

2024.01

vol. 66

K-Book Trends

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

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#K-Book	#Winter

TOPIC

Korean Picture Books Today

Closing the 2023 Korea Picture Book Award

Written by Han Yoonah
(Visual art critic and CEO of art publisher Tigress On Paper)

In November 2023, the winners of the first Korea Picture Book Award, organized by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism and the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA), were announced. Eight titles and publishers were honored in the grand prize, special prize, and rookie prize categories for fiction and nonfiction. Considering the size of the prize and the diverse range of winning titles, it was a good start for a new award system. The “picture book” genre is not yet fully established in the Korean publishing industry. For example, in large bookstores, “picture books” are placed in a subcategory of the pre-school category. However, the fact that we were able to clearly recognize “picture books” as a single artistic genre and reach a consensus

in the screening process to organize an “award for picture books” is thanks to the strong growth of the picture book culture in Korea.



The poster of the 2023 Korea Picture Book Award

I would like to see this in two ways: first, the contemporary picture book culture has matured and there is a wide range of readers who enjoy both the pictures and the text, and second, and more importantly, the range of picture book writers and producers (publishers) who produce works of high artistic achievement is wide. This “maturation” of the picture book culture started to become visible around the 1990s. This is when small bookstores, creators, researchers, and civil organizations began to categorize picture books as a separate part of children’s

literature and culture, or even as a larger category, a distinct art field. The background and history of the growth and maturation of the picture book culture in Korea can be found in an article by Kim Ji-Eun and Shin Soo-Jin published in *Changbi Kids* Vol. 83 (Winter 2023). The outcome - the 2023 Korea Picture Book Award - is a small knot in that context.

In this article, I would like to share some of the picture books I came across during the judging process for the 2023 Korea Picture Book Award. More than 600 picture books released in 2022 and the first half of 2023 were submitted for the award, which began in the summer. While this is not a large number, looking into these 600 titles was meaningful because it allowed me to plot the spectrum and coordinates of contemporary picture books. First of all, many of the books were being created within the conventional boundaries of children's books in terms of subject matter, narrative development, and visual presentation. For example, in terms of subject matter, there were many classical subjects. Particularly among the "adventures and growth of children," there were many works that looked at inner growth or psychological deficiencies. However, among them, there were works that delicately recognized the connection between the children's situation and the social environment. There were also a few books by individuals who recycled existing conventions. It's a distorted phenomenon where the slogan "anyone can make a picture book" is understood as a book culture that produces works without much thought. These bipolar attempts describe

the “picture book scene” in contemporary Korea. Therefore, the field of “criticism” and the award system are becoming more important.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, books that explore new social relationships, cultural phenomena, and the changing nature of children have been in the spotlight. Kwon Jung-Min’s *The Disappeared Dinner* (Changbi Publishers), the uncontested grand prize winner in the fiction category, explores the severed relationships and crisis of community created by a “contactless” society formed during the pandemic. The front cover illustrates a spilled bowl that seems to have been pulled off the tablecloth, and the back cover shows a pool of water, utensils, and ingredients lying on the floor. As you flip through the pages, wondering what is missing, you will realize that humans are not the only community in crisis. This is a book that questions the foundation of inequality: our food culture that exploits animals. In form, it describes a kind of “commotion” that revolves around the dining table and makes an aesthetic experiment that differs from the conventional grammar of picture books. “The disappeared dinner” carries a double meaning: the disappearance of “things to have for dinner” and the disappearance of “dinner time,” which, in turn, is a realm of reproduction. Reproduction and care are the domains of women, the material conditions that make the daytime hours of production possible, but also thoroughly unappreciated. It’s a remarkable example of how a picture book can address many different themes and conditions

and yet remain so tightly knit that it doesn't neglect any of them. It could be described as black humor, but with witty expressions that children can understand.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 66 – Go to the interview with writer Kwon Jung-Min

www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1326&code=interview&category=66

Rookie Award winner Jo Shin-Ae's *Gorong Gorong House* (Sakyejul Publishing) presents a compact illustration of various situations that occur in the space called home. It depicts household labor and child care in a very specific way, and you will be surprised to see so many different things happening on a single piece of paper at the same time. The main character's time in the picture book is physically long, but very short and hectic psychologically. Still, the book is full of tiny details that indicate it was drawn based on careful observations and records. Moreover, none of the details are trivialized - the quality remains high. The virtue of this picture book is that it does not portray all household "labors" only as difficulties, but also as strength and feelings that create a positive future.

The expression depicting the time of children, an important audience for modern picture books, has also been deepened and beautified. For example, the book *Did You Say I Am Pretty?* (Springsunshine Publishing) written by Hwang In-Chan and illustrated by Lee Myeon-Ae, which won a special prize, captures a child's unique time of growth in the school setting. It portrays how a child who has a "word" in mind and keeps thinking about

it, rethinks and realizes everyday life, nature, and friendships. What makes this child's time so beautiful is the lingering impression of poet Hwang In-Chan's "words" and the illustrator's pictures that visually depict the curious facial expressions of the child. Even the back and the shoulders of the little troubled child come alive. It can be said that this book is the best collaboration of text and illustration.

- * *K-Book Trends* Vol. 64 – Go to the interview of writer Hwang In-Chan
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1288&page=1&code=interview
- * *K-Book Trends* Vol. 38 – Interview with Go to the interview of author-illustrator Lee Myoung Ae
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=635&page=3&code=interview&category=66



The Disappeared Dinner, Gorong Gorong House, and Did You Say I Am Pretty?

Another great entry is Kim Hyo-Eun's *How We Eat a Cake* (Munhakdongne), which is about the daily life and bonds of a family with many siblings. Growing up together is a practice of sharing. Acknowledging each other's differences, but coming up with magical solutions when faced with a divisive dilemma - this democratic relationship is what picture books teach us.

On the other hand, there's also a book on a little heavier topic for children growing up. The book *Mephisto* (BIR Publishing), a special prize winner that captures the stormy times of growth and the dark side of society, demonstrates exceptional creativity in story and format. Children's lives are made more difficult when society creates dramatic fringes. Therefore, it is necessary to highlight writers' attention and efforts to see these shadows, recreate them in their works, and create meaning in their lives through their protagonists. Among the entries, works such as Jeon Mi-Hwa's *In the Next Month* (Sakyejul Publishing) and Bonsoir Lune's *Eyes, Water* (Changbi) are important in this regard. The book *In the Next Month* features a poor child who is forced to live in a truck instead of a house by an adult who is in debt, and *Eyes, Water* is a metaphorical story, but it also deals with poverty.

Picture books are also an important artistic topic in the world, as they make visual representations of the physical properties of books, such as format, paper, and binding. The number of artists attempting to do such experiments has also increased noticeably. For example, Minha's *A Round of Tightrope Walking* (Gloyeon), awarded the grand prize for non-fiction, presents a minimalist design of a traditional act of tightrope walking, utilizing the materiality of a book. It is a picture book that uses board books and threads to stimulate the senses of vision, hearing, and texture. It can be said that it expands the realm of knowledge and information in the "non-fiction" genre to the sensory realm. The

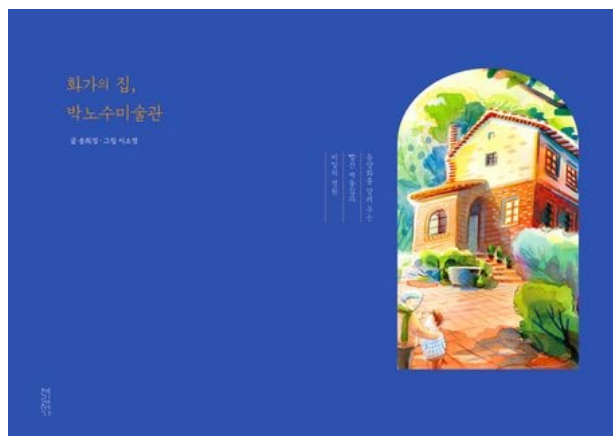
rise of picture books in the non-fiction category is truly exciting. Among the entries, *Zhuchka, Kudryavka, Laika: A Dog Without A Name* (Kepler 29) - an independent publication by Jung Hye-Kyung - is a well-made pop-up book. Not only is the quality of the pop-up book excellent, but the story of Laika, the first dog to go into space, is framed through the lens of the emerging “animal rights” movement. Also, *Let’s Shout Out “Dignity”* (Sakyejul Publishing) features a witty, human rights-sensitive graphic interpretation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with excellent design and illustrations. Another book, *An Artist’s House - Park No-Soo Museum: The Red-brick House and the Secret Garden that Teaches Oriental Painting* (Yeonrip Seoga), is an art historian’s account of modern art history and artists. The artistic knowledge is presented in a composition that actually feels like walking through an architecturally significant museum building. It was an attempt to transform space into “papers,” a new direction in book editing.



How We Eat a Cake, Mephisto, In the Next Month, and Eyes, Water



A Round of Tightrope Walking, Zhuchka, Kudryavka, Laika, Let's Shout Out "Dignity"

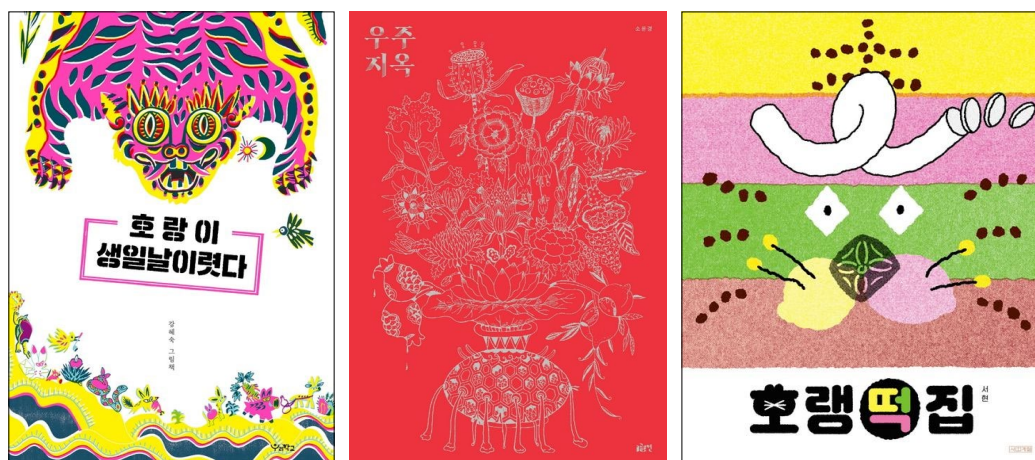


An Artist's House – Park No-Soo Museum

“Old tales” and classical subjects that constitute an important part of Korean picture books are now undergoing various innovations. This is an important feature of contemporary Korean picture books. For example, *Tiger's Party* (Woorischool), which won the special prize, presents an interesting twist on the story of a tiger that has appeared in many traditional tales. In Korean folk tales, and amulets, tigers appear as fearsome creatures, but also as spiritual beings that have been loved by the people. The nine tigers in the book are the protagonists of different stories,

but they can be connected to each other because we feel similar emotions toward them. Recognizing this, the writer advocates for the tigers who seem to suffer unnecessarily and writes with the kind heart and humor of a child who feels sorry for them.

In addition, the modernized visual presentation of the folk tale elements makes it a captivating read. Among the entries, So Yoon-Kyoung's *Galactic Hell* (Gloyeon) satirizes modern society through the form and theme of disharmony. Also, Seo Hyun's *Rice Cake House of a Tiger* (Sakyejul Publishing) maximizes the heart-pounding narrative development, and Noh In-Kyung's *The King Has Donkey Ears* (Munhakdongne) captures the allegorical style with graphic design. As such, the category of art and literary references is wide-ranging. Old tales could be reborn with universal themes and modern aesthetics, all thanks to the experimental "vacation projects" of the aforementioned authors. The efforts of these authors, who are actively contributing to the expansion of picture book culture, are thrilling picture book readers. For example, Kim Su-Young's *The Story of a Rabbit* (Somebooks), a folding picture book, is an impressive graphic reinterpretation of the classic novel *The Story of an Underwater Palace* using metaphorical images of corrupt authority and the narrative of a rabbit who sees through it.



Tiger's Party, Galactic Hell, and Rice Cake House of a Tiger



The King Has Donkey Ears and The Story of a Rabbit

There were also quite a few picture books that tackled topics of modern history as important picture book themes. For example, *Wind Blowing On Mudeungeewat* (Iyagikot Publishing), which won the special prize, delicately documents how a community recovers from the traumatic events of the Jeju 4.3 Incident (the armed clashes that occurred on Jeju Island and the deaths of its residents in the process of suppressing them), as well as the region's language and culture.

The special value of this kind of locally based work, or “recordability,” is something to look forward to as a creative direction for picture books. The book *Okchun-Dang* (Gilbut Children Publishing) by Go Jung-Soon touched the heart by bringing a fact-based personal narrative into a contemporary context, while expanding the writer’s unique theme of never losing faith in and affection for humanity. An *okchundang* is a traditional Korean candy with colorful colors. They were used to decorate the table during big feasts and rituals. It is also a special food in childhood memories. This is because, after the rituals, these candies were usually given to children. While this was a way for grandmothers to make sure children weren’t left out of adult events, it’s not a popular sweet in modern times. Here, *okchundang* functions as an object that draws on a complex set of shared feelings about disappearing things. While stories that highlight old age are increasingly a feature of contemporary picture books, *Okchun-Dang*’s honest and emotional narrative of life stories creates a distinctive aesthetic.

Another entry, *Who Are You?* by Noh Hye-Jin and Noh Hye-Young (BIR Publishing), is a picture book about life based on the oral accounts of their grandmothers. The book is also impressive for its use of “memory objects,” such as a *soban* (a small table) and the seemingly overlapping narratives of the two grandmothers. There are also works about the “now” of the elderly. Among the entries, Yoon Yeo-Jun’s *Is It Warm There* (Jujube Books) is a book about the simple daily life of a grandfather who lost his

wife, and Ha Su-Jeong's *Doing Just Fine* (Woongjin ThinkBig) features a cheerful grandmother living alone who names objects in her home. Old age is a time when loss becomes an everyday experience, but it is also a time of vibrant life where people often discover new pleasures in everyday life. That's why it's welcome to see picture books that reimagine old age from a new perspective and with new expressions.



Wind Blowing On Mudeungeewat and Okchun-Dang



Who Are You?, Is It Warm There, and Doing Just Fine

Finally, I would like to point out that contemporary Korean picture books are not dependent on literature, but rather exhibit a remarkable expressive capacity as visual narratives. Among the

entries, Noh Seok-Mi's *Good Morning, Sun* (Changbi), Cho Won-Hee's *A Muscle Man and a Fat Lady - Lake* (Sakyejul Publishing), Kim Sun-Jin's *The Mushroom Girl* (Sewmew), Moon Ji-Na's *Summer Light* (Sakyejul Publishing), and Whelee's *The Forgotten Courage* (Changbi) are definitely noteworthy in that regard. I also would like to applaud high-quality "graphic novels." Lee Su-Yeon's *Two Friends On My Shoulders* (Sixth Summer) depicts the violence and scars of a challenging world, but it is also about growing up through the ability to interpret those scars. Today's Korean picture books share the pain and joy of growing up, while empowering readers to interpret the world.



Good Morning, Sun, A Muscle Man and a Fat Lady – Lake, The Mushroom Girl



Summer Light, The Forgotten Courage, and Two Friends On My Shoulders

SPECIAL PROJECT

[Book × Coffee]

Everything About Coffee We Love

Written by Hwang Ho-Rim (Coffee Science)

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.

Koreans are known worldwide for their love of coffee. Earlier last year, Agence France-Presse (AFP) published a feature on “Koreans’ love of coffee,” introducing the word *Eoljukah* (meaning iced americano even though I freeze to death). Explaining that Koreans drink iced americano even in the middle of winter, the story captured the attention of the world by highlighting their love of coffee in all seasons. Korea’s coffee

market has already grown to become the third largest in the world. According to a survey, the market for coffee shops in Korea is about \$4.3 billion (in terms of sales), which is the third largest after the US and China. Overall, coffee consumption also ranks seventh in the world, behind major developed countries such as the US, Germany, and Japan. Along with this increase in coffee consumption, interest in coffee is also growing. It is estimated that more than 2 million people have acquired coffee-related certifications since the first barista certification exam was conducted in 2005.

