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# K-Book Trends

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

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## TOPIC

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[Publishing & AI]

# Legal and Ethical Issues and Implications of AI-based Creations

Written by Kim Ki-Tae  
(Ph.D., Professor of Digital Content Creation, Semyung University)

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Rapidly changing copyright landscape and the rise of AI

### Q. What is the future of paper books?

A. It's difficult to predict the exact future of paper books, but it's likely that they will continue to coexist with digital books in the future. While digital books have become increasingly popular in recent years, many people still enjoy the tactile experience of reading a physical book and the emotional connection that comes with owning and collecting them. Additionally, paper books are often easier to read in certain situations, such as in bright sunlight or when electronic devices are not available.

The future of paper books is a subject of debate and speculation. While some people believe that paper books will eventually be

replaced by digital books and other forms of digital media, others believe that paper books will continue to exist and be valued for their unique qualities. In the end, it's likely that both paper books and digital books will coexist, and the future of paper books will depend on a variety of factors, such as technological advances, changing reading habits, and cultural trends.

**Q. If the public interest conflicts with the individual interest, what choice should we make?**

A. The balancing of individual and public interests is a complex issue and can vary depending on the specific circumstances. In general, the decision to prioritize one interest over the other should be based on ethical and moral considerations, as well as an analysis of the impact of the decision on all parties involved. When considering conflicting interests, it may be helpful to consider the common good and the principles of fairness, justice, and equality. Ultimately, the goal should be to find a solution that satisfies the needs of all parties involved to the greatest extent possible, while also promoting the greater good of society as a whole.

The text above is Chat GPT's (an AI program developed by OpenAI) answer to my question. The experience of seeing the amazing ability of AI to answer questions that are difficult for undergraduate and graduate students to answer immediately, even when asked again and again, led to mixed feelings. From the point that anyone can use AI programs, I was worried that



they could be abused in terms of learning and research ethics, and I got goosebumps as AI has reached the level of producing its own results beyond being a tool or a means, even in the field of artistic creation (such as literature and art), which was considered to be the exclusive domain of humans.

Copyrighted works (text, images, video, audio, etc.) distributed over the Internet must be digitized by default. These digitized materials are distributed without any discrimination between originals and copies, a major difference from the traditional distribution process of works. In the case of conventional copies based on print media, it was possible to distinguish between the original and the copy due to the qualitative differences, but this is not possible with digitized materials. In addition, as users can change the content as they wish at a low cost, the number of people consuming digitized materials is increasing rapidly.

While the development of digital technology has positive aspects in terms of simplicity and low cost in the creation and distribution of works, it also has negative aspects in that copyright infringement through illegal modification and copying can occur on a large scale and in a short period of time, making it very difficult to seek relief of rights. Before the mass reproduction technology (printing) was created, it took a considerable amount of effort to reproduce a work, making the author's rights tenuous in the sense that the effort was not much different from the effort of acquiring the original work.

These advances in digital technology, coupled with AI, are

increasingly threatening the copyright landscape. Originally, copyright was a right that evolved very closely with reproduction technology. What would happen if the copyright laws established in yesterday's analog world were to remain in place in today's digital world? The copyright landscape would face unimaginable challenges, and there would be tremendous disruption in many areas of our society.

After all, copyright laws need to evolve with the advancements in the technologies for creating, distributing, and utilizing works, so that the relationship between creators (copyright holders) and users (rights holders) can be coordinated in a way that fits the needs of the times.



## Changes in the concept of copyrighted works in the age of AI

Copyright refers to “a right granted to the author to protect a work that creatively expresses human ideas or emotions.” The principle of copyright protection is to grant the author of a work the exclusive right to use his or her work, to require permission from the author when others want to use the work, and to make it illegal to use the work without obtaining such permission. According to the Copyright Act, the creator of a copyrighted work is granted “moral rights” and “property rights,” each of which can be summarized as follows.

First, the Copyright Act defines a “copyrighted work” as a “creative work that expresses human ideas or emotions.” A precedent of the Supreme Court, the highest court in Korea, wrote as follows: “The term ‘creativity’ in copyright law does not refer to originality in the full sense of the word, but simply means that a work is not a mere imitation of another work but contains an expression of one’s own unique ideas or emotions. It is sufficient if the work is given the characteristic of being the product of the author’s own mental effort and is distinguishable from the existing works of other authors in order to fulfill this requirement.” Therefore, the Supreme Court does not require a high degree of creativity.

Another case also states that a work protected by copyright law, that is, a “creative work,” is “the author’s own work, not copied from another, and does not necessarily have to be of high quality,

but has a minimum level of originality to be worthy of protection under copyright law.” In particular, in the case of works that fall within the scope of academia, the academic content belongs to the realm of ideas that are common to all people and should be allowed to be freely used by anyone. The protection of its copyright is on its creative form of expression, not on its academic content. Therefore, such academic content cannot be considered copyright infringement unless the specific expression is copied, even if the same theory is used.

If so, can AI-created works be copyrighted? Then, who should be the copyright holder? The current explosive impact of AI is largely due to big data and the machine learning techniques that build on it. What used to function based on predetermined algorithms is now able to learn and evolve on its own based on vast amounts of data, mimicking the way humans learn. So, are works created by non-human AI, or computer programs, such as news articles, Go notations, literary, artistic, and musical works, “works” protected by copyright law? If they are, who owns the copyright? According to the current law, the answer is “they are not copyrighted works that express human ideas or emotions.” Therefore, there is no copyright holder. However, the creator of the program that runs the AI, such as the computer program, is granted the copyright to the program.

However, the problem is that this is only possible if it is disclosed that the content was created by an AI. What if someone announces AI-generated content as if it was created by

themselves? If it is plagiarized based on existing data, it might be found through a search program, but if it is generated by AI on the fly, it will not be found through a search. Another likely problem is the authenticity of the data that the AI learns. If it learns incorrect data, it will produce incorrect results. So, there is a concern about the spread of errors if you trust AI blindly. Furthermore, you should also be aware of claims of copyright infringement for works used for AI training. This is because there needs to be an agreement between parties to utilize massive amounts of data for learning purposes. As a result, new challenges have emerged, such as establishing guidelines for crediting sources and ethical compliance when utilizing AI, as well as preparing responses to new copyright infringement issues.

### **Suggestions for AI that benefit humans**

Any creator is a “dwarf standing on the shoulders of a giant.” While works that are the result of creative activity are published through various media as if they were new, they are already influenced by other works and are produced in relation to each other. Copyright law also recognizes, albeit passively, that creative works are the result of social production. However, despite the fact that many works should be absorbed into the public domain, the gradual extension of the protection period of intellectual property rights has resulted in stronger control for copyright holders, reducing the possibility of greater creative

activity and secondary production. Therefore, it is necessary to interpret the concept of shared works more broadly, as it will improve the quality of AI.

Next, formal procedures should be expanded to clarify copyright-related matters that are neglected by the existing system. For example, measures should be taken to promote certification systems, including the Creative Commons License (CCL), and to facilitate the registration and renewal of copyrights. Specifically, appropriate measures should be taken, such as 1) adopting standard terms and conditions for online service providers (OSPs) to commit to CCLs for content posted on the Internet, unless otherwise indicated, 2) requiring the use of CCLs for the templates used to create various content posted on the Internet, and 3) distinguishing between the sites where such works are posted. However, since both the person affixing the CCL and the person using the marked work must understand the copyright law, copyright education should be strengthened in conjunction with the promotion of the marking, and since copyright infringement problems may arise in the future for works not marked with a CCL, users should be made aware of the risk of unauthorized use to promote the use of such works.

Certification systems should also be actively utilized. Having such a system in place not only makes it easier to verify whether a work is copyrighted and obtain permission to use it, but also makes it simpler to prove facts in cases of copyright infringement and prevents impersonation of the right holder. Moreover, while

the registration and renewal of copyright has limitations because registration itself is not a requirement for the creation of rights under the Copyright Act, it is a system that contributes to the fair use of works while protecting their authors. In other words, it is clear that mandatory registration is a highly useful system as it allows for the identification of the right holder, confirmation of the time and duration of the right, and changes in the right relationship. In terms of improvements, it is necessary to make certain requirements of registration compulsory, but also to make the process of registration simple and inexpensive enough to be utilized by anyone, and to make substantial amendments to the law, such as requiring that a person must be registered in order to proceed with a copyright-related lawsuit, so that it can play a role in defending against the abuse of minor rights.

While the copyright environment is rapidly changing due to technological advancements marked by the digital revolution, and the copyright order derived from analog media is being significantly shaken, there should ultimately be institutional mechanisms in place to complement the formal process with the introduction of legal principles in the direction of expanding “fair use” based on the idea of “people over law.” However, regarding intentional and commercial copyright infringement, strong criminal penalties should be available in addition to “punitive damages.” In addition, there should be discussions on legal sanctions for not specifying whether AI is utilized. If copyright protection practices based on fair use are established, it will

be possible to build a new and healthy copyright order that is consistent with human nature, and it will be possible to reduce disputes over the use of works, stimulate the creation of new content, and create new markets.



## SPECIAL PROJECT

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[Book × Architecture]

# The Dwelling Culture of Korea

Written by Han Pil-Won (Professor of Architecture at Hannam University)

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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.

### From *hanok* to apartments... Korea's changing dwelling culture

In general, the fields that study dwelling culture the most are architecture and cultural-related areas such as cultural anthropology, cultural geography, and folkloric studies. Since the 2000s, however, many books on dwelling culture have started to be published in Korea, especially in the field of architecture. The

foundation for this achievement was laid more than 40 years ago. The most important method of studying dwelling culture is “field survey,” which means researching in the field where dwellings are located, and the Korean Architectural Society has been actively conducting dwelling field surveys since the 1980s. In the 1990s, after a decade or so of such accumulated research, many thesis papers were published. In the 2000s, some researchers began to publish books based on decades of research that were also intended for the general public. In this article, I would like to introduce three books that discuss Korean dwelling culture - the history of research is one of the reasons why the writers (Han Pil-Won, Park Cheol-Su, and Jeon Nam-Il) are all architects in their 60s. As scholars who have consistently been engrossed in Korean dwelling culture, they have published a number of excellent books other than the ones introduced here.

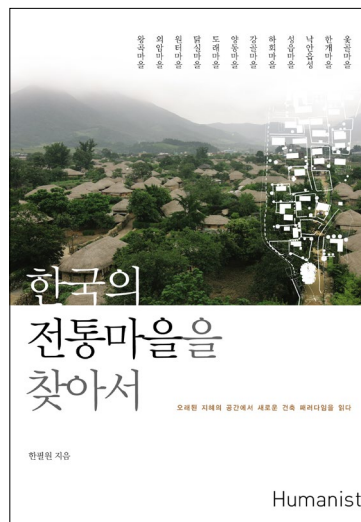
Throughout history, people have created dwellings that are best suited to their region. Such was also the case on the Korean Peninsula, where local houses reflected the lives of the people in each region. It wasn't until the 16th century that the dwelling type we now call “*hanok*” - built with a wooden frame and tiled roof over a floor of *ondol* (Korean floor heating system) and wooden flooring - developed and became the dominant form of dwelling in Korea. Throughout the modern era and into the 1960s, *hanoks* were the predominant dwelling type in Korea. Then, generally from the 1970s onward, *hanoks* were rarely built, and a new dwelling type, the apartment, took over. In the meantime, several

other dwelling types emerged, including Western-style houses, multi-family houses, townhouses, and country houses. But, in less than a generation, apartments dominated the housing market. Now, even if you add up the number of *hanoks* and all the other dwelling units, they are no match for apartments.

These two words, *hanok*, and apartment, represent the long history of Korea's dwelling types. Here, "type" is like a template, which enables repeated reproduction. And the force that enables this reproduction can be called "culture." So, *hanoks* and apartments represent two extremely different types of Korean dwelling culture. In traditional Korean society, *hanoks* were the settlement units of villages and the spatial background or stage of dwelling culture. Correspondingly, in modern Korean society, apartments are the settlement unit and are the spatial background or stage of dwelling culture. Therefore, the dwelling culture of traditional Korean society can be understood most clearly through *hanoks* and villages, and that of modern Korean society through apartments and complexes. In this article, I would like to introduce books each on Korean traditional villages with *hanoks* and on apartments and complexes that represent Korean dwelling culture, and one book on the changes in Korean dwelling culture.

