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TOPIC

Development and Transformation of Korean Young Adult Fiction

Written by Jang Seul-Ki
(Editor of the Children & Young Adult Literature Team at Sakyejul Publishing)

“Young Adult (YA)” is a keyword that can’t be left out when discussing Korean literature in recent years. In fact, “recent” might not be the right word. It was in 2021 when the first article on the topic of “young adult fiction (www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/trend.php?ptype=view&idx=874&page=2&code=trend&category=61)” appeared in *K-Book Trends*, and Sohn Won-Pyung’s *Almond* (Darjeeling), which was mentioned as a work that led the young adult market at that time, was published in 2017. However, the term “young adult” appears in the submission guidelines of new fiction contests, in the names and intentions of newly conceived novel series, and in the introductions of young adult SF or fantasy novels. As such, young adult fiction is expanding and changing at a remarkably rapid pace. This growth can be

attributed to the steady improvement of Korean young adult fiction, the changes in general fiction, and readers' enthusiasm for new genres. So, where did Korean young adult fiction come from, and where is it headed?

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 22* – Go to the interview with writer Sohn Won-Pyung
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=621&page=4&code=interview&category=66



Almond

Korean young adult novels exploring worlds beyond

With the rise of popular young adult fiction, there is a misconception that young adult fiction means genre fiction that can be read by teens up to adults. The fact that most recent young adult novels are set in the future may have contributed to this misconception. However, young adult literature has a long history of combining elements of SF, fantasy, thrillers, and other genres to explore the future in a variety of ways.

For example, *Syncher* (Changbi Publishers) by Bae Mi-Ju, first published in 2010, tells the story of humanity living in a vast underground city called Sian, after the Earth is covered in glaciers. Mima, the protagonist, becomes a tester of *Syncher*, a game that allows her to access the consciousness of wild animals in a closed primeval forest, and deals with the changes that come from truly empathizing with nature. In addition to featuring a game that appealed to teenagers at the time, it also reflects our reality in that it is difficult to think of “living animals” as “life” like ourselves. When it was first published, it was noted as a teen SF novel that explores the relationship between nature and humans, and in the newly published revised edition in 2022, the title “Young Adult Fiction” was added to the book.

The book *Millennial Children* (BIR Publishing) by Jang Eun-Sun, published in 2014, is set in a futuristic society where medical advances have lowered the mortality rate and increased the population, forcing parents to pay a “child tax” to the state in order to raise their children. The “unregistered children” whose parents have given up on raising them or abandoned them are taken in and raised in schools. The schools strictly categorize children based on their grades, and they must take exams to even be eligible to become adults. If they fail, they are not allowed to get married or vote in elections. The story of “Dawn” - the protagonist of the story who was sent to the school after the death of the parents - escaping from the school is a somewhat extreme criticism of the capitalist society and the school that

encourages competition.

Meanwhile, the future society depicted in Lee Hee-Young's *Paint* (Changbi Publishers), published in 2019, is at the opposite end of the spectrum. In this book, the word “paint” refers to a parent’s interview. In a society where children without parents are directly protected and raised by the state, children at the center are given the option to choose their own parents through interviews. The main character, Zenu, repeatedly rejects applicants who don’t genuinely want children but are only interested in the benefits the government gives to parents. It is a provocative question to the older generation and caregivers by the youth, who have always been “judged” by adults.

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 31 – Go to the interview with writer Lee Hee-Young*
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=473&page=3&code=interview&category=66



Syncher, Millennial Children, and Paint

As such, young adult literature has been attempting to delve into the reality of modern adolescents and present a different world

to them, trapped in the time and space defined by the older generation. The future brought about by the development of science and technology may not be all sunshine and rainbows, but how should we live with it? That question continues to be asked today.

An intriguing narrative born from the border between adolescence and adulthood

The book *The Origin of Evil by Darwin Young* (Sakyejul Publishing) by Park Ji-Ri is a crime mystery novel set in a heavily compartmentalized society, from Earth 1, where the people in power live, to Earth 9, a deserted land. The protagonist, “Darwin Young,” a high-achieving student at the best boarding school on Earth 1, is shocked to discover the secrets his father and grandfather, whom he believes to be ethical and perfect adults, have been hiding from him. Darwin’s final choice is a twist that completely deviates from the usual coming-of-age story and asks the reader what choice they would have made. The story was first published as a full-length novel by Park Ji-Ri, who began her career in young adult literature, but in the same year, it won the Korea Book Awards for Children and Young Adults. And, a few years later, it was rediscovered by adult readers when it was turned into a musical.

A Thousand Blues (East-Asia Publishing) by Cheon Sun-Ran, winner of the 2019 Korean Science and Literature Award, tells

the story of “Today,” a racehorse who has lost his leg, “Collie,” a humanoid rider who throws himself off the horse and gets discarded to be with Today, “Yeon-Jae,” a girl gifted with a talent for robotics, and “Eun-Hye,” a girl in a wheelchair. The genuine empathy that develops between animals and humans, and between humans and machines, is truly beautiful and heartfelt.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 30 – Go to the interview with writer Cheon Seon-Ran
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=485&page=4&code=interview&category=66

Snow Globe Drive (Minumsa Publishing) by Cho Ye-Eun begins when the “snow that never melts,” which causes rashes on contact with the skin, strikes the protagonists, Moru and Ewol, while they are in their second year of middle school. A global disaster is never the same for everyone. Moru, who remains in the dump for special waste, and Ewol, who flees, are reunited after losing their families. At the “present” point in the novel, they are 22 years old, but much of the story takes place during their adolescence. The reason they are still seen as adolescents upon their reunion is that the disaster ended their daily lives at the age of 15. The situation exquisitely overlaps with the time of adolescence erased by the pandemic in reality. The narrative of escaping from caretakers who treat them as tools and property is also something that adolescents must go through.



The Origin of Evil by Darwin Young, A Thousand Blues, and Snow Globe Drive

There are also other general fiction works by writers such as Jeon Sam-Hye, Kim Cho-Yeop, and Park Seo-Ryeon, who present new narratives with adolescent characters as the main characters. If I had to guess, I would say that the reason behind the stories choosing to speak in the voices of adolescents is that the writers themselves are psychologically closer to the adolescent characters than to the “older generation that refuses to talk.” Moreover, it may be because adolescents are the ones who have the potential to change through certain events, and are the ones who will not let go of hope even in despair. And, readers who strongly relate to them may feel close to the characters in young adult literature.

Changes continue within the young adult boom

Young adult fiction is enjoying a revitalization. More books are being published, and new writers who haven't previously gained

the attention they deserve are being discovered. It seems like we will continue to see more young adult characters in fiction, and young adult literature will continue to be loved by young readers. As the number of adolescent readers declines, some young adult literature publishers see this as an opportunity to expand their readership. In fact, it gives young readers who love web novels and web dramas a chance to experience a variety of narratives. However, there is also a concern that the elements of “near future, youth, and genre” are becoming a template in the process of rapid growth. While some works feature similar disaster situations, Korean young adult novels are thankfully taking their own paths.

The Spell to Become a Witch (Jumping Books Publishing House), published in 2023 by Danyo, whose literary world is quickly gaining recognition, having won major genre literary awards since her debut in 2022 with *Dive* (Changbi Publishers), is the story of Seo-Ah, a 17-year-old who attends a school for talented children but is not the least bit optimistic about her future. She becomes a “magic girl,” the manager of a hide-and-seek game that is held every Thursday night. Seo-Ah hears rumors that some of the children have died mysteriously while playing the game, and that the game server is open to children who want to die. Behind the cover and title that give off a witch fantasy vibe, there is a spine-chilling plot and sharp sarcasm.

Park So-Young, who presented an adolescent’s journey to break down the corrupt world of “Snowball” in *Snowball 1* and *2*

(Changbi Publishers), develops a bewilderingly surprising setup in *The Day You Are Here* (Changbi Publishers), in which 7 people share one body for each day of the week because of “financial allotment for environmental promotion.” The book examines how the financial allotment, which is simply paying a little more for a beverage in a plastic bottle, will have enormous value in the future, and the philosophical question of what it means to be human in a world where bodies are interchangeable. In a worldview that features issues that are never light, the characters trust and love each other. I believe that is Park So-Young’s strong point.



The Spell to Become a Witch and The Day You Are Here

On top of all this, I can happily think of many other names that will be pushing the boundaries of Korean young adult fiction, such as Lee Hee-Young, who is actively publishing close-knit, full-length novels with the aim of “expanding the readership of

young adult literature,” Choi Jung-Won, who shows off unique features in both creature stories and SF, Park Seo-Ryeon, the most versatile writer I can think of at the time of this writing, and Choi Young-Hee, who is branching out from the root of SF.

SPECIAL PROJECT

[English Books in Korea ①]

Korea Today and the Charm of Korean Culture

Written by Kim Hyung-Geun (CEO of Seoul Selection)

I'm pleased to be able to introduce the English edition of my book about Korea through this interview. This is because such an opportunity does not come around often, and because through this, I can draw the attention of the industry and readers in this harsh climate where the number of English books about Korea is decreasing rather than increasing.

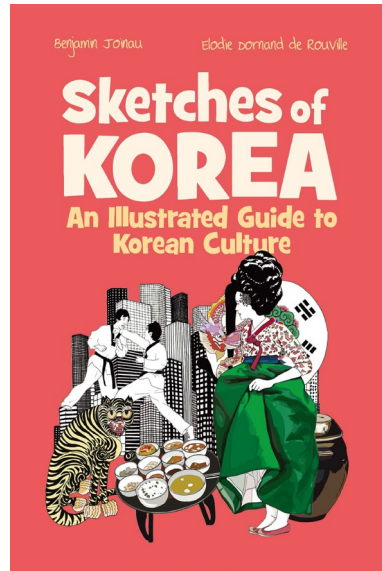
One keyword that automatically comes to mind when you think of English books about Korea is "Kinokuniya" bookstores in Japan. I was literally overwhelmed by the number of English books about Japan that I saw at Kinokuniya Bookstore in Japantown, San Francisco, US. On the other hand, the number of English books published in Korea is far too little, and the

fields are focused on culture and language, with very few on economics, society, practical skills, and people. What's more, the number of titles is shrinking.

My publishing house is also planning to stop printing English books that have been published with great care, without further reprints. They have no choice but to discontinue the publication. Other Korean publishers with many English books in line are doing the same thing, either not updating their existing books or going out of print. Not to mention not publishing new books. Given the global recession in the book market due to the rise of internet media such as YouTube, publishing English books about Korea is extremely challenging.

First of all, I hope that the English book market in Korea will quickly recover from the effects of COVID-19 in terms of sales. In terms of publishing, I hope that other fields such as society, economy, and practical skills will be added in addition to culture and language, and above all, I expect the absolute number of published titles to increase. The following English books about Korea were selected based on popularity at my company's bookstore specializing in English books about Korea and my personal preferences. I apologize in advance for my lack of knowledge and inexperience in knowing about better books, and readers are welcome to point out any errors.

A detailed and intuitive look at Korean culture



Sketches of Korea: An Illustrated Guide to Korean Culture

If there's one book about Korea that foreigners living in Korea or tourists visiting Korea pick up casually, it is the book *Sketches of Korea: An Illustrated Guide to Korean Culture* (Seoul Selection). As the title suggests, it is an illustrated guide to Korean culture. Although it is a small book that fits in the palm of your hand and has only 200 pages, it introduces Korean culture in a very detailed and straightforward fashion, making it popular among staff members of foreign embassies in Korea, expatriates of foreign companies, international students learning Korean, and tourists. Thanks to the foreign writers' in-depth understanding of Korean culture, the book provides a comprehensive explanation of keywords related to Korea's traditional and modern culture, such as *kkonminam* (men in good fashion and appearance), *hunnam*

(good-looking men), *jjimjilbang* (public bathhouse with sauna), *ingam dojang* (legally registered seal), *podaegi* (baby sling), *bibimbap*, *kimchi*, *jangdokdae* (traditional earthen jars for aging things like gochujang and kimchi), *hotteok* (filled pancake), *cheonggukjang* (traditional Korean food made with fermented soybeans), *neolttwigi* (standing see-saw, jumping on two ends of a wooden board), priority seats, Lee Sun-Shin, folk songs, genre painting, sword dance, *bojagi* (traditional Korean wrapping cloth), *minhwa* (traditional Korean folk art), and *taekkyon* (traditional Korean martial art). What's more impressive about the book is that it also covers cultural elements that even Koreans today find it hard to explain, such as *geongongamri* (four black trigrams) of *Taegukgi* (Korea's national flag), *buncheong sagi* (blue-green-colored traditional Korean stoneware), *Chiwoo Cheonwang* (legendary warrior, worshipped as the god of war), *sumaksae* (round-shaped tile attached at the end of the eaves), and *kkeutdong*, which refers to the end of the sleeve of *jeogori* (basic upper garment of *hanbok*). The writers' level of mastery of Korean culture is apparent at the point where they explain that the support made of steel pipes on the delivery motorcycle's back for the driver to carry loads is derived from *jige* (commonly known as an A-frame in English) that has long been used by Koreans to carry loads in the past.

Ages of Life and Social Stereotypes

Amma, ajossi, haksaeung, hyeong, nuna, halmeoni... Age differences are very important in Korean society, used as a way to locate one's position in relation to one another, decide how to address someone else, etc. Each period of a person's life has a term that comes along with an array of social stereotypes, which are made up of expectations, roles, attitudes, uniforms and celebrations, among other things. Here is a very simplified introduction!

In Korea, new babies are considered to be 1 year old at birth, since we take into account the intrauterine months of the fetus. He or she is said to be safe after 100 days of ordinary life, but nowadays the *baegil* (100th day) celebration has become less common, with more focus is given to the *dol*, or the first year birthday, when the infant is the hero of a big party. At this party, he or she will be asked to choose among different objects (pamperbrush, money, etc.) to forecast his or her future profession.

The adorable preschoolers in the streets? *Yuchiwon* (유치원) or kindergarten students. Many young children attending the same school will wear some sort of matching ensemble, whether it's a full uniform or simply the same t-shirts or backpacks. This practice is less common once they start elementary school, but uniforms become the norm once again after they reach middle or high school.



