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TOPIC

What Comes After Today's Korean-Style Healing Novels?

Written by Lee Ho-Je (Reporter at *Dong-a Ilbo*)

“While the so-called ‘Korean style healing novels’ are selling well these days, trends always change. This craze will be replaced with a new trend sooner or later.” Barbara J. Zitwer, a literary agent working across English-speaking countries, said so in a recent interview. Zitwer is an American who has been exporting Korean literature overseas for about 20 years and is often referred to as a “Korean literature ambassador.” She explains that the phenomenon of Korean-style healing novels being so popular not only in Korea, but also abroad, is something that may change at any time soon. “At first, everyone read pure literature,” she said, “and then the trend shifted to healing novels.” While it may seem that the popularity of Korean literature across all genres

has grown on the surface, Zitwer says that international readers switched genres when they got tired of it. Zitwer added, “Readers always want something new and different. You have to remember that you have to be ahead of the trend.”

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 75* – Go to the article about Barbara J. Zitwer
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/trend.php?ptype=view&idx=1480&code=trend&category=62

Rose with support from female readers in their 20s and 30s, yet repetitive patterns are causing fatigue

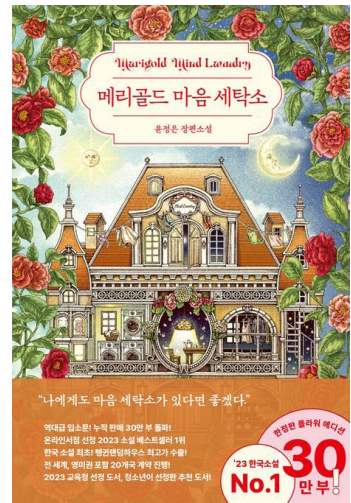
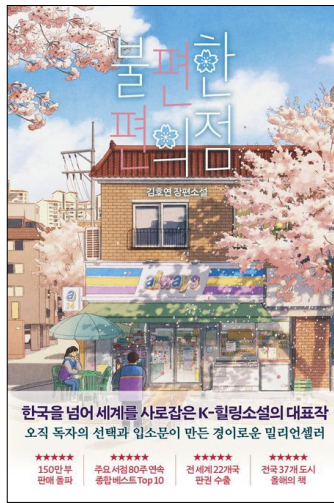
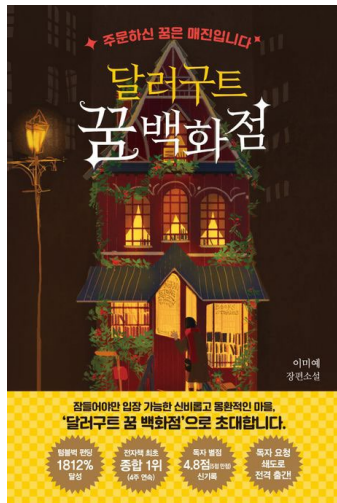
Healing novels console the characters and their audience with their compassionate writing style and perspective. In particular, “Korean-style” healing novels are characterized by a variety of characters with their own stories, set in familiar and nostalgic spaces, and featuring characters recovering from pain.

The popularity of Korean-style healing novels began domestically. The success of *Dallergut Dream Department Store* (Sam & Parkers) in 2020 and 2021, and *The Second Chance Convenience Store* (previously known as *The Uncanny Convenience Store*) (Namu Bench) in 2021 and 2022, led to a massive craze for healing novels. One of the publishing house CEOs said, “The low barriers, K-drama-like format, and positive attitude embedded in the novels have influenced the Korean healing novel fever. Their easy-to-read writing style, which reads like an essay and can be read by anyone, also played a positive role,” he said, adding, “They have become popular mainly among female readers in their 20s and 30s.”

The popularity expanded into other countries. For example, the translation of the book *The Second Chance Convenience Store* is set to be published in 21 countries. International publishers' interest, which began in Asian countries such as Thailand, Taiwan, China, and Japan, during its early phase of publication, spread to European countries such as Poland, Germany, and France, eventually leading to the US and Brazil. A number of globally prominent publishers were included in the list of contractors.

The reason why Korean-style healing novels are gaining popularity in other countries comes from their “universality.” Healing wounded hearts with fantasy is something that every reader can empathize with, regardless of their nationality. The global crisis called the COVID-19 pandemic also played a role. Yun Jung-Eun, author of *Marigold Mind Laundry* (Book Romance), which received an advance of \$100,000 for the UK and \$150,000 for the US from global publisher Penguin Random House, said, “I wanted to offer solace to readers around the world after COVID-19. The space of a laundromat is also familiar to international readers, and the recent increase in interest in Korean literature also had an impact.”

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 69 – Go to the interview with writer Yun Jung-Eun
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1380&page=1&code=interview&category=66



Korean covers of *Dallergut Dream Department Store*; *The Second Chance Convenience Store*; *Marigold Mind Laundry*

Actually, it has only been 4 years since Korean-style healing novels began to gain popularity. The background story can be summarised as follows: Shin Kyung-Sook's *Please Look After Mom* (Changbi), published in 2008, first became popular in the US, and Han Kang's *The Vegetarian* (Changbi) won the 2016 Man Booker International Prize, which led to the strong performance of pure Korean literature. Then, the trend changed to healing novels with the book *Dallergut Dream Department Store*.

Because of this, some show concern that the demand in both domestic and international markets for Korean-style healing novels might not last long. There are also comments that readers are feeling fatigued from the repeated production of similar stories. In fact, Korean-style healing novels follow similar storylines - it is the background space familiar to people that changes, such as a store, laundromat, and convenience store. One CEO of a literary publisher said, "It may seem like a

sensation, but the commercial success is only a flash in the pan compared to the performance of pure literary works that won multiple international awards.” “Literary quality is gone - in its place is only the commercial purpose of quickly producing what sells well right now,” another literary editor explained, “I hope highly sophisticated readers around the world won’t mistake healing novels for all of Korean literature.”



English covers of *Please Look After Mom* and *The Vegetarian*

English-speaking countries have no bias against genre literature

It is hard to predict the flow of trends. However, it is possible to spot areas that are relatively lesser known in Korea, but have gotten their first response from overseas. The rise of genre literature is particularly noteworthy. For example, Chung Bora’s short story collection *Cursed Bunny* (Rabbit Hole) was shortlisted for the 2022 International Booker Prize. International audiences were surprised to see a horror story with Korean sentiments.

Frank Wynne, the head judge of the category, told reporters in an interview, “Chung writes stories using fantastic and frightening materials, but ultimately explores essential human emotions such as loss and trauma. Although her stories are based on horror and fantasy, Chung delves into real human emotions.” In other words, genre literature is not so different from pure literature.

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 47* – Go to the interview with writer Chung Bora
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1006&page=2&code=interview&category=66

Science fiction is another notable field. This is because it is a field where new writers such as Choi Eui-Taek, Cheon Seon-Ran, and Shim Neo-Wool, led by Kim Cho-Yeop, who is recognized for her book *If We Cannot Move at the Speed of Light* (East-Asia Publishing Co.), are flourishing. One CEO of a literary publishing house said, “Science fiction is the hottest field among young writers,” and added, “There are more and more young pure literature writers contacting us saying they want to write science fiction first. There are also cases of writers working on science fiction with the aim of getting their work published overseas.”

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 19* – Go to the interview with writer Kim Cho-Yeop
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=688&page=4&code=interview&category=66

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



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

The reason genre literature is receiving attention overseas is because the boundary between pure literature and genre literature is relatively blurrier in English-speaking countries than in Korea. In particular, Honford Star, a British publisher specializing in East Asian literature, has been publishing not only modern pure fiction by writers such as Kim Dong-In and Lee Hyo-Seok, but also works by contemporary Korean genre writers such as Bae Myung-Hoon and Chung Bora. Anthony Bird, the publisher’s CEO, explained in an interview with a reporter that “Anglo-American literary critics and readers have no prejudice against genre fiction.”

Another notable topic: Korean diaspora

Works about the Korean diaspora, reflecting the identity of Korean immigrants, are also worth mentioning. In addition to utilizing race, these works are also characterized by using

emotions such as longing and anger to describe the sorrow of being a stranger in a foreign land. A typical work is *Pachinko*, a full-length novel by Korean-American writer Lee Min-Jin, who left Seoul at the age of 7 and settled in New York City. The drama with the same title, which aired on Apple TV+ in 2022, sparked a global buzz, and the novel became the 70th best-selling book of the year on Amazon Books, an online bookstore in the US.

Following the success of *Pachinko*, various other works about the Korean diaspora have been put under the spotlight in English-speaking literary circles. For example, *Crying in H Mart*, an essay by Korean-American writer Michelle Zauner featuring the longing for Korean food made by her mother and her coming-of-age story, ranked 1st in the Asian & American category on Amazon Books after it was published in 2021 in the US. Also, *Nuclear Family*, a full-length novel by Korean-American writer Joseph Han, was selected as one of the “Must-Read Books of 2022” by Time, a weekly news magazine in the US. The book features the story of the main character, a second-generation immigrant to the US, as he follows the traces of his grandfather, who lived through the Korean War. In an interview with a reporter, Han said, “I was encouraged by the success of senior writers who have written about their multi-layered experiences of newly settled homes and how they view their homeland.”



Korean covers of *Pachinko*; *Crying in H Mart*; *Nuclear Family*

Korean diaspora literature is particularly influential because it can share the perspectives of people marginalized from mainstream society, such as immigrants, the poor, and sexual minorities. Furthermore, the culture of “diversity” in the English-speaking world also contributes to this. This comes in the wake of a growing debate in the US about “political correctness,” covering race, gender, and more.

Some say that it draws empathy through its universal themes. Beyond emphasizing unique Korean sentiments such as “*han* (a form of resentment and hatred),” the topic also highlights themes that can be easily understood by people around the world, such as anger and nostalgia. Justin Chon, director of the drama “Pachinko,” said at a press conference for the “Special Program in Focus: Korean Diasporic Cinema” at the Busan International Film Festival in Haeundae-gu, Busan, last October, as follows: “Stories about immigrants help modern people realize that they are not alone in thinking they live on their own island. For

example, looking at the story of a Korean, friends from India or Armenia say that they can relate to the story. So, through the lives of immigrants, the genre draws out on themes that modern people can universally empathize with.”

The key lies in quality, not the writer’s reputation

What the Korean publishing industry should actually focus on is moving away from the reputation-does-all strategy. It is because writers’ achievements within the Korean market lose importance when it comes to the international market. It is often the quality of the book that determines success. For example, just like how newly-debuted writer Park So-Young’s full-length SF novel *Snowglobe* (Changbi) is published in English-speaking countries through mega-publisher Penguin Random House, once a book is good in quality, it is highly likely to draw attention in the international market.



Korean cover of *Snowglobe*

The particularly important area is “marketing.” No matter how famous the author may be in Korea, he or she becomes a new face if it’s their first time publishing a book in English-speaking countries. To make a Korean writer known in the international market, they should meet various editors from international publishers and be more aggressive in marketing and promotion. There are many cases in which new writers are more active in this process than existing writers. Also, it is necessary to boost understanding of intellectual property. For example, after the release of the drama “Pachinko,” the popularity of the original novel surged further. As such, literature has infinite possibilities as the original content for other content.

Writer Yun Ko-Eun set up a literary agency named “Agency Soseol” with fellow writers in 2022. After being awarded the Dagger for Crime Fiction in Translation by the UK Crime Writers’ Association (CWA) in 2021 and experiencing firsthand the demand for Korean literature abroad, she decided to skip the steps taken through publishers and instead work on her own.

From the Netflix series “Squid Game,” which was rejected by several film producers for 13 years from the planning stage, to BTS by HYBE, which was not even in one of the top three management companies, all Korean content that has shaken up the world’s pop culture scene rose from the non-mainstream. The same is true for Korean-style healing novels. Among the most popular healing novels abroad, none were published by famous publishers or famous authors. It will be no different

after the Korean healing novel. There will only be a post-Korean healing novel if we search for new talents.

SPECIAL PROJECT

[English Books in Korea ⑤]

Promoting Korean Art Through Books

English editions of Korean art books for foreigners

Written by Yi Soo-Jung (Editorial Director, Youlhwadang Publishers)

Youlhwadang Publishers, the publisher I'm working for as an editor, has three ways of utilizing English when publishing books on Korean traditional culture and arts. At the most basic level, we include an English summary at the front of the book that summarizes the content of the Korean edition, with the intent of providing the most basic information for librarians in foreign libraries with no Korean skills to categorize the books. For art collections that are mainly image-based with relatively few texts, the full text is included in both Korean and English so that it can be distributed at home and abroad as a single edition. This is also useful for artists to use as a portfolio when performing abroad. Finally, the Korean and English editions can be planned

as independent books, published simultaneously or in sequence. The English editions are marketed to foreign audiences. The decision to choose between these three options depends on the kind, topic, budget, and distribution network of the book.