## The value of communality and environmentalism in traditional Korean villages

*In Search of Traditional Korean Settlements* (Humanist Publishing Group), written by architectural historian Han Pil-Won (me) and published in 2011, discusses the traditional Korean dwelling culture embedded in traditional Korean villages and their many *hanoks* in terms of ideology, culture, society, and environment. With 12 representative Korean villages as examples, the book is based on the writer's extensive and consistent research on *hanoks* and traditional villages in the field, making the reader feel like they are exploring the villages with the writer.



*In Search of Traditional Korean Settlements*

On the ideological side, the book explores Otgol Village in Daegu, which found clues for making space in nature; Hange Village in Seongju, North Gyeongsang-do Province, which exhibits a spatial aesthetic that is alive with the spirit of scholarly practice;

and Nagan Eupseong Folk Village in Suncheon, Jeollanam-do Province, which shows the archetype of a Korean city. On the cultural side, the book visits Seongyeop Village in Jeju Island, which demonstrates the equality of life in Korean vernacular housing; Hahoe Folk Village in Andong, North Gyeongsang-do Province, a cultural space where nobles and ordinary people coexist; and Ganggol Traditional Village in Boseong, Jeollanam-do Province, which captures the transformation of *hanok* in the modern era. On the social side, the book introduces Yangdong Folk Village in Gyeongju, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, which showcases beautiful *hanoks* created by both competition and harmony; Dorae Village in Naju, Jeollanam-do Province, which integrates social relations and natural conditions; and Daksil Village in Bonghwa, Gyeongbuk-do Province, which reflects the self-regulation of a community and the order that lies within it. Finally, on the environmental side, the book talks about Wonteo Village in Gimcheon, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, which displays environmentally friendly solutions from history; Oeam Folk Village in Asan, Chungcheongnam-do Province, which demonstrates the wisdom of overcoming challenges in environmental conditions; and Wanggok Village in Goseong, Gangwon-do Province, which reminds us to think about sustainable living spaces.

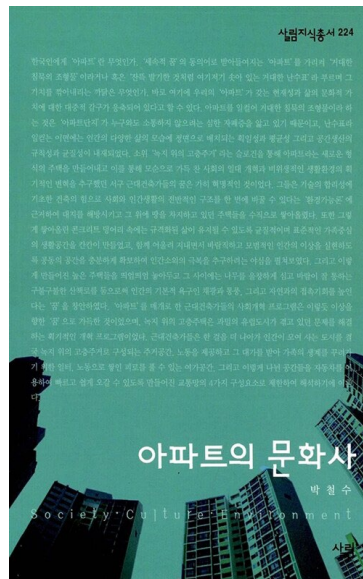
This book explains that although Korean traditional villages are diverse in appearance, they all share the common values and virtues of a “communal living place where everyone lives

in harmony” and an “environmentally friendly neighborhood where people live healthfully with nature.” Throughout the book, the reader will come to realize that the communality and environmentalism inherent in Korean traditional dwelling culture are virtues that modern people beyond Korea and around the world should learn from, whether in the past, present, or future.

### **Apartments turned communal living spaces into a capitalist object of desire**

The book *Cultural History of Apartments* (Sallim Books), written by architectural historian Park Cheol-Soo and published in 2006, is small and compact (95 pages in total), but deep in content and intriguing to read. In this book, the writer critically reflects on the reality of contemporary Korean dwelling culture and contemplates its future. While the book covers the history and culture of apartments, it is especially interesting that it analyzes the image of apartments by period since the 1960s, through popular novels. Citing literary works by popular Korean writers such as Lee Ho-Cheol, Cho Jeong-Rae, and Gong Ji-Young, the book shows how apartments, which began as ordinary people’s dwellings, eventually created a uniform dwelling culture and landscape that lost their local character, and how urban redevelopment and reconstruction of existing complexes transformed Korean cities into overcrowded and harsh places.

As a result, apartments have turned dwellings and villages from places of cultural significance into objects of real estate speculation.



*Cultural History of Apartments*

The writer explains that apartments are not a result of the evolution of Korean lifestyle and culture, but a “symbol of revolutionary Korea” disguised as a forced modernization of lifestyle. He sees apartment complexes as a political legacy of the development dictatorship that began around the same time, the 1960s. He also looks at apartment complexes as pathological spaces of depression and autism, pointing out that even though they are in the city, they are separated from the urban space, and the people who live in them are isolated from their neighbors outside the complex. By choosing apartments, Korean society has gained convenience and financial returns, but at the cost of

social illnesses such as depression and autism, and the silliness of viewing living space as an investment product. Both gains and losses could not have been imagined in the traditional society where people lived in villages in *hanoks*. Also, this book makes us acutely aware of the reality of Korean dwelling culture, where dwelling buildings and villages (complexes) have grown in size and grandeur, but the culture they embody has shrunk and become ill.

The dwelling culture of apartments (complexes) discussed in this book stands in direct opposition to the traditional Korean dwelling culture introduced earlier, *In Search of Traditional Korean Settlements*. While dwelling has been an important condition of existence and a cultural product in Korean society, it has become a consumer good with a high exchange value and an object of capitalist desire since the late 20th century. And the village, which used to be a community where humans and nature coexisted, has become a complex, a space of autism and disconnection. The writer emphasizes that “if the apartment complexes are the ones you can’t help but carry with you, it is time to heal the autism of the complexes and break their isolation from the urban space.” In the latter part of the book, *Toward the Healing of Autism and Depression*, alternatives and future tasks are presented to heal the distortion and degeneration of Korean dwelling culture. Unfortunately, the writer, Park Chul-Soo, passed away in February of this year, and we will no longer be able to read his eloquent and insightful writings.



## The evolution of Korean dwelling culture seen through illustrations

The book *Houses: How the Spaces and Landscapes of Houses Have Changed* (Dolbegae) by architect Jeon Nam-Il, published in 2015, discusses the changes in dwelling culture following the transformation of Korean society. Using his own drawings, he explains the changes in Korean dwelling culture by dividing it into 3 parts: *Changes in the Use of Houses*, *Changes in the Appearance of Houses*, and *Changes in the Way People Live Together in Harmony*. It is a book that bridges the gap between the two books mentioned above, that is, between the tradition and modernity of Korean dwelling culture.



*Houses: How the Spaces and Landscapes of Houses Have Changed*

In the first part, *Changes in the Use of Houses*, the writer talks about how the use and meaning of different parts in a house have changed through changes in spatial elements such as the

main bedroom, reception room, wooden floor in the open living room, kitchen, and restroom, as well as changes in facilities such as heating methods. Here, we can see that while there are some spatial elements that have been newly introduced in modern times, such as porches, and facilities for heating, cooking, and hygiene, have changed significantly from the past, most of the spatial elements that make up a house have remained the same from the past, changing their use and purpose. As the way of using space and its properties constitute dwelling culture, we can get a good look at the changes in Korean dwelling culture through this book.

The second part of the book, *Changes in the Appearance of Houses*, covers changes in the types of dwellings. It discusses the history of how Korean dwelling types have diversified from traditional *hanok* to urban *hanok*, western-style houses, multi-family houses, apartments, and townhouses. In particular, it provides a detailed explanation of how high-rise apartments became the dominant dwelling type in modern Korea in the context of urbanization and economic, social, and cultural dynamics.

The final part, *Changes in the Way People Live Together in Harmony*, explains the cultural changes that occurred as the spatial unit of communal living changed from villages to complexes. As a result of the breakdown of communities and the loss of communality in everyday life due to the changes in dwellings and villages, there are fewer things that Koreans can

do in their dwellings today. The book concludes that the spatial scope of everyday life for Koreans has expanded or decentralized from within the home to outside the home. Now, Korean dwelling culture can only be understood by looking at how people live outside the home, in the city, alongside how they live inside the home.

## EXPORT CASE

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# Bringing Korean Literature to Hebrew Readers

**Successful import case of Prapanca Press in Israel**

Written by Dr. Uri Kaplan (Managing Editor of Prapanca Press, Israel)

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The Hebrew-language book market is paradoxically both large and small. While there are only about two million active Hebrew readers, who read at least once a week, close to 7,000 new titles are published each and every year in Israel. In other words, whereas the book market is rather small in terms of readers, it is considerably large, vigorous, and diverse in terms of contents. Approximately 20% of Hebrew book publications are translations, almost all of which are translations from English, in addition to a few translations from other European languages such as Russian and Spanish.

Regrettably, to date, very few Korean titles were able to reach the Hebrew book market. Although the novels of Shin Kyung-sook and Jeong You-jeong, as well as a few others, have been published in Hebrew and received in Israel with some

enthusiasm, the translations were not made directly from the Korean original but from the English translation. In fact, due to a lack of Korean-Hebrew translators, almost all Korean books published in Hebrew until recent years have been translated from the English translation. They were indeed twice-chewed ruminations, translations of translations. Prapanca Press is currently attempting to change that. One of its main objectives is to produce high-quality direct-translations of Korean literary works into Hebrew, and create a sustainable place for them in the local book market.

Prapanca Press is an Israeli publishing house specializing in Asian literature. It focuses on translations of both classical and modern works from East Asia, written in all genres. Its managing editor, Dr. Uri Kaplan, is a specialist in Korean Studies and in Asian religions. Dr. Kaplan attended Yonsei University, Kyunghee University, Korea University, and Seoul National University, received a PhD from Duke University, and is currently lecturing at Haifa University. His affectionate appreciation of Korean culture, in its various aspects, stands at the foundation of the publishing agenda.

To be sure, interest in Korean culture, which has spiked in recent years throughout the world, has not skipped the tiny state of Israel. The current success of Korean movies, television dramas, and K-pop has created a growing interest in the 'exotic' and distant country located on the other side of the great continent. It seems that everyone in Israel today, as elsewhere, has watched

the movie “Parasite” and the TV series “Squid Games,” and knows how to boogie to the beat of “Gangnam Style.” Tourism between the two small nations is flourishing, as well as business relations and student exchanges. It is certainly time for the literary world to catch up.

In 2020, Prapanca Press published a Hebrew translation of the Korean Buddhist classic, *The Mirror of Seon*, written in the 16th century by Hyu-Jeong, also known as “Master West Mountain”. The book was translated with numerous notes and explanations directly from the Hanmun original text. While several Asian classical texts were previously published in Hebrew, this was the first Korean classical work that became available in the local market. It was received with great curiosity by Israeli Buddhist groups, academics, and philosophy buffs. In fact, quite a few Orthodox Jews purchased the book in order to learn about the religious thought of East Asia.

In 2022, with the kind support of the Literature Translation Institute of Korea (LTI), Prapanca Press was able to translate from Korean and publish the celebrated early-20th-century Korean poetry collection of Han Yong-un, *Your Silence*. The book was well-received in local literary circles. Han’s poems, both universalistic and very much “Korean” in theme and style, aroused considerable interest. The collection has been quoted in literary magazines and has since become a constant seller in boutique bookshops specializing in poetry.

In 2023, Prapanca Press acquired from Yollimwon Publishing

Group the translation rights for Jeong Chan-ju's book, *A Novel: Musoyu*. It is a fascinating biographical novel that provides an intimate, authentic, and at times heartwarming, insider-glance into modern Korean monastic life. The unique story would undoubtedly be able to attract various Hebrew readers interested in East Asia in general, and in Korea in particular. It is currently being translated from Korean, and is expected to be published in early 2024.



*The Mirror of Seon, Your Silence, A Novel: Musoyu*

Prapanca Press would like to strengthen its collaboration with Korean publishers in order to expand its Korean translation projects in the coming future. It would be especially enthusiastic to introduce new Korean authors to the Hebrew-reading public, authors who have not yet been translated into Hebrew, such as Yi Mun-yol, Kim Un-su, Pyun Hye-young, Kim Young-ha, and others. French writer Andre Maurois once wrote that “in

literature, as in love, we are astonished at what is chosen by others.” It is this astonishment, this incredible fascination with the unimaginable ideas of others, that motivates Prapanca Press to continue its translation efforts, and to enchant Hebrew readers with the captivating imagination, thought, and culture of Korea.