University students try to set themselves free from parents and school rule, but it is hard to resist the uniformization of lifestyles, just like their counterparts in the West, many can be found in baseball hats, street wear and sneakers. This is the ubiquitous look of the average *daehaksaeng* (대학생) university student, although individuality is growing to be more valued, with some students daring to get tattoos and piercings, predominantly taboo. The new high technology consumers are addicted to social networks KakaoTalk, and they have developed their own online live in a virtual world, really they are often desperate consumers of *soju* (see "Drinking Culture" on p. 72), and even share



Some thirtysomething young professionals are opting to still stay single longer, leading them to cultivate their appearance more attentively than previous generations. This is the meteorological era, with *kkotminam*, or "flower handsome" men—those who, while still being conventionally attractive, are not overtly masculine, and are comfortable spending their money on personal grooming. Their target? The brunch-eating, trend-leading busy women who are disciples of "Sex and the City" or latest US TV series heroines. These new generation girls value tall men, and despite the fact that they want more sensitive

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Social 11

Everyday Modern Objects

Many societies have established museums as a way to recognize the everyday objects used by people of bygone eras. But what about the thousands of items we still use on a daily basis that we don't even notice anymore? We simply ignore them, despite their being a significant part of our lives and imaginations. Let one disappear and we mourn it with nostalgia... "Ah, do you remember when we were young, when we used to have this..."? So before they are discarded, here are few very Korean objects that you'll see and use a lot. Don't look down on them—they're a part of our modern identity!



Mokkorigapp
All-purpose gloves would appear to be a rather universal object, right? But the way they are used in Korea is really specific; you'll see workers wearing the red rubber-coated ones for their anti-slip, waterproof qualities, but the immaculate, white version is also used by police, department store clerks, maids and people acting in all kinds of official situations.



Inqam dojaryq
This object is used by every Korean in place of a signature. The seal, or *dojaryq*, can be carved into a variety of hard materials, such as wood, stone or jade, when officially registered, it is called *inqam dojaryq*. To print the mark representing the calligraphed name of the user, one uses red ink, or *inju*.

Taemiri towel

This colorful piece of cloth is found in all the public baths and in most bathrooms throughout Korea. Called *taemiri towel* (타미리 Towel) (scrubbing towel) or *taem* towel (the special fabric was supposedly brought from Italy), it is used to scrub the dead skin off one's body.



Jige
We will be discussing the term *jige* (지게), or traditional A-frame rack once used by laborers, later on in this book. Here, we refer to the modern version, which is typically installed on motorbikes to deliver mountains of items across cities at high speed.

Visors

If you don't know exactly who can be designated by the term *gumma* (구mma) or middle-aged woman, watch out for this particular item. They have the appearance of a brimmed visor, but it can also be used as an eyeshade when lowered on the face like a mask. It protects not only the eyes, but also the fairness of the skin from the bright Korean sunlight.



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Social 51

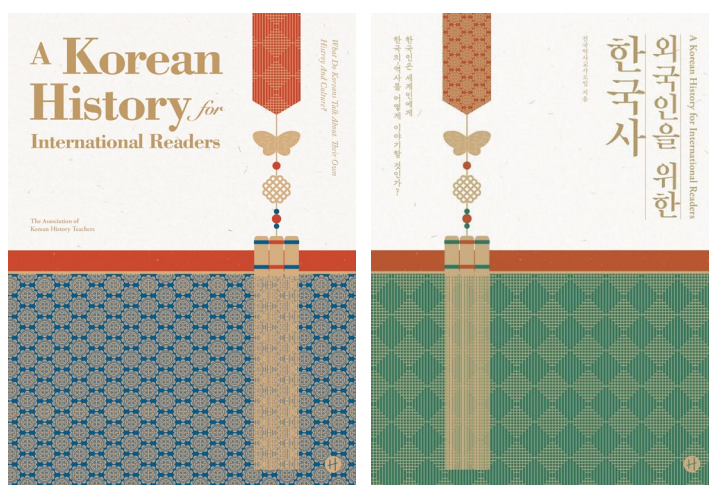
Korean culture explained with illustrations

In the part describing Korean drinking culture, the writers introduce *noraebang* (karaoke), *poktanju* (bomb shot), and *room salon* (karaoke bars with private rooms for hostesses to entertain customers), as well as the 'n-cha culture' (where people move to different places to drink - '1-cha' means the first place, '2-cha' means the second place), *daeri woonjeon* (replacement driver) - the people who drive drunken people home safely, and *haejangguk* (hangover soup) - the food that relieves the stomach

the day after drinking. An illustration of a typical Korean office worker in a tie lying drunk in the street is a fitting reminder of the exotic side of Korea as seen through the eyes of the writers. Professor Benjamin Joinau wrote - “He will be tired in the morning, but he has gotten rid of his stress, expressed his anger, and improved team spirit, making him socially ready for a new day of work!” - exhibiting his positive thoughts and affection towards Korean culture.

French professor Joinau received his PhD in cultural anthropology with a specialization in Korean studies, and is currently at Hongik University in Seoul. He has lived in Korea since 1994 and once owned a French restaurant in Itaewon, promoting French culture in Korea. The illustrator, Elodie Dornand de Rouville, is also a longtime resident of Korea and now lives in France with her Korean husband, a photographer.

A customized guide to Korean history for foreigners



English and Korean covers of A Korean History for International Readers

Aside from culture, the main areas of interest to foreigners about Korea are literature and history. However, with the rise of Korean literature's international popularity, foreign publishers have begun to publish Korean works through translations, making overseas publication of literature the trend. It is not that there are no literary publications carried out in Korea, but overseas publications have become the dominant type in terms of number and impact. In this article, I would like to introduce history books published in English in line with the given topic of English books published in Korea.

While there are a few history books about Korea published in English, most of them lack coverage of modern history, including the Korean War, or are too thick to appeal to foreigners. In contrast, the book *A Korean History for International Readers* (Humanist Publishing Group) covers the pre- and post-liberation periods, the Korean War, and the relationship between North and South Korea. In addition, as it contains various pictorial aids such as maps, photos, and graphic materials, it is currently the best Korean history book for foreigners. It was published in an A4-sized edition due to the inclusion of illustrations. As the title and subtitle suggest, this book is an English translation of the Korean book *A Korean History for International Readers: How Will Koreans Explain Korean History to the World?* and is a customized Korean history book for foreign readers.

HISTORICAL SITES

Bulguksa, a Temple in the Land of Buddha

The Buddhist followers of Shilla believed that Shilla had been a land of Buddha for a very long time. The belief that the world in which they lived was the chosen land for Buddhists, and the idea to develop the land into a more idealistic nation for Buddha, is generally called the idea of "Buddha Land of the Buddhist Nation."

Bulguksa, the greatest Buddhist temple of Shilla, was first built in the 6th century during King Beopheung's reign. He officially authorized Buddhists as the Shilla dynasty's national religion and encouraged the people to believe in Buddhism. Later in the 8th century, when the cultural prosperity and self-confidence of the Shilla people reached its apex, Bulguksa underwent an extensive reconstruction.

Inside the Bulguksa, there are stone figures of Buddha enshrined. One is Sakyamuni who came to this world to enlighten the people, another is the Amitayus who would save the people by leading them into Nirvana, and the third is Bismun who serves as the light of truth.




Historical Site of the Buddhist Nation
The main hall of the Buddhist Nation, which was built in the 6th century, is the main hall of the Buddhist Nation. It is a traditional Korean wooden structure with a tiled roof. The main hall is surrounded by a stone wall and a stone staircase leading up to the entrance. The main hall is the largest building in the temple complex.

Religious Site
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The Formation of the Three Kingdoms: Goguryeo, Baekje, and Shilla

Buyeo and Goguryeo fight for power in the northern region of Korea. After Goguryeo collapsed, Buyeo became the No.1 power among the political forces of Yenchou. Buyeo had already been exchanging active trade with China, which was striving to expand its influence in the east. Buyeo developed into a kingdom and continued to grow as a powerful state.

Shilla, Goguryeo's rival in the north, was established by Jansong in 37 B.C. in the Namdo region. It continued to assimilate minor tribes around it. In an attempt to take control of the prairies near Buyeo and Han China, Goguryeo captured both of them.

The conflict between Buyeo and Goguryeo became more complicated as they came in contact with the nomads in the west, not to mention with Han China, which was striving to expand its influence in the east. While clashes continued between Goguryeo and Buyeo or Goguryeo and Han China, due to Goguryeo's ambition to obtain wide fertile regions, China and Buyeo managed to maintain a friendly relationship.



Ball games
Ball games, dominated the life of the people of the Three Kingdoms. The game was played by the people of the Three Kingdoms. The game was played by the people of the Three Kingdoms. The game was played by the people of the Three Kingdoms.



The growth of Goguryeo, Baekje, Shilla and Goryeo
Thanks to their military, politics, and culture, the Three Kingdoms of Goguryeo, Baekje, and Shilla grew into powerful states. Goguryeo, Baekje, and Shilla began competing with each other.

Buyeo, Shilla and Goryeo
Buyeo and Goguryeo were struggling for power in the north of the Korean Peninsula, in the central and southern areas Baekje, Shilla, and Goryeo rose to power.

In 18 B.C., Baekje, which was established earlier by those from Goguryeo emigrated in the vicinity of today's Seoul as a confederated kingdom which incorporated various small-scale states of Mahan. During the 1st century, it expanded its borders and grew large enough to occupy the entire Hangeul region.

In the same time, the Shilla Kingdom, which would last for a millennium (37 B.C.–918 A.D.), was formed in Gyeongju in the southeast side of the Korean Peninsula. In this area, many states called as the Jurchen Alliance were established and prospered around the B.C. 2nd A.D. 1st centuries. Then the Samhan, which emerged in Gyeongju, developed into a leading force by assimilating surrounding political powers.

Also, in the west side of the Nakhonggong (N) which passes through the southern part of the Korean Peninsula, there was the Goryeo Alliance of six allied states led by the central state of Goryeo (Goguryeo). These people

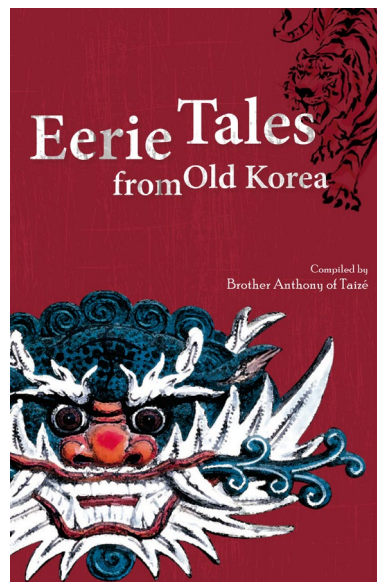
Pages from *A Korean History for International Readers*

In fact, from a foreigner's perspective, Korea is a unique country that has managed to maintain its cultural identity while remaining an independent nation for so long amongst the great powers. It has achieved both economic growth and democratization in the shortest period of time in modern history; it is also an exciting country in terms of pop culture, such as *Hallyu* (Korean Wave), and food culture, with *kimchi*, *galbi* (short ribs), *doenjang* (soybean paste), *gochujang* (chili paste), and *tteokbokki*. Last year, *doejigomtang* (Korean pork broth) was

named one of the “8 Best Dishes in New York City” by the *New York Times*.

As suggested by the title, which says that the book is dedicated to explaining Korean history to foreigners, the book is motivated by pride in Korean history and culture. It even has a section called “Historical Sites (ex., ‘Encountering Modern History at Gyeongwoongung Palace and Jeongdong’)” that guides foreigners to visit the sites after reading the book. The writer is The Association of Korean History Teachers, an organization of more than 2,000 history teachers from all over the country that aims to teach “living history.”

Korea’s *yadam* - historical and fun eerie tales



Eerie Tales from Old Korea

The next book that foreign readers find interesting to read, while it’s neither about culture nor history, is *Eerie Tales from Old*

Korea (Seoul Selection), which is a collection of *yadam* (short, eerie folk tales) and *mindam* (folklore), and are long-known Korean stories. The book is a collection of stories that Koreans have been exposed to since childhood, such as stories that go something like, “A journeyman was traveling down the road, but the sun had set, and he was lost in the darkness... He ended up staying the night in a secluded house where a young woman in a white dress lived alone.” Most of the stories are scary or grotesque. Characters like ogres, tigers, ghosts, and goblins appear in the stories. Although they might have been terrifying by the standards of the people of the past, they don’t seem to be as scary as they could be from a modern perspective.

The process of how this book came out is also historic and quite funny. When missionaries came to Korea at the end of the 19th century, they asked scholars of the time if there were any scary or bizarre stories in Korea. There, the scholars insisted that there were no such stories. The reason why they said that there were no such stories in Korea was because most of these stories were vulgar by their standards and were related to Buddhism or shamanism. Disappointed, the missionaries studied the Chinese characters themselves, and only then were they able to find the stories they were looking for in a collection of tales called *yadam*. The missionaries translated these stories into English and published them in their own magazine (*Korea Review*) and book (*Korean Folk Tales*). In 2013, they were republished more than 100 years after they were originally published in *Transactions*,

the journal of the Royal Asiatic Society Korea Branch (RASKB), of which the missionaries were also key contributors, back in 1900. The missionaries are Homer B. Hulbert, who joined King Gojong's envoy to the Hague and helped on the ground, striving for Korea's independence, and James Scarth Gale, who contributed to the rise of Christianity in Korea by naming God *Hananim* (referring to the Christian God in Korea) to fit Korean sentiment and helped translate the early Bible into Korean. The editor of the book is Brother Anthony of Taizé (Korean name Ahn Son-Jae) of The Taizé Community, headquartered in France, who, at the time of publication, was president of the RASKB. Brother Ahn came to Korea in the early 1980s at the invitation of the late Cardinal Stephen Kim Soo-Hwan and taught English literature at Sogang University for many years.