The growing interest in coffee has brought with it a greater diversity of content. Until the late 2000s, there were only about a dozen titles about coffee. It wasn't until the 2010s that the number of coffee-related books began to explode, thanks to the efforts of various writers. Most of the books published during this period were in the form of "generalist" books, covering A-Z of the topics and focusing on providing a holistic understanding of coffee. Starting in the 2020s, books that explore more specialized and detailed areas began to appear. More specialized content, such as introductions to coffee, cupping, roasting, home café, brewing, and hand drip, emerged, providing both theory and abundant technical references.

Experimental data and new technical terms, which were mainly sourced from foreign translations, have recently been largely replaced by Korean standards. Nevertheless, the cupping process, which is used to evaluate the taste and scent of coffee, and the

roasting process, which literally means roasting coffee beans, still use the standards and terminology of foreign institutions that systematized them academically. Despite this situation, Korean coffee people have published many easy-to-understand and detailed books for hobbyists and majors. Here are some of the representative books in each field about coffee for those who are new to coffee or want to study it in depth.

For Those of You New to Coffee



Korean and Taiwanese covers of *Coffee & Barista*

It is an era where people dream of owning their own cafe. Understanding the various extraction tools is essential to mastering coffee. In my book *Coffee & Barista* (Youngjin.com), I explain the history, structure, and characteristics of brewing tools, from historic tools that have been loved for a long time to newly developed ones. Coffee brewing tools can be categorized

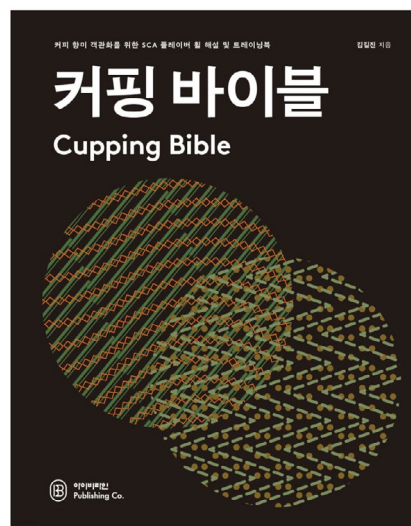
into filter, infusion, press, and boiling types, depending on the method. The filter method involves brewing coffee through a strainer. The infusion method involves simmering the coffee, the press method involves pressurizing the coffee, and the boiling method involves adding coffee to boiling water. These four methods of brewing coffee are categorized in this book, providing plenty of photo and video examples of how to use over 30 different coffee brewing tools.

Unlike other books, this one focuses on the essentials of coffee brewing tools at the beginning to help readers understand them better. From the middle, the book moves on to explain how to roast coffee at home, brewing theories, coffee cups, how to find good coffee, coffee stories, and menu recipes. It is a comprehensive book for home cafes that focuses on helping readers enjoy and experience the specialty of coffee baristas at home. It was the first Korean coffee book to be translated into Chinese and published in Taiwan, garnering a lot of attention.

Want to know how coffee flavors are rated?

Published in 2021, Kim Gil-Jin's *Cupping Bible* (IB Line) was written with the idea of how to make coffee a common, more objectified experience for people with different perceptions of coffee. The flavor scale for coffee was developed by the Specialty Coffee Association and is now like a common language around the world. However, it is not easily accessible to everyone

because of its specialist nature, and it can only be understood by spending a lot of time and money studying for a Q-grader or coffee analyst course at a specialized training center. However, this book breaks down the sporadic yet relatively simple translations of flavors and breaks them down into detailed categories by presenting two versions of the Flavor Wheel.

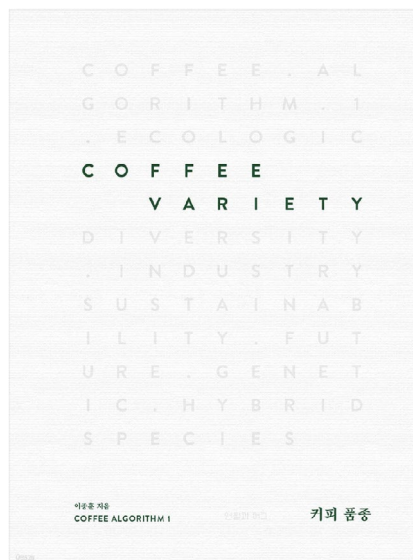


Cupping Bible

The *Cupping Bible* begins with an understanding of the chemical structure of coffee beans, followed by a detailed description of defective beans and processing methods, a glossary of coffee flavor and Flavor Wheel terms, and a thorough cupping protocol. When evaluating coffee flavor, it is important to objectify the perceived flavor so that there is not even one percent of subjectivity involved. It takes a lot of trial and error and repetitive training for anyone to be able to objectify coffee flavors. However, the existing flavor evaluation methods, which have been

translated and used in fragments, have limitations. Here, instead of the subjective and universal expressions that have been used so far, this book provides a system for fully understanding each item on the SCA (Specialty Coffee Association) Flavor Wheel, the world's common flavor language.

Now, it's time to talk about the different varieties of coffee



Coffee Variety

Coffee varieties are a crucial part of understanding the flavor and scent of coffee, but there's relatively less information and more inaccurate information than in other areas such as brewing and roasting. Lee Jong-Hoon's *Coffee Variety* (Penciandmug) is a book that fills this gap. Early on, coffee went by many names as it spread, causing confusion. It wasn't until the mid-1900s that the study of varieties began in earnest, and the decline in production due to coffee diseases served as a critical turning

point in the recognition of the importance of coffee varieties and the improvement of people's awareness of them. Coffee varieties have become a highly interconnected topic, not only in the rapidly developing specialty coffee market, but also in addressing the challenges facing the coffee industry, from global warming and climate change, which are currently the biggest threats to the world. Coffee varieties are so much more than just an ingredient - they relate to so many parts of the coffee industry, from the producers on the farms that grow the coffee to the baristas who serve the finished product to consumers.

According to a study conducted by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in the UK (2019), 75 of the world's 124 wild coffee species are endangered by climate change and are at risk of disappearing by 2040. Moreover, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Biodiversity Risk Scale, 13 of the 75 species were categorized as Critically Endangered, 40 as Endangered, and 22 as Vulnerable. The researchers predicted that if global warming continues to increase temperatures, coffee production is expected to drop by 40 to 50 percent by 2038, and that Arabica and Robusta, which account for about 90 percent of global coffee production, will be extinct by 2040. In order to respond to these environmental changes, the diversity of coffee varieties must be preserved. Research and basic knowledge of coffee varieties is necessary to find varieties that are resistant to climate change, pests, and diseases, and to ensure the long-term development of the coffee industry. Coffee varieties are the link

between the past, present, and future of the coffee market and the key to solving the challenges facing the coffee industry in this era.

Roasting brings coffee to life



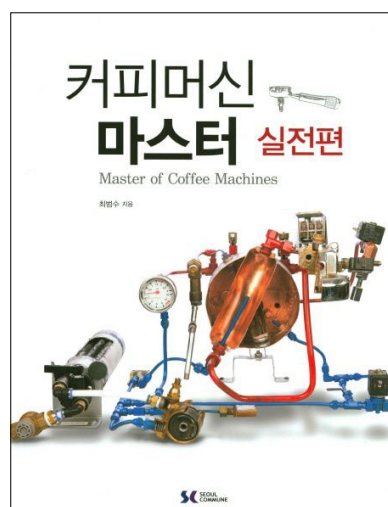
Coffee Roasting & Artisan

Roasting brings coffee to life. Before roasting, coffee beans are just a mass of carbohydrates, but when they are heated and roasted, they take on nearly 2,000 different aromas and so many flavors that the human senses can't distinguish them all. Today, 4 out of 10 cafe starters in Korea choose to open a roastery cafe where they roast their own coffee. This is because, unlike in the past, when franchised cafes were commonplace, more people have come to realize that the flavor of coffee depends on the skill and style of the roaster. However, roasting is not an easy job. It is something that you only get to know a little bit after you have

roasted countless times. My book, *Coffee Roasting & Artisan* (Sidae_in), shares a variety of ways to make the time-consuming and laborious process of roasting more efficient.

This book analyzes coffee beans and categorizes them into types (Type A/B/C/D), and shows how to roast coffee for each type. It also explains how to successfully roast coffee and what to do when the roast profile is wrong, providing objective data to support its many years of know-how. The book also explains the currently popular roasting terms around the world with diagrams for better understanding. In the flavor section of the book, the SCA flavor wheel, which was revised and published in 2016, is translated in full - the first to do so in Korea. In addition, the manual for the “Artisan” program, which records the roasting process, was analyzed to make it easier for anyone to use it.

Coffee machines every barista should know



Master of Coffee Machines

Since its commercialization in 1901, espresso remains the most powerful drink of all time. The allure of a deep, rich sip of coffee began to spread across Europe as it became relevant to young, non-alcoholic drink consumers, and with the development of cities, it spread across the globe. Coffee machines, which have continued to improve over the course of the century, helped speed up the spread of espresso. In the late 1980s, Starbucks began to make a name for itself in Seattle, and espresso-based beverages began to dominate the world. Introduced to Korea in the late 1990s, espresso is still the market leader today. The machine that makes this drink is the coffee machine, or the “espresso machine.”

One of the first things an aspiring barista learns is how to operate a coffee machine. Unfortunately, few baristas know exactly how to maintain a coffee machine. This is partly due to the fact that most of the coffee machines used in Korean cafes (about 80% or more) are imports from Europe, such as Italy and Spain, and thus not easily accessible. In addition, the complexity of the machines, the fact that they are not widely available like home appliances, and the fact that they are expensive equipment are factors that reduce accessibility. The book *Master of Coffee Machines* (SEOUL COMMUNITY) by Choi Bum-Soo focuses on improving the understanding of coffee machines, which are often thought to be difficult to learn, from the internal structure to the working principle, the causes and countermeasures of malfunctions, and how to manage them, using detailed drawings and photographs.

If you find technical terms like electricity and components intimidating, you can put the book down for a while. It's a good idea to pick up the book again when you get really curious and just study what you need to know.

Opening my own cafe - what to know before you start

The coffee industry in Korea is a dynamic market, growing at an average annual rate of over 6%. The Koreans' love for coffee is extraordinary, so much so that it is often referred to as an "early addiction to coffee and caffeine." According to statistics on coffee consumption in each country as of 2020, France consumes 551 cups, Korea 367 cups, the US 327 cups, Japan 280 cups, and China 9 cups, while the global average is 161 cups. Korea ranks second in the world, more than double the global average, meaning that each Korean consumes an average of more than one cup of coffee per day, or more than 2.5 cups of coffee per day for adults aged 19 and older. In terms of the number of coffee shops per million people, Korea is by far the leader with 1,384, followed by Japan with 529, the UK with 386, the US with 185, and China with 71. Coffee is now more than just a food; it has become a habit. But we have been too indifferent to this drink. If you look at it with a little bit of interest, you will discover that there are all kinds of disciplines in coffee: biology, chemistry, physics, mechanical engineering, food engineering, and many more. So, if you want to succeed in starting your own cafe, a dream that

everyone has at one time or another, I suggest you start with the knowledge and skills set by Korean coffee pioneers and build up a solid skillset.

EXPORT CASE

Enjoy the Taste and Scent of Korea With Genre Literature

Written by Toni Shi-Hyoung Kim (Chief agent at Greenbook Agency)

February 11, 2024, will mark exactly 30 years since Korean writer Djuna uploaded his first short story to an online SF community on the PC communication service “HiTEL.” The story was titled *A Butterfly that Traveled Back in Time*, and it was Djuna’s first official release. Since his debut in 1994, Djuna has published a total of 170 novels, and it is almost 200 if you count his unpublished works as well. He is the most prolific and longest-running science fiction writer in Korea. Djuna is like a cornerstone of Korean SF, with many SF writers confessing to being his fans, saying that they were greatly influenced by him. However, it was only recently that Djuna was introduced to the international audience. It was in 2019 that the short stories *The Second Nanny* and *The Bloody Battle of the Broccoli Plain* were

published separately as ebooks, audiobooks, and paperbacks in English-speaking countries. Then, long after that, in July 2023, Djuna's first full-length novel, *Counterweight* (Alma), was published in English by the Penguin Random House group in the US. Being the first English translation of Djuna's works, the book hit the Amazon bestseller list upon its release and received rave reviews in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *Wired*, to name a few.



Korean and English covers of *Counterweight*

It was 2022 when writer Kim Sung-Il's fantasy steampunk saga *Mercia Trilogy* was sold to Tor (<https://www.tor.com/2023/06/08/book-announcement-blood-of-the-old-kings-by-sung-il-kim/>), the largest fantasy publisher in the US. Only the first volume was published in Korea then, and even the third volume had only a synopsis, but the American editor, mesmerized by the epic narrative, offered a fully-fledged contract. Convinced after having

an online meeting with the writer, the editor quickly searched for the book's translator, and chose Anton Hur, who was known for his translation of *Cursed Bunny* (Rabbithole). Because Kim Sung-Il was fluent in English, he spent eight months working with the editor on the manuscript of the first volume, *Blood of the Old Kings*, making some changes and refining the text as much as needed. He said the process of polishing the manuscript with the editor's affectionate comments was a special and enjoyable experience. Meanwhile, the Korean manuscript was also rewritten based on the revised English manuscript. In addition, a Russian publishing group that visited the Seoul International Book Fair (SIBF) held at COEX in June 2023 purchased the rights to the work and began selecting a translator as soon as they received the revised Korean manuscript. Nowadays, our agency is in talks with several publishers to find a publisher for the Korean version of this work. Because we always looked for a publisher to translate the Korean version published first, it was an unusual experience to have the order reversed this time.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 37 – Go to the introduction of translator Anton Hur
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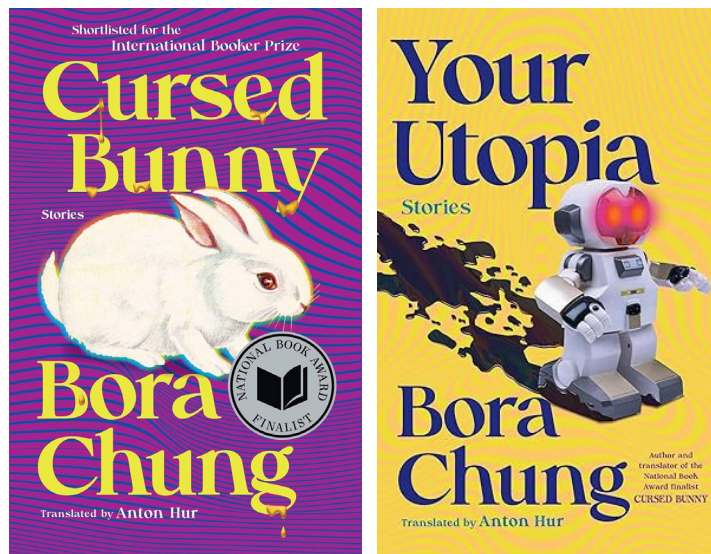
* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 47 – Go to the article about Korean books recommended by translator Anton Hur
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Bora Chung's novel *Cursed Bunny* was selected as one of the six shortlists for the International Booker Prize in May 2022, becoming one of the most celebrated works in world literature. Starting with a small independent publisher in the UK in 2021, publication rights have been exported to 23 countries around the world, including China, Spain, Indonesia, Germany, France, Turkey, Vietnam, Brazil, and Japan. Publisher Algonquin, part of the Hachette Group, which published the US edition of *Cursed Bunny*, acquired the rights for another of the writer's short story collections, the second to be published in English, *Your Utopia* (Arzaklivres), a year later. It is set to be released in January 2024. It includes eight stories of mixed genres such as horror, mystery, fantasy, and SF with a unique sense of black humor, such as *To Meet Her*, a story written in memory of the late Sergeant Byeon Hee-Soo for the enactment of an anti-discrimination law, the Korea Science Future Award winner *Seed*, and *A Very Ordinary Marriage*, which was released on Millie and generated a lot of buzz. In particular, Hachette Group is enthusiastic about Bora Chung's *The Midnight Timetable* (Purple Rain (Galmaenamu)), a horror trilogy released in 2023, and has signed an additional contract to pay tens of millions of won for the rights.

