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to those in the global publishing industry.



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TOPIC

The Power of K-Readers Over K-Books

A Report from the 1st Busan International Children's Book Fair

Written by Lee Rury (Author; Professor of Creative Writing, Sejong Cyber University; Chief Editor of Bookgoodcome; CEO of Yrurybooks)



The banner of the 2024 Busan International Children's Book Fair

An international children's book fair in Busan, Korea?

On November 28, the 1st Busan International Children's Book Fair (<https://bicbf.or.kr/>) kicked off at BEXCO in Busan. As the first international children's book fair to be held in Korea, it was themed on the imaginary land of Laputa, the floating kingdom

in the sky that Gulliver traveled to in *Gulliver's Travels*. The book fair attracted 193 exhibitors and 118 authors and speakers from 16 countries, including domestic and international publishers and organizations specializing in children's books. Also, more than 150 side programs took place. All beginnings are both exciting and nerve-wracking. The fact that an international children's book fair, symbolized by Bologna, is being held in Busan, Korea, might raise some eyebrows. But for me, it was somewhat overdue. It's because Korea is already at the center of world culture - think K-pop, K-movies, K-dramas, K-games, and even Han Kang's Nobel Prize in Literature!

In particular, Korean children's literature is already an international favorite. The Korean pavilion at the Bologna Children's Book Fair has been growing in popularity for several years. You can also find Korean works and authors in the Bologna Ragazzi Awards and the Illustrator of the Year section. Plus, Baek Hee-Na has won the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, and Suzy Lee has won the Hans Christian Andersen Award in recent years. This shows that Korean children's literature has been a worldwide favorite long before adult literature.

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 26* – Go to the interview with writer Baek Hee-Na
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=550&page=4&code=interview&category=66

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 37* – Go to the interview with writer Suzy Lee
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=580&page=3&code=interview&category=66

Another Korean city, Jeonju, has hosted the Jeonju International Picture Book Fair (<https://jipf.jeonju.go.kr/main/idx#>) every May

since 2022. Though it is less known due to its size and budget, the fair has been running for three years now. This year, the fair attracted a lot of attention as it featured the picture book contest award ceremony organized by Korea Publishing Picturebook (KPP). Also, Suwon has been hosting the International Book & Contest Festa for Kids called BOOKIZCON (<https://bookizcon.com/BOOKIZCON/110053/index.do>) every September since 2023. This is not all. Over the past few years, a large number of picture book-related organizations and communities have emerged, and various activities are taking place across the country. Picture book creation programs have spread like wildfire in libraries, and picture book bookstores across the country have become a hotspot for picture book lovers. As such, the spark of Korean children's literature has gradually grown to lay the foundation for the International Children's Book Fair in Busan this year.



Outside view of the 2024 Busan International Children's Book Fair

The Busan International Children's Book Fair attracts around 50,000 visitors

The publishers and authors participating in the book fair were thrilled. Over four days, they barely had a moment to rest as more than 50,000 readers from across South Korea came to visit. As an author, the head of Yrurybooks, and the editor-in-chief of BookGoodCome, I also had a hectic time there. First of all, as an author, I stayed at the booth for all four days and held signing sessions. There was no time to eat, no time to drink, and no time to go to the restroom.

Readers came from all over the country. Picture book and fairy tale lovers from all over Korea - from Paju in the northernmost part and Jeju in the southernmost part - came to the festival. Most of them brought their own carts, and they moved from one booth to another, buying books and getting autographs from the authors. They made sure to take a photo after getting autographs. Very few readers didn't use Instagram or Facebook. They were busy buying books, getting autographs, taking pictures, and updating them on Social Media, which in turn attracted other readers to the Busan International Children's Book Fair. The participating publishers and authors worked tirelessly at the official venue and at the publishers' booths. Many publishers had to have more books delivered as their stock was sold out. Readers and authors were exchanging pleasant greetings and smiles all around the fair.



Suzy Lee meeting readers through her lecture



Publishers' booths at the 2024 Busan International Children's Book Fair

Under the theme of the book fair, “Laputa - Children, Acts (라퓨타-한다, 어린이)” 400 books were exhibited. Novelist Kim Yeon-Soo and picture book writer-illustrator Kang Hye-Sook, as well as authors Suzy Lee, Baek Hee-Na, Jung Jin-Ho, Hwang Sun-Mi, and international picture book authors such as Swiss children’s author Davide Cali and Italian author Giulia Pastorino, met with

readers through lectures. Also, various children's book publishers and organizations in Korea and abroad held diverse events for children to participate in, such as autograph signings, workshops for children, and book talks.

Busan seen through the international children's book fair

During the book fair, I could barely move around because of the author signings. Fortunately, many overseas publishers came to Yrurybooks' booth. Publisher Kimdung from Vietnam was very attentive to our picture books and requested files of six titles for review: *Gomdori and Yaongi*, *Dr. Kim's Secret*, *Hello-Happiness*, *Red Light-Green Light*, *Eolkuni and Kobburi*, and *The Blanket*. Also, publishing house Papa from Taiwan requested files for review of *Beautiful Little Duckling* and *The Reason I Love You*, while the Lithuanian agent requested files for review of *Mr. Moon*, *Why Are You Following Me?*, *Chichi-popo*, and *Pengdori's Search for His Bride*. And, of course, our publisher reviewed books from those publishers and requested files.

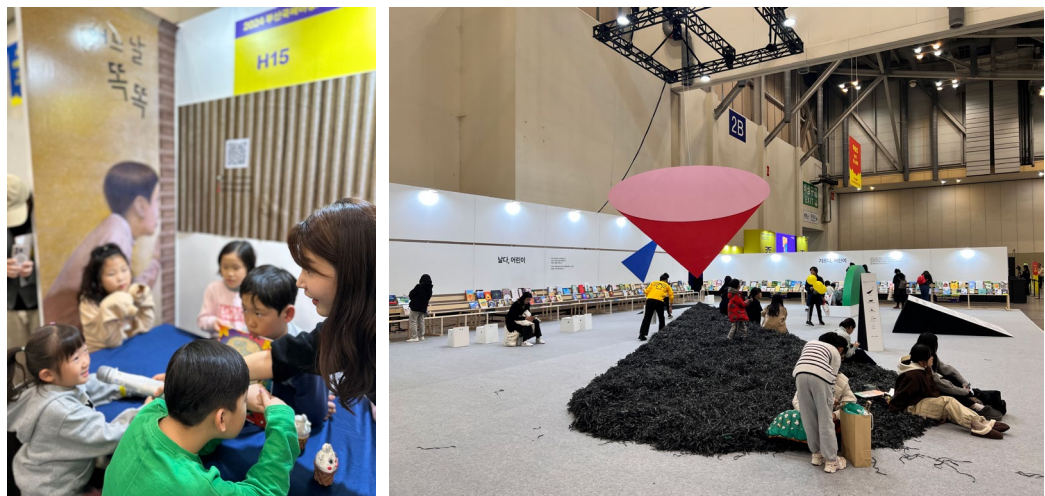
I listed the picture books requested by each foreign publisher I met with to show that there are no overlapping titles. I don't push specific books when I meet with foreign publishers. I first let them choose based on the cover. Picture books are visual art, and art is a matter of taste. Different people have different tastes. You never know which books will be selected and which countries they will be exported to. I also met with some Anglo-American publishers. However, I was disappointed that they seemed to be

more interested in exporting their books rather than importing books from Korean publishers.

A number of overseas publishers were invited and sponsored by the organizers. The sincerity and enthusiasm shown by Taiwanese publishers, libraries, and publishing organizations were truly amazing. The openness and kindness of the Taiwanese publishing community has always impressed people everywhere. This is why I can't help but go to the Taipei International Book Fair every year.



Images of Yrurybooks' and BookGoodCome's booth



Children having fun at the 2024 Busan International Children's Book Fair

I hope the Busan International Children's Book Fair will become a festival of the world

Many readers told me that they would like to see more international publishers next year. Actually, it is not that difficult for the Busan International Children's Book Fair to be loved as an international book fair. We just need to open our doors wide and welcome overseas publishers to spend time and money to set up their booths. But, how do you open that door? First of all, Korean readers seem to be very open-minded. Many readers said they would like to see books from various foreign publishers. The question is, how do we bring them in? It is important to promote year-round, just like leading international book fairs. We need to advertise 365 days a year that an international children's book fair is held in Busan at the end of November. Also, we need fellowships with no barriers. It would also be important to create a national PR pavilion in cooperation with cultural centers from around the world. Above all, as a children's book fair, we need events for new authors, like the Bologna Children's Book Fair's Illustrators Wall or the Illustrator of the Year Award. This is because readers will eventually become authors and experts.

International children's book fairs are not just an event for exchanging copyrights or a market for buying and selling books. It is a festival for everyone who loves children's books. It should be a festival for everyone: authors, publishers, readers, enthusiasts, children, and families. To achieve this, the book fair

organizers should work more closely with various participants. Korean publishers with a lot of export experience know which foreign publishers are interested in Korean books. Also, Korean publishers should be more interested in the books of foreign publishers and exchange with them. If everyone just wants to sell their own books, there will be no exchange, communication, or empathy.

So, what does it take to make a book fair a must-see event for authors, publishers, readers, enthusiasts, children, and families from around the world? The amazing Korean readers already know the answer - the power of K-Readers is stronger than K-Books! The boundaries between readers and authors have long been collapsed in Korea. There are over 60,000 registered publishing houses in this tiny country! Plus, Korean readers are open to all cultures. They know how to appreciate and compliment what they like. Where else in the world would someone from any part of the world be able to showcase and promote their content? Most of all, Korean readers will welcome authors and publishers from all over the world with open arms. We are already living in an era of internationalization and globalization.

SPECIAL PROJECT

[New Ways of Walking Through Cities ①]

A City of Endless Stories: New York

Written by Choi Ha-Yeong

Special Project in 2025 will be a new series that introduces readers to Korean books. Since *K-Book Trends* targets a global audience, we have been thinking about how to connect with readers in different countries. While we have introduced many cities in Korea, we wondered what it would be like to introduce readers to the cities where they live. That's how the new series, "New Ways of Walking Through Cities," began. We would like to feature Korean books that are set in cities outside of Korea and walk through those cities with our readers. As the first city, we chose New York, a city you might be living in, a city you might have traveled to, or a city you might be dreaming about.



New York is like a giant heart that changes every moment. Its streets are always bustling with life, with people from all over the world weaving together many stories and languages. The tranquil wooded walkways of Central Park and the flashing neon displays at Times Square are two dramatic faces of the city. With new people arriving and leaving every day, New York is a place where settlement and transition, dreams and reality meet. Hot dogs from street vendors give a sense of the city's everyday life. At the same time, the fancy stages of Broadway prove that it is the center of world culture. Here, success and failure, laughter and tears coexist, and everyone creates their own version of New York in freedom, where anything seems possible.

The light and shadow of a big city



The Name of a Rose is Rose

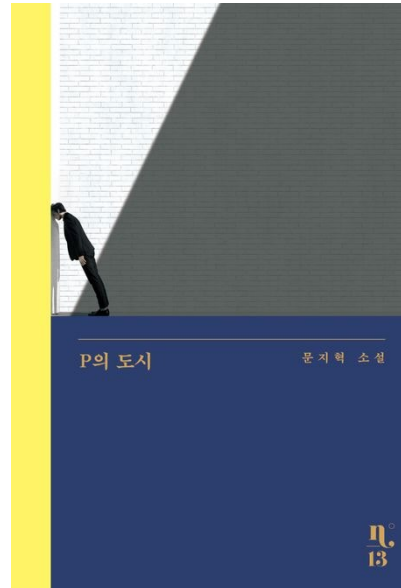
The first Korean book set in New York is *The Name of a Rose is Rose* (Munhakdongne Publishing Group) by Eun Hee-Kyoung. It's a collection of four short and medium-length novels, sometimes referred to as the "New York Quadrilogy" because they all take this city as their backdrop. In an interview, Eun said that she has been visiting New York frequently for the past 10 years because she has an acquaintance living there, and added that it's very different from being a traveler and a local resident of the city. Maybe that's why, in the first story of the collection, *Why, for How Long, Where Were We* (우리는 왜 얼마동안 어디에), there is a sentence like this:

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 52* – Go to the interview of writer Eun Hee-Kyoung
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1097&page=2&code=interview&category=66

“If someone says they have traveled to the city, people would ask about the police cars, the yellow taxis, the beautiful parks, the high-quality theaters, the bagels and steakhouses, the art galleries and museums, the Empire State Building and the stock exchange. (...) Yet you won’t hear any of that from Seung-Ah.” - from the story *Why, for How Long, Where Were We* in the book *The Name of a Rose is Rose*

The works in *The Name of a Rose is Rose* each feature a different image of New York. In *Why, for How Long, Where Were We*, the New York City that Seung-Ah, the protagonist, fled from her tiresome home in Korea, is old and dilapidated, unlike what she imagined. The title piece, *The Name of a Rose is Rose*, tells the story of a divorced woman who travels to New York City and a Senegalese college student who meets her there, capturing the irony of a big city where people can be both victims and offenders. Meanwhile, *A Palace With No Sheep and Clock* (양과 시계가 없는 궁전) and *Lady With a Warm Heart* (아가씨 유정도 하지) depict introspective reflections of characters who come to face their true selves through others in an unfamiliar city. As such, the book *The Name of a Rose is Rose* delves deeply into the duality of human relationships and the city against the backdrop of New York, and seriously portrays the complexity and irony of life in modern society.