The royal culture during the Joseon Dynasty, as seen in K-dramas and historical dramas



English and Korean covers of *Joseon Royal Court Culture: Ceremonial and Daily Life*

When it comes to English books about Korea, you can't leave out books about the royal culture of the Joseon Dynasty. This is because historical dramas play a large role in K-dramas, and Seoul is home to palaces from the Joseon Dynasty, such as Gyeongbokgung Palace, royal tombs where the kings are buried, and Jongmyo, where they are reborn as ancestral spirits - the kings and royal tombs are designated as the UNESCO cultural heritage. As such, they are of great interest to international readers and tourists.

Though there are relatively few English books about the royal palace, the book *Joseon Royal Court Culture: Ceremonial and Daily Life* (Dolbegae) has been a steady seller among foreign readers as it shows the daily routine of the king and queen in the palace and the life of the royal family, which is of interest to foreigners. Originally published in Korean as a book by professor Shin Myung- Ho with the same title, it was then translated and published in English. The English translation was done by Timothy V. Atkinson.

It describes things that ordinary people might be curious about, such as the king's daily routine, the protocol for greeting foreign envoys, the king's clothing, *surasang* - the food served to the king, the queen's pregnancy and childbirth, the queen's clothing, the positions of the princes, and the privileges of the royal family. There are also lesser-known stories, such as King Sejong the Great's exam questions and the fire at Changdeokgung Palace that occurred at the time of Gwanghaegun's dethronement. It's

especially good for foreign readers to understand the content, thanks to the relatively rich photographs and illustrations.

EXPORT CASE

Publishing Kim Hyesoon and International Poetry

Written by Declan Spring (Vice president of New Directions)

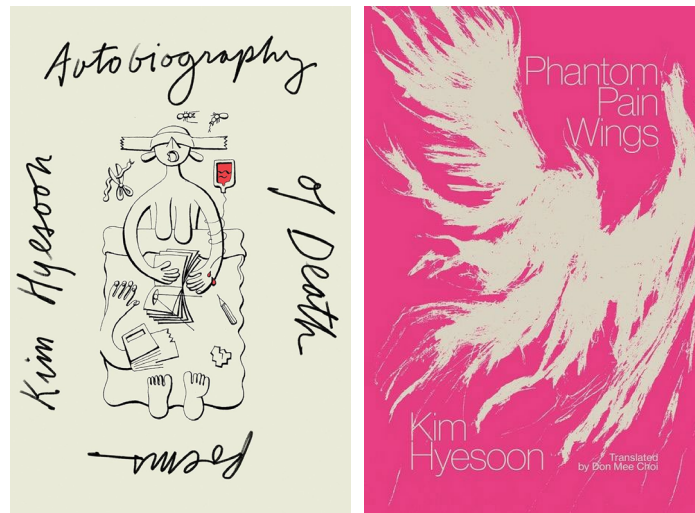
New Directions was founded in 1936 by the pioneering publisher James Laughlin when he was a student at Harvard. Laughlin conceived of New Directions as a way to introduce some of the most groundbreaking and experimental poets of the time (Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams, Marianne Moore, Hilda Doolittle, Louis Zukofsky), aiming to publish writing that “made it new” in English and other languages. He also traveled widely, introducing fiction writers and poets from abroad. Laughlin built one of the great literary lists in American publishing, and ND continues to publish international literature, following in his path.

Poetry is a vital part of our publishing program. Currently, we offer the work not just of many interesting and important American poets, but poets from other countries as well— like Bei

Dao and Xi Chuan from China, Tomas Tranströmer from Sweden, Ana Luísa Amaral and Fernando Pessoa from Portugal, the French surrealist poets, and other international greats like Adonis, Osip Mandelstam, Dunya Mikhail, Eugenio Montale, and Octavio Paz. Quite a few of our authors have been Nobel Prize winners. Poetry has a smaller audience than fiction, and we find that the sales of our wider-selling fiction titles often have to support the poetry books. Still, we have had great commercial success with many poetry editions, and the poems from those books end up being anthologized, which also brings in revenue. Our editors pay close attention to literary journals and foreign publishers' catalogs, and we receive many recommendations from the translators we work with, as well as suggestions from our own poets, who often have poet friends and who admire other writers abroad.

A recent acquisition for us is the amazing Korean poet Kim Hyesoon, one of the most prominent and influential contemporary poets of South Korea. She was the first woman poet to receive the prestigious Kim Su-yong and Midang Awards. In 2018, we published her remarkable *Autobiography of Death*, which received Canada's prominent International Griffin Prize. Then last year, we published her book *Phantom Pain Wings*, which depicts the memory of war trauma and contains a rather epic sequence of "bird ventriloquy." This book won the 2023 National Book Critics Circle Award. Both of Kim Hyesoon's editions were stunningly translated by award-winning poet and translator Don Mee Choi. A brilliant translation always helps in

the success of publishing any foreign author, especially a poet, since poetry can be especially challenging to bring across in English.



Autobiography of Death, Phantom Pain Wings

The response to both of Kim Hyesoon’s books in the bookselling world was wonderful. We sold rights for *Phantom Pain Wings* to the UK publisher And Other Stories. Both books received terrific reviews in magazines and newspapers like *The New Yorker*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*. And ultimately, Kim Hyesoon’s sales were enviable for poetry. Her work has struck a chord for being able to convey emotions through a surreal language that more traditional poetic language cannot. Thanks to the financial support of LTI (Literature Translation Institute of Korea), we received a translation subsidy, and Kim Hyesoon was able to travel here for well-attended events in important poetry venues around the U.S. Since both Kim Hyesoon and her translator have a remarkable presence and read

their poems beautifully, there was much enthusiasm, and the events generated even more interest for this important Korean writer.

By making sure that our galleys got into the right reviewers' hands, promoting the books through traditional as well as social-media channels, and having author events, we were able to make sure that Kim Hyesoon's books reached many American readers—readers not just in the poetry community, but a general audience as well. There is much interest in Korean culture here right now, perhaps due in part to the success of popular Korean-related films like “Parasite,” and other Korean art forms, like the visual arts. We hope to publish more Korean poetry and fiction in the future with the goal of broadening New Directions's international list even further.

BOOK TRIP

[A Trip to Literary Museums ②]

In Search of a Garden Where Our Beautiful Korean Language Breathes

Introducing Sonagi Village at Hwang Sun-won, Literary House in Yangpyeong-gun, Gyeonggi-do, and Beyond

Written by Kim Ji-Hye

The works of Hwang Sun-Won have a solid presence in Korean literature. The literary world he has built transcends time, genre, and ideology, naturally expressing the most Korean emotions. It was around 1952, when Korea was undergoing the Korean War, when his representative short story *Rain Shower* (read *Sonagi* in Korean) was released. However, it is difficult to recognize such a period from the portrayal of the two main characters in the novel. The only clue that connects the story to reality is the place name “Yangpyeong” that appears at the end. The thoughts that germinated in this place became the driving force for creating a literary space, and it led to new attempts to reinterpret the work in various ways.

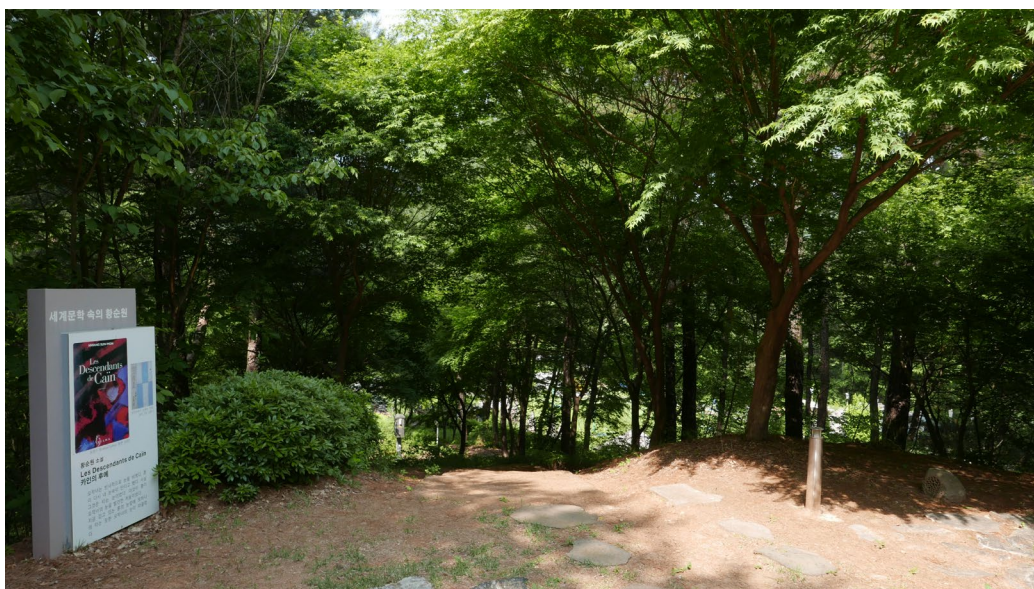
The Sonagi Village in the Hwang Sunwon Literary Village (chief - Kim Jong-Hoe) was opened in June 2009. It was the result of an agreement between Yangpyeong-gun and Kyunghee University twinning in 2003 to create a literary theme park, which took about 6 years to complete. The facility includes the Hwang Sunwon Literary Museum, the writer's graveyard, Sonagi Square, and a literary walkway. Since the opening of the museum, an average of 100,000 people have visited the place – even attracting an average of 60,000 visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic period. As Sonagi Village is located in Yangpyeong-gun, Sejongmyeon, it can be reached within an hour's drive from the Seoul region. By public transportation, you can take a bus to Moonhori from Yangsu Station on the Jungang Line and a bus to Suneungni.

A village where rainbows rise multiple times a day



The literary museum seen from the square. The children seem so excited about the “rain shower.”

“Hey, it’s started! It’s so cool and fun!” As soon as we stepped out into Sonagi Square, we were greeted by the joyful faces and innocent laughter of children. They looked so cheerful and full of energy as they ran around in the rain. It brought back memories of the unexpected feeling of freedom and liberation we had as children when we were soaking in the rain, and of the showers we had forgotten. On a clear day from May through October, the place offers a spectacular view. The square’s expansive lawn is sprayed with “scheduled” rain showers every hour on the hour from 11 to 16 (17 on weekends). Two streams of water shoot up into the sky in alternating directions from a total of four artificial rainfall fountains, and if you stand with your back to the sun, you can even see a rainbow.



Walkway along the trails

Head towards the graveyard of writer Hwang Sun-Won and his wife, Yang Jung-Gil, located next to the Literary Museum, and you can walk along the not-too-steep path for some quiet contemplation. On the way back out, you will be able to enjoy a panoramic view of the Literary Museum and the square.



A recreation of the sugarcane shack where the boy and girl from the story sheltered from the rain is placed in Sonagi Square

In-depth interpretation of writer Hwang Sun-Won's literary world and works



"Hwang Sun-Won's Study," the space of a linguistic language



Exhibition Room 1 that highlights the life and literary works of Hwang Sun-Won through videos and his belongings.



Places from the novel reproduced as reality in the video-experiencing room and Exhibition Room 2, and the “Naked Moments of Life Exhibition” showcased both online and offline

The literary museum organizes Exhibition Rooms 1 and 2, which shed light on the life and literary world of the writer, under the themes of “Meeting with the writer” and “Into his works.” The video-experiencing room connected to Exhibition Room 2, “Digital Stroll Through Sonagi,” features 3 themed areas of A Glass Box of the Sky: Azure Sky (3 minutes 30 seconds), The Stepping Stones to the Milky Way (permanent), and Fantasia Rain

Showers: The Dream of Seodanggol (6 minutes 30 seconds).

The experiential exhibition, which utilizes interactive techniques that make videos react to visitors' movements, appeals to a wide range of ages. Even though it is a virtual space, adults and children alike can experience splashing around in the stream and watching the Milky Way unfold. Also, the "Literature Classroom Where You Don't Have to Study", which is a recreation of an old elementary school classroom, screens exhibition-related videos and holds humanities programs. In addition to exhibitions in tangible spaces, the museum also organizes online exhibitions to promote the literary world of Hwang Sun-Won. The "Three Works of Hwang Sun-Won: Naked Moments in Life Exhibition" organized late last year featured 21 motion graphics of Hwang Sun-Won's short stories such as *A Dog of Moknomi Village*, *Acrobat*, and *Time for Just You and Me*.



Rain Shower, and Rain Shower (Munhaknamu), a smart novel collection by Korean writers that rewrites the short story *Rain Shower*, and a cover collection of the first editions of Hwang Sun-Won's works published in the 1980s by Munji Publishing.

“Hwang Sun-Won is described as the ‘most Korean of Korean writers,’ having Korean characteristics and strengths. Yet his works are globally universal in their advocacy of lyrical humanism. The topics that Hwang Sun-Won addresses in works such as *Acrobat*, *Lost People*, *Trees Standing on the Slope*, *Living With Stars*, and *The Moving Fortress* extend beyond Korea to issues of all humanity.”

– From *Korean Literature, Hwang Sun-Won, and Translation*
(2017, Kim Sung-Gon)

The quoted piece is an excerpt from the book *Research on Hwang Sun-Won* (edited by the “Researcher Group of Hwang Sun-Won”), which won the “Hwang Sun-Won Research Award” category of the 6th Sonagi Village Literary Award. The Award was first established in 2012. Since 2021, when the 11th Award was presented, it has been renamed the “Hwang Sun-Won Literary Award,” and the winners have been selected and awarded during the Hwang Sun-Won Literary Festival held every September to encourage writers’ creative activities. Sonagi Village will continue to discover new content and further strengthen its role by establishing the “First Love Theme Park Walkway (tentative name)” and the “Hwang Dong-Gyu Literary Museum.”



“Literature Classroom Where You Don’t Have to Study,” a reproduction of an old school classroom

Lee Chun-Sun, who we met at the Literary Museum, is a cultural heritage guide with 20 years of experience. He said that this was the 5th place he has worked as a guide. As we talked about Hwang Sun-Won’s life and his literary world, he shared the following words.