Recently, in November 2023, *Cursed Bunny* was named a finalist for the National Book Award for Translated Fiction in the US, placing the writer and translator Anton Hur alongside some of the world's top literary figures. "The book was already a favorite of English-speaking readers before it was chosen as a finalist, but

its sales exploded after it was nominated for the National Book Award,” said a representative of the Hachette Group.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 47 – Go to the interview of writer Bora Chung
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1006&page=3&code=interview



Cursed Bunny and *Your Utopia*, published by Hachette

But before any of the previous three, Kim Bo-Young has already made a splash on the world stage. Kim’s works are being published one after another around the world. The first Korean SF writer to have her work published by a major US publisher, Harper Voyager, *I’m Waiting for You and Other Stories* is a collection of three short stories, *I’m Waiting For You* (Separan Sangsang), *I’m Coming To You* (Separan Sangsang), and *The Prophet of Corruption* (Arzaklivres). It has been published in Taiwan and is awaiting publication in Arabic in Egypt. In addition, *On the Origin of Species and Other Stories*, a short story collection that was longlisted for the 2021 National Book

Award, was published in Italy in the fall of 2023, after which the writer was invited to participate in book talks held in three cities to meet local readers in person. Currently, its Chinese edition is being prepared. Another short story collection, *How Alike Are We* (Arzaklivres), was published in Japan, and *L'Odyssée des étoiles* (*Stellar Odyssey Trilogy*), a compilation of *I'm Waiting For You*, *I'm Coming To You*, and *People Traveling Into the Future* (Separan Sangsang), was published in France, which followed by an invitational event of the writer in the local community. Meanwhile, while Kim Bo-Young's novels are being adapted into various formats such as plays, graphic novels, and series on global OTT services, it is expected to meet her works on both the screen and the stage, as well as in paperbacks. She was also officially invited to the Sci-fi Worldcon held in Chengdu, China, in October 2023, giving a number of lectures, talks, and signing events.

* K-Book Trends Vol. 57 – Go to the interview of writer Kim Bo-Young
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1171&page=1&code=interview



I'm Waiting for You and Other Stories, published in the US,
and *On the Origin of Species and Other Stories*, published in Italy

On top of these, meaningful proposals are being made to Korean genre literature. For example, *Pandemic: Six Worlds* (Munji Books), an SF & Fantasy anthology published not so long after the outbreak of COVID-19, was translated and published in Japan by Kawade Shobo. Also, *Trapped in Love* (GU-FIC Publishing Company), another SF & Fantasy anthology by young female writers that describes a type of love that is likely to be found in the era of COVID-19, was translated and published in Germany by Cross Cult, a famous genre literature publishing company. In March 2024, an anthology, carefully chosen by a German editor who is a huge fan of Korean genre literature after reading dozens of short stories, will be translated and published by publisher Memoranda. Representative short stories by Kim Bo-Young, Djune, Park Seol-Yeon, Lee San-Hwa, Lee Seo-Young, Jeon Sam-Hye, and Bora Chung will be included in the collection.



Korean and German covers of *Trapped in Love*

There are some fun joint developments as well. For example, Heyjin Jeon, who wrote a series of novels featuring ordinary urban citizens' heartbreaking and touching stories with elements from ordinary Korean food like *jjolmyeon* (spicy chewy noodles), gimbap, and soybean paste stew, has been receiving attention from many "book headhunters" in the US and UK. Some even made appeals that they would like to acquire options for the translation's publication rights for each language in advance, even though the title is only available as a sample in Korean with an incomplete proposal.

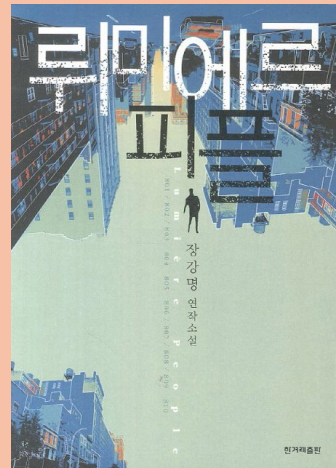
People from the global publishing industry whom I meet at international book fairs or private meetings all say, "We want to know what Koreans eat, what they like, and what makes them laugh and cry. Every little moment in their daily life—whether it be at school, in the workplace, in government offices, on the street, or at home—becomes valuable global literature to us. The genre does not matter at all." In short, they are eager to know more about the unique visuals, smells, and tastes that can only be felt in Korean works, regardless of their time frame, whether it be the Joseon Dynasty, the era of the Three States, modern Korea, or even far into the future. It's time for the long-built prowess of Korean genre literature to charmingly mesmerize the hearts of global citizens, extending beyond the Korean peninsula.

BOOK TRIP

[Into the Book ⑥]

The Street of Youth:
Shinchon, SeoulThe Silent Cry of Youth Found in *Reinvestigation* and
The Lumiere People

Written by Kim Young-lhm

*Reinvestigation and The Lumiere People*

Like anyone else, I, as a murderer,
also need meaning in life and ethical guidance.
No, I want a strong, compelling moral anchor
that will keep me from falling apart,
even more so because I'm a murderer.

- from *Reinvestigation*



The Underwood Hall at Yonsei University in Shinchon

Reinvestigation (EunHaeng NaMu), a novel by Chang Kang-Myoung, who has been recognized for his literary and public success in both the mystery and SF genres and who is often referred to as a “socialist mystery novelist,” is a story that takes place during the reinvestigation of the murder of a female college student in an apartment building in Shinchon, Seoul, 22 years ago. Shinchon, the setting of the novel, was also featured in Chang Kang-Myoung’s previous work, *The Lumiere People* (Hani Books). The writer uses real locations, such as Shinchon and Yonsei University, and fictional spaces in the novel to further immerse readers in the story. He once said that bringing real-life spaces into the setting of his novels is a way of captivating readers. We visited Shinchon, a place always crowded with people as it has a number of universities in proximity, and a place that is always full of youthful energy as it is sensitive to

trends. Let's take a trip to Shinchon, the setting for Chang Kang-Myoung's novels *Reinvestigation* and *The Lumiere People*, both full of vivid realism.

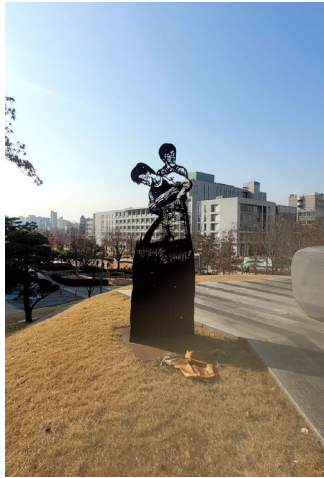
The pioneer of modern education in Korea - Yonsei University

When police later confirmed,
there was no research in any of the post-graduate labs at
Yonsei University that Min So-Rim was helping with.
Not just in the liberal arts college, but across all departments.
- from *Reinvestigation*

It is perhaps natural that Shinchon and Yonsei University appear in his novels, as Chang Kang-Myoung, the writer of both novels, is a Yonsei University alumnus himself. In *Reinvestigation*, Yonsei University is described in detail, including the dental college, the liberal arts college, and the central library. In addition to the usual buildings found in any university, Yonsei University also has some noteworthy places. The exotic architecture of Underwood Hall is a prime example. This old Western-style brick building is now used as a museum to commemorate Dr. Horace G. Underwood, the founder of Yonsei University. The ivy wrapping around the antique building reminds visitors of the prestigious Ivy League in the US, and is also a symbol of Yonsei University.

In addition to Underwood Hall, there are two other historic spaces that you should visit when you come to Yonsei University.

One is a memorial dedicated to patriotic martyr Lee Han-Yeol, who was a leading figure in the 1980s pro-democracy movement and a Yonsei University student majoring in business administration when he was teargassed to death in front of the main entrance during the June 1987 uprising. Here, you can imagine the intense chants of that day in the memorial garden for him, who withered away like a flower while fighting for democracy. Although *Reinvestigation* is set in the early 2000s, well over a decade later, there is a part in the story that goes, “When I was a sophomore in college, the Yonsei incident broke out. Thousands of students from The Confederation of Korean Students’ Union protested at Shinchon and were chased by the police into the school.” Other places capture a more distant past. For example, Kwanghyewon (currently Chejungwon) holds special significance as it was the first modern hospital in Korea and the cornerstone of Yonsei University’s medical school, where the development of Korean medicine blossomed. How about some quiet contemplation at the Yonsei University campus, where a calm, scholarly atmosphere envelops you, as if it is completely disconnected from the bustle of Shinchon Street?



The memorial space for patriotic martyr Lee Han-Yeol and Kwanghyewon at Yonsei University

Shinchon, where culture and nature blend in harmony

You can't prove the story that a dead person did it.
 Kim Sang-Eun's story that Min So-Rim and herself were close
 in a Dostoevsky Book Club cannot be proven.
 - from *Reinvestigation*

The “Literature Street” in Shinchon, formed in 2013, offers visitors a chance to take a break from the bustling streets and take a moment to indulge in romance. It is a place that honors the literary spirit of Korean writers representing the modern era while maintaining the spirit and culture of the times. Poems by Yun Dong-Ju, a poet who graduated from Yonhee College (the predecessor of Yonsei University) and therefore has a special relationship with Shinchon, as well as handprints by Jung Hyeon-Jong, Lee O-Young, Kim Seung-Ok, Jung Ho-Seung, Do Jong-Hwan, and other writers can be found decorating the streets. If you follow the traces of literature like solving a picture puzzle,

you will also come across Hongik Books, a longtime fixture in Shinchon. As such, it is a special experience for the romantics to take a moment to stand calmly in Shinchon, where everyone is moving at a fast pace, and recall the literary world of each writer.



The poem by Yun Dong-Ju and a handprint of writer Jung Hyeon-Jong

Reinvestigation and *The Lumiere People* are stories of youth set in the Shinchon. The passionate and hard-fought time of youth runs through the novels. Then, passing through the time in the novels, we step into the place where today's youth are working on their dreams, which is Shinchon Arts Space. Shinchon Arts Space is located behind the former Shinchon Station, facing Changcheon Culture Park. The Shinchon Arts Space and Changcheon Culture Park are both located on high ground, making them great observation spots where you can get a bird's eye view of the Shinchon landscape. If you climb up the somewhat steep path, you will be able to take in the panoramic view of Shinchon from the open landscape below. The Shinchon Arts Space, located in this spot, is a cultural and artistic platform

for young artists, giving them the opportunity to unleash their imagination and conduct creative experiments in line with the characteristics of Shinchon.

The space is open to everyone, not just creators, so it is a great place to stop by, breathe in the energy of Shinchon, and take a break while enjoying the artworks. Meanwhile, if you walk through Changcheon Culture Park slowly, soaking in the scent of culture and art, the walkway along the deck offers a slightly different view of Shinchon's colorful landscape as you walk, which adds to the pleasure and excitement. When you take a step back and look, you can see a lot more, and the scenery captured in that gaze is often memorable. In that sense, Shinchon Arts Space and Changcheon Culture Park are great places to keep more of Shinchon in your memory.



Shinchon Arts Space

Shinchon, seen through scenes from *Reinvestigation* and *The Lumiere People*, which depict extraordinary groups of human beings found in the ordinary lives of young people living in

Shinchon, brings us face to face with the colorfulness of life in the city. It will be great to spend some time applauding all the youths of our time by exploring the stories of the young people who lived vigorously in that environment and crossed the boundary between life and death.

ONE-LINER QUOTES

Time to Dive Into Korean History

Lawyer's Pick

Written by Jung Hye-Jin (Lawyer and writer)

Jung Hye-Jin is a Korean lawyer, who wrote the books *May It Please the Court* (Mirae Books) and *When Names Become Law* (Dongnyok Publishers).

Just thinking about Korea's evolved reputation on the international scene makes me giddy. When I first went to the US over 30 years ago, and when I lived in the UK 20 years ago to study, one of the common phrases I heard was, "Where are you from, China or Japan?" Korea is no longer the country it used to be, when it didn't have a distinct identity in the minds of Westerners. Kimchi, once unwelcome in dormitory communal kitchens because of its smell, has become a global favorite. Here

are two books with unique perspectives on modern Korean history, explaining what happened inside Korean society that led to this major shift in perception outside of Korea.



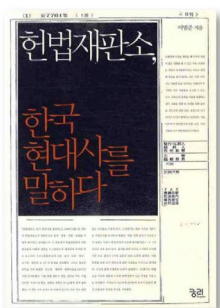
My Modern Korean History 1959-2020
Rhyu Si-Min, Dolbegae



I met the world in the summer of 1959 in
an old tiled house in Gyeongju, Gyeongsangbuk-do.

The first book is *My Modern Korean History 1959-2020* (Dolbegae) by Rhyu Si-Min. “I met the world in the summer of 1959 in an old tiled house in Gyeongju, Gyeongsangbuk-do.” As the first sentence of the prologue says, this book is an account of Korea’s modern history written from an individual’s perspective, appropriately blending “objective facts” with the “subjective experiences” of the writer, born in 1959. The writer was in politics during the democratization movements (he served as a member of parliament and Minister of Health and Welfare) and has been a full-time writer since 2013. He published the first edition of *My Modern Korean History 1959-2014: The 55-Year Record* in 2014, and as the book became a bestseller, he worked on revising it and released a revised and enlarged edition in 2021, which is this book. Here, the writer, who calls himself a

“libertarian,” explores the many facets of Korea’s transformation from an “evenly poor” dictatorship to an “unevenly rich” democracy. He writes that he feels “limited pride” in Korea’s modern history. By blending his “subjective experiences” with “objective facts,” he stays true to the perspective of an individual, but also pinpoints the macro trends of the major agendas that have shaped Korea’s modern history.



*The Constitutional Court Tells
the Modern History of Korea*

Lee Beom-Jun, Kungree



The Constitutional Court was born
from the **power of resistance**,
and the democratic constitution
punished evil laws.

The second book, *The Constitutional Court Tells the Modern History of Korea* (Kungree), published in 2009. As the title suggests, the book traces the modern history of Korea through the lens of the Constitutional Court’s major rulings. Established on September 1, 1988, the Constitutional Court itself was the result of a long struggle for democratization. To quote the writer, “The Constitutional Court was born from the power of resistance, and the democratic constitution punished evil laws.” The writer, Lee Beom-Jun, worked as a journalist specializing in legal issues

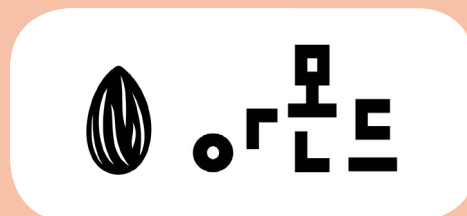
and wanted to write a book that closely covered the judicial history of Korea, like *The Brethren* by Bob Woodward of *The Washington Post* and *The Story of the Japanese Supreme Court* (最高裁物語-日本司法50年) by Yuji Yamamoto in Japan. But, judicial history is not the only thing you can learn from this book. It also features conflicts and developments in key values that have shaped the country today, such as the freedom to watch movies without government censorship, the question of whether it is “beauty and decency” to not marry someone of the same family lineage, and the extent to which people are allowed to go out into the public square to speak out, gather, and debate. It was translated and published in Japanese in 2012.

It will be double the fun to compare the two as you read. You will be able to compare the perspective of an intellectual who devoted himself to the democratization movement with that of a journalist covering legal issues working hard on the ground. You will also be able to compare the narrative style of interweaving objective facts with personal stories and the narrative style of analyzing modern Korean history through rulings of the Constitutional Court. I recommend that you immerse yourself in the charm of Korea with K-History, following K-Pop, K-Drama, and K-Food.

KOREAN PUBLISHERS

Almond Publishing

We make sturdy books with compassionate content



Logo of Almond Publishing

Almonds have a hard nut with a soft, nutty flavor when you bite into it. Just like almonds, there is a publishing company that approaches readers with a strong but gentle gaze. Almond Publishing is a one-man publishing company specializing in the field of humanities and psychology. Founded in 2021, it has published 16 titles in less than three years. This shows how diligently the company has been running since its foundation. During the short interview with Lee Eun-Jung, the CEO of

Almond Publishing, who says that it was fulfilling and joyful to publish psychology books as an editor, we could feel her strong love for the field. CEO Lee Eun-Jung was a dedicated publisher of books addressing the human mind with warmth in her gaze toward both writers and readers. We spoke with Ms. Lee, who has been bringing voices to the world that are often in the shadows but definitely exist somewhere.

