

2025.8

vol. **85**

K-Book Trends

offers Korea's highly informative publishing content
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www.kpipa.or.kr

ISSN 3022-9006

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TOPIC

The Reality and Prospects of K-Mystery Literature

Written by Park In-Seong (Literary critic)

The global popularity of Korean content has spread beyond popular music (K-POP), dramas, and movies to include literature. However, Korean mystery literature is a relatively minor and lesser-known area. Yet, with the increasing attention and translations of Korean crime and mystery novels abroad, there have been comments that Korean mystery literature could be the “next Scandi Noir.”¹ In fact, Korean mysteries have been gaining prominence on the international stage, with Yun Ko-Eun’s *The Disaster Tourist* (Minumsa Publishing) winning the Dagger Award for Translation by the Crime Writers’ Association (CWA) in the UK in 2021. This article aims to shed light on the current state and potential of Korean mystery literature in a global context. I will look at the characteristics of works that incorporate Korean sentiment and social background, as well as notable authors.

Characteristics of Korean mystery literature: crime and psychology that have become a mirror of society

Korean mystery novels are characterized by their use of crime as a means to deliver deep human drama and social critique, set against the backdrop of the unique sentiments and realities of Korean society. They tend to delve into the inner nature of human beings and community issues more than just identifying the culprit or entertaining twists. For example, *The Good Son* (EunHaengNaMu Publishing) by Jeong Yu-Jeong delves into the psychology of a son who murders his mother, eerily depicting the dark side of family relationships in Korean society. The novel has also received comments that it has struck a chord with international audiences by unraveling the complexities of the mother-son relationship in a thriller format from an insider's perspective in Korean society, with the *Los Angeles Times* reviewing *The Good Son* as “a story about the complex relationships between mothers, sons, and brothers that will resonate with American audiences as well.”²

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 5 – Go to the interview with writer Jeong Yu-Jeong

The Plotters (Munhakdongne Publishing) by Kim Un-Su is a hardbound novel about a political assassination group, set against the backdrop of social change in Korea after the military dictatorship and democratization. The novel satirizes the gritty reality of authority by depicting the irony of how the end of the decades-long dictatorship in Korea led to a boom in the

assassination business. It recreates a darker aspect of Korea’s modern history through a crime narrative. Additionally, various mystery novels, such as *The Only Child* (Elixir) by Seo Mi-Ae, a seasoned mystery writer with 30 years of experience, have been noted for their attempts to explore the Korean family system and society through the thriller genre by depicting hidden secrets and violence within the family. These attempts expand the traditional field of mystery and shed light on Korean family culture and gender issues in the subgenre of “domestic thriller.”



The Good Son; The Plotters; The Only Child

However, despite the attention a few authors and works have garnered abroad, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the mystery genre is still relatively unexplored in Korea. The early Korean mystery novels originated as adaptations of foreign mysteries during the Japanese occupation of the country, but they were regarded as cheap entertainment and were often overlooked by the literary scene. The genre experienced a brief

heyday in the 1970s and 1980s, with authors such as Kim Sung-Jong, but entered a period of stagnation after the 1990s due to the influx of translated foreign mysteries and the public's prejudice against genre literature. In particular, while the mainstream of Korean genre literature has been shifting to martial arts and fantasy novels, and even SF (science fiction) since the 2010s, the popularity of the mystery has not yet returned. Unlike how SF in Korea has been able to reach out to the public more easily through its relatively timely themes and sentimental narratives, mysteries have been considered serious and heavy, and have been deemed unappealing to mass audiences who increasingly prefer to read lighter stories.

Nonetheless, Korean mystery literature has been committed to examining crime from a social and structural perspective rather than as an element of entertainment. It has been developing its strengths in deep insights into human psychology and themes of social criticism. Although somewhat differentiated from classic, authentic mysteries, Korean mystery literature is gradually developing into a genre that combines both literary and popular appeal. On the other hand, with many writers of pure literature adopting mystery techniques or producing works that cross genre boundaries, Korean mystery literature has also shown convergent characteristics, blurring the boundaries between pure literature and genre literature. Additionally, the inclusive nature of the Korean mystery genre has led to its expansion into a diverse range of cultural content, including films and dramas.

