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# K-Book Trends

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



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## TOPIC

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# Korean Readers' Picks in the First Half of 2024

Written by Kim Hyun-Jung  
(Brand Communication Team, Kyobo Book Centre)

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According to the “2023 National Reading Survey” announced by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism in Korea, the overall reading rate was observed to be 43.0%, the lowest since the survey was initiated in 1994. This means that 6 out of 10 adults don't even read a single e-book or audiobook, let alone a paper book. The shrinking of the reading population, which forms the foundation for the publishing market, and the aging population have been issues in Korea for quite a long time. However, it was indeed a shocking figure for the publishing industry as it expected to see a steady increase in the reading population since it enjoyed a boom during the pandemic compared to other industries.

In the first half of the year, the reduction in newly published titles, driven by a contracting publishing market, alongside the enduring popularity of long-time bestsellers, played a significant role in the industry. The primary book-buying demographic, traditionally women in their 40s and 50s, is expanding. However, it is readers in their 20s who are truly revitalizing the publishing industry. They are making waves as they rediscover the value of reading, appreciating its rarity in today's digital age.

These younger readers are not only influenced by books recommended by influencers and media but are also exploring a wide range of genres, including humanities, philosophy, and poetry. Their active engagement—reading, sharing on social media, and creating content—has gradually energized the bookselling market. In an era where life advice is often scarce, hearing the wisdom of those who have faced challenges is particularly heartening. Here's a look at some of the books that resonated with readers in the first half of the year.

### **The power of timeless content**

The first half of the year was a time when older books were more popular than new bestsellers, most notably in fiction. Plus, the number of fiction titles published was down significantly (-13.2%) compared to the first half of last year, indicating a greater reliance on more established sellers. Of the top 30 fiction bestsellers in the first half of the year, 11 were 10 or more years

old. Books like *The Three-Body Problem* (published in 2013) and *Dune* (published in 1992) suddenly emerged as bestsellers thanks to movie adaptations and OTT original series. While the public's attention tends to shift as soon as other popular content comes along, the market for content-based IP businesses grows every year, and original content garners explosive interest.



*Contradictions; Gu's Proof; The Old Woman With the Knife; The Vegetarian*

Meanwhile, Korean fiction has become a hot topic not because of media issues, but because of books that have become so popular that even authors and publishers are baffled as to why. The power of their content has allowed them to stand the test of time and become more popular than when they were published. For example, Yang Gui-Ja's *Contradictions* (Write Publishing), which was already on the bestseller list when it was published in 1998 and then disappeared from the rankings for a while, reached the number one spot in the fiction category. Other top Korean fiction titles include Choi Jin-Young's *Gu's Proof* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing), which was published in 2015, Gu Byeong-Mo's *The Old Woman With the Knife* (Wisdom House), and Han Kang's

*The Vegetarian* (Changbi Publishing). With the exception of *The Vegetarian*, which won the Man Booker Prize and has been consistently on the charts, the books grew in popularity through word of mouth and recommendations from readers, spreading across all age groups.

### Top 10 Korean fiction for the first half of 2024 and their published year

Rank	Title	Author	Published year
1	<i>Contradictions</i>	Yang Gui-Ja	1998
2	<i>Gu's Proof</i>	Choi Jin-Young	2015
3	<i>The Uncanny Convenience Store</i>	Kim Ho-Yeon	2021
4	<i>Even With the Dimmest Light</i>	Choi Eun-Young	2023
5	<i>Marigold Mind Photo Studio</i>	Yun Jung-Eun	2024
6	Winners of the 15th Munhakdongne Young Author Award 2024	Kim Mella	2024
7	<i>The Old Woman With the Knife</i>	Gu Byeong-Mo	2013
8	<i>The Flamingo's Seat</i>	Jung Hae-Yeon	2021
9	<i>Marigold Mind Laundry</i>	Yun Jung-Eun	2023
10	<i>The Vegetarian</i>	Han Kang	2007

This is largely driven by readers in their 20s. The most popular book in the first half of this year among Korean readers in their 20s was *Contradictions*. *Gu's Proof*, which didn't make the top 10 overall bestseller list, was the 5th best-selling book for readers in their 20s.

*Contradictions* portrays the reality of young people at the crossroads of major life changes. The fundamental concerns of life have remained the same for those in their 20s, whether 26 years ago when the book was first published or for today's Generation Z, the digital natives. What has changed is the social environment—from typing and storing documents to AI and coding. Yet, beyond contemporary empathy, the pain of making choices remains timeless. The contradiction of appearing enviable to others while enduring unbearable personal struggles, which can lead to catastrophe, was true then and is true now. This paradox is further amplified in our current era by the emptiness created by social media.

*Gu's Proof* is a grotesque tale of a life lived with fierce determination in the face of a cruel reality, supported by the protagonist's unwavering love and companionship. What began as an interest sparked by a YouTube music playlist evolved into a book. Readers in their 20s have demonstrated through this story that no life is insignificant.

### Comparison of top 10 bestsellers chosen by readers in their 20s and across all age groups for the first half of 2024

Rank	Bestsellers among readers in their 20s	Overall bestsellers
1	<i>Contradictions</i>	<i>Reading Schopenhauer at Forty</i>
2	<i>SayNo Love</i>	<i>All the Beauty in the World</i>
3	<i>I Decided Not to Misunderstand What I Said</i>	<i>Same as Ever</i>
4	<i>All the Beauty in the World</i>	<i>SayNo Love</i>
5	<i>Gu's Proof</i>	<i>Contradictions</i>
6	<i>Same as Ever</i>	<i>Small Things Like These</i>
7	<i>Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention</i>	<i>Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention</i>
8	<i>Gangster Grandmother in Hospital</i>	<i>Day Trading Strategies for Stock Investment: A to Z</i>
9	<i>How to Win Friends and Influence People</i>	<i>Be Your Future Self Now</i>
10	<i>Reading Schopenhauer at Forty</i>	<i>Psychology for Grown-ups Who Think Too Much</i>

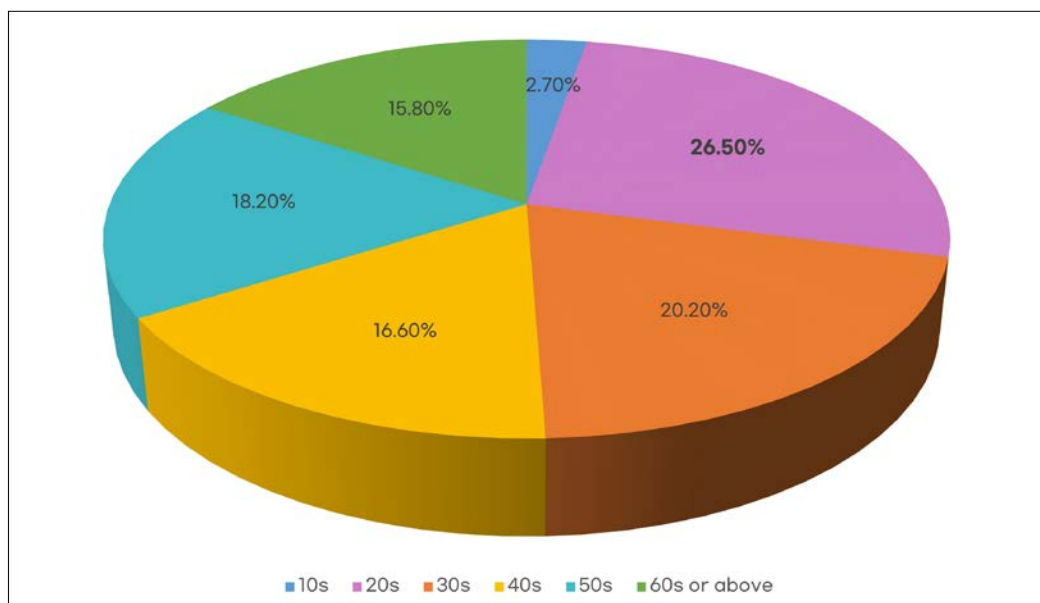
### Reading becomes “hip” for being rare

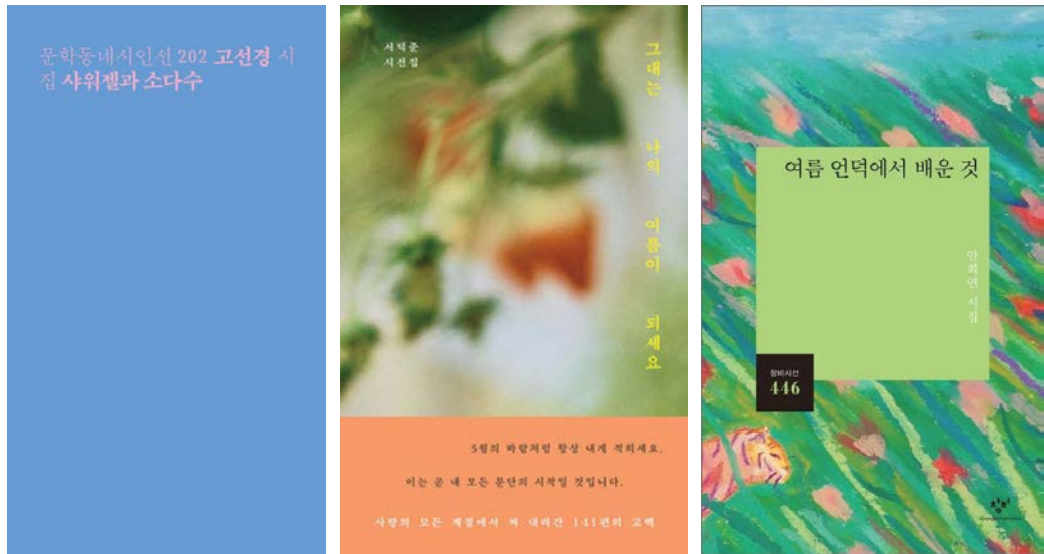
As such, as readers in their 20s bring energy to bookstores, the perception that it's cool to be seen reading popped up - even coining the term “Text-Hip.” They don't just read quietly and alone. They share selfies of themselves reading on Social Media and recommend good books. They share their love for books by quoting good lines. It's not just about showing off on Social Media. The Seoul International Book Fair, which was held in

the first half of this year, attracted 150,000 visitors, an increase of about 15.4% from the previous year. On the weekends, the waiting time to enter the fair was over an hour, and the lines for experience booths and purchases were extremely long. As most of the visitors were in their 20s and 30s, they showed the characteristics of an active reading population. Perhaps they were framed as a generation that is addicted to smartphones and does not read books.

Also, they are active in finding and sharing good books, not just trending bestsellers. One of the categories that has become more “hip” with the influx of readers in their 20s is poetry. In the first half of this year, readers in their 20s accounted for 26.5% of sales by age group in the poetry category. Poetry collections were appealing to them because they let you feel and share various thoughts and emotions through short verses.

Sales of poem collections for the first half of 2024 by age groups





*Shower Gel and Soda; Be My Summer; What I Learned on the Summer Hill*

When looking at the most popular poetry collections read by readers in their 20s in the first half of this year, the rise of younger poets such as Ko Sun-Kyung, Park Cham-Sae, and Seo Deok-Jun stood out. It seems that readers were moved by poetry collections by poets with a sense of contemporaneity rather than those that have been loved for a long time and have become favorites. In addition, collections featuring summer poems were noticeable. For example, *Shower Gel and Soda* (Munhakdongne Publishing), *Be My Summer* (Wisdom House), and *What I Learned on the Summer Hill* (Changbi Publishing), which connect youth and summer, were popular as refreshing reads.

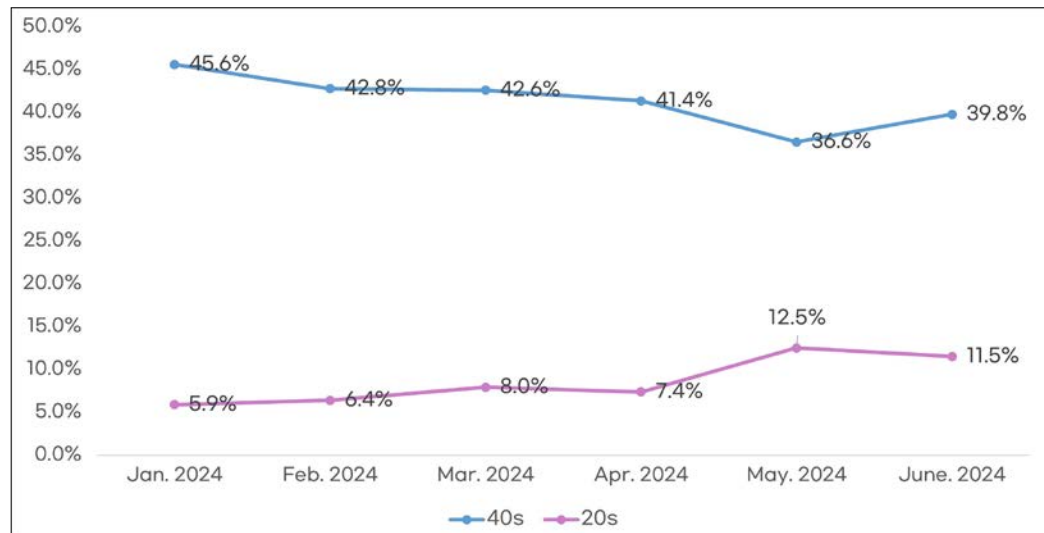
**Top sales rankings for poetry collections  
among readers in their 20s for the first half of 2024**

Rank	Title	Author	Publisher
1	<i>Shower Gel and Soda</i>	Ko Sun-Jyung	Munhakhdongne Publishing
2	<i>Have I Ever Loved Someone This Much</i>	Lee Byeong-Ryul	Munji Books
3	<i>The Mind</i>	Park Cham-Sae	Minumsa Publishing
4	<i>Be My Summer</i>	Seo Seok-Jun	Wisdom House
5	<i>I Love You Like an Old Street</i>	Jin Eun-Young	Munji Books
6	<i>I Look at You Like a Flower</i>	Na Tae-Joo	Ji Hye
7	<i>If I Knew Then What I Know Now</i>	Ryu Shi-Hwa	Yoellimwon
8	<i>Poems Take Me to You</i>	Editors	Munji Books
9	<i>What I Have Not Written Yet</i>	Kang Shin-Ae	Munhakhdongne Publishing
10	<i>What I Learned on the Summer Hill</i>	Ahn Hee-Yeon	Changbi Publishing

An idol group member also revealed their love of books, which helped move the audience in their 20s: “I wanted to read Schopenhauer at twenty when everyone else was reading at forty,” they said, referring to *Reading Schopenhauer at Forty* (Uknowbooks). It sparked a desire to read among younger readers outside the book’s target age range. The impact was noticeable when sales were compared by age group. In May, when some YouTube content was uploaded, sales among the 20s age group surged by 2.1 times compared to the previous month. When comparing sales across age groups, the share of those in

their 40s decreased month-over-month, while the share of those in their 20s saw a significant increase of 5.1 percentage points.