Urban life vividly depicted by the author



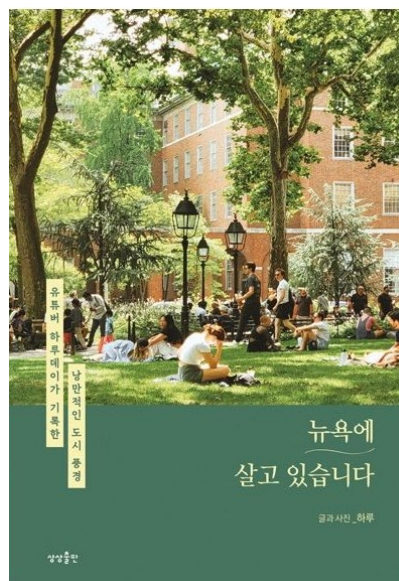
City of P

The second book is *City of P* (EunHaeng NaMu Publishing) by Moon Ji-Hyuck, a mystery thriller set in the city that never sleeps, New York. The protagonist, a doctoral student in New York City who dreams of becoming a professor, hears a shocking story from his wife one day. But, before he can even recover from the shock, she goes missing. Will he ever find her? Following the tangled desires, love, revenge, and forgiveness of the characters, readers are ultimately led to the central theme of “suffering”—the burden of all human life. Set in New York City, the world’s most famous metropolis and the center of the world’s economy and culture, this novel’s fast-paced narrative and tightly woven details add up to a compelling read.

“What I found in the city where everyone’s dreams come together and explode like fireworks was, unexpectedly, “suffering.” Behind every desire to achieve something, there was suffering.” - from Author’s Note in *City of P*

Author Moon Ji-Hyuck says that he started writing this novel in 2012 while studying abroad in New York City. Was his life in New York that impactful? As Moon himself has said that all novels are “revised autobiographies,” it’s no surprise that his other works are also set in New York. His novel *Elementary Korean* (Minumsa) tells the story of a protagonist teaching Korean at a university in New York. Through the eyes of an outsider, it humorously depicts the unfamiliarity of the Korean language and the gap between the life of a foreigner and the act of teaching it.

Your version of “New York” - the one you can only know by living in it



I'm Living in New York

“The New Yorkers, once so distant, have begun to become friendly neighbors.” - from *I'm Living in New York*

I'm Living in New York, an essay by YouTuber Haruday, who has become known for her vlogs documenting her daily life in New York, is a book that captures the essence of living in the big city. It tells the story of the city's cinematic streets, romantic locals, and what it takes to become a New Yorker and not a stranger among them. The book not only provides an honest and heartfelt look at life in the city, but also reveals new information that could not have been learned through travel alone. The book, which will excite those who dream of living in New York and resonate with those who have lived there, will make you feel as if you are taking a stroll through the city.



New York is not just a place. It is a challenge for dreamers, a haven for the lost, and an endless possibility to start over again. The city's stories cannot be summed up in a single definition, and New York is always worth seeing with fresh perspectives. Behind the flashy skyline are the mundane routines and hustle and bustle of everyday life, and the passionate pursuit of dreams in the midst of anonymous crowds. New York is a city that cannot be captured in a single experience or through a single view. Just as the city shows a different side every time, so do the books that are set in it. Let's walk the streets of New York through books that tell their unique stories.

EXPORT CASE

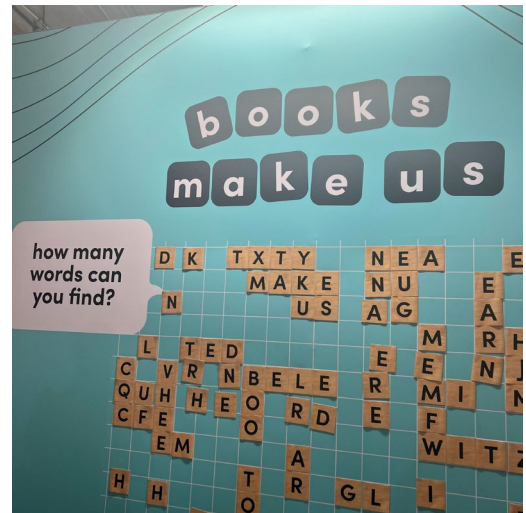
**Spreading Its Wings To the World:
*The Seoul Letter Shop***

Written by Cho Min-Wook (CP at TXTY CIC / Chief Producer)

On October 12, 2023, I received an email from Shinwon Agency, Korea's first copyright export agency. They wanted to meet me at the Frankfurt Book Fair. I was going to be there, so we agreed to meet on October 19. This was about a month after I had sent them a cold email looking for an export partner. Within that month, I sent them a cover letter for my publishing house, met with them to introduce my publication lineup, and passed on additional materials about the works they were interested in. Among them was a proposal for *The Seoul Letter Shop* (TXTY), including a synopsis.

It felt interesting and fateful that two Korean companies would be meeting in Frankfurt on October 19, 2023, to talk about working together. Shinwon said that there was a lot of interest

from Anglo-American partner agencies and offered an exclusive agreement for *The Seoul Letter Shop*. I was flabbergasted because all I had was a proposal - but my heart was pounding. I knew this was an opportunity, and I didn't want to miss it.



Footages from the 2023 Frankfurt Book Fair

Returning to Korea, I discussed with the author, Baek Seung-Yeon, and accelerated the manuscript timeline by about a month

from the original plan. We quickly completed the first draft of the prologue and chapter 1 and sent them to Shinwon. Although we received a contract offer, the manuscript had to be good for the deal to be finalized. Fortunately, Shinwon was satisfied, and we signed an exclusive agreement with PFD (Peters Fraser and Dunlop), Shinwon's partner agency, with the goal of introducing the book at the London Book Fair in 2024. Though the timeline was tight, we communicated closely with Shinwon and progressively updated materials such as the author profile, cover, and English sample manuscript, and the entire manuscript was completed by the end of February.

Then, over three days on March 7, 8, and 9, just before the London Book Fair, I received pre-empt offers from German, Italian, and French publishers. I had never even received an offer from a European country in all my years of fiction publishing. The successive offers gave me an adrenaline rush. Offers have since continued; *The Seoul Letter Shop* was exported to 8 countries even before publication, and now it is set to be exported to 14 countries (UK, US, Spain, Portugal, Netherlands, Finland, Greece, Poland, Russia, Brazil, and Japan, in addition to the three European countries above), with the Netherlands being the first to see international readers in 2025.



Korean, Dutch, and Italian covers of *The Seoul Letter Shop*

The Seoul Letter Shop - Rooted in the foundations of Korean literature

There are many reasons for *The Seoul Letter Shop*'s achievements in exports. While “the agile and meticulous moves of the publisher and agency” and “the exquisite timing of its introduction just as the interest in healing fiction was reaching its end” created a niche of opportunity, “planning as a means of survival in the Korean publishing industry” and “the author’s capacity to grow up in the solidarity of her peers and the benevolent influence of senior writers in Korean literature” played a major role in the success of the book’s appeal to agents and editors around the world.

The Seoul Letter Shop is a “curated, planned novel,” conceptualized by publisher TXTY and written by the author. In early 2023, before TXTY had even released the first book, I asked myself the question: What kind of fiction would survive? I was

the leader of a label that mainly publishes genre fiction, and I had several titles in the pipeline, but when I looked at the sales data for fiction at major bookstores, it was hard to be optimistic. The reading rate among Koreans was falling every year, so, of course, the publishing industry was in crisis every year. Moreover, fiction was one of the most preferred and least read genres in Korea.

Only three types of fiction were making meaningful sales numbers - pure literature, healing fiction, and genre fiction by named authors. Then, we started to eliminate them one by one: we didn't think pure literature was our thing at the time, and since we were a new publisher that hadn't even published its first book, we needed time to work with named authors. What remained were the healing novels. Even this one seemed to have established itself as a genre. However, after the success of *The Second Chance Convenience Store* (formerly known as *The Uncanny Convenience Store*) (Namu Bench) and *Dallergut Dream Department Store* (Sam & Parkers), we sensed that Korean readers were getting quite tired of so many healing novels over the years. When we looked at the sales figures of major bookstores in 2022, we found that the extent to which non-fiction sales had decreased compared to previous years was similar to the extent to which sales of healing novels had increased. So, we changed the question: How can we make a “new and distinctive healing novel”?

Convenience stores, laundromats, alteration shops, bookstores,

cafes, and photo studios are common places that we can easily find around us. As a reader, I remember thinking to myself after reading a healing story that I would visit a store like this if it existed in real life. I tried to find a real shop that had never been used as a stage in a healing novel. I wanted to make a novel that could not only be read but also be experienced in person. That is when “Geulwoll,” a letter shop in Yeonhui-dong and Seongsu-dong, Seoul, came to mind. I thought that letters were the best material for healing, so I immediately went to Geulwoll and proposed a partnership.

Then, I looked for an author who would be able to embody the inspirational stories of everyday events in “Geulwoll”. I contacted Baek Seung-Yeon, who had made her debut through the literary magazine *Munhak Sasang* (문학사상) but hadn't seen the light of day for years. I remember telling Baek about my vague idea and receiving the first draft shortly afterward. That was the moment I knew I had found the right author. When I received the manuscript, I was amazed that it was her first full-length novel - I could see that she had been honing herself as a novelist for a long time without giving up as a literature writer. It wasn't until later that I realized she had been practicing writing consistently with her peers who had the same dream.



Inside views of letter shop “Geulwol” in Yeonhui-dong

The Crisis of Korean Literature is the Power of Korean Literature

Korean literature is always in a state of crisis. Publishers specializing in literature, as opposed to large general publishing houses, have to plan books for survival before even thinking of making a great hit, and writers have to face the fear of not being able to become novelists, or the fear that their books will not be read, and endure it through reading and writing literature, and forming solidarity with their fellow writers.

The crisis of Korean literature is parallel to the crisis of Korean society. Korea has undergone compressed economic and industrial growth and rapid democratization. This has resulted in a cultural powerhouse centered on K-pop, but beneath

the glitz and glamor are disgraceful indicators, including the lowest happiness rate and the highest suicide rate among OECD countries. The country has suffered so many national wounds in such a short period of time that it is no exaggeration to say that all Koreans have a sense of resentment and sensitivity deep inside them. As such, while the Korean public has become distanced from books because they are easily thrown into life crises amidst social crises, they are ironically living like characters in literary works without realizing it. Eventually, the value of Korean literature will continue to grow. If literature is all about questions of life and death, I can't think of a better country for literature than Korea.

That is probably why so many Korean literary writers, aspiring writers, planners, and editors of Korean literature endure the pain of life with the power of literature and plunge into the depths of creation every day with the hope of sharing that power with the world. It seems that they have learned how Korean literature can be strong from the resilience of the Korean people. Many writers are skilled in dealing with very realistic and conflicted characters and narratives as they have had to juggle their lives with writing in order to survive because of the poor domestic market, and readers demand artistic depth as well as entertainment as they have experiences of some of the world's leading content as well as K-pop, K-drama, and K-movies. Korean literature is thriving and growing stronger in the midst of a crisis.

Korean literature is set to grow

Two events coincided to make 2024 a pivotal year for Korea and Korean literature. If the news of Han Kang's winning of the Nobel Prize in Literature brought a pleasant shock to the country, the declaration of martial law, thought to be a legacy of the 20th century, came as a horrifying shock. Ironically, Han's acceptance speech resonated with Koreans at a time when protests were raging to impeach the president, who had started what has been characterized as an unjustified rebellion. Han said that literature stands in opposition to all acts that destroy life, and that she wants to share the meaning of the prize by standing together against violence.



Two events that took place in Korea in 2024 (Han Kang's winning of the Nobel Prize in Literature and Koreans' impeachment Protest)

Han's Nobel Prize in Literature will increase global interest in Korean literature, and Korean readers have learned through an intense experience what literature means in times of crisis. This, in turn, will lead to the expansion of the literary market, and publishers and authors will be able to produce literature with a little less competition and a lot more depth. Therefore, I am confident. The potential of Korean literature will continue to grow and will eventually burst.