The rich exploration of characters' motivations and the realistic reflection of social structures are the biggest draws of K-Mystery literature, and it can be said that they are a differentiating point that can evoke new and universal empathy in international readers.

The reality of Korean mystery literature

Although mystery and detective fiction still accounts for a small portion of the Korean publishing market, the genre is gradually growing. According to the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA), “crime/mystery” and “thriller/suspense” have been on a steady upward curve in the first half of 2024 in terms of the total number of titles published.³ While the absolute share is still low, the analysis suggests that the demand for these genres has remained steady amidst the publishing downturn, thanks to their loyal fan bases. Writer Seo Mi-Ae also explains that this is because “mystery literature has a fixed readership when compared to the shrinking publishing market.”⁴ As such, the Korean mystery genre has been steadily supported by a small group of enthusiasts, and in recent years, the audience has been slowly expanding.

Translated works remain a strong influence in the Korean mystery market, indeed. For years, Japanese authors such as Higashino Keigo and Miyabe Miyuki, as well as Western classics by writers like Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle, have

dominated the mystery genre, maintaining their bestseller positions. Recently, however, things have started to change. As readers' tastes diversify and interest in K-content grows, a trend toward greater trust and familiarity with Korean mystery literature is emerging. In order for the development of Korean mystery literature to continue to progress, it is essential that specialized mystery publishing and mystery magazines are firmly established.

MYSTERIA, a mystery mook (a type of publication that combines elements of both a magazine and a book) published by Elixir of Munhakdongne Publishing in 2015, and *Quarterly Mystery*, which has been published since 2002, have been supported by enthusiastic readers. In particular, *Quarterly Mystery* focuses on discovering new talents in every issue, with the goal of expanding the base of Korean mystery literature. With these publications, online mystery cafes, blogs, and Social Media accounts have become voluntary promotional outlets, although few in number, where reviews and recommendations are actively made. Among younger readers, a small book club culture has also emerged, where they read and discuss Korean mysteries. These movements demonstrate that Korean mystery literature has a strong grassroots, reader-driven support base, which is a reason to look forward to expanding its horizons through challenging genre branding.



MYSTERIA Vol. 57 and *Quarterly Mystery* (2025 Summer) Vol. 86

However, there are still not many literary awards or specialized contests for the mystery genre in Korea. Aside from the Korea Mystery Writers Association’s Korea Mystery Literature Award and the Golden Pen Award, which were established in the 1980s, some publishers have held contests, but the only regularly organized award for new writers is *Quarterly Mystery*’s New Writer Award. This means that the pathway for emerging writers remains limited, and there are few opportunities to expand the reach of the mystery genre through literary awards. It has been pointed out that in order to develop the mystery genre, it is necessary to discover new writers, make long-term investments by publishers, and revitalize genre criticism. Overall, improved awareness and institutional support for genre literature will help to revitalize the creative ecosystem of Korean mystery literature.

The one and the many, K-Mystery writers

Korean mystery literature is definitely not as widely recognized as SF, nor has it produced star authors like Kim Cho-Yeop. However, it is interesting to note that Korean mystery fiction shows a wide spectrum of different orientations and authors rather than sharing a common thematic consciousness. This is because even within the common field of mystery, each writer utilizes their strengths to develop distinctive subgenres. In this article, I would like to introduce Korean mystery writers who have recently distinguished themselves in their respective subgenres, ranging from social mysteries, historical and social mysteries, hardboiled mysteries, authentic mysteries, and rural mysteries.