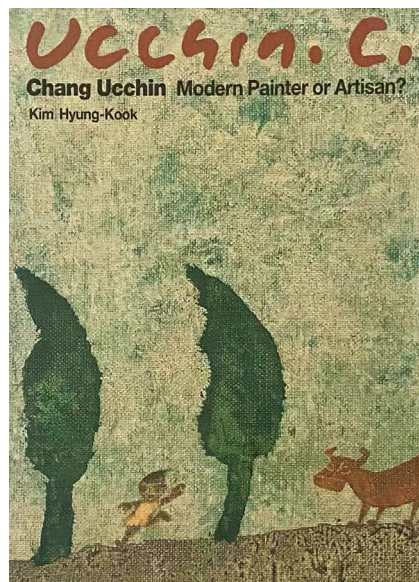
When it comes to a full-fledged publication of English editions, we usually find an overseas publisher to export the rights or co-publish the book, as we need a native English-speaking editor to proofread and a seamless overseas distribution network. However, compared to Korean pop culture, children's content, and webtoon markets, it is still hard to export books on traditional Korean culture and art to foreign publishers under reasonable conditions. Even when books are exported, they need to be financially supported and are often published by academic publishers with a limited readership. So, as their production capacities are not as high as those required for art books let alone their limited distribution network, we prefer producing the English edition by ourselves at the same time as the Korean edition to reduce production costs and maintain high quality. Now that the level of English translators has advanced, I believe it is worthwhile to actively push forward projects to produce English-language books in Korea ourselves and distribute them overseas.

In this article, I would like to introduce a few English edition art books published by Yeolhwadang Publishers, as well as more recent titles from other publishers. The books selected are not primarily text-based, but rather well-edited books with an even mix of images and text, and books with high production quality,

including printing and binding. Though Yeolhwadang Publishers also has a number of English books on architecture, they are not covered here as the field has been featured separately in the past article.

Chang Ucchin: Modern Painter or Artisan?

Written By Kim Hyung-Kook, translated into English by Dai Sil Kim-Gibson, published by Youlhwadang Publishers, 2004

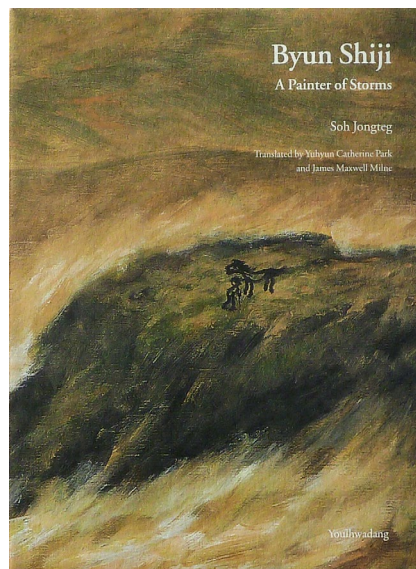


This book is a biography of Chang Ucchin (1917-1990), a representative Korean painter, published in both Korean and English. Written by Kim Hyung-Kook, a social scientist who was a close observer of the artist, the author sees the artist's artistic qualities as a combination of the mundane and the transcendent, and traces the trajectory of the artist's life space and dreams, including his years in Deokso-ri, Myeongnyun-dong, Suanbo-

myeon, and Mabuk-ri. Although it has been twenty years since it was published, the Korean edition has recently gone through its third printing of the revised edition in celebration of Chang Ucchin's memoir exhibition at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA), proving readers' constant love for the book. Unlike other large art books that can be overwhelming to buy and read, this book is compact in size and includes key works, making it suitable for the general public who wants to learn about Korean artists.

Byun Shiji: A Painter of Storms

Written by Soh Jong-Teg, translated by Yu-Hyun Catherine Park and James Maxwell Milne, published by Youlhwadang Publishers, 2017

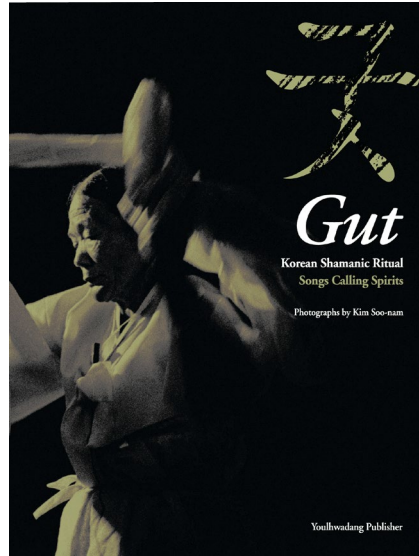


Byun Shiji (1926-2013) is a Korean painter born on Jeju Island, who mainly drew the sea, wind, and horses of his homeland. The

entire painting is colored in either a lino sheet or ochre color. The landscapes and figures drawn on it might not show the virtuosity of ink lines, but they are expressed with old-fashioned, unpretentious tastes and dynamism. He was the first Asian artist to have his works permanently exhibited at the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., winning him international acclaim. This book is an English edition published in 2017, the same year the Korean edition's revised version, first published in 2000, was released. Chinese and Japanese editions were also published at the same time. Soh Jong-Teg, a Korean literature expert who was so deeply drawn to Byun's works that he wrote a biography of the artist, said, "There is still no other rare and precious example where art and culture, locality and globalization, and the East and the West are brought together like in his paintings." This book includes key artworks within a narrative that follows the author's life, making it a light read that can be easily held in hand, similar to the previously introduced *Chang Ucchin: Modern Painter or Artisan?*

Gut, Korean Shamanic Ritual: Songs Calling Spirits

Photographs by Kim Soo-Nam, texts by Kim In-Whoe, Published by Youlhwadang Publishers, 2005

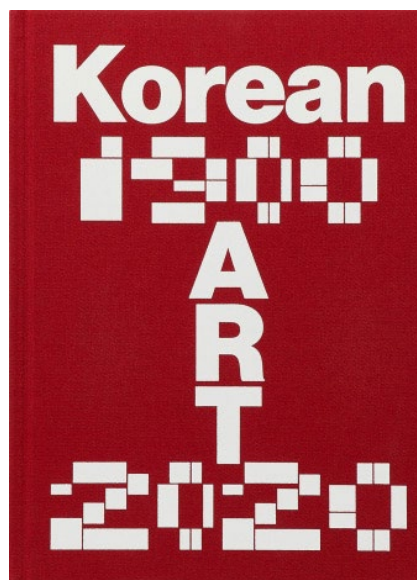


This is a documentary photo book by Kim Soo-Nam (1948-2006), a photographer who holds a unique place in Korean shamanic photography. The photographs of *gut* (rituals performed by Korean shamans) he took over a decade of traveling throughout Korea from the 1970s onward present the tenacious vitality of the rituals. Both Korean and English editions were published at the same time, and out of the vast amount of photographs taken of more than 20 types of *gut*, about 160 black-and-white photographs were carefully selected and organized in a way that shows the ritual procedures. The suffering and joy of life, the religious reverence and artistic beauty, as well as *han* (meaning a sense of resentment and anger in Korean) and tears of the

common people reflected in *gut* are vividly conveyed. In a time of growing national and international interest in shamanism, this is an invaluable source for documenting a half-century-old record that is now long lost. The book is filled with powerful images that will be of interest to researchers and the general public alike. Folklorist Kim In-Whoe's commentary and photographer Kim Soo-Nam's descriptions of the photographs help readers understand the history and practice of Korean shamanism.

Korean Art 1900-2020

Texts by Kim In-Hye et al., edited and published by the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea, 2022

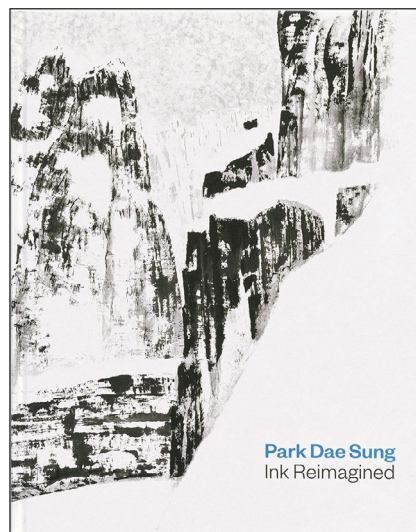


This book is an introduction to 120 years of Korea's modern and contemporary art, curated and published by the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA); the

Korean edition was published in 2021, and this English edition followed soon after. A total of 34 Korean art experts from all fields participated in the writing of the book, presenting various perspectives and interpretations of Korean modern and contemporary art from 1900 to 2020. The book is divided into five chapters: “From calligraphy and painting to art,” “Art in a time of war and division,” “The tradition/modernity dynamic in the modernization era,” “Democratization Movement and the pluralization of art,” and “Globalism and contemporary Korean art.” With more than 400 color plates showcasing major works and materials, as well as a chronology of Korean art history, readers can take a bird’s eye view of 120 years of Korean art. Though it can be a bit distracting because of the multi-author format instead of a single author’s solo perspective, it remains a fundamental text for general readers and researchers who want an overview of Korean art, as it was a massive project carried out by a national institution relatively recently.

Park Dae Sung: Ink Reimagined

Edited by Kim Sung-Lim, published by the Korean Art Management Service and Gana Foundation for Arts and Culture with the Hood Museum of Art, 2022



Korean artist Park Dae-Sung (1945-), who is active in Korea and abroad, is an artist who interprets nature in a modern and imaginative way using the traditional method of ink painting. Having lost his left arm and both his parents at the age of five, he studied painting on his own, learning traditional brush and ink techniques, and has since established his own unique style. This book, published in conjunction with his international exhibition that toured eight countries from 2022 to 2023, sheds light on Park's artistic world from multiple perspectives, featuring more than 150 major works, interviews with the artist, and texts that explore his calligraphy, landscape, animal, and still life paintings.

Furthermore, in addition to the artist's biography, the book also provides an overview of the history of Korean art from the 1950s to the present day, as well as a glossary of terms, names, and place names related to Korean art in the appendix. It will serve as a good introduction to the contemporary Korean style of ink painting for international readers, and will help arouse interest in the tradition of East Asian ink painting and contemporary Korean art. Above all, with its excellent quality of printing and editing, the book is highly recommended for its value to be collected.

EXPORT CASE

New Trends in Korean Literature

Written by Barbara J. Zitwer (Barbara J. Zitwer Agency)

It's important to be ahead of the pack in global publishing; to find the new trends and to be future looking in order to be successful. I have always been an explorer, a seeker of the new, while travelling professionally and personally, and that has led me to discover Korean literature more than a decade ago. The first books to break through were literary masterpieces *Please Look After Mom* (Changbi Publishers) by Shin Kyung-Sook and *The Vegetarian* (Changbi Publishers) by Han Kang. After the initial introduction of Korean books to global readers who had never heard of them, let alone read them, I introduced mysteries and thrillers which are already super popular in the World English and global markets. So, readers of Steig Larrsen's mega-bestseller, *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*, devoured Jeong You-

Jeong's *The Good Son* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing). J.M. Lee's *The Investigation* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing) and Im Seong-Sun's *The Consultant* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing). Although Korean literature was a new kind of literature at the time, global readers could identify with these stellar thrillers, which were familiar in plot but original in their Koreanness!



Please Look After Mom; The Vegetarian

Now that the doors and windows of the world are wide open to Korean books and readers have become Korean fanatics due not only to books but also because of the film “Parasite,” the series “Squid Games,” K-Pop, K-Drama, and all things Korean that the world has discovered, other genre books are being embraced. Self-healing novels like *The Second Chance Convenience Store* (previously known as *The Uncanny Convenience Store*)(Namu Bench), a multimillion bestseller in Korea, will be published next year by HarperCollins with a major advertising and marketing campaign. It seems that “convenience store books” have become

a genre of their own, with every publisher buying one. They are charming and loving, but the market has become glutted, and readers will be looking for the next big thing.