### Sales of Reading Schopenhauer at Forty by age groups



### The Schopenhauer effect

*Reading Schopenhauer at Forty* was the most popular book in the first half of 2024, topping the overall bestseller list, in addition to the effect of the celebrity referral. It gained attention last year when an entertainment program cited it as a book that a celebrity in their 40s empathized with, and it remained popular even after the show ended. Schopenhauer's insights in the book continue to draw readers into the world of philosophy. Readers were drawn to Schopenhauer's philosophy of facing oneself soberly, rather than with false comfort, as a guide to life. In addition, the interest in philosophy books has increased from the level of easy-to-understand books centered on the liberal

arts, to a more in-depth look at the philosophy that a philosopher established throughout his life.

### Growth rate and share within the philosophy genre

Group	Growth rate			Share		
Category	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Liberal arts	15.1%	-7.3%	-16.7%	40.9%	42.2%	24.6%
Western	46.7%	5.4%	125.8%	31.7%	37.1%	58.6%
Eastern	26.2%	-32.1%	16.4%	27.4%	20.7%	16.8%
Total	26.8%	-10.1%	43.1%	100%	100%	100%

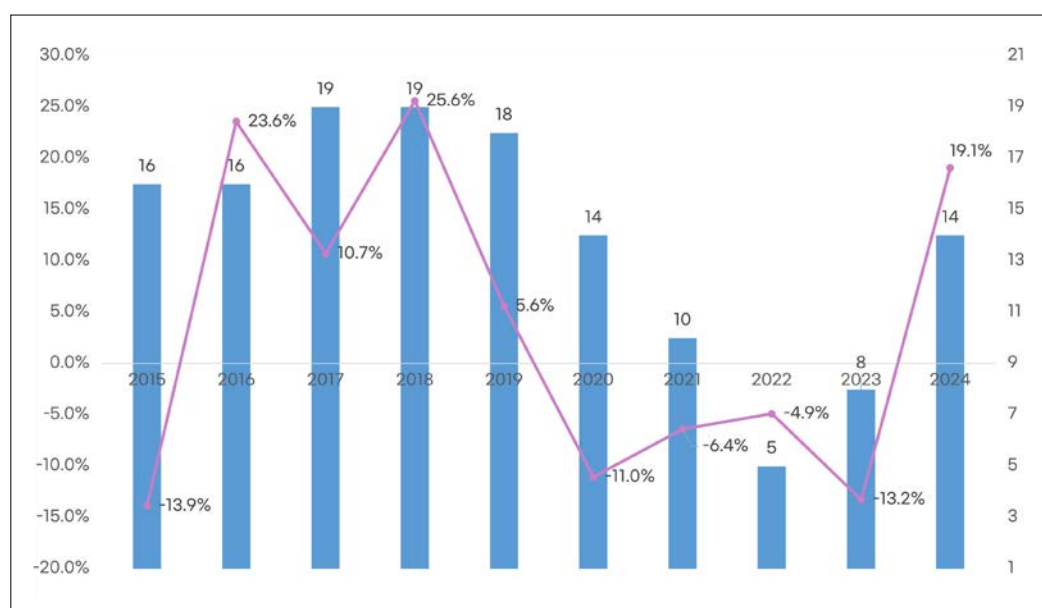
In the first half of this year, books in the field of philosophy grew by 43.1% year-on-year. In particular, books on Western philosophy showed a remarkable growth rate of 125.8%, and accounted for 58.6% of sales in the field of philosophy. Books on Eastern philosophy, which had declined by -32.1% last year, also grew by 16.4% in the first half of this year, indicating that philosophy is on the rise.

Following the strong performance of Schopenhauer related books such as *Don't Waste Your Life to Show Others*, interest in other Western philosophers is also continuing, including *Schopenhauer Aphorism*. Following Schopenhauer, books on Western philosophers such as Nietzsche, Machiavelli, Plato, and Kant have been selling the most. It seems that readers who wanted to gain life wisdom with *SayNo Love (Day One)* last year have moved to the old “teachings of philosophers.”

## Growing together with humane stories

When it came to new books, readers clearly preferred nonfiction over fiction. They were captivated by stories of people living in the same era, particularly those that offer insight into how others navigate their lives and rise above adversity. Interest in essays that share life lessons learned from personal experiences has been especially strong, leading to the highest growth in the first half of this year, at 19.1%, following a sharp decline in recent years. Essay books, which once dominated bookstore shelves as hot-selling titles, had dropped to as few as five titles in 2022. However, they have made a comeback, with 14 titles appearing in the top 100 overall bestsellers in the first half of this year, signaling a resurgence in their popularity.

Number of non-fiction titles among the top 100 bestsellers / Growth rate in first half of the year for non-fiction by year



Patrick Bringley's *All the Beauty in the World*, which secured first place in the essay category, was named Book of the Year by critic Lee Dong-Jin. This poignant memoir chronicles a man's journey of healing and triumph over the pain of loss, finding solace and renewal through the artworks in the museum where he sought refuge. In Korea, Kim Sung-Geun's *Life is a Moment* (Dasan Books) has been a popular choice, given the popularity of the baseball entertainment program. His passion for baseball, even at the age of over 80, reminds us of what it means to be a professional. It resonates in an era when true adult leadership is needed. Also, *Gangster Grandmother in Hospital* (Book 21) by Yang Yoo-Jin, a YouTuber who brings laughter even while battling an incurable disease, gave support to the author's story of how she has reached the point of enjoying the bumps and bruises of life. Humanistic essays like this remind us that we grow as much as we hurt and deepen as much as we heal. Readers' desire for essays implies their desire to learn life lessons and grow to the next level.



*All the Beauty in the World; Life is a Moment; Gangster Grandmother in Hospital*

## SPECIAL PROJECT

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[English Books in Korea ④]

# The Global Craze for Korean Language and Culture!

**King Sejong Institute Foundation's new textbooks for international Korean language learners**

Written by Lee Byung-Min (Senior Manager of Content Development Team, King Sejong Institute Foundation)

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As the *Hallyu* (Korean Wave) spreads across the world, the demand for learning Korean has been increasing internationally. In response, a variety of Korean language-related textbooks are being developed for various learning purposes and levels. Among them, the following are representative textbooks provided by the King Sejong Institute Foundation, a representative organization for the promotion of Korean language and culture abroad.

A variety of Korean textbooks for all purposes and levels, from beginner to advanced

The first is *King Sejong Institute Korean*, a textbook specifically designed for beginners and advanced learners alike. It can

be used together with the King Sejong Institute Foundation's signature online curriculum, and learners can also use it as a standalone course in an offline learning environment as well as online, with a variety of exercises and activities for seamless learning. Also, *King Sejong Institute Practical Korean* is a conversation-based textbook for improving Korean communication skills, where beginners and intermediate learners can effectively learn Korean expressions often used in daily life, focusing on listening and speaking skills. It is a revision of the existing *Sejong Korean Conversation*, reflecting the changed socio-cultural environment since the first edition was published, making it more timely and useful.



*King Sejong Institute Korean and King Sejong Institute Practical Korean*

Developed and provided by the National Institute of Korean Language, *Sejong Korean* (revised in 2022) is a textbook designed to improve comprehensive communication skills for beginner and intermediate learners. Learners can complement and deepen their learning by utilizing various supplementary materials, such

as the “Workbook,” “Additional Activities,” and “Vocabulary, Expressions, and Grammar,” as needed, for modular Korean learning. Also, *Sejong Korean Culture*, a textbook that explains Korean culture based on the content of *Sejong Korean*, is an easier and more fun way to learn Korean culture from an intercultural perspective. There are also textbooks for advanced Korean learners. Meanwhile, *King Sejong Institute Korean Reading/Writing* helps you improve your Korean reading and writing skills with in-depth topics. It is aimed at intermediate to advanced learners and is organized into five topics: society, literature, science, economics, and history.



*Sejong Korean; Sejong Korean Culture; King Sejong Institute Korean Reading/Writing*

In response to the recent increase in the number of foreign agricultural and fisheries workers in Korea, *Easy Korean for Agricultural/Fisheries Workers* has been developed and is available. It is a beginner-level textbook that concentrates on essential Korean expressions for foreign workers in the agriculture and fisheries industries, offering specialized vocabulary and expressions. In addition, to meet the growing demand for Korean translation and interpretation as the Hallyu culture strengthens, the foundation also provides *Sejong Translation and Interpretation*, which helps students learn translation practices through topic-based learning.



*Easy Korean for Agricultural/Fisheries Workers and Sejong Translation and Interpretation*

I recommend *Business Korean* for learners who want to work in Korean companies. It is a beginner-level textbook that contains key Korean expressions that can be useful in Korean companies. The number of travelers visiting Korea for tourism has increased in recent years. If you are planning an exciting trip to Korea, *Travel Korean* is a perfect fit. Consisting of 10 chapters, *Travel*

*Korean* is packed with expressions and cultural information you can use when traveling to Korea, such as transportation, accommodation, and sightseeing. Finally, there is also a textbook for learners preparing for marriage immigration to Korea. The book, *King Sejong Institute Korean for Marriage-Immigrants*, is designed to help foreign immigrants adjust to life in Korea, with topics that will give them a good understanding of Korean society.



*Business Korean; Travel Korean; King Sejong Institute Korean for Marriage-Immigrants*

Apart from the aforementioned textbooks, the King Sejong Institute Foundation also provides various educational materials for free, such as e-books or PDFs, through the Nuri Sejong Institute (the foundation's online website, <https://nuri.iksi.or.kr>). So, if you are planning to learn Korean and want to fulfill your dreams in the language, spread your wings with the King Sejong Institute Foundation!

**EXPORT CASE**

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**Yanolja CEO Sujin Lee's *Restart* Advances Into the UK**

Written by Joseph Lee (President of KL Management)

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*Restart* (Cloud 9), a nonfiction essay about Yanolja's vision to become the "Global One Top Travel Tech Company," has just been published in the UK. It is an autobiographical essay by Yanolja CEO Sujin Lee, who constantly writes "new legends" as he continues to establish himself as an icon of fortitude and success. The UK publisher of the book is LID Publishing, a company with a strong and unique presence at the center of global issues, which has been publishing books by various figures.

*Restart* is Sujin Lee's 18-year business chronicle from 2005 - the year Yanolja was founded - to 2023, and the journey of Yanolja's expansion from the number one accommodation company in Korea to a global company that is now creating a paradigm shift in the leisure and travel market. Subtitled "An entrepreneur's

journey from motel janitor to CEO of a global enterprise,” the book was first released in the UK as an e-book in May 2024, followed by a paperback in July. In August 2024, the book will also be available on bookshelves in the US.



English and Korean covers of *Restart*

In the case of Korean publications, the Anglo-American and European markets have been centered on fiction (literature), and the export of translation rights has been largely within that scope. As a result, there have been fewer overseas introductions of titles outside of the literary category, resulting in a relatively smaller translator pool than that of fiction (literature). However, there are many other notable categories in the Korean market besides literature, each with competitive titles in the global publishing market.

Ranging across Korean art, history, philosophy, religion, food, fashion, music, beauty, and more, there is a wealth of nonfiction titles that will appeal to both professionals and general readers

alike. These range from biographies of successful global business leaders and their autobiographies, to self-help books by several bestselling authors who have inspired and motivated the general public.

*Restart* had a fully translated manuscript in English from the outset, and was looking for a good publisher with a good reputation that could gain interest in the English-speaking publishing market – that’s how they found LID Publishing. Since they had a complete manuscript rather than a sample English translation, the process of finding a publisher, having their translation reviewed, and deciding whether or not to proceed with a publishing deal could be done swiftly. The publishing deal was fully negotiated and finalized around the London Book Fair in March 2024. With the book’s English edition, it is expected to be actively reviewed in other language markets as well as selling translation rights in the future.

I would like to conclude this article by introducing some English testimonials about *Restart* below.

Let me start with a confession: I don’t generally read business books or memoirs of famous business people. Sujin Lee is famous already in Korea and will soon become well known in the West, too. But this book is different. It is not your usual rags-to-riches story. It is not a single narrative

of an inevitable rise to glory but a series of reflections written over time, like a journal, chronicling reversals and resets. Hence the title, *Restart*. What sold me on this book, and what makes it a book for the general reader as well as a guide for budding entrepreneurs, is the refreshing modesty of the author. He is honest about his mistakes. He does not boast about his successes. He speaks from the heart. It is hard not to like this man and to wish him the success he has worked so hard to achieve.

- Charles Wright  
Global principal at Wolff Olins

This book stands as a testament, almost prophetic in nature, to the insights and courage accumulated through relentless challenges. Reflecting on the challenges encountered by the author over the past two decades, we come to a clear realization. It is that in the future, the author is set to create promises that will be far more magnificent than in the past or present.

- Greg Moon  
Executive Managing Partner /  
Head of Asia & Europe, SoftBank Vision Fund

## BOOK TRIP

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[A Trip to Literary Museums ⑤]

# The Great Legacies of Two Literary Masters of Modern Times

Busan Metropolitan City: Yosan Kim Jung-Han Literary Museum and Hyangpa Lee Juhong Literary Museum

Written by Kim Young-lhm

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A writer's legacy can sometimes become an important cultural asset for a region as it incorporates various stories. In this month's issue, Book Trip travels to Busan, Korea, where you can feel a rich sense of literature. Busan, with its abundant tourist offerings such as the sea, movies, and modern cultural heritage, has a presence in literature that is second to none. The two pillars of Busan's literary scene are Kim Jung-Han, who has intensely depicted modern life in his novels related to the region, and Lee Ju-Hong, whose works span a wide range of genres, including children's literature, poetry, novels, and plays. The scent of their literature is wafting through the city, which has been a source of emotional support for people in times of turmoil. So, if you are

looking for something a little different in Busan, why don't you try following the traces of these two writers?

### **A writer's spirit projecting the turbulence of Korea's modern history into fiction: Yosan Kim Jung-Han Literary Museum**



Outside view of Yosan Kim Jung-Han Literary Museum

As Korea has gone through a turbulent modern history, such as the Japanese occupation, the Korean War, and the division of the peninsula, the past and the lives of the people themselves have become important motifs for novels. In Busan, Kim Jung-Han, a writer who has lived through these times, has brought his brilliant observation and concern for the times, his love for ordinary people, and his conscience against injustice and inequality to his works.