Kim Se-Hwa's *Tao* (Nabi Club), the grand prix winner of the 2024 Korea Mystery Literature Award, is an authentic social mystery that exposes the absurdities of Korean society through the tragedy of Tao, an international student from Vietnam. Kim Se-Hwa, a former journalist, draws on her 30 years of reporting experience to expose the structural problems of the international student system and the corruption that pervades society. The story takes the form of a hard-boiled investigative drama, focusing on uncovering uncomfortable truths about Korean society through the process of unraveling the truth behind the serial disappearances of international students. The investigation process goes beyond simply finding the culprit to expose deep-seated social issues such as the structural corruption surrounding

universities, communities, and foreign workers, as well as the exclusivity of Korean society and its discriminatory attitude toward foreigners.

Also worth noting are the novels by Mu Kyeong, who won the Golden Pen Award in 2024. His first novel, *Madam Black Swan Wants to Talk About Something Unpleasant - 1928, Busan* (Nabi Club), is a historical mystery set in Busan in 1928 during the Japanese occupation of Korea - a serialized full-length novel about the mystery of “Madam Black Swan,” who suffers from the after-effects of a fatal burn, and the helpers who care for her. It covers a series of events that take place in the exotic atmosphere of the modern city of Busan, and the author presents an authentic mystery drama that captures the social phenomenon of the time and local characteristics. Meanwhile, *May You Deprave In Peace* (Nabi Club) is a unique serialized short story collection featuring demons, which interprets the dilemma of the individual who gives up being human in historical moments with a supernatural setting and the grammar of mystery. It is characteristic of Mu Kyeong’s works, in which the lives of individuals swept away by the larger currents of history are themselves the subject of mystery.



Tao; Madam Black Swan Wants to Talk About Something Unpleasant – 1928, Busan; May You Deprave In Peace

Kim Young-Min’s hard-boiled mystery *Murder in the Oceanographic Tower* (Aphros Media) has all the energy you would expect from the genre. The book follows a series of locked-room murders in the oceanographic tower, a marine research structure in the middle of the East Sea. It is a work that boldly pushes in this particular direction in Korean mystery literature, where hard-boiled mysteries are especially exceptional; it skillfully utilizes timely themes and the unique grammar of hard-boiled mysteries. The story begins when an oceanographic tower, built in preparation for rising sea levels due to global warming, is isolated by a storm, and a series of murders occur among the characters gathered there. The tension of the closed-circle mystery is heightened by the special setting, which is cut off from the outside world, and the author, a physics major, incorporates sophisticated tricks and scientific elements into a hard-boiled mystery.

While there was a long period of time when mystery was

considered a masculine genre in Korea, the recent rise of female mystery writers, such as Seo Mi-Ae, who has long been at the forefront of Korean mystery literature, is also noteworthy. The novels of Park So-Hae, who won the Golden Pen Award in 2023 for her short story *Haenyeo's Son*, and Song Si-Woo, Jung Hae-Yeon, Hong Seon-Ju, Lee Eun-Young, and Han Sae-Ma of the “Miss Marple Club,” a group of female writers who have collaborated on anthologies such as *The Night of Destroyers* (Safehouse Inc.), which tells the story of female villains, and *Insane B****** (Safehouse Inc.), which depicts strange and insane people, deserve continued attention. It is also worth noting that beyond the boundaries of mystery, there are also works that mix genres, such as SF mysteries and horror thrillers, that are expanding our understanding of mystery.



*Murder in the Oceanographic Tower; The Night of Destroyers; Insane B******

The potential for and challenges of mystery literature

In the future, the appeal and distinctiveness of K-Mysteries are likely to be characterized by two main aspects. First, cultural uniqueness. Korean mysteries have a unique cultural background where East and West intersect, offering a multi-layered experience of modern history that can deliver fresh setups and sentiments to the already saturated Western crime fiction market. For example, East Asian storytelling that depicts human beings in a gray area without clear poetic justice, or the irony of crime in a Confucian culture that values family and community, are colors that are not easily seen in works from other countries.