“Some visitors to the Literature Museum sometimes express strong opposition to Hwang Sun-Won’s literary vision, saying, ‘The great-granddaughter of the Yoon family is actually a bourgeoisie.’ Sometimes, as a guide here, I feel very sad. I wish we could accept literature for what it is, and fully respect the pure spirit of the writer. Hwang Sun-Won was a writer who stood firm even when many of his peers changed their positions. I want to protect him from becoming a subject of wasteful controversy and remain a writer loved by all, regardless of ideology.”

Two other literary places and a terrace cafe

Here are a couple of spaces that will make your journey back from Yangpyeong-gun a little more colorful. The first is the “Jan A Literature Museum (Director: Kim Yong-Man),” located in Seojong-myeon. It is just about 4 kilometers away from Sonagi Village. It blends literature, terracotta works, and nature. The name “Jan A” is the pen name of novelist Kim Yong-Man and the name of the main character in his novel. The museum used to be Saetteum, a literary museum that opened in 1996. The spacious gardens that surround the museum building are a reflection of the director and his wife’s 30 years of careful cultivation.

The exhibition rooms of the Jan A Literature Museum are divided into Korean literature, world literature, children’s literature, and thematic exhibition rooms. Each space is organized to showcase the flow of modern and contemporary Korean literature and materials collected from more than 100 countries around the world, while also trying to contribute to live literary education by organizing the development of Korean and international children’s literature in an easy-to-understand fashion and recreating scenes from children’s books. This year, the museum opened the permanent program “Make Your Own Mug” and educational programs “Poem Recitation Academy” and “Jan A Academy.”



Jan A Literature Museum, the playground of texts and soil

The second space is “Soosoo,” a terrace cafe where you can take a break before entering the expressway to Seoul. It is located in Yangseo-myeon, a 15-minute drive from Seojong IC on the Seoul Yangyang Expressway. The name *Soosoo* means “water (水) and trees (樹),” and the small flowerbeds, which are arranged in the style of traditional gardens, harmonize with the beautiful scenery along the Bukhangang River, giving visitors a sense of relaxation. The injeolmi cream bun is recommended here - it is moderately sweet with a savory flavor.



Terrace café “Soosoo” located in Yangseo-myeon

If you choose to take the long way on public transportation via Yangsu Station, you might want to stop at Chaegbogogage, a local shared bookstore in Gangsang-myeon, to catch your

breath and flip through the underlined pages. The bookstore, which proclaims to be a “neighborhood bookstore where my life reaches your life,” has been hosting various book clubs for both children and adults since it opened in 2018. The signature program, “Humanities for Adults,” chose *All Lives Flow* as the philosophy book for May and *Pseudowork* as the economics book for June. Another book club with the theme of “Twelve Months of a Plant Collector” shares information on living with nature based on *Zahradníkův Rok* and *Zero Waste Gardening* and seeks a rational way of living.



“Chaegbogogage,” a neighborhood bookstore and small library in Gangsang-myeon

After spending an afternoon at Yangpyeong-gun, a region where literature, nature, and people find a harmonious coexistence, and a region surrounded by water, wind, and the sound of birds chirping, we read a short piece of writing and departed. The quiet voice reflecting on life remained a solid seed, planted in the garden of minds.

“When I was in middle school, a classmate of mine brought me a bunch of royal azaleas from home. Even after I planted them in my garden, they revived soon without a sign of withering, as it was the rainy season. They spent the summer with green leaves, shed their leaves in the fall like other deciduous species, and survived the winter. Then it was the next spring. The azaleas were in full bloom, but the buds on the royal azaleas didn’t seem to be inflating. I broke off the tip of the branch. It was blue inside. I waited for them to bloom late, as they are usually later than azaleas. But even after the azaleas faded and the leaves sprouted, I heard nothing from the royal azaleas. I raked the soil around them, watered them, and hoped they would sprout. I checked on them several times a day as I walked by. Again, there was no sign of life, so I cut the branch off again. It was dead inside. I tried other branches, but each one was the same. I dug them up with a shovel, ready to throw them away. But, who knew? A few tiny buds were sprouting from the roots! I quickly replanted them and covered them with soil. However, the royal azaleas died within a year. Why didn’t I wait a little longer before digging up the roots?”

– From Hwang Sun-Won’s short story *Tree, Stone, And...*

ONE-LINER QUOTES

Understanding Today's Korean Society

A Sociologist's Pick

Written by Nho Myung-Woo (Professor of Sociology at Ajou University, owner of Nieu Bookstore, a bookstore specializing in humanities and social sciences books)

Nho Myung-Woo is a sociologist teaching sociology at Ajou University and the owner of Nieu Bookstore, a bookstore specializing in humanities and social sciences books.



Hangeul and Typewriter

Kim Tae-Ho, Yukbi Publishing



Korea was the only country that chose the path of reorganizing its character system around Hangeul, developing the Hangeul typewriter, while maintaining the basic form of the romanized typewriter.

Characters are one of the oldest forms of human media. The way we produce text with letters takes many forms, depending on each

region's historical traditions and culture. In alphabetic cultures that use a phonetic writing system, text is written horizontally from left to right. Alphabetic cultures write in syllables, rather than grouping syllables together and representing them in phonetic units. In contrast, East Asia's Chinese character cultures adopted vertical writing, and it has been a long-standing cultural tradition.

The vertical writing style branched out into many different forms in the 20th century, with different countries making different choices. While modern Korean and Chinese languages have adopted horizontal writing, modern Japanese still retains vertical writing. Whereas Japan uses a combination of Chinese characters and its own alphabet, hiragana, modern Korean, unlike Japanese, chose to write in purely Korean characters, embracing the tradition of Chinese characters and grouping consonants and vowels into syllables.

It is an unusual phenomenon that East Asia's long-standing common tradition of vertical writing and the use of Chinese characters to denote meanings has fragmented by country since the 20th century. The book *Hangeul and Typewriter: the Technique, Art, and History of Hangeul's Mechanization* (Yukbi Publishing) explores how the Korean language came to adopt horizontal writing instead of vertical, and to abandon the Chinese characters in favor of Hangeul, through the interpretation of the controversies surrounding the typewriter, which was developed with the goal of mechanizing Hangeul.

I recommend this book to anyone who is curious about Korea's choice to be a Chinese character culture but have a different writing style than modern China and Japan.

“Unable to abandon the Chinese characters that formed the basis of their written language, China and Japan turned to dictionary-style typewriters where they had to ‘find’ and print out the completed characters from a huge bundle of keys. Korea was the only country that chose to reorganize its writing system around ‘Hangeul’ and develop a ‘Hangeul typewriter’ while retaining the basic form of a romanized typewriter.”



I'm a Blue-collar Woman

Park Jung-yeon, Hani Books



“I believed that women could do the same thing as men, whether it was climbing the exterior walls or stacking foam. I asked them not to separate what men could do, and what women could do.”

Gender is still a hot topic in Korea. While women have long since surpassed men in university admissions and are excelling in academic achievement, their gender equality is still lagging behind, ranking 105th out of 146 countries with a gender gap index of 0.68, according to the World Economic Forum's (WEF)

Gender Gap Report 2023.

In Korea, women's social participation is still mostly limited to certain sectors, such as education and the service industry. There are fields that have been less open to women's engagement - the construction and heavy chemical industries are examples. *I'm a Blue-collar Woman* (Hani Books) is a collection of interviews with Korean women in these sectors who have entered the male-dominated professions. Through the voices of blue-collar female workers in these fields, we learn how they came to work in these occupations and overcame the challenges they faced as pioneers as the first female blue-collar workers to enter these occupations. I recommend this book to anyone interested in the vivid voices of modern Korean women - especially blue-collar female workers, ranging from builder carpenters to welders, ready-mixed concrete drivers, home repair workers, and more.

“I believed that women could do the same thing as men, whether it was climbing the exterior walls or stacking foam. I asked them not to separate what men could do, and what women could do.” - by Kwon Won-Young, working at a construction site

KNOWLEDGE

Celebrating 20 Years of Jecheon Miracle Library, a True Gift to Korea

Written by Kang Jung-Ah (Director of Jecheon Miracle Library)

In Korea, there is a “Miracle Library,” which is the one and only in the world

In the early 2000s, children were particularly marginalized in Korea, especially in terms of library services. At that time, the “Miracle Library Project” began as a social concern to address the reality of children in our society who, due to poverty, social indifference, other unfortunate conditions, and the misguided greed of adults, were deprived of their right to grow up freely. In other words, the project was born out of the recognition of the need for libraries dedicated to children as the best possible environment for their creative growth by ensuring their right to grow up freely and broadening the equality of opportunity.

The Miracle Library Project, a nationwide initiative to build libraries exclusively for children, was a collaborative effort of citizens' organizations represented by Citizen Action for Reading, private broadcasters ("Exclamation Mark" on MBC), and local governments to build standard models of buildings, spaces, programs, and operations for the first children's libraries in Korea, and to support various content and operational programs. In fact, following the construction of the Miracle Library, it has greatly stimulated local governments to start building children's libraries, which has had a great impact on not only the public's general interest in libraries but also the country's library policy. Since the opening of the first Miracle Library in Suncheon in 2003, there are now 18 Miracle Libraries across the country (Suncheon, Jecheon, Jinhae, Seogwipo, Jeju, Cheongju, Bukgu in Ulsan, Geumsan, Bupyeong, Jeongeup, Gimhae, Dobong, Gangseo in Busan, Guro, Gongju, Yeosu, Inje, and Jingu in Busan), and they are organized into a nationwide council to maintain solidarity in upholding the objective and spirit of the libraries.

On December 15, 2003, a second “Miracle Library” opened in Jecheon, a small city of 130,000 residents.



- Date of opening: Dec. 15, 2003
- Location: 30, Yongducheon-ro, Jecheon-si, Chungcheongbuk-do
- Size (building area): 4,895m² (1,069.53m²)
- Type: Public library (children’s library)
- Organization in charge of operation: Book Culture Foundation

3, 2, 1.

The veil is drawn down, and the overall structure of the library comes into view. This is the moment when the Jecheon Miracle Library (<http://www.kidslib.org/>) was finally introduced to the public.

How long have we been waiting for this day? The aspirations of 130,000 Jecheon citizens for the opening of this library (including the citizens’ campaign to write letters of hope for the library, signing petitions, human-chain banners, and collecting books) were truly incredible.

Thanks to all that time and aspiration, we could finally have a second Miracle Library in our area, a very special gift for our children.

Photos from the construction process of the Jecheon Miracle Library



Photos of the Citizens Hall plaza, banner attached with letters of hope for the library, and related events



Photos of people participating in a human-chain walking campaign from the Citizens Hall to Uirimji Reservoir



Photo of Jecheon Miracle Library on the opening day with the veil removed (December 15, 2003)

Miracle Library's 20-year-old special operating principles and services

Miracle Libraries have a number of operating policies.

First, it must be a “library for 1-year-olds.” It provides a homey feel by having *ondol* (underfloor heating system) floors, and issues a library card in the baby’s name. The library also supports the “Bookstart” project, which encourages children to become owners of the library from an early age.



For 1-year-old babies! – Bookstart zone



Chaegnara (meaning “country of books”) 1 for infants and young children, and Chaegnara 2 for teenagers

Second, it must be a “live library.” A Miracle Library is managed as an “entertaining library” where various cultural and art programs linked with books are held, not just a place for reading books. Representative programs that started at the Miracle Library and expanded nationwide include “Sleepover at the Library,” “Young Librarian,” and the “Opening Celebration Party.”

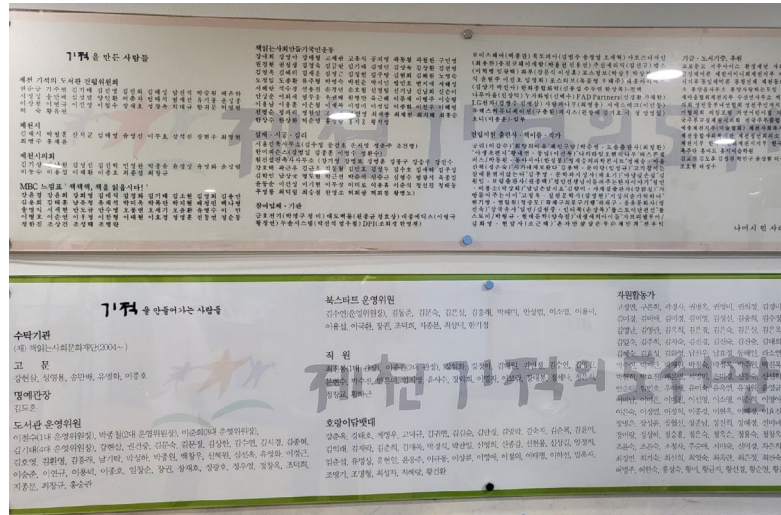


Sleepover at the Library



The Young Librarian program and Coming-of-Age Ceremony marking the library's 20th anniversary

Third, it is a library co-operated by both the private and public sectors. It runs various channels for the private sector's direct and active participation in library operations. Local residents of all ages are participating (volunteering, joining the senior club, etc.).



The name board of people who participated in the establishment and are taking part in the operation of the library



Volunteers and the senior club "Tiger's Smoking Pipe"

Fourth, it is run using a method where the cost and responsibility for raising children are shared by the local community. For example, it supports *pumashi* (meaning “taking turns helping each other with laborious work”) childcare through Bookstart.



Bookstart sessions for dads, parents' education, and joint childcare through Bookstart

Fifth, it connects family, school, and library. It is run by creating the “book-reading family” culture and “book-reading classrooms.” For this, the library has been expanding its “outreach service” by cooperating and building solidarity with various institutions within the region.



“Miracle Shelf,” a reading-space support project, and support for classes reading children’s books



Camping library at your service

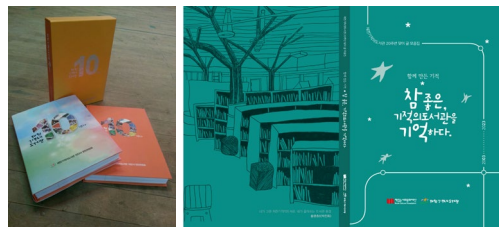
Miracle Libraries in each region are a library of public-private partnerships that dream and create together with local residents to “operate libraries in a new way and create a new library culture” based on the above operating principles.