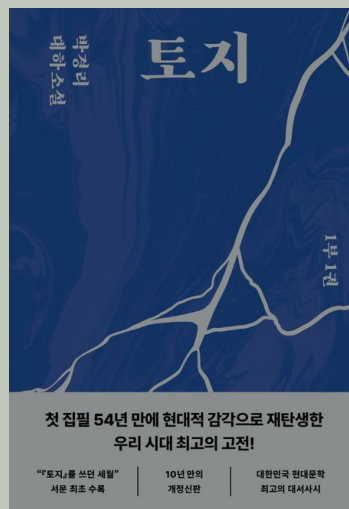


## BOOK TRIP

[Into the Book ④]

Re-creating Pyeongsa-ri from  
the Book *Land*Pyeongsa-ri, Agyang-myeon, Hadong-gun, Gyeongsangnam-do:  
*Land*, the Book Inside an Autumnal Landscape

Written by Kim Kyu-Sung

*Land*

On Korean Thanksgiving in 1897, before the magpies had even come to the persimmon tree within the hedge to say good morning, children dressed in colorless clothes and with long dangling hair raced through the village streets with songpyeon (a traditional Korean food made of rice powder) in their mouths.



Panoramic view of Pyeongsa-ri and Seomjin River

A place where the golden rice ripens over vast fields, and the stems of Mount Jirisan and the Seomjin River gently surround – it is Pyeongsa-ri in Agyang-myeon, Hadong-gun, Gyeongsangnam-do. It is the geographical setting of Park Kyong-Ni’s epic novel *Land*. As the novel, written over a period of 25 years from 1969 to 1994, became a bestseller, Pyeongsa-ri Village became a representative tourist attraction in Hadong. In recent years, it has become a global tourist destination; in December 2022, Pyeongsa-ri was selected as one of the “Best Tourism Villages” by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The UNWTO has been selecting the Best Tourism Villages since 2021 to support sustainable local tourism and address issues such as rural depopulation. In addition to the Pyeongsa-ri fields that are just like those in the novel, Pyeongsa-ri Village has a number of must-see spots for *Land* readers, including the Park Kyong-Ni

Literary Museum, Choi Champandaek (Choi Champan's house), and Pyeongsa-ri Park. Following is a journey to Pyeongsa-ri Village in Hadong-gun, Gyeongsangnam-do, where the landscape is dyed in deep autumn colors.

### Pyeongsa-ri seen from afar, autumn seen up close

The first place to visit in Pyeongsa-ri is “Starway Hadong,” which has an observation deck where visitors can capture the panoramic view and a sky walk along the Seomjin River. In the past, people had to climb a nearby mountain or go up to Gososeong Fortress (a stone fortress in Agyang-myeon, Hadong-gun, Gyeongsangnam-do) to get a good view of Pyeongsa-ri. However, the “Starway Hadong” made it possible to see the Pyeongsa-ri region from 150 meters above the surface of the Seomjin River. Standing on the observation deck with a glass floor that takes your breath away, you can have a direct view of the Seomjin River, Jirisan Mountain, and Dongjung Lake, with the wind blowing in from all directions. It is also a great way to get a preview of the places you will be visiting on your upcoming trip to Hadong.

After seeing Pyeongsa-ri from afar in “Starway Hadong,” it is time to get a closer look at it in the book *Land*, where events occur in the region. Like the book's first sentence, Pyeongsa-ri, in the fall, welcomes visitors with bountiful harvests of persimmon trees, golden rice fields, and dried corn. No matter the gap between 1897 and 2023, the richness of autumn unfolds picturesquely.



Rich harvest in fall

The *sarangchae* (men's room) at Choi Champandaek  
is as silent as a deserted land.

The sun is shining brightly in the courtyard,  
but where have all the people gone?

### Pyeongsa-ri, a folk village that captures everything about the book *Land*

Since the late 1990s, Hadong-gun has developed the Pyeongsa-ri area into a tourist attraction, organizing various sites, including Choi Champandaek (the setting of the book *Land*), downtown, a marketplace, the Park Kyong-Ni Literary Museum, and *hanok* stays. If you walk up the path from the parking lot towards the market, selling various specialties, you will get a good view of Pyeongsa-ri Village.

The first place to visit in Pyeongsa-ri Village is the Park Kyong-Ni Literary Museum. A full-length statue of writer Park Kyong-Ni standing in the museum's courtyard will immediately catch your eye. She began writing the book *Land* at the not-so-young age of 43, and finished the work of her life at the somewhat old age of 68. Inside the museum, 41 items that Park Kyong-Ni used to use are on display, as well as a complete set of the book's series,



portraits, and relationship maps published by each publisher. By looking at Park's handwriting on the original manuscripts, as well as the thick magnifying glass, recorder, and cigarette that she used to smoke, visitors can feel close to the writer.



The exterior view of the Park Kyong-Ni Literary Museum and Park Kyong-Ni's statue



The interior view of the Park Kyong-Ni Literary Museum and items used by the writer during her lifetime

Walk down the street from the Literary Museum, and you will find Choi Champandaek, where the scenery from the novel comes to life. Choi Champandaek is the main setting where Choi Seo-Hee and Kim Gil-Sang, the protagonists of *Land*, spend their childhoods. It comprises 14 *hanoks* that closely emulate the spaces in the novel. Visitors can see the *Anchae* (main house), where Seo-Hee's grandmother, Mrs. Yoon, lived, as well as the *Byeoldangchae* (detached house), where Seo-Hee stayed and the *Sarangchae* where Choi Chi-Soo lived. The historical drama

“Land,” aired in 2004, was also filmed here. When the set for the drama was built in the lower part of the village, more than 50 sets of thatched houses were built, including Yi-Pyeong’s house, Ohseobang’s house, and the waterwheel, where the main and supporting characters lived. Also, as the place has been used for filming other dramas and movies such as “Mr. Sunshine” and “Six Flying Dragons” for its authentic hanok and thatched house village, it is an enjoyable place to visit even if you are not familiar with the novel.



The Sarangchae at Choi Champandaek and Ohseobang’s thatched house

### **Dongjung Lake, where you can cherish your memories, and Hadong Songnim Park, where the green pines and white sand make for a stunning scene**

When you are looking at the panoramic view from the “Skyway Hadong,” there is a lake that stands out among the vast rice fields: Dongjung Lake. The Dongjung Lake area is a popular photo spot for young tourists, as it is dotted with pink muhly grass, Siberian chrysanthemum, and Cosmos sulphureus, all of which bloom and sway in the wind, adding a touch of color to

the autumn landscape. In addition, there are also various other photo zones, such as the mascot suspension bridge, stairway to heaven, wherry, and rocking chair, making it a must-see spot for tourists visiting Hadong.



Pink muhly grass at Dongjung Lake and the photo zone at the suspension bridge

After exploring the Pyeongsa-ri area, move on to a place where you can experience the Seomjin River up close. Hadong Songnim Park is where the Seomjin River, the sandy shores of the river, and pine forests combine, creating a natural fragrance. As the starting point of the Seomjin River trekking trail and a walking path for local residents, Songnim Park has recently become popular for barefoot walking, where you can walk on sandy shores and forest paths together. Built in the 21st year of King Yeongjo during the Joseon Dynasty (1745) to protect the sandy winds from the river, Songnim is densely planted with more than 1,000 pine trees, making it a spectacular sight. The pine trees here are designated as Natural Monument No. 445.

When you leave the forest and go to the sandy shores of the Seomjin River, you will find your footprints imprinted in the soft white sand. You can also see tourists taking off their shoes

and dipping their feet into the river to relax. On the other side of the river, people are catching iron clam and marsh clam, representative species of the Seomjin River. Because of the abundant white sand along the Seomjin River, Hadong was once called *Handasagun* (韓多沙郡; meaning “a village with a lot of sand”).



Pine trees at Songnim Park and the sands along the Seomjin River

Featuring a 50-year span from 1897 to 1945, the book *Land* captures the modernization of Korea that took place not only in Pyeongsa-ri, Hadong, but also in the Manchu region and Tokyo, Japan. Why don't you visit Pyeongsa-ri, Hadong - where the 5-part 16-volume saga begins and returns - and compare it to the book *Land* inside your heart?



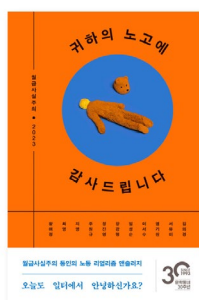
## ONE-LINER QUOTES

## Living a Life in Korea in 2023

## Podcaster's Pick: Korean Books

Written by Lee Ji-Eun  
(Book Editor, CEO of UUHEE Press, Podcaster of "Podcast Doostation")

Lee Ji-Eun is a book editor and the head of the publishing house "UUHEE Press." She has been running a book podcast named "Podcast Doostation." Her books include: *Book Editor's Life Essay* (Dal Publishers), and an interview collection of the football player Ji So-Yeon, *I Will Be Your Dream* (KI Books).

**Thank You For Your Hard Work**

Written by Seo Yu-Mi and others, published by Munhakdongne



Someone who keeps the CEO's mind moistened so that they don't get too cranky, someone who takes the heat out of the employees so that they don't melt.

But someone who, when discarded, is bundled up like a piece of chewing gum and thrown away mercilessly. That's me.

— from *Photosynthesis Lunch* by Lee Seo-Su

In the midst of K-fever in 2023, what does people's work life look like in South Korea? Here, a group of 11 novelists gathered under the name "Monthly Pay Realism (*wolgeupsasiljueui*)," have written a book that "realistically depicts the struggles of ordinary people trying to make ends meet." The book is *Thank You For Your Hard Work* (Munhakdongne), published in September.

While people thought they had narrowly escaped the economic crisis that followed COVID-19, it seems the aftermath is only just beginning. Working hard for a month to get a paycheck has been referred to as "mining for cash," and the impatience and anxiety to build on it by investing in coins or stocks that create greater wealth has led many to crash. To those who offload responsibility by saying, "it's up to the investor to choose wisely," people who struggle to make ends meet while fighting the devaluation of their labor are left powerless to argue back.

The various scenes captured in some books are like a snapshot of Korean society in 2023 that could appear on the front page of a newspaper. In the book *Super Glue* by Kim Eui-Kyung, the protagonist switches from a macaron cafe with declining customers to a triangle kimbap factory that can never fail. In *The Bench at Night* by Seo Yu-Mi, a parent, Kyung-Jin, hopes to protect the bench in her apartment from removal after noticing that the private tutor of her child sits on it for their 15 minute break time every day. In the book *Photosynthesis Lunch*, written by Lee Seo-Su, the main character tries to convince the CEO of the employees' complaints without offending him, but feels that

she is just a piece of gum paper stuck in the middle and can be thrown away at any time. Also, in the story *Poison in Soy Sauce* by Chang Kang-myung, the protagonist is left alone in an empty office at Korea's No. 1 travel agency after people scatter in the order of voluntary resignation, standby, and advisory resignation as the industry is hit hard by COVID-19. In the face of YouTubers' encouragement to "unleash your potential and have more than others," we are forced to gulp down our triangular kimbap and make life-threatening acrobatics for the next destination.

\* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 63 – Go to the interview with writer Chang Kang-myung  
[www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1273&code=interview&category=66](http://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1273&code=interview&category=66)



### *Help Me Sister*

Written by Lee Seo-Su, published by EunHaeng NaMu Publishing



You know, when someone is doing something,  
they are not doing it because it is a good fit for them,  
or they feel like they can keep doing it.  
They are just doing it because it is tolerable.  
That's the only reason. Nothing special.

If you finished reading *Thank You For Your Hard Work* and want to read more about the rest of the story, I recommend *Help Me Sister* by Lee Seo-soo (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing). In the book, Su-Kyung, the only one earning a salary while living with three generations in a small apartment, is forced to quit her job when she becomes the victim of a crime committed by a coworker

at a company dinner. Then she is left with her husband, Woo-Jae, a full-time investor; her mother, Yeo-Sook, who recently quit her job as an environmental cleaner; her father, Cheon-Sik, who blew up their house in a scam two years ago; and her two nephews, who are left to fend for themselves.