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

Almond Publishing is a publisher specializing in humanities and psychology. "Almond" is a nickname for the amygdala, the part of the brain that regulates emotions and feelings. It is said to come from the Greek word "almond" because it looks like an almond. This is why I named the publishing house "Almond." I hoped its books would encompass the human mind, including emotions and feelings.

Was there a particular reason for choosing "psychology" as the specialty?

When I was founding the company, I looked back at my career and asked myself: what books did I have the most fun making? What books have been the most rewarding? I had to think long

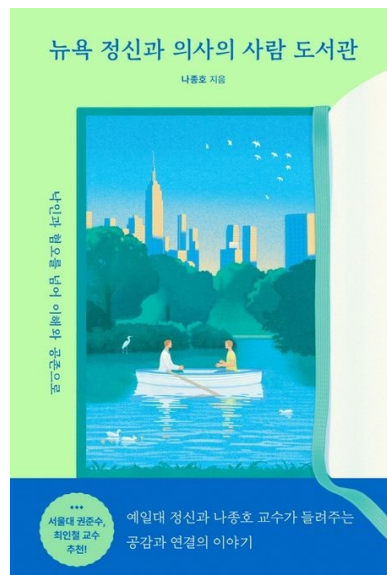
and hard about it. The reason I focused on “rewarding” and “fun” was because of sustainability. I thought that if it wasn’t rewarding or fun, it wouldn’t be sustainable. Then I realized that the books that I enjoyed working on as an editor at the previous publisher were mostly about psychology.

Another reason was that I thought it would be better for a small publishing house to select and curate books in a specific field. As a one-man publishing house with a lack of capital and limited maneuverability, I thought it would be less competitive to aim for a general publishing house. I guess you could say that I made a choice between personal preference and market positioning strategy, but I think the honest answer would be that I just happened to make psychology books like this. (laughs)

Your publishing bio states, “We make books that toughen your heart.” What are some of your signature books that best represent this identity?

This is a very difficult question, because I believe that every book helps strengthen the mind of its readers in its own area. However, if I had to choose one book, I would carefully pick Professor Peter Jongho Na’s *A New York Psychiatrist’s Human Library*. It is a book by a New York-based psychiatrist who advocates for the breakdown of stigma and hatred towards mental illness, and a move towards understanding and coexistence. Although public perception of mental illness has improved in recent years, there

is still a strong prejudice that psychiatric patients are just “crazy people.” This book stresses that mental illness is a thing to be “fought” just like physical illness, while countering the often dismissed topic of suicide, especially in Korean culture (Eastern culture). There are reviews that say that reading this book helped them break down their prejudices against suicide, and I think it is a book that represents Almond Publishing in that it is both heartwarming and firm.



A New York Psychiatrist's Human Library

You went from working for a large publishing house to founding a one-man publishing company, Almond Publishing. Was there a particular impetus for that?

I didn't have a specific reason; I just wanted to build my own house. It wasn't like my prior company life was challenging (it was actually very good). The books were doing well, I had a good

relationship with the people I was working with, and it would not have been weird to just stay there and work. But as I reflected on my life, I realized that I had always been a “go for it” kind of person when I was unsure what to do. I was in a very stable situation, but the moment I realized that I wanted to build my own house, I thought, “Oh, this is something I should do, even if I regret it.”

As much as I was happy in my previous workplace, there were definitely times in the early days of the business when I (very much) regretted leaving the company. Of course, I still don’t fully believe I made the right decision to go out on my own, but I realized that if I was going to do it someday, I should have done it sooner. If you are going to regret it if you do it, and if you are going to regret it if you don’t do it as well, then you should do it.

Having experienced both a large publishing house and a one-man publishing company, what are the pros and cons of being a one-man publishing company?

I think I was burdened by the downsides of being a one-man publishing house until 2022. The pressure to do everything by myself - I think that was the biggest weakness. In a large publishing company, the editor only needs to focus on planning and producing books because the tasks are well distributed. You can just concentrate on putting the book together and leave the marketing to the marketers, the business management

to the administration, and the production to the production department. However, when it comes to a one-man publishing house, you are pretty much on your own. The scope of your work expands infinitely, and I think it was a period of adjusting to that change until the beginning of last year.

Now, I can say that I have gotten used to it a little bit, though not entirely, because I have repeated the process of mastering the tasks that I hadn't been doing with each book, and also because I chose to take what I needed to take and leave what I need to leave based on the priorities. I mean, you can't be good at everything, and you can't do everything. You have to focus on what you have to do and not overlook the things you have to take care of. So, I think it feels incomparably satisfying when I can see even a small achievement. Besides, I think the advantage of being a one-man publishing house is that I can do what I want, where I want, when I want (not 100% of the time, of course).

You have published 16 titles since establishing the company in 2021. How have you been able to keep publishing so many books?

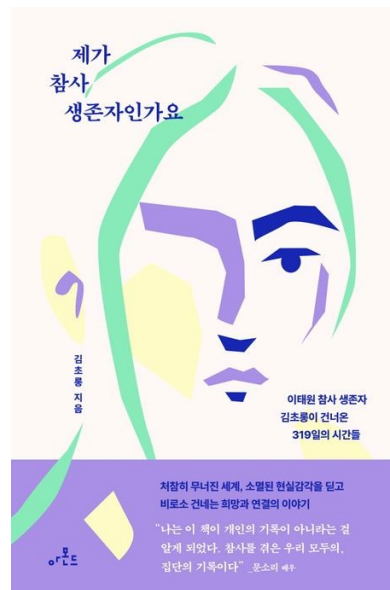
Sixteen titles... I'm surprised, too. I made it sound like I was working alone, but I actually have some very valuable partners. I have a great team of editors, designers, and producers that I have been working with for a long time, and without their hard work, I wouldn't have been able to keep releasing high-quality books as a one-person publisher.

Your most recent book, *Am I A Survivor Of The Disaster*, marks the first year of the Itaewon tragedy, which was widely reported by foreign media. It depicts the heartbreaking scars of Korean society. How was this book planned and published? Please give us a brief introduction to the book.

Cholong Kim, writer of *Am I A Survivor Of The Disaster*, was a survivor of the Itaewon tragedy that took the lives of 159 people on October 29, 2022. I was already familiar with Cholong Kim's story, as it went viral in online communities after the tragedy. It was viewed more than 500,000 times on anonymous forums, and was serialized in the leading daily newspaper, *The Hankyoreh*, and online newspaper, *Oh My News*, for more people to read. At the time of the tragedy, the general attitude toward it was, "What's the fuss? They went out to play and ended up dead." However, Cholong Kim's story said, "They didn't die because they went out to play, but because they were just going about their daily lives," and "It wasn't their fault that they went there, but they should have been protected so that they could return home safely wherever they went," and I think that changed the perspective and resonated with many people.

What I found particularly noteworthy was that the Korean Psychological Association (KPA) at the time saw the urgency of the situation and quickly provided free disaster trauma counseling. Cholong Kim took advantage of that counseling system and wrote about it in her book. She described how she

called the Association when she was experiencing traumatic symptoms and talked with the counselor. While counseling is not a cure-all, I think she demonstrated a wise way for individuals to cope with traumatic situations.



Am I A Survivor Of The Disaster

The surprise here is that Almond Publishing didn't make the offer to publish the book, but Cholong Kim did. Cholong Kim told me that she saw Professor Na, the writer of the aforementioned *New York Psychiatrist's Human Library*, on a popular Korean talk program and felt like she was receiving therapy remotely as she listened to his stories. She said that as she found and read our books, she thought that if it was the same place that published Professor Na's book, it must be the one that could be on the same page as her, and knocked on the door first. As soon as I opened the submission email, the first thing that came to my mind

was the realization that this was going to be a very important work, and I felt a sense of gratitude and emotional warmth that Cholong Kim believed in and reached out to me. I think it was a very emotionally-powerful manuscript.

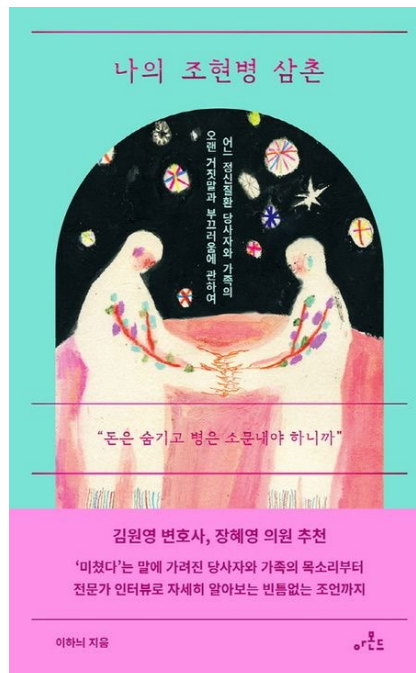
As you mentioned, there is a growing awareness of the importance and need for the field of psychology in Korea. Do you have any plans to publish books for teenagers or children to further expand your audience, or what other areas of psychology do you plan to expand into?

I think the young adult and children's book market runs on a completely different grammar that is not commonly referred to as "psychology." So, I don't think I will be able to break into it, but in the very long run, I wish to publish books that solidify the minds of teenagers and children. And while Almond Publishing is in the field of psychology, it makes general books written by experts in the field of psychology and mental health (psychiatry) rather than classical psychology. However, because discussing psychology without mentioning biology (life science, brain science, etc.) was impossible, I am also looking to expand into relevant science books.

Can you tell us about the most impactful sentence from any of your books? Please share an introduction to the book and any message you would like to give readers of Almond Publishing's books.

“Hide the money, rumor the illness” is a line from *My Schizophrenic Uncle*. It was also used as the tagline for the book. What I would like to point out is that this quote does not apply to mental illness. I would like to ask why mental illness, especially schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression, are not included in the category of “illnesses that need to be talked about.” The book *My Schizophrenic Uncle* is a story about an uncle who suffered from schizophrenia for 40 years. The writer, Hane Lee, is not only a family member of a mentally ill person, but also a journalist. While capturing the intense, challenging aspects of having a family member with a mental illness, she also tried to keep the story balanced by interviewing other family members, psychiatrists, and advocates.

While working on this book, I realized that the topic of mental health is both personal and social. I witnessed up close that people with mental illnesses and disorders, such as depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia, have to fight a double battle: fighting their own illnesses, plus the prejudice and stigma of society. That's why I decided to share not only the stories of experts, but also the stories of people with mental illnesses and disabilities, voices that are often hidden in the shadows but definitely exist somewhere.



My Schizophrenic Uncle

Is there any Almond Publishing book that you would like to share with international readers?

First, I would like to introduce *My Scary And Pathetic Patients*. The National Forensic Psychiatry Hospital is Korea's only national institution that houses mentally ill criminals, and although it has been open for more than 30 years, few people know where it is or what it does. Despite having 1,000 beds, the largest in the country for a single institution, there were only five psychiatrists working full-time, including the writer. That is nearly 170 patients per doctor. *My Scary And Pathetic Patients* is a book written by Dr. Seungmin Cha, a psychiatrist who has been working at the hospital for four years. It is the first book to tell the full story of what goes on inside the hospital, a story that has

never been properly disclosed until now.

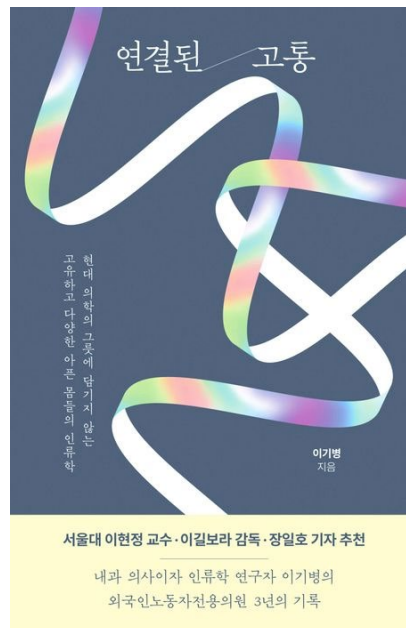
The writer, who conducted psychiatric evaluations of criminal suspects in high-profile cases, candidly shares the stories behind them, her thoughts and feelings about them, as well as various criminal psychiatric evaluations and stories of patients she has encountered. In particular, the stories of patients with paraphilias, psychopaths, and drug addicts, who are rarely encountered in general psychiatry, are some of the unfamiliar and unique cases that can only be found in this book. This book does not analyze the psychology of criminals. Instead, it is an open and honest account of a group of people who exist only as “scary people,” as only an insider who lives with them can tell.



My Scary And Pathetic Patients

The second is *The Connected Suffering*, an account of Dr. Kibyung Lee's three years as an internal physician and anthropological researcher working at a medical center for foreign workers. In an era of dichotomies that divide between health and unhealth, body and mind, life and death, and me and you, this book interprets and reconstructs sick bodies that cannot be put into a single medical category through an anthropological lens. As we confront the faces in this book, questions naturally arise - What is the ability to listen to the body? Are body and mind, life and death, completely separable? Are illness and death solely the responsibility of an individual? What is care, and is good care possible? These are profound questions that cannot be taken lightly, and this book does not provide clear answers. Instead, it invites the audience to imagine and investigate new possibilities.

Alternating between friendly medical knowledge and hard-hitting anthropological interpretation, the book takes us into a new world of stories that have never before been so accessible. As you read, you will feel as if you are sitting in a small clinic room. Sometimes, you will be in the mind of the doctor, feeling frustrated and anxious because you can't reach your patient, and sometimes, you will be the patient, feeling lonely and upset by the doctor's indifference to your story. As we read, we are brought face to face with the pain of the characters in the book.



The Connected Suffering

The last book I would like to introduce is *The Mind Behind Self-Harm*. It is a general liberal arts book that delves into self-harm, a topic that has been consumed by inflammatory articles and is only covered in the academic realm. The writer, Lim Min-Kyung, is a clinical psychologist who studies self-harm and a “former self-harmer.” In the book, she carefully reveals her experiences, thoughts, and feelings from the perspective of a self-harmer, while maintaining a scientific and objectivist perspective as a researcher, meticulously reviewing domestic and international research papers and historical literature. The book also includes interviews with ten people who are currently self-harming or who have self-harmed in the past but have recently stopped, as she wanted to capture the true feelings of more self-harmers beyond her own limited experience. She also interviewed a teacher who works as a counselor in a school. This is why the book is able to

maintain a “balanced” view without simply making emotional appeals to understand self-injury, or objectifying the self-injurer as an observer.

The writer says she hesitated about whether she should continue writing and thought about giving up several times. But, she was encouraged by her counselor, who said, “Keep writing for that one person for whom this book will be meaningful.” In the introduction, she writes, “I was too greedy to pick just one person.” Still, I’m confident that readers who finish the book will realize that it is partly an intimate love letter to her past self (and to all self-harmers today), and partly a gentle invitation to all of us to think about what a “life worth living” is.



The Mind Behind Self-Harm

We look forward to seeing what the future holds for Almond Publishing as it makes books that strengthen the mind. Do you have any plans for a new book or future goals?

I'm working on a memoir by a person with anorexia and a journalist. I'm also preparing a book that analyzes what emotions ordinary tragedies leave us with, and what emotional ebbs and flows they create, through the eyes of anthropologists. I really appreciate your anticipation of what's to come, but for now, my goal is to make each and every book this year with all my heart, but with hope, "Please, help Almond Publishing survive." (laughs)

KOREAN AUTHORS

Writer Kwon Jung-Min

“Picturing” an Ordinary Scene with a Fresh Perspective

Unlike novels, which use words to create a picture in the reader’s mind, picture books allow the reader to imagine the story using only “pictures.” If you are a reader who needs a break from reading and watching in the midst of flashy digital visual media, a picture book can be a shelter. Kwon Jung-Min finds new aspects in familiar scenes in everyday life and captures the hidden aspects of human beings in a fresh way through the art of drawing. Following is an interview with Kwon, who practices looking into herself through picture books.



