

2023.10

vol. **63**

K-Book Trends

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

TREND

Topic	[Publishing & AI] The AI Storm Sweeps the Publishing Industry: Chat GPT
Special Project	[Book × Food] K-Food Captivates the World
Export Case	A Special Convenience Store that Mesmerized Japanese Readers!
Book Trip	[Into the Book ③] A Place Where You Can Make Unforgettable Memories: <i>Hakuda Photo Studio</i>
One-Liner Quotes	The Women We Don't Want to Know

INTERVIEW

Korean Publishers	Munhakdongne
Korean Authors	Writer Chang Kang-myung

KNOWLEDGE

Publishing Industry	Bookshelves are Going into TVs!
Publishing Policy	2020-2022 Bestsellers: Korean Fiction

INFORMATION

Let's Try	Take Beautiful Palace Tours With a Book
New Books	Things I Couldn't Throw Away Again
Best Sellers	2nd Week, September 2023
Korean Translator	Li Xia
#K-Book	#Autumn

TOPIC

[Publishing & AI]

The AI Storm Sweeps the Publishing Industry: Chat GPT

Written by Song Kwang-Ho (Journalist at *Yonhapnews* Agency)

In 2016, Lee Se-Dol, one of the world's greatest Go players, faced off against Alpha Go, an artificial intelligence (AI) program developed by Google's Deep Mind, which was like the match of the century. Few expected Lee to lose, and Lee Se-Dol was humble enough to say he might lose one out of five games. But a few days later, the internet was abuzz with news of Lee's shock defeat by Alpha Go. That was the beginning. Lee Se-Dol managed to get one win after a string of losses. His overall score was 1-4. In retrospect, the idea of a human beating Alpha Go, which had learned every recorded move in the game, was almost impossible. It was just that people didn't realize the immense power of AI at the time.

Fast-forward seven years to 2023 in Korea, and AI is being

utilized across industries. AI is spreading to various fields, such as mobility, robotics, and the medical industry. In particular, the introduction of Chat GPT, a generative AI, at the end of last year, sparked the generalization of AI. Office workers and students began to use AI technology in everyday life while working or doing assignments.

The publishing industry, which is sensitive to changes in the world, is also nimbly responding to these market changes. Korean publishers are actively responding to the AI era by releasing books one after another, including those written by Chat GPT.

The Chat GPT craze shook the publishing industry

There have been several books on AI, but the first book written using Chat GPT was released last February. The book, *45 Ways to Find the Purpose of Life* (Snowfox Books), was written, edited, and proofread by Chat GPT. Excluding printing and publishing, Chat GPT completed the entire editing process, including writing, translating, proofreading, and editing, in just 30 hours. The translation was done with the help of Naver's automatic translation AI, "Papago." It took just two days to complete what would have taken months or years for humans. The book included both the original Korean text and the English translation. The AI also generated several cover designs, one of which was selected by the editors.

An official from Snowfox Books, the book's publisher, said, “We carried out this project to see the capabilities and possibilities of AI out of a sense of crisis that the publishing industry will suffer if the AI technology is adopted in earnest.” Starting with the book *45 Ways to Find the Purpose of Life*, books on Chat GPT have literally been flooding Korean bookstores. More than 200 books have been published from late February to early September. It has been exceptional to see so many books on a single topic published in just over half a year. Some of them even hit the bestseller lists. For example, *A World Where Questions Earn You Money: Chat GPT* (Media Soop) reached the top three bestsellers at the Korean bookstore Kyobo Book Centre, and other books such as *The GPT Generation* (Book Moment) and *Asking the Future of Humanity to Chat GPT* (Dongasia Books) were among the top bestsellers in the economic and business books category.



45 Ways to Find the Purpose of Life, A World Where Questions Earn You Money: Chat GPT, The GPT Generation, and Asking the Future of Humanity to Chat GPT

Why is Chat GPT a hot issue?

The reason why Chat GPT-related books are flooding the market and attracting readers' attention is because of their scalability and practicality. In the early days, books on Chat GPT were mainly introductory and experiential, such as the aforementioned books *Asking the Future of Humanity to Chat GPT* by KAIST Professor Kim Dae-Sik and *AI Going Beyond Borders* (Gimmyoung Publishing). But, in recent years, many practical books have appeared that suggest ways to use Chat GPT for business, work, and study.



AI Going Beyond Borders, Writing in the Era of Chat GPT, Writing with Chat GPT, and Working with Chat GPT's Texts

For example, books such as *Writing in the Era of Chat GPT* (Maeil Business Newspaper) attracted readers' attention by claiming that anyone can write Hollywood blockbuster scenarios, self-help books, marketing content, and specialized books on science, philosophy, law, and religion by utilizing Chat GPT. Recently, a number of books have appeared that explain how to utilize Chat GPT by segmenting the contents by topic. Also, Kim Chul-Soo's

Writing with Chat GPT (Wiki Books) and Oh Soo-Min's *Working with Chat GPT's Texts* (Barun Books) are books that teach you how to write and organize stories using Chat GPT.

More than 20 books linking education and Chat GPT have already been published. Most of them are related to language education, especially English language education. While there are some books for adults, such as *A Chat GPT-driven Revolution of Learning English Alone* (Nexus), many books explain how to use Chat GPT for elementary, middle, and high school students. For example, *Joyce Park's How to Study English Using Chat GPT* (Smart Books) has gained attention, as an English education expert who has taught English for 30 years showed how to use Chat GPT to improve English speaking, listening, reading, writing, and vocabulary.

This came as Chat GPT gained recognition as a way to reduce the cost of private English education in Korea. Private education providers, such as *hagwon* (cram schools), have expressed concerns, while demanders, such as parents, have expressed optimism, closely watching the impact of Chat GPT on private education. According to the "2022 Expenditure Survey on Private Education for Elementary, Middle, and High Schools" released by the Ministry of Education and Statistics Korea, the total cost of English private education amounted to 7.79 trillion won. English dominates the overall private education market in Korea, accounting for 30.1% of the total market (25.923 trillion won). Joyce Park, author of *Joyce Park's How to Study*

English Using Chat GPT, says in the book, “You can get various reading materials through Chat GPT, and you can also make fun storybooks such as English stories and crossword puzzles.” “Chat GPT is a treasure chest for moms who teach English to their kids,” he added.



A Chat GPT-driven Revolution of Learning English Alone and Joyce Park's How to Study English Using Chat GPT

While Chat GPT advances day by day, what are the prospects?

Many experts say Chat GPT will have a powerful impact on all areas of society, including education, industry, and journalism. This is because it can write a dramatic Korean drama in a minute by simply entering certain conditions, complete a variety of essays from high school to doctoral level, and summarize a huge amount of documents into just one or two pages in an instant. Even journalists who have to read countless documents can produce dozens of articles a day, and it is expected that automation and mass production will be possible in many

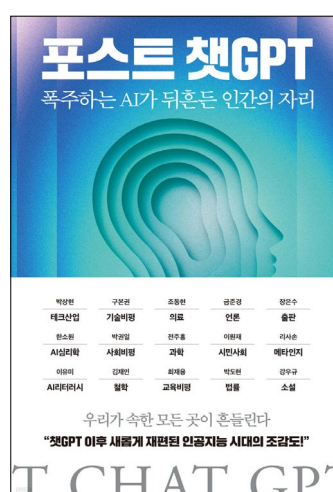
sectors, such as intellectual writing, research, and education. However, since Chat GPT is a system that pre-learns the “probability relationship” between sentences through deep learning before answering, it sometimes tells believable lies. This means that it hasn’t yet reached the level of an expert in each field.

For this reason, Chat GPT is likely to remain a supplementary tool for now. It has been pointed out that in the case of medical care, where human lives are at stake, a conservative approach is needed, as incorrect information or judgment in Chat GPT can have fatal consequences. The media is also cautiously introducing AI, such as Chat GPT, into their articles. It seems that Chat GPT is or will be utilized for simple quotations, dictations, and formatted articles such as market conditions and weather forecasts. However, it is observed that it is still difficult to utilize it for writing in-depth articles that require a high degree of judgment and interviewing.

Chat GPT and the future of the Korean publishing industry

The situation in Korea’s publishing industry is similar to that of other industries. The emergence of AI that can write and translate at a very high level is expected to have a major impact on the publishing industry. According to the book *Post-Chat GPT* (Hanbit Biz), in which experts in each field analyze the impact of Chat GPT on their respective fields, it is expected that

publishers will become less dependent on translators. In other words, editors will be able to improve the quality of translations by proactively editing them after using AI to translate without translators. It is effective in that a relatively inexpensive AI program can be used to mass-produce many books and speed up translation time.



Post-Chat GPT

Chat GPT is also likely to have a positive impact on the export of Korean content. This is because AI translation can virtually break down regional and linguistic barriers that currently characterize the publishing industry, making it possible to introduce K-books to various countries. In addition, small publishers, such as single-person publishers, who have relatively little capital compared to large publishers, may also have a chance.

Writers can also get help. Many aspiring writers who have experience and content to write about but lack writing skills will be able to challenge content areas thanks to Chat GPT, which

stores plenty of writing know-how. The writing process can also be sped up, because AI can help writers in various ways, such as searching for articles, summarizing book content, and creating tables and graphs. Editing will also become easier. AI might also have a decisive impact on editorial work, including publication planning, proofreading, and content creation.

However, many in the publishing industry point out that the answers provided by Chat GPT are not yet 100% reliable, meaning that AI can only be used as a supplementary tool for publishing work, not as a complete replacement. Publishing critic Jang Eun-Soo says in the book, “The collaboration between publishing and AI is likely to develop in the future to emphasize the unique experiences of authors and encourage unique writing styles, while strongly verifying them with the help of AI.” It remains to be seen how Chat GPT will affect the Korean publishing industry in the future, and whether it will be positive or negative. However, there is a need for the publishing industry to continue to study and research so that they can utilize the increasingly intelligent AI more wisely.

SPECIAL PROJECT

[Book × Food]

K-Food Captivates the World

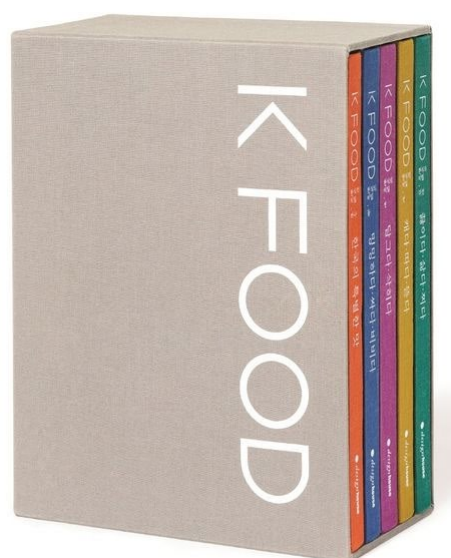
Written by Jung Hye-Kyung (Professor Emeritus at the Department of Food and Nutrition, Hoseo University)

By their very nature, books are vessels of knowledge encompassing all fields. Endless topics can be written about depending on the material and message. In the [Book × ____] series, experts recommend Korean books in their respective fields that you've been curious about but had trouble discovering more about. Now, let's jump into the infinite world of books through the collaboration of books with various fields.

The world has been abuzz with the K-Food craze these days. K-Food is based on traditional Korean cuisine, which Koreans have consumed for thousands of years. Today, Korean food has evolved into a wide variety of different dishes around the world, from sophisticated modern Korean cuisine in fine dining to Korean barbecue restaurants, street food, marinated chicken, as well as *mandu* (a Korean dumplings), ramen, and *jjajangmyeon*

(a Chinese-style Korean noodle dish, topped with a thick sauce made of sweet bean sauce, diced pork, and vegetables). In this article, we will look at some of the best books on Korean food that will give you an insight into the origins of this diverse K-Food.

Unlocking the secrets of Korean food with cultural codes



K Food: The Secrets of Korean Food

The first book we would like to introduce is *K Food: The Secrets of Korean Food* (Design House), which explores the secrets behind Korean food. Most importantly, it answers the question, “What makes Korean food unique?” The book uses five cultural codes to describe Korean food: “Tasteless,” “Fusion,” “Fermentation,” “Foraging,” and “Wet,” instead of the traditional criteria such as “season” or “ingredients.”