The Investigation; The Consultant; The Second Chance Convenience Store

Everybody wants to be happy, especially after the lockdown and covid, and with wars waging around the world. Rhee Kun-Hoo's *If You Live to 100, You Might as Well Be Happy* (Maven), is a global bestseller now. Jeong You-Jeong's *Perfect Happiness* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing) is not just a thriller, but a referendum on the lengths people might go in their selfish pursuits of finding whatever they want. Film rights and many foreign rights have been sold, and the book will be published in English next year. Finding happiness can take many forms, including the non-fiction memoir I wrote called *The Korean Book of Happiness*, which has sold in over fourteen countries.

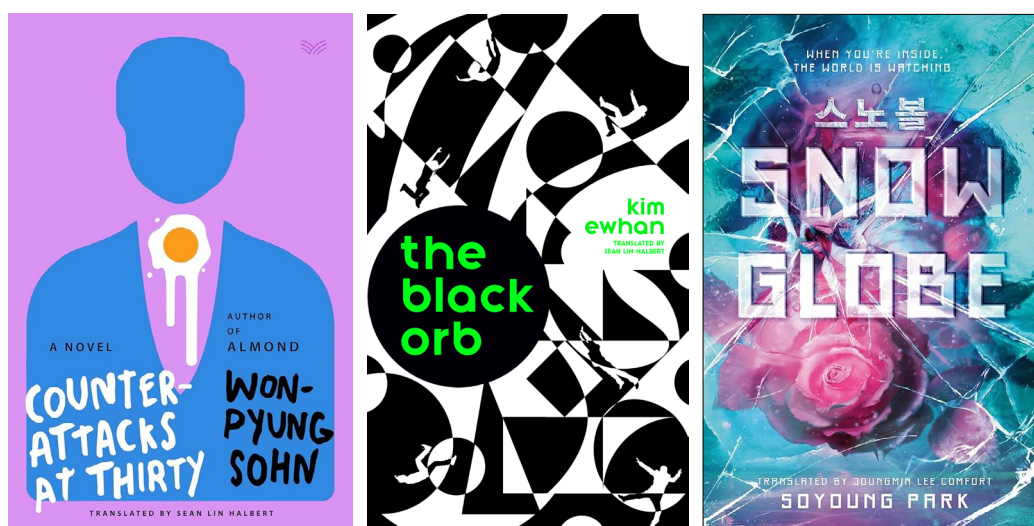


If You Live to 100, You Might as Well Be Happy; The Korean Book of Happiness

Readers in the West constantly need to be fed with the NEW. They are keen to read books that reflect the world we live in and experienced during the covid years, which are still affecting everyone greatly, or to read complete escapism. For instance, Sohn Won-Pyung, to date, is the biggest-selling author with her beloved *ALMOND*, sold in 30 countries and a multimillion-copy bestseller, has become a forever classic which could be called the best of the self-healing books ever published. But now, Harper Via, her publisher, is excited to publish her timely, irreverent satire of workers rebelling in their workplaces, *Counterattack At Thirty* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing). It's a rebellious tale that takes on the establishment. Young people are heroes and take their destinies in hand!

Ewhan Kim's *The Black Orb* (KYOBO BOOK Centre) and *The Timid Shall Inherit The Earth* (vook_da) are very sought after books because they reflect the existential crisis we are

living through because of climate change, and environmental destruction. Readers can relate to Kim's satire because his world seems like ours. They are not so unbelievable. The brilliant duology *Snowglobe 1* and *2* (Changbi Publishers) has found immediate success in the World English market, with the first book becoming a *NY Times* bestseller the day it was published. It has earned its advance before its first royalty period, which is something to brag about and has also been sold all over the world.



Counterattack At Thirty; The Black Orb; Snowglobe

AI, robot, and alien-centered books are also of great interest to readers. Jyung Myung Lee has always written about topical issues, and with his new book *Where I Cease To Exist* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing), he has produced a horrifying thriller about the dark side of AI. It was sold immediately to Amazon Publishing. *Brave New Human* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing)

reminds me of Haruki Murakami's *After Dark* and Philip Dick's *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*. Cyberpunk in Seoul. *A Thousand Blue* (EAST-ASIA Publishing), about a robot jockey and his beloved racehorse, was pre-empted before the London Book Fair by Jane Lawson, publisher of Transworld for world rights for six figures. It will be published next year. Dolki Min's *Walking Practice* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing), the most daring debut I have read since I discovered *The Vegetarian*, was published by HarperVia and now has been sold to Teatime Pictures, a Hollywood production company owned by Dakota Johnson. She fell in love with the gender-bending, paradox of humanity, and the screenplay is already being written. *Memory Care* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing) by Bora Jin is a terrifying projection of what the future might hold. In this case, the government forces the population to erase all their memories to keep them docile and controlled. It is reminiscent of the classic *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.



Where I Cease To Exist (cover of the Korean ver.); *A Thousand Blue* (cover of the Korean ver.); *Walking Practice*; *Memory Care* (cover of the Korean ver.)

The genre of horror is probably the hottest new trend of the moment. Hachette has just launched its first horror imprint RUN FOR IT Books. As publishers are being overloaded with self-healing and happiness books, horror is what is really new and exciting and what editors are super interested in. Pyun Hye-Young's *The Hole* (Moonji Publishing) named By *Time Magazine* as one of the Top 10 Thrillers and winner of the Shirley Jackson Prize, first published in Korea in 2018 is coming to the big and small screens! Produced by Esmail Productions in Hollywood, filming is set to begin this January in Korea; the film is directed by Kim Jee-Woon. Pyun's concerns about the environment and our alienation have captured readers everywhere and will more so do, because she has broken new ground with her quasi-horror novels that are completely unforgettable. Pyun is the first truly literary horror Korean novelist to become embraced by the West, and she is at the forefront of the new trend towards the genre of horror. She is published in the world English market and in many countries, and her popularity is growing. I have represented her for over a decade or so, and it is thrilling to see the world finally catch up to her. *The Owl Cries* (Moonji Publishing) and *To The Kennels* (Munhakdongne), recently published in English, continue her singular-voiced masterpieces.



The Hole; The Owl Cries; To The Kennels

I am so excited to be visiting Korea again this September. I look forward to putting my ear to the ground, scouring bookstores all over the country, listening to readers and my authors, editors, and publishers, and searching for the next new trend and hot new book!

BOOK TRIP

[A Trip to Literary Museums ⑥]

The Hometown Scenery That Became the Literary Roots of a Modern Boy

Pyeongchang-gun, Gangwondo: Gasan (可山) Lee Hyo-Seok Memorial Hall

Written by Kim Young-lhm

Fall in Pyeongchang begins with the white buckwheat blossoms. The buckwheat fields that cover the vast expanse of Bongpyeong-eup in white create a dreamlike beauty in combination with the blue sky. In his novel *When Buckwheat Flowers Bloom*, writer Lee Hyo-Seok described this view as “I could hardly breathe in the soft moonlight as if it were sprinkled with salt.” Pyeongchang hosts the “Hyoseok Culture Festival” to spotlight the literary world of Gasan (Lee’s pen name) Lee Hyo-Seok, including *When Buckwheat Flowers Bloom* in September, when you can stroll through a field of buckwheat flowers as if you were walking into a scene from the novel. It’s a great example of how a writer’s masterpiece can have a profound impact on local culture.



Outside view of Lee Hyo-Seok Memorial Hall

The writer's life as both a “modern boy” and a local writer: Lee Hyo-Seok Memorial Hall

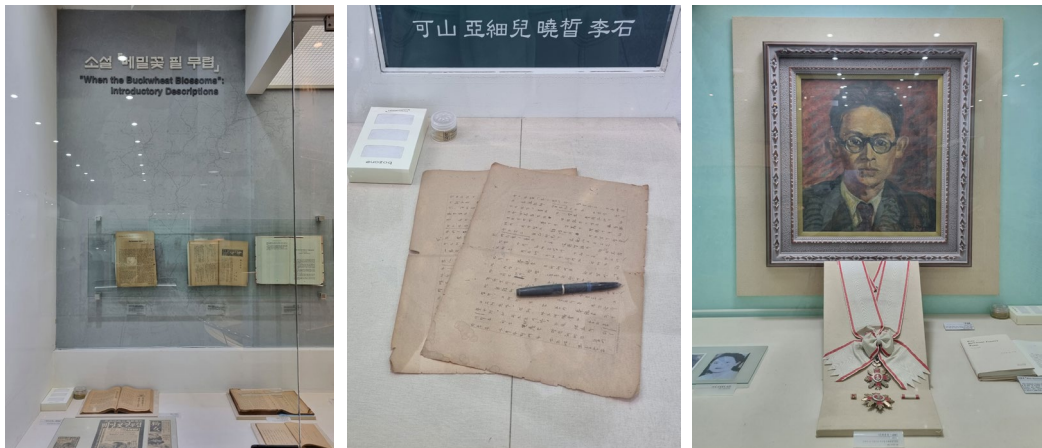
Lee Hyo-Seok, author of *When Buckwheat Flowers Bloom*, one of the greatest works of short Korean literature, is considered to be one of the writers who wrote the most authentically Korean fiction during the Japanese occupation. Though he passed away at the age of 35, he left behind a number of short stories, including his debut novel, *The City and the Ghost*, as well as *Orion and Crabapple*, *The Pig*, and *The Rooster*. Also, although Lee Hyo-Seok was born in his hometown of Pyeongchang-gun, Gangwondo Province, and lived there for only a short time until he went to elementary school, we can see from his works that his hometown influenced him in many ways. Currently, in Lee Hyo-Seok's hometown of Pyeongchang-gun, Gangwon-do Province,

there are several literary sites where you can appreciate and experience Lee Hyo-Seok's literature, including his birthplace, Pyeongyang *Purunjip* (meaning "green house"), a restoration of his house in Pyeongyang, and a literary museum.

As the Lee Hyo-Seok Memorial Hall is arranged in a very extensive space, the entire small town seems like the Hyoseok Culture Belt. In addition to the Hall, where visitors can enjoy an in-depth look into the world of Lee Hyo-Seok's works, there is Moonlight Hill, where visitors can stroll through a large buckwheat field and enjoy the scenery. There are also Lee's birthplace and the Modern Literature Experience Pavilion, organized in connection with the activities of Lee Hyo-Seok and Pyeongyang *Purunjip*, which serves as a memorial space. Since there are places to explore the full scope of Lee's works and life, it's not only a literary museum, but a "Lee Hyo-Seok Culture and Arts Village."



Lee Hyo-Seok Memorial Hall and the writer's statue outside the building



Lee Hyo-Seok's various works, handwritten manuscripts, his portrait, and the Geumgwang Order of Cultural Merit displayed inside the Memorial Hall

We began our journey at the Memorial Hall with a look into the life of Lee Hyo-Seok, who poured out his passion for literature. With his sophisticated use of language, rich vocabulary, and poetic tone, Lee Hyo-Seok is said to have elevated the artistic quality of his novels with his poetic sentiments. His life as a literary figure is reflected in the Hall, allowing visitors to feel as if they are walking through the writer's life. Afterwards, we continued on to Pyeongyang *Purunjip*, a space that gives some idea of why Lee Hyo-Seok was called a “modern boy.” He was known for frequently stopping by Gyeongseong (鏡城), North Hamgyong Province, now in North Korea, to enjoy a cup of mocha coffee. Longing for Europe but unable to afford it, Lee Hyo-Seok often traveled to Harbin, the “Paris of the East,” and enjoyed Western culture so much that he would rush to see an American jazz singer perform at the nearby port of Cheongjin. The restored Pyeongyang *Purunjip* bears a European flavor that hints at Lee Hyo-Seok's reputation as a “modern boy.” After

visiting Pyeongyang *Purunjip* and the straw-thatched birthplace, as well as the Modern Literature Experience Pavilion, you will feel as if you have been in the life of Lee Hyo-Seok.



Restored Pyeongyang *Purunjip* and Lee Hyo-Seok's birthplace

The final highlight is, of course, strolling through the vast buckwheat fields, which are the very essence of *When Buckwheat Flowers Bloom*. The delicate flowers look as if they have been sprinkled with salt, as Lee Hyo-Seok describes it, or as if they have been gently dusted with white snow - the fields seem to stretch on forever. The time spent walking, immersed in the landscape, brings to mind the protagonist of *When Buckwheat Flowers Bloom*, Heo Saeng-Won, who lived a life of natural beauty, strong vitality, and tumultuous events. Perhaps Heo Saeng-Won was too consumed with the hardships of his daily life to fully appreciate the beauty of the buckwheat flowers, which bloomed in all their white glory even at night. However, the sight of such a vast field of white buckwheat flowers must have been enough to shake the writer's heart. These impressive buckwheat fields were common in Lee Hyo-Seok's hometown, and they must have been a source of literary inspiration for him. Now, many

years later, the buckwheat fields have become a symbol of the writer and a source of cultural and tourist content, reminding us of the writer and his works.