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

Hi, I'm Kwon Jung-Min, a picture book writer. Picture books speak a different language and follow a different logic than normal books. When you feel like you are having trouble breathing in a world dominated by written language, I encourage you to open a picture book. You will be able to breathe completely different air.

Your book, *The Disappeared Dinner* (Changbi Publishers), recently won the grand prize in the fiction category at the 2023 Korea Picture Book Award organized by the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA). Congratulations on the award! Could you tell us more about *The Disappeared Dinner*?

I would like to thank the people who have put so much effort into organizing the Korea Picture Book Award. I hope that picture books will be widely recognized as an independent genre. *The Disappeared Dinner* is a story of absurdity. One day, when everyone orders delivery food, a live pig arrives instead of dinner. An entire uproar erupts over this incident. I didn't think the public would love the book because of its critical view towards humanity, but I'm glad it won the award.

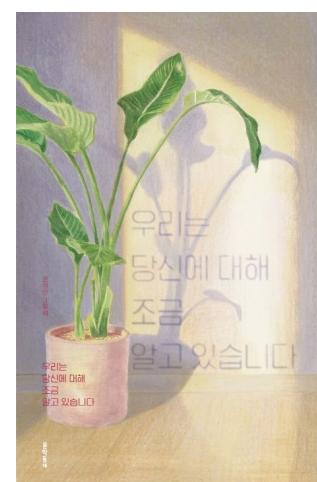
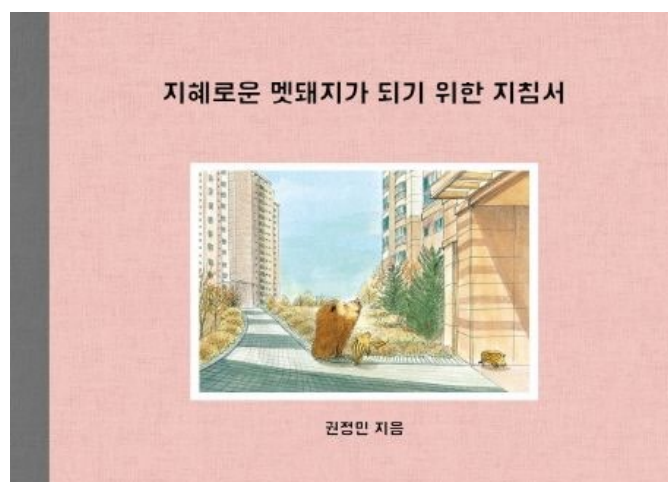
* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 66 – Go to the article about the 2023 Korea Picture Book Award www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/trend.php?ptype=view&idx=1325&code=trend&category=60



The Disappeared Dinner

The protagonists of *The Disappeared Dinner*, *A Guide for Homeless Wild Boars* (BORIM PRESS), and *We Know a Little About You* (Munhakdongne) are pigs, boars, and plants, respectively. It seems to make us think about the relationship between animals, plants, and humans, which we don't think about much in our daily lives. Are you interested in non-human animals or plants, and how do you think they should coexist with humans?

I'm intrigued by moments when the hidden side of humanity is revealed. In the relationship between humans and animals, the dual and contradictory nature of human beings is revealed, and animals appear as a kind of reflection. Coexistence is a difficult topic, but speaking for myself, I think the harder it is to survive, the more indifferent we become to others and the more insensitive we are to our environment. I think we need to practice going against the inertia of our brains in order to break free from self-centered thinking.



A Guide for Homeless Wild Boars and We Know a Little About You

“I want to persuade people using a fresh method rather than shouting at the top of my lungs,” you once said. In your books, you have made sharp satires about the underbelly of our society, including animal rights, the environment, and labor issues. What topics are you interested in these days?

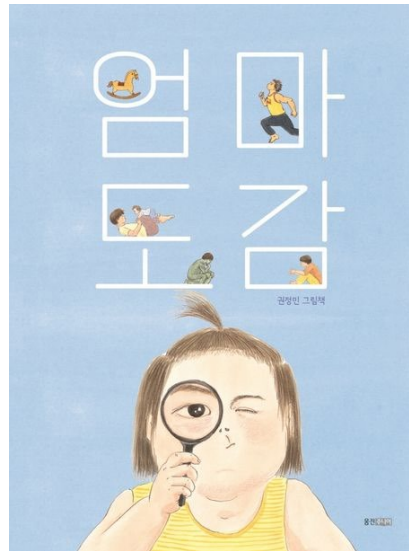
What I really meant was that the way you say something changes the attitude of the listener. That is why narration is important when working on a picture book. I usually take a scene or an idea that I encounter in my daily life, stretch it to the very end, and turn it into a book. Anything can be a candidate for a topic, as even the most familiar scenes can have an unexpected story behind them. I don't have anything set in stone, but I always feel like I want to make a new book.

The Mummy Book (Woongjin ThinkBig) was really refreshing because it was a book from a baby's point of view about “mom,” who was born again with the birth of her baby. How can we practice looking at our daily lives from a different perspective? Where do you usually find inspiration?

Inspiration doesn't come in spurts, but it seems that if you look at something long enough, you can see it from a new perspective. *The Mummy Book* was inspired by looking at myself after I gave birth and had to exist solely for my baby. Since so many social issues are woven into a person's life cycle, it would be a useful

exercise to look into oneself as well.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 59 – Go to the article about *The Mummy Book*'s export to China
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/trend.php?ptype=view&idx=1203&page=1&code=trend&category=62



The Mummy Book

You worked as a television writer before you became a picture book writer, but there seems to be a distance between the two. What made you decide to become a picture book writer?

Being a television writer has its own merits, but I knew I wanted to create my own work. I also had a feeling that I probably wouldn't be able to work at a station for long with my individualistic tendencies. Sometimes, I wonder if I can call making picture books a job, but on the days when I can just work in silence, I realize that it is a dream come true.

In some ways, it seems like there are similarities between writing an entire show and illustrating a picture book with a message. Has your experience as a television writer helped you in your work as a picture book writer, and what are the similarities and differences between the two?

They both involve the interaction of images and language. It is similar to a picture book in the sense that depending on how you arrange the images, in what order and pace, and what text you put on top of them, you can convey a different message. But, a picture book is a little more free-form and solitary because it is just me on a piece of paper, and I get to blame my own drawing skills.

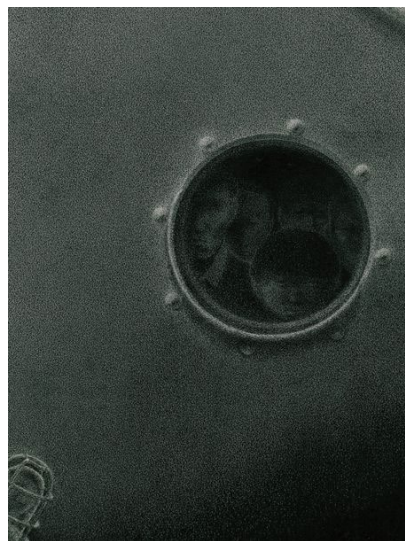
Recently, Korean picture books have been recognized around the world. You participated in book talks and seminars at the 2023 Bologna Children's Book Fair. What was the overall response like? Are there readers from the book fair that you remember the most?

At the 2023 Bologna Children's Book Fair, the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA) organized a Korea pavilion to display picture books by Korean writers. Some audience members who stopped by the Korean pavilion shared their empathy with *The Mummy Book* by talking about their experiences as mothers. It made me think that the identity confusion of motherhood is a global universality. I

also remember a question after the book talk event, “Where is the dad in *The Mummy Book*?” The question summarized the circumstances of mothers in a nutshell. Connecting with readers in faraway countries through books was a great experience that broadened my horizons beyond the confines of my small room.

Tell us about some of your favorite picture book writers and works that have influenced you.

Recently, I came across *Stare* (Pilmuryeop), a picture book by Kim Hwi-Hoon. My heart sank as I saw the eyes of a turtle staring into the darkness of a frighteningly black sea. The book speaks again to those who have become indifferent to the truth since the Sewol ferry disaster that happened on April 16, 2014. It asks us to stare at the truth together. I could feel the writer’s strong sincerity in trying to show the light by piling darkness on fragile paper.



Stare, a picture book by Kim Hwi-Hoon

We look forward to your next work, as your keen insights are enlightening and resonating with kids and adults alike. Do you have any plans or goals for the future?

Every time I work on a new picture book, I try to define what a picture book is. It is exciting to come up with a different definition each time, and I feel like the process of exploring and discovering picture books is also a process of discovering myself. I hope I can find the strength to keep going, even when the journey gets tough.

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

2023 Trends in the Korean Publishing Market and 2024 Forecast

Written by Baek Won-Keun
(President of the Books & Society Research Institute)



Rise of
Self-help Books



Growing
Digital Content



2024, the “Year of
the Children’s Book”

2023 Trends: Growth in self-help, comics, and parenting books

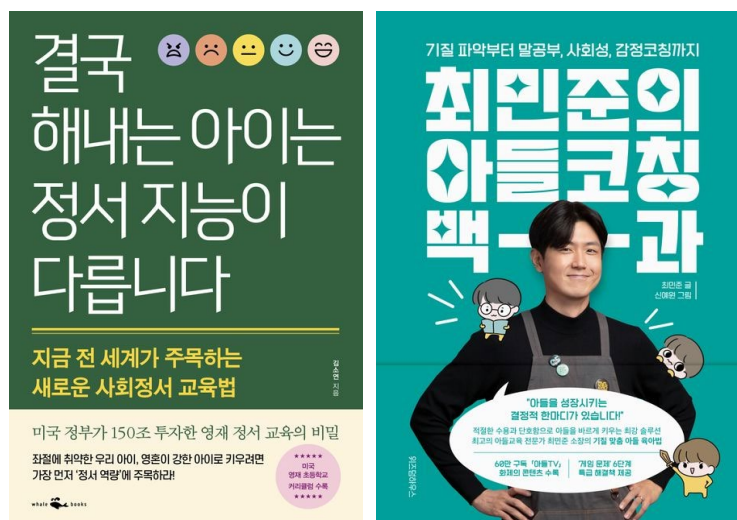
As the COVID-19 pandemic turned endemic in the spring of 2023, travel books saw a resurgence in popularity. The popularity of anime such as *Slam Dunk* has led to increased sales of manga, and popular YouTubers have joined the publishing market using

manga characters. In addition, books by popular writers for grown-up readers, such as physicist Kim Sang-Wook, have been transformed into children's educational comics.

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 42* – Go to the interview of writer Kim Sang-Wook

www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=894&page=3&code=interview

In addition, despite recording the world's lowest birth rate, the popularity of books on raising children in Korea has increased. While the market for marriage, family, pregnancy, and childbirth has decreased, the market for parenting and child education has grown, reflecting the changes in Korean society. Notable titles include *The Child Who Eventually Succeeds Has a Different Emotional Intelligence* (Whale Books) by Kim So-Yeon, a former elementary school teacher in Seattle, US, and *Choi Min-Joon's Son Coaching Encyclopedia* (Wisdom House), which addresses the concerns of all parents on how to raise boys.



The Child Who Eventually Succeeds Has a Different Emotional Intelligence
and *Choi Min-Joon's Son Coaching Encyclopedia*

The most distinctive trend in the Korean publishing market in 2023 is the unprecedented rise of self-help books. In the midst of rapid social change, younger readers looking for a compass for life, wealth, success, and wisdom have turned their attention to books about “how to live well” by self-made experts and famous YouTubers. According to Korea’s largest online and offline bookstore, Kyobo Bookstore, self-help books accounted for the top 3 bestsellers, with 15 in the top 100. The year-on-year sales growth rate of self-help books at Kyobo Bookstore increased from 18.0% in 2022 to 20.8% in 2023, and the proportion of sales revenue of self-help books continued to increase from 3.8% in 2021, 4.4% in 2022, and 5.4% in 2023. The strength of practical books is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.



*SayNo Love, A Store that Opens on Rainy Days,
I Do Not Bid Farewell, and May Your Day Be Warm*

The top bestseller of 2023 was *Sayno Love* (Day One). A self-help book by an undisclosed writer who uses the pseudonym “Sayno” instead of his real name, the book teaches young people how to navigate their lives. The straightforward life guide written by the

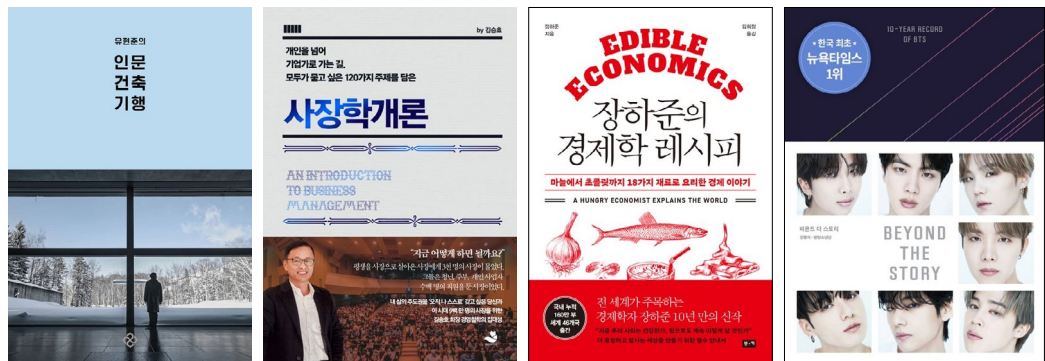
writer, who is said to have accumulated a fortune of 100 billion won, has sold about 800,000 copies since its publication in early March. It was the price of the book as much as the content that made it a hot topic. Despite being more than 700 pages long, it was sold at a list price of 7,200 won, with a 10% discount to 6,480 won on online bookstores. This is about 40% of the average list price of a book in 2022 (17,869 won). In addition, the e-book was distributed for free and downloaded more than 700,000 times. This is because it reflects the rich writer's opinion that he will not profit from the book. Unlike the profit-averse writer, the publisher and bookstore had the unusual experience of selling a bestseller and not making a profit.

The fiction category, which had five titles in the top 10 bestsellers in 2022, dropped to three in 2023. *The City and Its Uncertain Walls*, a new novel by Haruki Murakami (村上春樹), who has a loyal audience in Korea, *The Prophecy of the Honey Bees* by Bernard Werber, which has more fans in Korea than in the writer's home country of France, and the healing novels *The Uncanny Convenience Store* (Namu Bench), *Marigold Mind Laundry* (Book Romance), and *A Store that Opens on Rainy Days* (Clay House) by Korean writers, were well received. *I Do Not Bid Farewell* (Munhakdongne) by Han Kang, the first winner of the Medici Prize for Foreign Literature in France, also saw an increase in sales due to the news of the award. In the essay category, books that conveyed warm comfort, such as *You Are, After All, Someone That Can Do Anything* (Feelme) and *May Your Day Be Warm* (Book

Life), and books with life lessons, such as *Don't Let Your Emotions Become Your Attitude* (Highest) were popular. In the field of poetry, Na Tae-Joo continued his status as a national favorite.

In the field of humanities, *Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention* and *Dopamine Nation*, which highlighted the concentration problems of modern people, and books by popular writers such as *A Man of Liberal Arts Studies Science* by Rhyu Si-Min and *Yoo Hyun-Joon's Humanistic Architecture* (Eulyoo Publishing) were steadily popular. In the field of economic management, financial books such as *An Introduction to Business Management* (Snowfox Books) by Kim Seung-Ho and *Jang Ha-Joon's Edible Economics* (Bookie) stood out. In the field of children's books, educational books with quizzes and riddles were in the spotlight.

In the art field, *Beyond The Story* (BIGHIT MUSIC), a book commemorating the 10th anniversary of the debut of world stars BTS, and in the health field, books on barefoot walking, which is booming, were popular. In the culinary field, recipe books by influencers, and in the technology/computer field, books on practical skills related to Excel and Python were in high demand. A new publishing trend was the rise of books on retirement, farming, and country life, which were mostly purchased by readers over the age of 60.