The first and second codes consider the bland, tasteless rice as

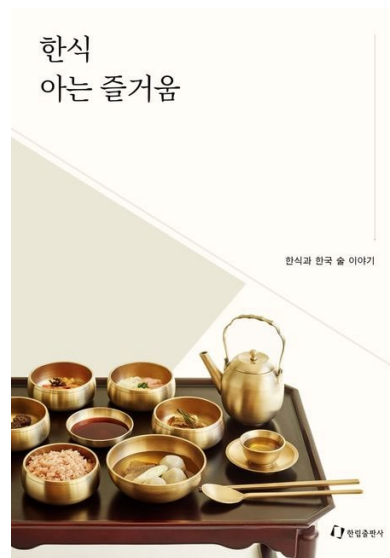
the beginning of Korean food, and the “fusion” aspect, where the rice is wrapped in *ssam* (lettuce, cabbage, sesame, or other leaves used to wrap rice) or mixed with animal and vegetable ingredients and sesame oil. The third code looks at Korean food through fermented foods, which are neither raw nor cooked but fermented, instead of the Western culinary code based on the cooked and the raw. The fourth code, “foraging,” views Korean food through the traditions of the “hunter-gatherer” era of foraging for herbs, picking fruit, and gathering seaweed. The fifth code, “wet,” looks at brothy foods such as soup, stew, and hot pot, long-simmered foods such as *yeot* (Korean traditional confectionery), grain syrup, and paste, and steamed foods such as *tteok* (rice cake) and *jjim* (steamed dish). The five codes of Korean food, namely “mixing, fermenting, seasoning, and boiling,” are captured in five chapters.

In addition, the book covers the roots of Korean food, such as court food, *ban-ga* (noble family) food, temple food, and *jong-ga* (head family) food, as well as the modern Korean table. It also introduces a wide variety of Korean food, from the source to the producer, and from local to commercial products.

A book that teaches you Korean food from A to Z

While many people agree that Korean food is delicious, healthy, and globally appealing, they don’t really understand why. If we want to share Korean food with the world, we need to make an

effort to know more about it. Here, the book *The Joy of Learning Korean Food* (Hollym Publishers) takes the reader through the history, philosophy, and culture of Korean food and drink in an easy and intriguing way. It introduces what exactly Korean food is, with examples and details.



The Joy of Learning Korean Food

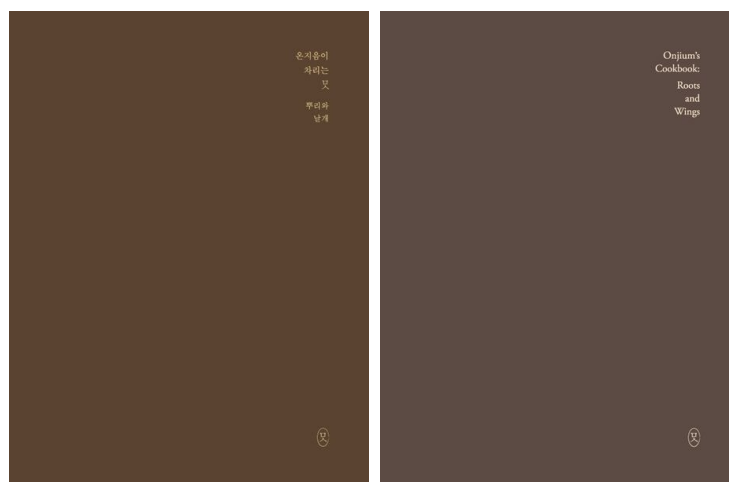
Korean food is based on vegetarian and fermented foods, and was born out of the naturalistic spirit and philosophy of the Koreans, who viewed nature as a part of us. It reflects the culinary philosophy of Korean ancestors, who ate and drank frugally and modestly, with the belief that food is part of nature, not just a consumable substance.

Moreover, Korean food represents the pride of the Korean people and is their way of life. Throughout the 5,000 years of its history, Korean food has been responsible for the survival of the nation. Various herbs that provided a lifeline during times when food

was scarce, rice and grains that were grown in harsh climatic conditions, and rich seafood from the sea surrounding Korea on three sides have enriched the lives of Koreans. In addition to being labeled as healthy, Korean food has a long history, philosophy, and wisdom behind it.

In the book, part 1 introduces the history, philosophy, characteristics, and table settings of Korean cuisine. Part 2 shows the diversity and possibilities of Korean food. It discusses the types of Korean food, K-Food, and Korea's current food culture, as well as how Korean food interacts with the world. Part 3 organizes Korean alcoholic beverages that were previously unfamiliar to many. Part 4 answers a variety of questions that foreigners may have. The stories of Korean food in between add a little more fun to the book.

Searching for original Korean food



Korean and English covers of *Onjjum's Cookbooks: Roots and Wings*

The book *Onjium's Cookbooks: Roots and Wings* (Joongang Books), by Onjium, a group dedicated to the study of traditional culture, traces the origins of Korean food dating back to Goryeo, about 1,000 years ago, as it has been transformed and developed over thousands of years of history. It seeks to broaden the spectrum of Korean food, which has recently become known as K-Food. Also, the book looks for answers to the “roots” of Korean food by focusing on the food of Gaeseong, the capital of the Goryeo Dynasty, a dynasty that flourished with a brilliant culture. The book introduces some of the foods from Gaeseong that are still enjoyed up to date, such as *Joraengitteok-guk*, which shows the daily life of the Goryeo people; *Gaeseong-bo-kimchi*, which is considered the most beautiful of Korean *kimchi*; *Gaeseong-mandu* and *pyeonsu*, which are featured in the Korean song titled *Ssanghwajeom* (meaning dumpling shop); and *Gaeseong-jangttaengi*, a deeply flavored dish made by grinding meat and fermenting it; *Honghaesam*, which was mainly served as a ceremonial food; *Oi-seon*, a Gaeseong specialty; and *Gaeseong Juk*, which was enjoyed at Buddhist ceremonies and in the royal family. It also talks about some of the dishes that are getting forgotten these days.

A humanities series on Korean food that explores the history, culture, and sentiments of the Korean people



The Humanities of Rice, The Humanities of Vegetable, The Humanities of Meat, and The Humanities of Seafood

This series, published by Tabi Books, a publisher specializing in food, explores the history, culture, and sentiment of the Korean people through their cuisine, and is organized by the core components of Korean food: rice, vegetables, meat, and seafood. The book *The Humanities of Rice: The Story of Rice That Has Been Tied Together with Korean History, Culture, and Sentiment* first examines rice, an ingredient that is no longer as important to Koreans as it once was. Starting with the question, “Was the craving for steamed rice just a habit that annoyed housewives?”, this book explores what rice really means to Koreans today, when rice consumption is at a historically low level. When discussing Korean food, fermented foods like *kimchi* and soy sauce are often mentioned. We also talk a lot about spicy food. But this misses the point of what Korean food is all about. The king of Korean food is rice. Koreans eat fermented foods like *kimchi*

and soy sauce as a side dish to eat rice, not to eat rice as a side dish. Korean food is not complete without rice, and this book is devoted to Korean rice.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 39 – Go to the interview with Tabi Books

[https://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=649&page=3
&code=interview](https://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=649&page=3&code=interview)

The Humanities of Vegetables: Vegetables in People's Lives and History presents a rediscovery of vegetables at the center of Korean cuisine. Vegetables have been at the heart of Korean food and the lifeblood of the Korean people. In the thousands of years of Korea's dietary history, vegetables were as important as grains. The Korean word for hunger is *ki-keun* (famine, 飢饉). The word *ki* refers to hunger caused by a lack of grain, and *keun* refers to hunger caused by a lack of vegetables. In other words, people starved when grain was scarce as well as when there were no vegetables. Even in the modern era, when hunger has all but disappeared, it is hard to imagine a meal without vegetables.

The book *The Humanities of Meat: The History of Meat, with Sad, Disturbing, but Irresistible Charms* explores the meat culture in Korea. Why meat? Eating meat inevitably involves harming other beings that are alive, moving, and feeling pain. The concern that eating meat leads to obesity and other adult diseases is widespread in Korean society as well as in the West. However, the craving for meat overcomes all these feelings of guilt and anxiety. The difficult balance between hunger for meat and inadequate meat supply is embedded in the religions,

institutions, and politics of many civilizations. How have we, as a people who have never had enough of even the staple food of rice until recently, managed to quench this thirst for meat? Here, the book explores the history of meat from prehistoric times to the Japanese occupation of Korea.

The book *The Humanities of Seafood: Korean Food Culture Seen Through Fresh Ocean* encompasses the history of seafood as a lifeline for the people of the Korean Peninsula and the sentiments of those who sought and ate it. A community's food culture is inevitably most influenced by its natural environment. They eat what's most abundant in the area, and there are often food taboos based on the soil and climate of the region. So, it is no surprise that the food culture of Mongolia or Switzerland is very different from that of Japan or the UK, which are island nations. But what about the Korean Peninsula, which is bordered by the sea on three sides? The diverse use of sea fish and shellfish, as well as seaweed, is what makes Korea's food culture unique.

EXPORT CASE

A Special Convenience Store that Mesmerized Japanese Readers!

The import case of *Uncanny Convenience Store* published by Shogakukan in Japan

Written by Yuko Minagawa (皆川 裕子) (Editor at Shogakukan, Japan)

It was two years ago, in the fall of 2021, when I first heard about *Uncanny Convenience Store* (Namu Bench) through an email from a Japanese agent. At that point, the book had already gone through 15 printings in Korea, sold close to 100,000 copies, and had been adapted for drama and theater, which was enough to pique my interest. But it was the title and content of the novel that made me even more intrigued. It's a "convenience store," but inconvenient? What a humorous title! My interest in the book grew further. And the story of a tall, mysterious man with no memory becoming a convenience store clerk, and influencing the lives of those around him, was fascinating. As convenience stores are an integral part of modern life in Japan, we knew that this story would appeal to the Japanese public. Therefore, we immediately started working to acquire the rights to the book.



The Japanese and Korean covers of the book *Uncanny Convenience Store*

To tell a little personal story, I have been translating and publishing foreign novels into Japanese for a long time. Most books I have worked on have been European and American, and I have only had experience with two Korean novels over a decade ago. However, for about five years before *Kim Jiyoung Born 1982* (Minumsa) was published in Japan, Korean literature had become so popular that Shogakukan, the publishing house I work for, had been receiving a lot of information about popular Korean works from Japanese agents. When we were introduced to great Korean works through these agents, we tried to sign publishing contracts, but as the competition for K-book rights grew fiercer by the day, we were unable to publish Korean works for a long time.

So, when we offered the contract for *Uncanny Convenience Store*, we thought, “We will take what we can get.” We didn’t think it would be that easy to get the rights because it was already a huge bestseller, so we were very surprised when we received a call

from our agent telling us the deal had been signed. After calming down a bit, we were overwhelmed with joy and anticipation for being able to introduce this work to Japan for the first time.

About a year later, we received the manuscript translated by the book's translator, Yonezu Tokuya. When I finished reading the full text, I was even more convinced that this was a powerful work that would resonate strongly in Japan. People who have fallen behind in a competitive society, people whose lives have been turned upside down by a momentary mistake after living so diligently, people whose relationships with their families have deteriorated due to a small misunderstanding, and how they are transformed through their encounters with the protagonist, Dokgo, is not unfamiliar to the Japanese people, as is the story of people dealing with the uncomfortable times brought on by COVID-19.

We asked Seiichi Suzuki, a renowned Japanese book designer, to design the cover. We wanted the cover to be nostalgic for the Japanese audience, while still referencing the original Korean version. In the end, the cover design was finished with a humorous and classic touch, depicting ALWAYS, a convenience store on the corner of a neighborhood, viewed from the night sky.