20 Years of Jecheon Miracle Library: Records with citizens

When we look back at the history of the Jecheon Miracle Library, which turned 20 years old in 2023, many children have grown into adults. Some who were in the upper grades of elementary school when the library opened have already become parents and visited the library again with their children, while others who were in their mothers’ arms at the time have now grown up. And now, regardless of the passage of time, children are growing up, fully embracing the present, and citizens working for the healthy growth of children are gathering to become library activists, another form of social parenting.

The stories of their growth are being written and archived throughout the library. This is an effort to catch the importance of recording their memories so that the meaning of sharing the library’s developmental history within the life cycle of local residents can be kept alive. To celebrate the library’s 20th anniversary, a group of Teen Honorary Reporters set out to collect records of the many people who have made the library a meaningful space in people’s lives, including their experiences growing up with the library, their happy memories of the library, and their time there. They conducted “The Library and Me”

interviews with 20 people with special memories of the library as part of the documentation project, and the library collected free-writing from general users. Through this project, we found that the keywords that represent the Jecheon Miracle Library as remembered by people who have used the library for 20 years were cooperation, solidarity, community, regionality, creativity, playfulness, leisure, and reflection.



10-year-history of Jecheon Miracle Library and a collection of writings in commemoration of its 20th anniversary



10-year-history of Jecheon Bookstart and a photograph collection marking its 15th anniversary



Children's poem and picture book by one of the Jecheon Miracle Library's clubs



"Chaegdokkebi (meaning 'book goblin')," Jecheon Miracle Library's newsletter



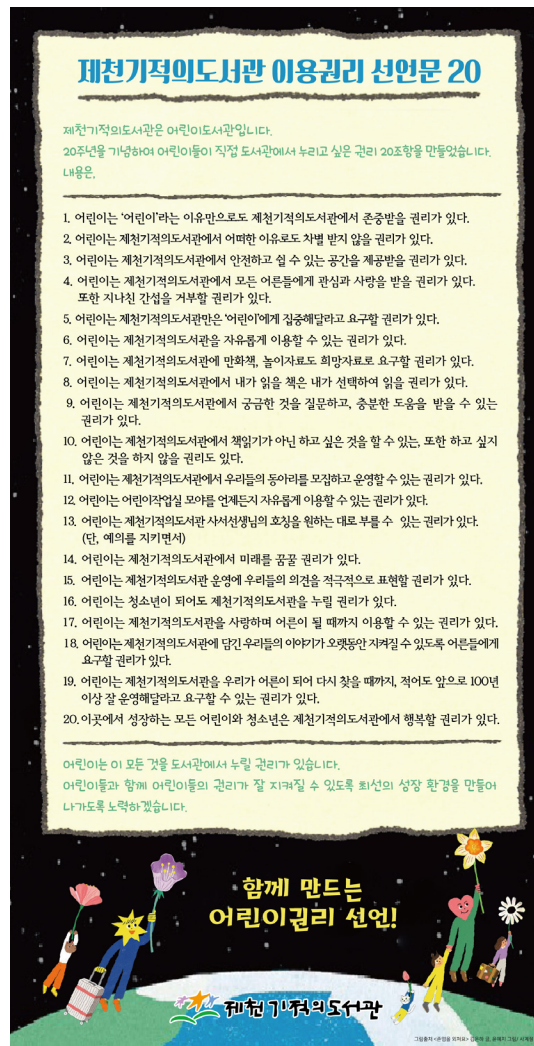
Materials for book-reading activities published by the library



Other publications

Miracle Library continues to dream and grow with children today

The children own Miracle Library. This has been the identity of the Jecheon Miracle Library since its opening in 2023. During “Miracle Library”’s 20th anniversary, many children have grown into adolescents and adults, and its services are also expanding. However, the Miracle Library still starts with children’s services to ensure their access to the libraries.



An excerpt from the Declaration on the Right of Library Use written by children at Jecheon Miracle Library in 2023

17. We love Jecheon Miracle Library and we have the right to use the library until we become adults.
18. We have the right to demand adults so that our stories in the Jecheon Miracle Library can be preserved for a long time.
19. We have the right to demand the healthy operation of the library for at least more than 100 years, until we come again as an adult in the future.
20. All children and teenagers growing up here have the right to be happy in Jecheon Miracle Library.

– From an excerpt from the Declaration on the Right of Library Use

Miracle Library's growth with the children is not just about running a good library, but it is fundamental to the children's ability to trust the adult society in which they are born and raised. Children who grow up in the best environment with the best care will trust the adult society and take pride in their hometown, and this pride and trust will give them the confidence and strength to take the initiative to create a good society for themselves. The Miracle Library will continue to do everything in its power to help these children grow up and hope to be a part of their forever home. To fulfill this dream, we will continue to work with local children every day to write their daily growth stories.

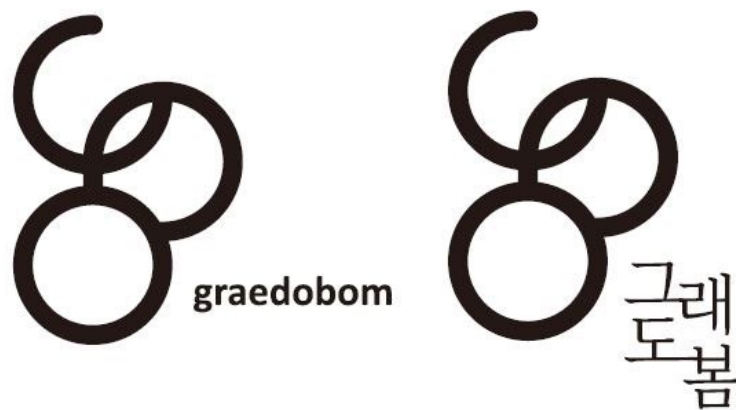
KOREAN PUBLISHERS

Graedobom

A time of imagination for deep contemplation and mindfulness

Spring, when the greenery returns from its winter rest and bursts into life, has the power to melt our hearts just by thinking about it. As such, a publishing house has been actively publishing 18 titles in the past 3 years since its founding in 2021, with works that warm and invigorate our hearts - “graedobom.” Oh Hye-Young, CEO of graedobom, says that as a new publishing house and a one-man publishing house, she enjoys growing with writers and releasing books that she has planned. She also says that she wants to focus on the “heart” and “humanness” of people in each work she publishes, and that she wants to capture “content that you still want to see in this world where there is a multitude of things to see,” which reminds us of the warm, yet strong, spring. We talked to Oh Hye-Young, CEO of graedobom,

who has been painting the colors of graedobom even richer in this era of flooding various contents.



English and Korean logos of publishing house "graedobom"

It's a pleasure to have you with us on *K-Book Trends*. It seems like the word "*bom*" in the name "graedobom" has two meanings - "to read" books and the season "spring." Please introduce publisher graedobom to our international readers and explain the meaning of the name.

That's right, the name "graedobom" has two meanings. I wanted readers to feel warmth and vibrancy when they hear the name "graedobom," recalling the season of "spring." That's why the overall design of the book covers is generally soft and bright. Plus, I wanted the word "graedobom" to mean "to read" books, giving the image of a publishing house that creates content that you still want to read in this world where there are plenty of things to see. You know, there are so many things to see in this world besides books, such as YouTube, Social Media, movies, and

OTT. I wanted the readers to spend time through the books by “graedobom,” contemplating deeply, soothing their hearts, and enjoying the imaginary time in the sounds of turning the pages.

What is the “content you still want to see in a world with plenty of things to see” that graedobom publishes?

I think it's books that help us not to lose our “humanness.” I believe that the “heart” at its center is what shapes our values and beliefs. Many emotions, thoughts, and psychological states affect our behavior and decisions. That's why graedobom focuses on the “heart” and “humanness” of a person rather than on a specific field. For example, I try to reach the ultimate subject by crossing different fields, such as healing the mind through writing, examining human rights through world-class paintings, and providing psychological prescriptions through picture books. Nowadays, new knowledge, information, and even ways to get rich are just a few taps of your finger away. However, I don't think humanness is made up of a few pieces of knowledge. I believe it is made possible by living a life that consistently understands, loves, and cooperates with people, and by being responsible and growing in justice. graedobom aims to produce books and content that people should read to live such a life.

You have published 18 titles in the past 3 years since the company's founding in 2021. What was the driver behind such an active publication?

There's one word that comes to my mind - joy. I find joy in publishing. It's a great joy to have my hands in every step of the process, from planning to editing to production, and to have great collaborators along the way. Personally, I'm pretty happy with the results of *graedobom* (apart from the sales), and I think it's all down to the knowledge and opportunities I had at the publishing house I worked at.

After graduating from college, I worked as a copyeditor for 3 years before joining a publishing house in 2001. Back then, editors were mostly proofreaders. My work started when the CEO or editor-in-chief gave me the manuscript. After about 3 years of doing that, I realized that I needed to take planning seriously, because, in the end, only content producers will survive. For that, planning would be essential, and I started looking for a publishing company where I could actively do planning. I focused on what opportunities they offered me rather than the size of the company. Thanks to this, I could experience books in various fields, including technical subjects, humanities, arts, and non-fiction. When you work hard on planning, you get to know not only editing but also production and promotion. Since it's the book you planned, you get to spend more time thinking about how to produce and promote it than anyone else. I think the joy

I had in planning while working at publishing houses for more than 20 years made it possible for me to put all my energy into planning and publishing without fear when I started my own business.

I Recommend Writing To You, Hurt in Your Heart, and How to Record My Mind - Every Day, Every Moment were published together as graedobom's first books. While the former is a writing guide, the latter is more of a hands-on book with more specific guidance. It seems to be unique in that it's not just about "writing" but "writing that heals." Is there a particular reason why you chose to publish your first books on "writing that heals"? What is the importance of such writing?



*I Recommend Writing To You, Hurt in Your Heart
and How to Record My Mind - Every Day, Every Moment*

Well, I don't think there was a specific reason - it was pure luck. The time when Park Mi-Ra finished her manuscript coincided

with the time when I started my business, and yes, I have always been interested in books on writing. The how-to handbook on writing, *How to Record My Mind - Every Day, Every Moment*, came out 13 years after Park Mi-Ra released *Writing that Heals Your Mind* in 2008, a guide to writing. It is significant in that Park brought together in one book the therapeutic writing methods she has been studying and practicing for over 30 years as a psychotherapist, mindfulness columnist, and guide to healing writing. I felt that it represented the character and direction of what I wanted my business to be, a book that helps you live an enriched life through inner growth. I wanted to remind myself of that, so when I published *How to Record My Mind - Every Day, Every Moment*, I also revised the book *Writing that Heals Your Mind* and published it simultaneously under the title *I Recommend Writing To You, Hurt in Your Heart*.

As I mentioned earlier, I have always been interested in books on writing. I would always find and read books on the subject. However, ironically, I was very afraid of writing. Then, one day, I came across a book titled *Writing that Heals Your Mind* by Park Mi-Ra. My heart sank when I read it, because it was different from the traditional writing techniques. The writer explains that writing contains all the different ways to heal the mind: expressing yourself, distancing yourself, confronting, clarifying, sharing, loving, letting it go, and accepting. She says that when you pour out your pain onto a piece of paper, the pain thins out, and you can uncover the clues to the issues that were shrouded

in fog. In other words, she says that therapeutic writing is a process of dealing with and healing inner wounds through the expression and understanding of various emotions.

“I feel so refreshed after writing
– it’s like as if writing takes away my frustrations!”

“Wow, how can my mind say things like this? It’s amazing.”

“I now understand the things
I didn’t know about myself after writing.”

“I feel like I have grown so much by writing hard.”

“The time I spend writing every day is my happiest time.”

And these are what constitute the core of therapeutic writing.

When we look at your published works, covers that feel like artworks catch our eye. Every publisher puts a lot of effort into the cover, which can be seen as the face of the book, but graedobom’s touch seems to be exceptional. How do you decide on a cover design that draws the reader’s attention?

Thanks for saying that. I feel very happy that you pointed out something that I have been very committed to. As I mentioned earlier, the theme of the books published by graedobom boils down to “humanness” and “heart.” When I ask a designer to design a cover, I tend to ask them not to deviate too far from the warm and sunny vibe. Since the name “graedobom” also means the season of spring, I focus on warmth and harmony rather than something striking and unique.

To be specific, when I request a cover design, I ask for all of them to have a different feeling. For example, I might ask for one to be title-centric, another to be illustrated or pictorial, and another to make use of the surface. Then I decide on one of those directions from the samples, and evolve from there. I have endless discussions with the designer, playing around with colors, and changing the position of the title, until I get the result that I'm satisfied with. Fortunately, the designers I work with are all very open to communication and have really good senses.

While checking readers' reactions is important when making the final decision on the cover, I tend to include a lot of my own opinions as a planner because graedobom is still in its infancy, and it's important to do your best to convey the intention of the books. That way, when the book comes out, I won't have any regrets, won't blame others, and can take it as an opportunity to improve. Perhaps this is something that only a one-man publishing house can do.



Heartwarming and bright covers of graedobom's books
(How to Survive as an English Speaker on Earth, It's Okay to have a Geriatric Pregnancy, I Might Become a Rich Man Overnight, and Cohabitation of a Runaway and a Non-Independent Person)

Graedobom's books can be broadly categorized as humanities/liberal arts and non-fiction. Is there a reason why you focus on these areas, and do you have any plans to expand out into fiction or science books to broaden your audience?