BOOK TRIP

[A Trip to Literary Museums ⑨]

Leading the Renaissance of Modern Korean Literature Through Various Activities

Hwaseong-si, Gyeonggi-do: Nojak Literature House

Written by Kim Young-lhm

The transformation of a city is sometimes more surprising and wondrous than *sangjeonbyeokhae* (桑田碧海), which is translated as “a field of mulberry trees transforms into a blue sea.” Hwaseong-si, Gyeonggi-do, is a large area straddling both the inland and the sea, and was once a small village connected to Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do. It was then transformed by the development of a large industrial complex and a new town. Stepping away from the dense factories and apartment complexes, Hwaseong is a city where you can feel the atmosphere of the sea with beautiful sunsets, as well as a city with a long history of cultural heritage. Among its many treasures is the Nojak Hong Sa-Yong Literature House, which breathes the spirit

of culture and art into the city, elevating its character. We visited the Nojak Hong Sa-Yong Literature House, a space that offers the fragrance of profound literature and a sense of respite amidst the fast-paced lives of city dwellers.



Outside views of the Nojak Literature House, where visitors can have an in-depth appreciation of writer Hong Sa-Yong's literary world

Nojak Literature House: a place that embodies the artistic soul of a writer who pioneered romanticism and new drama

Dongtan New Town, located in Hwaseong-si, is a typical planned city with densely packed apartment complexes. In such a hectic environment, where the bustling pace of modern life can sometimes feel overwhelming, it is a refreshing break to find a place where you can take a breath, reflect, and recharge your cultural energy. Standing at the entrance of the Banseoksan Trail, which serves as the lungs of Dongtan, is Nojak Literature House, where you can feel the fresh air from the forest and the traces of various literary works. Opened in 2010, it is a place that explores

and inherits the literary achievements of writer Hong Sa-Yong, who led the romanticism in the history of modern Korean literature and was an active performer of new drama, and a place where you can take a break while enjoying his literary spirit.

Nojak Hong Sa-Yong is a poet and stage performer who founded the *Baekjo* (백조; 白潮; white tide), a pure literary magazine, and wrote the poem *Flowing White Tide, Stars, and Me* (백조는 흐르는데 별 하나 나 하나) in its inaugural issue, as well as the poem *Spring Has Gone* and the prose poem *I Am King*, among others. Above all, Hong Sa-Yong's contribution to the history of modern literature can be gauged by the fact that *Baekjo*, where he published many works, was a representative literary magazine that featured a wide range of works by prominent writers in the history of modern Korean literature, including Park Jong-Hwa, Hyun Jin-Geon, and Na Do-Hyang.

Hong was also passionate about theatrical arts. He joined a representative play group, Towolhoe, where he served as the head of the literary division and wrote dramas and plays. His works include *Beongeorigut* and *Kimokgyunjeon*, among many others - all of which were aimed at uplifting ethnic ideals. Hong Sa-Yong, who showcased his literary talents in a variety of genres, including poetry, plays, essays, and novels, dreamed of romanticism. However, he died at the age of 47, suffering from the distress as an intellectual, feeling lost amidst the pain of the times.

Although he published many works during his lifetime, he never

got to publish a collection of his own works before his death; in 1976, his family published *I Am King*, a collection of poems and prose. This laid the foundation for Hong Sa-Yong’s literary studies and the opening of the literature house, which led to the opening of Nojak Literature House in 2010.



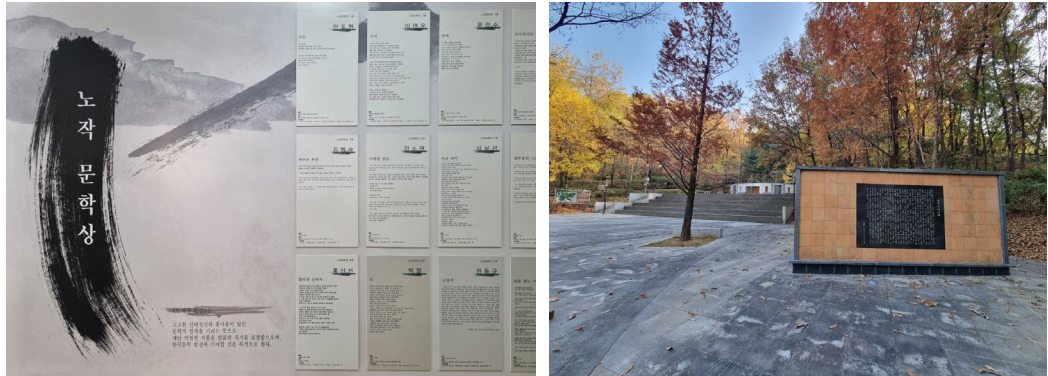
Inside view of the literature house, displaying Hong Sa-Yong’s various careers as a writer, actor, and more.

The literature house situated at the foot of Banseoksan Mountain, where the writer’s mausoleum is located, is not large in scale, but it fulfills the role of a “cultural center.” Consisting of the first and second floors, the house features the Sanyoohwa Theater, where various performances and lectures are held, an exhibition room that provides an in-depth look into the writer’s works, and a

library that serves as an archive and book cafe - all reflecting his career as a stage performer. So, it is not just a simple literature house, but a place for many people to enjoy various cultural and artistic activities, including literature, with Hong Sa-Yong at the center of it.

The permanent exhibition hall, which provides an in-depth look at the writer's life and works, features a chronological display of his works, related cultural heritage, as well as various books published during his time, enabling visitors to learn more about Hong Sa-Yong. The featured exhibition room is used as an exhibition space for local culture, allowing Nojak Literature House to become a cultural hub for Hwaseong-si. Also, the Nojak Park built around the literature house invites visitors to take a leisurely stroll and read his works outdoors, as well as take a light trek to the mausoleum to reflect on the writer. Since 2012, the Nojak Literature Festival has been held to commemorate the life and literary spirit of Hong Sa-Yong, and since 2018, a week in October has been designated as "Nojak Literature Week" where various programs are held.

Hong Sa-Yong, a writer who lived through a painful and heartbreaking time during the Japanese occupation of Korea, but kept his national spirit alive and never lost his romanticism. His literary world has become a legacy of modern culture and a stronghold for people to come together to honor his literary spirit and be immersed in culture and art together. His great literary works are truly a legacy to our time.



The Nojak Literary Award, dedicated to honoring writer Hong Sa-Yong, and Nojak Park, where various cultural events take place

Yunggeolleung: a king's eternal abode, filled with affectionate yearning for his father

If you look through the history of Joseon Dynasty, you will find a number of unfortunate figures in it. One of the most commonly mentioned is Crown Prince Sado, who was imprisoned and left to die in a rice chest by his father, Yeongjo. Crown Prince Sado's son Jeongjo, who had to watch his father's death in sadness, ascended the throne and set out to restore his father's honor. Out of filial piety, Jeongjo built his father's mausoleum in the city of Hwaseong, and later buried himself next to his father upon his death. The two royal tombs of the Joseon Dynasty, shaped exactly like twin tombs, were finally completed - the Yunggeolleung.

Yunggeolleung is a tomb listed as part of the Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; it is set amidst a dense pine forest. This makes the path to Yunggeolleung almost like a stroll through an arboretum. What is particularly impressive about Yunggeolleung is that the tomb of Crown Prince

Sado does not have a stone railing. The royal tombs of the Joseon Dynasty were usually built with both a curbstone (a type of stone structure that prevents the soil forming the tumulus from sliding down) and a stone railing (a rail-like stone structure that is used as a decoration for the tomb), but it is said that Jeongjo did not add the stone railing out of respect for his father, who would have felt stifled as he was dying in a confined space. This shows how deep his filial piety must have been when building the tomb.



Yunggeolleung, where Crown Princes Sado and Jeongjo are buried side by side, offering a glimpse into the royal tomb tradition of the Joseon Dynasty

Located at the entrance to Yunggeolleung is the Yungneung and Geolleung History & Culture Center, which provides cultural interpretation services for visitors to deepen their understanding of the Joseon culture and Yunggeolleung. Walking through the

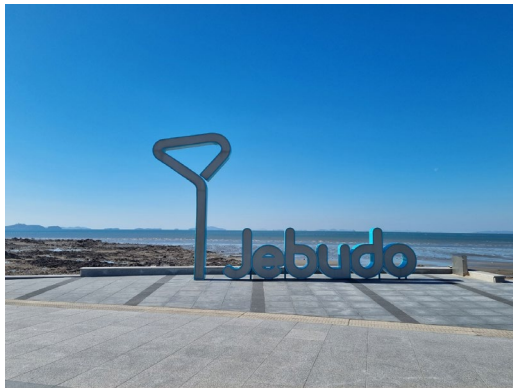
royal forest, the eternal resting ground of a king with a long history of royalty, and feeling the filial piety of a king who may have been the king of a nation but was only a son to his father, is a very special historical experience that you can enjoy in Hwaseong.

Jebudo Island: a mystical island where you can see the Korean version of Moses' miracles

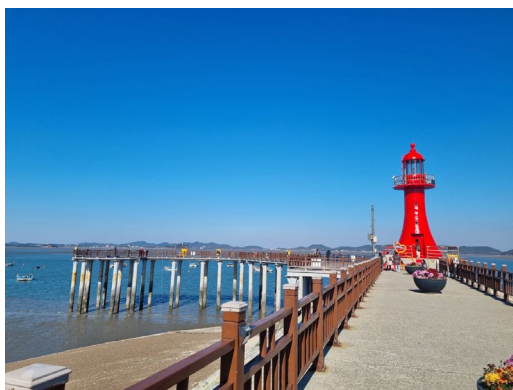
Hwaseong-si faces the Yellow Sea, and at its western end lies the mysterious Jebudo Island. It is a mysterious island where you can experience the so-called "Moses' crossing of the Red Sea," where the sea splits twice a day. The sea parts twice a day as the water recedes at low tide, giving way to a path. Thanks to the opening of the Jebu Marine Cable Car "Seohaerang" in 2021, it is now easy to reach Jebudo Island through the air across the sea. It takes just over an hour on foot to walk around the island, which is small enough to get up close and appreciate the colorful scenery of the Yellow Sea.

If you stroll along the path named "Jebiggorigil (Jebudo Coastal Trail)," you will see many sculptures that symbolize Jebudo Island, as well as the vast expanse of the Yellow Sea and the mudflats, which are known for their excellent ecological preservation. The red lighthouse on Jebudo Island is a photogenic landmark that had once been used as a guide for fishing boats. In addition, the beach with Maebawi Rock is known for its

stunning sunsets, and the golden glow of the sunset setting over the rocks is particularly impressive. During the day, you can also experience mudflats and go fishing to try your hand at catching Jebudo Island's specialty, manila clams. With such a variety of experiences, colorful natural wonders, and stunning landscapes and sculptures, Jebudo is an island of various charms. If you are traveling to Hwaseong-si, you should not miss Jebudo Island, which will take you on a mysterious and exciting journey as if you were exploring the planet Mars ("Hwaseong" in Korean).



The beautiful sea of Jebudo Island and the stunning view of the split sea resembling Moses' crossing of the Red Sea



Various sculptures installed along Jebiggorigil

Just like writer Nojak Hong Sa-Yong, whose literary talents span a wide range of genres, traveling to Hwaseong, a place that holds so many fascinating charms, is a unique experience akin to finding hidden treasures. The resonance of literature leads to a journey through history, and then to a mysterious island filled with traces of time. Hong Sa-Yong's efforts to lead the literary renaissance through his literary magazine, as well as his works, continue to serve as a lever for the power of Korean literature across generations. The trip to Hwaseong that brings together the precious legacy of Hong Sa-Yong, the equally precious history of Korea and its nature, will present you with memories to ruminate on for many years to come.

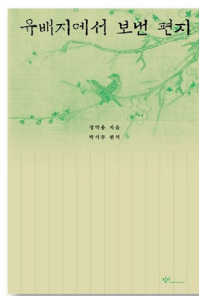
ONE-LINER QUOTES

Timeless Wisdom, Ageless Class**Music Critic's Pick**Written by Park Jun-Heum (Soundnetwork CEO)

Park Jun-Heum is a popular music critic and curator. Since 1997, he has been involved in popular music media, festivals, research, education, and publishing. He recently published an interview collection featuring Uhm In-Ho and Ahn Chi-Hwan in the series *Record of a Legend: The Artists Park Jun-Heum Met*.

The winter's cold and cloudy days are lingering on. Partly because of the weather, partly because of getting older, I think there is definitely a kind of depression that I have never experienced before. Maybe that's why old politicians are so obsessed with power to counteract it. And maybe that's the answer to the question, "What kind of wealth and honor do you expect at that age?"

It may have little to do with wealth or glory, but here are two books that embody the enduring wisdom forged only by those who persevere daily through hardships, along with the awe-inspiring freshness and grace of budding, youthful existence.



Letters From the Exile

Jeong Yak-Yong, Changbi

People living in this world should not be deterred from making a name for himself by the calamities of their past.