The book was also promoted before it went on sale. First, we sent information about the book to the staff of Japanese bookstores, and sent proof sheets to those who wanted them, gathering reviews and orders. As a result, there were many reviews from

people who deeply resonated with the book, such as “The more I read, I felt teary-eyed. And I could not stop crying in the last scene,” “A touching story that I can confidently recommend,” “I fell in love with this story since I read the original Korean book, and I was really looking forward to when the Japanese translation would come out,” and “I loved it! The familiar setting of a convenience store and the troubles that each character had were all so familiar to me. It was very easy to read, and I quickly got absorbed in it.” Not only that, but some bookstores filled their shelves with the book and advertisements.



Uncanny Convenience Store displayed at Kinokuniya Bookstore, Fukuoka, Japan

We also created a Japanese-subtitled version of the book's trailer (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzUbEgRk_Qc) using an anime distributed by the Korean publisher. With

author Kim Ho-Yeon's cooperation, we also filmed a video including his Japanese message (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zOIeK8nyN0&t=3s>) for Japanese readers, and both videos were released on June 21, which was the book's release date. We also published an interview with the author in Shogakukan's digital literary magazine, Book Window (本の窓), distributed just before the book's release. In addition, with the cooperation of the K-BOOK Promotion Association (K-BOOK 振興会), which has an office in Jimbocho, Tokyo, where Shogakukan is located, we published an introduction to the book by translator Yonezu Tokuya on the organization's website (<https://k-book.org/yomeru/230622/>). I also appeared on the organization's podcast (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0_QCV7Hez0&feature=youtu.be) to introduce the background to the publication of the Japanese translation of the book.

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 44* – Go to the interview with writer Kim Ho-Yeon
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=959&code=interview&category=66

Thanks to these efforts, the book gradually gained recognition in Japan, especially among K-BOOK fans, and positive reviews began to appear on social media. The author and Shogakukan will continue to carry out more promotions to encourage more Japanese readers to read the book, and we hope that readers from all over the world will also be attracted to it.

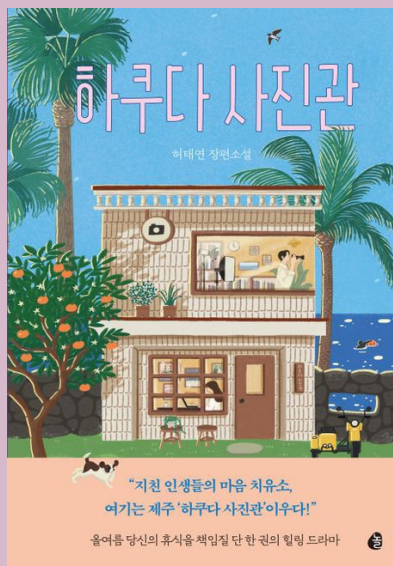
BOOK TRIP

[Into the Book ③]

A Place Where You Can Make Unforgettable Memories: *Hakuda Photo Studio*

Welcome to Jeju, an island of splendid natural landscape and relaxation!

Written by Choi Ha-Yeong



Hakuda Photo Studio

“Hakuda means ‘will do’ in the Jeju dialect.
So, it means ‘a photo studio that makes anything look wonderful.’”



Jeju Island, the largest island in Korea, attracts Koreans and tourists from abroad with its gorgeous weather and stunning natural scenery. There is a photo studio there that captures whatever the customer wants. It's the story of "Hakuda Photo Studio," which takes photos of everything from weddings to family vacations, memorable trips with friends, and even academic photos. The book *Hakuda Photo Studio* (Noll) is a full-length novel that features the heartwarming stories of a photographer, Seok-Young, and Je-Bi, who moved to Jeju after getting tired of living on the mainland, and the people they meet while working together. Although "Hakuda Photo Studio" doesn't exist in reality, the beautiful Jeju Island described in the book can be visited in person. So, let's take a trip to the beautiful and friendly Jeju Island, where the guests of "Hakuda Photo Studio" make wonderful memories and where the main characters, Seok-Young and Je-Bi, heal their weary hearts.

Soft sandy beaches and cobalt waters, and the strong *haenyeos* that thrive in them

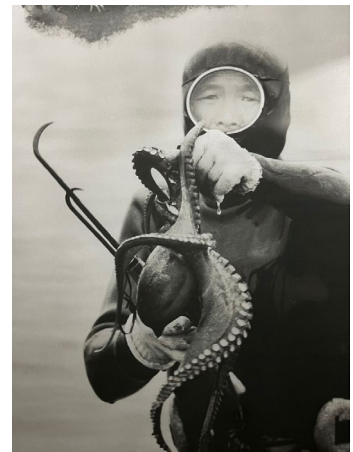
With Jeju Island as its background, *Hakuda Photo Studio* depicts the beauty of Jeju's sea and nature. The charm of this book is that it makes those who have visited Jeju Island feel nostalgic, and those who have not yet visited the island feel the excitement and anticipation of traveling. Here, we would like to share the beauty of the Jeju Sea with you by quoting the description of the main character, Je-Bi, in the first part of the book. The cool Jeju Sea makes you feel relaxed, and the next words of Je-Bi, "Oh, I don't want to go back!" will definitely make you agree.

A cobalt-colored sea stretched out over the fine sand.
The sky beyond the horizon was filled with puffy clouds.
The ocean sparkled in the midday sun,
constantly flipping its white and blue sheets.



Jeju's beautiful ocean

In addition to Seok-Young and Je-Bi, who works at Hakuda Photo Studio, as well as the studio's customers, there are other important characters in the novel. They are the Jeju *haenyeos* (female divers in Jeju), who make their living gathering marine products from the beautiful Jeju Sea. In Korea, *haenyeos* symbolize the power of life, as they dive into the water with their bare bodies, without oxygen tanks or other devices. In the book, *haenyeos* speak a Jeju dialect that is not easily understood by Koreans, cherish their traditions and the sacredness of the sea, and share a strong bond with each other.



The exterior view of the Haenyeo Museum, displays in the lobby, and a photo of a *haenyeo* catching marine animals

For those unfamiliar with Jeju *haenyeos*, there is a place for you. It's the Haenyeo Museum, where you can learn about the lives of *haenyeos* as well as Jeju's fishing villages. Established to inherit and preserve the historical significance of Jeju's *haenyeos* and to provide a space for tourists to see and enjoy the culture of *haenyeos* and fishing villages, the museum consists of three

exhibition rooms. The first exhibition room is themed, “The Life of Jeju *Haenyeos*,” featuring displays related to *haenyeos*’ homes and tools, as well as Jeju’s seasonal customs and beliefs. The theme of the second exhibition room is “The Workplace of Jeju *Haenyeos*,” which features exhibits related to the work lives of Jeju *haenyeos*, including their aquatic clothing, tools, and techniques.



The “Life of Jeju *Haenyeos*” featured in the first exhibition room.
The house and daily tools used by *haenyeos* are displayed



“The Workplace of Jeju *Haenyeos*” featured in the second exhibition room.
The *haenyeos* working at the sea, their aquatic clothes, and tools are displayed.

The third exhibition room features a jointly organized exhibition by the Haenyeo Museum and Dokdo Museum. Under the theme

“Jeju *Haenyeo* Defends Dokdo,” the exhibition revisits the stories of *haenyeos* who traveled beyond Jeju Island to Ulleungdo and Dokdo, and their contributions to the protection of Dokdo territory and its fishing grounds. This special exhibition will be open until December 10, so if you are interested in the history of Ulleungdo and Dokdo, as well as Jeju Island, you should definitely check it out. Another special part of Haenyeo Museum is that many of the items on display are donated items that were actually used by *haenyeos*. As you walk through the exhibits, you will be reminded of the hard work and determination of the *haenyeos*, who endured the harsh seas to support their families.



Special exhibition “Jeju *Haenyeo* Defends Dokdo,” and photos of *haenyeos* that lived on the island

“The moment you decide to take a good picture,
you will take a bad picture. But you have to carry on.
And then one day it happens - the day you forget about
making good pictures.
That’s when you become a real photographer.”

Discover Jeju's tourist attractions as diverse as the stories of the guests at Hakuda Photo Studio

While Hakuda Photo Studio and the “King Octopus Village” where it is located are fictional, the locations where its customers go to take pictures are real. In the book, geologist Song-Hwa asks photographer Seok-Young to take pictures of Jeju's Jusangjeolli (columnar joint) for an academic paper. The Daepo Jusangjeolli Cliff is not only an academic record of how Jeju Island was created, but it is also designated as a natural monument for its beautiful scenery. Once you see this spectacular gift of nature, which is rarely seen elsewhere, you will understand why Song-Hwa was in awe the whole time. Next, about a five-minute drive from Daepo Jusangjeolli Cliff, is the African Museum, where Hakuda Photo Studio's first customer, a bridal couple, had their wedding photos taken. The museum, where you can experience African culture, is based on the Djenne Grand Mosque in Mali, Africa, as described by Seok-Young, and is both grand and rustic, strong and gentle.



Daepo Jusangjeolli Cliff and the African Museum

Some of the places Hye-Yong's family has visited on Jeju Island in the book are real. In the book *Hakuda Photo Studio*, Hye-Yong's family shows how to truly enjoy Jeju, such as riding horses, picking citrus, and walking around Wollabong. So, if you are planning a trip to Jeju with your family, you might want to try to follow their itinerary. We would like to recommend two places where you can experience citrus picking and walking around Wollabong. The Citrus Museum, located at the foot of Wollabong in Seogwipo City, was opened with the theme of local citrus, a specialty of Jeju Island. The museum offers not only citrus picking, but also foot baths, pizza and cookie making, and more, making it perfect for both young and old. Behind the museum is a promenade to Wollabong, where you can climb to the boulder on the summit in about 10 minutes. As described in the book, the name Wollabong means "lunar month (*woll*)" and "lined up (*la*)," meaning the peak where the moon rises. Although it is a small mountain at 200 meters above sea level, it presents a spectacular view of Jeju from the top, making it a beautiful spot for beginners who feel overwhelmed hiking the tall Halla Mountain.



The sculpture installed in the Citrus Museum,
and the entrance to the Wollabong walkway leading from the museum



Jeju Island seen from the boulder on the top of the Wollabong peak

Apart from the places introduced in this article, the book *Hakuda Photo Studio* features many other places to visit in Jeju, both big and small. Of course, you can't learn everything about Jeju with this book, but it can serve as a compass to determine the direction of your trip. Just as the characters in *Hakuda Photo Studio* made their own memories and gained enlightenment on Jeju Island, the joy of traveling lies in discovering a 'new you' in an unfamiliar place. So, if you are tired of the same old routine, take a trip to Jeju Island. You never know, you might end up with a memorable experience like the one that happened at Hakuda Photo Studio.

ONE-LINER QUOTES

The Women We Don't Want to Know

Bookstore Manager's Pick: Korean Books

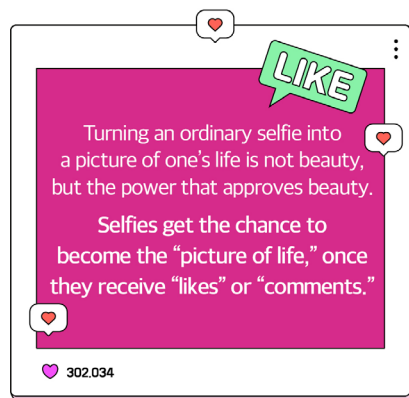
Written by Park Gyeoul (Manager at Yes 24, Gangseo NC branch)

Park Gyeoul is a manager at Yes 24, Gangseo NC branch. She has been working at a bookstore for 6 years now, which started from her experience working part-time at a bookstore. She particularly loves to hear compliments for her book curations. She likes to read fiction, social science, science, and humanities books in her free time.



*#plandid: Deciphering the
"Pic of the Day" Trend Among Girls*

Kim Ji-Hyo, Maybooks



There's a book I got to read at a book-reading meeting after becoming curious about it when someone left a review on Twitter. The title seemed quite intriguing, and what about the colors used on the cover? I got to think, "What kind of book is that?" as soon as I saw it. It's the book *#plandid: Deciphering the "Pic of the Day" Trend Among Girls* (Maybooks). I like books that are ridiculously unique – books that either dig into one specific topic or are just hilarious. This book is both the former and the latter. Would there be any other book in the world that summarizes Korean selfie culture like this? Beginning with the evolution of the Korean selfie in the prologue, it goes on to discuss not only "shots of one's life" through interviews about them, but also the digital self and human relationships, which leads to a discussion of feminism.