Su-Kyung and Yeo-Sook start doing delivery to make ends meet, followed by Woo-Jae and Cheon-Sik, who begin designated driver service and food delivery... Inadvertently, the whole family becomes platform workers to make money. They don't have the time or money to fight and overcome their unjust reality, which makes them focus on their immediate livelihood, but they come to realize how important it is to have a family to help them get through their lives. They support each other by healing their wounds from the outside world, laughing and encouraging each other instead of crying, and silently sending support to each other so that they can pick themselves up, get out the door and continue on their way. They may not be in a position of strength anywhere, but they can be as strong as they want to be in front of the people who are important to them.

Just like novelist Park Sang-Young said in his recommendation - "*Help Me Sister* is also filled with people with wounds. Instead of taking the easy way out, turning away from pain and suffering, they embrace and rescue each other. They find a piece of glory in the dullest of days" - the book is about the story of people living in our neighborhood. People who pass by noisily as if they were going out to eat, people who laugh as loud as they can when they

are with each other. People who are not so different from me, trying to survive somehow in this world without a moment to look back at those who are left behind, come alive in this novel. The writer's heartfelt message adds that the decision not to give up and to try again is what makes a miracle.

\* *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=&code=interview&total\\_searchkey=%EB%B0%95%EC%83%81%EC%98%81](http://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1021&page=&code=interview&total_searchkey=%EB%B0%95%EC%83%81%EC%98%81)

## KOREAN PUBLISHERS

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# Eidos Publishing House

Contemplate Deeper, Imagine More Freely



에이도스

Eidos Publishing House

Logo of Eidos

The word *eidos* is a concept in philosophy that refers to external appearance and shape. It is a perfect name for a publisher that ponders deeply on social phenomena and produces beautiful books that capture their very essence as books. Eidos, a one-man publishing company specializing in liberal arts and popular science books, makes books with a unique but special concept to bring science closer to readers. Despite the public's growing interest in science, it still accounts for a small percentage of the

market. However, Eidos believes that everything close to our lives can be the subject of a book - so there is no end to the list of titles to be published. Following is an interview with CEO Park Ray-Seon, who explains that the company's goal is to continue to publish good books for readers who support them.

It's a pleasure to have you with us on *K-Book Trends*. Please introduce Eidos to our international readers, including the meaning of the company's name.

I get asked a lot about the company's name, but I often struggle to explain what it means – sometimes, I wonder if I have chosen the wrong name. In fact, the name, Eidos, is a bit pedantic, which means it is hard to explain in a simple way. I will just say that the name came from Plato's *The Republic*, and is the archetype of "Idea." The company started in 2011, and we mainly publish liberal arts and popular science books. I named the company Eidos out of the hope of making books that can help people contemplate deeply and imagine freely, while better embodying their nature as books, in a modern society where books are losing ground, but I'm not sure if I'm doing a good job of practicing what I meant.

Was there a particular reason for choosing to specialize in liberal arts and popular science books?

In the beginning, I didn't necessarily think of publishing only liberal arts and popular science books. I was also interested in other fields, such as humanities. However, as I worked as an editor of liberal arts and popular science books for a long time, I naturally ended up publishing a lot of science books. In particular, I often met scientists in the course of my work as an editor, and I was drawn to their open-mindedness and free, youthful thinking.

"Beautiful science books, strong humanities books, and books for anyone who cares about life" is an impressive introduction. What do you mean by "beautiful science books," and what do you focus on to make them beautiful?

During the time when I was reading liberal arts and popular science books, the fields that were being published were very limited. They were heavily centered on physics and biology, and the topics were not segmented. How should I put it? It was kind of like a big lump. It would be a bit of an exaggeration to say, "There's nothing left to read when you finish reading a few science books," but that is what it really felt like. In particular, regarding their designs, they were way behind the curve, to be honest. That is why I thought that I should publish books that



were a little bit more pretty, while covering topics that were a little bit more microscopic. When we talk about “beautiffulness,” we actually refer to design. So, when I first started publishing books, I paid a lot of attention to design, while trying to choose topics that were a little bit more unique, a little bit more microscopic. Nowadays, there are quite a few publishers who publish books like this.

Recently, the “popularization of science” has become a trend in Korea. It is probably thanks to the active participation of renowned scientists in broadcasts, lectures, and publications. Do you feel readers’ heightened interest in science, compared to the past?

The public’s increased interest in science has been truly palpable. In recent years, in particular, the extraordinary interest in science books has been the talk of the town. It is a good thing that readers are more interested in science. But the interesting thing is that the population of science book readers hasn’t actually grown that much. Science still makes up a small percentage of the market compared to other fields. When you look at the data, liberal arts and popular science account for maybe 2 to 3 percent of the total, and I don’t think that’s necessarily a good thing from a publisher’s perspective. Science books used to be kind of a blue ocean in the publishing market, but now it seems like it has become a red ocean. Also, when I started the company, publishing science books was quite

attractive because there weren't a lot of science book editors. It was good for a small publisher to start with a unique concept and survive, but now that is not the case. I hope that the market pie for science books and science book readers grows bigger in proportion to the public's interest.

Eidos is known for being a one-man publishing company. One-man publishing gives you a lot of editorial freedom, but it can also be challenging because you have to do all the editing, marketing, production, and management yourself. What are the advantages and disadvantages of one-man publishing?

Most people in the one-man publishing business dream of having coworkers in a fancy office. It is probably because what we do is a bit lonely: we are free, but lonely; we are more spontaneous than any organization, but things progress a bit slower; we can do things with our books that we can't do with a team, but there is a fair chance we will fail; we don't sell as many books as a big company, but we are less affected when market conditions are tough; we don't get stressed and overwhelmed by teammates, but we do get dragged down with stalled development.

Oh, and I forgot to mention: like everything else in the world, you don't do anything alone. No matter how capable and talented you are, you always need help from others. The same goes for me. I have a lot of people who help me with the Book cover and design layout, printing, and production, as well as people who

love books and want to tell others about them, and they are the reason we are able to do what we do.

Your publications cover a broad range of subjects, from medicine, plants, and sleep to psychology. It seems like you must have a wide range of interests and perspectives on different topics in the world. What are some of the things you focus on to keep Eidos competitive?

It is a difficult question. It is also a big challenge for us to tackle in the future. As I said, there are a lot of large, competitive publishers in the science book market now. There are more small publishers making science books. It is not easy to find our own competitive edge in this situation. Choosing from so many new books is also a little stressful for readers. The increase in the number of titles is not a good thing for a publisher like us, considering that the reader population is not growing much. I think we need to reach out to readers with more unique and differentiated topics, concepts, and designs. It is always a challenge to decide what kind of book to make and what type of concept to develop. I think that is one of the reasons we publish books in multiple fields of science.



*A Psychiatrist's Table, Psychis of Sunset, and Greek Mythology Read by a Doctor*

Books with titles like *A Psychiatrist's Table*, *Physics of Sunset*, and *Greek Mythology Read by a Doctor* catch our attention because they connect seemingly unrelated keywords and provoke interest and curiosity. Do you have any tips for writing titles that draw readers in?

Personally, I think titling is a really hard thing to do. As an editor, you have both a lot of love and greed for a book. It is important to juggle and balance those two things, but sometimes, you fail to do that without even realizing it. If you are too greedy or too attached to a book, you might feel challenged when it comes to the production and promotion of the book.

The problem is that it is so hard to keep the balance between the two when you are so immersed in the production. And then it is only later, once the book is published, that you realize you have failed to do so. It is a tricky thing. We fail at it a lot, you know. But still, we always try to come up with a title that is simpler, clearer, and easier, while still having the target audience in mind.

What is Eidos' unique way of discovering good authors or content? And what areas would you like to expand into in the future?

We use multiple channels to find good content and authors. We read things like blogs, Brunch posts, and Naver bands (a mobile community application that facilitates group communication), or follow writers on their social media accounts and ask them to write a book for us if their postings match what we are looking for. We mainly try to find new writers. They might have weaknesses in publicizing their work, but their passion as new authors is extraordinary, which makes it fun to work with them. In the future, we would like to publish books that are closely related to our daily lives, such as things that we can see when we step out of the door (nature, phenomena, objects, and neighborhoods are examples). In fact, the topics that our books have covered, such as nature and society, seem to be a little like distant stories. Now, we want to publish books about things that are within our reach. We are very interested in books about nature, and we would like to find the connection between this topic, our neighborhoods, and cities. So, it is about nature that is not far from us. It can be about neighborhoods, gardening, or nature in cities where the majority of the population lives.

You recently translated and published David George Haskell's *Sounds Wild and Broken*, which was shortlisted for the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction in 2023. In addition to this book, you also play a role in promoting good foreign books to Korean readers. Do you have any books by Korean authors that you would like to introduce to international readers?



*The Six Faces of the Mind and The Power of Sleep*

One is *The Six Faces of the Mind*, written by a psychiatrist. This book explores our minds through six topics: depression, anxiety, anger, addiction, insanity, and love. The psychiatrist's personal stories, counseling experiences, and theoretical insights into the mind are mixed together. The second is *The Power of Sleep*. The writer, who has been studying sleep medicine for a long time, explains the importance of sleep in a very lucid way, presenting literature, the history of sleep medicine, and clinical cases with convincing research results. This book is a must-have for anyone

living in the modern world where sleep is becoming increasingly important.

We look forward to Eidos publishing beautiful books with sparkly topics and robust editing. Can you tell us about any future plans or goals?

We don't really have any specific plans or goals for the future - we just want to keep publishing books in fields we love, by writers we love, and for readers who love our books. And that is, to survive and do what we love.

## KOREAN AUTHORS

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### Writer Hwang In-Chan

Writing poems is like asking new questions over and over again

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Poetry is often stereotyped as being more difficult than other literary genres. However, some people call reading poetry a “secret pleasure” because once you fall in love with it, it gives you new joys and broader literary horizons that can’t be found anywhere else. There is a person who has fallen in love with poetry and has always carried his identity as a poet in his heart. Poet Hwang In-Chan has been actively engaged in various activities, such as writing picture books, writing lyrics for idol groups’ songs, giving lectures, and hosting radio programs. Still, he says that writing poetry is the most important thing to him. He says that he has become a more generous and broad-minded person through his various activities, and that all of his other activities are connected to poetry. He was a person who loved



poetry more than anyone else. Following is an interview with Hwang In-Chan, a poet who has been asking new questions to the world and himself by writing poetry.



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

Hello, everyone. I'm poet Hwang In-Chan. I am writing poetry in the hope that literature can help us live better lives. I feel like it is still a long way off, but with all of you book lovers out there, I know it won't be too far.

Your poetry collection *Let's Call This My Heart* (Munhakdongne) was published last June. Could you give us a brief introduction and your thoughts on it?

Writing poetry is a process of constantly looking at and thinking about things that you can't be sure of. Even though I'm getting older and there are more things I can't be sure of in my life, I have always wanted to ask new questions through poetry. However, even with my fourth poetry collection, I'm not sure if it is a new question or the appropriate question. So, I feel ashamed to say that I have published another poetry collection.

You made your debut as a writer at the young age of 22 and won the Kim Suyeong Literary Award, garnering attention from the literary circle. Your poetry collections, such as *Washing a Myna* (Minumsa Publishing) and *A Strange World* (Minumsa Publishing), have also been greatly loved by the public. The title of your new collection, *Let's Call This My Heart*, seems to reflect the concerns and commitments of a "young poet" in his mid-30s. Please tell us how it reflects your perspectives on life and the world.

Well, that is not an easy question to answer! As for the title, I would say that it is my take on the recent popularity of the MBTI. The MBTI test is not really a test that reveals your inner self, but rather a test that gives you an identity by putting you into a category. So, it is like a fun way of explaining who I am and

where I belong. We all live in a world where it is hard to explain who we are, and that is why “identity politics” has become even more important. So, in a time when everything is so opaque, I thought that the act of defining what one feels about oneself, whether it is right or wrong, is important.

I believe that once you determine who you are, you will think about whether it is wrong or right, and through that process, it will become easier for us to live together. You might be able to gauge your distance from yourself by temporarily setting your own coordinates - and that’s how I came up with the title.



*Let's Call This My Heart, Washing a Myna, and A Strange World*

You are also involved in various activities, such as teaching at the Seoul Institute of the Arts, participating in recitals, and hosting a radio program. Why do you continue to engage with the world beyond your readers?