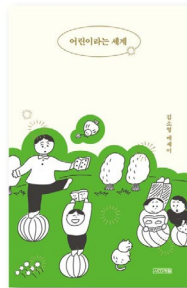


Letters From the Exile (Changbi Publishers) by Jeong Yak-Yong, famous to Koreans as the author of *Admonitions on Governing the People*, is a translation by Park Seok-Moo, chairman of the Dasan Research Institute, based on letters written by Dasan (茶山) Jeong Yak-Yong, a leading practical scholar of the late Joseon Dynasty, from exile, mainly to his sons. Since its first edition in 1979, it has remained a bestseller, beloved by readers for more than 40 years. As a result of his close association with Catholicism, which was banned at the time, Jeong Yak-Yong got involved in the Catholic Persecution of 1801 and was eventually exiled to Gangjin, Jeolla-do, where he lived in banishment for over 18 years.

Many men are slipshod, but few are wise and erudite in this world. Who will forsake the easily recognizable dignity or behavior to discern the unrecognizable loyalty? - from the book

You should know that areas that get the sun in the morning will shade quickly in the evening, and flowers that bloom early will wither sooner. When the wind is fierce, it never stops for a moment. People living in this world should not be deterred from making a name for himself by the calamities of their past. - from the book

I was in my mid-20s when I first read this book, and the phrases have stayed with me ever since.



The World of Children

Kim So-Young, Sakyejul Publishing Ltd.



I want to be a decent adult that protects the dignity of children.

Kim So-Young's essay *The World of Children* is a book published by Sakyejul Publishing, with the first edition released in November 2020. The author, who used to work as a children's

book editor, later wrote this essay about children whom we both know and don't know, based on her experiences reading books with children in a reading class. Just like the various children in this book, we have all been children at one time or another, and although our circumstances may have been different, we have all had our own struggles growing up. Looking back, children's lives and hearts have their own joys and sorrows, as well as their own shadows. Every chapter is both interesting and touching. The chapter titled "Children's Dignity" particularly stuck with me. It is because it is a value that I always take seriously. Yes. Dignity is important, even for children.

A child of about five or six years of age stood at the checkout counter with a book, presumably a coloring book, after arguing with his father. The father asks him to give him the book so that he can pay, but the child would just shake his head. (...) The older man at the counter, wearing an apron, looked into the child's eyes and said, "Would you like to pay separately?" And, the child nodded. (...) "Would you like me to put it in a separate bag?" he asked. The child said yes. (...) So, you never know how long a bookstore's courteous service will stick with a child. Still, it's important for them to experience it at least once. Besides, there was dignity in the way the man treated him.

(...) I would like to be a decent adult who protects the dignity of children. - from the book

I quote the last line the author wrote in the introduction of the book.

“Thank you for sharing a piece of your childhood with me.
It is my great honor to know you.”

KNOWLEDGE

A New Horizon for Korean Picture Book Culture

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Suncheon Picture Book Library

Written by Shin Chun-Woo (Director of Suncheon Picture Book Library)

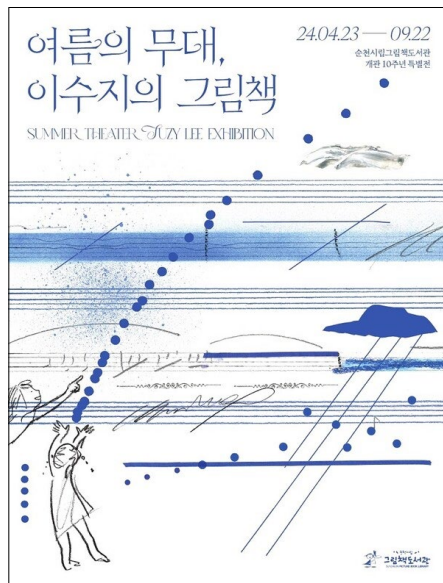
The Suncheon Picture Book Library, which opened in 2014, celebrated its 10th anniversary last year. As the only specialized center in Korea that regularly hosts exhibitions of picture book illustrations, it has been playing an important role in bringing the art of children's book illustration closer to readers by holding various programs related to picture books, not to mention hosting exhibitions of original works by major Korean and foreign picture book authors. The library also collects original works by picture book authors as part of collecting and passing on books to future generations. It currently owns 213 original works, including *The Story of Mount Baekdu* (Borim) by Ryu Je-Soo.



Outside view of Suncheon Picture Book Library

In April last year, a special exhibition was organized to celebrate the library's 10th anniversary, highlighting the representative works of Suzy Lee, a globally acclaimed author. The exhibition attracted more than 16,000 visitors from all over the country and provided a meaningful opportunity to enjoy picture book culture together. Also, until March this year, the library will be hosting a special exhibition of original artworks under the theme of "10 Years of Picture Book Library, 10 Years of Korean Picture Books." The exhibition will showcase the original illustrations of picture books collected by the Picture Book Library over the years, and highlight some of the most significant Korean picture books of the past decade.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 37 – Go to the interview with writer Suzy Lee
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=580&page=3&code=interview&category=66

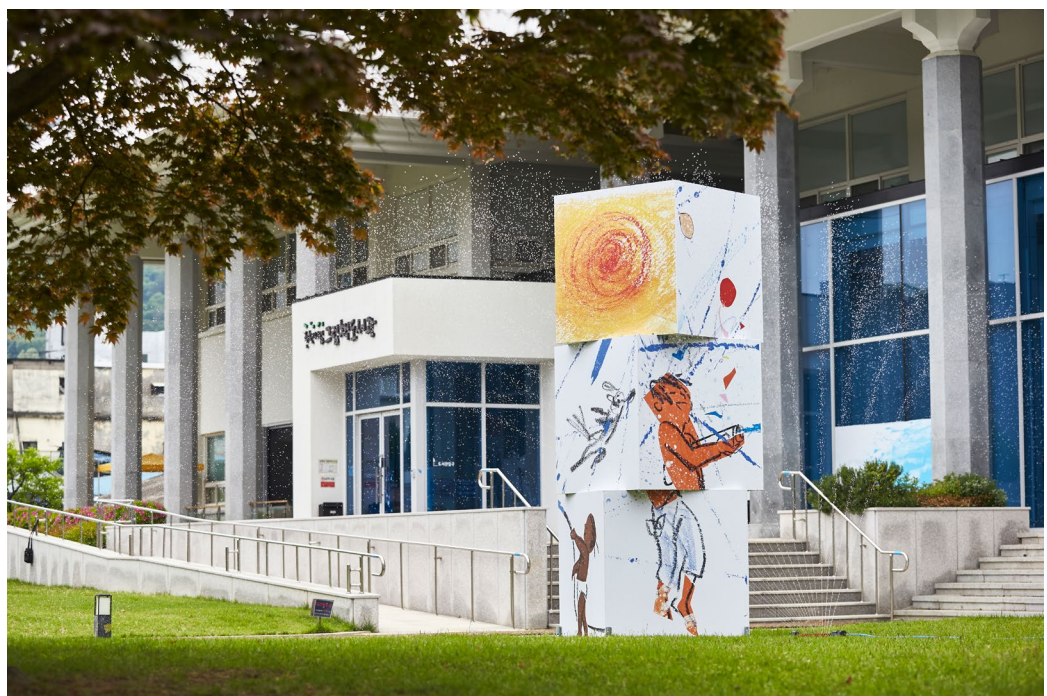


Posters of Suzy Lee's special exhibition and the "10 Years of Picture Book Library, 10 Years of Korean Picture Books" exhibition.

The Mecca of Picture Books, Embracing Art Beyond Books

The Suncheon Picture Book Library has a unique service structure: about 40% of its services are conventional library services, such as borrowing and returning books, and the remaining 60% is dedicated to the function of an art museum. The library organizes exhibitions of picture book authors two to three times a year, and it opens Picture Book School once a month where citizens and families can meet picture book authors. There are also picture book making classes for children and adults. During school vacations, picture book camps are organized, and in the fall, "Night Picnic" events are held where visitors can meet the author who won the Bologna Ragazzi Award that year. There are also various hands-on programs and puppet shows that tie in with the exhibition.

To bring together world-class authors, the library has created a basic framework for exhibition themes every year since its opening and established policies and criteria for purchasing original artworks. In addition to publishers' exhibitions, it has hosted exhibitions of domestic artists such as Ryu Je-Soo and Suzy Lee, as well as international artists such as Eric Carle and Anthony Browne. It has been described as “the mecca of picture books” for picture book authors, as it also exhibits overseas picture books from countries such as Poland and France. As such, the Picture Book Library serves as both a library and an art museum for local residents in areas with few art galleries and museums.



Suncheon Picture Book Library, where you can see structures related to author Suzy Lee are installed

In particular, the library hopes to be a catalyst for children to develop their imagination and creativity through exposure to and experience of artistic culture from an early age. The library also hopes to play a fundamental role in helping them grow up to be adults who visit art museums and enjoy art in their daily lives, and to become a space that contributes to the development of a healthy community with many citizens with positive influences.

A decade of art and inspiration, brimming with exhibitions, programs, and picture books

The exhibitions are held two to three times a year. The library strives to lead the Korean picture book culture by curating and operating a series of exhibitions, including the “Exhibition on Mid-career and Senior Picture Book Authors” to establish the history of Korean picture books, the “Exhibition on Discovering Young Authors” to introduce talented young authors through various themes of picture books and gauge the future of Korean picture books, and the “Exhibition on Overseas Picture Book Authors” to establish international exchanges and overseas picture book networks.

Furthermore, the library also runs collaborative programs such as puppet shows and exhibition docents. The puppet show is an exhibition-oriented program that tells the story of the exhibited book through puppetry. When a new exhibition is curated, directors are selected to create a puppet show based on the book

by the author of the exhibition. The directors write the script, plan the stage and music, and complete the production. The puppeteer volunteers from the Picture Book Library take on the roles and undergo intensive practice. The first performance takes place at the opening of the exhibition and continues until it ends, providing a rich cultural experience for visitors.

Exhibition docents are programs that help visitors better understand exhibited works. The artist or curator of the exhibition gives two to three training sessions to the docent volunteers about the content of the exhibition, so that they have time to fully understand the exhibition and the artworks. When the exhibition opens, docent volunteers explain the features and meaning of the exhibition and artworks to visitors as well as provide in-depth interpretation.



Inside views of the reading room at Suncheon Picture Book Library



Picture book theater and the exhibition room

Suncheon Picture Book Library has been committed to improving the quality of picture book libraries and maintaining sustainable operations over the past decade. Many people in the picture book industry and authors have recognized the value of the library and sent encouragement for its continued development, which is a great source of strength for the staff. This support will help the library to keep going for another 10 years. We plan to continue to expand the spaces in which we collaborate with picture book authors to develop Korean picture books. By doing so, we hope to spread the value of picture books to more people through various projects.

KOREAN PUBLISHERS

Noran Sangsang Books

Fostering imagination and critical thinking to broaden the world children dream of



The Korean and English logos of Noran Sangsang Books

Books are a valuable guide in everyone's life. For children, they are especially important as they are a magical tool that allows them to expand their thoughts and imagination. Noran Sangsang Books, which aims to empower children to think by fostering their imagination, has been making quality picture books that help them learn about social relationships and open their eyes to the world. Though small in size, Noran Sangsang Books

aspires to be big in its dreams, and is expanding an environment where children can grow up happily and healthily through the good influence of books. Following is an interview with Noran Sangsang Books, which publishes books that support children's growth, books that children can enjoy, and picture books that are both beautiful and artistic.

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

"Read with your heart, Noran Sangsang Books," is the main slogan that introduces our publishing house. It signifies our aim to make books that children can read with their hearts, not just skim through with their eyes, and thus develop their power of thinking. We believe that imagination is one of the most important factors for such books. So, we named our publishing house "Noran Sangsang," which means "yellow imagination" in Korean, to emphasize the color yellow, which symbolizes the world of children, and the power of imagination to protect their world.

You have published about 180 children's books since your foundation in 2010. Is there a particular reason for focusing on children's books, and what are your thoughts on the direction that children's books should take and the role they should play over the course of your business?

Our CEO used to work as a marketer for a publisher of social science books, and was responsible for introducing readers to books that played an important role during Korea's democratization movement. Then, when the German picture book *Der Schilderputzer*, published in Korea in 2000, and became a bestseller, he realized the power of picture books in conveying the true values of life to children through beautiful text and illustrations. So, when he started the publishing house in 2010, he decided to focus on translating and publishing high-quality picture books from abroad in Korea. Over time, he partnered with talented editors to increase the proportion of Korean picture books and fairy tales, and today, more than 80% of the books published annually are by Korean authors.

As we have always valued the relationship between books and society, we are still very interested in bringing social issues such as history, human rights, and the climate crisis into children's books. We see it as our calling to help children and adults develop a shared perspective on the world through books; however, it is equally important to us to publish books that support children's growth, books that children can enjoy, and books that are both beautiful and artistic.