It's fascinating to look at the tables in the prologue and Chapter 1, which chart the genealogy of selfies and the photo editing apps' retouching features, like a dissertation. The interviewees' comments in the following chapters make me wonder, "Were they all thinking this while Instagramming?" The women's struggles with their digital selves and their real lives in Chapter 2 are relatable to anyone who uses Social Media. Meanwhile, Chapters 3 and 4 focus on the digital feminism movement in Korea, which has been active since 2015, and discuss feminists and "shots of one's life," inviting readers to think about the aspects of feminism in the digital space. The author's fragmented writing in Chapter 4 is not unique to her. We do it every day,

every hour, presenting different sides to others at different times. We need to be more forgiving of ourselves and stop habitually judging and criticizing others and ourselves. The book *#plandid: Deciphering the “Pic of the Day” Trend Among Girls* explains, instead of criticizing, the “shots of one’s life” culture as she writes in the afterword. It makes you think twice about how closely selfies and social media have come to us and how much we brushed them under the rug.



280 Days: Who Said Being Pregnant Was Beautiful?

Jeon Hye-Jin, GU-FIC



People say that children are hope,
but women who bear them are regarded as
half-useless in society and are looked down upon.

They become powerless beings
who have a life to protect with their heavy body,
which makes them easy targets.

Ever since the bestselling *Kim Jiyoung Born 1982* (Minumsa) came out a few years ago (and before that, too), there have been quite a few novels about misogyny and girl-child abortion in South Korea. One of them, *280 Days: Who Said Being Pregnant Was Beautiful?* (GU-FIC Publishing Company), focuses on women in their mid-30s to early 40s and reveals the cold reality of Korea. Four friends of similar age, who either want or don’t want to be pregnant, become pregnant around the same time and face

different challenges. Seon-Gyeong works at a large company but miscarries her in-vitro child twice due to overwork; Ji-Won is confirmed for a promotion, but her pregnancy prevents her from joining the homicide squad; Jae-Hee gets pregnant after a single IVF session, only to discover that she has multiple pregnancy symptoms including hydrops abdominis; and Eun-Ju, married at forty, starts thinking about getting pregnant. The book *280 Days: Who Said Being Pregnant Was Beautiful?* is not an anti-pregnancy book. However, it does depict the real-life discomforts of pregnant women.

A few years ago, I saw a middle-aged man at a bus stop threatening a young woman with a toddler. Everyone around him glared and clenched their fists, and a middle-aged woman grabbed a taxi for her, telling her to get in. This threat cost the woman a taxi fare for her safety. Luckily, there were plenty of people around to help her that day, but there's no guarantee that will always be the case, and she might have felt unsafe all the time. In a country where you can be threatened for simply carrying a child, the decision to have a child is a huge one. The country just wants you to have children, but doesn't want to make the world a better place for it. As fellow citizens, we have a responsibility to make the world a better place.

KOREAN PUBLISHERS

Munhakdongne

A Publisher that Makes Books for a Better World



The logo of Munhakdongne, which marked its 30th anniversary this year

People say that “10 years changes rivers and mountains.” In other words, 10 years is a long enough time for even rivers and mountains to change. There is a publishing company that has been constantly changing for 30 years, a period during which the river and mountains could have changed three times, and

has established itself as one of Korea's leading publishers. Munhakdongne, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, does not simply stop at publishing quality books, but continues to expand infinitely into the world of books by organizing book reading challenges to read good books with readers, creating platforms to promote quality books more widely, and making spaces to read good books in comfort. However, Munhakdongne's pride and love for books remain the same as in the beginning. Munhakdongne, which started as a literary publisher and now is a general publishing house, continues to present quality books to its readers through a variety of unique imprints. Following is the story of Munhakdongne's efforts to get closer to its readers and help them shape their future through books.

*It's an honor to have you with us on *K-Book Trends*. Please introduce Munhakdongne to our readers.*

Being a publishing house that is always new, fresh, and vibrant, filled with the spirit of new life, Munhakdongne is a publishing house that protects the inherent beauty of literature and the dignity of literature. Founded in 1993 as a literary publishing house, it has since expanded to cover humanities and liberal arts, economics and business, art, comics, and practicality, offering a wider variety of books.

Munhakdongne celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. While Munhakdongne has positioned itself as one of the representative publishing houses in Korea, please tell us briefly about the company's path.

Since its establishment in December 1993, Munhakdongne has been bringing a fresh wind to Korean literature with the publication of *Munhakdongne*, a quarterly specialized in literature. By discovering talented new writers and continuously publishing the works of writers of our time, Munhakdongne has been shaping new trends in the Korean literary circle. Also, it has been introducing good works by famous writers from abroad so that readers can enjoy a wider variety of titles. While it started as a publishing house centered on literature, Munhakdongne has since expanded its fields to include humanities and liberal arts, economics and business, art, comics, and practical books. In recent years, the company has been actively engaged in the export of Korean works, and is committed to making Korean authors and works more widely known.

We are currently exploring various ways to bring books closer to our daily lives through new businesses related to books, such as book cafe "Cafecomma," annual paid membership "Book Club Munhakdongne," and book-completion challenge platform "Dokpa."



The spring and summer issues of *Munhakdongne*, a quarterly magazine specializing in literature, in 2023

It seems that *Munhakdongne* must be constantly thinking about what makes a good book. From *Munhakdongne*'s viewpoint, what defines a good book? What kind of criteria do you have when planning books and selecting manuscripts?

We believe that a good book is one that makes you reflect on the lives around you, understand the world, and look at it in a new way. We also believe that a good book is one that gives readers empathy, comfort, diverse knowledge, and entertainment. At *Munhakdongne*, we aim to plan and publish books that will stay with readers for a long time, not just chasing trends, but leading new thoughts and sensibilities. It is our ultimate desire to make books that make you dream of a better world.

Munhakdongne has been discovering new writers by hosting various contests such as the Munhakdongne New Author Award, Munhakdongne Novel Award, Munhakdongne Children's Book Award, and Munhakdongne Young Adults' Literature Award. Plus, you have been promoting young aspiring writers to the public through the annual Munhakdongne Young Author Award. Why do you put such an effort into highlighting new and young writers?

Discovering new writers is something that Munhakdongne has always valued and emphasized since its foundation. We believe that the birth of new writers can bring healthy energy not only to the literary world, but also to the cultural world and society as a whole. We believe it is important for publishers to open new chapters for those struggling at the starting line, and to give those who have just stepped forward the strength and courage to move on.

You have been publishing *Weekly Munhakdongne*, a literary magazine. Unlike other webzine or webnovel platforms, the magazine does not have a system where you can check readers' responses, like the number of views or comments. If there's a point that *Weekly Munhakdongne* puts focus on, what would it be?

Weekly Munhakdongne (<http://www.weeklymunhak.com>) is a platform for full-length novels, which was started with the hope that there would be more full-length novels in Korea. Since

its launch in 2020, about twenty full-length novels have been published, and many of them, such as *From Sisun* by Chung Se-rang, and *I Want to be One-Dimensional* by Park Sang-young, have been widely loved by readers. Although we mainly publish full-length novels, we also publish some essays to give readers a taste of our new works.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 20 – Go to the interview with writer Chung Se-rang

www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=677&page=4&code=interview&category=66

* *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



The main page of *Weekly Munhakdongne*

We believe that the most significant difference with other platforms is that *Weekly Munhakdongne* is aimed at creating good works, whereas other platforms are mainly aimed at viewing them. Our writers use the space to get the energy they

need to write, and our readers watch the process together. We don't keep track of the number of views or comments so that our writers don't feel overly competitive or influenced by external factors during the writing process. We feel that this system has helped us to produce some of the best works through *Weekly Munhakdongne*.

Programs such as “Book Club Munhakdongne” and the book-completion challenge “Dokpa” that engage readers and encourage them to read are notable. We are curious to know how readers respond to these programs.

The Munhakdongne Publishing Group hopes to enrich people's lives by reading and sharing books with readers. The programs “Book Club Munhakdongne” and “Dokpa” were designed to bring books closer to our daily lives.

“Book Club Munhakdongne” is an annual paid membership service launched in 2018. It is currently in its 6th year of operation as of 2023. The cumulative number of members to date is around 30,000. During the membership period, a welcome kit, a year-end kit, various reading programs that only members can participate in, and meetings with authors are provided. The cover voting and dummy book reviews, which involve members in the process of publishing Munhakdongne's new books, are particularly popular.

The book-completion challenge “Dokpa” is a reading community

where book lovers, including readers, authors, and editors, read a book together until they finish it. It is a contest in which several challengers complete the reading of a book together over a certain period, and close reading care from “Dokpa Mates” and book talks via Zoom with “special guests” make reading activities more meaningful and rich. Over the past two years, Dokpa has organized challenges with a total of 360 books, and about 38,200 reading records have been accumulated.

Both “Book Club Munhakdongne” and “Dokpa” have been expanding their horizons with distinct growth every year. We will continue to do our best to make readers’ reading lives richer and more diverse through direct communication with them.

Munhakdongne has been expanding the business with various imprints, and is actively publishing books in genres other than literature. So, what was the motivation for the imprint system? Also, which imprint do you think is unique?

Munhakdongne’s imprint system was created to give people with a passion for books and the ability to plan them a chance to make a soft landing in the publishing industry with the help of Munhakdongne’s system. The idea was to provide an opportunity for those with the passion and the planning capacity, but cannot start their own publishing house immediately. An imprint operates as a brand of Munhakdongne, with autonomy over planning and editing, and develops into an affiliate based on

performance.

“Geulhangari,” “Dal,” and “Nanda” are examples of imprints that started as imprints of Munhakdongne and became affiliates.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 29 – Go to the interview with Geulhangari

www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=495&page=&code=interview&total_searchkey=%EA%B8%80%ED%95%AD

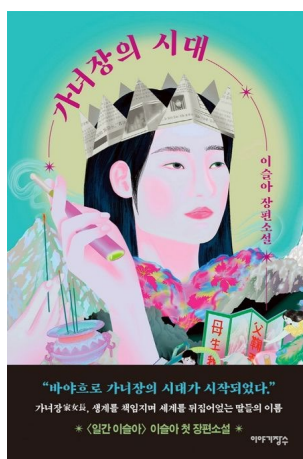
Launched in 2022, “Storyseller” is also a Munhakdongne imprint. Specializing in literature and non-fiction, Storyseller aims to provide readers with good stories that bring smiles and heartfelt emotions. It has published books such as *The Age of Daughters* by Lee Seul-a and *Detective Park Mi-Ok* by Park Mi-ok, which have been well received by readers.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 39 – Go to the interview with writer Lee Seul-a

www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=650&page=&code=interview&total_searchkey=%EC%9D%B4%EC%8A%AC%EC%95%84

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 53 – Go to the card-style news of *The Age of Daughters*

www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/info.php?ptype=view&idx=1110&page=1&code=info&category=69



The Age of Daughters and *Detective Park Mi-Ok* published by Storyseller, a Munhakdongne imprint

You have been exporting various Korean titles abroad. What kind of efforts have you been making to promote Korean books to international readers, and what were the outcomes?

Munhakdongne has been making various attempts to promote Korean writers and works abroad. Every year, we publish catalogs in foreign languages to introduce our new books, and participate in international book fairs and events such as the Frankfurt Book Fair, London Book Fair, and Bologna Children's Book Fair to meet publishers from around the world and introduce our content in person. In addition, since having an English manuscript is an important requirement for exporting to English-speaking and European countries, we are receiving translation support from the Literature Translation Institute of Korea (LTI) and the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA).