Yoo Hyun-Joon's Humanistic Architecture, An Introduction to Business Management, Jang Ha-Joon's Edible Economics, and Beyond The Story

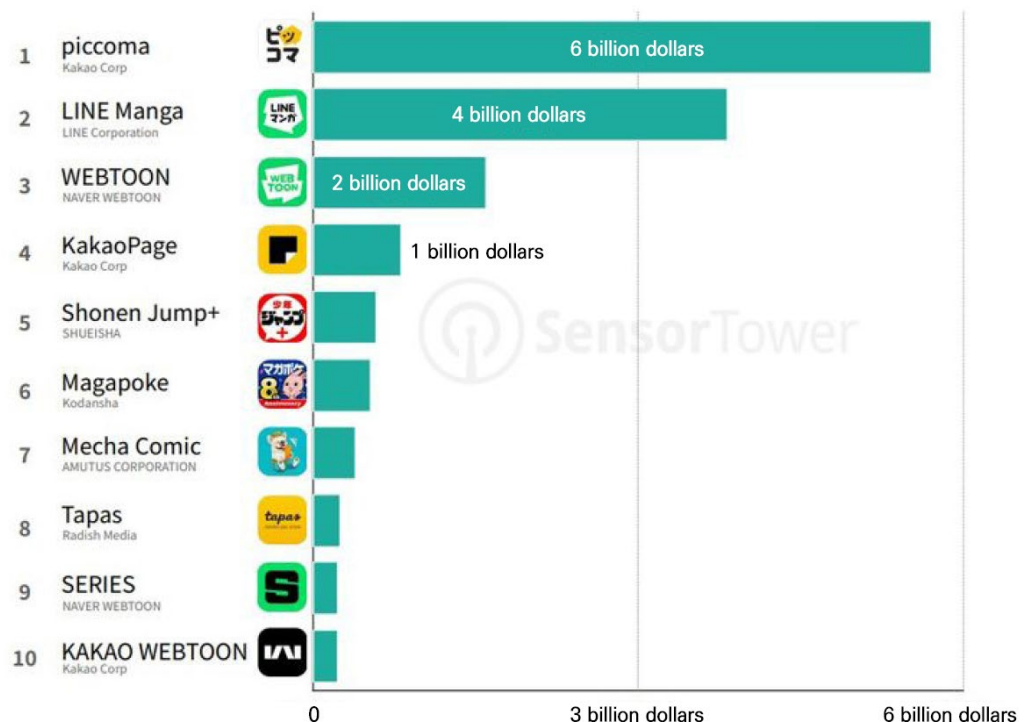
Growing digital content

In contrast to the stagnation of the paperback publishing market, the Korean e-book, audiobook, webnovel, and webtoon market has been growing every year. While it is difficult to provide accurate yearly market size statistics, it is clear that digital content is on the rise. According to a report titled “Survey on the Current Status of the Webnovel Industry in 2022,” published by the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA) in 2023, the webnovel market was estimated to be worth 1.39 trillion won in 2022. Large portal sites Naver and Kakao are the leading players, each accounting for about 40% of the market, followed by e-book specialist Ridi with 10%. The number of users of mobile apps for webnovel services was about 5.87 million. Readers read series or completed works in the romance, fantasy, and mystery genres daily or three to four times a week, and there were many habitual readers who read an average of 30 minutes to an hour at night.

Webtoons, an original Korean genre that gained prominence in

the global market before webnovels, are expected to reach 1.56 trillion won (2021 market size reported in 2023) and continue to grow. According to the “2023 Global Comic Book App Market Insights” released by mobile data analytics firm Sensor Tower, the top webtoon platform in terms of revenue is Piccoma, a subsidiary of Kakao, which operates in Japan and France (600 million dollars), followed by Line Manga, which is operated by Naver in Japan (400 million dollars). The top four global webtoon sites are apps from Korean-related companies, including Naver Webtoon (200 million dollars) and Kakao Page (100 million dollars).

Top 10 Worldwide Comic Book App Revenue Rankings from January to October 2023

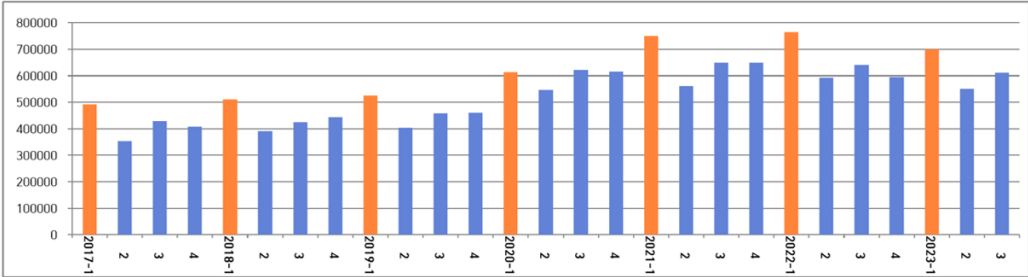


Source: Sensor Tower Inc. (December 2023), “2023 Global Comic Book App Market Insights”

Meanwhile, according to Statistics Korea’s “Online Shopping Trends Survey,” the year-on-year sales decline of online bookstores has been ongoing since the third quarter of 2022. Despite the fact that the non-face-to-face economy and online shopping, which grew significantly in 2020 and 2022 during the COVID-19 pandemic, are showing a downward trend in the publishing market, there are concerns about the shrinkage of the paperback publishing market given the large share of online bookstores in the Korean publishing market.

(KRW 1 Million)

2017-1	491,131	2018-1	510,634	2019-1	525,007	2020-1	614,204	2021-1	749,404	2022-1	765,518	2023-1	698,835
2	353,070	2	390,647	2	403,689	2	546,260	2	560,861	2	593,508	2	551,448
3	429,739	3	425,467	3	457,775	3	622,653	3	648,389	3	640,744	3	611,550
4	407,936	4	442,649	4	460,064	4	615,660	4	648,828	4	594,499		



Source: Statistics Korea (December 2023), Online Shopping Trends Survey data

2024 Forecast: Reading horizons expand in the Year of Children’s Books

Korean publishing market’s core sectors, such as study guides and books for the College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT), self-help books and practical books on finance and language, mind-healing novels and comforting essays for weary modern people, and educational books that serve as companions for raising children,

as well as the fandom phenomenon associated with famous writers and influencers, are likely to continue unchanged in the new year.

It is also expected to continue to publish books on various social issues, such as the 100th anniversary of the birth of former President Kim Dae-Jung in January, political books related to the parliamentary elections in April, and sports books related to the Paris Olympics in July and August, as well as books on the environment, gender, and nurturing. Above all, in 2023, generative artificial intelligence, such as Chat GPT, which has been a major concern not only in society but also in the publishing field, is expected to undergo a second round with more advanced and segmented publications.

This year marks the first year of the Korean government's (Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism) Fourth Basic Plan for the Promotion of Reading Culture (2024-2028). Last year, Statistics Korea's social survey showed signs of a rebound, with the adult reading rates rising by 2.9 percentage points to 48.5% in 10 years. We hope that the creation of a reading-friendly social environment will create a positive atmosphere for the publishing industry. In addition, private organizations related to books have designated 2024 as the "Year of Children's Books" and are conducting various activities. It is expected to contribute to expanding the possibilities and hopes of children's books.

Publishing Policy

2020-2022 Bestsellers: Korean Humanities Books



2020

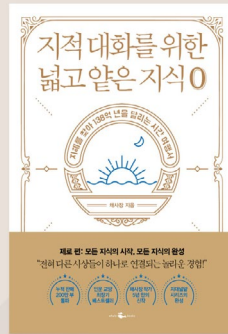
1	<i>Broad and Shallow Knowledge for Intellectual Conversation: 0</i>
2	<i>You're Always Right</i>
3	<i>When I Don't Know What I Really Want</i>
4	<i>Broad and Shallow Knowledge for Intellectual Conversation: 1</i>
5	<i>Seol Min-seok's Romance of the Three Kingdoms 1</i>
6	<i>A Book for Highly Sensitive People</i>
7	<i>Seol Min-seok's Romance of the Three Kingdoms 2</i>
8	<i>A Country You've Never Experienced Before</i>
9	<i>The Korean Trauma Cleaner</i>
9	<i>Vocabulary of Adults</i>

#1

Broad and Shallow Knowledge for Intellectual Conversation: 0

Chae Sa-Jang, Whale Book

A book about the wisdom of the human race, starting from the beginning of knowledge in prehistoric times - a liberal arts book that covers a wide range of disciplines.



#2

You're Always Right

Jung Hye-Shin, Hainm Publishing

Everything you need to know about empathy - a warm, empowering force for readers struggling with conflict - a guide to psychological CPR.



#3

When I Don't Know What I Really Want

Jeon Seung-Hwan, Dasan Books

A therapeutic time to examine your emotions and restore your sense of love - a book filled with the writer's truly heartfelt words!



2021

1	<i>The Future of Space</i>
2	<i>I Decided to Live as Me</i>
3	<i>Broad and Shallow Knowledge for Intellectual Conversation: 1</i>
4	<i>Broad and Shallow Knowledge for Intellectual Conversation: 0</i>
5	<i>You're Always Right</i>
5	<i>Use of History</i>
7	<i>The Analects of Confucius Read at the Age of 50</i>
8	<i>Korean Connotation Dictionary</i>
9	<i>I Want to Live Like a Tree</i>
9	<i>Is My Sentence That Strange?</i>
9	<i>Broad and Shallow Knowledge for Intellectual Conversation: 2</i>

#1

The Future of Space

Yoo Hyeon-Jun,
Eulyoo Publishing

In the post-coronavirus era, the way we look at the world has changed – a book exploring the future of spaces intimately connected to our lives.

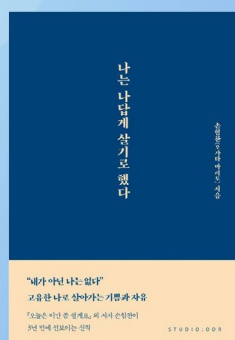


#2

I Decided to Live as Me

Sohn Him-Chan,
Studio Odr

A book that provides specific guidance on how to reflect deeply on yourself and your life to embrace who you are and live a more pro-active life.



#3

Broad and Shallow Knowledge for Intellectual Conversation: 1

Chae Sa-Jang, Whale Book

An all-in-one intellectual journey to navigating the real world and the easiest introduction to the field of humanities that helps you talk about any topic.



2022

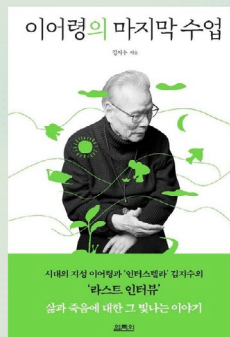
1	<i>The Last Lesson of Lee O-Young</i>
2	<i>Study by Choi Jaechon</i>
3	<i>The Analects of Confucius Read at the Age of 50</i>
4	<i>If I Were to Re-live My Life</i>
5	<i>Reading Nietzsche in My 40s</i>
6	<i>European City Travels 2</i>
7	<i>Read Law Classics with Cho Kuk</i>
8	<i>One Drop of Tear</i>
8	<i>Broad and Shallow Knowledge for Intellectual Conversation: 1</i>
10	<i>Psychology Letter to My Daughter</i>

#1

The Last Lesson of Lee O-Young

Lee O-Young·Kim Jisu, Yolimwon

The “last interview” between the intellect of the time, Lee O-Young, and interviewer Kim Jisu! A book about the truth of life and death as told through their conversation.



#2

Study by Choi Jaecheon

Choi Jae-Cheon,
Gimm-Young Publishers

A book by Professor Choi Jae-Cheon, who has been a keen observer of animals and humans, summarizes his thoughts on “studying,” which is particularly essential in this era.

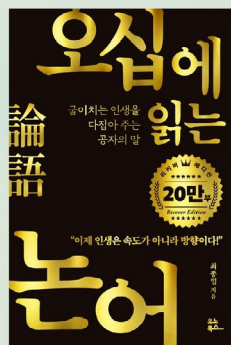


#3

The Analects of Confucius Read at the Age of 50

Choi Jong-Yeop,
Uknow Books

The Confucius quote,
“Life is not about speed
but about direction!” –
a book that will fill the
midlife void.



The field of humanities inspires
imagination and creativity through
the knowledge and liberal arts
contained in its books!

Discover a new "you"
by reading
Korean humanities books!

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

Let's Try

The Hottest Place in Korea, Right Here, Right Now!

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!

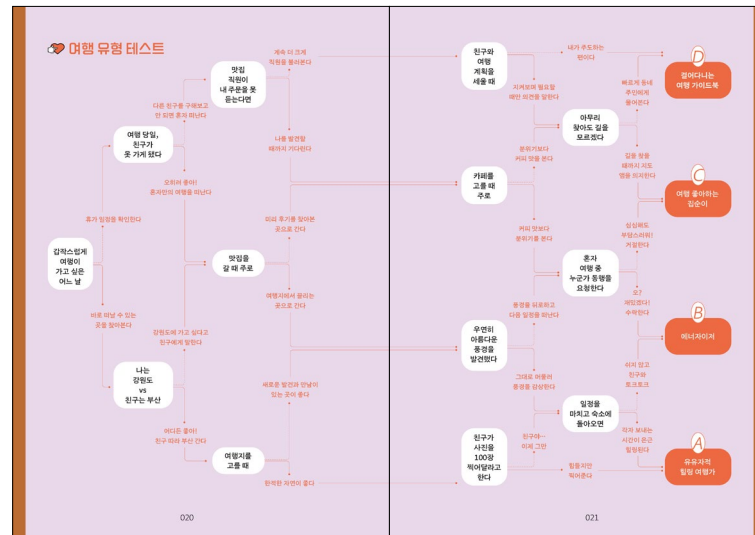
Simply click on the link below and make an entry to the event! Let's Try!

I Waited for the Weekend to Go Here

- Written by Joomalang2, published by Big Fish Books Inc



A must-read for those planning a trip to Korea!
Here are some of the hottest destinations in Korea,
tailored to fit any traveler's tastes.





100명의 사람들의 이야기가 있는 페이지즈

누군가의 플레이리스트를 들으면 그 사람이 느끼는 감정, 취향 등에 대해 여행듯이 느껴지는 것 같아, 좋아하는 노래를 주고받으며 공감대를 형성하고, 서로에 대해 알아가는 기분 좋은 경험. 이미 누구나 있을 거야. 영수증의 유무나 페이지즈는 이런 경험을 그대로 느낄 수 있는 곳이야. 세련된 느낌 만큼 좋고 흥미로운 감각적인 데코레이션이 넘쳐나. 좌석에는 각자 다양한 이야기가 담긴 100명의 플레이리스트와 헤드폰이 있고, QR코드를 찍으면 그 플레이리스트를 들을 수 있어. 플레이리스트에 담긴 사람과 함께 노래를 들을 것 같아. 한 장의 이야기가 펼쳐지는 느낌이 들 거야. 내 스토리가 담긴 플레이리스트를 작아낸 바에 있는 사람들이 함께 들을 수도 있어. 라게나 등의 식사 메뉴와 안주가 곁으로 있으니 음악과 함께 즐겨봐.

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내추럴와인과 음악에 빠지보자

홈세트

홈세트는 좋은 일한 공간이 많은 보물 창고야. 그중 홈세트는 매뉴얼 수 있는 곳이지. 내추럴와인 바, LP 바, 라이브스트라일업을 할 공간이 바로 홈세트야. 한국에서는 모두 사라진 와인업체인 '내추럴와인'이 가족 채워져 있어서 어느 곳보다 다양한 와인업체인 보물 창고야. 와인업체인 직원들 구매해서 가져갈 때의 금액이 50%, 매장에서 마시려면 '월당 20,000원'의 멤버십이 필요해. 직원들 모두 사주는 멤버십을 즐길 수 있어. 또한 홈세트는 'Monthly Mixset Selection'이라는 타이틀의 플레이리스트를 주게해. 홈세트의 음악 서비스를 제공하고 싶다면 방문 전 플레이리스트를 확인해, 홈세트의 라인과 플레이리스트는 모두 인스타그램에서 확인할 수 있어. 홈세트의 넓은 공간에서 집안 분위기 속에 빠지고 싶다면 홈세트가 좋아.