A bust of writer Kim Jung-Han (with the writer's message "Live to be a decent human being") and his birthplace

In Geumjueong-gu, there is a place where you can discover the literary world of writer Yosan Kim Jung-Han, best known for his novel *Sahachon*. A modern-style literary museum with an antique atmosphere and a bust of the writer welcomes visitors. Born in Busan, Kim Jung-Han is also known as the “watchman of the Nakdong River” for his works, such as *Sahachon*, *The Story of Sandbank*, and *Surado*, which are primarily based on the region. He is also known as a national writer for his works, such as *Dugimi Naru*, which discusses the ideology of ethnic division, and *The Human Complex*, which decries the absurdity that develops under the name of social projects.

He also left behind a number of other notable works, including *Sabatjae*, on the theme of the resistance of the people during the Japanese occupation of Korea, and *Sangeojok*, which has his famous phrase “Live to be a decent human being.” The museum, which provides an in-depth look into the life and work of Kim Jung-Han, who pursued his own distinctive literary world, consists of an exhibition room, library, research room, and

seminar room. The museum is not only a place to appreciate the writer's life and works, but also a place to constantly memorialize the writer who made a mark in Korean literary history, reread his works and reflect on their literary value, and expand the horizons of Korean literature. Through his novels, Yosan Kim Jung-Han sought to stand on the side of the weak, resist injustice, and live a decent life. His spirit continues to resonate through his works, inspiring and teaching people.



The exhibition room featuring the life of writer Kim Jung-Han

Busan citizens' affection for Kim Jung-Han, whose works have left a lasting mark on Korean literary history, can be seen in the designation of Yosan Literary Street near the literary center. And thanks to this, the influence of Kim Jung-Han's literary spirit and the ideas of the times are passed on to the younger generation through the Yosan Literary Award. Even though the writer has passed away, his works are being reproduced as cultural content that creates bigger waves of inspiration.



Writer Kim and his works displayed in Yosan Literary Street

### A true reflection of a writer with a broad literary spectrum: Hyangpa Lee Juhong Literary Museum

Not far from the Yosan Kim Jung-Han Literary Museum, there is another attraction that should not be missed on your Busan literary tour. It is the Hyangpa Lee Juhong Literary Museum, home to a writer known to the public as a children’s writer who founded the Busan Children Literary Society, but who also wrote novels, plays, essays, and critiques. Located in Oncheon-dong, a neighborhood famous for Dongnae Hot Spring, you can reach the Hyangpa Lee Juhong Literary Museum by walking along Lee Juhong Literary Street, which is organized like a park. Since the writer was particularly prominent in the field of children’s literature, the street is lined with his various poems and illustrations, including the “Kkomaengi Library,” which resembles a red telephone booth. If you walk through the streets reading the poems, you will eventually reach the literary museum.



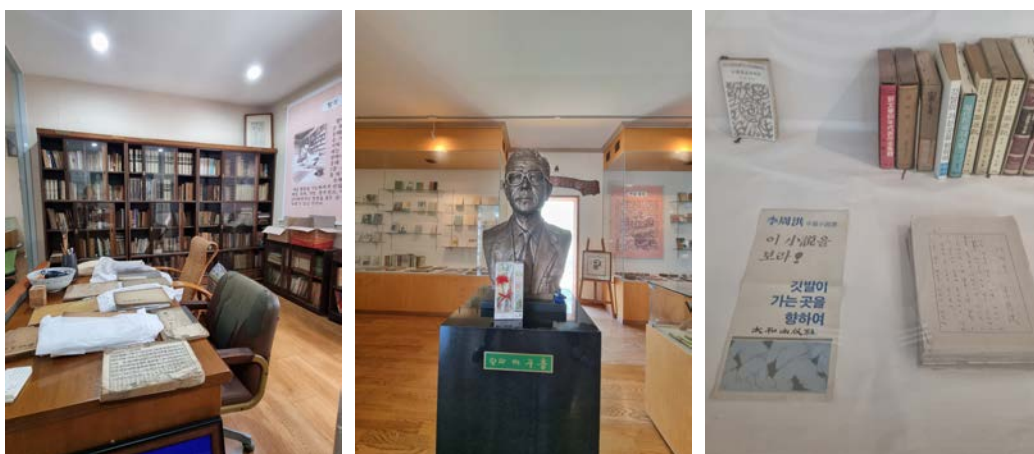
Various sculptures at Lee Ju-Hong Literary Street and the “Kkomaengi Library”



Outside view of Lee Juhong Literary Museum

Once you enter the museum, it’s best to start your tour on the second floor. The second floor of the Lee Juhong Literary Museum is particularly impressive because it preserves the “*Soakseoru*” (笑岳書樓, meaning “a place to write in a big mountain full of laughter”). In this space, the writer spent much of his life writing and interacting with other writers such as Ku

Sang, Kim Jung-Han, and Yoo Chi-Hwan. *Soakseoru*, which was the center of Lee Ju-Hong's creative sphere spanning a wide literary spectrum, including the poetry collection *Hyeoni's House*, the children's book *The Fifer*, the play *Daybreak*, and the novel *Inspector Park Moon-Soo*, is a place where you can enjoy the feeling of being invited into the writer's room while he is in the middle of writing. Furthermore, there are various books on display, including the writer's personal belongings and literary magazines he published. Looking at the works exhibited, you will be able to imagine the prolific and multi-talented writer Lee Ju-Hong.



Lee Ju-Hong's writing room, "*Soakseoru*," his bust, and exhibits

The first floor is for children from the area to read books, and various programs and events are held here from time to time. It's not a large space, yet you can still enjoy some of the writer's favorite items and works, giving you a sense of the time when Korean literature began to flourish. Above all, Lee Ju-Hong's wide

range of activities in the literary field adds to the meaningfulness of the museum, as it provides a brief glimpse into the history of modern and contemporary Korean literature. It is a great place to spend an emotionally fulfilling time reading the gift-like works of Lee Ju-Hong, whose heartwarming and humorous works have helped to diversify and deepen the roots of modern Korean literature.

**Where you read books among the sounds of the waves:  
Dadae Library and Haeundae Library**

If you are looking to take the feelings you got from the two literary museums a little further, consider visiting a library. There are 51 public libraries in Busan. Each library is operated under its own theme and serves as a good reading space for locals and a center for lifelong education for building operates under its own theme and serves as a good reading space for locals and a center for lifelong education to build various knowledge such as liberal arts and humanities. Among them, Dadae Library, which is located in an excellent location overlooking Dadaepo Beach and serves as an optimal cultural space, has a specialized theme of “multiculturalism.” Also, Haeundae Library, which is located close to Haeundae, one of Busan’s famous tourist destinations, and provides travelers with a place to relax with books, has “English for Children” as its special theme. We visited these two libraries, which feature a wide variety of books and programs

that match their specialty themes, as well as moments of daily life that bring books closer.



Outside view of Dadae Library and a space inside for reading books with an ocean view

Dadae Library is a great place for a “book-vacation (a combined word of ‘book’ and ‘vacation’),” reading books while enjoying the ocean view. There is also a rooftop garden with a panoramic view of Dadaepo Beach, where you can read books while quietly gazing out at the ocean, making it a unique experience. Thanks to this, you can always find people of all ages enjoying their daily lives with books at Dadae Library. A library with a scenic view is itself a crossover of books and space, and that’s exactly what you will find at Dadae Library.



Splendid ocean view from Dadae Library and Dadaepo Beach within walking distance



Outside view of Haeundae Library and a space inside for children

While Haeundae Library does not have a direct view of the ocean like Dadae Library, its proximity to the sea makes it a great place to stop by and enjoy a good book after spending time at the beach. A little away from the hustle and bustle of Haeundae, Haeundae Library offers a more secluded place to lose yourself in a book, and is open to locals and travelers alike. Most importantly, Haeundae Library is located right in front of Daecheon Park and Daecheon Lake, so you can feel like you are

surrounded by nature. As a result, the library is always crowded with people who live a life with books, fulfilling the role of a public library.

One of the many pleasures of traveling is relaxing with a good book. If you have ever had the experience of relaxing on a sunbed at a resort with a gorgeous view and reading a good book, you should visit the many literary museums and libraries in Busan. Enjoying an intellectual trip with books is another great way to make memories.

ONE-LINER QUOTES

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## Books That Expanded My Horizons

Korean-French Translator's Pick: Korean Books

Written by Kim Yu-Tae (Poet and reporter in the Art & Culture Department at *Maeil Business Newspaper*)

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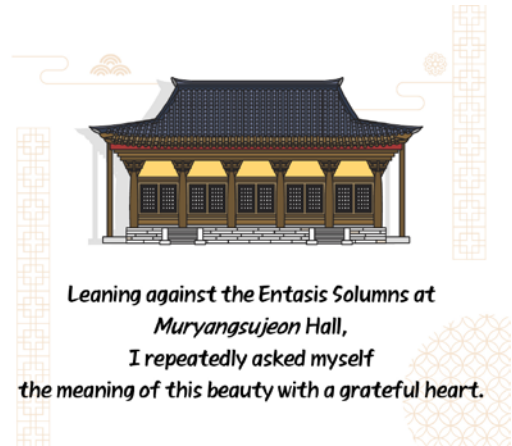
As a French translator, Somi Chang has been translating modern and contemporary French literature into Korean, including Margrit Duras, Albert Camus, Françoise Sagan, Romain Garrigue, Michel Uelbeck, Hervé Guibert, and Valérie Ferenc.

From the position of being an introducer of foreign books to Korean readers, I have gone the other way, introducing books by Korean authors to international readers. I browsed through my bookshelves. Adding the keyword “Korea” to my personal book selection criteria of “books that expand my horizons,” regardless of language, I picked out two books with great effort. Two books are: *Leaning Against the Entasis Solumns at Muryangsujeon Hall* (Hakgojae Publishers, 1994) and *Music Story Collection* (Franz, 2024).



*Leaning Against the Entasis Solumns  
at Muryangsujeon Hall*

Choi Soon-Woo, Hakgojae Publishers



*Leaning Against the Entasis Solumns at Muryangsujeon Hall* is a guide to the beauty of Korea by art historian Choi Soon-Woo, who has spent his entire career working in museums and has made a significant mark on Korean art history. The words in the book's title, "Entasis Solumns," refer to columns whose bodies are wider than their heads or roots.

If you are expecting to get a comprehensive knowledge of Korean art as you read the table of contents, which categorizes architecture, *bulsang* (statue of Buddha), *seoktap* (stone pagoda), *cheongja* (celadon), *baekja* (white porcelain), *hoehwa* (painting), and crafts into genres, you are half right and half wrong. If you follow Choi's perspective, which places the roots of Korean art in the environmentally friendly lives of "civilized people who have lived with nature and yet have obeyed it," you will find yourself immersed in the beauty of the spirit as well as the material. You will be moved by Choi's deep affection and understanding of Korea's sky, land, wind, mountains, and fields, the deep contemplation and beauty of Korean art that stems from it, and

his heartfelt and cheerful optimism about life, all of which will open your eyes to a new way of looking at nature and art.

“It’s midday at Buseoksa Temple, at the foot of the Sobaek Mountains, and the courtyard, empty of monks and villagers alike, is strewn with five-colored fallen leaves, soaked with early winter mist. *Muryangsujeon* Hall, *Anyangmun* Gate, and *Eunghyanggak* greeted me with a wistful smile, as if weary of longing, and it is difficult to describe the strange beauty of this secluded, yet rustling place. Leaning against the Entasis Solumns at *Muryangsujeon* Hall, I repeatedly asked myself the meaning of this beauty with a grateful heart.”



*Music Story Collection*

Kim Ae-Ran · Kim Yeon-Soo · Yoon Sung-Hee ·  
Eun Hee-Kyung · Pyun Hye-Young, Franz



The sounds of the piano were  
just so beautiful  
after expecting something terrible.

The book, *Music Story Collection*, is a musical anthology of short stories written on the topic of “music” by Kim Ae-Ran (writer of *Said Goodbye*), Kim Yeon-Soo (writer of *Onto the Surface*),

Yoon Sung-Hee (writer of *Lullaby*), Eun Hee-Kyung (writer of *Weathering*), and Pyun Hye-Young (writer of *Green Sweater*).

Authors who hold a prominent place in Korean literary history have gathered together in many ways. Unlike the old saying “much cry and little wool,” this book presents a snapshot of the current state of Korean literature. The truths of life presented in each style are sharp, and the interviews behind the works are vivid. It is a compact book, but by no means small - it is a gift.

“When she is like that, she is a completely different person. Dad told me not to provoke her at times like that. Believing it was for the best, I walked toward my room, not even looking in her direction.

That’s when I heard it: the piano. The first note, and then the next. And then another, and another. Behind my back, my mom was playing the piano. We’d always had a piano there, but I’d never seen her play it before. The sounds of the piano were just so beautiful after expecting something terrible.”

- from *Onto the Surface* by Kim Yeon-Soo

## KNOWLEDGE

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# Current Status of Adult-Oriented Picture Book Publishing and Publishers in Korea

Written by Jiwoo (CEO of A Little Cat at Noon)

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Reflections on “picture books for adults”



Korean cover of *At the Drop of a Cat*

My publishing house, “A Little Cat at Noon (오후의 소묘),” began to be called the “picture book publisher for grown-ups” as we

published our first picture book *At the Drop of a Cat* (written by Élise Fontenaille, illustrated by Violeta Lópiz) in spring 2019. But, what exactly is a “picture book for adults”?

According to Rouergue, French publisher of the original book *At the Drop of a Cat* (original title: *Les poings sur les îles*), the book is a picture book for children aged 6 or above. If a child and an adult read the book together, the child reads it more progressively. As such, while the best readers of picture books have been, and are, children, there are, in fact, fun picture books for grown-ups, too. Books with many spaces in between the pictures and the text, or between the pictures themselves, books with many layers of illustrations, where every time one opens the book, they see something different and discover it afresh, beautifully composed books, books that raise questions and ripples in our minds, and books that pull us back into the world of the language of images and the world of the senses, are some examples. I hope that my friends, and their children, will have picture books like *A Little Cat at Noon* to look at from time to time until they become grandmothers and grandfathers. And that’s what I always have in mind, creating books.

Let’s jump back in time a bit, to 2017, when I spent two years reading picture books with a group of adults under the guidance of a trusted teacher. We were all different ages, had different levels of experience and understanding of picture books, and different reasons for reading them. Still, we could all genuinely appreciate the beauty of the books in front of us and listen

intently to the stories they told. For me, it was also a time when I realized how much I love the physicality of books. If you also love the physicality of books, it would be hard not to love picture books. Picture books have a unique quality that other genres of books don't have: the form is never secondary to the content.