Through our efforts, *The Plotters* by Kim Un-su was published in 26 countries, and *The Only Child* by Seo Mi-ae was translated and published in 15 countries. We are constantly communicating with rights managers and editors at home and abroad to promote the works of many writers, including Choi Eun-yung, Eun Hee-kyung, Cho Nam-joo, and Kim Hoon, and are looking for opportunities to promote Korean literature and writers abroad.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 52 – Go to the interview with writer Eun Hee-kyung
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1097&page=&code=interview&total_searchkey=%EC%9D%80%ED%9D%AC%EA%B2%BD



The Plotters and The Only Child

What was the motivation for starting the book cafe Cafecomma?
And how is it doing these days? What is Cafecomma like as a reading space?

The book cafe Cafecomma first opened with the hope of putting bookshelves on the streets. While there are many ways to read books, including online bookstores, we felt that books were paradoxically moving away from people's daily lives. So, we thought of ways to make books more accessible to people, and cafes were the best place to do it. We opened the first Cafecomma in the parking street of Hongik University, and now we have branches in several areas, including Hapjeong, Shinyoung Securities in Yeouido, and Songdo in Incheon.

We want Cafecomma to be a place where people can take a break and be inspired. We strive to introduce quality books regardless of publisher by using book curations such as "New Book of the Month" and "Renowned Author's Library," and organize book

clubs and cultural events to provide various cultural experiences through books. We believe that Cafecomma is a comma-like space where people can put down their daily burdens, and imagine traveling to another space and time while surrounded by the tall bookshelves and countless books.

We look forward to Munhakdongne's next steps, as you will never stop discovering new stories. So, what are your next plans or goals?

Munhakdongne is dedicated to shaping the future of publishing in Korea, focusing on today and preparing for tomorrow. We are always thinking about the role publishers can play to meet the rapidly changing publishing environment and the diverse needs of readers. We are also looking for ways to go beyond simply publishing and introducing quality books, finding ways to naturally bring books into people's daily lives. This is how "Book Club Munhakdongne," "Dokpa," and "Cafecomma" were born.

As Korean books are increasingly being exported overseas and made into videos, we are trying to strengthen our capabilities in this area as well. We have created an IP team within Munhakdongne and are actively working on secondary rights agreements.

We have always believed that the most important and basic virtue of a publisher is to create a good book with creative plans and sophisticated editing. We believe that it is Munhakdongne's most valuable mission to do our best to publish quality books so that readers can build a hopeful future with books.

KOREAN AUTHORS

Writer Chang Kang-myung

Literature is the fine art of addressing human suffering

There is a novelist who persistently delves into the issues of contemporary Korean society - writer Chang Kang-myung. As he says that literature is the fine art of addressing human suffering, Chang Kang-myung deems it his responsibility as a novelist to talk about that suffering. Following is an interview with writer Chang, who focuses on telling the stories of the pain of himself and those around him, which he knows best, as we, the modern people, cannot understand the suffering of people who lived 50 or 100 years ago.

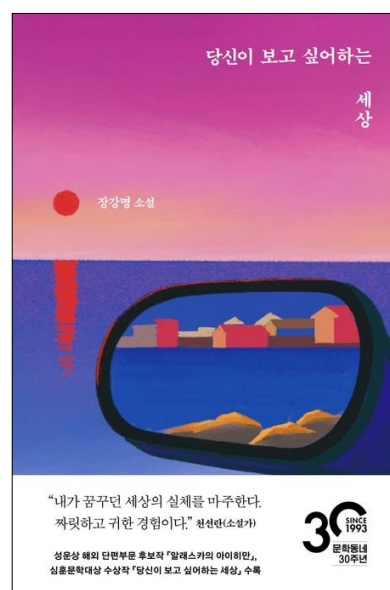


It's an honor to have you with us on *K-Book Trends*. Please briefly introduce yourself to our readers.

Hello, everyone. I'm novelist Chang Kang-myung. I made my debut as a novelist after working as a newspaper journalist for 11 years. As a journalist, I trained myself to write assiduously based on interviews with a clear sense of issues, and that is how I also write my novels. I have written many realistic novels featuring contemporary Korean society, but I don't necessarily stick to realism - I often write science fiction and fantasy as well.

You have recently released the short-story collection *The World You Want to See* (Munhakdongne). Could you give us a brief introduction to the book and your feelings about it?

It is a collection of seven of my most recent science fiction short stories. They describe how technologies that might actually be developed in the near future affect our lives, social institutions, and cultures in ways that their developers never intended. So, there is no interstellar travel, time travel, aliens, or hyperspace. I have been thinking about the existential threat of technology in our time, beyond just an idea, and I tried to capture that. I referenced Science and Technology Studies as well as science, technology, and society books while preparing the stories, and I dubbed it “STS SF” because it is SF written from that perspective. I plan to write a few more stories from that angle in the future.



The latest book by Chang Kang-myung – *The World You Want to See*

Among the stories in the collection, *The World You Want to See* won the Top Prize of the Sim Hun Literary Award, and *Eichmann in Alaska* was shortlisted for the Nebula Awards, a Japanese literary award, in the foreign short story category. What do you think it was about each of your stories that won them awards and nominations?

I was quite surprised by both, as I didn't have any expectations at all. And I think the works were well received because they directly targeted real-life issues that readers in Korea and Japan are living with right now.

The book *The World You Want to See* depicts how augmented reality technology allows people to see the outside world as they want to see it, and how objective reality is increasingly lost in the process. In the story, the world is extremely fragmented, and people are almost unable to communicate due to confirmation bias. I think this is something that is already happening with the internet and Social Media and will only get worse in the future.

Meanwhile, *Eichmann in Alaska* explores the issue of empathy. It asks uncomfortable questions about whether empathy can be the basis of a new ethic, and talks about the limits of empathy and, by extension, its dangers.

You have a keen interest in how technology is changing society. In your fiction, your views often seem to be negative or with reserved judgment. Are there any areas you see as optimistic, and if so, what are they?

As I wrote in the Author's Note for *The World You Want to See*, some technologies become part of the social system by being tightly coupled with social institutions and customs. New technologies can shake up the underpinnings of those systems and reshape existing power relations, making them a weapon for marginalized groups and a setback for vested interests. Social Media is an example of this. While I'm a huge critic of it, it's undeniable that Social Media has given a voice to the marginalized and publicized issues that traditional mass media hasn't paid attention to.

I'm not saying that new technologies are necessarily good or necessarily bad. All I'm saying is that when they impact our lives and society, we need to be aware and take control of their direction and power.

Writing about contemporary Korean issues seems to be part of your mission as a novelist. Why do you continue to write about contemporary Korean issues?

Literature seems to be a different genre than math or music, fields where young geniuses with no experience in life can achieve

great things. Math and music seem to have more to do with some pure pattern than with human experience or suffering. But literature doesn't, and there are no "child novel geniuses" to prove it.

Literature is the fine art of addressing human suffering, and the suffering I know best is the suffering of myself and those around me. And I feel a sense of responsibility to talk about it. The next generation of writers won't know the pain of people who lived in the 2020s as well as I do, and likewise, I will never know the true pain of people who lived 50 years ago, or 100 years ago.

We once heard you say, "We are what we see, we are what we read."
What are you seeing and reading these days?

I have been staying in Gapado, Jeju Island, for a while now. Here, I have been looking at the flat land, sea, sky, and the clouds. There are no tall buildings or terrain nearby, so I feel like it clears my mind because I can see everything in front of me no matter where I look.

I'm reading several books at the same time as usual. At the moment, I have been reading a lot of books on artificial intelligence. The book I'm currently on is *Rise of the Robots* by Martin Ford.



So, it has been about 10 years since you became a full-time novelist, which is about the same as your 11 years as a journalist. How are the life, eyes, and writing muscles of a novelist different from those of a journalist?

There are a lot of different things. And I would like to talk about time, as I came to realize that I have been a full-time novelist for about as long as I have been a journalist.

When you work as a journalist for a daily newspaper, you are bound by time. You basically have to live by deadlines, and your schedule is forcibly adjusted based on the events that happen that day. You don't get the chance to write ambitiously and with long breaths, and there's no such thing as a project that takes years to complete. The lifespan of most of what a journalist

writes is also very short. But now that I'm a full-time novelist, I can conceive of a project years in the future, even a decade away. My life, my eyes, and my muscles are all attuned to it, and I'm both afraid and grateful for that fact.

Who are the writers that you love?

It's kind of odd that I give the same answer every time I'm asked this question. So, this time, I'm going to tell you about the authors I recently discovered and fell in love with. For a Korean novelist, I would say Lee Seo-su, a fellow member of the literary circle "Monthly Pay Realism." She is so good at writing novels that I envy her. For an international author, I would choose Turkish novelist Ömer Zülfü Livaneli. I recently read *Balıkçı ve Oğlu* (*The Fisherman and His Son*) and was deeply moved by it. It is an obvious story in some ways, but it kept me occupied throughout the book.

Tell us about another work of yours that you feel is most Korean, but also relatable to international readers.

Since I mentioned *The World You Want to See* above, I would like to introduce *Reinvestment* by EunHaeng NaMu, published last year, which is very Korean in two ways. The key elements of the novel are its realistic portrayal of the lingering effects of the Asian Financial Crisis in the 1990s on Korean society, and how

investigations are conducted in Korea, a country with one of the highest levels of public safety and murder arrest rates in the world.

On the other hand, the big idea behind the novel is a sense of skepticism about the old order and a thirst for a new ethic, which I think are things that people in other countries feel as well.



Reinvestigation and The Living

We heard that you are planning to write stories about pilots and people working in travel agencies facing COVID-19. How are things coming along? Can you tell us about any other stories you are also plotting, as well as your plans and goals for the future?

I have already written two short stories, one about the things a pilot experienced and another about a travel agent's struggles during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, I published a serialized collection of novels titled *The Living* (Minumsa), which contains 10 short stories about the

troubling issues of livelihood in Korean society in the late 2010s. Now, I am preparing *The Living 2*, a collection of 10 short stories about the challenges of people's livelihood in Korean society in the early 2020s. The two short stories mentioned above will be included in *The Living 2*. In *The Living 2*, I'm trying to include short stories that address real estate issues and the back story of the IT boom symbolized by Pangyo, apart from the pandemic. I don't know if it will work out well, but I'm actively doing interviews for it.

Besides that, I have a couple of full-length novels and a couple of nonfiction books in mind, but I'm not getting anywhere fast enough, and it's burning me up inside. But I will still keep on writing.

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

Bookshelves are Going into TVs!

The collaboration of picture book content and IPTV companies seen through the case of the “Digital Book Service”

Written by Chae Woo-Sun (Professional at LG U+)



Picture books read on a TV



Digitalized picture book content

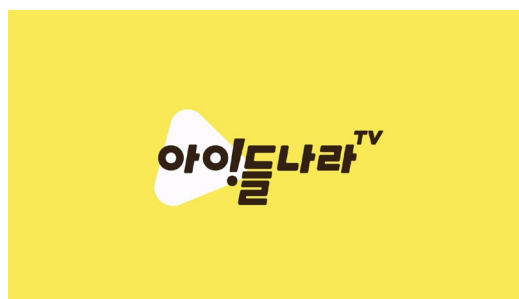


Efforts for service expansion

The background and purpose of expanding publishing content into IPTV content

In 2017, LG U+, the company I’m working for, launched a service for children for the first time called “U+ Kids Service.” The biggest challenge we faced while preparing the service

was the difference between what children want to watch and what parents want to show them. In fact, when I interviewed customers, I often heard, “When we started raising children, we got rid of the TV at home and put a bookcase in the living room in place of the TV.” The reason was that they were worried about their children learning the wrong language, being exposed to unnecessary advertisements, and seeing violent or sexually explicit content on TV.