Second, universal relatability and narrative completeness. As Korean authors set their narratives against the backdrop of global issues such as economic growth, urbanization, and generational conflict, they explore human nature and social issues that readers worldwide can relate to, regardless of their different cultural backgrounds. This enhances the universal appeal of the work, and the intricate plots and suspenseful storytelling techniques characteristic of mystery novels are already well-established among Western readers. In other words, the combination of “local details” and “global story” can play to the strengths of K-Mysteries.

Of course, there are many challenges to solve. To begin with, it is essential to continue discovering new talents and supplying quality content. As the works introduced overseas have been

skewed toward a few notable authors, efforts should be made to showcase Korean mysteries with diverse voices. It is encouraging to see new talents tackling new subgenres such as cozy mysteries, historical mysteries, and hard-boiled mysteries. Their growth requires investment from publishers and the expansion of debut channels such as the New Writer Award presented by *Quarterly Mystery*.

Improving Korean awareness of the genre is also urgent, partly because the genre needs to grow in order to produce quality works, but also because of the role of critics, who can help Korean readers better understand and derive more meaning from mystery literature. It is essential to encourage writers and critics to be more generous with the genre, and to help readers discover meaning in the works, thereby increasing their trust in Korean mysteries. There is still a need to improve the quality of Korean mysteries, and at the same time, there is a call for genre criticism that specializes in mysteries to help guide and make meaning out of them. Given the scarcity of critics and critical books specializing in mysteries in Korea, the development of Korean mystery literature will be a process that requires a complex partnership among novelists, critics, readers, and the publishing industry, as well as constant communication and discourse.

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SPECIAL PROJECT

[New Ways of Walking Through Cities ⑧]

A City on the Mirror-Like Surface of Water: Stockholm

Written by Jung Hwan-Jung

The nickname “Venice of Scandinavia” is not quite accurate for Stockholm. While Stockholm and Venice share a common ground in that they are both comprised of several islands and countless bridges connecting them, Stockholm is much smaller and quieter than Venice. People in Stockholm are adept at having conversations without much gesturing, while naturally maintaining an appropriate distance between themselves. However, in the summer, especially in August, the city transforms into a completely different place. The sun shines on the city well past nine in the evening, and people smile and chat with each other at a slightly closer distance than usual. It might be in an outdoor café, or on a boat rocking gently, or on the steps

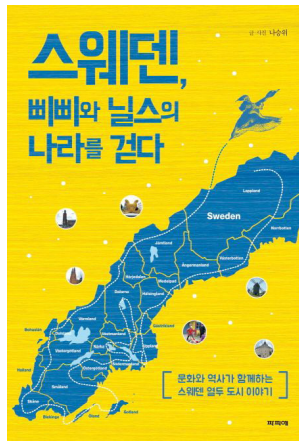
of Stockholm City Hall, where the Nobel Prize ceremony takes place. That's how Stockholm in August shines.

Until recently, there were only a few ways to see this part of Stockholm in more detail. That's because there wasn't much of a connection with Korea. However, with the growing interest in Scandinavian design, which is symbolized by simplicity and practicality, and Swedish education, which focuses on achieving happiness for all, a number of books about Sweden and Stockholm are being published in Korea.



A city of memories, distant but close

Aside from global furniture brand IKEA, Korea has had a surprisingly long relationship with Sweden - especially if you grew up in Korea in the 1980s and 1990s; if you were in Korea



Sweden: Walking in the Country of Pippi and Nils

then, you may have watched the Korean versions of *Pippi Longstocking* and *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils* on the national television network, KBS. The book, *Sweden: Walking in the Country of Pippi and Nils* (Papier), tells the story of a Korean immigrant family who follows Nils on his journey to learn more about Sweden. Interestingly, Stockholm isn't mentioned until much later in the book. This is because most of Nils's adventures took place in the south of Sweden. It is also because the author's family lives in Malmö, a five-hour high-speed train ride from Stockholm.