서울 상봉구 경수아트 285 지하2층
010-7377-3950
화-토 19:00-01:00 / 월, 일 휴무

인스타그램 DM, 전화 예약
homepage.selection
만화방을 통한 가능




“What shall we do this weekend?” is a happy question that everyone around the world asks as the weekend approaches, and it is no different for office workers in Korea. For more than two years, “Joomalang2,” a newsletter published every Friday,

has introduced travel destinations, exhibitions, restaurants, and other places to make your weekend more eventful. It has recently published *I Waited for the Weekend to Go Here*, a compilation of 300 Korean hotspots you will regret if you don't visit right now. It features a selection of popular spots that have been well-loved in the past along with thoroughly researched new information, so if you are looking for a place to experience a Korean weekend, you should definitely check it out!

What makes this book particularly appealing is that it doesn't just tell you about good travel destinations, but also introduces the various charms of Korea by classifying them in a variety of ways, such as by type and taste. Starting with exotic places where you can have a unique experience, the book features places to go in Korea for each weather, seasonal trips in the four seasons, and hidden neighborhoods that even Koreans don't know about! The book provides travel information based on "Joomalang2's" unique criteria, which differs from traditional travel books that classify places by region. Plus, it also includes travel tips throughout the book, such as a travel type test, photography tips, and a playlist for a relaxing trip by adding the "Things to Enjoy" part. So, why not grab *I Waited for the Weekend to Go Here* this weekend and start planning a trip to Korea that is full of charm?

[Go To Article](#)

www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/info.php?ptype=view&idx=1331&code=info&category=92

NEW BOOKS

We Won't Leave the Earth



The Earth
has become
a dying planet
with a severe
climate crisis.



Will we ever be left with
no choice but to abandon Earth
and move into space?

Ecofeminism
Research Center
“Moon and Tree”
asks it this way:



Is there any way to make
the planet habitable again?



The writers suggest
a game-changing idea for creating
a planet where all life can coexist!

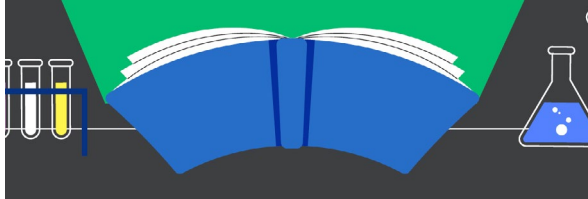
It is “ecofeminism”

– a combination of
ecology and feminism.



The era of climate crisis has come
due to capitalism, growth-first ideology,
and homocentrism.

An action guide on how to make Earth a planet where climate and gender justice are realized!



Thoughts and spoken words are
the seeds of action. It is our hope
that readers of this book (...)
will become neighbors who care
for our planet with compassion,
strengthen the friendships of
those around us, and respond
to beings beyond humanity.

– from the book –

A message from those planting
a tree even today in the face
of total climate crisis.

“We will never leave Earth.”



**A book filled with first-hand
experiences that show that you can
make a difference in many areas,
including politics, art, and agriculture!**

How to take care of
Earth in a time of climate crisis.



We Won't Leave the Earth

Ecofeminism Research Center Moon and Tree,
Changbi Publishers, Inc.

BEST SELLERS

1st Week, December 2023

Best Seller Trends in the Four Biggest Online Bookstores in Korea

It is the first week of December, 2023, and diligent readers in Korea seem to be preparing for the coming year already. Some popular self-help and humanities titles, such as *Trend Korea 2024* and *Sayno Love*, continue to dominate the integrated bestseller lists with their insights on life, wisdom and wealth.

In the meantime, the new titles by Korean literary legend Jo Jung-Rae - *Golden Paper 1* and *2* - have been ranked in the top 10, filling the hearts of Korean fiction fans with excitement. Described as a “victory of the writer’s spirit,” Jo, who has devoted his entire life to literature, sharply examines the human desire for money. He captures the raw reality of our society, where people live and die for money, and raises a warning against the dehumanization of the world due to materialism. How about taking a look at the new

novels by Jo Jung-Rae, a novelist of our time who asks the reader, “What is money?”

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 16 – Go to the interview with writer Jo Jung-Rae

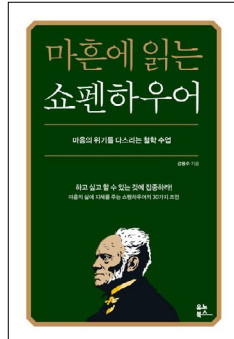
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=738&page=7&code=interview

It has been less than a month since the *Suneung* (College Scholastic Ability Test), referred to as the Korean SAT, and a book that encourages students overwhelmed with studying, has reached No. 1 among Korea’s top five bestsellers in the young adult category. With more than 500,000 copies sold, *The Moment When Studying Becomes Fun* is a book that gives students the confidence and courage to believe in themselves when they think to themselves, “It’s too late for me.” The fourth-place book, *The Real Tips to Enter Medical Schools*, shares the writer’s “know-how for exam periods” after being accepted to six medical schools at the same time. It covers everything from how to control your mind before an important exam to how to set up a study plan that fits your goals, making it a great book for young readers who are preparing to take the *Suneung* this year.

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

Top 10 bestsellers for the 1st week of December

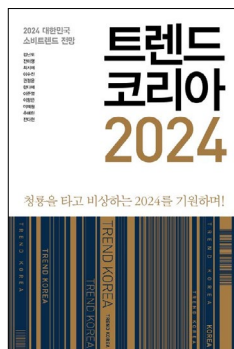
1



Reading Schopenhauer at Forty

Author | Kang Yong-Soo
Publisher | Uknowbooks
Genre | Humanities

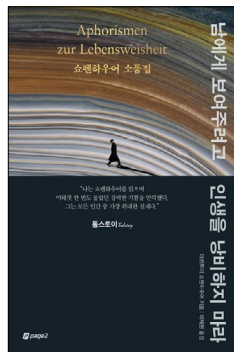
2



Trend Korea 2024

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

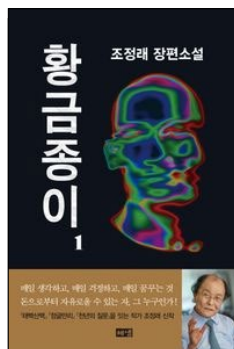
3



Aphorismen zur Lebensweisheit

Author | Schopenhauer
Publisher | Page 2 Books
Genre | Humanities


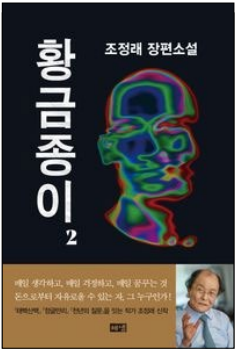
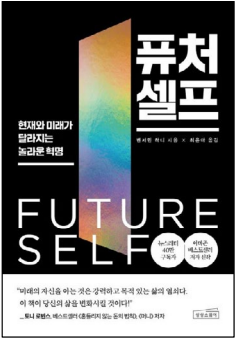

4



Golden Paper 1

Author | Jo Sung-Rae
Publisher | Hainaim
Genre | Fiction

Top 10 bestsellers for the 1st week of December

5		<p><i>Sayno Love</i></p> <p>Author Sayno Publisher Day One Genre Self-help</p>
6		<p><i>Golden Paper 2</i></p> <p>Author Jo Sung-Rae Publisher Hainaim Genre Fiction</p>
6		<p><i>Be Your Future Self Now</i></p> <p>Author Benjamin Hardy Publisher Sangsang Square Genre Self-help</p>
8		<p><i>Jujutsu Kaisen 24</i></p> <p>Author Gege Akutami Publisher Seoul Media Comics Genre Comics</p>

Top 10 bestsellers for the 1st week of December

9



***Psychology for Grown-ups
Who Think Too Much***

Author | Kim Hye-Nam
Publisher | Maven
Genre | Humanities

10



***Blue Archive Problem Solver 68
Business Diary 1***

Author | NOGIWA KAEDE
Publisher | Seoul Media Comics
Genre | Comics

Top 5 young adult books for the 1st week of December

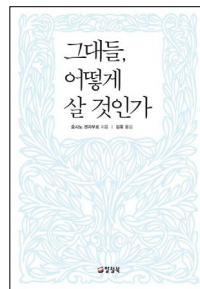
1



The Moment When Studying Becomes Fun

Author | Park Sung-Hyuk
Publisher | Dasan Books

2



How Do You Live?

Author | Genzaburo Yoshino
Publisher | Yangchulbook

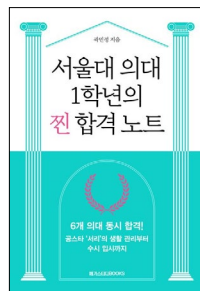
3



The Most Optimal Brain for Studying

Author | Yuji Ikegaya
Publisher | Forest Books

4



The Real Tips to Enter Medical Schools

Author | Gwak Min-Jung
Publisher | Megastudy Books

4



Guns, Germs, and Steel for Teenagers

Author | Kim Jung-Jin
Publisher | Next C

I READ

Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982 by Cho Nam-Joo

Written by Seema Thomas (Reader of *K-Book Trends*)

This article is a review written by an Indian reader of
K-Book Trends after reading a Korean book.
If you want to share your wonderful experience of reading Korean books
with other overseas readers, please send us an email!

kbooktrends@gmail.com

My passion for reading began at an early age, and books have always been my constant companions. Over the years, I have explored different genres, from comics to romance to thrillers, and each one has stirred different emotions and insights in me. However, the book that has left the most profound impact on me is *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* (Minumsa) by Cho Nam-Joo.

This book resonated with me on a personal level, as if I were reading my own diary. As a novice Korean learner, I read the English translation by Jamie Chang, published by Scribner. I was impressed by how well Jamie Chang conveyed the nuances and intentions of the original author. *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* is a universal story of women's lives and struggles, as symbolized by the faceless woman on the cover page.



English and Korean covers of *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*

The novel opens with a contemporary scene, where Kim Jiyoung's husband is concerned about his wife's unusual behavior. He initially thinks she is joking or drunk, but he soon discovers that there is a deeper psychological issue at play. The novel then traces Kim Jiyoung's life story through four phases: childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, and marriage. The reader sees the world from Kim Jiyoung's perspective as she grows up and tries to navigate the expectations and realities of being a woman

in Korean society. Kim Jiyoung, the second daughter of three siblings, and her older sister are taught to sacrifice for their younger brother from an early age. Their mother, Oh Mi-sook, does not explicitly enforce patriarchal norms on them; rather, she tries to educate them about the world and support their aspirations. However, Kim Jiyoung is constantly confronted with a list of rules and restrictions that limit her choices and opportunities as a girl, and she relies on her mother and sister to guide her and shape her identity. Throughout her development, Kim Jiyoung faces various challenges and dilemmas that have no clear solutions, because they are rooted in the gender inequality that pervades her society. Kim Jiyoung questions her existence and purpose, but she never finds satisfactory answers.

Jiyoung's life is marked by a series of disappointments that erode her initial optimism. Despite her academic achievements, she faces discrimination and marginalization as a woman in the workforce. She feels trapped by the limited options available to her, which often demand her self-sacrifice. However, she cannot even claim the moral satisfaction of sacrificing, which adds to her guilt and despair. Her husband, Jung Daehyun, is an exceptional partner who supports her unconditionally and stands by her through the challenges. He seems too good to be true, unlike the realistic characters that populate the rest of the story. The narrative shifts between the present, where Jiyoung undergoes therapy to cope with her mental struggles, and the past, where we witness the events that shaped her personality. Another

memorable character is Kim Eun-Sil, Jiyoung's team leader at work, who advocates for women's rights and empowers Jiyoung to stand up for herself. She represents the rare but valuable allies that women encounter on their journeys.

The story of Kim Jiyoung is disturbing because she represents the experiences of many women around the world. The author skillfully portrays the challenges and inequalities that women face in various aspects of their lives, from education to work to family. As a woman who is about to enter the same stage of life as Kim Jiyoung, I can relate to most of the situations described in the book, which gives me a sense of validation but also anxiety. The author's intention was to spark a public debate on the issues of gender discrimination and sexism, and she certainly achieved that goal with her provocative and candid writing. However, in a society that often views feminism as anti-male, some readers may find her arguments too harsh or biased. Nevertheless, the fact that so many women can identify with Jiyoung's story shows how pervasive and deep-seated these problems are.

The book *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* presents a compelling case for the persistence of gender inequality in contemporary society. The author uses various sources of data and evidence, such as research reports, newspaper articles, and personal anecdotes, to illustrate the challenges and struggles faced by women in different domains of life. The book was published in 2016, but its relevance has not diminished over time. The author's style is candid and direct, as if she is writing a diary of her experiences

and observations. The book does not follow a linear narrative, but rather a collection of everyday interactions that reveal the underlying power dynamics and norms that shape women's lives.

The book is a powerful and provocative read that will disturb and enlighten the reader. Some may criticize the book for being too biased or subjective, but the book reflects the reality of many women's lives around the world. The book raises important questions about the pace and direction of social change. Is society becoming more egalitarian and inclusive? If not, why not? And what can we do to accelerate the process? The book deserves to be read and discussed widely, as it contributes to the ongoing dialogue and action on gender justice. It is a book that expands our vision, challenges our conscience, and inspires our solidarity. It is a book that matters today and tomorrow.

KOREAN TRANSLATOR

Hyeon Jeong Lee

PROFILE

Hyeon Jeong Lee (she/her) is a freelance translator based in Champaign, Illinois, USA. She studied English Literature at Seoul National University and received her PhD in English at the University at Buffalo, USA. She was awarded a translation grant from the Literature Translation Institute of Korea for her English translation of Uhye Song's *White Bird*, which she co-translated with Cynthia M. Childs. Lee also co-translated Sung-hee Yoon's short story "The Duty of Loneliness" with Childs and published it in the *Tammy Journal*. Currently, she is writing a Korean-American history textbook with members of the Midwest Korean School Association. Lee's major translation interests include literary fiction, academic pieces on Korean history or society, and literary criticism.

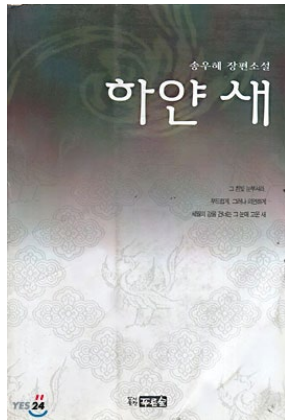
CONTACT

- E-mail: iwriteHJL@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- PhD in English, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, USA
- MA in English Literature, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea
- BA in English Language and Literature, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea

ACHIEVEMENTS



White Bird, My Fair Star

Translation Grant, Literature Translation Institute of Korea (2014)

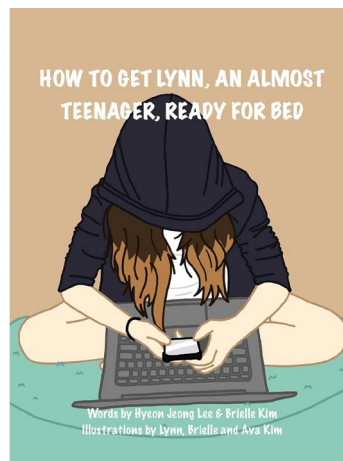
- Co-translation of Uhye Song's *White Bird*

Published Translations

- Saram Lee's *My Fair Star*, Congbaht Publishing (2015)
- Sung-hee Yoon's "The Duty of Loneliness," *The Tammy Journal* 4 (2014)(<https://www.tammyjournal.com/pages#/back-issues/>), Co-translated with Cynthia Childs

Other Works

- Korean-American History Textbook for Youth by Midwest Korean School Association (forthcoming), Participated as a Korean editor and English translator
- Translated *The Ecology of Dinosaurs: A Comic Book* by Do-Yoon Kim, Gallois, Hanbit Publishing
- Wrote *How to Get Lynn, an Almost Teenager, Ready for Bed* (2021)
- Translated Various promotional materials for overseas publication, as requested by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea (2010-2014) and the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea



The Ecology of Dinosaurs: A Comic Book, How to Get Lynn, an Almost Teenager, Ready for Bed

#K-BOOK

#Winter

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

Snow

1. Publication Details

Title | Snow

Author | Yoon Jane, Oh Seungmin

Publisher | NURIMBO

Publication Date | 2018-01-17

ISBN | 9788958762157

No. of pages | 36

Dimensions | 210 * 260



2. Book Intro

One snowy day, kids hurriedly run outside with excitement. But the main character from Snow only looks out the window. She has a disability and cannot walk. The grandmother in the story empathizes with her granddaughter and relays a story from her childhood about what she did on a snowy day.