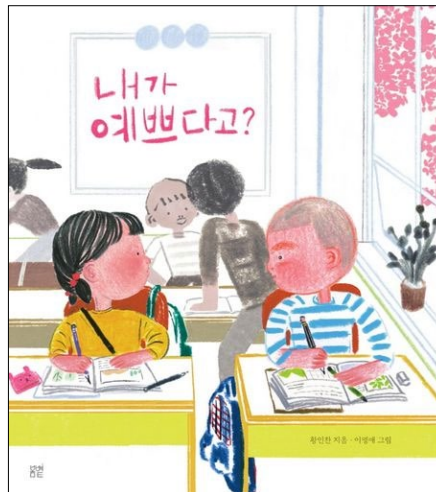
I don't do those things because I really want to communicate. I'm doing them because people have suggested them to me first, but I have also gained a lot from these activities. Most importantly, I have been able to realize that there are other ways to communicate and have things to say, besides what you can do with literature. I think the whole process has made me a more generous person than I was before, and the greatest joy is that I have been able to meet people I wouldn't have been able to meet if I had only focused on literature.

Last year, you published a picture book, *Did You Say I Am Pretty?* (Springsunshine Publishing), and you even participated in writing a new song for the idol group TOMORROW X TOGETHER. As you continue to expand your creative horizons, we are curious to know how these activities help you grow as a writer.

I think they are all related to poetry. Writing lyrics uses a completely different language than poetry, but you still have to pull from poetic sensibilities. In the case of the picture book *Did You Say I Am Pretty?*, it was very close to the language of poetry, which made it easier to work with. I learned a lot from working

on the picture book, especially because even within the same genre of literature, literature for adults and literature for children work in completely different ways. Writing for children was an opportunity for me to really expand my thinking about literature because it was something I had never done before.

\* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 60 – Go to the interview with SpringSunshine Publishing Co.  
[www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1224&page=&code=interview&total\\_searchkey=%EB%B4%84%EB%B3%95](http://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1224&page=&code=interview&total_searchkey=%EB%B4%84%EB%B3%95)



*Did You Say I Am Pretty?*

You have been working non-stop in many fields since your early 20s. What are some of your tips for staying focused on being yourself when you have a full schedule?

I don't think I'm really concerned with keeping a sense of who I am, because I'm not even sure what that is in the first place. But, no matter how busy I am, or how many other things I do, I try not to forget that being a poet is the most central part of myself. I spend my days thinking that writing poetry is the most important

thing to me, and that everything else I do is for the sake of poetry.

You mentioned that you often find inspiration from Japanese subcultures. What are some of your own ways of getting ideas to stay inspired in your writing?

In fact, you can get ideas from almost anything. If an ordinary utterance suddenly strikes me as something new and fresh, it is probably something that could mean something new to me in some way. If I write it down and keep it in memory, it will eventually become a sentence or a poem. I would say that subcultures are a bit more like this, because they use uncommon sentiments and language.

Could you tell us about an event or author that really inspired you as a poet?

One of my biggest inspirations has always been poet Kim Chun-Soo. He wrote incredibly beautiful poetry, but at the same time, he was also someone who was very difficult to admire as a human being. For me, that was the biggest question: what is the relationship between a work and a writer, what is the impact of that relationship on each other, and what should I be as a writer? I don't think that question will be answered anytime soon.

Poetry is a genre that embraces the “unknown” as opposed to genres like fiction or non-fiction. Do you have any tips to help us understand such characteristics and enjoy poetry?

The only way to really enjoy poetry is to fall in love with it. The deeper you fall into it, the more you don't know; the more you love it, the more you don't know. But that's why, once you do fall in love with it, it gives you immense joy that you can't get anywhere else. I would encourage you to dive deep into one poetry collection, or one poet, to begin with.

As you continue to explore new territory and write beautiful poetry, tell us about the topics and goals of the stories you are planning.

At this point, I can't say that I have any specific plans for the next poem. I just hope that I can continue to write new poems. Along with that, I plan to work on a picture book later in the year. I have got a few stories rolling around in my head, and I'm hoping to have them organized and work on them soon.



## PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

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# Korean Libraries' Various Book-reading Activities and Cooperation Efforts with the Publishing Industry

Written by Lee Yong-Hun (Library culture critic)

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Libraries and  
the promotion of  
a book-reading culture



Various book-reading  
programs



Collaboration  
between libraries and  
the publishing industry

Libraries are public service organizations that are easily accessible to anyone in their daily lives when it comes to reading activities. The Korean Library Act also defines a library as a place that contributes to the promotion of reading culture based on library materials. After the Korean government designated 1993 as the “Year of Books,” the Ministry of Culture, Sports,

and Tourism and publishing organizations carried out vigorous campaigns to promote reading among the public. They pushed for the enactment of the “Reading Promotion Act (tentative title)” as a basis for more systematic and continuous promotion. In the process, as discussions progressed with the library community, the Libraries and Reading Promotion Act was enacted in 1994, which stipulated the contents of libraries and reading promotion activities together. As a result, “Reading Week,” which had been organized by the Korean Library Association (KLA) and promoted by government ministries and the publishing industry since 1955, evolved into “Reading Month” by decree.

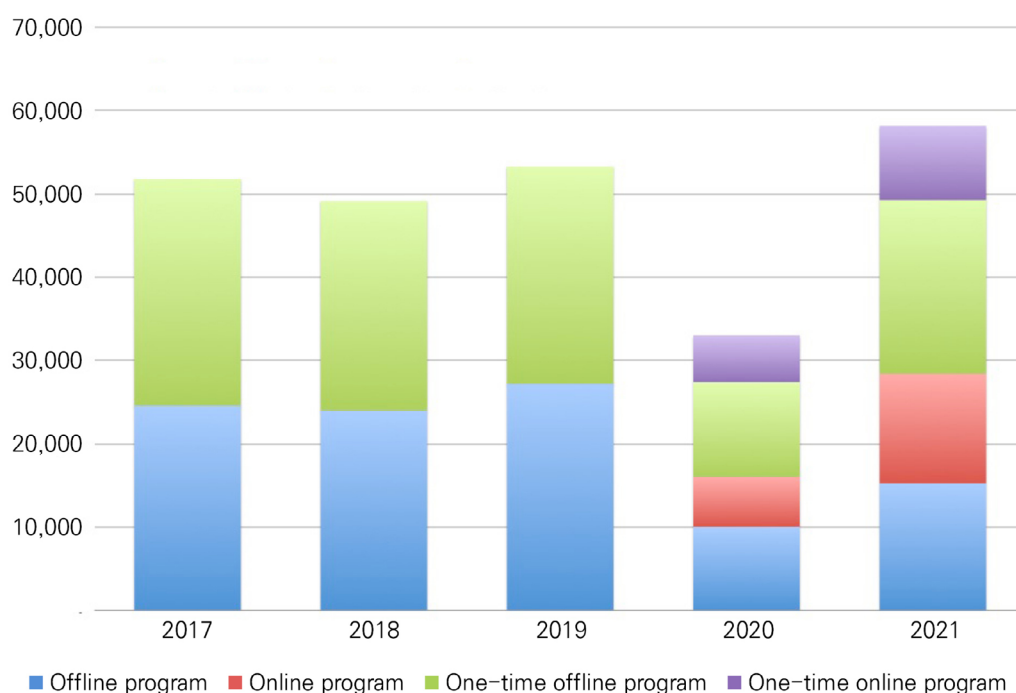
Since then, the importance of such promotional activities has been further emphasized, and the awareness that reading activities are not limited to libraries has grown. Consequently, the Libraries and Reading Promotion Act was separated into the Library Act and the Reading Culture Promotion Act on April 5, 2007, to promote growth in each area, and to shift to an organic cooperation between libraries and reading promotion activities. As a result, reading promotion activities in Korea expanded beyond the realm of libraries to become a fundamental activity in all sectors of society. In particular, it served as an opportunity for the national and local governments to make active efforts to promote reading.

### **Korean libraries have been running various reading programs**

Korean libraries carry out various reading programs on a regular basis. It can be seen in the “National Public Library Statistics

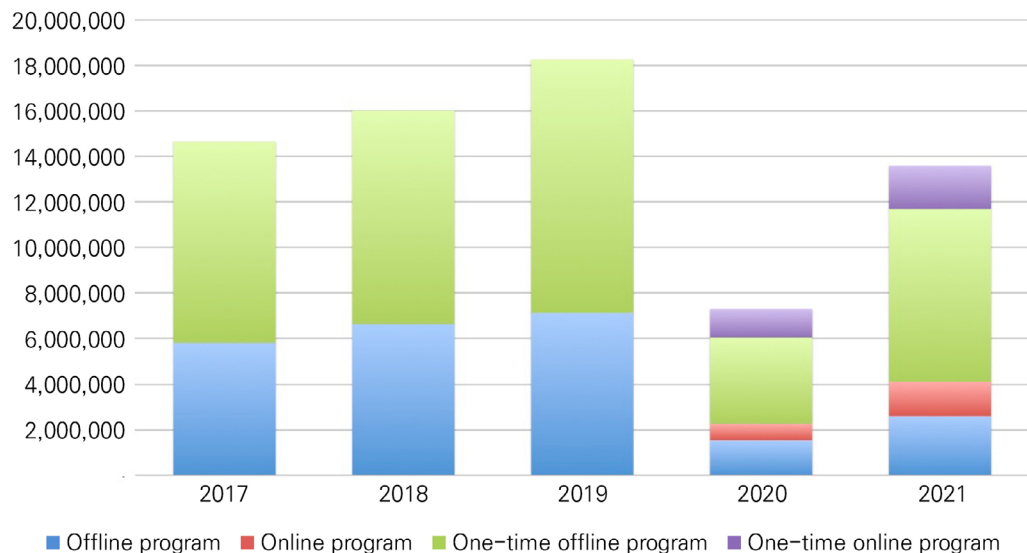
Survey” the government conducts every year. In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult for libraries to provide full services, the number of programs and participants decreased significantly. Still, in 2021, when the pandemic situation began to improve, the number of programs started to increase again, and libraries are now offering more diverse programs. As of 2021, there were 58,144 programs (including online and offline and one-time programs), which is about 48 programs per library. The number of participants reached almost 13.6 million (11,256 per library). There are also many book clubs that are running in libraries. As of the end of 2021, there were 5,278 book clubs (4.4 per library) and 57,199 participants (about 48 per library).

Number of library/reading-related programs at public libraries



Source: National Library Statistics System

### Number of participants in library/reading-related programs at public libraries



Source: National Library Statistics System

Korean libraries conduct reading activities on a regular basis, but they also hold intensive reading programs when there are special occasions or issues related to books. The best example of this is Library Week, which is held annually from April 12-18 by the Korean Library Association (KLA). Started in 1964 to promote the value and necessity of libraries and lay the groundwork for a national reading campaign, Library Week has been a representative library event in Korea for 59 years. With the revision of the Library Act in 2022, the Korean government has been organizing the event in cooperation with the Presidential Committee on Library and Information Policy of Korea and the Korean Library Association since 2023. During the event week, public libraries across the country hold various programs to encourage citizens to be more active in reading. These programs,

designed to suit each library's unique conditions, include reading quiz contests, writing book reviews, drawing pictures for children's books, exhibitions of original book illustrations, invited lectures by authors, and reading programs for the underprivileged and multicultural families.

From this year, in particular, the first day of Library Week, April 12, was designated as "Library Day" by law, and a library camp was organized at Gwanghwamun Square as the first event to promote various activities of libraries. You can check the Library Week website ([www.kla.kr/jsp/libraryweek](http://www.kla.kr/jsp/libraryweek)) for a full list of events. Another special day is April 23, World Book and Copyright Day ("World Book Day"). Public and school libraries also organize various reading programs for this occasion. As Library Week and World Book Day are close to each other, there is a recent trend to combine the two events to prepare richer programs.

Another critical time of year for Korean libraries is September, which has been recognized by law as the "Reading Month" since 1994. With Library Week and World Book Day in the spring and Reading Month in the fall, libraries have actively supported citizens' reading activities by planning and promoting various reading programs. During these periods, libraries organize meetings with authors, exhibitions, book talks, and experiential programs.