Novels and even comics are free from the physical format of a book, but picture books are not. A picture book is not just about the pictures and text, but also about the overall physical elements such as the format, cover, paper, and binding, making it a unique genre that is both visual and tactile, a reproduction and a work of art. What's more, picture books are great to enjoy alone, but even better when shared. This is because they are simple, concise, and open-ended. As I fell in love with this world, I wanted to explore and swim deeper and wider in its beauty. It was through a series of coincidences that one of A Little Cat at Noon's authors, Violeta Lópiz, introduced her beautiful work to Korea, and we became the first publisher to specialize in picture books for adults.

### **Current status of picture books for adults in Korea**

Aladin, an online bookstore in Korea, has separate categories for "Picture Books to be Read Until 100-Years-Old" and "Picture Books for Adults." The former belongs to the "Early Childhood" category, while the latter belongs to the "Fiction/Poetry/Drama" category. In the "Picture Books for Adults" category, which was incorporated into the literature category, the titles are mixed, including literary anthologies with only text and first edition

series - and the number of titles is too small to be meaningfully counted (17 new titles in 2024). But, when I looked at the trends of “Picture Books to be Read Until 100-Year-Old,” a subcategory of “Early Childhood,” I happened to find something interesting.

**Number of titles published based on  
Aladin’s “Picture Books to be Read Until 100-Year-Old”**

2019	40 titles
2020	60 titles
2021	Approx. 100 titles
2022	140 titles
2023	Approx. 180 titles
2024	125 titles +

\* Data collected from Aladin (as of August 10, 2024)

A whopping 40 titles have been published each year since 2020! I am not certain as to whether this “rule of +40” will be applied this year as well, but one thing is for sure - the publishing of picture books for grown-up readers has begun to grow at a surprising pace since 2020. It is astonishing to see how the number of “Picture Books to be Read Until 100-Year-Old” increased from 40 in 2019, when A Little Cat at Noon published 3 picture books, to 125 in mid-August this year, which is more than a triple jump.

The biggest event in the picture book category in 2020 would have been author Baek Hee-Na’s winning of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA). As a Korean author won this globally prominent award - the so-called “Nobel Prize” for children’s

literature, the picture book genre, which had been perceived as a genre for only a small few, received a new spotlight. However, it is hard to see that this event itself has a direct cause-and-effect relationship with picture books for adults - it would be more appropriate to look at it as a result of picture books as a genre emerging above the surface.

Today, publishers that were originally publishing picture books for children have begun to take more active actions to discover picture books with unlimited readership through new series or labels. For example, Gilbut Children launched the *Picture Books of Life* (인생 그림책) series starting with *Walden* (written by Henry David Thoreau, illustrated by Giovanni Manna) in 2020, and has recently published author Lee Soo-Yeon's graphics novel *I Happened to End Up Selling Furniture*, going across genres. In 2020, the same year, Spring Sunshine Publishing also launched the *On Picture Books* (온그림책) series, presenting translated picture books. Its first Korean picture book in 2022, *Did You Say I Am Pretty?* (written by Hwang In-Chan, illustrated by Lee Myeong-Ae), won the Special Award at the first Korea Picture Book Award contest initiated in 2023. Also, after the successful launch of the *Picture Books of Ordinary Days* (보통날의 그림책) in 2022, publishing house Bearbooks released *I Held Back Tears* (written and illustrated by Lee Ha-Yeon) last February, its first picture book by a Korean author and the 6th add to the series.

\* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 65 – Go to the article about the 2023 Korea Picture Book Award  
[www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/info.php?ptype=view&idx=1309&page=1&code=info&category=75](http://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/info.php?ptype=view&idx=1309&page=1&code=info&category=75)



*I Happened to End Up Selling Furniture; Did You Say I'm Pretty?; I Held Back Tears*

Publisher Sakyejul was one of the front runners in releasing picture book series for all age groups. Its *Dear Picture Books* series, which was launched in 2002 with Shaun Tan's picture book, has been periodically releasing picture books. The series' latest title in 2023, *If I Become 100 Years Old*, a poetry picture book written by poet Hwang In-Chan and magnificently illustrated by Seo Soo-Yeon, received much love from readers. Also, BIR Publishing's the *Zebra* series began with Bruno Munari's book in 2012. In 2015, author Lee Su-Ji's *Alice in Wonderland* was released, and in 2024, the 12th book in the series, *You Are Here* by Joanna Concejo, a beautiful book with a bit of a complicated touch, was published. As such, the series has been building a unique, distinct color, although at a slow pace. Meanwhile, Woongjin Junior has been making outstanding achievements quantitatively, as its *Woongjin Picture Books for All* (웅진 모두의 그림책) series launched in 2017 hit 60 titles in only 7 years. Including its latest book published this year, author Lee Jin-Hee's *Dust in the Forest*, each of the titles is just so extraordinary in their own way.



*If I Become 100 Years Old; Alice in Wonderland; Dust in the Forest*

Jjokpress’s label “Goat,” which aims for light and fresh publishing, has been consistently publishing stylish picture books since 2019. In addition, Picturebook Gongjackso, which has been publishing picture books for all, created the label “LOB” with the motto of “expanding the horizons of picture books.” At a time when many emerging picture book series are claiming to be “picture books for all,” LOB says they will make “books that can make someone fascinated,” rather than picture books for everyone. I was also one of those people who fell in love with LOB’s first book, *We Go to the Park*, written by Sara Stridsberg and illustrated by Beatrice Alemagna, published in 2023.

Lastly, I can’t leave out publishers like A Little Cat at Noon, who continue to publish books with their own color and texture, regardless of audience or genre. For example, Gloyeon and Hyang Publishing House, both of which have been committed to fostering emerging Korean picture book authors since the early days, are pushing the boundaries of what can be done with picture books, and both are making their mark on the international scene. Gloyeon’s *Your Garden* by Na Hyun-Jung (2021) was selected for the 2022 White Ravens, and Hyang

Publishing House's *RICE RICE RICE* by Bamco (2019) was awarded a Special Mention in the Nonfiction category of the 2021 Bologna Ragazzi Award for its ability to make even adults burst out laughing. Also, At Noon Books, which has secured a distinctive place on the boundary between independent and traditional publishing, is run by author Jung Mi-Jin. The publisher has been showcasing new styles and stories outside of the traditional picture book scene, and was awarded the Opera Prima Special Mention at the 2024 Bologna Ragazzi Award for *Mo Story* (2023), the first narrative picture book by Choi Yeon-Joo, beloved for her illustrations of the cat named Modaeri. I also love Logpress and Danchu Press for their charming translated picture books.



*Your Garden; RICE RICE RICE; Mo Story*

## I hope picture books are recognized as an independent genre one day

I published my first picture book in 2019, and for a while afterward, I felt a little lonely. But now, five years on, I have been far too busy to feel lonely. Various picture books with artistic and literary qualities are pouring out around us, and picture book creators are coming up with more and more new stories. In 2022, “picture book author” was newly added to the occupation section of a Korean portal site. Yet, it’s unfortunate that large bookstores and online bookstores, which are still the biggest players in the Korean book market, still don’t have a separate categorized genre for picture books.

To me, picture books are art. So, naturally, I shaped them to meet my aesthetic senses, and all 21 of A Little Cat at Noon’s books have been published in the “art” category. Some bookstores have welcomed the entry of picture books into the art category, while others have been reluctant to this day, urging us to move into the early childhood category. But A Little Cat at Noon’s books that insist on staying in the art category don’t fit into the aforementioned [Early Childhood > Picture Books to be Read Until 100-Year-Old] category, so they can’t even be counted. Just as there’s strength in numbers, it might be better for sales in the short term to have them side-by-side in the early childhood category. But my long-term hope is that “picture books” will be recognized as an independent genre.

Just like good art, good picture books don't exclude or divide audiences. Instead of "Picture Books to be Read Until 100-Year-Old" or "Picture Books for Adults," I would prefer to see them simply called "picture books."

## KOREAN PUBLISHERS

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### Publishing Group Sangsang

Creating synergies that push the boundaries of publishing with imagination



Logo of Publishing Group Sangsang

Imagination has always had more power than we expected. And when it comes to creating works, imagination is an essential element. Publishing Group Sangsang laid the foundation for publishing right here. With a strong presence in the field of poetry for children, Sangsang has also been prominent in a variety of other genres, including poetry, fiction, and humanities, and is striving to create new genres. The expansion of genres at

Sangsang, which began by establishing children's poetry as a genre that can be read by adults as well as children, is also broadening the horizons of the Korean publishing market as a whole.

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

Hello, everyone. I'm Kim Jae-Moon, CEO of Publishing Group Sangsang. Since we first opened in May 2010, we have published works of writers that have left big footprints in the history of Korean literature, such as poet Ahn Do-Hyun, poet Choi Seung-Ho, and writer Lee Man-Gyo. The name "Sangsang" came from our aim to make books that unlimitedly exhibit the power of "imagination (*sangsang* in Korean)." We strive to create books that open up a wide range of areas for imagination and creativity. We publish poetry, children's poetry, fiction, and humanities books in areas like film, art, and history.

Publishing group Sangsang has been publishing in the fields of literature, art, history, and humanities until 2020, when it expanded into the field of children's poetry. How did you decide to focus on the field of children's poetry, and what do you hope to achieve with it?

We thought that children's poetry was the future of children. As poems naturally reflect the spirit and culture of their country, we

believe that children's poetry also has the power to enrich our children's future. In particular, we thought that children's poetry collections published in paper books were necessary because they make children think about the meaning of the lines and create a space for imagination. So, we have been making a lot of efforts to focus on the field and to find good writers. We believe that if we can find good writers and continue to publish good children's poetry collections, it will be very helpful for children's growth. Children who read the collections closely will grow up to be adults with imaginative and creative thoughts and warm hearts. We believe that if they grow up to be good adults, their positive influence will surely spread throughout our society. We are confident that quality children's poetry collections will make our society healthier and brighter.

You said that children's poetry "gives dreams to children and finds back the mind of a child to adults." What is the role of children's poetry that Publishing Group Sangsang pursues, and what do you think is its charm?

No one becomes an adult without having been a child, which means that every adult has a child's mind at heart. But, in today's fast-paced society, such a mind can easily get lost, and adults who have lost that mind have a hard time communicating with children. Children may look at such adults and think, "I can't talk to adults!" Or they may look at pessimistic adults and think their future is bleak.

But, children's poetry can be fuel for the imagination of children, and a means for adults to regain the mind of a child that has long since been lost. By reading children's poetry, children will discover the power of imagination and see how it can be made concrete in language. In other words, they will develop the ability to command the power of words. Adults with hardened ideas will be able to have the flexibility to communicate with children on the same level through the astonishing imagination of children's poetry. This is why children's poetry is a genre that can be read by both children and adults, breaking down barriers to communication between the two. That's what we think is most appealing about children's poetry: it fosters children's imagination and allows adults to communicate with them.

It's true that children's poetry represents a small part of Korean literature. What are some of the specific efforts and projects you are working on to establish children's poetry as a literary genre?

For sure, children's poetry is a narrow field compared to children's stories. Korean children's stories win international awards and sell more copies than children's poetry, which means that many people are reading them. However, it seems that it is not yet considered a mainstream form of children's literature. It appears that children's poetry is still perceived as a simple text only for children to read.

In order to establish children's poetry as a literary genre, we

felt that it was necessary to break down the old perception of children's poetry. We thought it was important to make readers realize that it is not just a simple, cheerful genre that only kids read, but that it is a genre that both children and adults can read and enjoy together. We are making various efforts in this regard, such as uploading interviews with authors and holding talks. A representative example of this is the selection and compilation of "The Best Children's Poems."

You have been running the "The Best Children's Poem" project for 3 years now. What are the selection criteria, and what is the meaning and value of the project?

The Best Children's Poem reviews new poetry published in Korea over the course of the year, ultimately selecting around 60 pieces to be included in the collection. Five selection board members distribute magazines, read them thoroughly, and select 20 to 30 poems each, which are then shared and voted on over several rounds of meetings to arrive at the final selection. In 2023, there were a number of children's poetry pieces that did a great job of capturing the complexity of thought, and showed new and unique forms of expression that had not been seen before. We think that such works are part of "good children's poems" in the sense that they are opening up new areas of children's poetry. If we compile the best of the poems published during the year into a collection, readers are able to see the unique styles of the

poets at a glance. We also thought that it would be a good map to highlight the changing trends of children’s poetry on a year-by-year basis. Not only would it be a good resource to summarize the history of children’s poetry, but it would also serve as a foundation to show the direction that children’s poetry in Korea should go in the future. It would also be a chance to break the idea that children’s poetry is a simple and easy genre only for children.



*The Best Children's Poem of 2021; The Best Children's Poem of 2022;  
The Best Children's Poem of 2023*

Among the poems selected as the “The Best Children’s Poem,” are there pieces that you would like to introduce to international readers in particular?

Since it is a compilation of the best of the best poems published throughout the year, we think that any of the works presented in *The Best Children’s Poem* are worthy of introduction. Among them, we would like to highlight *Alien’s Nose* by Kwon Young-

Sang (*The Best Children's Poem 2023*), *Kkotmari Kkotmali* by Lee Ahn (*The Best Children's Poem 2022*), and *Because I Spin* by Yoo Kang-Hee (*The Best Children's Poem 2023*).

*Alien's Nose* starts with the fun idea of an alien whose “nose” crash-landed on a face. Korean idioms using the word “nose (코)” such as “high-nosed (콧대가 높다),” “snort (코웃음을 친다),” “sniff (콧방귀를 꺾다),” “hum (콧노래를 부르다),” “tip of the nose is sour (코끝이 시큰거리),” and “nose is turning yellow (코가 노래진다)” fuel the whimsical imagination. This poem is written from the point of view of children, who may find some of the idioms unfamiliar. The subjects are funny, and international readers who are unfamiliar with Korean will be able to easily understand the children's point of view of unfamiliarity and wonder.

*Kkotmari Kkotmali* is a poem about “*kkotmari* (trigonotis),” a very common plant in Korea that is so small that you wouldn't even know it was there if you weren't looking closely. The piece epitomizes the charm of Korean children's poetry, from the language play with the similar pronunciation of “*kkotmari*” and “*kkotmali*” (meaning ‘flower's name’ in Korean) to the delicacy with which it conveys beauty in sensory language that is easy to overlook.