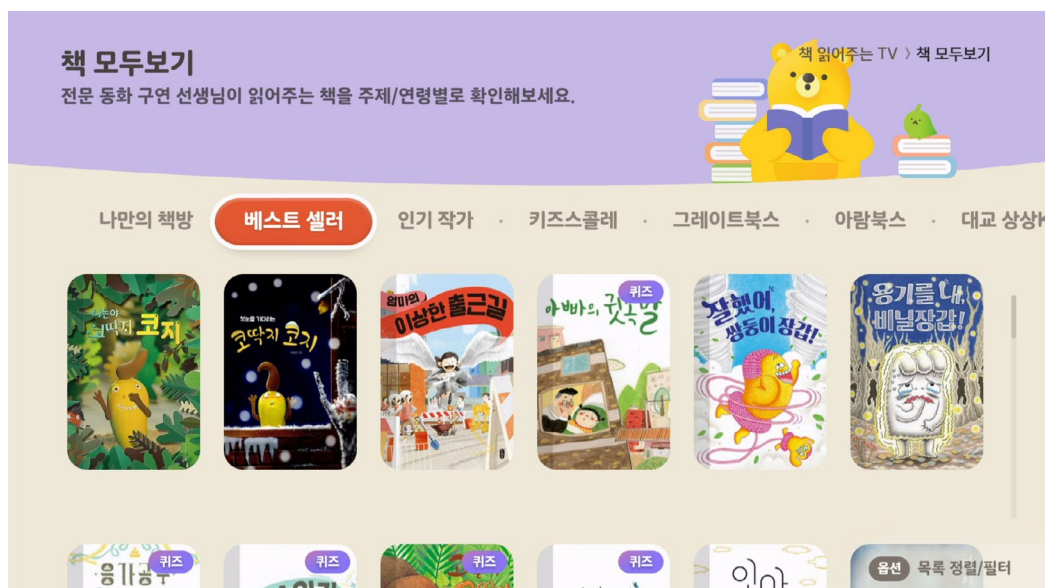


The logo of U+ Kids Service serviced by LG U+

However, despite these concerns, about 60% of Korean children are “digital natives,” meaning that they have access to a variety of digital media, including TVs, smartphones, and PCs, before the age of two. In this environment, the challenge was to create a TV that parents could let their children watch without concerns, so we turned our attention to the many books on bookshelves that have taken the place of the TV. We thought that since there are so many children’s books and picture books around the world with endless stories that stimulate their imagination, it would be satisfying for both parents and children if we could show them on TV. That is how we came up with the “Digital Book Service.”



A screenshot from the “Digital Book Service”



A screenshot of bestsellers on the “Digital Book Service”

Partnering with children’s book publishers

When we first started meeting with publishers, it wasn’t easy to convince the writers. Although there were already examples of books being made into animations as secondary works, there

were still a lot of concerns about making books media content. There were also concerns that digitizing books would devalue them and further shrink the publishing market. In the case of foreign books, the process took longer than expected because we had to get permission from the author, illustrator, and translator to make videos, and some books took over a year to negotiate. In the end, many authors and publishers agreed that it was necessary to give children access to books in a variety of ways, and we were able to launch the “Digital Book Service” with the first 50 selected books.

Since then, there have been many trials and errors on how to put books on TV. First, in the process of converting the books to videos, we had to separate the characters, backgrounds, and objects, as they were all illustrated in a single image. This process was very costly and time-consuming, and we had to go through several rounds of previewing and editing to ensure we didn’t misrepresent the author’s intentions.

In terms of production, unlike other animations, we wanted to give children a lot of room to imagine themselves while watching the video. So, we kept the animation effects to a minimum rather than using a lot of dynamic effects, and the sound was produced by an oral storyteller rather than a voice actor to give the impression of a book being read. We also tried to make the TV-based experience as close to the paper book experience as possible by adding the effect of flipping the pages of a book when switching scenes. We also designed the TV screen (User

Interface) where the books are displayed to look like books on a bookshelf, unlike the existing animation, to give children the feeling of selecting books they want to read from a bookshelf. As a result, the response from customers in their 30s and 40s was very positive. Parents commented that they preferred the “Digital Book Service” to other animations and YouTube because they could show it to their children without any worries. We also heard reviews from parents who said their children became more interested in books by watching their favorite books on TV and reading the books they enjoyed on TV in paperback.



A child using the “Digital Book Service”

The market’s enthusiastic response prompted competitors to launch similar services, and the digitization of children’s books began to accelerate. Now, with the press of a button on the

remote control, the “Digital Book Service” has become a core service of Korean kids’ platforms, where children can choose the book they want to read from the bookshelf on the TV.

The current status and prospects of the “Digital Book Service”

Since its launch in 2017, U+ Kids Service has reached 2.5 million subscribers. The “Digital Book Service” has exceeded 100 million cumulative views and is now expanding its platform from TV to mobile. The service that recommends books according to children’s age, tastes, and preferences is also being upgraded, and the types of books are also being extended to include paperbacks, complete books, and educational books, offering more than 2,000 types of titles.

The age at which children start using media is getting younger and younger, and they are constantly being exposed to unverified content. In this environment, I think it is time for the publishing industry and the media content industry to work together to find ways to ensure that “books,” the medium that parents still trust the most and want to show their children, are chosen not only by parents but also by children.



A book-recommendation service on the “Digital Book Service”

While “Digital Book Service” provides stories in books in a way that children can enjoy, it is still very expensive and time-consuming to digitize books, which prevents many books from being made into videos. I believe that if books are produced in a more flexible format that can be digitally converted from the time they are first published, and if there is a platform where complex publishing rights can be traded digitally, it will be possible to introduce children to a much wider range of books from around the world.

Just like how Netflix has made it easier for people to watch diverse content from around the world in their living rooms, I hope that the Digital Book Service will help introduce children to books with stories that have yet to be told.

Publishing Policy

2020-2022 Bestsellers: Korean Fiction



2020

1	<i>Dallergut Dream Department Store</i>
2	<i>Almond</i>
3	<i>If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light</i>
3	<i>I'll Find You on a Beautiful Day</i>
5	<i>School Nurse Ahn Eunyoung</i>
6	<i>From Sisun</i>
7	<i>Human Acts</i>
8	<i>Mail from Mailbox No. 110</i>
8	<i>The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work</i>
8	<i>Winners of the 11th Munhakdongne Young Author Award</i>

#1

Dallergut Dream Department Store

Lee Mi-Ye, Sam & Parkers

A secret and mysterious dream department store that can only be entered in dreams! A fantasy novel with heartwarming episodes that take place in the dream department store.

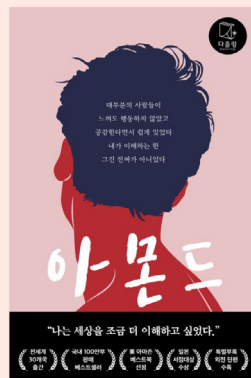


#2

Almond

Sohn Won-Pyung,
Darjeeling (publisher of
the revised edition)

A young adult novel about the growth of Yoon-Jae, a "boy who cannot feel emotions," through the love of his family and friendship with his friends.

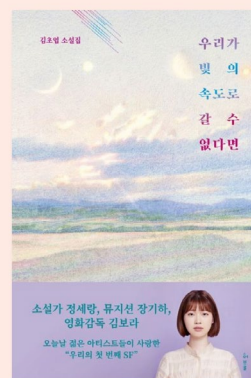


#3

If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light

Kim Cho-Yeop,
East-Asia Publishing

A first novel about the boundaries between the mainstream and the non-mainstream by Kim Cho-Yeop, who portrays an imaginary world that is nowhere, but seems to be somewhere.



2021

1	<i>Dallergut Dream Department Store</i>
2	<i>Dallergut Dream Department Store 2</i>
3	<i>Perfect Happiness</i>
4	<i>Almond</i>
5	<i>Uncanny Convenience Store</i>
6	<i>Winners of the 12th Munhakdongne Young Author Award</i>
7	<i>If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light</i>
8	<i>From Sisun</i>
9	<i>Greenhouse at the End of the Earth</i>
10	<i>I Do Not Bid Farewell</i>
10	<i>The Good Son</i>

#2

Dallergut Dream Department Store 2

Lee Mi-Ye, Sam & Parkers

The second chapter of *Dallergut Dream Department Store* that captivated readers! A healing adventurous fantasy novel about bringing back the regulars.



#3

Perfect Happiness

Jeong You-Jeong,
EunHaeng NaMu Publishing

A K-thriller that sends chills down readers' spines and asks profound literary questions about society with its overwhelming narrative.



#5

Uncanny Convenience Store

Kim Ho-Yeon, Namu Bench

A representative K-Healing novel that mesmerized the world! The story of an extraordinary convenience store filled with comfort and happiness delivered by a mysterious staff member at the convenience store.



2022

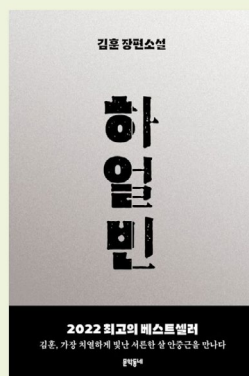
1	Uncanny Convenience Store
2	Harbin
3	Farewell
4	My Father's Liberation
4	Uncanny Convenience Store 2
6	Welcome to Bookstore Hyunamdong
7	Dallergut Dream Department Store
8	Dallergut Dream Department Store 2
9	Winners of the 13th Munhakdongne Young Author Award
10	Almond

#2

Harbin

Kim Hoon, Munhakdongne

A story about the short, yet impactful life of Ahn Jung-Geun, a Korean hero during the Japanese occupation, and the intricate conflicts of being a human being.

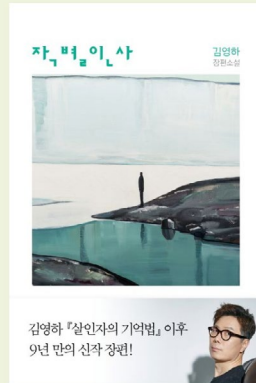


#3

Farewell

Kim Young-Ha,
Bokbok Seoga

A full-length novel by one of Korea's leading novelists, Kim Young-Ha. With a setting in the not-too-distant future, it questions the boundaries between technology and humans.



#4

My Father's Liberation

Jeong Jia,
Changbi Publishers

A full-length novel by "realist" Jeong Jia about hilarious yet profound episodes with her late socialist father.



Korean novels are going global!

**We ask for
your continued interest
in the many more works
to come in the future!**

* The data above is a summary of the best-selling Korean fiction titles from 2020 to 2022 from the four largest bookstores in Korea: Kyobo Book Centre, Aladdin, YES 24, and Interpark.

Let's Try

Take Beautiful Palace Tours With a Book

Event

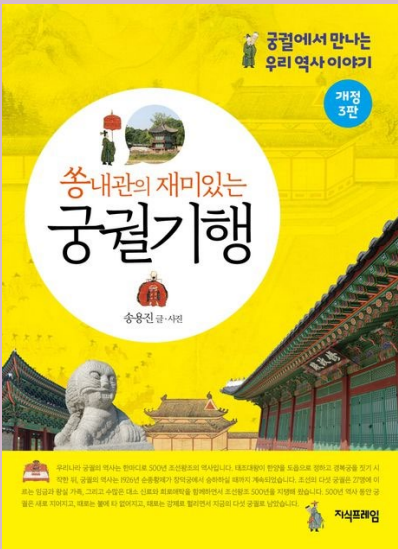
Let's Try introduces various useful, practical books published in Korea every month.

Also, don't miss gift events related to the introduced books!

Simply click on the link below and make an entry to the event! Let's Try!

Fun Palace Tours by Eunuch Ssong

- Written by Song Yong-Jin, published by Jisikframe Publishing Co.



A guide to royal palaces that have been most loved in Korea!

Travel to magnificent palaces in Korea along with the book!



When we talk about the beauty of Korean traditions, there's one thing that is never left out – the royal palaces! Some of you might have thought of going to one of the Korean palaces after seeing them in a popular Korean drama. Did you know that there are five palaces in Seoul alone? From Gyeongbokgung Palace to Changdeokgung Palace, Changgyeonggung Palace, Duksugung

Palace, and Gyungheegung Palace, the beautiful palaces are must-add destinations on your itinerary, if you are interested in Korean traditions and history. We have prepared something for those who are curious about Korean palaces but find it hard to learn about them! The book *Fun Palace Tours with Eunuch Ssong* has been very much loved by Korean readers, becoming a steady-seller. So, don't you worry, because the writer of the book, cultural heritage researcher Song Yong-Jin, will explain Korean palaces in an easy and entertaining way!