Buckwheat fields that remind people of *When Buckwheat Flowers Bloom*, the representative work of Lee Hyo-Seok (Hyoseok Culture Festival is held here in September)

Through the Fir Forest and into a Thousand-Year-Old Temple: Woljeongsa Temple



View of the Woljeongsa Temple with the Stone Seated Bodhisattva, the representative cultural heritage of the temple, at the center

Bidding farewell to Bongpyeong-eup, where we could hear the chorus of literature and nature, we moved on to another serene view. There is an old temple at Pyeongchang-gun that was built during the reign of Queen Seondeok of Silla. It's the Woljeongsa Temple, located at the foot of Odaesan Mountain, Pyeongchang's most famous mountain, where the entire mountain is considered a sacred site for Buddhism. The temple houses many cultural heritages, including the national treasure Octagonal Nine-Story Stone Pagoda and treasures such as the Woljeongsa Temple Stone Seated Bodhisattva and Wooden Seated Child Manjusri. Since the temple is quite large, there are so many things to see that you

will feel more familiar with Buddhism after taking a walk around the temple grounds and seeing the various Buddhist cultural heritages. The temple is also famous for its temple stay. A temple stay is a great way to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and spend time quietly letting go of yourself in the deep embrace of nature. It is a great program to experience the true essence of Woljeongsa Temple.

Another must-see at Woljeongsa Temple is the healing walkway that stretches for about 1 kilometer from *Ijumun* (the first gate at the entrance of the temple) to Geumgang Bridge. The sunlight that peeks through the fir forest, which is home to a whopping 1,700 fir trees, warms the hearts of all who walk the path in peace. Recently, a trekking course called Seonjae Road has been organized, and it's a great place to leave the burdens of everyday life behind and walk in tranquility. As the trail is quite long, you can take a break under the fir trees along the way to catch your breath, walk barefoot on the ocher ground, and soak your feet in the water that flows down from the mountain. Also, because the forest has been kept in its natural state, the tree that was split by a lightning strike in 2006 is still in place, making it a new attraction. Above all, the trail is a great path to walk while feeling the importance of nature, as you can enjoy the feeling of cleansing your mind and body with phytoncides released from the fir trees.



The fir forest path near the temple and the tree struck by lightning

Green waves spread out under the clean Gangwon breeze: Daegwallyeong Sky Ranch

Its high altitude creates an awe-inspiringly magnificent and natural landscape, with panoramic views of the highlands and cool breezes wafting over Daegwallyeong. Thanks to this geographical feature, Pyeongchang is home to many pastures and ranches. Among them, Daegwallyeong Sky Ranch is an interactive ranch where you can take a tracked horse-drawn carriage ride through the beautiful Alpine-like scenery and explore the trekking trails. If you enjoyed the ride to the top of the mountain, you can also take a leisurely walk down to explore every corner of the ranch. The ranch, which has preserved the

clean ecosystem of Daegwallyeong, is home to the only Valais Blacknose Sheep in Korea and more than 400 cows, sheep, goats, horses, cute rabbits, guinea pigs, and other animals, allowing visitors to spend time interacting with the animals.



The summit of Daegwallyeong Sky Ranch with photo zones spread out amidst the exotic landscape

On your way down through the clear, green landscape of the ranch, you might spot the filming locations of the movie “Welcome to Dongmakgol” and the music video for Blackpink’s “Lovesick Girls.” When you are done exploring the ranch, it is a great time to treat yourself to a delicious dessert to calm down from the exhilarating experience of being out in nature. There’s a nice cafe at the entrance to the ranch that serves drinks and ice cream made with milk produced on the ranch. This is one of the little pleasures of traveling to the ranch.



Daejangnyeong Sky Ranch: A pastoral place to enjoy time interacting with various animals

Pyeongchang is a place where you can encounter the power of nature spread across a vast expanse of land and the people who live their daily lives diligently within it. Lee Hyo-Seok, who lived in an earlier era, must have had a special fondness for such landscapes. All of them were captured in Lee Hyo-Seok's novels in his own language, and they still fill the literary sensibilities of many people and are leading the rejuvenation of the region. We can realize that the power of fiction is as strong as the power of nature here in Pyeongchang.

ONE-LINER QUOTES

Records That Reflect Us

Urban Branding Expert's Pick: Korean Books

Written by Mok Ji-Su (Site Branding CEO, Urban branding director)

Mok Ji-Su is an urban branding director who works on local stories and content. He is currently publishing the monthly magazine *Magazine Bathhouse* (Site Branding) that features the stories of public bathhouses in neighborhoods.

As an urban branding director, I look at every corner of our cities, and I always realize that there are people's stories at the end of it all. Thinking that the memory of a city is the memory of a human being, I have gotten into the habit of looking into the time, people, and spaces of a city before I go about urban branding. The records of people's lives and spaces are a good reference, and reading them gives me an opportunity to reflect on myself.



Yunmi's Album
Jeon Mong-Gag, Photo Net

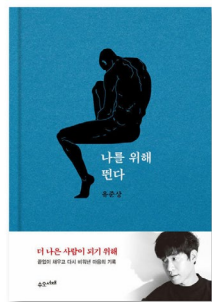
They say that the world is growing increasingly harsh and soulless, but within the immediate kinship, the original human emotions remain strong.



Jeon Mong-Gag's photobook *Yunmi's Album: From the Cradle to the Wedding* (Photo Net) is a record of his daughter Yunmi from the moment she was born and opened her eyes to the day she walked down the aisle in a white veil. As you flip through the black-and-white photographs, you will momentarily pause in front of the adolescent girl's crystal-clear eyes. A look that cannot be achieved without being given plenty of love. Home is such a place. And seeing Yunmi maturing into adulthood makes you realize once again that photography is a way to record everyday life in a way that minimizes distortion.

“The daily lives of children may seem similar and mundane at first glance, but if you look closely, they are not. They are constantly making new and unique expressions that even the most sophisticated artists cannot direct. They say that the world is growing increasingly harsh and soulless, but within the immediate kinship, the original human emotions remain strong.”

The book *Yunmi's Album: From the Cradle to the Wedding* is a gift that reminds us of the meaning of family in an era when families are breaking up. Jeon Mong-Gag's trace of life, in which he kept a record of his beloved wife and children until the end of his life, raises essential questions about family and home, space, and people. It also shows the power of recording - how ordinary days can come together to create a life.



I Run for Myself

Yoo Joon-Sang, Suo Books



How heavy is a 'performance'?

Or how much fun is it?

I move as I please between those lines.

Yoo Joon-Sang's *I Run for Myself* (Suo Books) is a book that not only gave me a better understanding of a career in the world of acting, but also a greater respect for the man himself. Seeing the actor reflect on his performances by keeping a journal gives us a new glimpse into the world behind the stage and screen. Yoo Joon-Sang began keeping a journal in college under the guidance of his mentor. The stories he put out into the world as he honed his perspective on himself and the world built him up again like a solid muscle through the act of recording.

“How heavy is a ‘performance’? Or how much fun is it?
I move as I please between those lines.”

We build the power to objectify and reinterpret the world through recording and reflecting. The time we spend recording and reflecting is time for our present selves and an asset for our future selves. And the moment we compile them into a book, we become a part of someone’s daily life.

It’s a pity that public bathhouses are vanishing these days. They offer you a moment of absolute solitude and reflection - naked with warmth. For those of us who are constantly surrounded by the noise of media from morning until bedtime and don’t have enough time to really look at ourselves, public bathhouses give us time to reflect on our day. I’m so happy to be able to record these spaces and capture them in a magazine. Also, I feel a strange sense of solidarity with people who consistently record themselves and the world.

KNOWLEDGE

A Chance to Introduce Korean Publishing Content to Global Readers!

Translation and Publication Grant Programs in Korea

A chance to introduce Korean publishing content to global readers!

Translation & Publication Grant Programs in Korea



With an aim to boost the **global advancement of Korean publishing content**, various organizations in Korea have been running **translation and publication grant programs for international publishers** to help them publish excellent Korean books!

* The following information is based on announcements made in 2024.



Establishing a foundation for the publishing of Korean Wave books by supporting the overseas publication of Korean publishing content!



Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA)

〈2024 Overseas Publication Grants〉

Qualification

Overseas publishers who have imported Korean publication copyrights

Supported Areas

A part of the publishing cost of overseas publishers that have published or are planning to publish Korean publishing content

Scope of Selection

Around 50 books will be selected, and grants will be provided in amounts varying by region

Selection Criteria

Qualitative superiority of the book, appropriateness for overseas markets, and capability of the publisher

See more information



* k-book.or.kr/user/grants/US_GR_Guide

For the overseas advancement of Korean literature and the global spread of the literary Korean Wave!



Literature Translation Institute of Korea (LTI)

〈Translation and Publication Grants for Overseas Publishers〉

Qualification	Overseas publishers that have acquired the rights and are planning to translate and publish works of Korean literature (including web novels and webtoons) and humanities & social science
Application Schedule	4 cycles in 2024 (applications are accepted all year round; the date of announcement varies by each deadline)
Grant Regulations	Varies by genre and language
Selection Criteria	Anticipated demand for the chosen work in the target market, thoroughness of the publication and marketing plans, and reputation and level of credibility of the publisher

[See more information](#) 

* itikorea.or.kr/en/contents/business_trans_2/view.do

Expanding connections with world literature
by supporting Korean literature's
overseas advancement!



The Daesan Foundation
<Korean Literary Works>

Target Languages	All languages
Target Works	All Korean literary works in need of translation (languages that have already acquired a translation contract cannot be supported)
Support Details	Varies by language and category (translation, research, and publication)
Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation: A translator with an excellent understanding of Korean culture • Research: Overseas professors, researchers, students, translators, and organizations • Publication: Overseas publishers preparing to translate and publish Korean works

[See more information](#) 

* daesan.or.kr/daesan-award/2024/translate-en.html



Please contact each organization through the respective website for programs for 2025.

KOREAN PUBLISHERS

Booksea Publishing Co.

Reading the Future from the Sea of Classics and History Woven into Books



**B o o k s e a
P u b l i s h i n g C o .**

English logo of Booksea Publishing Co.

There is a publishing company that says that the wise culture of Korean ancestors, who shared good writings through literary collections, is the foundation for our current era of artificial intelligence and big data - Booksea Publishing. The publishing house has been in business for more than 35 years, with a distinguished reputation in the field of classics, history, and humanities. Booksea Publishing is committed to publishing books that use the past as an intellectual foundation for today and as a pathway to the future.

As a result, the company has been making various attempts to make reading easier and more enjoyable for more people. Booksea Publishing's commitment to contributing to the search for life's wisdom by exploring the "sea of books" is creating waves of intellectuality, encouraging more readers to set sail for the open sea.

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

Hello, everyone. It's good to see you all through this interview. You might think that the company's name, Booksea Publishing, is a bit unique. Korean ancestors had a tradition of compiling texts from their ancestors into a "book." It's like they did a kind of "publishing" in the past. The name "Booksea Publishing" reflects our hope to make a "sea of books" through publishing, following such tradition. We have recently started a social media account with a character named "Booksea" who swims through the sea of books. We look forward to your continued interest!

Since the company's founding in 1989, you have been particularly prolific in the fields of classics, history, and the humanities. Why have you focused on these genres in particular, and what do you ultimately hope to achieve through them?

I believe that because Korean ancestors have left us a civilization and wisdom, we have the same capabilities as well. Although

things like artificial intelligence and big data are the so-called “big thing” these days, would they have come into existence without the civilizations from the past? That is why classics and history, which may seem outdated to modern people, are never obsolete, but rather are the present and the future. And, as such, I think that someone should be responsible for bringing the relevant classics to the present to find wisdom in them - making them easier and more interesting so that more people can have a look at them. That’s why we are still trying to reinterpret classics, history, and humanities in a new way and make them more familiar to readers.

You have been publishing a wide range of books for over 30 years, with the distinctive identity of Booksea Publishing. If you could recommend any books that you think capture the essence of Booksea Publishing, what would they be?