In addition, the "One City One Book" campaign has been actively carried out. First launched in Seattle, USA, in 1998, the program was introduced to Korea in 2003. Most of the programs are

organized by local public libraries. Initially, the program was held in two cities, but since then, the number of participating regions has increased, reaching 107 in 2022. The Library on Road program ([www.libraryonroad.kr](http://www.libraryonroad.kr)), which consists of book readings, lectures by experts, and field trips, is also a significant focus for libraries. Currently, the Library on Road program is recognized as the most popular library-based humanities books reading program. Since 2019, the more in-depth program, Wisdom School, has also joined the program.



*Posters for Library Week, Reading Month, and Library on Road in 2023*

## Various activities to promote reading in partnership with the library and publishing industries

Libraries' various programs to promote reading require close cooperation with publishers. More specifically, the Korea Reading Festival and the Year of Books activities are promoted together. The Korea Reading Festival ([korearf.kpipa.or.kr](http://korearf.kpipa.or.kr)), now

in its 10th year, is an important event that showcases various reading promotion activities in Korea in a new city every year. The host city's libraries usually take the lead in organizing the event. Many authors, publishers, and book-reading organizations also participate in the festival and organize various programs. The festival has recently evolved into a year-round reading program involving the public and the festival itself (usually held for three days in the first week of September).

The Year of Books ([bookyear.or.kr](http://bookyear.or.kr)), which began in 2018, is another good example of where libraries and the publishing industry collaborate. Libraries, publishers, bookstores, literary and media communities, and more come together and set up an organizing committee to plan and promote the event. A specific age group is targeted each year, such as teenagers in 2020, those aged 60 and above in 2021, young adults in 2022, and those in their 40s and 50s in 2023, to promote in-depth reading programs. (However, it has not yet been decided whether the Year of Books will be organized in 2024.) In addition, regular cooperation between libraries and publishers that hold rights to authors or original artworks of books related to books necessary for reading is also well established. For example, a reading culture platform called "Bookseed" ([www.bookseed.kr](http://www.bookseed.kr)) connects authors, publishers, and libraries (librarians) to support programs such as authors' lectures and original artwork exhibitions by providing information about books. Many librarians have been participating in the publication of the *School Library Journal*



([www.slj.co.kr](http://www.slj.co.kr)), which has been a great support for reading activities in school libraries.



Posters for the Korea Reading Festival and Year of Books

Recently, in Korea, there have been conflicts between the library community and the publishing industry over the establishment and expansion of the fixed book price law, the expansion of e-book services, and the review of the Public Lending Right system. However, they are facing common challenges of the times, such as the declining reading population and the recent increase in censorship behaviors to exclude certain books from libraries. At such a time, libraries and the publishing industry should be the leading actors in creating a book-reading society through greater cooperation and solidarity to help more citizens read and grow.

## Publishing Policy

# 2020-2022 Bestsellers: Korean Picture Books



#### 2020

1	<i>Magic Candies</i>
2	<i>The Bath Fairy</i>
2	<i>Carrot Kindergarten</i>
4	<i>Moon Sherbet</i>
5	<i>The Strange Mom</i>
6	<i>Cloud Bread</i>
7	<i>The Watermelon Pool</i>
7	<i>I Am a Dog</i>
9	<i>We'll Always Be Together Again</i>
10	<i>The Strange Visitor</i>

#1

## ***Magic Candies***

**Baek Hee-Na,  
Bear Books**

Eat some magic candies and hear other people's thoughts! A picture book by Baek Hee-Na, winner of the 2020 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.



#2

## ***The Bath Fairy***

**Baek Hee-Na,  
Bear Books**

Nostalgic memories of the public bathhouse and playful stories of imagination. A book that cultivates rich emotions in children through everyday fantasies.



#2

## ***Carrot Kindergarten***

**Bonsoir Lune,  
Changbi Publishers**

An adorable and heartwarming picture book about a baby bunny who goes to a new kindergarten and opens its heart to the new teacher.



## 2021

1	<i>Magic Candies</i>
2	<i>We'll Always Be Together Again</i>
3	<i>The Legend of Friends</i>
4	<i>The Bath Fairy</i>
5	<i>Super Hero's Big Trouble</i>
5	<i>The Watermelon Pool</i>
7	<i>The Story of How the Korean Shaved Ice Dessert Was Born</i>
8	<i>The Strange Mom</i>
9	<i>The Snow Kid</i>
10	<i>Iparapa Yamooyamoo</i>

#2

### *We'll Always Be Together Again*

Yoon Yeo-Rim·  
Bonsoir Lune,  
Wisdom House

A book with beautiful text and heartwarming illustrations that express a mother's support and love for her child's independence.

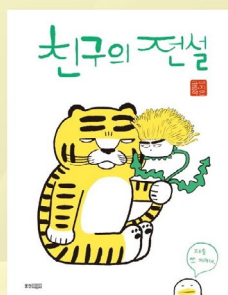


#3

### *The Legend of Friends*

Yi Gee-Eun,  
Woongjin ThinkBig

A picture book by Yi Gee-Eun, winner of the Bologna Ragazzi Award in the Comics - Early Readers category in 2021, which captures the heartfelt story of two friends in a way that is both humorous and touching.



#5

## Super Hero's Big Trouble

An Young-Eun·  
Choi Mi-Ran, Bear Books

A book that kindly and lucidly teaches you how to wipe your bottom after pooping – something you are too embarrassed to ask anyone about, but necessary for survival!



## 2022

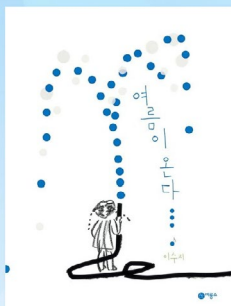
1	<i>Summer</i>
2	<i>Yeonni and Willow Bachelor</i>
3	<i>Magic Candies</i>
4	<i>The Watermelon Pool</i>
5	<i>The Bath Fairy</i>
6	<i>The Snow Kid</i>
7	<i>Heartway Convenience Store</i>
8	<i>The Strange Mom</i>
9	<i>We'll Always Be Together Again</i>
10	<i>The Legend of Friends</i>

#1

## Summer

Suzy Lee,  
BIR Publishing

A winner of the Bologna Ragazzi Award in the Fiction 2022-Special Mention category! A beautiful picture book by Suzy Lee based on "Summer" from Antonio Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons."



#2

### *Yeoni and Willow Bachelor*

Baek Hee-Na,  
Bear Books

A picture book that reinterprets an old Korean tale and tells a beautiful coming-of-age story where the protagonist overcomes isolation and disconnection.

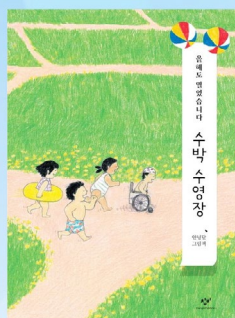


#4

### *The Watermelon Pool*

Bonsoir Lune,  
Changbi Publishers

An imaginative picture book by Bonsoir Lune about swimming inside a watermelon to keep cool on a hot summer day.



What works will reach  
the hearts of children in 2023?

**We look forward to your continued  
interest in Korean picture books  
that are recognized around the world!**

The data above is based on the integrated list of bestsellers in the children's category in Korea from 2020 to 2022 from the four largest bookstores in Korea, Kyobo Book Center, Aladin, YES24, and Interpark.



Let's Try

## Craft Your Own Special Miniature Furniture

### 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!

*Miniature DIY Small World, Small Furniture:  
Easy Making Best Items of 1/6 Doll Furniture*

- Written by Kim Kyung-Ryung, published by Sung An Dang, Inc.



Make life-like miniature furniture!  
Follow the friendly guide and have fun making furniture.



If you are a “Kidult (Kid+Adult)” who loves dolls and figures, this is for you. Here is a book on how to make miniature furniture for your dollhouse! Have you ever struggled to find the right miniature furniture or accessories for your dolls or figures? Have you ever wanted to make a special piece of miniature furniture of your own? The book *Miniature DIY Small World*,



*Small Furniture: Easy Making Best Items of 1/6 Doll Furniture* is the perfect book that will efficiently and kindly teach you how to make it yourself. Writer Kim Kyung-Ryung has included 35 miniature furniture items in the book in order of difficulty, along with her know-how from making miniature furniture herself and teaching her students.

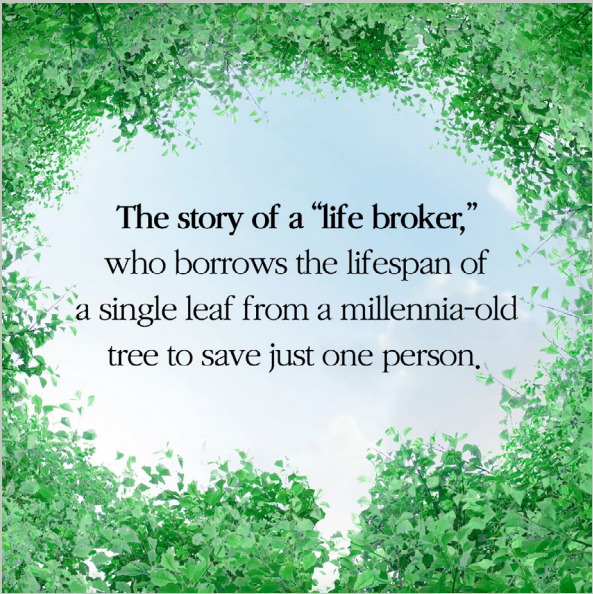
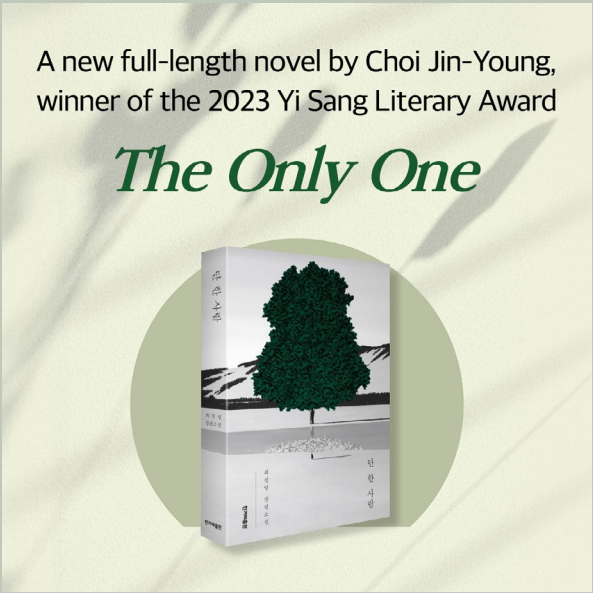
Even if you are new to making miniature furniture, don't worry - this book will help you craft the furniture you need for each situation and space, from buying materials and explaining each tool to creating furniture for the living room, bedroom, garden, kitchen, dressing room, and more. The book even includes furniture designs to help you with your work! You will find yourself making miniature furniture before you can even realize, with the desire to collect the full set. Dive into the childhood memories and the extended world of the hobby with *Miniature DIY Small World, Small Furniture: Easy Making Best Items of 1/6 Doll Furniture!*

[Go To Article](#)

[www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/info.php?ptype=view&idx=1298&code=info&category=92](http://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/info.php?ptype=view&idx=1298&code=info&category=92)

## NEW BOOKS

### The Only One



If you could save just “one” of  
the many deaths around you,  
which would you choose?



Suicide, homicide,  
accidental and natural deaths...

The realistic moments of death that appear  
in the dreams of 16-year-old Mokhwa,

And then a voice,

**“The one you choose gets to live.”**

Mokhwa must now make  
a choice that has been  
passed down  
through generations,



There is only one person  
that Mokhwa can save.

Is this mission for Mokhwa  
a miraculous gift from God,  
or a wicked trick of the devil?



“

Only humans pray for another's life.  
They are in need of God.  
They hope for a miracle.