I think it's because it's what I'm most interested in and what I'm good at. When you work on a topic for a long time, planning, you grow the sense to know the extent to which the book will not fail. I think I get some kind of data like, "This is a topic for a print run," or "This is a topic for three or more print runs." For me, that was the case with humanities/liberal arts. (But why don't I have a sense for bestsellers? (Laughs)) In contrast, I publish non-fiction purely because I like it. However, as I work on it, I realize that non-fiction is the most trendy and challenging genre. The major readership is mostly people in their 20s and 30s, and I don't feel like I'm following their tastes enough. I introspect to myself that maybe it's because I'm getting older and my tastes are still set in the past. I think I need to make books that can communicate with readers of my age, even if the audience is smaller - I think I will start by looking around me.

On top of readership, I often get the advice that I should do "literature" to grow the size of the company. Perhaps it is because Korean literature is being loved globally, and its scalability to expand into movies and dramas is unlimited. I understand that, but with my lack of discernment, the chances of choosing a good work are very low. The same goes for science books. As a one-

man publisher, I barely have enough time to do what I do best. There are so many other things to do besides making books. Once the company gets a little more stable, maybe then I will bring in an editor with an interest in literature or science. I hope that day comes soon.

The common thing about graedobom's books is that while they cover a wide range of topics - human rights, psychology, money, conversation, music, and more - they all leave you with a sense of comfort and empathy that is, "It's okay." What is the message you want to convey to readers through your books?

That you are not alone. As we live our lives, there are times when we experience challenges or feel hurt. At times like these, if someone can comfort us and empathize with us, it can ease our minds and console us. Also, understanding and empathizing with others' experiences connects us and gives us a sense of solidarity. It brings us closer and makes us respect each other. If graedobom's books can be that guide, I would like nothing more.

It also seems to be characteristic that most of the books published by graedobom are by Korean writers. Is there a particular reason for primarily publishing books by Korean writers?

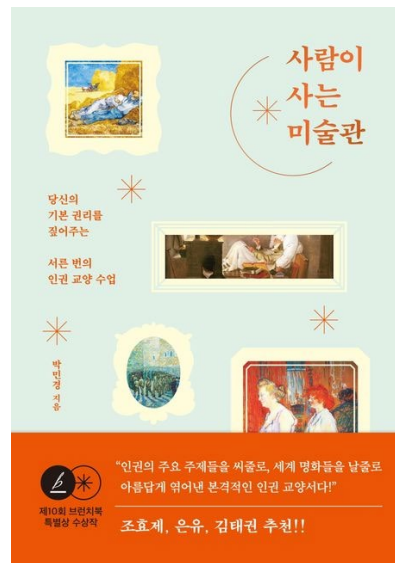
Oh, yes, graedobom has published 18 titles as of May, and 17 of them are by Korean writers. This is because of one reason - I

think there are many great writers in Korea. Plus, the percentage of first-time writers is high at graedobom. I wanted to experience something I couldn't do in the conventional publishing system by starting a business. I wanted to have fun working with writers as I plan, guide them in their writing, and root for them until the end - without the pressure of publishing, without the pressure of sales.

Writers often don't recognize their own strengths, and I have seen firsthand that when someone points them out and gives them direction, they can be very explosive. It does take some time and there's much to pay attention to, but if I guide them right, the results are more than I could have ever imagined. And as we work to perfect the manuscript, we develop a sense of camaraderie and promise to do the next book together. I am happiest when writers say to me, and I tell them, "This is all thanks to you." There's nothing more beautiful than the relationship between a writer and a publisher growing together.

Could you please introduce to our international readers a book of yours that best characterizes graedobom?

I think it's graedobom's first books - *I Recommend Writing To You*, *Hurt in Your Heart*, and *How to Record My Mind - Every Day, Every Moment*, but since I mentioned them above, I shall mention other books here.



A Museum Where People Live

The first book I'd like to introduce is *A Museum Where People Live*. This is the first liberal arts book on human rights by Park Min-Kyung, who has worked for the National Human Rights Commission of Korea for more than 15 years as an investigator, administrator, and human rights education manager. She explains the “basic rights of human beings” that she has seen, heard, and felt on the ground at the Commission in an easy and intriguing fashion through the medium of “paintings.” The book carefully highlights the basic rights that should be respected and protected in our society by discovering the main themes of human rights in the works of Pablo Picasso, Eugène Delacroix, and Vincent van Gogh, who are familiar to the public, as well as lesser-known artists at home and abroad, as well as by reading the history, concepts, and events related to human rights. This book explains the key concepts of human rights in 5 categories: women, labor, discrimination and hatred, the state,

and dignity. It tells the story of how women face great difficulties in a world where the glass ceiling still exists, how the workplaces where they labor for a living have become places where lives are taken, how discrimination develops into hatred and how hatred causes tragedy, how many human rights abuses have been committed by the state, and finally, why human dignity must be respected, in an engaging voice along with the artists' masterpieces.

The book recently went viral on Social Media, after former President Moon Jae-In posted a recommendation saying, "This is the best liberal arts book on human rights that I have ever read."



Life Asked Me How I'm Doing

The next book I would like to introduce is *Life Asked Me How I'm Doing*. It is by Kim Kyung-Jip, a practicing humanist who has been emphasizing the power of introspection while exploring the other side of society. The book talks about wisdom over

knowledge, happiness over success, and the joy of sharing over the joy of having more. The book contains stories of people whose warm hearts and thoughtfulness give comfort and strength to others with their very presence, people who practice sharing within their own boundaries though modestly, and people who change the social structure and stand in solidarity with it. As you immerse yourself in the stories and turn the pages, you will experience moments where hearts are linked and minds meet. The writer continuously asks questions with his insight as a humanist and delivers his message through condensed sentences. You will be able to find the answers to how we should live in this demanding modern world.



A Lesson on Self-Esteem

The last book I'd like to introduce is *A Lesson on Self-Esteem*, which was translated and published in Taiwan. The writer,

a psychiatrist, wrote this book to encourage those who suffered from lookism like the writer herself, and to help recover self-esteem. In addition to detailed descriptions of the emotional and psychological hardships she faced with her alopecia, which started when she was a student, this book thoroughly explores the theoretical and practical knowledge of appearance psychology, body image, neuroaesthetics, and psychodermatology that she delved into to restore her self-esteem. In short, it is the culmination of her medical and psychological research that began with her appearance complexes as well as the psychological tools she experienced and saw effective in restoring her self-esteem.

The writer provides an in-depth explanation to readers who frown at their reflection in the mirror and nibble at their self-esteem, explaining why we feel stressed about our appearance and how it affects our sense of identity, through sociocultural, psychological characteristics, as well as relationship-based experiences. The book also suggests 24 solutions to psychological recovery to give practical help to anyone who is struggling with low self-esteem about their appearance, intensifying the sense of inferiority, and is considering plastic surgery or cosmetic procedures. It is characterized by its easy and interesting explanation of psychological laws proven by experience and experimentation, along with specific examples, instead of obvious advice.

We look forward to graedobom's next steps in comforting the weary hearts by uplifting them and bringing them joy. Can you share with us any plans for new books or future goals?

There are still many books to be released. From a book that adds wisdom to "living alone," to letters exchanged between two neighborhood bookstores, to a city of human rights where everyone can live in freedom and fairness, to an etymology dictionary that adds a pinch of cultured knowledge, and to the language of music that makes our lives beautiful. I hope my books can steal the hearts of readers as books that make a small difference in someone's life, and books with a soulful physicality. But, that doesn't mean I have a specific goal of how many books I'm going to publish, how much sales I'm going to make, or what kind of publisher I'm going to be. I prefer to live a spontaneous life. If I do what I love and can make someone's life better, that's enough for me. The publishing industry in the future will change in a more diverse and innovative form anyway, and the traditional grammar of success won't work. I believe that if I keep on doing things that make graedobom's colors stronger, connect with readers, and contribute to society, something good will happen one day. And, if I could, I'd like to create a space for graedobom and have more time to meet with readers. I hope to discover potential writers who want to make their voices heard in the world and be there to support them.

LET'S TRY

All About Fragrance - Starting with Fragrance Notes!

Event

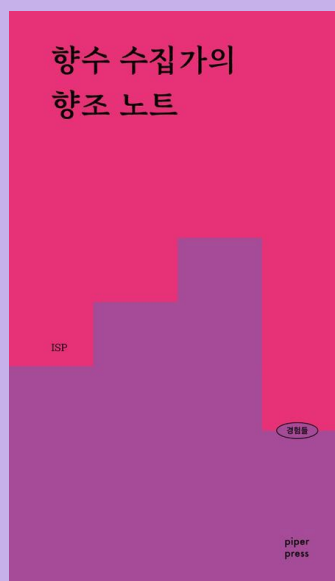
[Let's Try](#) introduces various useful, practical books published in Korea every month.

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!](#)

Perfume Collector's Fragrance Note

- Written by ISP, published by Piper Press



108 fragrance notes and 189 perfumes
introduced by vintage perfume collector ISP!
The book will guide you through everything you need to know
about perfumes, both familiar and unfamiliar.

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레몬, 라임		하이러쉬올	
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카이악 우드		카다말	
로즈우드		수니피 베리	
아키살라우드, 캐쉬미어 우드, 에보니 우드		코리앤더 씨앗	
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유희수 '술의 눈'을 미셔 보신 분이라면 모두 공감하실 거예요. 서양에는 '파인-술'이라는, 소나무 오일이 들어간 세척제를 떠올리는 분들이 많다고 해요. 활물하면 소나무 향에서 이 세척제 향이 연상되기 때문에 향수에 많이 쓰이지는 않습니다. 인프 향이 지약을 연상시키기 때문에 향수에 잘 쓰이지 않는 것과 비슷해요.

한편 진나무는 우디한 향이나 숲 향을 표현할 때 쓰여요. 특히 서양에서 크리스마스 트리에 진나무를 주로 사용하기 때문에 겨울 향수에 크리스마스 분위기를 낼 때 쓰기도 합니다. 러쉬의 '프래시 에즈'에 소나무 향이 들어가죠.

카이악 우드
카이악 우드는 여러 종류가 있어요. 보통은 풀에 가라앉을 정도로 단단하기 때문에 목재로 많이 쓰여요. 향수계에서는 카이악 우드와 말로 산포라는 이름을 혼용하고 있습니다. 열매는 다른 종의 나무지만, 가까운 친척 관계거든요.

말로 산포는 요즘 스머지 스틱이나 인센스 스틱으로 테리서 나는 향을 줄이는 용도로 많이 들어오고 있습니다. 라이크 스틱질 재료를 파는 편집숍에서 찾아보실 수 있을 거예요.

남아메리카가 원산지인 말로 산포 나무는 그곳 선주민 인디언들이 전에 살고 있던 사람들한테 신성한 나무입니다. 50-70년이 지나야만 완전히 자라기 때문에, 환경 파괴와 야구잡이 벌목 등으로 인해 멸종 위기에 처했었어요.

페루에서는 선주민 문화를 존중하고 나무를 멸종에서 구하기 위해 2006년부터 자연적으로 쓰이던 나무나 떨어진 나뭇가지만 사용할 수 있게 했습니니다. 2014년에 접어들면서는 이런 보호 조치의 결과로 말로 산포 나무 개체 수가 늘어나면서 보호 목록에서 빠졌고, 훨씬 많이 거래되기 시작했습니다.

말로 산포는 나무의 중심 부분인 심재에서 오일이 가장 많이 나와요. 부드럽고 은은하며 우디한 향과 더불어 김초가 연상되는 달콤한 향과 인프, 시트러스 향이 약간 느껴집니다.

가볍고 미묘한 향 때문에 최근에 히노끼와 함께 각광받고 있는 향료 중 하나입니다. 바이레드의 '오른 스키아'에 말로 산포가 들어가요.

로즈우드
로즈우드는 여러 용도로 아주 인기가 있었던 귀한 나무입니다. 목재로 쓰면 특유의 어두운 붉은빛부터 고동색에 가까운 갈색의 진한 필칼이 매력적이지요. 악기에 사용하면 뛰어난 소리를 냅니다. 굉장히 단단해서 가구에도 많이 사용되었죠. 우디, 시트러스, 장미로 향이 납니다.

그래서 이 나무가 처음 발견된 브라질에서는 날개 돌진듯이 팔리나갔고, 곧 멸종 위기종이 되었습니다. 지금까지도 로즈우드를 거래하는 것은 멸종 위기에 처한 야생 동식

Think of the refreshing scent of flowers on the street, the pleasant smell of a person passing by, the sweet smell of chocolates gifted by a friend - we come across good, memorable

scents in our daily lives or at unexpected moments. And we often wonder, “What is this smell?” or “I would love to sniff it again and again.” Here, the book *Perfume Collector’s Fragrance Note* is for both perfume lovers and anyone who has ever been curious about “fragrance.”

Did you know that niche perfume brands like Le Labo and Jo Malone often name their products straight from the fragrance notes or the ingredients? That is why it can be difficult to find your favorite scent if you don’t know the types of fragrance notes and ingredients. If you have ever been an unsuccessful perfume shopper, or if you are planning to gift perfume to a loved one, this book is a must-read.

The writer is a vintage perfume collector, who is so passionate about fragrance that he grows the plants that perfumes are made from, and extracts the scents himself at home. In this book, he explains not only the 108 fragrance notes and 189 perfumes, but also how scents are discovered, how they are extracted, and the characteristics of perfumes, in a simple and informative way. What could be more authentic than information from someone who has experienced and explored it firsthand? So, why not read *Perfume Collector’s Fragrance Note* - a book filled with everything you didn’t know about scents and perfumes - and add a little fragrance to your life?