We recommend *To You Who Asks About Jeju 4.3*. There was a time in modern Korean history when Jeju Island, the largest island in Korea and the place where many people still visit, was the site of a bloody uprising. This book is a chronicle of the Jeju Uprising* (also known as the “Jeju April 3 incident”) that captures the sorrow of Jeju, its unresolved history, and the voices, gestures, and silences of its people. When you read it, you will realize that it is not something that happened far away or long ago, but something that is still ongoing. That is why, even though it has been more than a decade since its publication, I still get calls every April from people

who want to share it with others and read it together.

* Jeju Uprising: A tragic incident that took place on Jeju Island, where the government's oppression and armed uprising resulted in the deaths of many civilians.

The next book I would recommend is *The Total History of the Japanese Colonial Period Seen Through Posters*. Posters typically have a theme or text, which makes them more “objective” and communicative than other image materials. Thus, interpreting posters can be a source of enriched understanding of history. The author spent many years collecting and organizing almost all the posters that appeared in the media and literature during the Japanese occupation of Korea, and divided and grouped them into several categories to examine the period in detail. Although it is a huge volume of 720 pages, it helps today's readers to approach the entire history of the Japanese occupation of Korea in an easy and fun way by sharing visual experiences with the people of the past. *Observation Report of the Trial of Ahn Jung-Geun* is a project curated by Kim Heung-Sik, CEO of Booksea Publishing. At first, you might think, “How can you use difficult trial records to look at history?” However, the intent of the book was to make readers participate in the scenes of fierce historical “trials” without any dramatization, feel their liveliness, and look at and think about them as they are. Readers thankfully recognized this, and we received many emails and class reviews that even children who thought history was difficult and indifferent felt it was interesting. That's why the “trial observation report series” that started with

Observation Report of the Trial of Ahn Jung-Geun is already preparing to publish the fifth volume, *Observation Report of the Trial of Ahn Yong-Bok*, later this year.



To You Who Asks About Jeju 4.3; The Total History of the Japanese Colonial Period Seen Through Posters; Observation Report of the Trial of Ahn Jung-Geun

When we think of Booksea Publishing, we can't help but mention the *Old Bookstore*, *Booksea Classics*, and *Liberal Arts on the Desk* series. What are the specific topics and characteristics of each of these, and what value do you think you have created by publishing them as a series?

The *Old Bookstore* series was designed to present the classics in a new and exciting way to readers, and I think it was the “first series” that Booksea Publishing focused on classics. You may think that this is not new at all because most classics are now available in a lighter format, but back in the early 2000s, the classics were presented in the typical way of “original text-

translation-commentary.” At this time, under the conviction that the Chinese characters (original text) were not an effective way to communicate to the public, the *Old Bookstore* decided to eliminate the original text, and instead translate and interpret the original text with various illustrations, photos, maps, diagrams and more to make it easier to understand. As a result, most of the classics are now published in a format that is easily accessible to any reader.

The *Booksea Classics* series also has the same intention as Old Bookstore - to present the classics in an effective, up-to-date, and timely manner - but the difference is that the targets are the major “Western” classics. The illustrations are much more colorful and richer than the ones in *Old Bookstore*, which covers Eastern classics. And, *Liberal Arts on the Desk* is a series designed to share deeper knowledge and wisdom in the fields of humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences with adolescents beyond textbooks. These series are in line with Booksea Publishing’s goals and have been a long-standing pillar of the company. Recently, the company has continued to make books for a better world with the *Teens Ask the World* series, which covers a wide range of topics (humanities, social studies, history, science, etc.) with friendly illustrations and colorful stories for adolescents who are constantly interacting with the world, and the *Illustoria* series, a liberal arts series about history (published under the company’s imprint “Grimmsi”), which blends history with illustrations to make it easier to understand.

Booksea Publishing is known for putting history and classics at the center of publishing. What do you think is the role of these genres in the publishing market, and in what ways do you see them as important?

As mentioned earlier, I believe that we can open the way to the present and the future thanks to the civilization and wisdom left behind by our ancestors. Classics are like a reservoir of human civilization, and history is the path that humanity has walked. In other words, classics and history may be perceived as something from the past, but they are actually an intellectual foundation for us living in the present and an eye to look into the future. Also, they can be a “medium” that can connect the past, present, and future. Good examples are books like *Jingbirok* and *Utopia*, which grandmothers, mothers, and granddaughters can read together and sit around and talk about. When such gatherings and moments come together, we are naturally encouraged to think about the problems facing our society - I believe that it will lead to a better world. So, I have hope that Booksea Publishing’s work of weaving new books out of the sea of classics and history will continue as long as there are good books.

What does the publication of *Jingbirok* in multiple languages overseas mean to Booksea Publishing? And, why do you think it has been so well-received overseas despite being a book about Korean history?

When we first published *Jingbirok* in 2000, not many people knew about the existence of the classic *Jingbirok* (懲毖錄)*. Of course, when we brought it to the world, we didn't expect that it would become a core classic in just a few decades. But, since it was such a significant classic, our CEO felt that it was his mission to publish it and make it known. It is very fulfilling to see that our efforts have paid off - the book has become a national classic, become widely known to the Korean public through the production of a large-scale historical drama, and is now included as a must-read in universities abroad.

* *Jingbirok*: A book written by Ryu Sung-ryong, a civil vassal (文臣) during the Joseon Dynasty, chronicling the events during the Japanese invasion of Korea (1592–1598).

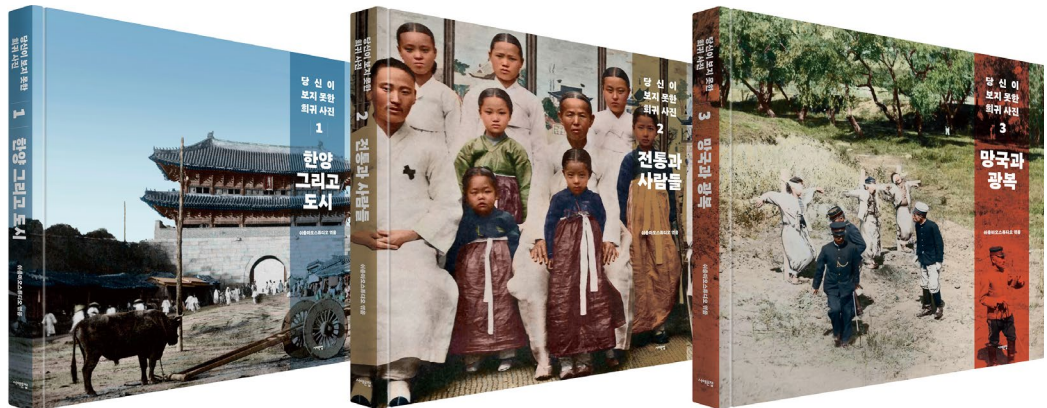
Classics and history may cover different civilizations, but I think they have no boundaries, even though there might be linguistic differences. This is why they can give wisdom anywhere and anytime. Just like how *Jingbirok*, as well as *Korean Modern and Contemporary History*, are read in Azerbaijan, and *Half and Half, and a Lot of Radish*, a novel about Korean modern history, is read in Thailand!



Jingbirok; Korean Modern and Contemporary History; Half and Half, and a Lot of Radish

You unveiled *Korea in Rare Photographs*, a collection of over 390 rare photographs from the Joseon Dynasty and Japanese occupation of Korea, at the recent Seoul International Book Fair (SIBF). Could you tell us a little bit about how the book came about?

The book is a full-color restoration of photographs relevant to Korea's modern history that Taiwan-based artist Hsu Chung Mao (徐宗懋) personally collected and owned. He said that it was difficult to find a publisher willing to publish the book in Korea because the cost of planning and producing the book was so high. We were also concerned about the cost, but we thought that the vividness that comes from restoring photographs from the past in color would resonate deeply with future generations. Fortunately, in addition to the book fair, many readers recognized the significance and meaning of the book, and we were very encouraged. I guess this is the joy of publishing.



Korea in Rare Photographs showcased at the Seoul International Book Fair (SIBF)

Kim Heung-Sik, CEO of Booksea Publishing, has been involved in a variety of roles in the publishing industry, including the head of the Publishing Startup Incubation Center. How do these experiences make a positive contribution to running a publishing company?

The CEO is actually a business administration major, which is not related to publishing. However, it is said that he resolved to “devote himself to publishing for the rest of his life” when he went to the library in university, feeling the importance of books and wanting to share wisdom with many people. That’s probably why he goes wherever he has the opportunity to talk about the power and role of books. After meeting various people from different fields without any bias in regions like Suncheon, Gimhae, Jeju, Jeongeup, Iksan, Gumi, and Gongju, he shares many experiences and helpful stories, and plans new books based on these experiences. He also always encourages the employees to experience various things and learn new things.

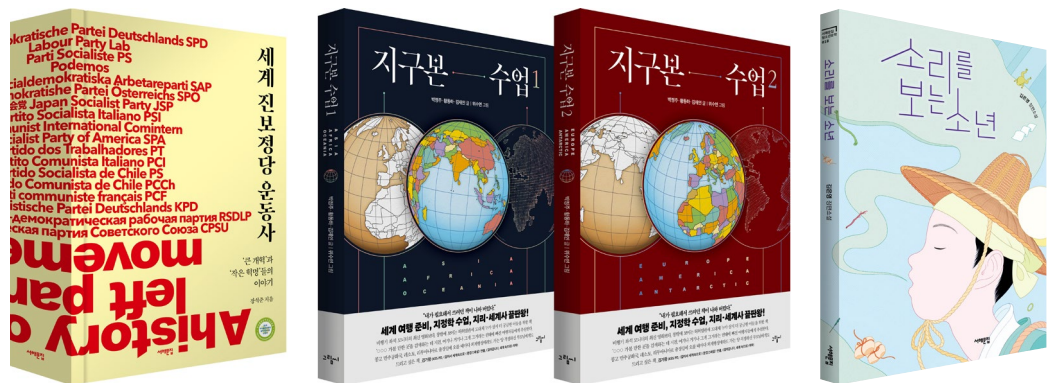
What are some of the books that have not yet been translated and published abroad that you would like to introduce to international readers?

We often receive requests to produce e-books because it is difficult to read paper books overseas, and *History of the World Progressive Party Movement* was one of those books. I remember being shocked and saying, “How do you know this book?” This book is a detailed restoration of the landscapes and traces of 150 years of the world’s progressive party history, starting with the Social Democratic Party of Germany in the 19th century. It is “The Left Saga” of the world, a story of progressive parties and the politicians, revolutionaries, and theorists who played a crucial role in the adoption of democracy and in making the capitalist economy have a “warm heart.” Author Jang Seok-Joon, who is called the “Antonio Gramsci of Korea,” dramatically reproduces the decisive moments that shaped the fate of the progressive party and the world.

Next, the book, *Globe Class*, is a new release from our imprint Grimmsi. With the globe that we all encountered as students as a clue, *Globe Class* explores the world history of not only our planet in the universe, but also the people who live on it, beyond geography and geopolitics around the world. Plenty of illustrations and maps are a bonus, considering that few homes have globes these days.

The book, *A Boy Who Can See the Sound*, blends history, society,

and culture with literature that is familiar to adolescents. It is the 18th volume in the “Booksea Publishing Young Adult Literature” series, which makes it easy to learn and think about related topics while having fun reading fiction. In the past, chanting (*dokkyung*; 讀經), which is the practice used to ward off evil spirits or to chant Buddhist scriptures for good luck, was mainly done by blind people. This book looks at the lives of those blind people in history through the topic of “chanting.” The episode when the audiobook of this book was released is memorable. The reviewer had to compare and contrast the content to make sure it was the same as the paper book without any errors when listening, but at the moment of chanting, she would close his eyes and chant along, eventually forgetting her role and shedding tears. This immersive work was selected as the “Book of the Year” in Jeonju, Jeollabuk-do Province last year. It is recommended for overseas readers who have difficulty learning about Korean history.



History of the World Progressive Party Movement; Globe Class; A Boy Who Can See the Sound

You have been driving the business forward with a strong foundation of expertise and identity. Please tell us about the future direction and plans for Booksea Publishing.

With the advent of various media, books are said to be less interesting, and fewer people are reading them. For Booksea Publishing, which dreams of creating a sea of books, this is a big crisis because even if you create an ocean, you need people who enjoy it.