Having been a specialized children's book publisher for over 15 years, how do you think the market has changed, and how do you see Noran Sangsang Books' competitiveness in the face of the growing influence of K-picture books in children's literature in general?

Until the early 2000s, Korea's children's book market had been on a steady upward trajectory as the baby boomers, or democratization generation, became parents. As good picture books from abroad poured into Korea, readers' standards and the creative capacity of Korean authors rose along with them. Unfortunately, since the 2010s, when our publishing house was founded, the market has been deteriorating as a result of a declining birth rate and a shift to digital culture, even though Korea continues to produce world-class authors. But, thanks to the efforts of teachers and reading activists who seek to introduce meaningful books to children, and the emergence of adult readers that enjoy picture books, there's now an environment in which picture books with diverse themes and subjects, experimental picture books that try new formats and grammars, and picture books that value artistic quality are highly appreciated. We believe that our picture books are well suited to these needs, have a growing audience of enthusiastic readers, and have the elements to be widely recognized in the global market.

The book *Sewol 1994-2014* won the special prize at the 2024 Korea Picture Book Award. Can you tell us a bit about the book?

This is a picture book published to mark the 10th year since the Sewol ferry tragedy in 2014, which claimed 304 precious lives. Most of the victims were high school students on a school trip, making the tragedy even more traumatic for Korean society. While some people argue that we should stop talking about it because it was just an unfortunate accident, many more see it as a tragedy that reflects the darker side of Korea's developed society. We need to constantly remind ourselves of why this happened and how we can prevent such tragedies in the future in order to create a more mature society. It is also important to educate children about the causes and consequences of the tragedy. This book is a picture book written and illustrated by Moon Eun-A and Park Kun-Woong, who are determined to do just that. The book was lucky enough to receive the support and empathy of many readers through the Book Fund, and was awarded a special prize at the Korea Picture Book Award and shortlisted for the Korea Book Awards. We hope that such support will bring great solace to the bereaved families and survivors of the tragedy.

* K-Book Trends Vol. 76 – Go to the article about the 2024 Korea Picture Book Award
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/info.php?ptype=view&idx=1486&page=1&code=info&category=75



Sewol 1994-2014

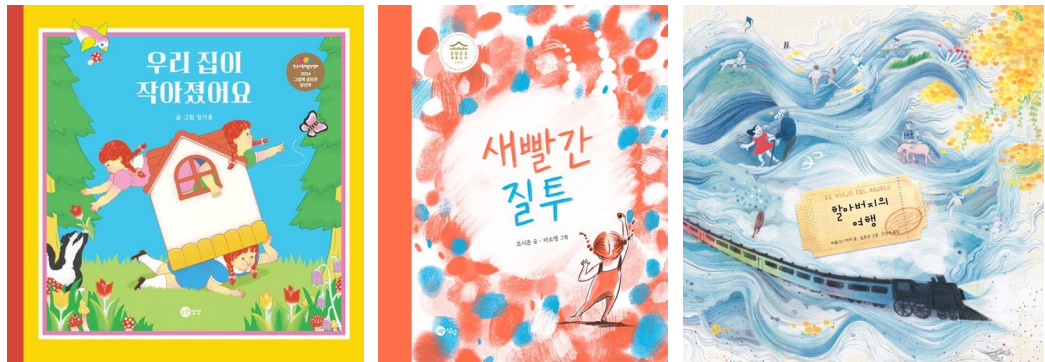
What are some other books published by Noran Sangsang Books that you think would resonate with children abroad and inspire their imagination?

The Mini House, written and illustrated by Kayoi, is about three red-haired sisters who are perplexed when their precious home gets smaller and smaller, but have fun playing with an even smaller house. The growth of children and the playful spirit are captured within fantastic illustrations.

The Red Jealousy is a book written by Jo Si-On and illustrated by Lee So-Yung that tells the story of “Red,” who used to be popular in the winter, becomes extremely jealous of “Blue” as summer approaches. When Red gets tired of trying to erase Blue’s traces and sheds tears, it realizes that its tears are blue, and comes to a great enlightenment. The use of colors to symbolize the emotion

of jealousy is very refreshing.

Grandfather's Journey is a picture book by Chilean author Paulina Hara Straussmann and Korean illustrator Yim Myo. The poem, which describes a granddaughter's sadness at losing her beloved grandfather through a train journey filled with nostalgia and memories, is paired with beautiful, fantastical illustrations.



The Mini House; The Red Jealousy; Grandfather's Journey

The role of children's books cannot be overemphasized, given their very targeted audience and the impact they have on children's reading habits, thinking, creativity and more. What values does Noran Sangsang Books prioritize in its approach to publishing books?

We believe that good books, whether written for children or adults, contribute to some level of change or growth in readers. Someone once said that a book isn't worth reading unless it "slaps you in the back of the head" - but we hope that the books we make will make at least a small impact on a child's mind, even if it might not be a dramatic change. Perhaps the books we make will go beyond just imparting knowledge, and influence a child's

values, attitudes toward people, and aesthetics in a much broader way. So, we pay attention to a lot of things to make sure that our books are well written and well illustrated, but especially to make sure that even the smallest things in the text and illustrations don't hurt minorities, and that there are no stereotypes and prejudices.

You have been very active in book reviews (독후활동지) and participating in various book fairs. What are some of the concrete outcomes of these activities that have helped you communicate with readers and promote Noran Sangsang Books' books?

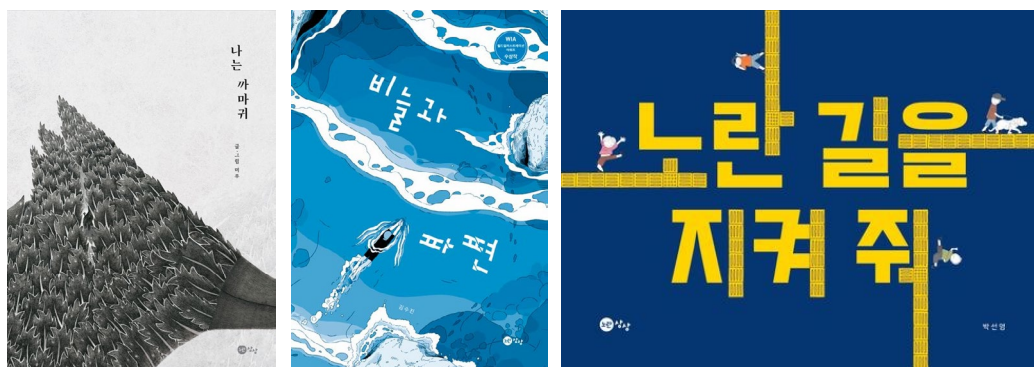
As a small publishing house for many years, we have always valued in-person interaction with our readers, which is something a small publisher can do. We participate in nearly 10 book-related events a year, not only big events like the Seoul International Book Fair and Educare & Kids Fair, but also small and large events in local cities. As a result, it is quite common for people such as bookstore representatives and authors living in non-metropolitan areas to see our books in person and express their affection for them. We feel proud the most when children run up to us excited to see a book they enjoyed reading at home or school. We want to be a friendly, neighborly publisher, not a large, distant company. Sometimes we have authors who send us manuscripts after seeing how passionate we are about reaching out to readers.

Children's books are a very diverse field with a lot to consider, not only in terms of content, but also in terms of format, color, and illustration. What are some of the most important things you look for when planning a book, and could you tell us about some of the books you have published that stood out in particular?

While there are some standardized criteria that we apply to all works when considering whether to publish a book, we think what we look for is largely dependent on the nature of the work. Because we are essentially a commercial publisher, we check whether there is something that will appeal to a wide audience of children and adult readers, such as parents, caregivers, and teachers. It could be a unique imagination captured in the story or illustrations, a moving and meaningful theme, or beautiful images. In some cases, we choose books that we can publish just because we are Noran Sangsang Books, though the projected sales may not be high.

Written and illustrated by Miu, *Crow* tells the story of a crow that was trapped by the stereotypes of the world and unable to live as itself, but is reborn by listening to its inner voice, by using the words of Yeonam Park Chi-Won, a scholar of the Joseon Dynasty, as a starting point. The black-and-white images, drawn and scratched with a pen, may give off a rather gloomy vibe, but the book was chosen for the White Ravens List organized by the International Youth Library (IYL) in Germany for its potential to inspire discussions among children and adults alike.

Scales and Shards is a graphic novel written and illustrated by Kim Soo-Jin, which reveals how the clear, refreshing midsummer sea is now devastated by marine debris and overfishing. The striking, textless images made up entirely of blue and dark ink colors were recognized at the World Illustration Awards by the Association of Illustrators (AOI), which praised the young author's bold experimentation spirit, leading to publication. It was also recently selected as an outstanding environmental book by an environmental organization.



Crow; *Scales and Shards*; *Follow the Yellow Braille Road*

Follow the Yellow Braille Road, written and illustrated by Park Sun-Young, is a picture book about braille blocks for the visually impaired. While they play an important role in guaranteeing the right to mobility for the visually impaired, they are often not properly connected or have other objects placed on them, hampering their walk. In this book, three bored boys follow a yellow road and play all sorts of imaginative games, inspiring readers to think about the importance of safe and accessible roads for all. By applying braille blocks to the Korean typography

on the cover, we wanted to keep the subject of the book on point while still appealing to children.

Noran Sangsang Books continue to advance in the picture book market with its specialized capabilities. Please tell us about the direction that Noran Sangsang Books is taking, helping children to dream and develop the habit of familiarizing themselves with books.

We want to be a publishing house that values “children’s imagination” just like our name. To do that, it’s important to collaborate with imaginative writers, but it’s also important to provide them with a big, wide-open stage to showcase their talents. At Noran Sangsang Books, a small team of two editors, one designer, and two marketers are working together to provide a better stage for our writers. We will continue to strive to make high-quality, resonant books that children can enjoy for years to come.

KOREAN AUTHORS

Writer Kim Dong-Sic

Inspiring reader empathy and bringing a fresh breeze to the literary world

Just as the world is becoming more diverse, so are the paths to the literary world. In the past, writing contests were considered the prime gateway to becoming a writer, but a growing number of people are now becoming writers by gaining public attention for their talent and passion for writing. This is especially the case among the younger generation. A prime example is writer Kim Dong-sic, who gained attention by posting short stories with exceptional imagination and entertaining content on online communities. Praised as a “genius,” he has since solidified his unique literary world through consistent writing novels.



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

Hello, everyone! It's my pleasure to be meeting you through this interview. I'm Kim Dong-Sic, and I write flash fiction collections like *The Grey Man* (Yoda).

You went from writing on a horror forum in an online community in 2016 to becoming a full-time writer, publishing books. How did you go from doing something completely different to writing?

I started working early in life, so I never had a dream. I just worked to make ends meet, which paradoxically left me with time. If I had a dream or goal, I would have devoted my time and

passion to it, but since I didn't have one, I had to kill time with whatever I could find. One of the things I found while looking for fun things to do was reading scary stories on an online forum. It was a forum where anyone could upload their stories, and I got the urge to write one as I read through some of them. I had a lot of daydreams while I was working at the factory. So, I wrote one without much thought, and voila, I got comments! I was shocked by the comments that said, "Nice story, it's interesting." It felt rewarding, and I felt proud and acknowledged. That day, I became addicted to comments, and I began writing just to get those comments.

You have a unique background and an unconventional entrance into the world of writing. You are often labeled as the "hidden maestro of fiction" and even a "born genius." What is it like to be a writer, and what do you think makes your online popularity translate to printed books?

The first thing I thought when I became a writer was, "Am I allowed to have this sweet life?" The life of a writer is incredibly blissful. Ten years in the factory were a forced cycle of waking up every morning and thinking, "Here comes another boring day," whereas the life of a writer is one of freedom: you wake up when you want, you work when you want, no one interferes, no one tells you what to do, you can take breaks, and you even enjoy your work. I don't know of any other job that makes me happier.

That's why I hope this life stays this way.

Luckily, it's still ongoing, and I think it's for two main reasons: consistency and communication. I used to write a story almost every three days when I was serializing stories on the web, and I'm still writing consistently, even though the platform has shifted to newspapers, magazines, and specialized platforms. I have never stopped writing. I'm also always out and about communicating with readers, and I think that's a big part of what keeps my stories from being forgotten.

You are often referred to as a "super short story writer." You have written many short stories with great concentration, and your works are often described as unique and fresh, featuring many unrealistic subjects. From your own perspective, what do you think are the most significant characteristics of your stories?

I think the most significant characteristic is the creative imagination. I may not have great sentence structure or depth, but my imagination is absolutely immense. So, my stories might be a little disjointed and childish, but people who like that really love them. You know, you can make a living by being good at one thing these days. I think I have met the right time.