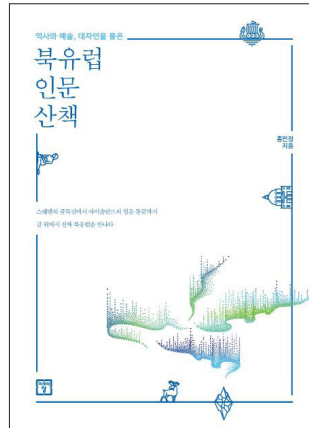
“It was a shame that my attitude of ‘I might just drop by the Vasa Museum, as it feels bad to just leave after coming all the way here for things I had to do.’ was so insensitive. I had completely disrespected the host's sincerity, as I had only gone to the feast of delicious dishes just to satisfy my hunger. As I left the Vasa Museum with a huge sense of disappointment that I couldn't taste everything on the

table, I rearranged the order of my purpose for coming to Stockholm. It became, 'I came to Stockholm to see the Vasa Museum, but it would be nice if I could also do the things I had to do on the way.' The Vasa Museum alone was worth the trip to Stockholm."

- from *Sweden: Walking in the Country of Pippi and Nils*

The Wonderful Adventures of Nils was a geography textbook(地理讀本) for adolescents written by author Selma Lagerlöf, commissioned by the National Teachers Association. The author, who didn't learn about it until she arrived in Sweden, follows Nils's journey as if she were studying it. In Stockholm, she visits the Vasa Museum, which exhibits the warship Vasa, which was sunk over 300 years ago. At first, it was just a drop-by on the itinerary. She didn't find the long-sunken giant ship very interesting. However, the author became deeply impressed by the tragic history of the ship, which sank shortly after the launching ceremony, resulting in more than 30 casualties. She regretted her lightheartedness when she realized that this impression was made possible by the determination of the people who came together to restore the sunken ship to its original state. Perhaps the regret came from the realization that Swedes once shared a history of being the descendants of the Vikings, the rulers of all the seas, and the vanquishers(霸者) of the Baltic Sea. Like almost all capitals, Stockholm has been home to some of Sweden's most glorious moments.

The Space of Time That Flows as If Stopped



Northern European Humanities

For travelers, Stockholm is a very friendly city. It's easier to communicate with people in Stockholm than those in other European countries, because most of them speak English fluently. The road leading to Gamla Stan, often chosen as “the most Stockholm-like” area, is also straightforward and pleasant. You simply have to exit Stockholm Central Station onto Vasagatan, cross the Vasabron bridge, and continue straight into Gamla Stan. At 15 minutes on a moderate walk, or 10 minutes at a brisk pace, Gamla Stan may seem like a typical tourist destination, but it's a space that's so cherished by Stockholmers. This was the case for the author of *Northern European Humanities* (Miraebok), who lived in Stockholm for four years before returning to Korea to work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and as a global marketing and strategic planning specialist for a large corporation.

Everybody was commenting on how fantastic the Nordic summer was, with cool summer breezes and non-sticky sunshine. Then, one of my friends said that an acquaintance was coming to Stockholm in a few days and asked what places they should visit. There was a pause, as if everyone was thinking. “Stockholm starts with Gamla Stan and ends with Gamla Stan.”

- from *Northern European Humanities*

Gamla Stan is the Swedish word for “old town.” It is the center of Stockholm, which already began to take shape as a city in 1252. As the author describes it, “The moment you enter, you forget about the present you are living in and are taken back to the past.” This is because you can easily recognize that, despite the glowing signs and colorful displays, the streets and buildings have remained largely unchanged for a very long time. That’s what makes Gamla Stan such a delightful mix of romance and fantasy. There is a constant stream of people who are excited to see what they will find when they turn the corner of any old alley. However, not all travelers are filled with such excitement. Gamla Stan also has a large number of Stockholmers who head out into the city to enjoy Fika, a Swedish coffee break where they relax with coffee and snacks. They join in the excitement as if they were tourists themselves. An island that is both isolated and inclusive - and all the more fun for it - is right in the middle of Stockholm.

Finding the roots of Scandinavian design



A Journey to Nordic Art Museums

The design trends in Korea have evolved with the rise in consumption levels. People have started to seek elegance in simplicity rather than extravagance. Scandinavian design, which gained popularity in the 2000s, is a prime example.