*Because I Spin* is a compelling piece that features the child narrator's confident attitude - it is not that “I spin/because the Earth rotates,” but that “the Earth rotates/because I spin.” It's also interesting how a “top,” which is naturally associated with the word “spin,” is unexpectedly introduced as the subject of the

poem, making it easy for children to relate to it. The imaginative use of the verb “spin” to connect “earth,” “top,” and “me” also stands out. The innocence of a child who sees the world through his unique perspective and the ideas that flow naturally with Korean vocabulary make this a captivating piece.

It seems that children’s poetry often reflects the sentiments of the country. What do you think are the characteristics and appeal of Korean children’s poetry, and what would you like international readers to pay attention to when reading it?

Some of the most prominent characteristics of Korean children’s poetry are the connection to nature, topics closely related to everyday life, family and friendship, and language play. Nature, which has been dealt with since ancient Korean literature, has been consistently used as a theme in recent children’s poetry. The difference is that instead of unconditionally praising nature, those who interpret and describe nature from a new perspective have emerged in response to recent discourses such as animal rights and environmental crises. This is a good point to examine how Korea’s unique nature-oriented sentiment is being transformed to fit modern society’s perspective.

There are many other poems that deal with objects that are deeply integrated into children’s lives, such as smartphones, slime toys, and kick scooters, as well as daily places such as schools and classrooms, stationery shops, and oiljang (a market

that opens every 5 days) in apartment complexes, that fall under the category of “daily children’s poems.” If you follow the views and sentiments that describe these objects, you will be able to see what really is “Korean.”

Language play is also not to be left out. Children’s poems that use language play, such as word play and letter play using the shapes of the Korean alphabet, are already a part of Korea’s contemporary children’s poetry. They are fun in their own way, but more importantly, they are expressions that use Korean and Hangeul (Korean alphabet). Through word play and letter play, children can improve their understanding and ability to use Korean and Hangeul. It will be a very good textbook for both Koreans and foreigners to learn and use Korean.

You have been steadily running programs to interact with readers, such as events like poem recitals, interviews with poets, and new book celebration events. How do you think that these efforts are paying off?

We have been recruiting book review groups to post book reviews, or interviewing poets and posting them on Social Media. We are also organizing new book celebration events and poem recitals whenever we can. These events are designed to promote new books, but the main purpose is to lower the psychological barrier to children’s poetry.

As mentioned earlier, children’s poetry is often thought of as a genre that only children read. However, when we share book

reviews from general readers, it is easier for the public to realize that children's poetry is a genre that can be enjoyed by both children and adults. Interviews with poets can be a great way to nudge people in the direction of approaching their works, thus becoming a great opportunity for readers who aren't usually used to reading poetry to try it out. Likewise, poetry recitals and new book celebration events will help readers navigate their way through the poems with a new perspective.

We once set up a lecture program called "Sangsang Children's Poem Class," featuring outstanding poets of children's poetry. It was a 10-week program with lectures on various philosophies, theories, and creative theories about children's poetry, and it was very successful, with lots of readers and poets participating. As soon as we get the chance, we plan to hold a "2nd Sangsang Children's Poem Class," which will also help change the perception of children's poetry and lower the entry barrier to it.

Could you recommend some books from the general category of Publishing Group Sangsang that you would particularly like to introduce to international readers?

We would like to introduce poet Ahn Do-Hyeon's *The Series of Korean Tales to Read with Ahn Do-Hyeon*, poet Moon Sung-Hae's *A Day to Eat Noodles*, and author Lee Man-Kyo's *A Story of a Story* to international readers. *The Series of Korean Tales to Read with Ahn Do-Hyeon* is a series of five books: *The*

*Child Who Took a Fish Poop; The Cat's Revenge; The King Riding a Sled; Ahn Yong-Bok Who Protected Ulleungdo; The Daddy Who Became a Whale.* Poet Ahn Do-Hyeon chose tales from the East Sea region that he would like to tell children today, with modern interpretations. With the poet's excellent use of language, the stories are modernized in a sophisticated and sensuous fashion, making the traditional Korean sentiments contained in the tales easy to understand and accept for today's children. This series will be especially interesting for children abroad who may be unfamiliar with Korean traditional culture and stories.



*The Series of Korean Tales to Read with Ahn Do-Hyeon  
(The Child Who Took a Fish Poop; The Cat's Revenge; The King Riding a Sled;  
Ahn Yong-Bok Who Protected Ulleungdo; The Daddy Who Became a Whale)*

Meanwhile, *A Day to Eat Noodles* by poet Moon Sung-Hae is a picture book that literally depicts the day of boiling noodles from a child's perspective. It features a variety of onomatopoeia and mimetic words to describe the process of making noodles. The best part is that children abroad can easily understand Korean onomatopoeia and mimetic words through the illustrations. The illustrations were done by Korean traditional art painter Yoon Dae-Ra, whose colorful and imaginative Korean paintings enhance the charm of the written text. The illustrations of daily moments, such as boiling noodles, will show international readers the unique charm of Korean picture books.

Lastly, we have *A Story of a Story of a Story* by Lee Man-Kyo. The story is centered around the profession of “*jeonkisu*” (professional storytellers that would read novels to crowds of people) back in the late Joseon Dynasty. The process of how stories are created and spread among people is depicted in detail. It is a must-read book for young people in the modern world, where misinformation spreads so easily and quickly, as the cultural elements unique to Korea are well captured along with how stories are spread.



*A Day to Eat Noodles and A Story of a Story of a Story*

### What books do you recommend in the field of children’s poetry?

Among the children’s poetry collections, we would like to recommend *I Don’t Know Who I Am* by poet Ahn Do-Hyeon, *Picasso Fish* by poet Choi Seung-Ho, and *The Cat’s Photo Studio* by poet Song Chang-Ho.

*I Don’t Know Who I Am* is a collection of poems by Ahn Do-Hyeon, who has had many books translated overseas, and is beloved by readers. It is an exceptional children’s poetry collection with the poet’s characteristic lyrical and nature-friendly tone, as well as sensuous expressions and unconventional formats. It’s a collection that feels like it exists somewhere in between general poetry and children’s poetry – it’s characterized by its easy-to-read, sensuous language that gives children pleasure and adults a poetic impression. The best part is that it can be enjoyed by adults and children alike.

*Picasso Fish* is an extraordinary collection of children’s poems

that makes use of a variety of colors; as poet Choi Seung-Ho said, “I wrote it with the heart of gifting colors to children.” The poems are full of wit and wisdom, and the illustrations by Hong Sung-Ji, who employs a variety of materials and techniques to bring out rich textures and colors, are combined to create a Picasso-like collection of children’s poems. It is a unique children’s poetry collection that will help children develop a delicate sense of discovering colors in places that are easily overlooked.

Meanwhile, *The Cat’s Photo Studio* by Song Chang-Ho is a fascinating collection that moves freely between reality and fantasy. Many of the children’s poems give new names to natural objects and expand their meanings, or discover new aspects of everyday objects. Some create fantastical worlds out of ordinary places, using vivid imagination. This children’s poetry collection touches our hearts with Song’s warm mindset, as he tries to pay attention to and take notice of everything.



*I Don't Know Who I Am; Picasso Fish; The Cat's Photo Studio*

You have been making progressive and challenging steps towards specializing in the field of children's poetry. Please tell us about the direction Publishing Group Sangsang is trying to take, your future goals, and plans for new books.

For now, our goal is to continue to publish children's poetry collections. We will also keep compiling *The Best Children's Poem* series. At the same time, we plan to publish books in other genres as well, as it's hard to sustain a publishing house by publishing only children's poetry collections.

Aiming for books that everyone can enjoy, we are working on travel essays and web fiction books. We are almost in the final stages, so you should be able to see them soon. We are also working on a fiction anthology. We are preparing it for publication as soon as the manuscript is finalized, and we hope to make it a series. In addition to the anthology, we also plan to publish a short story collection. Looking ahead, we plan to challenge ourselves with novels and essays.

It seems that our efforts for children's poetry are paying off, as manuscripts for children's poetry collections continue to be submitted. We are very grateful for the interest of many writers. Readers have also been sharing good responses on Social Media. We will continue to work hard to publish a good children's poetry collection series that can be read by children and adults alike. We ask for your continued interest and support.

## KOREAN AUTHORS

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### Writer Kim Ki-Tae

The birth of a storyteller who creates intriguing stories out of ordinary daily lives

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The emergence of an exceptionally talented writer is like a blessing in the literary circle. This is because they enrich the publishing market with works that resonate with and support many readers. Kim Ki-Tae debuted in 2022 and quickly became a bestselling author by publishing several short stories. His first novel, *The International for Two* (Munhakdongne Publishing), which features the lives of various people living the most ordinary lives and maximizes novelistic pleasure and immersion in the work with solid sentences, has officially announced the emergence of a powerful new talent who will surely influence our time. Following is an interview with Kim Ki-Tae, a confident new writer who supports ordinary life through his works.

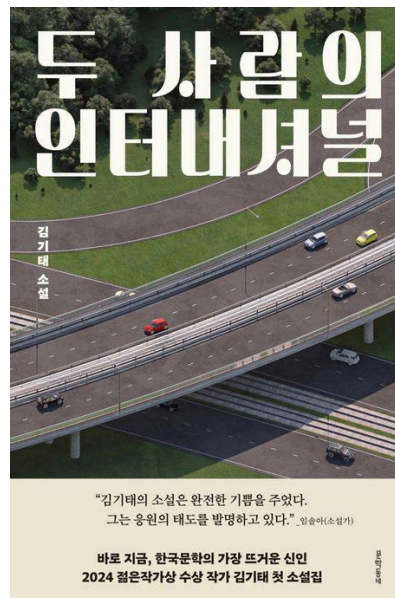


It's an honor to have you with us on *K-Book Trends*. Please briefly introduce yourself to our readers.

Hello, everyone. I began writing fiction in 2022, and I recently released my first short story collection, *The International for Two*. I'm living in Seoul, and I like winter more than summer. It's a pleasure for me to be meeting all the international readers out there through this interview.

Your book, *The International for Two*, became a hot topic in the market, gaining much positive response from readers as soon as it was published. How do you feel, and can you tell us more about the book?

The collection contains 9 short stories. Characters like a weightlifting teenage girl, a high school teacher teaching classics, a woman in her 30s on a dating show, and two young laborers who have resolved to live together appear in the stories. They are mainly stories based on contemporary Korean society. Of course, the reality of a country today will be connected to international orders. I think that if you are a reader who has been observing Koreans and Korean society today, there will be scenes that you will definitely find interesting.



*The International for Two*

After you made your debut through the Annual Spring Literary Contest in 2022, you won the Young Writer Award with *Universal Culture*, not to mention the two books - *All the Seas in the World* and *Pax Atomica* - winning the Excellence Award at the Yi Sang Literary Award for two consecutive times. Plus, your works were chosen as the “Novels of the Season” and the “Problematic Novel of the Year,” seeing you called the “hottest new writer in Korean literature.” As such, the quality of your works has been recognized in the Korean literary community. Can you tell us where the driver for such achievements comes from?

Literature itself is an industry, and new items are often followed by marketing hype. The awards could have probably been just a coincidence. If the Korean literary circle has been favorable to me so far, I guess that’s because I have taken on a relatively wide range of material. Perhaps they are encouraging me to take on more.

You are a writer who also has a full-time job. How do you allocate the time for writing stories, and how do you keep the balance between the two?

I work at the office during the day, and I write stories at home at night. It is actually not that difficult to balance the two. The problem is that my life as an independent being is disappearing, like having dinner with my family or friends, reading books or watching a movie for no reason, doing regular sport activities,

and randomly going out for a walk. I haven't solved this problem yet, and I'm trying to find some personal time back. I think I need to regain my senses as an independent being so that I can write better novels.

Your works have been mainly about the lives of ordinary people. Is there a message that you want to deliver to the people of our time, those who are living the most ordinary, through your stories?

I think that even if you are not going through any dramatic events, life itself is a challenging thing. And if that toughness is unavoidable, the fact - that we all are suffering - somehow consoles us. And if it is something that we don't necessarily have to experience, we can ask, why we are unable to improve the situation. As ordinariness is such a problematic concept, I sometimes want to root for it, and sometimes I want to doubt it. There's some kind of a deadlock that makes me have contradictory feelings. And *The International for Two* was a result of my attempt to portray it.

It seems that you cherish daily experiences more than anything. You must read a lot of books to find material for discussing everyday life. What kind of books do you usually read?

I read both fiction and non-fiction. It's always interesting to read how writers in other countries, those of my generation,

understand the contemporary world. I have recently been reading *Tokyo-to Dojo-to* (Tokyo Sympathy Tower), by Japanese writer Qudan Rie. It's about an architect who has to design a huge tower in a time when no language can be used with any confidence.

Meanwhile, I'm also a subscriber to four periodicals. One titled *Small Book* features accounts of life and work with the slogan, "Only when working people write does the world change." This small but strong magazine teaches me a lot - things that I can't get from novels or academic journals.

\* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 62 – Go to books recommended by writer Kim Ki-Tae  
[www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/trend.php?ptype=view&idx=1252&page=1&code=trend&category=64](http://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/trend.php?ptype=view&idx=1252&page=1&code=trend&category=64)

You once said, "It is enough for me to publish just three books, and I'm satisfied if I can write only one piece with good quality." What do you mean by stories that you can be satisfied with? Also, can you tell us about your favorite work of yours and the reason for it?

I don't think I can define what "a story I can be satisfied with" is in advance. Rather, I hope that once I write one, I will automatically recognize it. My favorite piece changes every time - but I wonder how short stories like *The Headlights* will appeal to international readers. It's because the protagonist is the epitome of what we call an "ordinary successful life" in Korea. There would be parts that readers from other cultures might not agree or support, and discovering those differences means something to me.



*Soseol Boda: Autumn 2022* (Moonji Publishing), containing *The Headlights*

In one of your interviews, you expressed your ambition to write “a novel that can be included in world literature collections.” What do you think is the meaning and value of having your story included in such collections?

When I was asked about my aspirations as a writer, I made that up on the spot and didn't expect it to be quoted. I don't know if there is a distinction between “world literature” and “non-world literature,” or if there are qualities intrinsic to the concept of “world literature.” Maybe there is only a distinction between a “good novel” and a “not-so-good novel.” If it's a “good novel,” one in which an author has persistently explored a truth that he or she has felt, then it has the potential to be world literature. I don't think the apparent diversity of characters or settings is important. A novel like *The Old Man and the Sea* would be

a good example. Wouldn't a young person living in a country without a sea be moved by it?

You have so far been releasing short stories only. Do you have plans for full-length novels as well? If so, what would it be about?

The first full-length novel is a very important task for me. I'm thinking of focusing on writing a full-length novel next year. My short stories have mainly been centered on contemporary Korean society – I'm looking to expand the spatial and temporal scale in my first full-length novel. While I said earlier that apparent diversity doesn't matter, the next work will feature characters from diverse countries and different places in the world.