So, if you ask me how I get my imagination flowing, I write with one mindset: "The audience knows what I know. If I write something I don't know, the audience won't know it either." For example, if I want to write about zombies, I think of all the

zombies I know, and I eliminate them first. Then, I remove the ones that I think might have been similar, and then I come up with my own setting, which is a battle between two forces: those that are human by day and zombies by night, and those that are zombies by night and humans by day.

You are not only writing prolifically, but you are also giving more than 200 lectures a year. It seems that you have become a role model for aspiring writers, especially since you are known for breaking the traditional rules. What do you think are the most important elements of fiction writing, and what do you highlight most in your speeches?

I think the most important thing in writing fiction is the habit of completion. Even if you are bad at writing, you have to at least finish it - I don't think having dozens of incomplete stories will help. You have to feel the sense of accomplishment that comes with completion to keep you motivated to write. It's natural that you don't write well the first time, so don't get stuck trying to write perfectly, but rather build up your collection of completed pieces. That will be the shortcut.

The biggest thing I emphasize in my lectures is connection with people, which is probably because I originally sprang from the internet. I use myself as an example to show that communication skills are more important than ever these days.

Your book, *The Grey Man*, recently released its 100th anniversary edition and has been a huge hit with readers. Could you tell us a little bit about *The Grey Man* and what you think is the secret to its popularity? And, are there any other books you are particularly fond of?

The Grey Man is a compilation of some of my earliest stories that were serialized on the internet. The stories are mostly about human beings thrown into dystopian situations. They were written during a time when my writing skills in Korean were still developing, so the grammar might feel a bit raw or simple—but that also gives them a certain purity. They have a sharp, edgy rawness. The rawness of someone who had a life outside of writing. I wonder if that's the secret of its popularity.



The Grey Man, a special edition commemorating its 100th print, and *A Life Museum*

Another favorite book of mine is a collection of short stories titled *A Life Museum* (Yoda). While almost all of my books are about the dark side of humanity, *A Life Museum* goes against my usual tendencies and is filled with all the good things about humanity. Stories that moved me as I wrote them.

You published a collection of essays titled *I Thought Life Was Colorless* (Yoda) in 2024, and we heard that you have plans to write a full-length novel as well. It seems like you are expanding the scope of your work - could you tell us a bit about that?

I Thought Life Was Colorless is the first essay I ever attempted. I had never written about myself before. Neither did I think I could write an essay, nor did I think my stories were interesting in any way. But readers have told me they are curious about me - some even wanted to crack open my head and take a peek inside. However, my fear of essays held me back, and then I recently fell into a “I want to show you a new side of me” mood. So, I gave it a try, and I found it unexpectedly satisfying. I actually found writing it fun, to be honest.

Full-length novels are another new thing I need to try, but I’m not quite there yet, so medium-length novels are my first goal. Now that I have written a full-length, serialized junior novel, *Space School* (School Library Journal), maybe one day I will be able to pull off a full-length novel.



I Thought Life Was Colorless: Space School

How are you handling the challenges and slumps that come with being a full-time writer?

I don't think I have any worries or problems yet, because my life as a full-time writer is purely satisfying, haha. Perhaps it's because I don't have any "duties," "burdens," or "responsibilities" in my life as a writer. I don't write with any goals in mind, I just write to enjoy the moment, so I work very relaxed. Maybe that's why I don't have any worries, but I still have slumps - comments have informed me. They said that a story was less fun than before. When I thought about the reason, I realized that I was thinking too lightly about the importance of "writing." When I was working in a factory, I was so desperate for time to write, but now that I'm a full-time writer, I can write whenever I want. So, the way to get through this slump is a new mindset, but it's not easy. I mean, I can't go back to the factory. So, I'm trying to

take as much time as possible to think and organize my thoughts before I write, instead of just writing when the urge hits me. It seems to be working.

Your short story collections have been published in countries such as Japan, Russia, China, and Taiwan. The shortness of your stories is often said to make them more accessible to international readers. What are some of the things you would like international readers to remember when reading your stories? Also, if there are any of your works that you would like to see introduced overseas in the future, what would they be and why?

I personally think that my stories are like a snack. They are short for a light read, and their genre-specific imagination makes them spicy. So, please don't read my stories seriously - read them like you would pick up a snack, relax, and don't read too much at once, or you will get sick of them easily.

As a happy writer, I would like to be someone that comes to mind from time to time. And, if you ever find yourself hooked on my style, I would love to recommend *A Life Museum*, because it would be awesome to get a reaction like, "Oh, this author writes stuff like this, too?"



It has been eight years since your debut in 2018. Now that you have established yourself as a writer with a fandom, please tell us about your plans and goals for the future.

I'm just so happy right now - so if staying this way is the plan, then that's the plan. However, nothing in this world lasts forever, and if that's a natural part of the passage of time, I will accept it, but I don't want to be forgotten for not making an effort. So, I will continue to write actively and vigorously. Rather than setting any goals, I will do what I can right now. "If there's no reason not to do it, do it" - this is how I have been living these days.

LET'S TRY

Emergency Rescue: A How-To Guide for All!

Event

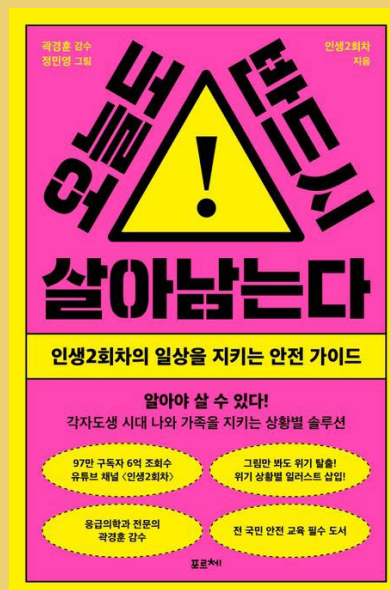
Let's Try introduces various useful, practical books published in Korea every month.

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!

Today, I Must Survive


- Written by 2nd Life, published by Porche



Everyone faces an emergency at some point in their lives!
Knowing how to react is the only way to survive it.

1
교통수단

급발진 차에서 살아 나오는 방법



차가 급발진하는 순간, 세 가지만 기억하세요.

첫째, 가장 중요한 것은 브레이크 밟는 방법입니다. 브레이크를 나눠서 밟으면 절대 안 됩니다. 온 힘을 다해 세게 밟아서 브레이크의 압력이 제대로 전달 되도록 하는 것이 중요합니다. 이때 브레이크가 굳는 현상이 발생하기도 하는데, 두 발로 제동을 실어서 힘껏 밟아 주어야 합니다.

둘째, 기어를 중립(N)으로 놓아 엔진에서 바뀌고 이어지는 동력을 차단하세요. 기어를 주차(P)로 변환하면 핸들이 잠겨 바뀔 수 있습니다.


셋째, 사이드 브레이크를 활용하세요. 바튼이라면 당기면 되고, 레버라면 끊어서 올려야 차가 미끄러지지 않습니다. 여기까지 해도 차가 멈추지 않는다면 최후의 수단은 중앙 분리대나 가드레일 옆을 끊으면서 속도를 서서히 낮추는 것입니다.

응급의학과 전문의 Tip
전봇대, 가로수, 가로등과 같은 수직 구조물에 부딪히면 에너지가 집중되어 치명적인 손상을 일으킬 수 있으므로 최대한 피해야 합니다.

13

1
교통수단

물에 빠진 차에서 탈출하는 방법



차가 물에 잠기는 순간 수압 때문에 절대 문을 열 수 없습니다. 전력이 차단돼서 창문도 내리가지 않죠. 물에 빠진 차에서 살아남기 위해 세 가지 단계를 꼭 기억하세요.

1단계, 차가 기울어지는 방향의 반대편으로 이동해서 공간과 산소를 확보하세요.

2단계, 머리 받침대를 뺐아 창문을 깨뜨리세요. 창문은 옆 유리가 가장 약하며, 힘이 모이는 중앙이 아닌 가장자리를 있는 힘껏 내리쳐야 합니다.

3단계, 만약 창문 깨기에 실패했다면 해도 탈출할 수 있는 마지막 기회가 남았습니다.

차가 물에 더 잠기기를 기다리세요. 차 밖과 안의 수위 차이가 30cm 이내로 줄었을 때가 기회입니다. 온 힘을 다해 문을 밀치고 탈출하세요. (비상 망치를 미리 차 안에 구비해 두는 것이 가장 좋습니다.)

응급의학과 전문의 Tip
차량 바닥에 배터리가 집중 배치된 전기차의 경우, 폭우 시 운전석 상가야 합니다.

17

Throughout life, we all face unexpected situations when we least expect it. Think about it: your car is swamped in a rainy season flood, you get locked out of the bathroom, or the elevator suddenly drops. It's a nerve-wracking scenario, but it

could happen to anyone. So, how prepared are we to deal with these unexpected emergencies? If the thought of it makes your head spin, here is a book that will practically help you survive. *Today, I Must Survive* is the first book by “2nd Life,” a one-million YouTuber who shares useful tips for everyday life, such as safety, survival, and daily living. This book also features illustrations to help you better understand the various dangerous situations as well as tips from emergency medicine specialists, making it both practical and professional. A terrible situation may happen to you, your family, your friends, or your neighbors! Stay healthy and safe with *Today, I Must Survive* as your trusted guide.

[Go To Article](#)

www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/event.php?ptype=view&idx=1536&code=knowledge&category=67

I READ

A Magical Girl Retires by Park Seolyeon

Written by Larashati Laras (Reader of *K-Book Trends*)

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

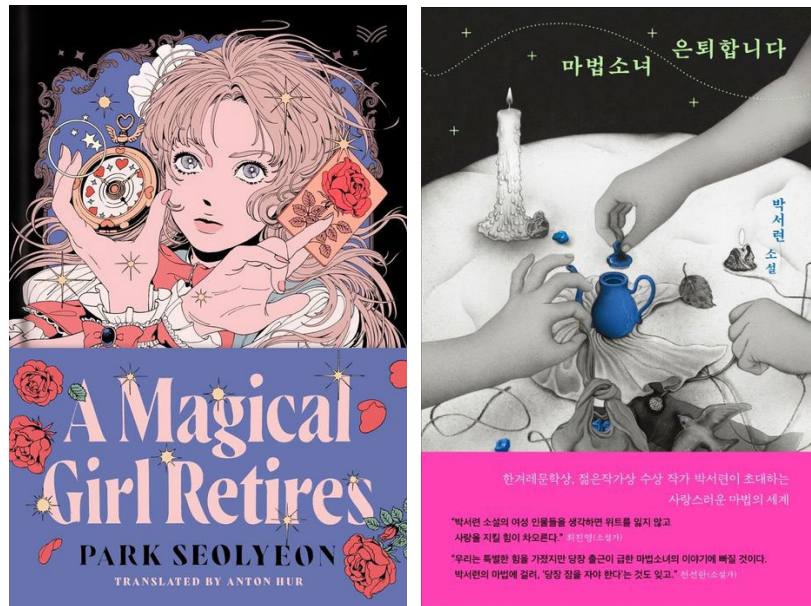
“They say great power comes with great responsibility. There are many complicated things happening to magical girls.” - *A Magical Girl Retires*, p.17

A Magical Girl Retires (Changbi) is a contemporary fantasy novel that combines the nostalgic charm of magical girl stories with raw, real-world struggles. Written by Park Seolyeon, it offers

a refreshing take on the genre, exploring themes of identity, adulthood, and purpose through the lens of a magical girl navigating her late 20s.

The story follows a former magical girl who, instead of wielding a traditional wand, uses her credit card as her magical tool—an amusing yet poignant metaphor for modern life. She battles not just villains but larger, systemic problems like climate change and capitalism. Her struggles with burnout, debt, and self-doubt resonate deeply, reflecting the challenges many millennials face today. These elements ground the story in relatable issues, offering a heartfelt exploration of personal growth and resilience. One of the novel's highlights is its clever commentary on the absurdities of being a magical girl. From a humorous talisman to a field trip that trains magical girls in transformation techniques, the story balances whimsy with sharp social critique. Yet, it also delves into darker, more serious issues such as mental health, climate disaster, and the weight of responsibility. The protagonist's journey is both entertaining and thought-provoking, making readers reflect on their own struggles and aspirations.

The protagonist's relationship with her grandfather adds emotional depth to the story. Feeling like she's failed him and herself, she grapples with dashed dreams and mounting debt—problems that will feel all too familiar to many readers. Despite these challenges, her growth throughout the novel is inspiring, as she learns to reconcile her past as a magical hero with her present reality.



English and Korean covers of *A Magical Girl Retires*

The book also touches on broader societal issues, particularly those affecting Korean women, such as domestic violence and systemic inequality. By integrating fantasy elements, the novel empowers its characters and readers alike, while serving as a grim reminder of the world's challenges. The antagonist's portrayal and backstory further emphasize these struggles, making the story universally relatable while maintaining its cultural specificity.