The spaces and furniture, which are minimalist yet comforting, rather than being stark and cold, have their origins in Scandinavian design. And, at the center of Scandinavian art is Carl Larsson, who has been called the “painter of all Swedes.”

“Pontus Hultén is a Swedish-born, internationally recognized museum professional. Appointed head of Moderna Museet (contemporary art museum) in 1960, he organized a number of experimental and significant exhibitions during his tenure of more than a decade, establishing Moderna Museet as a world-class museum attracting international attention. In recognition of his contributions, he was appointed the

first president of the Centre Pompidou in Paris, where he continued to work on an international scale. It is surprising that the first director of the Musée National d'Art Moderne in France, a country of artistic power, was a Swede rather than a Frenchman.”

- from *A Journey to Nordic Art Museums*

How can the French, a country that prides itself on its art, invite a Swede as the director of a new museum of contemporary art? The author explains that Pontus Hultén's donation of his collection to the museum, with the request that the pieces be displayed in a warehouse-like space so that they can be viewed and appreciated at ease by visitors, clearly indicates the roots of Scandinavian design. The author also recommends seeing the process of art being transformed into design in person. This is because ArkDes, the national museum of architecture and design, located under the roof of the Moderna Museet, welcomes visitors. The cafe and restaurant here are as much a showcase for all things Scandinavian design as the museum itself. Additionally, outside the museum, you can witness the Nordic innovation that has transformed an abandoned naval base into outdoor installations by world-renowned artists, including Picasso and Calder. It is a tranquil, yet ever-changing, snapshot of Sweden. The image of the Nordics, especially Sweden and Stockholm, as we know it, is fragmented. The Stockholm City Hall, where the Nobel Prize ceremony and dinner are held, is probably the



most vivid historical place. However, over the past decade or so, the psychological distance has been gradually decreasing, as we can easily find movies and dramas based on Norse mythology through various media. If you are a parent, you may have read about the Swedish childcare system a little earlier. Sweden has been recognized as a global model for protecting mothers throughout pregnancy and childbirth, encouraging fathers to be more involved in childcare, and fostering an environment where children are prioritized in society. Sweden has been struggling with a declining population for some time and has experimented with various solutions.

Just as when author Han Kang was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2024, I hope that Korean literature, which heals the wounds of the marginalized and discriminated, will once again resonate clearly and deeply in Stockholm.

EXPORT CASE

How Korean Essays Captured the Hearts of Japanese Female Readers

Written by Kim Seung-Bok (CEO of CUON Publishing)

Korean books in the Japanese publishing industry are more dynamic than translations from any other language. There are a wide variety of genres, including fiction, poetry, non-fiction, humanities, self-help, and learning materials, all available in a large number of titles. This is something that translators and publishers in other languages envy. This article focuses on the non-fiction (essay) genre and examines the recent trends of readers in Japan and the reasons for the popularity of Korean essays.

The “K-Healing essay” reaches Japanese readers

I Decided to Live as Me (Clay House) became a bestseller as soon as it was translated and published in Japan in late 2018. To

date, it has sold over 600,000 copies, making it the best-selling essay collection of all time. This was followed by *I Want to Die But I Also Want to Eat Tteokppokki* (HEUN) and *I Almost Lived Diligently* (Originals), which went viral by word of mouth and were widely read, especially by female readers in their 20s to 40s. These books have sold over 200,000 copies and have played a major role in driving the popularity of other Korean essay collections. It is no exaggeration to say that it gave many publishers the illusion that publishing Korean books would be a success. I have been running a publishing house and brokering publishing rights since 2020, and the number of Japanese publishers seeking Korean essay collections has increased dramatically.