So, first, we are committed to communicating with future generations. While books that specialize in history are, of course, important, we also want to communicate with adolescent readers, such as the *Booksea Publishing Young Adult Literature* series, which makes them feel history as if they are the protagonists or observers, and the *Teens Ask the World* series, which is designed to examine issues that adolescents should think about and to share wisdom on how to solve them. Children and young adult readers interested in social issues can, of course, also enjoy these books. We will also continue to publish the *Booksea Publishing Social Science* Series, which opens up the horizons of millennials.

Also, Booksea Publishing is preparing content that will reach readers not only in Korea, but also in Asian countries that are close neighbors. The *Beauty of Asia* series, which has drawn the attention of many Asian countries by covering various aspects of beauty in Asia from different angles, is now gearing up to meet readers by next year.

Plus, as the interest of overseas readers in Korean history and Korea's current situation that connects with the world contemporarily has increased in recent years, we are also trying to plan books not only for Korean readers but also for international readers. We promise to continue to provide a wide range of content, from the shallow waters to the deep sea, from classics and history to social and cultural fields, without losing our direction. We hope that you, our readers, will continue to experience the joy and thrill of pulling up a bag of wisdom from the sea of books.

KOREAN AUTHORS

Writer Choi Eun-Young

The power of fiction that transcends the boundary between language and culture

It is a well-known fact that the achievement and satisfaction of people who do things they like are higher than any others. It is no exception for writing fiction. Writer Choi Eun-Young, who is said to have been desperate to become a writer, proves this is true. As she feels the happiness of living as a writer, Choi enjoys immersing herself in writing novels more than anyone else - this is transmitted to her readers and transformed into the pleasure of reading. In addition, all 5 of her books have been translated, demonstrating the power of “universal empathy” that transcends language and culture. Now, more than a decade after her debut, Choi declares that she will continue to write more vigorously.

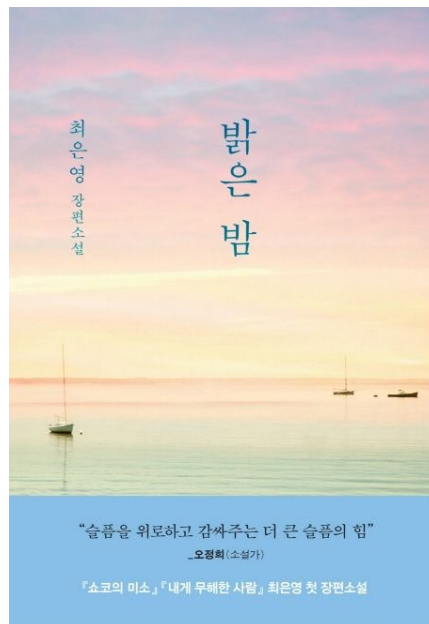


It is an honor to have you with us on *K-Book Trends*. Please say hello to our readers and briefly introduce yourself.

Hello, everyone. I'm Choi Eun-Young, and I write novels. Since becoming a writer in 2013, I have published 5 books to date.

Your first full-length novel, *Bright Night* (Munhakdongne Publishing), which also won the Daesan Literary Awards, ranked 2nd on a Chinese review ranking website in 2023. Please tell us how you feel about getting good responses at both home and abroad, along with an introduction of the book.

The book *Bright Night* is my first full-length novel, announced in 2021. The story begins as 32-year-old “Ji-Yeon” moves to a small city named “Heeryong” for some reason. There, she meets her grandmother after about 20 years by coincidence, and hears stories about her mother and grandmother. And, through this process, Ji-Yeon gets the chance to understand herself. I didn’t expect the book to receive a good response from international readers. Having it translated and published in other countries was a great pleasure for me. I was just so surprised to hear that the book was well-received in China.



Bright Night

On top of that book, your first short story collection, *Shoko's Smile* (Munhakdongne Publishing), gained popularity when it was published in Japan. Also, several other works have been introduced overseas - *The Summer* from the book *A Person Unharmful to Me* (Munhakdongne Publishing) was translated and published in another country for the first time, even before the collection was. What do you think is the key to earning a good response from international publishing markets?

I have written five books so far, and thankfully, I have had the opportunity to translate and publish them all. I hope every book gets the chance to be translated into other languages.

I believe there is a destined link between a book and its reader, and I think that books find their readers by following that link. If there is someone who is meant to meet the book, the book will find them. A few years ago, I translated my mid-length novel *Shoko's Smile* and took it to Cuba, where over 80 Cubans read it. I remember a reader who was my mother's age telling me that reading it reminded her of her late father. She told me that she couldn't help but think of her own father as she saw So-Yoo's relationship with her grandfather in the story, because she was born when her father was 50 years old. That's when I realized the power of universal emotions. I think there are universal emotions that people can relate to even if they have different political and social structures, different cultures, and different histories. I believe that such elements are what can transcend the boundaries and limitations of language and culture.



Shoko's Smile and A Person Unharmful to Me

You have written many stories since making your debut in 2013, and have won many literary awards. What is the driver behind your ability to write works that are recognized by both the public and the literary world?

I wrote what I wanted to write, and I tried to be as honest as possible in the process. I let the ugly parts of me that I didn't want other people to see show through, and I think a lot of people related to that. I think being a writer was a natural fit for me because I love writing, and I feel comfortable in my imaginary world.

You once said, “I desperately hoped to become a writer, and it’s a relief that I did.” Are you still happy with your life as a writer? What are the aspects that give you the most satisfaction?

I chose this year as a sabbatical year, and thus, I’m spending time relaxing. I have been writing novels for ten years straight, except for a few months, and it kind of made me exhausted. The most satisfying part of being a writer is immersion when writing. When I immerse in writing, I become less lonely and feel less pain. The process of getting to that point is what’s difficult, but once I get immersed, I feel free. It also makes me feel as if I have become my true self, which is great.

You once said, “I try to be on the side of people who are despised and hated for who they are.” It seems that these characters and stories must have appeared in your novels. Can you tell us more about how they are expressed in your works?

The characters in all of my novels are people who are “despised and hated for who they are.” The intensity of that hate may vary, but everyone in my novels lives in that magnetic field of influence, just like the rest of us do. I tried to write their thoughts and feelings without exaggeration, in a natural way.

How do you develop things like topics and characters for your works? Such settings must be important since the story and characters work organically in the novels. Please share with us if you have your own way of doing this.

I try to feel the main emotions of the characters first. I don't think about the topic, because if I think about the topic in my head and then write according to those thoughts, the story would be unnatural. I think of the character as a person who actually exists. For me, writing fiction is an effort to connect with people that are actually living in another world. It's not about me conceiving and creating a character – it's about meeting someone who already exists and trying to feel their emotions with my heart.

You have been focusing on fiction since your debut - what is it about the genre that appeals to you, and do you have any plans to write in other genres?

When you are reading a novel, you can completely lose yourself in it. You can be on your phone or do your chores while watching a video, meaning you can multitask. But, you can't multitask like that while reading words on paper. I think immersion is therapy. Immersion is the thing that most actively saves us from being passively exposed to advertisements and all kinds of information. I believe that deep immersion, where you can't be multitasking,

can be a respite in these complex times. Up until now, I have been mostly writing fiction, but I have plans to publish a collection of essays in the future.

It's been over a decade since your debut. Now that you have established yourself as an accomplished and bestselling author, tell us about your plans and goals for the future.

I would like to continue to be the kind of writer who stays true to who I am, but continues to change and renew myself. I'm in my 40s now, and I want to continue writing prolifically.

LET'S TRY

A Coloring Book That Holds the Heart of a Poet

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!

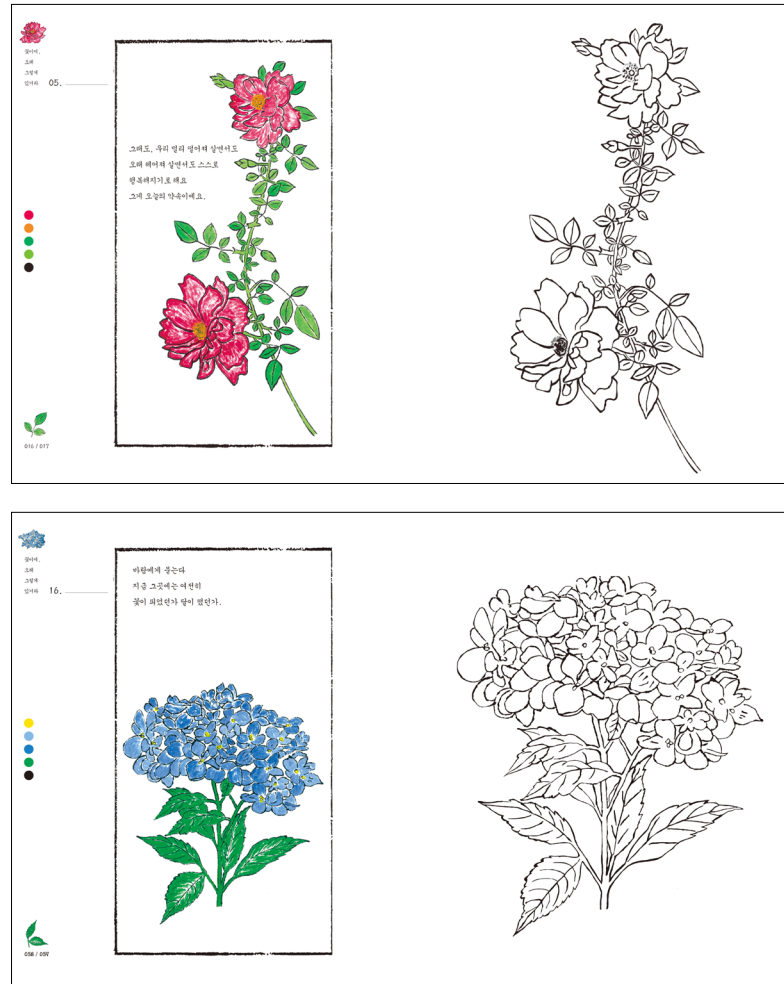
Simply click on the link below and make an entry to the event! Let's Try!

Flower, Stay Like That for a Long Time

- Written by Na Tae-Joo, published by Dreamseller Publishing



A book that offers a break from hectic life
and displays a love of poetry and flowers



What are some of the things that give you a break from your busy and challenging day-to-day life? We sometimes get comfort and empathy from unexpected things, like a flower on a walk, a good article you read by chance in a book, and a great painting you saw at an exhibition. In this issue, we would like to introduce you to a book that combines all of these things into one. “It takes a close look / to find its beauty.” It is a coloring book, *Flower*,

Stay Like That for a Long Time, by “Grass Flower Poet” Na Tae-Joo, who wrote poems that very familiar to Koreans.

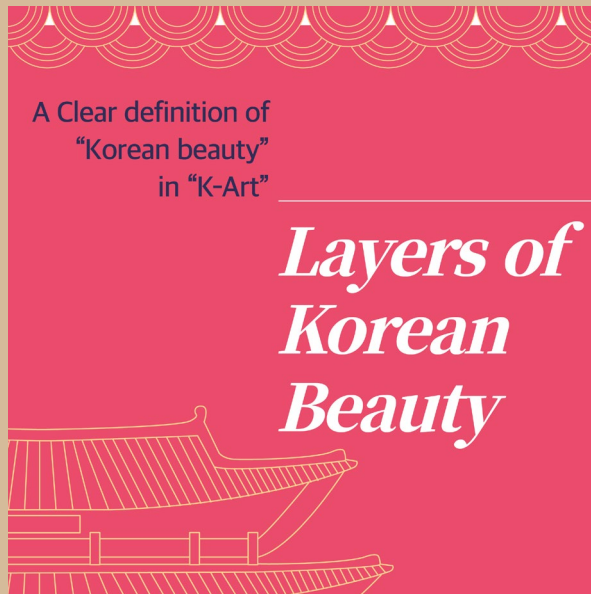
Poet Na Tae-Joo is beloved by many readers for his emotional and heartfelt verses. You might find it unusual to see a coloring book by a poet, but he has long been capturing the beauty of flowers not only in his poems, but also in his drawings! The book *Flower, Stay Like That for a Long Time* is a coloring book featuring 39 flower drawings by the poet himself, along with his beautiful verses. “Drawing is one of my other ways of writing poetry,” says Na Tae-Joo - so why not immerse yourself in the beauty of poetry, drawings, and flowers with this book and enjoy a moment of comfort and relaxation?

