Copyright trade of children’s
books, seminars, and lectures
related to children’s books



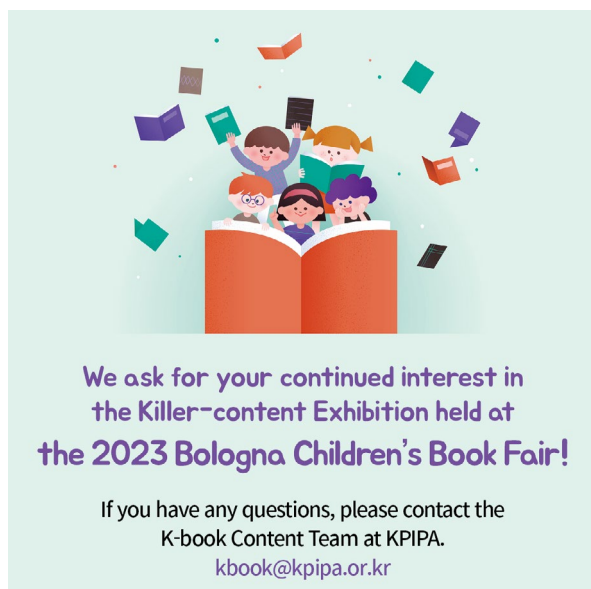
A variety of
interesting programs
joined by Korean writers
await you all

at the Killer-content Exhibition
prepared by KPIPA!



Participate in
various valuable programs
at the book fair attended by

about 5,000 publishers, illustrators,
and officials from children -
and education-related organizations from
around 70 countries!



We ask for your continued interest in
the Killer-content Exhibition held at
the 2023 Bologna Children's Book Fair!

If you have any questions, please contact the
K-book Content Team at KPIPA.
kbook@kpiipa.or.kr

Korean Picturebook Illustrators Program



Bologna Children's Book Fair 2023

Books From Korea

Bologna, Italy 6 - 9 March 2023

BOOTH NO. A16 / B15



Lee Gi hun



Kwon Jung min



Lee Gee Eun



Choi Deok kyu



Suzy Lee



Noh In Kyung

Korean Picturebook Illustrators Program

Time	March 6 th (Mon.)	March 7 th (Tue.)	March 8 th (Wed.)
10:00 11:00	Books From Korea	Books From Korea	<Legend Series> Book Talk Speaker Lee Gee Eun (Author) Place BolognaFiere Hall 29 A16/B15
11:00 12:00	09:47 Live Painting Speaker Lee Gi-hun (Author) Place BolognaFiere Hall 29 A16/B15	Visual Performance Speaker Choi Deok-kyu (Author) Place BolognaFiere Hall 29 A16/B15	Books From Korea
12:00 13:00	Books From Korea	Books From Korea	The Last Supper: The Survival of Picture Book Authors painfully facing an Era of Climate Crisis Speaker Kwon Jung-min (Author), Lee Gi-hun (Author), Choi Hyeongyeong (Editor of Noransangsang) Place BolognaFiere Hall 30 Illustrator's survival corner
13:00 14:00	The Heartwarming Message Delivered by the author of Father's Big Hands Speaker Choi Deok-kyu (Author), Kim Yun-jung (CEO of YUN Edition) Place BolognaFiere Hall 29 A16/B15	Black Comedy in Picture Books Speaker Kwon Jung-min (Author) Place BolognaFiere Hall 29 A16/B15	Books From Korea

Time	March 6 th (Mon.)	March 7 th (Tue.)	March 8 th (Wed.)
14:00 15:00	Books From Korea	Readings and autograph sessions of Noh In-Kyung Speaker Noh In-Kyung (Author) Place BolognaFiere Hall 29 A16/B15	There will be an event introducing us. <Bologna Picture Book Workshop> Speaker Oh Seunghyun (Gloyeon publisher representative, <Bologna Picture Book Workshop> Instructor), Park Jina (<Bologna Picture Book Workshop> project manager), Ahn Nayeong (12 th <Bologna Picture Book Workshop> writer) Place BolognaFiere Hall 29 A16/B15
15:00 16:00	Talk about Korean Picture books through pictures Speaker Suzy Lee (Author), Choi Deok-kyu (Author), Lee Gi-hun (Author), Shim Hyang-boon (Professor) Place BolognaFiere Hall 29 A16/B15	The art of Suzy Lee (Masterclass) Speaker Suzy Lee (Author) Place BolognaFiere Hall 30 Illustrator's survival corner	A talk with Suzy Lee Speaker Suzy Lee (Author) Place Illustrator's cafe
16:00 17:00	Personal branding of the content of picture books and its sustainability Speaker Lee Gee Eun (Author) Place BolognaFiere Hall 29 A16/B15	Global Networking Day_ Picture Book Speaker Place BolognaFiere Hall 29 A16/B15	Books From Korea

Contact | kbook@kpiipa.or.kr