With your works having made such a big splash across readers and the literary community, we look forward to your next steps. Lastly, please tell us about your future plans and goals.

I'm planning to release two more short stories this year. And then I'll take a break to recharge myself and flesh out my full-length novel. I hope it can be introduced to international readers as well. This is a goal that I have just set.

## LET'S TRY

# Customizable Recipes for Your Picky Eaters!

### 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!

### *Sinimom's 10-Minute Favorite Meals for Toddlers*

- Written by Sinimom, published by SEOSAWON





to prepare three meals a day will be able to satisfy their picky eaters. Plus, get tips on how to use healthy ingredients to create the flavors and textures your kids will love!

No matter how good a recipe may be, it can be hard to follow it every time if the ingredients are too cumbersome to prepare and the cooking process is too hands-on. If you are not the best in the kitchen or you are working parents, *Sinimom's 10-Minute Favorite Meals for Toddlers* will help you whip up a quick meal with easy-to-find ingredients. Not only does the weekly meal plan show you what you need to buy, but it also gives you tips on how to make the most of the ingredients you purchase. Take away Sinimom's special cooking secrets and learn how to keep your picky eaters healthy and happy!

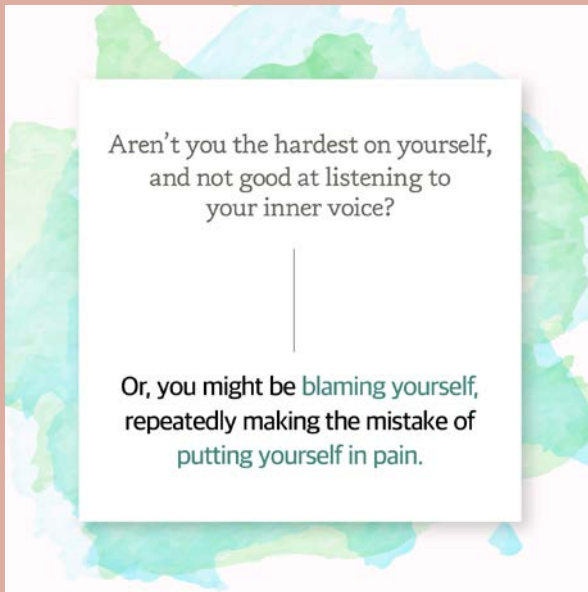
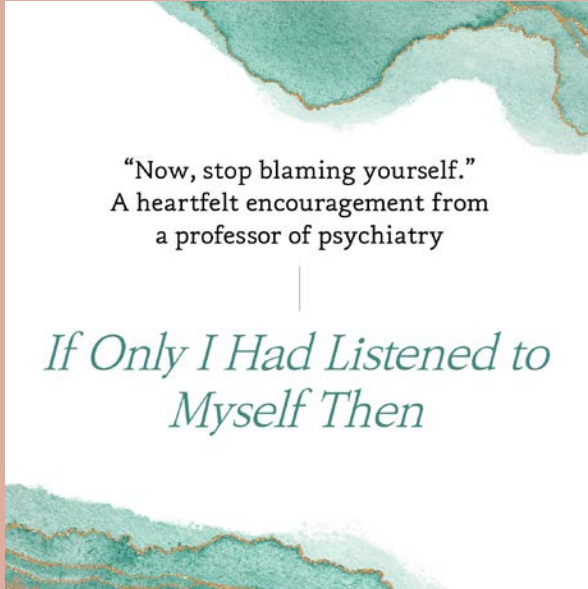
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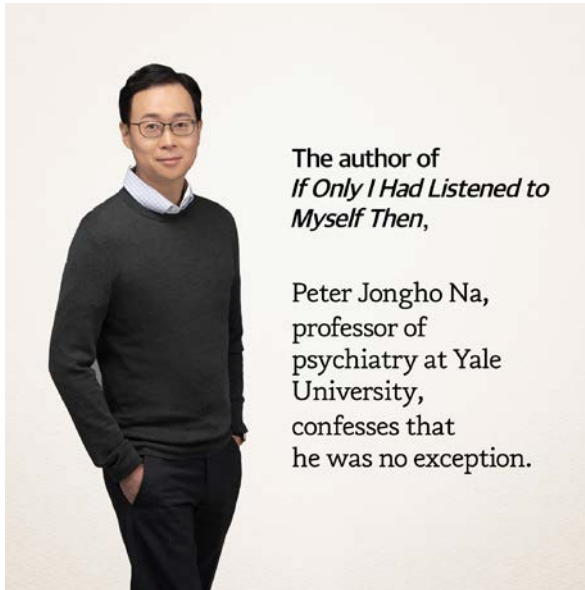
[www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/event.php?ptype=view&idx=1460&code=knowledge&category=67](http://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/event.php?ptype=view&idx=1460&code=knowledge&category=67)

NEW BOOKS

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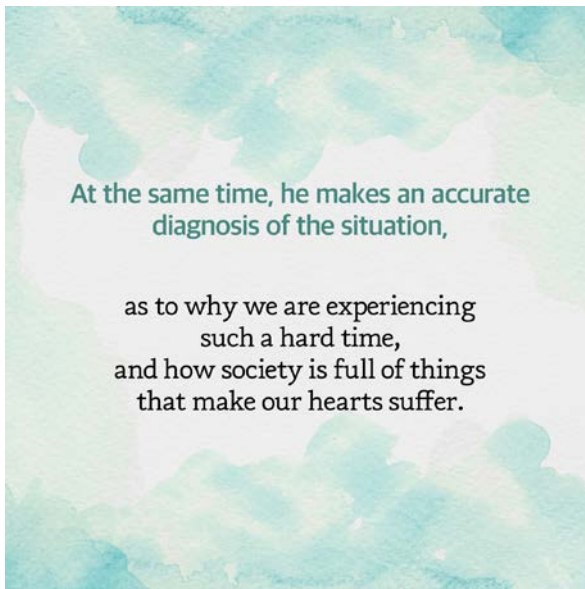
If Only I Had Listened to  
Myself Then





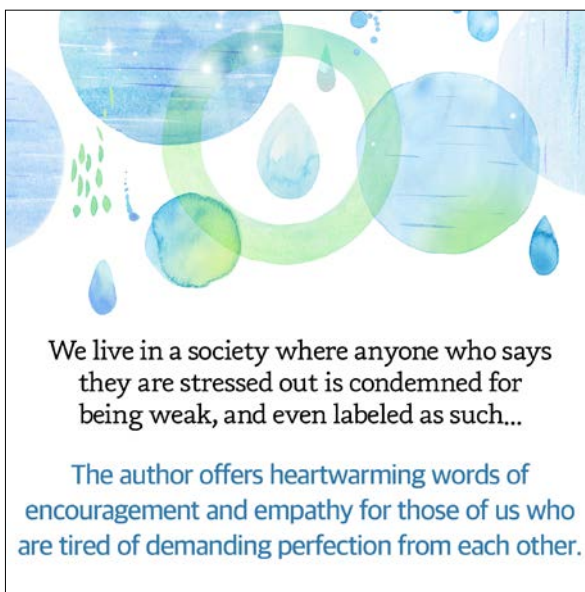
The author of  
*If Only I Had Listened to  
Myself Then,*

Peter Jongho Na,  
professor of  
psychiatry at Yale  
University,  
confesses that  
he was no exception.



At the same time, he makes an accurate  
diagnosis of the situation,

as to why we are experiencing  
such a hard time,  
and how society is full of things  
that make our hearts suffer.



We live in a society where anyone who says  
they are stressed out is condemned for  
being weak, and even labeled as such...

The author offers heartwarming words of  
encouragement and empathy for those of us who  
are tired of demanding perfection from each other.

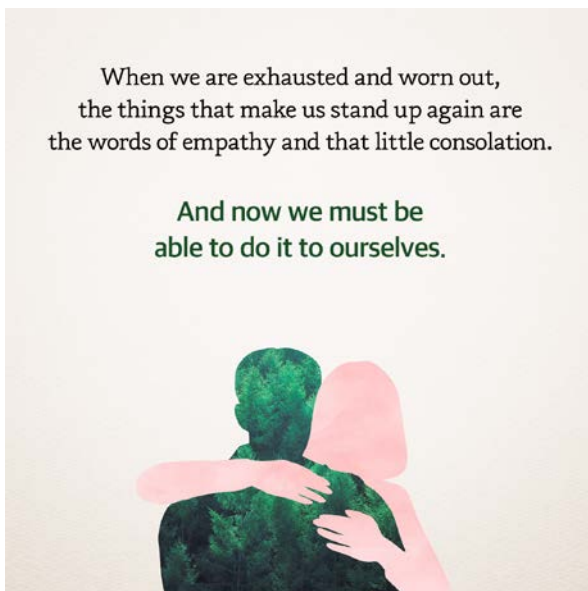
“Stop blaming yourself anymore.  
We all have the right to be in pain.  
I learned too late that  
all pains have the right to be respected.”

- from the book -



When we are exhausted and worn out,  
the things that make us stand up again are  
the words of empathy and that little consolation.

And now we must be  
able to do it to ourselves.



“Only when we can show our true selves can  
we be understood and healed.”



The author's message advises people to be  
**generous with themselves and each other** and  
fills readers' hearts with warmth and compassion.

Compassionate words that lift away  
self-blame, self-censorship, and prejudice,  
and instead empower you with empathy!



*If Only I Had Listened to Myself Then*  
Peter Jongho Na, Dasan Books

**BEST SELLERS**

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**2nd Week, August 2024****Best seller Trends in the Three Biggest Online Bookstores in Korea**

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The unprecedented heatwave and tropical nights have led readers to take a break from the heat by reading books of all genres. It seems that they found books to be a great way to soothe their exhausted bodies and minds. In the second week of August, the best selling titles were spread across a wide range of genres, including fiction, humanities, business, and foreign languages.

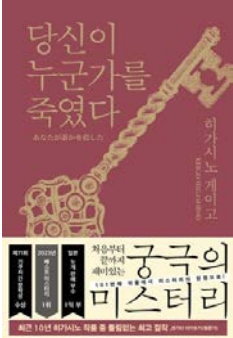
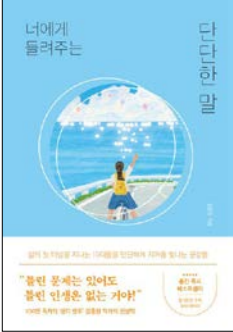
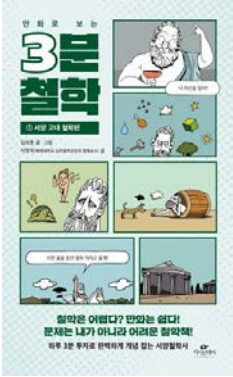
To begin with, *A Few Words of Encouragement for You* by Kim Jong-Won continued to rank high following last month, as teenagers spent their vacation immersed in reading and growing up. The book, a philosophical essay on how to move past puberty, a common life rite of passage, and into adulthood, offers a chance for introspection and growth. Coming in at No. 4, *Three-minute Philosophy in Cartoons* is an easy-to-understand, cartoon take on philosophy that's great for adults and teenagers alike. Also new to the best seller list is *Socool's Tips to Owning*

*a House in Seoul, and in Gangnam*, is a business book that focuses on real estate, which is a hot topic in Korean society, and Gangnam in particular. This book can be described as a “guide to owning your own home” that features various real estate know-how from the author, who has been called “the mentor of real estate mentors.”



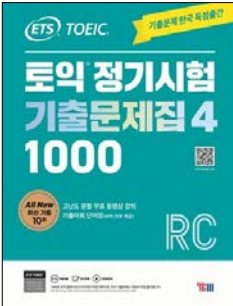

Art books continued to dominate the top five best sellers in the Arts & Pop Culture category for the second week of August. For example, *Natural Pose Drawing* at No. 1 is a book that teaches you how to draw the human body from any angle by understanding it perfectly. Coming in at No. 2 is *Design Basics*, a book about everything you need to know about design by the author under the pen name “AHOT.” As the subtitle suggests, “Design formulas that ‘pop’ out at you when you need them,” it is an entertaining book that explains 9 theories of design using various examples. Meanwhile, in addition to art-related books, the *Lovely Runner Script Book Set*, a collection of drama scripts, and *Editorial Thinking*, a book about creative thinking, also made the list, showing that Korean readers are interested in a variety of fields.