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I READ

The White Book by Han Kang

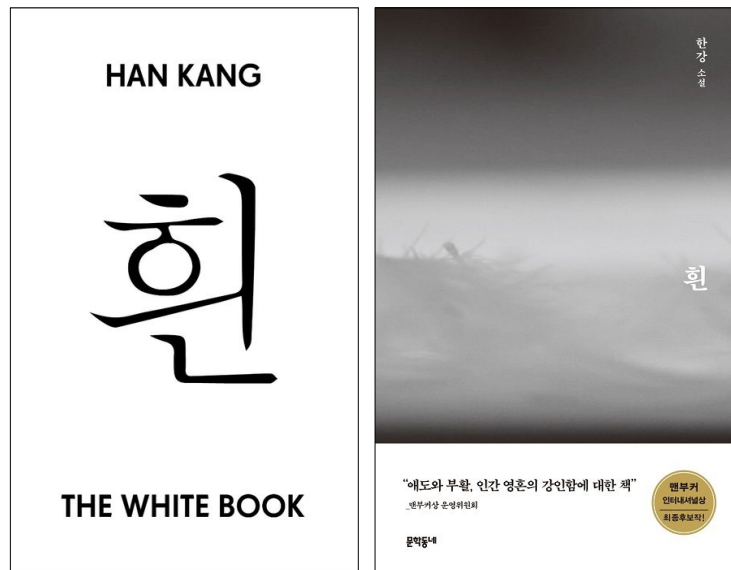
Written by Imane Bouhnik (Reader of *K-Book Trends*)

This article is a review written by an Algerian 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

“Standing at this border where land and water meet, watching the seemingly endless recurrence of the waves (though this eternity is in fact an illusion: the earth will one day vanish, everything will one day vanish), the fact that our lives are no more than brief instants is felt with unequivocal clarity.”

– *The White Book*, p.46



English and Korean covers of *The White Book*

The novel *The White Book* (Munhakdongne Publishing Group), written by Korean author Han Kang, is a profound philosophical work that revolves around white elements with an interesting approach to express pain, grief, mourning, and life. The author, Han Kang, took inspiration from her mother’s experience of losing her first premature baby girl 2 hours after giving birth in unfortunate circumstances.

When writer Han Kang moved to live in a city where the identity of those streets is intertwined with its painful and depressing past, she started recalling her past experiences by making a list of white elements, a color to hide from everything that is impure, to disappear into a world in which she had a chance to live as another soul, her deceased sister.

However, everything that is white is destined to disappear “though this eternity is in fact an illusion: the earth will one day vanish, everything will one day vanish.” The white fog fades after

a while, the sugar cube melts in water as the ice melts, the white wave disappears after the tide... Every white element that passed through her life would barely take hold for a moment and then disappear into nothingness.

Despite the color white being destined to disappear or get replaced, it is still clear and free of impurities, so she explores her memories and imagines new possibilities without ever forgetting that her fate is to vanish. There was even a time when death was flapping its wings on her baby sister's white face, which looked like *songpyeon* (a traditional Korean food made of rice powder). As Han Kang meditated on this idea, she would learn the process of loving life despite its length or ephemerality, its easiness or complexity.

That's how fleeting our experiences and emotions are. We might cry for a moment, then find ourselves dying of laughter over a ridiculous joke, feeling peaceful floating in a fishing boat if we never experienced an ounce of sadness. There is also comfort lying in the impossibility of anything continuing forever, a kind of comfort and submission when you allow yourself to not hold on to a feeling, to let go of things or memories, and to continue living without objection.

NEW BOOKS

My Don Quixote

A heart-warming story for
all Don Quixotes around the world
who have not given up on their dreams!

My Don Quixote



A new title by Kim Ho-Yeon,
a writer beloved by global readers!

The book *My Don Quixote* is
for grown-ups who are young
at heart, and in search of
everlasting dreams and hopes.



Main protagonist "Sol," who goes back to her hometown after quitting work, realizes that "Don Quixote Video," a video rental shop where she used to play with her friends during childhood, is no longer there.



What's more, Mr. Don, the owner of the shop and their spiritual leader, has gone missing!

Sol tries to find Mr. Don, uploading videos on YouTube, but her friends do not seem interested in the issue.



"Where did he go, leaving all these traces of his dream behind?"

"Have my friends forgotten our childhood memories as they grew up?"



Will there be a touching reunion
at the end of Sol's journey to find
Mr. Don, now a fading figure?

What exciting story will Mr. Don tell
at the end of the long journey?



The people from your memories
you'd wished you could meet, the dreams
that have been forgotten in your busy life,
and the old friends you have long missed...

How about reading *My Don Quixote*,
a book that makes you both
shed tears and laugh, and go after
your dreams once again!



A story about people searching for
and chasing their dreams



My Don Quixote

Kim Ho-Yeon, Namu Bench

BEST SELLERS

2nd Week, May 2024**Best Seller Trends in the Four Biggest Online Bookstores in Korea**

May is known as the month of family in Korea, as there are many big and small holidays, such as Children's Day and Parent's Day. The 2nd week of May, especially with Children's Day, was a great time to catch up on the books people have been meaning to read. As such, the integrated list of best sellers on major online bookstores in Korea for the week was dominated by business, self-help, and humanities books.

The first book on the list is No. 3, *How to LIVE Your Life*, about the writer's belief that investing can bridge the gap between the rich and poor and reduce social inequality. The book is divided into 3 chapters, covering investment strategies, methods, and attitudes. Another self-help book by football coach Son Woong-Jung, the father of football player Son Heung-Min, who has been

excelling at home and abroad, entered the top 10. Featuring Son Woong-Jung's reading notes and several interviews with poet Kim Min-Jung, *I Read, Write, and Throw Out* is a heartwarming and humorous book that gives life lessons. Meanwhile, Yoo Sun-Kyung, the writer who shed light on the topic of vocabulary and literacy, has released a transcribing note, as her new book. *One Page a Day: A Transcribing Note for Your Vocabulary* is not just a book about transcription, but a practical guide that will help you improve your vocabulary, literacy, and concentration, as you practice transcription one page at a time.

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 49* – Go to the interview with writer Yoo Sun-Kyung

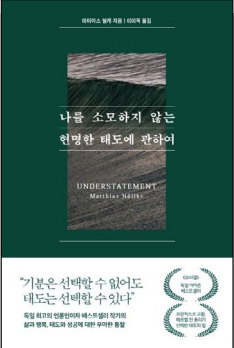

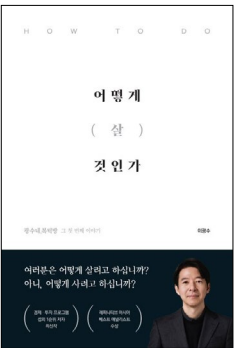
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1036&page=2&code=interview&category=66

The No. 1 and No. 2 of the top five best sellers in the children's category for the 2nd week of May were books by well-known writers both in Korea and abroad. For example, *Magic Candy Recipe* by Baek Hee-Na, No. 1, is a spin-off of *Magic Candies* (Bear Books Inc.), which was loved by readers around the world, featuring a story of making magic candies following the previous story of eating them. It is a book that makes readers curious and enthralled to find out what story the magic candies, which enable you to listen to people's minds, will tell this time. The No. 2 book, *Carrot Grandma*, is written by Bonsoir Lune, who has been praised by readers around the world for having a brilliant sensibility of Korean picture books in her works. It is a family-friendly picture book that the whole family can read and talk

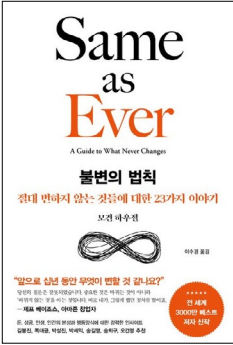

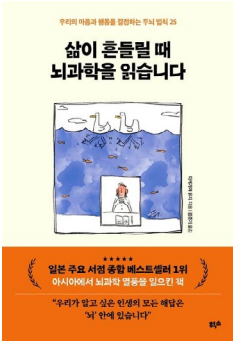
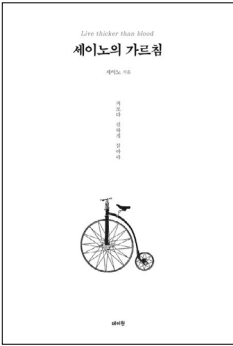
about together, conveying the love of a grandmother who wants to feed her children to the fullest.

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 26 – Go to the interview with writer Baek Hee-Na*
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=550&page=4&code=interview

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

Top 10 best sellers for the 2nd week of May	
1	 <p><i>Understatement</i></p> <p>Author Matthias Nöllke Publisher First Penguin Genre Self-help</p>
2	 <p><i>Live English Conversation with Mr. Red Cap</i></p> <p>Author Shin Yong-Ha Publisher Woongjin Jisik House Genre Foreign Language</p>
3	 <p><i>How to LIVE Your Life</i></p> <p>Author Lee Gwang-Soo Publisher Eden House Genre Business</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 2nd week of May

4		<p><u>Same as Ever</u></p> <p>Author Morgan Housel Publisher Seosamdok Genre Business</p>
5		<p><u>Common Siblings 16</u></p> <p>Author Hunhan Namdae Publisher Mirae N (I-Seum) Genre Children's Comics</p>
5		<p><u>I Read Brain Science When My Life Falts</u></p> <p>Author Yuji Ikegaya Publisher Hicks Genre Humanities</p>
7		<p><u>Sayno Love</u></p> <p>Author Sayno Publisher Day One Genre Self-help</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 2nd week of May

<p>8</p>		<p><u><i>I Read, Write, and Throw Out</i></u></p> <p>Author Son Woong-Jung Publisher Nanda Genre Self-help</p>
<p>9</p>		<p><u><i>Don't Need a Path of Flowers, My Life is a Flower</i></u></p> <p>Author Oh Pyung-Seon Publisher Forest Books Genre Non-fiction</p>
<p>10</p>		<p><u><i>One Page a Day: A Transcribing Note for Your Vocabulary</i></u></p> <p>Author Yoo Seon-Kyeong Publisher Wisdom House Genre Humanities</p>
<p>10</p>		<p><u><i>Reading Schopenhauer at Forty</i></u></p> <p>Author Kang Yong-Soo Publisher Uknowbooks Genre Humanities</p>

Top 5 children's books for the 2nd week of May

1		<p><i>Magic Candy Recipe</i></p> <p>Author Baek Hee-Na Publisher Story Bowl</p>
2		<p><i>Carrot Grandma</i></p> <p>Author Bonsoir Lune Publisher Changbi Publishers</p>
3		<p><i>The Not-So-Friendly Friend</i></p> <p>Author Christina Furnival Publisher Little Forest</p>
4		<p><i>100-story House in the Swamp</i></p> <p>Author Toshio Iwai Publisher Book Bank</p>
4		<p><i>I'm Happy When...</i></p> <p>Author Annabel Segura Publisher Orange Pencil</p>

#K-BOOK

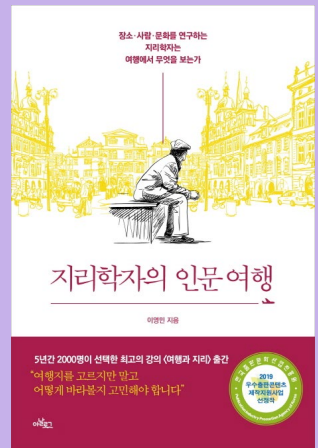
#Trip

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

A Geographer's Travel with Humanities

1. Publication Details

Title | A Geographer's Travel with Humanities
 Subtitle | As someone who studies place, people, and culture, what does a geographer discover
 Author | Lee Youngmin
 Publisher | GEULDAM
 Publication Date | 2020-08-10
 ISBN | 9791187147411
 No. of pages | 252
 Dimensions | 152 * 210



2. Book Intro

A unique, rich travel experience happens only when you think about how to appreciate your travel, not just where to travel. In this travelogue, a geographer observes people and places from a humanities perspective. For instance, you should not only take selfies at Seonamsa, a Korean temple famous for red plum blossoms but you should also take in its unique scent, sound, and atmosphere. The sunset at Monument Valley, USA will also feel entirely different with just a little bit of geographical knowledge of how the iconic landscapes of countless western movies were filmed here. In addition, the author says that traveling by train can also create a surprisingly different travel experience. Of course, there is no right answer, but a little knowledge about geography can definitely take your travel to the next level. This book is especially useful to those who dream of a unique travel experience, something richer, less mundane. Geography is not just a way with directions,

but a knowledge that helps you learn about the relationship between people and places. It is a dynamic life story about people who live in particular natural environments. That being said, some geological knowledge turns a traveler, who could otherwise remain a passive onlooker, into an active participant; they can broaden their horizons by looking into their travel more closely. This book is a must-read for those who want a deep understanding of travel, who want to digress from their usual, conventional travel, and who think pictures just will not suffice.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5448

The Journey to Eurasian History

1. Publication Details

Title | The Journey to Eurasian History
Subtitle | A New Silk Road Travel Diary
Author | Jeong Jaehun, Lim Youngae, Kim Janggoo,
Joo Kyeongmi, Kang Inuk, Cho Won
Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.
Publication Date | 2018-07-13
ISBN | 9791160943801
No. of pages | 320
Dimensions | 152 * 214



2. Book Intro

This book is an attempt to re-examine the history of the vast roads connecting the Korean Peninsula to the Eurasian continent and Europe, which are collectively known presently as the Iron Silk Road. Currently, the Silk Road areas of Central Asia are undergoing major changes as the political and economic interests of each country collide, indiscriminate developments progress, and history is rediscovered and newly written. The six authors, who are experts in their respective fields of study with regard to Central Asia from nomadic empires to Buddhist art and archeology, have examined the long history of these regions as well as how history is being reinterpreted in the present cataclysm.

Interconnecting regions of the Eurasian continent, the historic Silk Road is not a single road like modern railways and roads but a combination of roads crossing deserts, plains, mountains, jungles, and seas. The purpose of those who traveled along the path was quite diverse, ranging from political negotiations and conquests to economic gain, religious missions, and imperial exploration. The history of these regions, where so many people, goods, and civilizations crossed, conveys overwhelming complexity. Thus, the authors elected to explore

the history and geography of these areas in a manner in which readers can comfortably approach the subject, covering historical figures and specific travel routes. The people examined by this book include 20th-century explorers such as Zhang Qian of the Han dynasty who headed west to form military alliances; Buddhist pilgrims who journeyed to India to save Buddhist scriptures; and Marco Polo who traveled to meet Kublai Khan of the Mongol Empire. Misconceptions about well-known figures have either been corrected or have had their existential meanings redefined.