At just 160 pages, the book is a quick yet impactful read. Kim Sanho's dreamy illustrations add a visual charm that powers the story's magical atmosphere. However, some readers may find the narrative style or pacing less engaging, particularly if they lack familiarity with the magical girl genre it references. Despite this, the novel's unique blend of fantasy and real-world issues makes it a standout.

Ultimately, *A Magical Girl Retires* is a heartfelt, imaginative story that reimagines classic fantasy tropes while addressing deeply personal and universal challenges. It's a tale of finding meaning and hope in a world that often feels overwhelming. Perfect for fans of magical fantasy and those seeking relatable, thought-provoking narratives, this novel will leave readers feeling seen, inspired, and eager to explore their own magical potential.

NEW BOOKS

Adult Happiness is Quiet



If you are feeling drained
and far from happiness,
pick up this book right now.

ADULT HAPPINESS IS QUIET

Wanting to live a happy life is
a very basic human desire.



However, if you only chase
happiness, you will sometimes
feel that your life is becoming
increasingly tiring.

Depression, insomnia,
and burnout -

ask yourself if any of these are
what you are experiencing.



The book, *Adult Happiness is Quiet*,
encourages you, having become
so used to unhappiness,

to develop a strong
“defense against unhappiness”
rather than clinging to happiness.

“

Hey, I thought the last one
to laugh was the one who lived
a good life. But, it turns out
that the one who laughs often is
the one who lived the good life.

”

- from the book -

Adult Happiness is Quiet
offers 58 solutions for

a rock-solid approach to living
an unwavering life, in the midst of
a tumultuous world!

Physical strength to be nice and
kind to others, the ability to sleep well,
and living like a happy fool...

Aren't these the things you
have truly wanted all along
- to become happy in
silence as a grown-up?

Advice for modern people who are needlessly
unhappy and too complicatedly happy!



ADULT HAPPINESS IS QUIET

Taesoo, Page 2 Books

BEST SELLERS

1st Week, December 2024

Best seller Trends in the Three Biggest Online Bookstores in Korea

The first week of December marks a time to stand at the year's end and reflect on the time that has passed. It's also a good time to curl up with a nice book, review the year, and prepare for the new year ahead. In Korea, the excitement over Han Kang's Nobel Prize in Literature has yet to fade. Readers continued to celebrate Han's award this month, and the reading fever has never stopped. The book, *Trend Korea 2025*, which came in at No. 4 despite the competition with Han's works, has been on the best seller list since its publication, showing readers' interest in new year trends.

Meanwhile, *Happy Birthday*, which came in at No. 8, is a book by Baek Hee-Na, winner of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, which is regarded as the Nobel Prize for children's literature. It is a picture book that tells an extraordinary story of realizing the power of taking care of oneself - the magic of the ordinary. The

No. 10 title, *Adult Happiness is Quiet*, is an essay that sends a heartwarming message to modern people weary of life. Through 58 life stories about wise happiness—living one’s own life unfazed by a noisy world—it provides a calming way to close out the year and prepare for the new one.




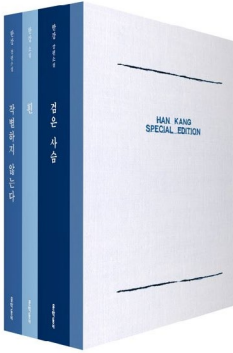
* *K-Book Trends Vol. 26 – Go to the interview with writer Baek Hee-Na*
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=550&page=4&code=interview&category=66

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 78 – Introduction of Adult Happiness is Quiet*
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/info.php?ptype=view&idx=1534&code=info&category=69

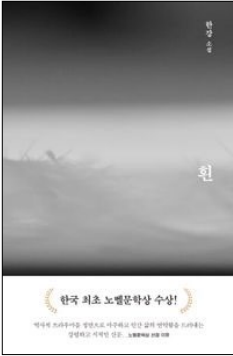
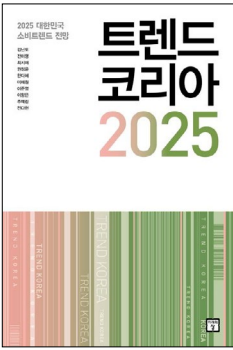

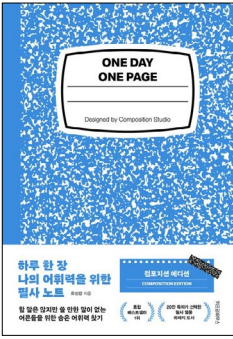
The end and beginning of the year is a time when self-help books become more popular than ever. This is because we all need time to introspect, better ourselves, and lead better lives. At the top of the best seller list in this category was *Work and Sense* by Cho Soo-Yong. The author, who was in charge of brand marketing and design at NAVER and co-CEO of Kakao, explores the delicate “sense” of a “working” person through his essays. Also, *Kim Mi-Kyung’s Deep Mind*, by No. 5, is a book by mind mentor Kim Mi-Kyung that reveals the essence of life and new insights for those who have lived hard but are suffering from emptiness and burnout. Tied for the fifth spot, *The Classics Become a Weapon of Life* is a book that is fueling the classics frenzy, encouraging readers to seek answers to life through the classics.

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

Top 10 best sellers for the 1st week of December

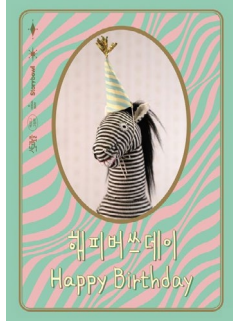
1		<p><i>Human Acts</i></p> <p>Author Han Kang Publisher Changbi Publishers Genre Fiction</p>
2		<p><i>The Vegetarian</i></p> <p>Author Han Kang Publisher Changbi Publishers Genre Fiction</p>
2		<p><i>We Do Not Part</i></p> <p>Author Han Kang Publisher Munhakhdongne Genre Fiction</p>
4		<p><i>Han Kang: Special Edition</i></p> <p>Author Han Kang Publisher Munhakhdongne Genre Fiction</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 1st week of December

4		<p><i>The White Book</i></p> <p>Author Han Kang Publisher Munhakdongne Genre Fiction</p>
4		<p><i>Trend Korea 2025</i></p> <p>Author Kim Nan-Do Publisher Mirae Books Genre Business</p>
7		<p><i>I Put the Evening in the Drawer</i></p> <p>Author Han Kang Publisher Moonji Books Genre Poetry</p>
8		<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 December

8



Happy Birthday

Author | Baek Hee-Na
Publisher | Story Bowl
Genre | Children's Books

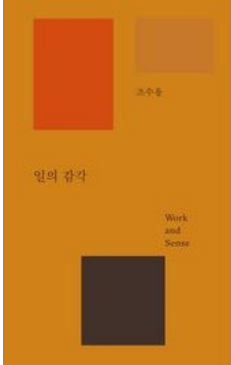
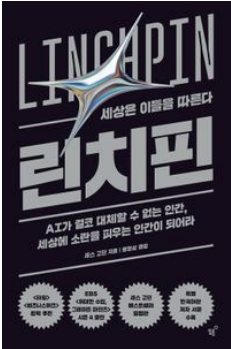


10



Adult Happiness is Quiet

Author | Taesoo
Publisher | Page 2 Books
Genre | Poetry / Non-fiction

Top 5 self-help books for the 1st week of December

<p>1</p>		<p><u>Work and Sense</u></p> <p>Author Cho Soo-Yong Publisher REFERENCE BY B</p>
<p>2</p>		<p><u>Linchpin: Are You Indispensable?</u></p> <p>Author Seth Godin Publisher Feelm</p>
<p>3</p>		<p><u>Be Your Future Self Now (special edition commemorating 300 thousand copies sold)</u></p> <p>Author Benjamin Hardy Publisher Sangsang Square</p>
<p>4</p>		<p><u>Unstoppable</u></p> <p>Author Brian Tracy Publisher Hyundae Jisung</p>

Top 5 self-help books for the 1st week of December

5



Kim Mi-Kyung's Deep Mind

Author | Kim Mi-Kyung
 Publisher | Awake Books

5



The Classics Become a Weapon of Life

Author | Ko Myung-Hwan
 Publisher | Lagom Book

#K-BOOK

#Family

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

My Beautiful Grandma

1. Publication Details

Title | My Beautiful Grandma
 Author | Sim Yun Kyung
 Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.
 Publication Date | 2022-08-19
 ISBN | 9791160949643
 No. of pages | 224
 Dimensions | 121 * 188



2. Book Intro

The writer, Shim Yun Kyung, who has been beloved by many readers for her work, ‘*My Beautiful Garden*’, and ‘*Seol-Yi*’, has finally published her first essay. She said that the model of good adults in her novels are all ‘grandmas’. This book is filled with what the main character, Grandma, realized while raising her children and how she loved them. Her wise parenting approach filled the small soul with quiet love, which the small soul couldn’t even notice. This would be a good guide for most parents these days, who failed to try hard to give their children too many things.

Not as a novel writer, but as an ordinary person, the writer, Shim Yun Kyung, is equipped with her unique wit and humor. She provides her own stories in an honest and vivid way. She showed the love realized while taking care of children, the depression she has felt as a middle-aged woman and a novelist, and finally shared the story of family and friends. By doing so, she provides readers with the opportunity to get closer to the writer herself. Furthermore, she also reminds us

of our own grandmas in our hearts and teaches us how to love ourselves as our grandmas used to love us.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=7438

Instructions on How to Use Your Parents

1. Publication Details

Title | Instructions on How to Use Your Parents

Author | Jung Jiwoo

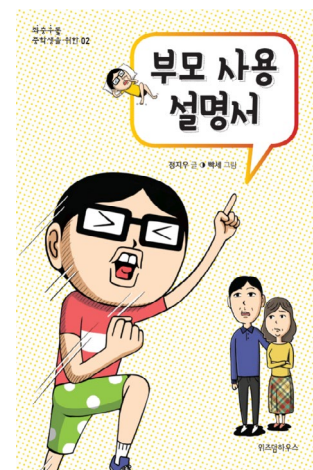
Publisher | Wisdom House, Inc

Publication Date | 2017-11-27

ISBN | 9791162201138

No. of pages | 100

Dimensions | 135 * 205



2. Book Intro

We know how to use everything: We know how to use our legs to walk, we know how to make friends using words and we know how to use our mobile phones to play games. What we need to know is how to use our thoughts, feelings and words, not just the objects around us and our bodies. It must be strange to live around other people if you don't know how to treat or use them. In particular, if you don't know how to use your parents, whom you meet every single day, you will feel like you're living with bricks. The term "use" in this book only means to bring out the best in one another. It's best to consider this book's true purpose as an instruction manual for living a good, happy life together by using yourself and your parents. Now, let's jump into the world of using parents.

After reading this book, adolescent readers will be able to understand themselves and their parents and realize that, as part of a team that also includes their parents, they have to be responsible for the family atmosphere as well. They will get to learn basic and intense methods of using parent, as well as various detailed secrets. The key to parent using, according to this book, is "understanding" and "words." Language is very important in all relationships. Just like when you have to use words first and keep on talking if you want to become friends, you need to get close to your parents if you want to use them.

The author interviewed numerous teenagers, school parents and teachers. He heard about many worries of youths as well as the hardships of the school parents. Many parents said that they had no idea what their children were thinking. This book is filled with abundant contents that teenagers and their parents can identify with, in terms of humanities.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1647

The Space between Mother and Daughter

1. Publication Details

Title | The Space between Mother and Daughter

Author | Kim Jiyoun

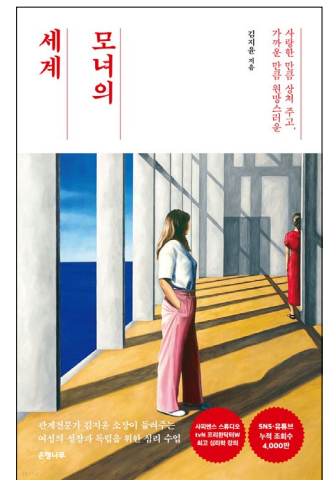
Publisher | EunHaeng NaMu Publishing Co., Ltd.