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www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/event.php?ptype=view&idx=1472&code=knowledge&category=67

NEW BOOKS

Layers of Korean Beauty



To the question, “What is Korean beauty?”
the book *Layers of Korean Beauty* by
curator Ahn Hyun-Jung answers,

**“The unique vibrancy of
Koreans that has lived and
prospered in this land.”**

Divided into sections on ceramics, calligraphy,
crafts, and architecture, cultural heritages are
matched with contemporary artists and are
organized in an interview format;

the book *Layers of
Korean Beauty*
develops readers’
“visual taste” for
Korean beauty.



With 26 artists discussing 26 of Korea’s most iconic
cultural treasures, such as the Moon Jar,
Changdeokgung Palace, and the Pensive Bodhisattva,

**the book delicately captures
the beauty that runs through
the past, present, and future.**





Also, under the theme of “Korean Beauty,” the book offers a moment to fully appreciate the beauty of Korea’s proud cultural heritage and uplift readers’ aesthetic senses.



“

As such, successful development of traditional content has the potential to spread the power of Korean culture and arts not only within the country but also beyond.

”

- From the book



**Delve into Korean beauty
with the book
*Layers of Korean Beauty,***

which will help you get a clearer,
more concrete understanding of what you
may have only vaguely known as “K-Culture.”

Discover your “visual taste” and a deeper appreciation of “Korean beauty.”



Layers of Korean Beauty
Ahn Hyun-Jung, Art Lake

BEST SELLERS

1st Week, September 2024

Best seller Trends in the Three Biggest Online Bookstores
in Korea

It's the first week of September in Korea, where the fall has technically arrived, yet the summer heat hasn't entirely left. With Korean fiction dominating the top of the best seller lists, it seems that readers are eager to spend the fall with books. The book *If We Look at the Same Star One Day*, which topped the best seller lists of all three major online bookstores, was written by actor and author Cha In-Pyo. Featuring the story of women forced into sexual slavery, it was also invited to the 1st Oxford Korean Literature Festival. Having been selected as a must-read book at Oxford University, it has become known in Korea as a work that first became known overseas. Korean readers have recently been immersed in the book's story, which reads like a movie.

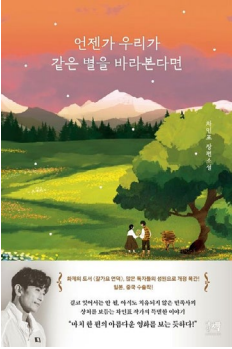



Following behind were Kim Ae-Ran's full-length novel *One of Them is a Lie* and Jeong Yoo-Jeong's full-length novel *Eternal Heaven*, which tied for second place, further reaffirming the fact

that both authors are favorites in the Korean literary scene. *One of Them is a Lie*, which is the story of 3 high school sophomores who become conscious of each other through a series of coincidences and gradually grow closer as they go through an unforgettable period of their lives, and *Eternal Heaven*, the latest in a series by Jeong Yoo-Jeong that explores human desires that reach beyond reality, are both a pleasure to read thanks to the authors' masterful wordsmithing. Also, *To Where Light Leads* by Hee-Sung Baek ranked seventh on the best seller list, further supporting the popularity of Korean fiction.

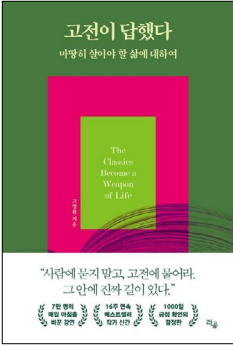
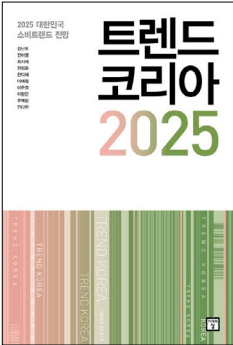
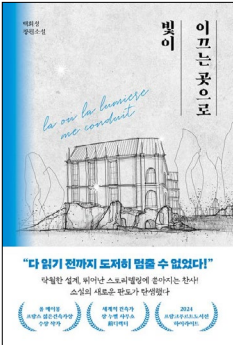
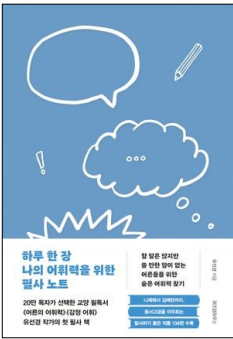
Best selling authors continued to shine in the first week of September in the top 5 non-fiction best sellers. *Wasted Days* by Kim Hoon, considered a maestro of Korean literature, took the first place. Featuring a total of 45 pieces, *Wasted Days* is Kim Hoon's aesthetic approach to prose that delves into the emotions of life. Coming in at second place was *It is All My Life*, an essay exploring the lives of Nonna, born in 1952, and Kyung-Sin, born in 1982, discussing who they are today and who they want to be tomorrow. The book *Joyful Grown-ups*, ranked third, is a highly relatable story about grandmothers who live their lives with vigor, humor, and determination.

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

Top 10 best sellers for the 1st week of September

<p>1</p>		<p><u>If We Look at the Same Star One Day</u></p> <p>Author Cha In-Pyo Publisher Answer Key Genre Fiction</p>
<p>2</p>		<p><u>One of Them is a Lie</u></p> <p>Author Kim Ae-Ran Publisher Munhakdongne Genre Fiction</p>
<p>2</p>		<p><u>Eternal Heaven</u></p> <p>Author Jeong Yoo-Jeong Publisher EunHaengNaMu Genre Fiction</p>
<p>4</p>		<p><u>Common Siblings 17</u></p> <p>Author Baek Nan-Do Publisher Mirae N (I-Seum) Genre Children</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 1st week of September

<p>5</p>		<p><i>The Classics Become a Weapon of Life</i></p> <p>Author Ko Myung-Hwan Publisher Lagom Books Genre Self-help</p>
<p>6</p>		<p><i>Trend Korea 2025</i></p> <p>Author Kim Nan-Do Publisher Mirae Books Genre Business</p>
<p>7</p>		<p><i>To Where Light Leads</i></p> <p>Author Baek Hee-Sung Publisher Book Romance Genre Fiction</p>
<p>8</p>		<p><i>One Page a Day: A Transcribing Note for Your Vocabulary</i></p> <p>Author Yoo Sun-Kyong Publisher Wisdom House Genre Self-help</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 1st week of September

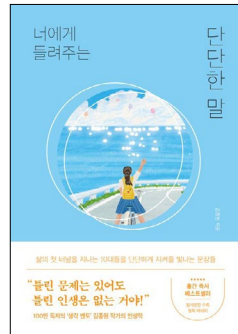
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Aouri Fudo

Author | Miyuki Miyabe
 Publisher | Book Sphere
 Genre | Fiction



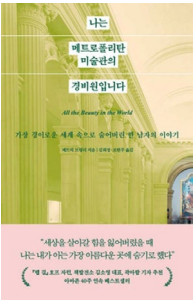
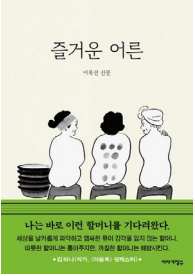
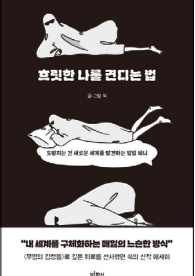
10



A Few Words of Encouragement for You

Author | Kim Jong-Won
 Publisher | First Penguin
 Genre | Young Adult

Top 5 non-fiction for the 1st week of September

1		<p><u>Wasted Days</u></p> <p>Author Kim Hoon Publisher Nanam Publishing House</p>
2		<p><u>It is All My Life</u></p> <p>Author Jang Myeong-Sook, Lee Myeong-Jin Publisher Gimm-Young Publishers</p>
3		<p><u>All the Beauty in the World</u></p> <p>Author Patrick Bringley Publisher Woongjin Thinkbig</p>
3		<p><u>Joyful Grown-ups</u></p> <p>Author Lee Ok-Sun Publisher Storyseller</p>
5		<p><u>How to Endure Blurry Me</u></p> <p>Author Ssuk Publisher Big Fish</p>

#K-BOOK

#Meeting

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

SWEET DREAMS, AND SEE YOU IN THE MORNING

1. Publication Details

Title | SWEET DREAMS, AND SEE YOU IN THE MORNING

Author | Hwang Ui-jeong

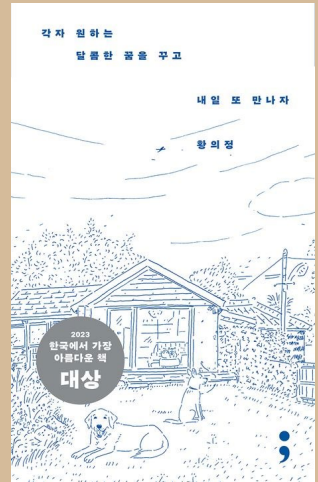
Publisher | ScienceBooks

Publication Date | 2022-11-11

ISBN | 9791192107738

No. of pages | 276

Dimensions | 120 * 190



2. Book Intro

Author Hwang Ui-jeong gives her all to her giant retriever, Dushik. After visiting her husband, who was working on a construction project in Jeju, she falls for the brilliance of Jeju's scenic views and wishes she could share these sights and sounds with Dushik. Realizing that her time with Dushik is not infinite, she makes a brave decision to leave her city life and move to Jeju, where her family can enjoy gorgeous walks and an idyllic country life.

But life doesn't always go according to plan. Hwang writes about the uncomfortable stares Dushik gets when she takes him on walks as their countryside neighbors are not used to seeing such a big yellow dog. Thankfully, there is a silver lining. The author and Dushik chance upon quiet, lush forests and beautiful scenery as they explore new walking paths to avoid judgemental stares. These places they discover make for precious memories that the author

documents through her essays.

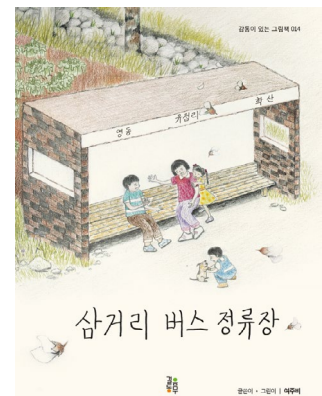
Besides the beauty of Jeju, the author writes about the joys of living with animals. Although Dushik was the couple's only pet, their family later welcomed all sorts of furry characters like Dajeong, Deokcheon, and Seulgi. The essay collection details the heartwarming and humorous backstory about how these animals came to live with them. We learn about the difficulties of living with animals who have distinct personalities, and about the struggles of keeping one's household fur-free! Despite all the trials and tribulations of living with so many animals under one roof, the author's main takeaway is this: the love that the animals show is beyond worth it. Every episode, every hurdle, and every new experience teaches her something about life. This essay is the perfect comfort read on the importance of extending kindness and the power of love.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=7914

The Three-Way Bus Station

1. Publication Details

Title | The Three-Way Bus Station
Author | Yeojubi
Publisher | Geulumdongmu Publishing Co.
Publication Date | 2020-01-31
ISBN | 9791187043522
No. of pages | 44
Dimensions | 210 * 260



2. Book Intro

The Three-Way Bus Station represents a memory.

The Three-Way Bus Station represents a meeting.

The Three-Way Bus Station also represents waiting.

Waiting for mom while she's shopping is very difficult. Especially when she's picking up delicious snacks, time passes by much slower than usual.

After a long wait, the bus stops. Mom, wearing her flower-patterned dress, gets off.

"Mom, where are the snacks?"

"Oh, my babies! Were you waiting again to see if mommy bought something tasty? Are you hungry? Mom bought candy and hot dogs!"

"Wow!"

"My youngest! You're tired and your legs hurt, right? Next time, if I haven't come back for a while, just take your brothers home! Let's go home and have dinner."

Being the oldest, I always get scolded by my mom, but at this moment, I'm really

happy. Because we have sweet and tasty hot dogs.

We can see that family is about being able to share happiness, even in small things.