What's more, the book introduces a wealth of relatively unknown figures. These include Japanese Buddhist monk Tōkan Tada, the Nestorianists of Mongolia, Christian monk Rabban Bar Sauma, the relatively unknown Russian pioneer of Silk Road research Nikolay Przhevalsky, and the first female Silk Road explorer Aleksandra Potanina.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=411

Puberty Philosophy Journey

1. Publication Details

Title | Puberty Philosophy Journey
Subtitle | Philosophy Stories For Teens
Author | Yoo Sungoh
Publisher | YellowPig
Publication Date | 2022-01-07
ISBN | 9791197628528
No. of pages | 176
Dimensions | 146 * 210



2. Book Intro

What is happiness? This engaging book is a general humanities book that explores philosophy through questions rooted in everyday life. The author poses a variety of philosophical questions based on the daily experiences of teenagers and explains related philosophical theories.

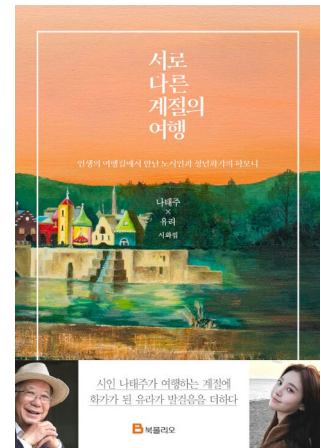
Philosophy is not merely information or knowledge to be memorized; it is a process of asking and answering questions about the nature and meaning of life. In this sense, all humans have the potential to be philosophers. As teenagers strive to uncover the true meaning of life, they will understand what philosophy is and what it means to live a life steeped in philosophical practice. Ultimately, this journey will empower them to lead more meaningful and valuable lives.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=7799

Journeys in Different Seasons

1. Publication Details

Title | Journeys in Different Seasons
Author | Na Taejoo, Yura
Publisher | Mirae N Co., Ltd.
Publication Date | 2022-01-03
ISBN | 9791168410640
No. of pages | 156
Dimensions | 135 * 194



2. Book Intro

The Meeting of Poet Na Tae-joo and Painter Yu-ra, Two Artists Living in Different Seasons

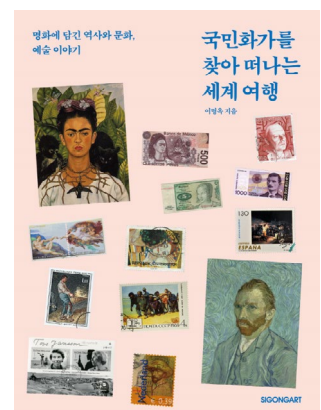
Poet Na Tae-joo, who lives in the season of old age, and painter Yu-ra, who lives in the season of youth, met each other. This book selects and compiles Na Tae-joo's poems about the four seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter, and their travels during each season, and combines them with Yu-ra's paintings that fit perfectly. The book includes 80 poems, some of which were newly written by Na Tae-joo in response to Yu-ra's paintings, divided into four parts: 'Spring blooms / Summer flows / Autumn ripens / Winter descends'.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=6218

A Round-the-World Trip to Visit National Artists

1. Publication Details

Title | A Round-the-World Trip to Visit National Artists
Subtitle | Learning about History, Culture, and Art through Masterpieces
Author | Lee Myungohk
Publisher | SIGONGSA Co., Ltd.
Publication Date | 2019-07-25
ISBN | 9788952736246
No. of pages | 384
Dimensions | 150 * 200



2. Book Intro

An interesting journey to visit national artists around the world. Meeting the artists leads to experiencing the history, culture, and art of each country.

A Round-the-World Trip to Visit National Artists is a new book by Myung Ohk Lee, an eminent art curator and bestselling writer, as well as director of Korea's Savina Museum. The book profiles "national artists" who are named as such only due to the unique understanding of their time and the presentation of timeless values in their works. Arts exist everywhere in the world, and meeting the top artists of a country means meeting the history and culture of that country.

In a new and unique concept of art tourism, the book introduces 23 artists from around the world, including Rembrandt and Van Gogh from the Netherlands, Albrecht Dürer from Germany, Edvard Munch from Norway, Gustav Klimt from Austria, Leonardo da Vinci from Italy, Frida Kahlo from Mexico, Rene Magritte from Belgium, and Nam June Paik from Korea. This helps readers to understand each country's history and culture and highlights places that travelers like to visit. An educational book through which readers can learn other cultures through art.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2620

A Veterinarian's Journey Around the World

1. Publication Details

Title | A Veterinarian's Journey Around the World

Subtitle | In Pursuit of Animal Welfare

Author | Yang Hyo-Jin

Publisher | Book Factory Dubulu

Publication Date | 2022-01-25

No. of pages | 336

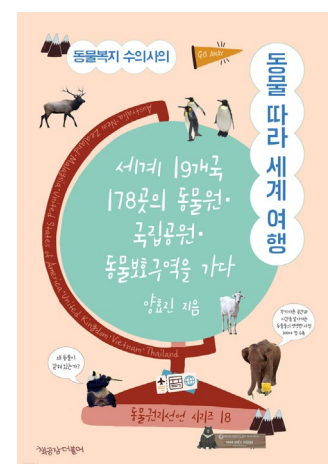
Dimensions | 152 * 225

2. Book Intro

A Vet Who Visited 178 Zoos/Sanctuaries/National Parks Across 19 Countries Over Five Years

After five years of working at a zoo, a veterinarian escapes her zoo enclosure. The animals she met in the zoo all seemed unfortunate. So to find an answer to the question, "Why do zoos exist?" she broke out of the zoo and visited 178 facilities including zoos, national parks, and sanctuaries across 19 countries to look into animals. And this journey is an ongoing mission.

Studies suggest that, at zoos, visitors spend an average of eight seconds in front of a snake cage, one minute in front of the lions, and two minutes in front of the elephants. To give humans time to feast their eyes upon them, animals undergo a great deal of pain throughout their whole lives. Zoo animals are not the end of the story. An elephant rescued from an elephant riding business for tourists could not bear to be with humans anymore, and a goat rescued from a children's zoo



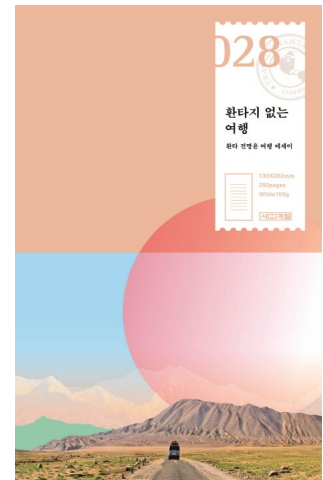
came to hate children. This book will help us move on from using animals for momentary pleasure to exploring the lives of animals properly.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=7345

Travel without Fantasy

1. Publication Details

Title | Travel without Fantasy
Author | Jeon Myung Yun
Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.
Publication Date | 2019-07-24
ISBN | 9791160944921
No. of pages | 292
Dimensions | 131 * 202



2. Book Intro

The representative travel essay writer in Korea, Fanta, Jeon Myung Yun, finally has announced the stories he could not share in his guide book. This book tells us that traveling is not a prepared plastic farming house for pleasure only. Rather, this book offers the next stage of fantasy what readers have wanted to see and hear during the journey.

Fanta, who left for India with broken heart after the end of love relationship 20 years ago, learned only one lesson during his journey all over the world. What he realized is that being with someone else can only work when we know and understand our partner has walked through the different history from us. Travel only aiming at personal experience or just seeing beautiful sceneries will never show us the actual life of people living there. New things are revealed only when we meet actual people and try to research the history of that land. Therefore, 'Traveling without Fantasy' opens a door for readers to a new journey beyond fantasy.

In this book, the writer visits many places, including India, where people strongly believed that India would never change even 100 decades later, Macau where people built the city of Casino on the ocean, Okinawa where no one believes the myth of long-lived town any more, and Hong Kong where people fight for themselves to maintain freedom against the oppressive government. The writer, Fanta, comes back to his daily life after wandering various places and experiencing the current social issues in Asia. He says, "The life of journey is the life of coming back to ordinary life after traveling" His journey only becomes real under this philosophy.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5854

Educational Excursions 100 Years Ago

1. Publication Details

Title | Educational Excursions 100 Years Ago

Author | Jo YunJeong

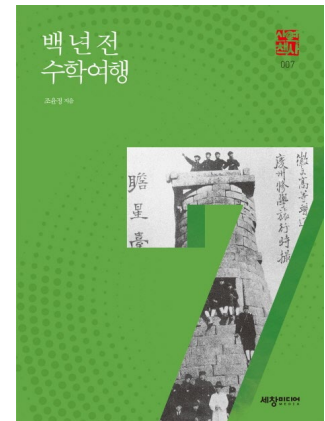
Publisher | Sechang Publishing Co.

Publication Date | 2018-08-10

ISBN | 9788955865301

No. of pages | 196

Dimensions | 128 * 175



2. Book Intro

The advent of railways on the Korean Peninsula in the 1900s, though part of the Japanese Empire's insidious plan to take over the country, has signaled the advent of long-distance travel activities for Korean schools. They entailed touring scenic or culturally significant locations to understand Korean history, going into nature to escape the pressures of urban life, or learning about the latest technological developments from the country's city centers. Annual educational excursions became an established part of the school year in the 1920s, during the Japanese occupation. These excursions expanded to Manchuria and Japan in the mid-20s. Following the Sino-Japanese war in 1937, they were also used as a pretext to force Korean students to worship at Shinto shrines. What, then, was the original purpose and meaning of educational excursions? Today, they are simply overnight school trips chaperoned by teachers and planned by the school, where students gain first-hand travel experience in a large group. In the 1900s, however, modernized education was a tool to civilize the nation and develop the Korean Empire. Educational excursions served to instill national pride in students and provide them with the experience of a patriotic mass gathering. Afraid that this would lead to large-scale, nationalistic student activities, the Japanese Empire attempted to shorten the duration of these excursions. When they failed, the Empire instead had schools travel to Pyongyang—the capital of the Kingdom of Goguryeo—and Gyeongju—the capital of the Kingdom of Silla—to provide students with a false historical narrative: that the Korean Peninsula was a passive nation that bowed to China, and that the Japanese had made historical inroads into Korea to rule the kingdoms of Gaya and Silla. This intervention into students' historical awareness was intended to ease the colonization process, and its legacy remains today in Gyeongju's status as one of the top educational excursion destinations. Excursions into Japan in the 1910s and 20s were intended to showcase Japanese advancements in modernization, but were replaced by visits to Shinto shrines in the 30s and 40s in an attempt to assimilate Koreans into Japanese society. Meanwhile, excursions into Manchuria allowed students to meet fellow countrymen who had escaped Japanese oppression, providing an opportunity to sympathize with their plight.

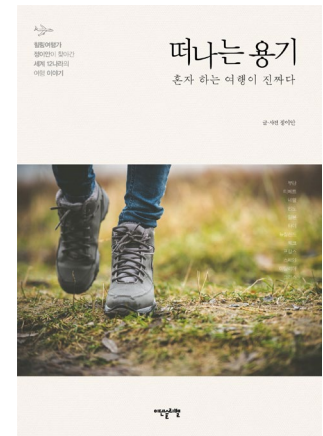
Though educational excursions are seen today as a nostalgic part of high school life, this book asks the reader to question their present-day place and meaning.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5646

Be Bold Enough to Leave

1. Publication Details

Title | Be Bold Enough to Leave
Subtitle | Going Solo Will Lead You to True Travel
Author | Jeong Yiahn
Publisher | Eat&SleepWell
Publication Date | 2015-05-13
ISBN | 9788991310735
No. of pages | 280
Dimensions | 148 * 210



2. Book Intro

Be Bold Enough to Leave's main theme is a healing trip. Jeong has travelled around foreign countries not as a tourist but as a traveler and achieved the purposes of her wanderings-- stress relief and healing. Taking advantage of her profession as an oriental medical doctor, she has also obtained some useful information about health that she has found in different parts of the world. The readers may notice that the author is outstanding in finding multiple ways and products to make our body and mind healthy, such as Tiber yogurt, Greek fermented dairy foods, bathing in hot springs, meditation, and walking along the forest, wetlands, and parks. Jeong comforts people who are too busy with their work and study to take care of themselves and encourages them to be bold enough to leave. In addition, **she provides a variety of useful information for those who have never traveled abroad and clarifies the reason why they have to leave.** The pleasure of travelling found in her heart-warming photos and interesting episodes prompts the readers to muster up the courage to leave.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=231

Spicy, Salty, Sour and Sweet

1. Publication Details

Title | Spicy, Salty, Sour and Sweet

Subtitle | A Korean Food Trip in a Campervan

Author | Kim Inhye, Jo Yunju

Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.

Publication Date | 2019-01-28

ISBN | 9791160944105

No. of pages | 40

Dimensions | 217 * 290



2. Book Intro

This picture book is designed to introduce various funny foods and the eating culture of each region to children, so that they can know Korean food well.

However, *Spicy, Salty, Sour and Sweet: A Korean Food Trip in a Campervan* doesn't only focus on traditional Korean foods. It features a variety of interpretation and food knowledge (including the foods that were introduced from other countries to Korea and localized, modern Korean foods loved by foreigners, and favorite street foods) along with big, mouth-watering pictures. By reading this book, readers can get a general overview of Korean food and local characteristics. A lot of information about food and popular food trends can be found throughout the book, which adds more fun.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1471

INFO

2024 K-Book Copyright Market



2024
**K-Book Copyright
Market**

Period: June 24 - June 26, 2024 (3 days)
Venue: Crystal Ballroom, Lotte Hotel World,
Seoul, Korea
Host: Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism
Organizer: Publication Industry Promotion
Agency of Korea (KPIPA)

One-on-one business meetings on
publishing copyrights will be held
between 100 Korean participants and
100 international buyers.

Various other events will be held,
including consulting programs,
IR pitches from Korean companies,
networking receptions,
and a visit to the Seoul International
Book Fair (SIBF).

We ask for your continued interest in
the **2024 K-Book Copyright Market**
run by KPIPA!



If you have any inquiries, contact the
K-Book Export Support Team at KPIPA
kbook4@kpiipa.or.kr