Publication Date | 2021-11-10

ISBN | 9791167370945

No. of pages | 280

Dimensions | 135 * 210



2. Book Intro

Kim Jiyoun, a relationship expert who has been loved by many for her deep empathy, insight, honesty and pleasantness, has reached out to readers this time with *The Space Between Mother and Daughter*, a book on the relationship and conflicts between a mother and her daughter. The relationship of a mother and daughter is the closest in the world, so at first glance, it seems peaceful. But the world of these two women is one where they hurt each other despite loving each other, they are affectionate yet frustrated, and grateful yet resentful. Simply put, it is a delicate and complicated world intertwined with love and hatred. The mother-daughter relationship dominates the entire lives of the two people, mother and daughter, but it particularly has a significant influence on how the daughter dates, marries, raises her children, and engages in human relationships. So, when they have trouble in this relationship, it manifests itself as various life problems. In this book, the writer confesses how she unexpectedly encountered her relationship with her late mother while searching for the cause of severe insomnia from which she had suffered since having a midlife crisis. She explores the relationship with her mother, which had started off on the wrong foot, and into the general emotional emptiness that sprouted from that relationship. This experience later drew her to the general mother-daughter relationship and led to her insights on how the mother-daughter conflicts were expressed in Korean sentiment and culture. The writer diagnoses a wide range of problems that commonly exists between a mother and daughter: from the mother's illusion that her daughter would naturally stand in solidarity with her just because she also is a woman and the invisible violence this exerts, to bad communication methods, such as the mother's double entendre, which confuses the daughter, and the gaslighting that is tacitly conducted, and finally how all this is then repeated and passed down to the daughter's daughter (son). She also presents clear solutions to resolve such problems, like keeping a certain distance between mother and daughter ways for them to become independent so that they both can be healthy and ways to communicate emotions. The book presents solutions and affectionately cheers and sympathizes with all women, who are at

once a daughter and a mother, in the process of discovering what it means to be themselves and understanding the meaning of true self-love.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=6573

Not Another Brother!

1. Publication Details

Title | Not Another Brother!
Author | Yeom Yeonhwa; Jeong Soyeong
Publisher | GAEAMNAMU
Publication Date | 2019-08-19
ISBN | 9788968305238
No. of pages | 128
Dimensions | 175 * 235



2. Book Intro

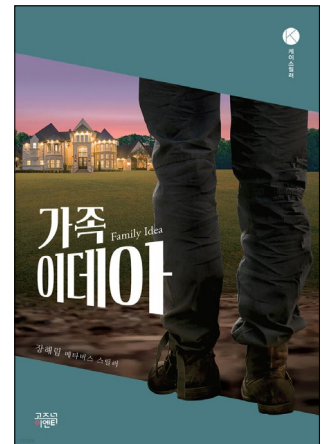
Not Another Brother! is the story of a boy who is desperate to do anything to avoid getting another sibling—who would be his third younger brother and the fifth boy in his family. Taeyun feels unhappy and stressed because he cannot play as much as he wants to look after his younger siblings. Tired of cleaning up after his younger brothers, he starts sabotaging his parent's love. Taeyun sets a table for Samshin, the goddess of childbirth, and meets her in his dreams and pleads with her not to give his parents a new baby. After awhile, his mom has a miscarriage, and Taeyun regrets his behavior, and along with other family members, tries to console his mom. Observing Taeyun's growth reminds readers of the love for family. Moreover, as there are many only children nowadays, this book helps readers indirectly experience conflicts among siblings and problems that families must face together. The author hopes that the tireless daily lives of Taeyun's family will give readers a chance to reflect on the meaning of family and reaffirm their family's love.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2867

Family Idea

1. Publication Details

Title | Family Idea
Author | Jang Haerim
Publisher | GOZKNOCK ENT
Publication Date | 2021-10-28
ISBN | 9791163162117
No. of pages | 360
Dimensions | 145 * 210



2. Book Intro

Won-hyung is obsessed with a virtual reality game

Who is the real Won-hyung between the one who's eager to take over his family business and the timid young man who lives in a shabby rental infested with cockroaches and is preparing for the civil servant exam? One Won-hyung wants a family to be like a good business partner. The other Won-hyung wants a harmonious family filled with love and affection. Frustrated by reality and obsessed with desire, the two Won-hyungs are in a dilemma where neither knows which choice to make.

Sang-won sets out on revenge for his daughter

Everything was going well, but then his daughter died. Now Sang-won's perfect life lacks one thing. Sang-won, who raised his daughter as a single father, is in deep despair after his daughter dies in an accident. He abandons his business and pledges revenge. He meets his daughter again in virtual reality and carries out his revenge step by step. The child who led his daughter to her death and the child's family who gave birth to the child are cancers of society in Sang-won's eyes, and they should be eliminated.

Won-mi's dream comes true

Ji-hee is a bright girl with whom Won-mi wants to make friends but can't. Won-mi truly likes Ji-hee and hopes for her happiness, but envies her at the same time. She wants to live the life of Ji-hee. Won-mi's one and only dream is to become Ji-hee. Then an opportunity to make that dream come true is given to her. With jealousy and envy in her heart, Won-mi realizes her dream. Won-mi is at a crossroads between remaining in the world of her fantasy or returning to face reality.

Facing the stark reality of a perfect world in Family Idea

Family Idea, a game for everyone, has been launched. In this game, people can find an ideal family or help children who were abandoned by their family in the real world. This is a truly beautiful game that has the best of intentions. But what is the truth behind this game?

Reality and virtual reality, the two worlds co-exist from the beginning Sang-won suggests that Won-hyung, who has come to reveal the truth, do one thing: let the past go and manage Family Idea together. Now Won-hyung is on the precipice between VR and reality. He has to choose whether to deny the truth of reality and live in VR splendor or give up everything and uncover the truth. His choice brings about unexpected consequences. In the virtual reality of Family Idea, he becomes a hero who saves his family, and in the real world, he becomes a prisoner who seeks comfort in a meta room.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=6632

My Father

1. Publication Details

Title | My Father
Author | Kang Gyeongsu
Publisher | Picture book Gongjackso
Publication Date | 2016-05-08
ISBN | 9791186825044
No. of pages | 52
Dimensions | 210 * 230



2. Book Intro

This picture book shows the love of our fathers, who always watch us and protect us. This is built in to the perforation on the cover and in the text, they appear as children's heroes, friends or teachers. As shown in the last scene, which depicts the fathers of the world, this book is a story of the unchanging hero, a father's love.

Through the process of us being born in this world to our parents and then becoming parents of our own with the same love, we can discover a moving and heart-warming emotion in ordinary life.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=649

The First Birthday Party

1. Publication Details

Title | The First Birthday Party
Author | Seon Jaeun; Choi Hyeonmuk
Publisher | MIRAE MEDIA & BOOKS, CO.
Publication Date | 2019-07-01
ISBN | 9788983948469
No. of pages | 32
Dimensions | 265 * 228



2. Book Intro

“Dol” refer to the day of the first anniversary of a baby’s birth. “Doljanchi” (first birthday party in Korean) is an old custom in Korea where people wish for the baby’s health and happiness on his/her first birthday. In the past, before modern medicine, it was not easy for babies to survive until their first birthday. This made the first birthday very important. In this picture book, *The First Birthday Party*, Korea’s indigenous culture, which continues in the present day, is depicted merrily.

A long time ago, a childless young married couple desperately prayed for a baby to the Birth Grandmother every day. The Birth Grandmother did not grant their wish easily, saying that even if a child was born, it would die soon after being possessed by a demon that spreads diseases. But she was impressed by the couple’s devotion and finally gave them a baby boy. She also told them how to get rid of the demon and protect the boy. The couple promised to faithfully follow through the Birth Grandmother’s instructions. As expected, as soon as the boy was born, a demon called Jeoqui, which makes many people ill, appeared and vigilantly waited for an opportunity to get to the boy. But Jeoqui was startled by a straw rope hanging on the front door and a red-bean-coated millet rice cake, which have the power to ward off demons, and ran away. The boy grew and grew and finally it was his first birthday. A first birthday party was held to celebrate his first year and the yard was filled up with guests. Jeoqui reappeared looking for a chance. The “Doljabi” began, a ceremony for predicting the child’s future, and a skein, a bow, books, etc., were placed in front of him. When Jeoqui squeezed through the guests and charged at the child, the child grabbed the skein and decided his fate. Jeoqui could not do anything any more and ran far away because the skein the child grabbed represents health and long life.

Even now, many children have a traditional first birthday party. “Dol” is a culture found in the daily lives of Koreans today, not a tradition written only in words. This picture book, which depicts scenes from a happy first birthday party, evokes the meanings of first birthdays and family love.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1388

The Anthropology of the Korean Family and Kinship

1. Publication Details

Title | The Anthropology of the Korean Family and Kinship

Subtitle | Theoretical Considerations, Issues, and Changes

Author | Jung Hyangjin

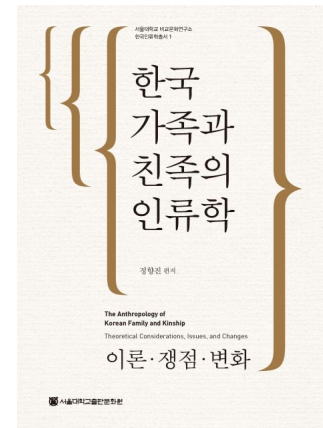
Publisher | Seoul National University Press

Publication Date | 2018-12-25

ISBN | 9788952119926

No. of pages | 376

Dimensions | 152 * 223



2. Book Intro

This anthology has the aim of re-establishing and reviving anthropological research on the Korean family and kinship. The authors share two basic assumptions. First, the field of family and kinship is still fundamental and essential in research on Korean society and culture. Second, the anthropological approach has much to contribute to research on the Korean family and kinship.

The scholarly achievements of the late Yi Gwang-gyu, pen-named Song-hyeon, are clearly the starting point of this consciousness and an extension of the field. This book consists of theoretical discussions and case studies that critically examine Yi's research, connecting it with post-Yi scholarship.

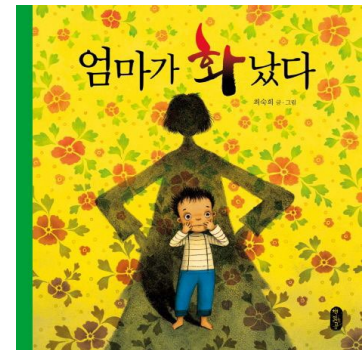
The authors, equipped with critical minds, expect progress in the post-Yi era and pay attention to the tension and dynamics between structure and practice, standard and modification, and continuity and change. This is made possible by the fact that they share the premise of Yi's achievement as foundational and the standard model. Most of all, they ask important questions that have to be dealt with in the anthropology of the Korean family and kinship through reexamination of Yi's standard model on the level of history and changing reality. This book was conceived in order to transcend the standard model.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2522

Mom's Mad!

1. Publication Details

Title | Mom's Mad!
Author | Choi Sookhee
Publisher | Bear Books Inc.
Publication Date | 2011-05-30
ISBN | 9788993242447
No. of pages | 40
Dimensions | 238 * 238



2. Book Intro

Despite being the most precious people in each other's lives, a mother and child don't always see eye-to-eye. The author wrote this picture book with the intention of creating an opportunity to untie a twisted knot. The hearts of mothers and children are depicted through heartwarming words and beautiful illustrations unique to the author.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=4524

Mrs. Serious and easy-going son

1. Publication Details

Title | Mrs. Serious and easy-going son
Author | Jin Sookyong
Publisher | A thousand hope
Publication Date | 2022-02-28
ISBN | 9791165732226
No. of pages | 40
Dimensions | 220 * 250



2. Book Intro

It is Tae-pyung's first month in elementary school! Grade school is very different from kindergarten. There are many things to take care of, learn, and do on his own. The boy makes many mistakes, but it's alright because the first time is always the hardest for everyone. Day by day, little by little, school life will become more enjoyable.

As for Mrs. Serious, it has been a month since she joined a new company. It's not easy for her since she's returned to work after a long break. There are a lot of things to learn. She makes mistakes even with simple tasks, but it's okay. She'll

learn step by step and become better at her job.

“The first time is the hardest for everyone. It is okay; you’ve done well!”

A picture book that cheers for every new student and working mom.

The first time is an unfamiliar, frightening moment for anyone. Especially for children, entering elementary school is a significant change and challenge. This picture book depicts the struggles of a mother and a child adapting to their new environments at school and at work. Tae-pyung and his mother want to be good at new tasks, but they keep making mistakes even with small things. Repeated mistakes can be discouraging, but the two say to themselves, “The first time is the hardest for everyone. It is okay; you’ve done well!” These are the words Tae-pyung and his mother say to each other and their readers. This delightful picture book sends warm consolation and support to children and working moms who feel uneasy before new beginnings.

A magical picture book that helps a child and his mother better understand each other.

Rather than telling a story just from a child’s or a mother’s point of view, this book skillfully interweaves two people’s stories as they enter a new school and job. With intersecting stories, a boy and his mother narrate their daily routines from the first-person point of view, offering vivid depictions of school and work life. Furthermore, the similar images and timelines, such as classroom and office, lunch breaks, and restrooms, place the boy and his mother in similar situations, forming the bridge to a greater understanding between the two. A child will be comforted by reading this book and thinking, “Mom has difficulties and makes mistakes, too, when starting something new.” This book gives a child and a mother a magical time to understand each other’s situation, build empathy, and confirm love.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=6455