From the basic knowledge about palaces to the value and meaning inside each photo, you can learn them through this book. It will be a friendly guide for you to easily learn about the pain inside the history of the beautiful palaces and the wisdom that helped overcome such pain. There's one more reason why you should read the book! The "Palace Tour With Eunuch Ssong" in the last part of the book will be a perfect guidebook along your trip. So, if you are looking for a real palace tour where you feel with your heart and think with your head, rather than just looking at the exterior beauty with your eyes, this is the book for you. Now, embark on a journey into the beauty and history of Korea's traditional palaces with *Fun Palace Tours with Eunuch Ssong*!

[Go To Article](#)

www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/info.php?ptype=view&idx=1282&code=info&category=92

NEW BOOKS

Things I Couldn't Throw Away Again

The first new prose in 12 years by Eun Hee-Kyung,
a representative writer of Korea

Things I Couldn't Throw Away Again



There are things that
you can't just throw away.

They aren't essential to our lives,
nor precious, but it's hard
to say goodbye to the memory in them.



The new prose writing from
Eun Hee-Kyung talks about things
we can't easily throw away because
of the time we spent together.

Don't miss the lovingly taken photos
by the artist herself and the fun of
discovering how these objects
have appeared in previous works!



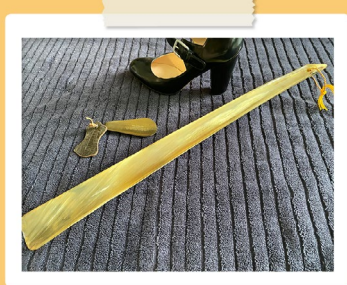
"To me, the glass set was like the act of
drinking alcohol and the beginning of
personal luxury."

- from *The Capacity of a Drinking Glass is Not Proportional
to the Amount of Alcohol You Can Drink*



"Though
scratched and rusty,
my old potato peeler
is still safe and
convenient."

- from *How to Not Get
Your Hand Cut
by a Potato Peeler*



“The reason I got to use a shoehorn
as a civilized person is probably
because I came across the thing, and I liked it.”
- from *Is My Shoehorn as Good as It is Now*

The things you could not throw away
even in the last moment and the laughter and
tears from the past embedded in them...

Writer Eun Hee-Kyung offers warm
condolences saying that the time we cannot
let go of will be the fertilizer for our futures,

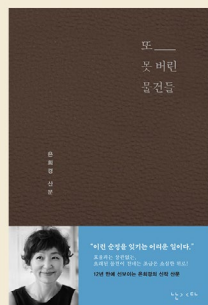


She shares an affectionate viewpoint
towards old things and the courage
they give us for the future.

A book that makes you feel tender
as you read, as it is a story
that we can all relate to.



A little comfort from old things



Things I Couldn't Throw Away Again
Eun Hee-Kyung, Nanda

BEST SELLERS

2nd Week, September 2023

Best Seller Trends in the Four Biggest Online Bookstores in Korea

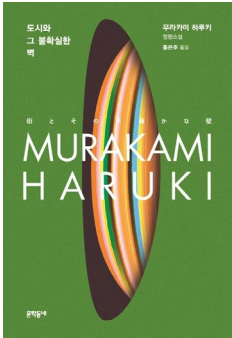
It is September in South Korea, when cool winds begin to blow in the morning and evening. With the onset of fall, it is time for those forward-looking to prepare for the coming year. And as proof, *Trend Korea*, an annual preview of trends for the year ahead, is back again, this time ranking fifth on the overall best seller list. Even though it is still on pre-sale, *Trend Korea 2024* has made it to the top of the list and is being enthusiastically welcomed by Korean readers looking forward to the new year. It will be a great way to prepare for what keywords will emerge in the coming year in the midst of a turbulent market. Another business book, *The Secret 1%*, came in 8th place. Readers have been raving about the investment insights shared by the writer, Mer, one of Korea's top capital market analysts. This shows that the business genre continues to be a mainstream trend in the Korean publishing market.

In terms of non-fiction, books with different characteristics made it to the best sellers' list. For example, Cho Kuk's *Dike's Tears*, his first essay, is a heartfelt account of his feelings about law and justice after returning to ordinary civilian life after being a law professor and minister of justice. Another book, the photo essay *Fu Bao, Hope You are Happy Every Day*, is about the life of Fu Bao, the panda whose cuteness makes everyone smile. A worldwide sensation, the book took fifth place despite being on pre-sale. Readers will find their hearts filled with joy and happiness as they peek into Fu Bao's happy life. Also, don't miss *All Great Things Come With Fear*, an uplifting and encouraging essay by drawing YouTuber Lee Yeon. With empathetic writing and memorable illustrations, the book warmly encourages readers that "the things you are afraid to do are actually amazing, that creating is not useless even though it seems useless, and that it can make people happy."

Meanwhile, the top five humanities books included *A Man of Liberal Arts Studies Science* by Rhyu Si-Min, a steady bestselling author in the field, at third place. The book asks some rather profound questions such as "What am I?", "Why do I exist?", "And where am I going?" but by following the fascinating story of the interplay between science and the humanities, science will no longer be so hard. Another book, *My Daughter was Quietly Breaking Down*, is about a physician mother's experience as a family member of a mentally ill person. Not only does it offer

comfort and hope to readers who may be struggling in the same situation, but it also offers practical advice on how to handle situations, such as how to respond to problems and how to choose a hospital, making it a milestone book for mentally ill people and their families.

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

Top 10 best sellers for the 2nd week of September		
1		<p><i><u>The City and Its Uncertain Walls</u></i></p> <p>Author Haruki Murakami Publisher Munhakdongne Genre Fiction</p>
2		<p><i><u>Be Your Future Self Now</u></i></p> <p>Author Benjamin Hardy Publisher Sangsang Square Genre Self-help</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 2nd week of September

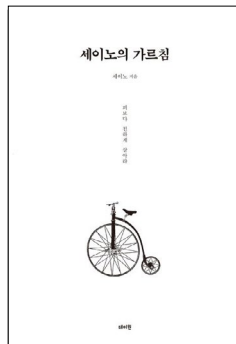
3



Dike's Tears

Author | Cho Kuk
Publisher | Dasan Books
Genre | Non-fiction

4



Sayno Love

Author | Sayno
Publisher | Day One
Genre | Self-help

5



Trend Korea 2024

Author | Kim Nando and others
Publisher | Mirae Books
Genre | Business

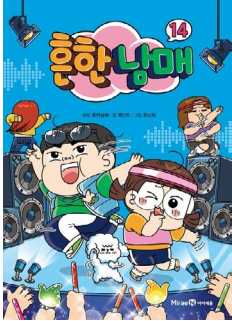


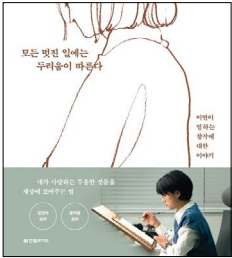
5



Fu Bao, Hope You are Happy Every Day

Author | Everland Zoo
Publisher | Sigongsa Junior
Genre | Non-fiction

Top 10 best sellers for the 2nd week of September

7		<p><u>Common Siblings 14</u></p> <p>Author Hunhan Nammae Publisher Mirae N (I-Seum) Genre Children's Comics</p>
8		<p><u>The Secret 1%</u></p> <p>Author Mer Publisher Tornado Genre Business</p>
9		<p><u>Elon Musk</u></p> <p>Author Walter Isaacson Publisher Book 21 Genre Business</p>
10		<p><u>All Great Things Come With Fear</u></p> <p>Author Lee Yeon Publisher Hanbit Life Genre Non-fiction</p>

Top 5 humanities books for the 2nd week of September

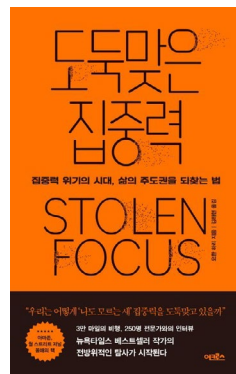
1



Pseudowork

Author | Dennis Nørmark, Anders Fogh Jensen
Publisher | Jaeum & Moeum Publishing

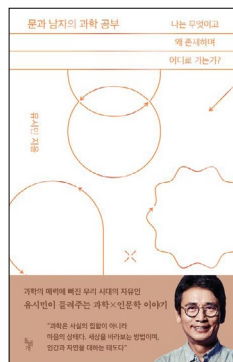
2



Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention

Author | Johann Hari
Publisher | Across

3



A Man of Liberal Arts Studies Science

Author | Rhyu Si-Min
Publisher | Dolbegae

4

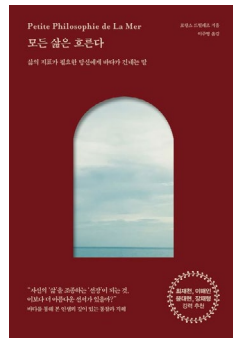


My Daughter was Quietly Breaking Down

Author | Kim Hyun-Ah
Publisher | Changbi

Top 5 humanities books for the 2nd week of September

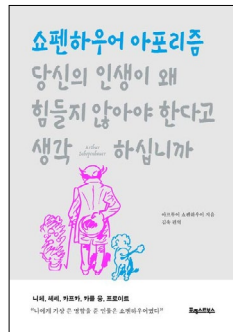
4



Petite Philosophie de la Mer

Author | Laurence Devillairs
Publisher | FIKA

4



Wisdom of Life

Author | Arthur Schopenhauer
Publisher | Forest Books

KOREAN TRANSLATOR

Li Xia

Profile

- Korean-Chinese translator
- E-mail: 191072@naver.com
- Website: <https://www.douban.com/people/elois>

Education

- Ph.D. in Creative Writing, Dongguk University
- MA in Media and Public Relations, Ewha Womans University

Courses

- Completed Special Course on Korean-Chinese translation at the Literature Translation Institute of Korea (LTI)
- Completed the Atelier program on Korean-Chinese translation at the Literature Translation Institute of Korea (LTI)

Published Translations



Korean and Chinese covers of *If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light*



Korean and Chinese covers of *Nokcheon*

- Short story collection by Kim Cho-Yeop - *If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light* (East-Asia Publishing Co.) (<https://book.douban.com/subject/35802914>)
- Short story collection by Lee Chang-Dong - *Nokcheon* (Munji Books) (<https://book.douban.com/subject/35517022>)
- Non-fiction by Ha Jung-Woo - *Ha Jung-Woo, Good Feeling* (Munhakdongne)

- Picture book by Yoo Seol-Hwa - *Super Rabbit* (Bear Books Inc.), *Super Turtle* (Bear Books Inc.) , *Good Job, Twin Mittens!* (Bear Books Inc.) , etc.

Grants and Awards

- 2021 BOOKS OF THE YEAR Foreign Fiction 1st place - *Nokcheon* (<https://book.douban.com/annual/2021?source=navigation>)
- 2022 BOOKS OF THE YEAR SF/Fantasy 9th place – *If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light* (https://book.douban.com/annual/2022?fullscreen=1&source=book_navigation)
- 2023 CHINESE NEBULA AWARDS Grand Prize for Translated Works - *If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light* (<https://cn.yna.co.kr/view/ACK20230628001300881>)

#K-BOOK

#Autumn

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

The Autumn of That Year

1. Publication Details

Title | The Autumn of That Year

Author | Kwon Jeong-saeng, Kim Jaehong

Publisher | Changbi Publishers, Inc.