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

Top 10 best sellers for the 2nd week of August

<p>1</p>		<p><b><u>You Killed Someone</u></b></p> <p>Author   Keigo Higashino          Publisher   Vookda          Genre   Fiction</p>
<p>2</p>		<p><b><u>A Few Words of Encouragement for You</u></b></p> <p>Author   Kim Jong-Won          Publisher   First Penguin          Genre   Young Adult</p>
<p>3</p>		<p><b><u>Same as Ever</u></b></p> <p>Author   Morgan Housel          Publisher   Seosamdok          Genre   Business</p>
<p>4</p>		<p><b><u>Three-minute Philosophy in Cartoons</u></b></p> <p>Author   Kim Je-Hoon and others          Publisher   Cassiopeia Books          Genre   Philosophy</p>





Top 10 best sellers for the 2nd week of August

<p>4</p>		<p><b><u>One Page a Day: A Transcribing Note for Your Vocabulary</u></b></p> <p>Author   Yoo Sun-Kyong          Publisher   Wisdom House          Genre   Self-help</p>
<p>6</p>		<p><b><u>Socool's Tips to Owning a House in Seoul, and in Gangnam!</u></b></p> <p>Author   Socool          Publisher   Jinseowon          Genre   Business</p>
<p>7</p>		<p><b><u>ETS TOEIC Regular Exam Prep: Vol. 4 RC (Reading)</u></b></p> <p>Author   ETS          Publisher   YBM          Genre   Foreign Language</p>
<p>7</p>		<p><b><u>THE MONEY BOOK</u></b></p> <p>Author   Toss          Publisher   Viva Republica          Genre   Business</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 2nd week of August

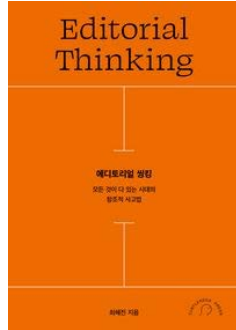
7		<p><b><u>Blue Archive Official Artworks 2</u></b></p> <p>Author   Translated by Shin Min-Sup          Publisher   Haksan Publishing          Genre   Comics</p>
10		<p><b><u>Hackers TOEIC Vocabulary: TOEIC VOCA</u></b></p> <p>Author   David Cho          Publisher   Hackers Education Group          Genre   Foreign Language</p>
10		<p><b><u>Sapiens: A Graphic History, Vol. 1</u></b></p> <p>Author   Yuval Noah Harari, David van der Molen          Publisher   Gimm-Young Publishers          Genre   History</p>

Top 5 books on Art & Pop Culture for the 2nd week of August

1		<p><b><i>Natural Pose Drawing</i></b></p> <p>Author   Soeun Park Kyeong-Sun          Publisher   Dongyang Books</p>
2		<p><b><i>Design Basics</i></b></p> <p>Author   AHOT          Publisher   Gilbut</p>
3		<p><b><i>Lovely Runner Script Book Set</i></b></p> <p>Author   Lee Si-Eun          Publisher   Booklog Company</p>
4		<p><b><i>Manganese Blue</i></b></p> <p>Author   Jeon So-Young          Publisher   Som Press</p>

Top 5 books on Art & Pop Culture for the 2nd week of August

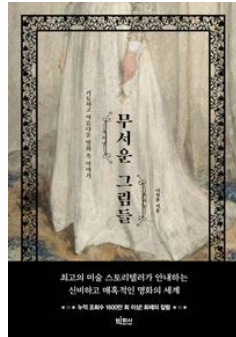
5



***Editorial Thinking***

Author | Choi Hye-Jin  
Publisher | Turtleneck Press

5



***Spooky Paintings***

Author | Lee Won-Yul  
Publisher | Big Fish

## #K-BOOK

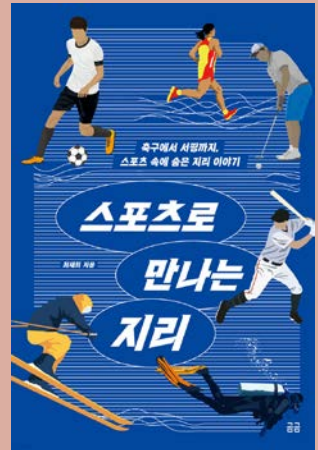
## #Sports

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

#### *Geography As Seen Through Sports*

#### 1. Publication Details

Title | Geography As Seen Through Sports  
 Author | Choi Jaehee  
 Publisher | Humanist Publishing Group Inc.  
 Publication Date | 2021-10-04  
 ISBN | 9791160807141  
 No. of pages | 216  
 Dimensions | 135 \* 200



#### 2. Book Intro

This book looks at 15 different fields of sports such as soccer, surfing, rock climbing, paragliding, and marathons from the perspective of geography. Difficult concepts such as valley winds and temperature inversion layers are transformed into interesting stories through questions such as: “What kind of wind do we need for paragliders to fly higher and faster?” “How high can paragliders go?” The movements of the Earth’s crust during the Paleozoic Era were influential in forming Europe’s professional soccer league, while the Himalayan Alps contain some of the most famous paragliding hotspots, and alluvial plains have become the backdrop for the world’s best-known marathons... Curiosity will lead readers to easily understand the most formative concepts in geography. From Pyeongchang, Gangwon Province, the host city of the 2018 Winter Olympics, to Interlaken, Switzerland, Pokhara, Nepal, Yosemite National Park, Zambezi River in Africa, and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, this book travels

across five oceans and six continents to look at these landmark destinations and introduce their geographical features using vivid photographs and easy-to-understand illustrations.

This book also shares the joys of looking at the different branches of geography, such as natural geography and humanities geography. With this guide in hand, readers can better appreciate the hills, streams, stones, and wind they come across in their own neighborhoods. The author, a high school geography teacher, introduces us to the interesting world of geography with these words: “Through this book, I hope young readers can study geography in a richer, more engaging way.”

Through the perspective of geography, readers can also see sports in a new light, while also deepening their understanding of their everyday spaces, worlds, and the people in their lives. Geography is a lens through which we can see how humans have interacted with nature across time, as we’ve built civilizations. This book also shows us how the sports cultures we have created have been possible only through the help of nature, inviting us to gain a better appreciation of nature as we enjoy our sports.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=6692](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=6692)

## *Modern Society and Sports*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | Modern Society and Sports

Author | Moon Kaesung

Publisher | Parkyoungsa

Publication Date | 2020-05-20

ISBN | 9791130309866

No. of pages | 252

Dimensions | 171 \* 244



### 2. Book Intro

Sports are not only popular all around the world, but also one of the most important legacies of mankind. In modern times, sports is recognized as an industry that can enhance national competitiveness as well as the health and welfare of people. This book explores the essence and values of sports as well as its history, philosophy, past, and present. This book also uses the newly coined term “spomanitas,” which is a portmanteau of “sports” and “humanitas.”

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=4204](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=4204)

## *Taekwondo Choreography with Music*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | Taekwondo Choreography with Music  
Author | Song Seonyeong; Lee Sukgyeong; Lee Seonhui  
Publisher | Parkyoungsa  
Publication Date | 2020-03-18  
ISBN | 9791130309576  
No. of pages | 156  
Dimensions | 171 \* 244



### 2. Book Intro

Based on mental and physical development and self-defense, Taekwondo has always been perceived as serious and solemn. Taekwondo, which had previously been competition-oriented, developed into a program to be enjoyed and practiced by men and women of all ages in 1992 when “Health Poomsae,” accompanied by music, was introduced at the 1st Taekwondo Hanmadang Competition. Since that time, the most widespread form of Taekwondo training has included movements accompanied by music such as Taekwondo gymnastics, free Poomsae, and demonstration competitions. Taekwondo is turning into a sport for all that is both popular and competitive.

Chapter 1 explains the concept and characteristics of Taekwondo choreography. Chapters 2 and 3 explain the key music used in Taekwondo choreography and present compositional movements and ways to put them to use. Chapter 4 shows readers how to teach Taekwondo choreography, and Chapter 5 presents Taekwondo training plans based on target groups and purposes.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=4207](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=4207)

## *Elegant and Exciting Women's Football*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | Elegant and Exciting Women's Football  
Author | Kim Hornby  
Publisher | Minumsa Publishing  
Publication Date | 2018-06-08  
ISBN | 9788937437571  
No. of pages | 280  
Dimensions | 135 \* 200



## 2. Book Intro

Here are people who love soccer. And here are women who play soccer. Does that sound strange? There is nothing strange here. Naturally, people who love soccer and women who play soccer can be one and the same. This is an essay about the athletic life of an emerging author named Kim Hornby, whose name reminds readers of Nick Hornby, a famous British writer known for *Fever Pitch*. This is a story about women who love soccer and are crazy about playing soccer. This story is about women who build muscle to improve their soccer skills and have their hair cut short to make it easier for them to play. It is also a story about you, the reader, and how you've unconsciously missed an opportunity to do the same.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=4470](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=4470)

## Number 36, Lee Seung-yeop

### 1. Publication Details

Title | Number 36, Lee Seung-yeop  
Author | Lee Seung-yeop  
Publisher | Gimm-Young Publishers, Inc.  
Publication Date | 2018-04-05  
ISBN | 9788934993780  
No. of pages | 300  
Dimensions | 154 \* 224



### 2. Book Intro

Professional baseball player Lee Seung-yeop joined the Samsung Lions after high school and achieved records for home runs, singles, doubles, RBIs, and slugging average in the KBO League. He then played for eight years in the NPB in Japan, returned to Korea for a career revival, and declared retirement at the top of his game. Through his book *Number 36, Lee Seung-Yuop*, Lee offers readers a glimpse into his unseen efforts and pain, the thought processes behind his many choices, the attitudes and people who influenced him as a person, and stories of suffering and overcoming fear.

Lee fell in love with baseball at a very young age, and nothing could sway his love for the game. He was given tough love by a strict father, but he never gave up baseball, going so far as to declare hunger strikes to continue playing. There's a common misconception that Lee never faced failure. This couldn't be further from the truth, however. His failures helped him better understand the thoughts of other players, and they were also a chance to quell his own arrogance.

Although Lee's achievements can be attributed to his own choices and stubbornness, he confesses that they were made possible due to the many people who believed in, defended, and helped him. Lee's family was his primary support. His father taught him to be a person rather than just a baseball player; his mother gave him unconditional love; his wife was the rock who helped him overcome struggles; and his children's sense of pride pushed him along, despite the difficulties of being the children of a celebrity father. What's more, Lee credits his coaches, teammates, fellow players, and even rivals with helping him become the player that he became. Fittingly, this book is divided into nine chapters. The tenth chapter – the extra inning – offers Lee's unique baseball lessons. It includes tips on the many variables a hitter has to calculate when facing off against a pitcher.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=313](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=313)

## *The Complete Encyclopedia of the Winter Olympics*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | The Complete Encyclopedia of the Winter Olympics

Author | Kim Sung ho; Kim Sohee

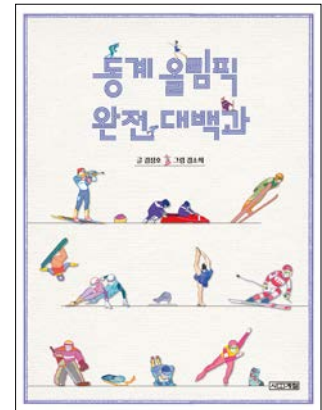
Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.

Publication Date | 2017-12-28

ISBN | 9791160943306

No. of pages | 116

Dimensions | 240 \* 180



### 2. Book Intro

*The Complete Encyclopedia of the Winter Olympics* provides answers to the questions: when did the Winter Olympics start? What are the economic effects of hosting the Olympics? How did Korea win the bid for the 2018 Winter Olympics? The book is an encyclopedia that introduces in detail the history of the Winter Olympics and its 15 official games.

The book includes everything about the Winter Olympics. Just watching the games is fun, but they're even more fun if you know more about them. This book illustrates in detail not only the rules of the 15 official games and scoring methods, but also techniques for each game and athletes' equipment. Also, the Winter Olympics is not portrayed as a simple sports event. The history and meaning of the Olympics are explained from various angles, including history and sociological issues.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=1443](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1443)

## *The Encyclopedia of World Cup Soccer*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | The Encyclopedia of World Cup Soccer

Author | Kim Sung ho; Park Jaehyun

Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.

Publication Date | 2018-05-30

ISBN | 9791160943634

No. of pages | 116

Dimensions | 180 \* 240



### 2. Book Intro

There are more member countries in FIFA, which organize World Cup, than the UN. Soccer is the most popular sport on Earth, both in name and in figures, and the World Cup is Earthlings' greatest festival. This book clearly organizes everything about soccer and the World Cup. It includes fundamentals like tactics and techniques, regulations, etc., as well as the sociological meaning of the World Cup and its role as a keyword in world history. With this single book, children can understand soccer and the World Cup properly; it's neither too light nor too heavy.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=1444](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1444)

## *Let's Play the Game With Faker*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | Let's Play the Game With Faker

Subtitle | A World-Class LoL Player

Author | Vegabooks Editorial Team

Publisher | Vegabooks

Publication Date | 2020-04-10

ISBN | 9791190242363

No. of pages | 144

Dimensions | 188 \* 257



### 2. Book Intro

This book is an exciting game book where the reader teams up with Faker, a world-class LoL player. You can be the main character of your game as you play alongside the professional gamer Faker. Solve quizzes and pursue various quests such as finding your way through mazes, spotting differences, crossword puzzles, and word puzzles, and you'll soon find that you have a new friend in Faker. In addition to game

pages, this book comes with many things to read about such as e-sports and other games including League of Legends, doubling the fun.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=4471](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=4471)

## *Why? Sports (Professional Gamer)*

### 1. Publication Details

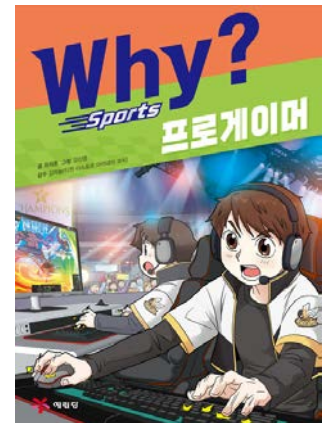
Title | Why? Sports (Professional Gamer)

Author | Choi Jaehun

Publisher | YeaRimDang Publishing Co., Ltd.

### 2. Book Intro

The beloved *Why?* series, which has received steady love from Thai children, has come back with “sports” this time. It is an authentic “sports learning comic” that tells children about the joy of sports and healthy values of life such as challenge, competition, courage, solidarity, and consideration. The first book of the *Why? Sports* series is about the top 5 dream jobs for elementary school students, with a focus on professional gamers. Read *Why? Professional Gamer* to understand the potential of e-sports, which has rapidly risen as a new sport, and learn about the skills and attitudes that professional gamers should possess through the growth story of the protagonist, Kang Chan.



\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=7565](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=7565)

## *Just Curling*

### 1. Publication Details

Title | Just Curling

Author | Choi Sanghee

Publisher | BIR Publishing Co., Ltd.

Publication Date | 2011-10-01

ISBN | 9788949123080

No. of pages | 288

### 2. Book Intro

Choi Sang Hee is a novelist who often travels and writes. Choi suddenly decided to travel to Jeju and lived a traveling life there. In



Jeju, Choi Sang Hee wrote *Jeju Island Secret Trip Course*, a travel journal with her 700 days of experience as a 'middle traveler,' and the book caused a new sensation of travel to Jeju Island. Choi has been publishing her traveling records from a small publishing company Lalala at the Beach with her sister. Traveling journals Choi has written include *Might Fall in Love with Chiang Mai*, *Might Fall in Love with Okinawa*, *Might Fall in Love with Northern Europe* and *Again, Jeju*. Novels Choi has written include *Del Mundo*, *Just, Curling* and *The Sea, the Girl or the Kiss*. Choi Sanghee won the BIR Blue Fiction Award for *Just, Curling* and the Sakyejul Literature Award for *Del Mundo*. Her other novel, *Sea, Girl or Kiss*, received the Daesan Literary Award. She has written novels for teenagers, such as *Hani and Coco*, *Rooftop Superstars*, *The Son of the Great Detective*, and *The House of Kant*, as well as travel books, such as *Falling in Love with Northern Europe*, *Falling in Love with Chiang Mai*, and *Summer in Tokyo*.

\* [k-book.or.kr/user/books/books\\_view?idx=849](http://k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=849)

## INFO

## Titles Selected for the Overseas Publication Grants 2024

The Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA) provides publication grants to promote the export of Korean publications. The grants offer partial financial aid to foreign publishing companies that have published or intend to publish Korean content based on copyright agreements.