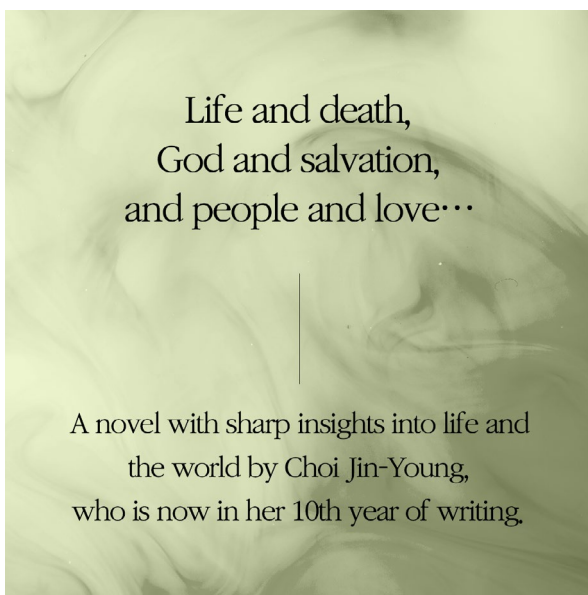
”

- from the book



Life and death,  
God and salvation,  
and people and love...

A novel with sharp insights into life and  
the world by Choi Jin-Young,  
who is now in her 10th year of writing.



There is only one life  
that you can save from countless deaths:

## *The Only One*



Choi Jin-Young, Hankyoreh Publishing Company

## BEST SELLERS

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### 2nd Week, October 2023

Best Seller Trends in the Four Biggest Online Bookstores in Korea

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In October 2023, books in the fields of economics, business, and self-help dominated the best seller lists of Korea's largest online bookstores, indicating that readers are preparing for the year ahead. For example, in addition to *Trend Korea 2024* and *Sayno Love*, already on the best seller list, *Forecast of the Times: Era of Nuclear Individuals* joined the ranks. The book *Forecast of the Times: Era of Nuclear Individuals* by Song Gil-Young, who reads and interprets the human mind through big data, predicts the future based on the data accumulated so far, and, as the title suggests, focuses on “nuclear individuals” as the main keyword. If you are curious about who nuclear individuals are and what choices we should make for the future, this book is a good read before the year ends.

Meanwhile, another keyword to look for in October's overall best seller list was “for adults.” Sitting side by side at No. 9 and



10 are *Psychology for Grown-ups that Think Too Much* and *Essential World History for Today's Adults* - both in different fields, but with the same target audiences indicated in their titles. The book *Psychology for Grown-ups that Think Too Much* by a psychoanalyst with 30 years of experience in the field is for those who are hesitant and wavering, sharing straightforward advice on life. Meanwhile, in the field of history, *Essential World History for Today's Adults* is for grown-ups who want to build their knowledge. It has been a highly sought-after book for many readers for its friendly explanations of decisive moments in world history, accompanied by relevant photographs.

Among the top five books in the health category, two books by pharmacist Cho Seung-Woo took the first and second places. Both books, *Complete Elimination* and *The 7:3 Rule of Eating Healthy and Dieting at the Same Time: Veggies and Fruits*, share the writer's story of how he lost his health and struggled to regain it. In third is *The Miracle of Correct Posture*, by YouTuber JSYJ, who has more than 1.3 million subscribers. The book features 66 easy-to-follow stretches that will change your posture in just 10 minutes a day. There are many other books in the health category that offer advice on how to improve your health. So, why not choose a book that you can work into your daily routine and start taking care of your health once again?

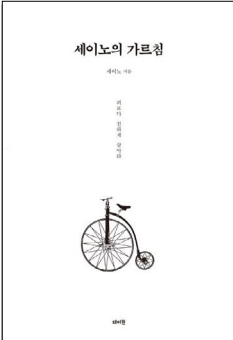
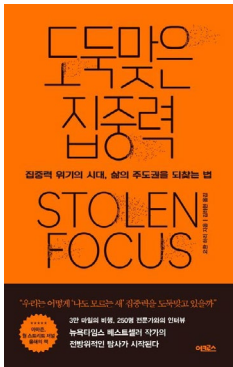

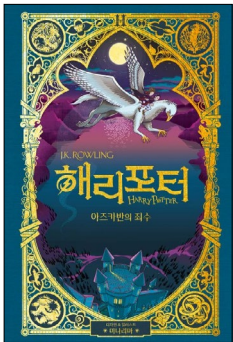
\* The rank of best sellers below was organized after integrating domestic best sellers in the third week of October from the four biggest online bookstores in Korea - Kyobo Bookstore, Aladdin, Yes 24, and Interpark.

Top 10 best sellers for the 2nd week of October


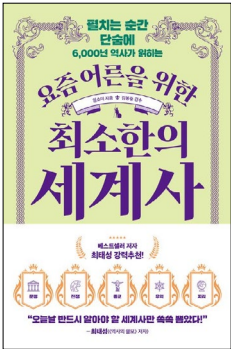

1		<p><b><i>Be Your Future Self Now</i></b></p> <p>Author   Benjamin Hardy          Publisher   Sangsang Square          Genre   Self-help</p>
2		<p><b><i>Trend Korea 2024</i></b></p> <p>Author   Kim Nando and others          Publisher   Mirae Books          Genre   Business</p>
3		<p><b><i>The City and Its Uncertain Walls</i></b></p> <p>Author   Haruki Murakami          Publisher   Munhakdongne          Genre   Fiction</p>
4		<p><b><i>Forecast of the Times: Era of Nuclear Individuals</i></b></p> <p>Author   Song Gil-Young          Publisher   Kyobo Book Centre          Genre   Business</p>




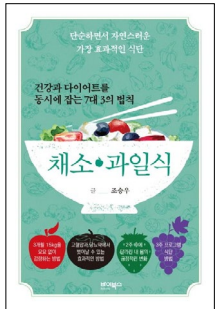



Top 10 best sellers for the 2nd week of October

5		<p><b><u>Sayno Love</u></b></p> <p>Author   Sayno Publisher   Day One Genre   Self-help</p>
6		<p><b><u>Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention</u></b></p> <p>Author   Johann Hari Publisher   Across Genre   Humanities</p>
7		<p><b><u>Morning and Evening</u></b></p> <p>Author   Jon Fosse Publisher   Munhakdongne Genre   Fiction</p>
7		<p><b><u>Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban</u></b> <b><u>(Minalima Edition)</u></b></p> <p>Author   J. K. Rowling Publisher   Moonhak Soochup Genre   Fiction</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 2nd week of October

9	 <p>생각이 너무 많은 어른들을 위한 심리학</p> <p>30년간 임상에서 연구하고 있는 김혜남의 최신 연구와 경험을 바탕으로 정리한 심리학에 대한 이야기다. "완벽한 내는 필요하지 않다." 그러나 이 세상 고요한 내는 필요하다는 게 다르다. 그것이 당신의 인생을 편안하게 만들어 줄 것이다.</p> <p>김혜남 출판사   메이븐 장르   인문학</p>	<p><i><b>Psychology for Grown-ups that Think Too Much</b></i></p> <p>Author   Kim Hye-Nam Publisher   Maven Genre   Humanities</p>
10	 <p>필자는 순간 단숨에 6,000년 역사가 읽히는 요즘 어른을 위한 최소한의 세계사</p> <p>최소한의 세계사 최대치의 역사</p> <p>최소한의 세계사 최대치의 역사</p> <p>"오늘날 반드시 알아야 할 세계사란 결국 이것이다!"</p>	<p><i><b>Essential World History for Today's Adults</b></i></p> <p>Author   Lim So-Mi Publisher   Big Fish Genre   History</p>
10	 <p>흔한남매 14</p> <p>흔한남매 14</p> <p>흔한남매 14</p>	<p><i><b>Common Siblings 14</b></i></p> <p>Author   Hunhan Nammae Publisher   Mirae N (I-Seum) Genre   Children's Comics</p>

Top 5 health books for the 2nd week of October

1		<p><b><u>Complete Elimination</u></b></p> <p>Author   Cho Seung-Woo Publisher   Simon Books</p>
2		<p><b><u>The 7:3 Rule of Eating Healthy and Dieting at the Same Time: Veggies and Fruits</u></b></p> <p>Author   Cho Seung-Woo Publisher   Bybooks</p>
3		<p><b><u>The Miracle of Correct Posture</u></b></p> <p>Author   JSYJ Publisher   Dasan Life</p>
4		<p><b><u>Managing Your Waist for 100 Years 2: Treatment</u></b></p> <p>Author   Chung Sun-Geun Publisher   Untangling</p>
5		<p><b><u>Diet Science 2022</u></b></p> <p>Author   Choi Gyum Publisher   Lean Changers</p>

KOREAN TRANSLATOR

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Yoojin Lee

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Profile

Yoojin Lee is a Korean-English translator. She received her bachelor's degree in French language and literature from Ewha Womans University. She earned her master's degree in translation studies from the Graduate School of Interpretation and Translation at Ewha Womans University. She won the Commendation Award in fiction for translating the novel *Boy Meets Girl* by Kim Do-eon at the 39th Korean Literature Translation Award held by the *Korean Times*. She embraces a wide range of subjects, and particularly has a passion for literature, humanities and social sciences, and children's literature.

- Contact: [krazylois@naver.com](mailto:krazylois@naver.com)

## Education

- Earned M.A. in translation studies, Graduate School of Interpretation and Translation, Ewha Womans University
- Completed the translation academy course, Literature Translation Institute of Korea
- Studied International Studies, Graduate School of International Studies, Ewha Womans University
- Received B.A. in French language and literature, Ewha Womans University

## Award

- Commendation Award at the 39th Korean Literature Translation Award held by the *Korean Times*

## Published Books

- *Enchantment* by Catharine May
- *The Collected Schizophrenias* by Esme Weijun Wang
- *The Electricity of Every Living Thing* by Catharine May
- *Wintering* by Catharine May
- *Woman on Fire* by Amy Jo Goddard
- *Human Aggression* by Anthony Storr
- *Ghost Boy* by Martin Pistorius
- *What We Saw at Night* by Jacquelyn Mitchard

- *Korean Cuisine: A Cultural Journey* (Think Trees) by Jeong Hyegyeong, funded by Korea Foundation
- *Who Stole the American Dream? II* by Burke Hedges



Books translated by Yoojin Lee

(*Enchantment*, *The Collected Schizophrenias*, *The Electricity of Every Living Thing*, *Wintering*, *Woman on Fire*, *Human Aggression*, *Ghost Boy*, *What We Saw at Night*)

## Other Translations

- *The Memory Taker* (Moonji) by Kim Ryeo-ryeong, a translation project sponsored by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea
- *Here Is Pure Island* (A Thousand Hope) by Kim Eun-Eui
- *Tech Trends 2022*, an annual report by Deloitte Anjin LLC

- English translation of broadcasting scripts for “K-Wave Extra”, a global TV show by KBS World
- Co-translation of “First Aid Guidebook” published by the Korean Red Cross
- Brochures for Bologna Book Fair, a translation project led by the LTI
- Article translations for *Dong-A Business Review* by *Dong-A Ilbo*
- Article translations for *Koreana*, a magazine published by the Korea Foundation
- Editing of English script of the Korean TV drama “My Name Is Kim Samsun” (Korea Creative Content Agency)
- Shu Uemura brochures (Shu Uemura Korea)
- Co-translation of the Dokdo website ([www.dokdohistory.com](http://www.dokdohistory.com)) (Northeast Asian History Foundation)



## #K-BOOK

## #Book Fair

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

*Five-Dog Night*

## 1. Publication Details

Title | Five-Dog Night

Author | Chae Young-shin

Publisher | EunHaeng NaMu Publishing Co., Ltd.

Publication Date | 2021-07-20

ISBN | 9791167370433

No. of pages | 276

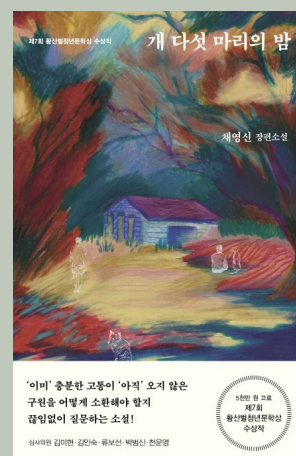
Dimensions | 140 \* 210

## 2. Book Intro

Se-min, a child suffering from albinism, and Hye-jung, a mother who has to protect Se-min from the world. This novel heavily depicts the road to tragedy for Se-min's family, plagued with bullying and violence. School violence, tragic family history, and the atrocities of religious cults seeking a 'savior' for the world—this novel endlessly throws questions about pain that we cannot avoid. "Where are you now?", "Where is your place now?"