Publication Date | 2018-12-01

ISBN | 9788936455330

No. of pages | 56

Dimensions | 224 * 268



2. Book Intro

The Autumn of that year, an essay by writer Kwon Jeong-saeng, a shining star in South Korean children's literature, has been recreated as a picture book. Children's story writer Yoo Eun-sil, recipient of the 6th Kwon Jeongsaeng Fund for Writers, has rewritten the text for a picture book while retaining the emotive power of the original work. Painter Kim Jae-hong has done the illustrations. The account of the young Kwon Jeong-saeng, living in a vestibule of a church, encountering Changseop, a child with disabilities, unfolds like a sad yet beautiful fairy tale. Starting in February 1968, Kwon lived in the vestibule of a small Church. While struggling with poverty-related illness, he took care of the management of the church as a deacon, spent time with youngsters as a Sunday school teacher, and penned stories for children. In the autumn of 1971, a child started to visit the young Kwon's vestibule, sometimes several times in a single day. This was Changseop, a 16-year-old with physical and intellectual disabilities. With his own illness, the young Kwon feels compassion and sympathy for Changseop, his occasional visitor, and comes to form a friendship with the boy. This book reflects

moments from the young writer's encounter with the child one drizzly autumn day up until the boy's untimely decease.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1203

A Boy

1. Publication Details

Title | A Boy
Author | Yoon Dongju, Lee Sungpyo
Publisher | BORIM PRESS
Publication Date | 2016-10-21
ISBN | 9788943310554
No. of pages | 40
Dimensions | 240 * 285



2. Book Intro

Yoon Dongju is one of the most beloved poets in South Korea. He started writing poetry during the Japanese colonial rule and left only one poetry collection *The Sky, Wind, Stars, and a Poem* after death. *A Boy* is one of the poems included in the collection, written in 1939. In the poem *A Boy*, the autumn falls like a maple leaf under the sky, and a boy's eyebrows are dyed blue. Paintings filled with a blue flow like a river, leading readers to a quiet and lonely lakeside. In the water, there is a "face as sad as love", which a boy can see even when he closes his eyes. While the river keeps flowing, the face lingers before his eyes, which may signify love for someone, an aspiration for liberation, human freedom, or longing. The picture book as transparent as the sky, the river, and the stars, touches the souls of readers softly.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=812

An Outing with Dad

1. Publication Details

Title | An Outing with Dad
Author | Lee Sangkwen, Han Byounggho
Publisher | BORIM PRESS
Publication Date | 2003-10-20
ISBN | 9788943305184
No. of pages | 34
Dimensions | 202 * 295



2. Book Intro

An Outing with Dad describes a girl and her father's hiking one autumn day, reminding of a picture diary drawn and written by children. For a child and dad, maple leaves, silver grass, acorns, and all the things found at an autumn mountain are toys to play with. When a girl begins to imitate a squirrel, her father mimics a bear. When the father teaches her how to shoot an arrow made with leaves, she learns it earnestly. In this way, the girl and her father become friends who play together and feel the nature together. For them, the autumn mountain is not something to conquer, but a place for emotional communication in which they can feel and see the nature.

The book consists of only the conversations between the girl and her father, without any narrations, which vividly conveys the experience at the mountain. Their friendly conversation allows readers to feel the intimacy and trust between them.

In addition, the use of colorful and diverse colors delivers the atmosphere of autumn mountain properly. The pencil lines that look tough and free are one of the characteristics of this book. The author Lee Sangkwen says that he drew the paintings with his left hand to make them look like the drawings of children. His unique drawings illustrated in an unrealistic and exaggerated manner create a sense of space when the girl and her father climb the mountain and express the pleasure and fatigue children could feel at the mountain.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=818

Where Are You Going, Grandma? Vol. 1 - 4

1. Publication Details

Title | Where Are You Going, Grandma? Vol. 1 - 4

Author | Cho Haeran

Publisher | Bori Publishing Co. Ltd.

Publication Date | 2007-03-15

ISBN | 9788984285811

No. of pages | 64

Dimensions | 200 * 250



2. Book Intro

Oki's Story is a series of illustrated books that tells the stories of good, honest people who live as one with nature with a seasonal background of spring, summer, autumn, and winter. We've all had neighbors living in harmony with nature. These books are perfect for looking back at our neighbors as well as our own lives.

Oki is surrounded by loved ones, from her grandmother to quirky neighbors such as Yeongsik's grandma, Byeol's grandpa, Hongtaek's grandma, Jeongsim, Sun, and more. The lovely people of Oki's village live simple, honest lives in harmony with nature.

This precious series of illustrated books captures nature and the friendly faces of people we all need to meet in this day and age.

Oki, being raised by her grandmother, is a child who loves playing in nature and experiences everything it has to offer.

Oki, who enjoys a life that all children deserve to experience, is a true reflection of childlike purity.

Cho Haeran, the author, is serious yet whimsical, flashy yet simple, and lively yet deep.

Cho affectionately illustrates the past, future, humor, warmth, nature, and people in her books.

She has spent five years writing about and illustrating the mountains, fields, shores, markets, and villages of Seosan, her hometown. Cho's unique and vivid illustrations bring the beauty of nature, delightful humanity, and joy of sharing to audiences in a meaningful way, and her witty and lyrical dialogues will leave a smile on the faces of readers to be cherished for a long time to come.

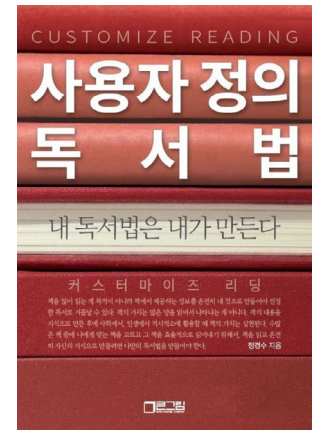
Experience the warmth and charm of people living together as one with nature through Cho's unique portrayals in the *Oki's Story* series.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=808

Reading Method Suitable for Me

1. Publication Details

Title | Reading Method Suitable for Me
Subtitle | Reading Method Different for Every Person
Author | Jeong Kyoungsoo
Publisher | SUPERGRAPHIC COMPANY
Publication Date | 2016-05-31
ISBN | 9791187201014
No. of pages | 224



2. Book Intro

This book explains the reason, purpose, and process of developing one's own reading method.

There are many cases of students improving their grades or employees finding more success at work by reading. Some people have even experienced the healing impact of reading.

In the age of internet and smartphones, reading has become more crucial than ever.

While reading was a hobby or a cultured activity in the past, books are now an important source of information that enhances one's work capacity, studies, and social activities. Reading now has a wide range of functions. The purpose of reading lies in generating new knowledge and information. Reading is not just limited to books but has been expanded to other forms of media. In the age of the internet and smartphones, it takes a strong driving force to engage in reading activities.

It is possible to search for and obtain virtually every bit of information on the internet, and the materials we want are only a few clicks away. However, to find information in a book, we must flip through its pages for a while. Although the internet seems to have more advantages for information seekers, many people still turn to books for information. For people who read books to find information and gain knowledge, books signify a system of information.

Reading methods also are important for when we look up information on the internet. To find what you need in the sea of information, you need a tool. Just like in real life you'd use a fishnet to catch fish, you need a systematic tool to get what you need in the sea of information contained in books. The shapes of fish nets vary depending on the types of fish. In the same way, different reading methods are used for different information.

Ironically, to find the right information on the internet, we must begin by reading books. After reading books and turning systemized information into knowledge, we can look up on the internet the latest information not explained in books.

Therefore, we must learn effective reading processes to obtain the information we need quickly and gain wisdom.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=795

Trapped in Books

1. Publication Details

Title | Trapped in Books

Subtitle | A Sci-Fi Anthology about Books and Bookstores

Author | Kim Seong-il, Mun Nok-ju, Song Gyeong-a, O Seung-hyeon, Yi Kyeong-hi, Yi Ji-yeon, Jeon Hyejin, Seon Ran Cheon

Publisher | GU-FIC Publishing Company

Publication Date | 2020-01-27

ISBN | 9791187886600

No. of pages | 376

Dimensions | 146 * 206



2. Book Intro

Now is the golden age of Korean science fiction. Some may say that a new generation of writers, like the morning star, has led this current revival, but Korean science fiction has been developing deeply and steadily for longer than we thought. *Trapped in Books: a Sci-Fi Anthology about Books and Bookstores* is a collection of short stories by eight writers who are currently leading the revival of Korean science fiction with their brilliant and surprising imaginations. In this anthology, Kim Seong-il, Mun Nok-ju, Song Gyeong-a, O Seung-hyeon, Yi Kyeong-hi, Yi Ji-yeon, Jeon Hye-jin, and Cheon Seon-ran, all active in the vanguard of Korean science fiction, show their love for the genre in stories around the central theme of books and bookstores, offering readers more fun through various science fiction genre variations.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5456

The Dragonfly Letters

1. Publication Details

Title | The Dragonfly Letters

Author | HAN, KIHYUN

Publisher | Gloyeon

Publication Date | 2016-12-06

ISBN | 9788992704519

No. of pages | 38

Dimensions | 232 * 232



2. Book Intro

A young girl who lives with her grandmother waits constantly for her mother to visit. Ever since the girl's father suddenly passed away, all the girl can do is wait for her mother to come visit. The girl waits and waits and one day, she observes many dragonflies flying, and is inspired to send letters to her mother with the help of the dragonflies. This is a heartwarming story of a young girl being reunited with her mother with the help of some dragonflies.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2990

Classics in My Library

1. Publication Details

Title | Classics in My Library
Subtitle | Books that Helped Me Endure
Author | Suh Kyungsik
Publisher | Wood Pencil Books
Publication Date | 2015-08-24
ISBN | 9791195347001
No. of pages | 272
Dimensions | 135 * 195



2. Book Intro

Suh Kyungsik, the leading foreign-country-inhabitant essayist in Korea, reveals 18 classic books from his library that he's held dear in his heart.

"This is not a list of literary books recommended to young people."

Suh does not intend to leave his works as part of a long list of classics. He wants to stay away from formal knowledge and instead show a cross section of how he "conversed" with the classics. He views the search for one's own way of reading and reasoning as a genuine intellectual attitude.

As someone who defined himself as an essayist, Suh's writing reflects the moments shared with his books. In a small, bustling Chinese restaurant in Paris where chefs battle against hot flames, Suh recalls George Orwell's *Down and Out in Paris and London*. Projecting the feelings of failure felt after the death of his father, Suh read Philippe Ari.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=317

Border Market

1. Publication Details

Title | Border Market
Author | Kim Sungjoong
Publisher | Munhakdongne Publishing Group
Publication Date | 2015-02-25
ISBN | 9788954635257
No. of pages | 248



2. Book Intro

This is the second collection of stories by Kim Seong-joong, published four years after *Comedian*. This collection conveys a sense of power behind the author's creativity for building literary worlds and delivers readers a subtle blend of fantasy and reality by bridging his free and unique imagination with realism. The collection's eight short stories about people entrenched in desire treat readers with tales that only Kim can tell, phasing between reality and imagination, as well as pain and joy.

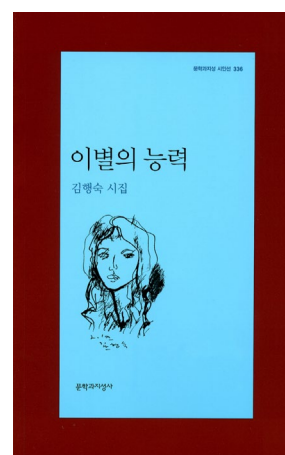
It includes works such as *Border Market*, a story about a man who sells his memories to purchase goods, and *Kumun*, a story about a disease that shortens one's lifespan in exchange for super intelligence. Also featured is *Eva and Agnes*, a story about the friendship between Eva, a promising model who loses the light in her life due to a traffic accident, and Agnes, a photojournalist on the streets of a conflict zone.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=719

The Ability to Part

1. Publication Details

Title | The Ability to Part
Author | Kim Haeng-sook
Publisher | Moonji Publishing Co., Ltd.
Publication Date | 2007-07-20
ISBN | 9788932017976
No. of pages | 176



2. Book Intro

This book of poetry is by Kim Haengsook, a poet who made her debut in 1999 in the magazine *Contemporary Literature*. It's comprised of four parts and features more than 70 poems including *The World of Affection*, *Good Dog*, and *Chorus*, as well as the titular *The Ability to Part*.

Poetry in the 2000s was largely divided into reality poems that sought to express something more real and surface poems that attempted to mobilize the potential world by affirming simulacra. Kim Haengsook works represent the latter. As described by literary critic Shin Hyeong-cheol, Kim's poetry "dreams of a new world and sparks a new self", and Kim's "delicate sense of capturing an object as a simulacrum and methodological lightness in simulacratizing make her poetry special."

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=745