For this year's grants, we selected a total of 57 titles from across 17 countries, and they are as follows:

### *空間的未來 : COVID-19 加速產生的空間變化*

English title | The Future of Space: Spatial Change Accelerated by COVID-19

Author | Yoo Hyeon-Jun

Applicant | 典藏藝術家庭股份有限公司(DIANCAN ART AND COLLECTION LTD.)

Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## Google公關總監的職場慢爬成功學

English title | Let's Move On – All We Have is Energy  
Author | Jeong Kim Kyoung-Sook  
Applicant | ACME PUBLISHING CO., LTD.  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 小醫師復仇者聯盟6：過敏性疾病，找到真正的原因！

English title | Doctor Avengers 6: Allergies, Find the Real Cause!  
Author | Ko Hee-Jung, Cho Seung-Yeon  
Applicant | Hsiao Lu Publishing Co., Ltd.  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 愛唱歌的車

English title | Vehicles Singing Tra-la-lal  
Author | SamHyun Kim  
Applicant | Hsiao Lu Publishing Co., Ltd.  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 我會自己做計畫

English title | Children That Plans  
Author | Kang Soo-Jin, Mo Ye-Jin  
Applicant | Rye Field Children Publications  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 鴨嘴的故事

English title | The Story of Duckbill  
Author | Hwang Seon-Ae  
Applicant | 青林國際出版股份有限公司(Children's Publications Co., Ltd.)  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 今天也對媽媽發火了

English title | I Was Mad at My Mom Again Today  
Author | Chang Hae-Joo  
Applicant | China Times Publishing Company  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 女孩的祕密帳號

English title | My Sister's Secret Account  
Author | Kim Dochi, Seo Banda  
Applicant | China Times Publishing Company  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 我的泡麵時光

English title | Ramen: On My Way to Boil Water  
Author | Yoon Yi-Na  
Applicant | Yuan-Liou Publishing Co., Ltd.  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 怪獸特攻隊

English title | Monster Hunter  
Author | Kim Min-Woo  
Applicant | Yuan-Liou Publishing Co., Ltd.  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## The Pencil

Author | Kim Hye-Eun  
Applicant | Azoth Books  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 我們就此分手吧：從兩個人到一個人，最暖律師淚光閃閃諮商日記

English title | Let's Break Up  
Author | Choi Yoo-Na, Kim Hyeon-Won  
Applicant | TITAN Publishing Co., Ltd  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 不受傷害也不傷害人的說話練習：寫給想要擁有美好關係的你

English title | Communication Tips for Adults  
Author | Im Jeong-Min  
Applicant | TITAN Publishing Co., Ltd  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 媽媽無所不在的嘮叨

English title | The End of Nagging  
Author | Nanjoo  
Applicant | Alvita Publishing Co., Ltd.  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 天氣商店

English title | The Weather Store  
Author | Thomas Lee  
Applicant | SUN COLOR CULTURE CO.,LTD  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 我的孩子被霸凌了

English title | School Bullying, a Story That Has Not Ended Since  
Author | Noh Yoon-Ho  
Applicant | SUN COLOR CULTURE CO.,LTD  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



## 你的臉

English title | Your Face  
Author | Jung Eun-Hye  
Applicant | Sunrise Press, a division of AND Publishing Ltd.  
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



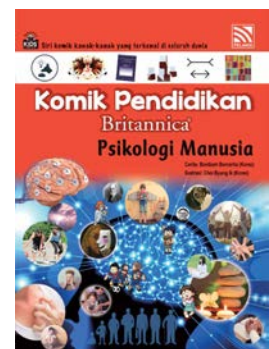
### ***Hidupkan Pagi Demi Petang Yang Indah***

English title | The Afternoon is the Future for Those Who Live in the Morning  
Author | Lee Kook-Hwan  
Applicant | Patriots Publishing Sdn. Bhd.  
Country/Published language | Malaysia/Bahasa Melayu



### ***Human Psychology (Psikologi Manusia)***

English title | Britannica Educational Comics Series 26: Human Psychology  
Author | Bombom story, Choi Byong-Ik  
Applicant | PENERBITAN PELANGI SDN BHD  
Country/Published language | Malaysia/Bahasa Melayu



### ***AI (人工智能)***

English title | Britannica Educational Comics Series 51: AI  
Author | Bombom story, Kim Deok-Young  
Applicant | TUNAS PELANGI SDN BHD  
Country/Published language | Malaysia/Simplified Chinese



### ***Heart-Stirring Medicine of Korean Temple Food***

Author | Venerable Dean  
Applicant | Alpha Sisters Publishing  
Country/Published language | US/English



## ***Thư viện của những thần tượng***

English title | The Library of Artists  
Author | Lee Ha-Young  
Applicant | Tan Viet Cultural and Education Joint Stock Company  
Country/Published language | Vietnam/Vietnamese



## ***Bộ sách Kỹ năng xã hội thiết yếu dành cho trẻ 1-10***

English title | Value & Spirit 1-10  
Author | Jang Seon-Hye  
Applicant | Tan Viet Cultural and Education Joint Stock Company  
Country/Published language | Vietnam/Vietnamese



## ***Là gia đình nhưng cũng là người lạ***

English title | We're Family, But We're Strangers  
Author | Won Jung-Mi  
Applicant | Vietnam AZ Communication and Culture Company Limited  
Country/Published language | Vietnam/Vietnamese



## ***Књига са налепницама која побољшава основне математичке вештине***

English title | Preparing Mathematics: 1 Year Old  
Author | Blue Rabbit Editors  
Applicant | Klett Publishing House Ltd  
Country/Published language | Serbia/Serbian



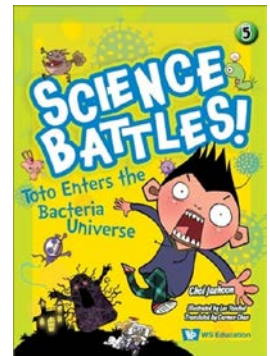
### ***LAS MANOS DE MI PADRE***

English title | Father's Big Hands  
Author | Choi Deok-Kyu  
Applicant | Juan Manuel Romero Corell(LITERA LIBROS)  
Country/Published language | Spain/Spanish



### ***Toto Enters the Bacteria Universe***

Author | Choi Jae-Hoon, Lee Yoo-Chul, Ko Gwan-Soo  
Applicant | World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd.  
Country/Published language | Singapore/English



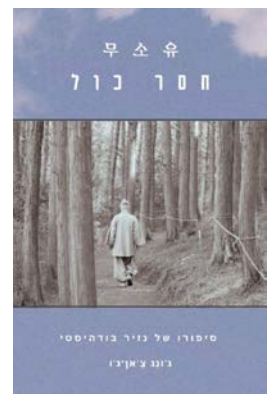
### ***House of Hummingbird***

Author | Kim Bo-Ra  
Applicant | Amrood Publication  
Country/Published language | Iran/Persian



### ***יטסיהודוב ריזן לש ורופיס – לוב רסח***

English title | Novel Musoyu: The Story of Beopjeong Sunim  
Author | Jung Chan-Joo  
Applicant | Prapanca Press  
Country/Published language | Israel/Hebrew



### ***LE GRANDI MANI DI MIO PADREP***

English title | Father's Big Hands  
Author | Choi Deok-Kyu  
Applicant | QUINTO QUARTO EDIZIONI  
Country/Published language | Italy/Italian



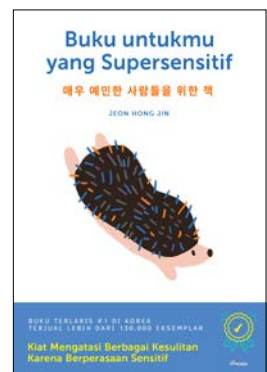
### ***L'EMPORIO DEI GIORNI DI PIOGGIA***

English title | The Rainbow Goblin Store  
Author | Yoo Young-Kwang  
Applicant | De Agostini Libri  
Country/Published language | Italy/Italian



### ***A Book for Highly Sensitive Person***

English title | A Book for Highly Sensitive People  
Author | Jeon Hong-Jin  
Applicant | TransMedia Pustaka  
Country/Published language | Indonesia/Indonesian



### ***Sudah Kau Urus Uangmu, Nak?***

English title | Dear My Daughter, Never Put Off Learning About Money  
Author | Park So-Yeon  
Applicant | Penerbit Haru  
Country/Published language | Indonesia/Indonesian



## **Watashitachi no Ke-ki no Wakekata**

English title | This is How We Share a Cake  
Author | Kim Hyo-Eun  
Applicant | Kaiseisha  
Country/Published language | Japan/Japanese



## **ウネさんの抱擁**

English title | Eun-Hye's Hug  
Author | Jung Eun-Hye  
Applicant | YOUYOUSHA  
Country/Published language | Japan/Japanese



## **日常の言葉たち**

English title | The Words of Everyday Life  
Author | Kim Won-Young, Kim So-Young, Lee Kil-Bora,  
Choi Tae-Gyu  
Applicant | YOUYOUSHA  
Country/Published language | Japan/Japanese



## **うえをみて!**

English title | Look up!  
Author | Jung Jin-Ho  
Applicant | Happy owl sha Co., Ltd  
Country/Published language | Japan/Japanese



## ゆめのごちそう

English title | The Blowfly in My Dream  
Author | Baek Hee-Na  
Applicant | Bronze Publishing Inc.  
Country/Published language | Japan/Japanese



## 韓国から見た日本——メディア人類学者が読み解く日本社会

English title | Same Japan, Different Japan: A Media Anthropologist's Insights Into Japan  
Author | Kim Kyung-Hwa  
Applicant | Heibonsha Limited, Publishers  
Country/Published language | Japan/Japanese



## 福宝，每天都幸福

English title | Fu Bao, Hope You Are Happy Every Day  
Author | Kang Cheol-Won, Ryu Jung-Hoon  
Applicant | Beijing Science and Technology Publishing Co., Ltd.  
Country/Published language | China/Simplified Chinese



## 老虎点心店

English title | Rice Cake House of a Tiger  
Author | Seo Hyun  
Applicant | Jieli Publishing House Co., Ltd.  
Country/Published language | China/Simplified Chinese



## 来小书厨房住一晚

English title | Book's Kitchen

Author | Kim Jee-Hye

Applicant | Jieli Publishing House Co., Ltd.

Country/Published language | China/Simplified Chinese



## 我的蓝色自行车

English title | My Blue Bike

Author | Hwang Sun-Mi

Applicant | ZHEJIANG LITERATURE & ART PUBLISHING HOUSE CO. LTD(浙江文艺出版社)

Country/Published language | China/Simplified Chinese



## 小学生科学认知漫画：了不起的科学家 1

English title | The World's Science Geniuses in Comics 1

Author | Hwang Joong-Hwan, Kim Hong-Jae

Applicant | China Textile & Apparel Press

Country/Published language | China/Simplified Chinese



## 漫画基础科学课 1-2

English title | TROUBLE MAKER KIM BLUE'S KIND EXPLANATIONS ON SCIENCE 1-2

Author | Kim Blue

Applicant | Roaring Lion Media Co.,Ltd.

Country/Published language | China/Simplified Chinese



## 被怀疑的友情

English title | Unbeknownst to Me  
Author | Kim Hwa-Yo, Oh Yoon-Hwa  
Applicant | 21st Century Publishing Group  
Country/Published language | China/Simplified Chinese



## 我爱我的家, 我去上学啦, 怎么做选择呢, 爸爸妈妈为什么工作呢, 我是谁呢

English title | Family Means a Big Hug; I'm Off to School; Pick Just One; Why Do Mom And Dad Work?; Who Am I?  
Author | Park Yoon-Kyung, Kim Yi-Rang  
Applicant | Jilin Publishing Group Co., Ltd.  
Country/Published language | China/Simplified Chinese



## 是我的错吗? 直击韩国12起恶性社会事件

English title | The Naked Faces  
Author | Oh Chan-Ho  
Applicant | Folio(Beijing) Culture&Media Co., Ltd.  
Country/Published language | China/Simplified Chinese



## คริสต์มาส ความหลังไม่เคยเลือน

English title | Christmas Tiles  
Author | Kim Keum-Hee  
Applicant | Jamsai Publishing Co., Ltd.  
Country/Published language | Thailand/Thai



### **เจ้าสาวรูปถ่ายกับฮาวายในฝัน**

English title | Aloha, My Moms  
Author | Lee Geumi  
Applicant | Jamsai Publishing Co., Ltd.  
Country/Published language | Thailand/Thai



### **แฟนสาวสุดขอบโลก**

English title | World's End Girlfriend  
Author | Kim Yeon-Su  
Applicant | SE-Education PCL  
Country/Published language | Thailand/Thai



### **ลูกอมวิเศษ**

English title | Magic Candies  
Author | Baek Hee-Na  
Applicant | NALIKASAI COMPANY LIMITED  
Country/Published language | Thailand/Thai



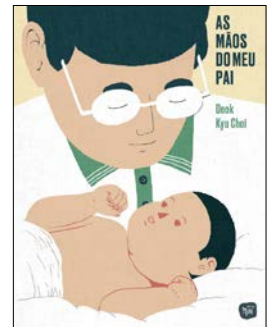
### **เส้นทางหัตถกรรมวันทำงานของแม่**

English title | Mommy's Way to Work  
Author | Kim Young-Jin  
Applicant | NALIKASAI COMPANY LIMITED  
Country/Published language | Thailand/Thai



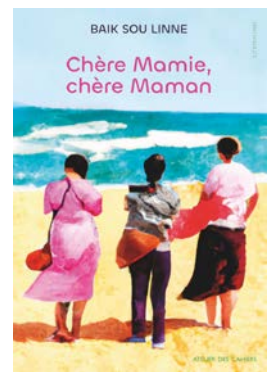
### ***As Mãos do Meu Pa***

English title | Father's Big Hands  
Author | Choi Deok-Kyu  
Applicant | Orfeu Negro  
Country/Published language | Portugal/Portuguese



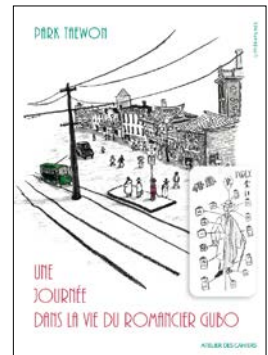
### ***Chère Maman, Chère Mamie***

English title | Dearly Beloved  
Author | Baik Sou-linne  
Applicant | Atelier des Cahiers  
Country/Published language | France/French



### ***Une journée du romancier Gubo***

English title | One Day in the Life of Kubo the Novelist  
Author | Park Tae-Won  
Applicant | Atelier des Cahiers  
Country/Published language | France/French



### ***I Almost Worked Too Hard***

Author | Hawann  
Applicant | Apop Books (Adarna House Inc.)  
Country/Published language | Philippines/English