Everyone has at least once waited for their mom as she went to work or went grocery shopping. Lots of people come and go at the bus stop. Some wait for the bus, some are happily waiting to meet someone, and some are just taking a short break. Like a tree standing in silence, a bus stop always gives people warm consolation and comfort. *The Three-Way Bus Station* conjures up old memories for mom and dad while presenting new ones to children through a story told from the author's experiences during childhood.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=3826

The Silent Coincidence

1. Publication Details

Title | The Silent Coincidence

Author | KIM SUBIN

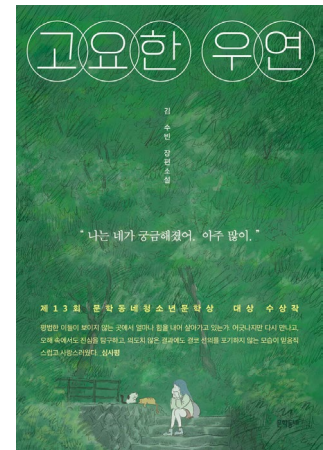
Publisher | Munhakdongne Publishing Group

Publication Date | 2023-02-20

ISBN | 9788954691154

No. of pages | 232

Dimensions | 140 * 205



2. Book Intro

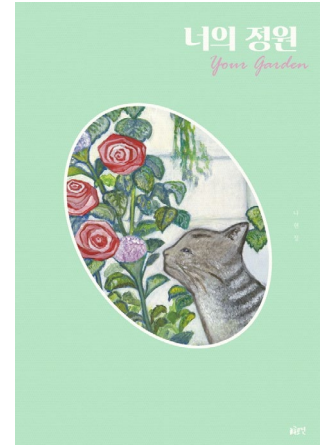
'Goyo', a child who shines alone in a high place like a lofty crescent moon, and 'Jung-hu', a friendly class president who seems to have no shadow at all. There is always an object of longing and envy at the end of Suhyeon's gaze. He looks at them all day long, but even though they are in the same space, they never touch each other as if they belong to different dimensions. However, the canvas of the story expands in a new direction due to a chain reaction of a dream that came to him one night and an inexplicable coincidence. It was when an unexpected person came into Suhyeon's field of view that he first encountered those who stayed in the realm of observation head-on in the online space. A 'coincidence' that has a faint presence in the classroom, but somehow catches the eye. Why the hell am I so curious about that kid? Secrets that could have been hidden forever are revealed one by one, like the far side of the moon, including the truth that the shining object of longing has a similar mindset to mine, and the amazing fact that there was someone who had been looking, whom I had only considered insignificant.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=7268

Your Garden

1. Publication Details

Title | Your Garden
Author | Na Hyunjung
Publisher | Gloyeon
Publication Date | 2021-06-24
ISBN | 9788992704847
No. of pages | 58
Dimensions | 209 * 308



2. Book Intro

Breathing a story into a dry, empty path.

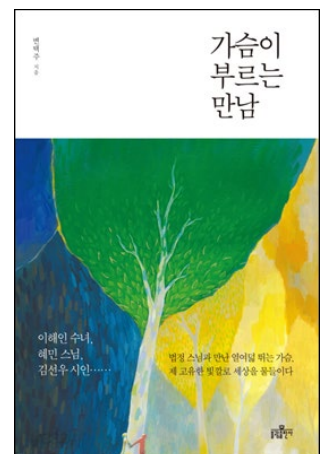
A story of bricks in the city sidewalk, with varying shapes and colors. Although the author brings the sidewalk's life into a place, not of grand creation, but still just a simple path we walk on. Mundane things, a ball, a piece of grass, a cat, and a sewer cover are all things we usually see, but as the writer focuses on these objects, they become more than just objects, but characters with stories and life. The black-and-white pictures drawn with a scratchy pencil are like a potion that leads the reader on a story of imagination of the road more freely without being tied to the colors of reality.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=5797

A Heart-to-Heart Meeting

1. Publication Details

Title | A Heart-to-Heart Meeting
Subtitle | The Catholic nun, Yi Hae-in, the Venerable Haemin, the poet, Kim Seon-wu, et al., tell their stories
Author | Byun Taekjoo
Publisher | Bulkwang Media
Publication Date | 2013-01-29
ISBN | 9788974792244
No. of pages | 352
Dimensions | 152 * 210



2. Book Intro

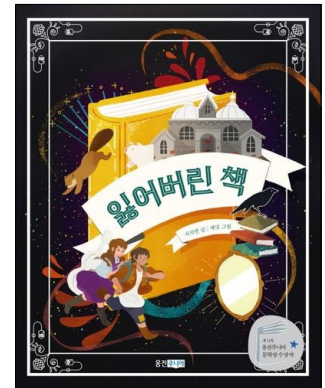
The Catholic nun, Yi Hae-in, the Venerable Haemin, the poet, Kim Seon-wu, and the artist, Yi Cheol-su are people who inspire and give us hope with their words and art. The common denominator of these people is the Venerable Monk, Beopjeong, of whom all of them met. The book, *Heartwarming Encounter*, contains eighteen different stories about each of their meetings with the revered monk whose teaching is still powerfully relevant.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2644

The Lost Book

1. Publication Details

Title | The Lost Book
Author | Seo Jiyeon; 9Jedit
Publisher | Woongjin ThinkBig Co., Ltd.
Publication Date | 2019-06-28
ISBN | 9788901231518
No. of pages | 144
Dimensions | 168 * 214



2. Book Intro

The books at a lost book center which no one visits shares the same fate as books in today's society which are pushed aside by computers, televisions and smartphones.

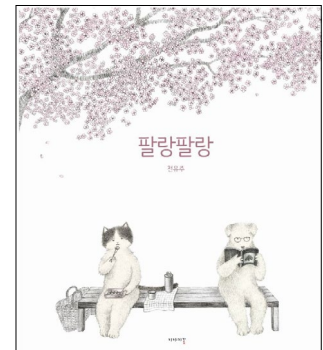
Yongmi gets off a bus and accidentally leaves her book on the bus. So she visits a lost book center with her friend Hanna. Surprisingly, the two girls are greeted by characters from books there. Wilbur from *Charlotte's Web*, Beaver from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and Abraxas from *The Little Witch*. They ask Yongmi and Hanna to save them as they are disappearing from this world by releasing magic...

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2003

Spring Spring

1. Publication Details

Title | Spring Spring
Author | Cheon Yoo-ju
Publisher | IYAGIKOT PUBLISHING
Publication Date | 2015-03-09
ISBN | 9788998751111
No. of pages | 36
Dimensions | 220 * 250



2. Book Intro

A cat, named Nabi, goes on a picnic one sunny day. She sits on a long wooden bench underneath a beautiful cherry tree in full bloom. “This is the perfect spot,” she says. Nabi takes out the lunch she brought. When you go on a picnic, you have to eat gimbap, and warm barley tea goes well with gimbap. What a long-awaited spring, and a picnic! Nabi begins humming.

On a breezy day, a dog, named Aji, goes on a walk to the cherry tree he always goes to carrying a book. But a stranger is already sitting there. ‘Someone is already here,’ he thinks. Nabi moves the basket to make room and peeks at Aji while sipping the barley tea from the lid of the thermos bottle. Aji, whether he knows it or not, is completely lost in his reading while he hums.

Just then, is it a coincidence? Petals fall, and one of which lands on Nabi’s nose. Twitch, twitch. Sniff, sniff! Nabi blows at the petal away with her lower lip stuck out. The petal gently flies away to land on Aji’s nose, of all places. Twitch, twitch. Sniff, sniff! Now Aji blows the petal away. Flutter, flutter. Gently, gently. The playful petal finally lands on Nabi’s gimbap. The two are suddenly embarrassed. What went through their minds in this short time?

Nabi breaks the ice. She asks, “Do you want some gimbap?” Was she sorry to be the only one eating? Aji replies as though waiting for her to ask, “Oh, oh, thank you!” Was he actually hungry?

Oops! Nabi and Aji, who looked like they were each quietly enjoying their own outing, have now started to talk freely with each other. What are they chatting about, using such hand gestures from time to time? Flutter, flutter. Gently, gently. Petals flutter down everywhere. Spring has arrived.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1181

Oriental Medicine Meets Psychology

1. Publication Details

Title | Oriental Medicine Meets Psychology

Subtitle | Mental Health Examined Through Emotions

Author | Tae-hyung Kim; Yang Woongmo

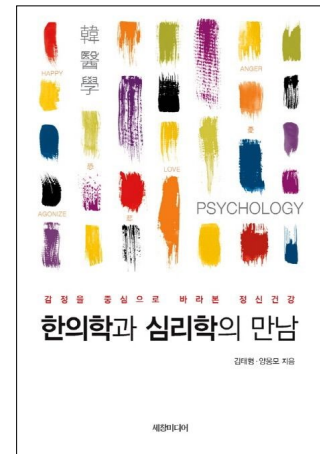
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No. of pages | 304

Dimensions | 152 * 225



2. Book Intro

In Principles and Practice of Eastern Medicine, Heo Jun said, “If you want to cure a person’s illness, first treat the person’s mind.” This means that each organ in the body is damaged when mental balance is broken, and eventually the part of the brain connected to the corresponding organ is also impaired. In general, oriental medicine and psychology are considered to be worlds apart. This book, however, shows that psychology that treats illnesses of the mind has a philosophical foundation similar to eastern philosophy and oriental medicine. The author states that mainstream American psychology is based on a metaphysical worldview, whereas mainstream psychology in the East is based on a dialectical one. In this regard, the author connects psychology based on a dialectical worldview with oriental medicine in order to identify the common Eastern philosophical foundations.

Until now, studies on mental disorders in oriental medicine have been lacking. This situation is inconsistent with the original view of oriental medicine that understands mental diseases lead to physical illnesses. It has long been established in the Western medical community that psychotherapy and medication treatment should be combined to effectively treat mental disorders. Accordingly, the author explores the convergence of psychology and oriental medicine with Professor Woongmo Yang of the College of Oriental Medicine at Kyunghee University, and furthermore, envisions the possibility of developing oriental psychiatric medicine and treatment. To this end, the book doesn’t stop at discussing theory, but covers detailed research on major psychiatric disorders experienced widely today, such as depression, ADHD, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), dementia, and panic disorders.

In this book, oriental medicine and psychology, which have a common foundation, meet and discuss mental health. Since the direct cause of mental disorders is an emotional anomaly, emotion should be central to the explanation, diagnosis, and treatment of mental disorders. Oriental medicine has already explained the damages to the body caused by the seven emotions – joy, anger, depression, worry, sadness, surprise, and fear – and called them the Seven Emotional Wounds, which is the

unique characteristic of oriental medicine as mind-body medicine. With this book, you will discover how oriental medicine and psychology see each other from the standpoint of the organic unity theory, and how they can work together to treat mental disorders or illnesses of the mind.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=6737

Wine Meets Culture

1. Publication Details

Title | Wine Meets Culture

Author | Jang Hong

Publisher | Snifactory

Publication Date | 2010-12-10

ISBN | 97889899883

No. of pages | 298

Dimensions | 153 * 225



2. Book Intro

This book is a story of wine told by a wine man, Dr Jang Hong, who has been in love with wine for over 25 years while living in France. It is an essay-style book that illuminates wine from various points of view. The author describes the culture, economy, society and art found in wine. It also acts as a liberal arts book for humanities and social sciences, not just a simple story on wine, since it handles a wide range of topics, such as wine and love, wine and war, wine and literature, wine and food, wine and fraud, and wine and power. In addition, he has made an attempt at acute cultural criticism through wine, including the popularization and globalization of wine, climate warming and the future of wine.

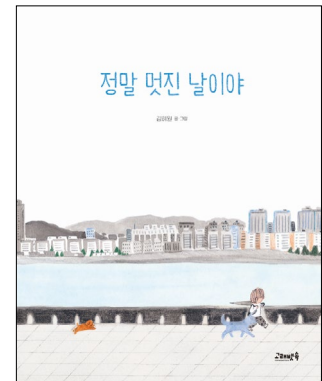
Also, what effects wine has on people and the reasons why people are getting more and more fanatical about wine are examined. The author has tried to stick to an objective perspective, seeing opposing points of view and not overlooking the dark side of wine, which includes scams and speculation. While unraveling the multifaceted story of wine, the meticulous and thoughtful words really shine. In this book, the author has tried to share his knowledge and feelings rather than just evaluating the wine.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1617

What a Wonderful Day

1. Publication Details

Title | What a Wonderful Day
Author | Kim Hyewon
Publisher | GORAEBAETSOK
Publication Date | 2019-01-28
ISBN | 9788992505864
No. of pages | 40
Dimensions | 200 * 250



2. Book Intro

This book depicts the process of overcoming the sadness of losing one's beloved through Siwu, who is lost in sadness from the death of his pet, the soul of the blue dog, who cannot leave the saddened Siwu's side, and the brown dog, who has lost its way and so follows Siwu. The narrator of this book is the blue dog, who is no longer in this world. Through the blue dog, the book tells those people who have lost their beloved, "Your loved ones, who left this world first, are the one who want you to overcome this sadness and return to your normal life with a smile. Share that love you once gave your loved ones with those who need it most at the moment."

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1495