– Winner of the 7th Hwangsanbeol Youth Literary Award

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=5711](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5711)

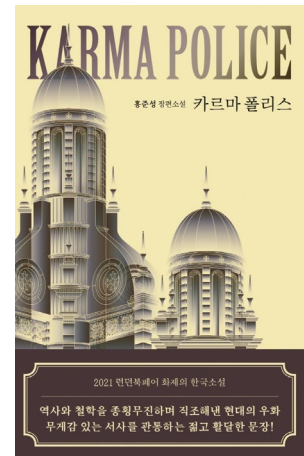




## *Karma Police*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | Karma Police  
Author | Hong June-Soung  
Publisher | EunHaeng NaMu Publishing Co., Ltd.  
Publication Date | 2021-04-09  
ISBN | 9791191071528  
No. of pages | 380  
Dimensions | 135 \* 205



### 2. Book Intro

The backdrop of the novel is an imaginary city, Bimoe-si. The history of this city, governed by Queen Thorn, is a short version of the history of mankind to the present. So, in a way, it is a kind of natural history museum. The story begins with a bat flying high into the air. The bat had survived by eating bookworms in a corner of an antique bookstore. But the day the store closed, he was dragged out into the world. And that very day he was killed by a peregrine falcon. A man selling medicinal herbs discovers the bat's carcass and sells it for medicinal purposes. Mrs. Glass, who boiled the bat and drank the water, bears 42, a baby resembling a bat. These scenes, which at first glance seem insignificant, fit into a larger story through a chain of events that fall like dominoes as the novel progresses.

42, born in this manner, is one of the few survivors of the Great Flood. The Great Flood refers to a disaster that occurred when a dam, constructed as a major civil engineering project that Queen Thorn promoted to stop inflation, collapsed. The name 42 comes from the serial number given to him, a flood survivor. He was put in an orphanage, but due to his facial resemblance to a bat, he gets the opportunity to go to the palace. How will the life of a child, with a number instead of his own original name, develop?

As the reader can guess from the title, Karma Police, which is also the title of a song by the British alternative rock group Radiohead, this novel tells all the stories of the world surrounding 42 instead of a simple story of one character. Throughout the story, the novel reminds readers of the universal history of all times and places, and doggedly delves inside to see how the lives of the people are closely connected and affect each other like dominoes.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=5663](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5663)

## *I Became a Weak Character in a Dark Fantasy*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | I Became a Weak Character in a Dark Fantasy

Author | Seohong

Publisher | RS Media

Publication Date | 2021-11-04

ISBN | 9791168391000



### 2. Book Intro

The character he was training was in essence a totally weak character impossible for getting to the ending.

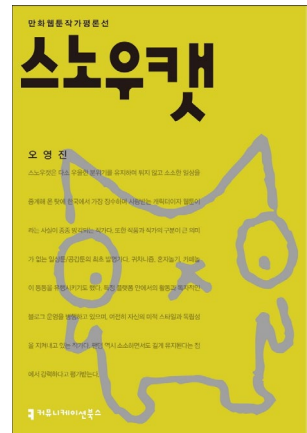
〈Character deletion has been rejected.〉 Not impossible, but rejected? He was flustered for a while, but soon he opened his eyes in a strange swamp in the middle of nowhere as the weak character he was training. “... I shouldn’t have downloaded illegally in the first place.” A dark age headed toward destruction. A survival story of a completely weak character for a safe return.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=7329](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=7329)

## Comic Webtoon Artist Review 50

### 1. Publication Details

Title | Comic Webtoon Artist Review 50  
Author | The Animation Society of Korea  
Publisher | Communicationbooks  
Publication Date | 2021-04-30  
ISBN | 9791128808135  
No. of pages | 100  
Dimensions | 128 \* 188



### 2. Book Intro

The Korean Animation Association mobilized 30 webtoon experts to complete this series over 5 years. The series compiles and analyzes webtoon writers from the 1950s to the 2010s, writers who are representative of almost all genres, including romance, comedy, action, adventure, horror, drama and much more. As webtoon is a medium that is characterized by the reader-writer interaction, the series aims at facilitating the access to Korean webtoon writers and their works.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=5702](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5702)

## Secret Circus

### 1. Publication Details

Title | Secret Circus  
Author | Jin Yeom  
Publisher | Woojunamu Publishing  
Publication Date | 2021-02-26  
ISBN | 9791189489182  
No. of pages | 40  
Dimensions | 230 \* 285



### 2. Book Intro

Bologna2021, Illustrator of the Year

A picture book without words that tells a rich story with only pictures. Unbeknownst to the mother and the father, the child puts on a circus performance of his own life. This work is a picture book without text. In the living room, the child plays ball with the dog, and the ball goes into the tent. A child enters the tent to find a ball and meets a fantastic animal circus. The child goes to the theater with them, prepares for the circus and participates in the performance. This picture book embodies a child's

imagination and fantasy world with a stable composition and meticulous description, so it tells a rich story without words, only with pictures. It's also entertaining to see a lot of unique and attractive characters.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=5538](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5538)

## *Learning Korean Writing through Reading Materials*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | Learning Korean Writing through Reading Materials

Author | Youn Namhee

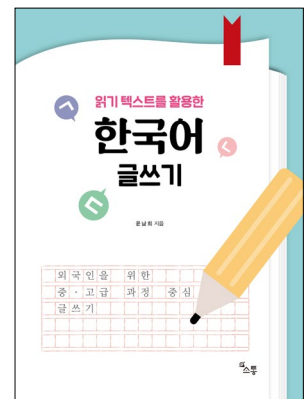
Publisher | SOTONG

Publication Date | 2021-02-15

ISBN | 9791186453964

No. of pages | 184

Dimensions | 188 \* 257



### 2. Book Intro

Recently, there has been a growing interest in integrating reading and writing in education, and efforts to implement this in practice have become more active. However, it has been difficult to find books that provide qualitative ways to combine these two skills. This book starts from this problem and presents strategic reading for improving writing skills, with a focus on natural integration between reading and writing. The book suggests learning various writing styles through reading materials and acquiring sufficient background knowledge before starting to write. Since the process of writing involves expressing and organizing background knowledge in appropriate ways, without sufficient background knowledge or knowledge of expression, one cannot write good content.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=5271](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5271)

## *Horai-Fried eggs*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | Horai-Fried eggs  
Author | Seo Hyun  
Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.  
Publication Date | 2021-07-08  
ISBN | 9791160947328  
No. of pages | 116



### 2. Book Intro

Horai, a fried egg, used to live on a bowl of rice. But now Horai roams freely through time and space. Sometimes, Horai pretends to be a hat on top of a child's head and other times becomes a blanket on top of dad. Also, Horai feels the breeze on top of a car while striking a pose. Look at Horai, who was squished by a child's bum during a play date, just to be reincarnated inside a watermelon. These moments in the book are interestingly unpredictable.

Horai flies anywhere it pleases without a care. It even goes underground and visits hell like it's nothing. Horai has been to heaven as well, after all! How different could it be? The brilliant and bizarre adventures of Horai are very fun to read. It feels like the author is extending an inviting hand to the reader by only placing one drawing and one short sentence per page, saying "There's too much space in this picture book for me to play alone!"

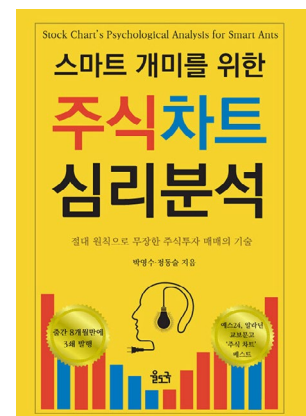
*Horai* is a book anyone can enjoy by opening up their five senses, and going with the flow. The author creates sensory images and makes the reader look at mundane things from a different perspective.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=5589](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5589)

## *A psychological analysis of stock charts for smart ants*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | A psychological analysis of stock charts for smart ants  
Author | Park youngsu, Jung dongsul  
Publisher | uldo nation  
Publication Date | 2021-05-05  
ISBN | 9791187911685  
No. of pages | 260  
Dimensions | 152 \* 255



## 2. Book Intro

This book teaches methods of reading the psychology of the public hidden in stock charts. By reading the psychology of the public hidden in the chart, you can discover the position you must choose. A battle that is over leaves a trace. Such traces allow you to read the psychology. Because individual investors are weak in information and capital, they must fight by utilizing chart psychological analysis. What would happen if you could read the psychology in the charts? You will understand the past and present stock prices and will be able to predict the future. You can identify the intentions of investors and, as a result, you will establish an investment strategy. This will allow you to generate profits based on reasons, no longer worrying about uncertain external factors.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=5212](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5212)

## *The most precious thing to me was myself*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | The most precious thing to me was myself  
Author | Kim Insun  
Publisher | Wood Pencil Books  
Publication Date | 2021-01-01  
ISBN | 9791187890386  
No. of pages | 212  
Dimensions | 127 \* 188



## 2. Book Intro

How many stories are hidden in a person's life? what it means to look back on one's life; it's about a woman's life that has been on going for 70 years—a life full of ups and downs. She was a Korean immigrant living in Germany, a sexual minority, and the first woman to establish a hospice for immigrants in Germany. In the year of Korean War, she was born in Kyung Nam Ma San, leaving behind the poor and miserable childhood, she migrated to Germany when she was 22 years old. She studied their language, cultures to be a nurse and settled in German society. She fell in love and got married. And then a woman came to her as in destiny. She divorced to choose her. She established hospice between companion-heterogeneous culture with life insurance in 2005. Furthermore, she received a plaque of appreciation from prime minister Angela Merkel for this act. The activities of 'companion' have been continued by German humanism association under the name of 'hospice between companion and heterogeneous culture.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=5518](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5518)

## *Korea, in a Bird's Eye View: with Oriental Painting*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | Korea, in a Bird's Eye View: with Oriental Painting

Author | Ahn Choong Ki

Publisher | EAST-ASIA Publishing Co.

Publication Date | 2021-04-26

ISBN | 9788962623703

No. of pages | 215

Dimensions | 250 \* 350



### 2. Book Intro

*Korea, in a Bird's Eye View* is a collection of pen drawings that stacks up 32 South Korean cities into one brick wall. Alongside the drawings are historical descriptions of the regions and the people living in. Having majored in history, developing passion as a painter, and working as a reporter, Ahn introduces the realest of Korea, orbiting its diverse regions and people. The first chapter covers coastline cities. The second deals with inland cities. The third introduces bits and parts of the country's capital city, Seoul. Finally, the last chapter illustrates the continent itself.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=5590](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5590)



## INFO

# Sharjah International Book Fair 2023: Korean Pavilion

Unlimited Imagination

## Sharjah International Book Fair 2023

Korean Pavilion

*Unlimited  
Imagination*



Korea will participate in the Sharjah International Book Fair in November this year as the guest of honor.

With the theme “Unlimited Imagination,” Korea will take publishing professionals and authors with artistic creations to meet readers in Sharjah.





### Sharjah International Book Fair 2023: Korean Pavilion

- **Period:** Nov 1, 2023 (Wed.) ~ Nov 12, 2023 (Sun.)
- **Venue:** Expo Centre Sharjah in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- **Korean Pavilion:** Expo Centre Sharjah hall 5&6 L11
- **Host:** Sharjah Book Authority (SBA)
- **Organizer:** Korean Publishers Association (KPA), Sharjah Book Authority (SBA)
- **Sponsor:** Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA)

### Programs and Key Content of the Korean Pavilion ①

Program	Key Content
Exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Themed exhibition</li> <li>• Korean authors' exhibition</li> <li>• Picture book exhibition</li> </ul>
Seminar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures and talks by 6 authors from the literary, humanities, and webcomics fields</li> </ul>
Author Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet &amp; greet with literary authors</li> <li>• Meet &amp; greet with children's book and picture book writers</li> </ul>

### Programs and Key Content of the Korean Pavilion ②

Program	Key Content
Korean Culture Experience Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional Korean hand fan coloring, mother-of-pearl-making workshops, <i>hanbok</i> experience, and more</li> </ul>
Cultural Art Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fusion-style <i>gugak</i> (Korean classical music) and performances</li> <li>• Cooking demos and talks</li> <li>• Calligraphy workshop</li> </ul>



**On top of this, Sharjah International Book Fair 2023 will be running various programs through the medium of "books."**

**Be sure to check out the Korean Pavilion, where you can discover Korean books and culture!**

[Go to the Sharjah International Book Fair 2023 website](#)