After the opening in Snow, we are immediately taken to the Grandmother's childhood days; a story of one snowy day in the 1950s unfolds with beautiful pictures and text. As the granddaughter listens to her grandmother's story, she slowly opens up her heart. She says she wants to go outside and play with her friends. Snow tells a story as if the reader is going through pictures in an album. The grandmother simply tells her granddaughter a memory from her childhood. The grandmother does not pity or try to console her granddaughter. Just the fact that she recounts a story full of nostalgia is comforting to her granddaughter. And after listening to the story, the granddaughter gets the courage and hope to want to go outside herself.

Snow allows the reader to become absorbed in the grandmother's story while at

the same time showing a child overcoming feelings of loss and alienation. Snow is an encouraging and heartwarming picture book for any child that feels alone.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2873

Little Mole's Wish

1. Publication Details

Title | Little Mole's Wish

Author | Kim Sangkeun

Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.

Publication Date | 2017-01-26

ISBN | 9791160940046

No. of pages | 52

Dimensions | 225 * 250



2. Book Intro

On the first snowy day of the year, the little mole, who is going home, meets a small white snowball. The little mole quietly speaks to the lump of snow. The lump of snow listens to him without words. The little mole waits for the bus to go home with his friend.

He naturally becomes friends with the lump of snow. At the same time, the children who are reading the book break down the boundary between reality and fantasy and enter the world of the little mole where the first snow has fallen. When he says the snowball is his friend, the bear, the bus driver, says, "It's just a snowball. It'll melt anyway." Listening to this, the little mole tactfully turns the snowball into what looks like a bear. But the fox, the next bus driver, looks at the bear-looking lump of snow and says, "A bear? Are you talking about that big lump of snow?" The little mole just thinks he should downsize his friend and does so. At the center of the whole narrative, there is the little mole's faith that the snowball is his friend, from the beginning to the end. His faith communicates with the imagination of children who freely cross the boundary between fantasy and reality. The bear and the fox talk like adults in the real world, but rather than offering disappointment, they make the pure heart of the little mole stand out, so the reader learns what is inside.

Soon, the night comes. We now feel sorry for looking at the little mole and his friend still waiting for the bus in the snow. And a bus arrives. The deer driving the bus says, "Oh, dear, you are freezing." He worries and tells them to get in. The deer is the only character who acknowledges the world of the little mole. He could be a metaphor for an adult who protects the world of a child. There is another adult who recognizes the world of the little mole. It is his grandmother

who welcomes him at home. She, as always, carefully listens to him. The narrative in this picture book is completed when the stable adults who protect the world of the little mole are added to it. In fact, the imagination of a child grows richer when an adult participates in it because the child feels secure when the adult acknowledges his or her imaginary world.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=218

In Gyeongnyeolbiyeoldo Island of My Youth, Snow Still Falls Like Music

1. Publication Details

Title | In Gyeongnyeolbiyeoldo Island of My Youth,
Snow Still Falls Like Music

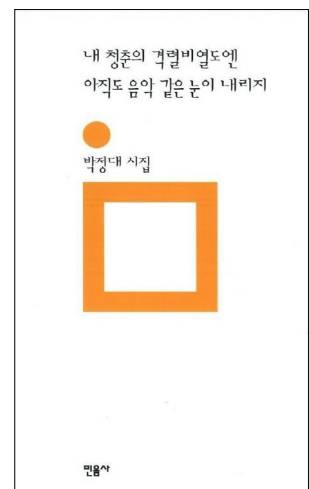
Author | Park Jung-dae

Publisher | Minumsa Publishing

Publication Date | 2001-10-06

ISBN | 9788937406973

No. of pages | 176



2. Book Intro

Park's recent poetry collection, divided into four chapters, resonates "like a passage sung by soulful gypsies" (by Literary Critic Heo Hyejeong). Park writes his poems in a way that sometimes babbles without limit and sometimes extremely restricts the use of language. His poetic interpretation sufficiently depicts the world seen and revealed by the poet himself. Yet, he does not follow the grammar of existence observed by images and motifs. Heo says, "Park breaks the linearity of chronicle order and builds a small passage in the psychological landscape undisturbed by the present or past." The images of candlelight, tears, music, Peru, the boundaries of butterfly, moon, flame, liquor, cigarette, and moonlight are repeated, go through various transformations, and gain new meanings. In this way, Park portrays the unreachable eternity and the stuffiness of the moment.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1163

So Much Snow

1. Publication Details

Title | So Much Snow
Author | Park Hyunmin
Publisher | Dalgrimm
Publication Date | 2020-11-27
ISBN | 9791197092398
No. of pages | 46
Dimensions | 240 * 240



2. Book Intro

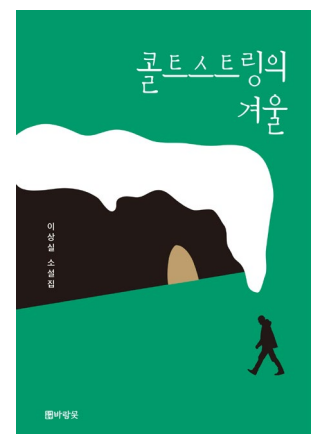
An amazing illustration book that allows readers to imagine a world beyond the pages with its vast white landscapes. On a day when heavy snowfall turns the entire world white, two children manage to pry open their front door and start clearing the snow with shovels, and even bring in a bulldozer to aid their efforts later on. The children then have a snowball fight, roll in the snow, and make an enormous snowman. While the snow and the snowman isn't shown explicitly in the book, the authors help the readers imagine them with the use of white spaces and the movement of the characters. Experience the joy of using your imagination to complete this illustration book.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5513

Cort String's Winter

1. Publication Details

Title | Cort String's Winter
Author | Lee Sangsil
Publisher | windflower_books
Publication Date | 2019-09-25
ISBN | 9791196270674
No. of pages | 268
Dimensions | 128 * 188



2. Book Intro

The titular story "Cort String's Winter" presents a protagonist who has been fired from his job. The laborers fight to get back to work, get depressed, and become homeless. As neo-liberalism intensifies, capital, as a separate entity with a will of its own, enjoys its freedom to seek profit, eventually taking away the humanity of

humans. This story depicts how laborers experience loneliness and sadness together in the midst of a reality wrought with despair. It also illustrates hope by showing how these laborers gather in solidarity and fight against injustice on the streets.

“Dereliction of Duty” talks about the moral decisions people can make when they face everyday conflicts. “Bucket List 1 – Palmunjuk” delivers the message that people can overcome sadness by sharing their feelings and emotions with others.

“The Student Record Book of Paul Academy” illustrates the historical awareness and social ideas we should pursue. Several stories by the author illustrate the violence caused by ideology and capital’s violent pursuit of profit. “The Three Generations Who Went to School” depicts a family that has experienced state violence in North and South Korea. They were kidnapped and jailed in the midst of the military and ideological conflict between the two nations. The state has set the people against each other, but they communicate, understand, and gather in solidarity with each other. “Charlotte and Leffin’s Women” and “Should Mr. Gooksang Leave?” convey the belief that people can understand and love one another whether they are blood-related family or complete strangers.

This collection deals with heavy and sensitive social problems, including the political opposition between conservatives and liberals and families that have been kidnapped and brought to North Korea. The overarching theme of this collection is the joys and sorrows of the people who live harsh everyday lives, which it covers in a way that provides hope and comfort. In the end, the main characters gain a positive view on life and find love.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=4383

Winter Vacation in Seoul

1. Publication Details

Title | Winter Vacation in Seoul

Author | Jeon Jung-im, 225

Publisher | Hellorobin

Publication Date | 2022-01-25

ISBN | 9791191942026

No. of pages | 174

Dimensions | 152 * 205



2. Book Intro

Ms. Yangi has opened the doors of her hanok-style hotel in Seoul’s Bukchon Village to guests for the winter season. The story features a hotel employee called Mingyeong who becomes friends with a guest at the hotel called Lini. Although the friendship between the two young girls is off to a good start, it isn’t long

before things begin to turn sour due to their differing personalities and difficulty understanding each other. How will Lini, the hotel guest, and Mingyeong, who acts as her guide, come to remember their time spent together in Seoul? Will they make any lasting memories of the big city? This travel guide introduces readers to the best family-friendly attractions in Seoul.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=7814

That Winter in Sontag Hotel

1. Publication Details

Title | That Winter in Sontag Hotel

Author | Djuna

Publisher | Purplerain

Publication Date | 2022-08-01

ISBN | 9791191842241

No. of pages | 272

Dimensions | 128 * 195



2. Book Intro

Djuna's mystery fiction intentionally hides characters' stories to add mysteriousness.

"Uncle Seongho's Crime"

Actor Yang Seongho kills his childhood friend and disguises it as an accident. Investigators have doubts about the death and try to prove that Seongho is the culprit. However, they never find out the motive for murder and the crucial assistant.

"To the Last Drop of Blood"

Two men were found brutally murdered. The fingerprints found on the scene belonged to someone they'd known for more than ten years. The police try to find the owner of the fingerprints, but his trace is wiped from this world. Why were the two men murdered by the untraceable fingerprints?

"That Winter in Sontag Hotel"

The body of the leading role is found hanging at a filming location. Then come revelations of his sexual assault. What was the man who had yearned for the authority of the director so afraid of enough to choose death? Perhaps it was a homicide, not suicide. The shooting goes on even after his death.

"Pig Feed"

A private detective in America gets requested to retrieve the diamond stolen by a woman. He traces his steps all the way to Korea, but both the diamond and the woman turn out to be fictional. Who lured him into Korea with false information?

“Protect Baby Bean”

Ji Hyejeong and her husband are producers of the children’s animation “Baby Bean’s Adventures.” One night a woman kills Hyejeong’s husband, and the two women plan to hide the body in his vacation home. In the process, they end up killing a friend of the husband as well. Get rid of the guilty husband, and Hyejeong can protect Baby Bean.

“Who Killed Chunbae?”

Ji Minjeong gets invited to a film premiere. The film involves finding out who murdered Chunbae of his five mutual friends. Minjeong realizes that it’s based on the death of Yun Seolhui from a long time ago. Who does the director think killed Seolhui?

“That Was Your Blood”

The detective receives a letter that confesses the murder of Lee Jangsu. The culprit committed a murder and then let the clues subtly slip to the police. The case is related to the identity of Lee Jangsu as a teenager.

“The Hamlet Case”

Prince Hamlet kills King Claudius according to the testimony of the deceased former king. However, the ghost could well be an actor who resembles the former king, and no one other than Prince Hamlet has talked to the ghost. Did Prince Hamlet take revenge for his father?

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=7107

A Solitary Death is a Social Murder

1. Publication Details

Title | A Solitary Death is a Social Murder

Subtitle | The scene of a solitary death seen through the eyes of a police officer

Author | Gwon Jong-ho

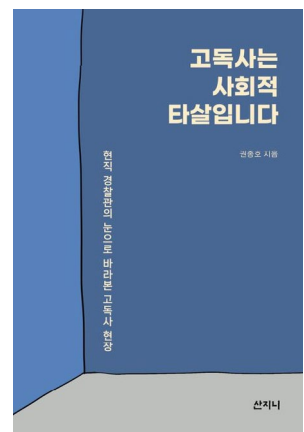
Publisher | SANZINI

Publication Date | 2023-02-20

ISBN | 9791168611337

No. of pages | 192

Dimensions | 135 * 200



2. Book Intro

Living alone, dying alone

The number of solitary deaths is increasing every year due to changes in the family structure, with a growing number of one-person households and the level of disconnection among people. According to the first survey published in 2022,

the number of solitary deaths increased by an average of 8.8% per year from 2017 to 2021. However, compared to the increasing number of solitary deaths, social awareness is extremely lacking, and no effective countermeasures have been developed. The standard for solitary death is also ambiguous. The current law defines it as “a death discovered only after a certain period of time has elapsed.” Here, “a certain amount of time” is determined by the arbitrary interpretation of the bureaucrat in charge of public welfare.

Korean society is facing the challenges of living and dying alone. A Solitary Death is a Social Murder is a book that relates the horrors of the scenes that the author, a serving police officer, has dealt with and also the methods to prevent dying alone that have been devised by the author. In addition, an interview with the author summarizes the current policy and status quo related to solitary death. The author claims that all of us are responsible for this phenomenon, and visited his local community center, ward office, and city hall to publicize the disaster that is solitary death. Let's face up to this reality with a person who claims to be an ambassador for those who die alone.

How much do we know about solitary death?

This book deals with vivid examples of the solitary death of both the elderly and of the young. It reveals the stark reality of the scene where someone has died alone. Through this, readers will accept the victims of solitary death as separate individuals, not as a collective term that lumps together members of a socially vulnerable class. In fact, people who die alone are more likely to have social networks than not. Nevertheless, 70% of the bereaved families refuse to claim the body of the deceased for various reasons, such as economic problems. The end of a lonely life becomes a death that no one remembers.

Death comes to everyone equally, but the manner of dying is extremely discriminatory. The author lays bare this reality and claims that everyone has the right to die with dignity, in the way that they want. We should all be able to become the subject of our own death.

The experience-based way to prevent a solitary death

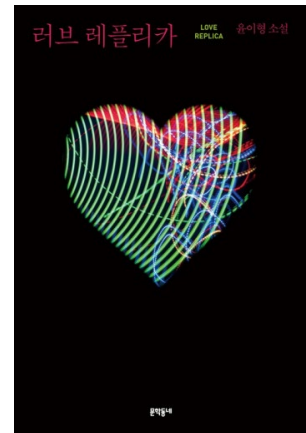
The author devised his own prevention method using his experience in the field. It involves the rebirth of the family through a pre-death contract and a living community. A pre-death contract is one with the government or an organization entrusted by the government for the support and follow-up procedures desired by the pre-deceased. This includes living, nursing, care, property management, and funeral arrangements. A living community seeks to prevent a solitary life by providing a place where many people can gather or live together.

*** k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=7811**

Love Replica

1. Publication Details

Title | Love Replica
Author | Yoon Yihyung
Publisher | Munhakdongne Publishing Group
Publication Date | 2016-01-13
ISBN | 9788954639255
No. of pages | 360



2. Book Intro

This is the third collection of stories by Yun I-hyeong, the winner of the 5th Young Writer Award, 6th Young Writer Award, and 5th Moonji Literary Award. It includes a total of eight works published from 2011 to 2014, such as *Kun's Travels*, the winner of the 5th Young Writer Award, and *Luca*, the winner of the 6th Young Writer Award and 5th Moonji Literary Award. With this collection, Yun brings readers fresh stories that only she can. *Love Replica* is an interesting story about I-yeon, an anorexic patient dealing with self-hatred, and Kyeong, a mythomaniac who attempts to replicate I-yeon's experience as his own. Pip tells the story of a teenager wandering in a world without adults, where even the smallest details are so realistic that it's difficult to consider virtual.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=722

European Cities in 7 Keywords

1. Publication Details

Title | European Cities in 7 Keywords
Subtitle | stone, water, blood, money, fire, feet, dreams
Author | Yoon Hye-Jun
Publisher | GEULDAM
Publication Date | 2021-01-07
ISBN | 9791187147671
No. of pages | 348
Dimensions | 152 * 210



2. Book Intro

This book looks at the past and present of European cities from a unique perspective. Readers are invited to travel across Europe guided by seven

keywords: stone, water, blood, money, fire, feet, and dreams. The tour starts from a meaningful place and time and dives into the history of each city as a whole. The author, a professor of English literature, throws light on past memories hidden inside European cities and weaves them into a total of 49 self-contained stories, seven for each keyword. Although memories are harder to excavate in some places, where new buildings rise all the time, remnants of the past survive in every European city and testify to its history. This book is a journey in search of such marks and traces scattered across European cities, from the 5th-century BCE to the present. The tour stops at the mosaics of Basilica San Vitale to recount the love story of Justinian and Theodora; it takes a moment at a beautiful public square in Budapest to remember the bloodshed by protestors; it walks through Barri Gotic for a sight of well-preserved medieval Barcelona. This book vividly recaptures 49 different city landscapes, each shaped by glory and shame, pleasure and pain, beauty and ugliness, construction and destruction, and civilization and barbarism.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5447