Japanese editions of *I Decided to Live as Me*; *I Want to Die But I Also Want to Eat Tteokppokki*; *I Almost Lived Diligently*

These books are characterized by their comforting, pastel-colored illustrations on the covers and short, to-the-point sentences that resonate with the emotions of those in society who are tired

of competition. The keyword “healing” is one of the familiar publishing trends in Japan. However, the emotions that Japanese readers feel through reading K-Essays are not just comfort or stress relief. The emotions conveyed by K-Essays are more complex. At the center of it all is a movement to be more honest with one’s sense of self, and a positive sentiment to accept oneself as one is.



Korean books on display and for sale at Tōkyōdō Shoten bookstore in Jinbocho, Tokyo, commemorating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Korea.

I Decided to Live as Me

— The beginning of a small but deep reverberation

I Decided to Live as Me, published in Japan in late 2018, was neither from a major publisher nor by a famous author. It didn’t even feature any particularly exaggerated sentences or provocative messages. However, readers who found messages such as “It’s okay to be who you are” and “It’s okay to take a break” in the book started introducing it by word of mouth, and the response gradually spread on social media. Especially for female office workers, the book struck a chord as a “soothing

voice that consoles oneself.” It was already a bestseller in Korea, but it was accepted in a way that was yet to be realized in Japan. In Japanese society, being “tolerant” has long been considered a virtue. Lacking a culture or language that teaches people how to rest well, people often feel depressed and anxious, unsure of how to take care of themselves. Against this backdrop, the value of “I’m not lazy, I’m just trying to live well” has become more than just a simple encouragement, but a psychological liberation. Authors who shared this sense of “self-affirmation” as the starting point for healing emerged relatively early in Korea, and their voices were translated into a new language that taught Japanese readers how to look at themselves with compassion.

The connected flow:

After I Want to Die But I Also Want to Eat Tteokppokki

I Want to Die But I Also Want to Eat Tteokppokki is a book that candidly portrays emotions relating to depression and survival. While dealing with the heavy subject of life and death, the almost monologue-like sentences make the content more relatable. It made readers realize, “This person is just like me.” A series of similar essays, including *I Almost Lived Diligently* and *Being Comfortable Without Effort* (Noll), were subsequently published in Japan, with the common message being the “sensitivity to understand oneself, alone.” This is also a characteristic that runs throughout Korean essays. From the move to face and record

one's inner self rather than the eyes of the outside world, to a narrative style that embraces the awkwardness and hesitation of the process, this may have been the language that the younger generation of Japanese aspired to but had yet to express.



Japanese edition of *Being Comfortable Without Effort*

The effects of localization

The hidden contributors to the Korean essay craze are probably the translators and editors, who boldly cut the text and, in some cases, asked the authors to rewrite it to make it easier for Japanese readers. The localization of the package is another important aspect. The titles were changed to more impactful titles, and the covers were redesigned. The trend of using the same cover of the Korean edition three or four years ago has recently changed. It seems that these essays have already gone beyond the boundaries of Korean content. The best editors of each publishing house are rushing to produce bestsellers. Some examples include Kudo Keiko, Hatashita Yuki, and Hayashi Eri

from Diamond, Inc., Oofuchi Kaoruko from CCC Media House Co., Ltd, and Kimura Yae from Nikkei BP. As for translators, Okazaki Nobuko, Shimizu Chisako, and Fujita Reiko seem to be hit-makers. They are characterized by their backgrounds as editors or journalists.

What I have noticed, as someone who makes books and meets readers in the field, is that readers are now more empathetic to unfinished emotions than polished sentences. Korean essays focus on the “process” rather than the “conclusion.” Sometimes, there is more comfort in the bumpy, incomplete, and faltering language. This flow doesn’t just end with the essay. This way of telling “one’s story” seems to extend to fiction, non-fiction, and even poetry and comics.



Evolving Korean essays –
Manage Your Emotions to Manage Your Life; One Bad Move Can Destroy Ten Good Ones – And That’s What a Relationship Is; How To Respect Myself. If I Were To Relive My Life

Korean essays are still evolving. From the theme of examining one’s own feelings to self-improvement, essays that lead to self-improvement are now on the bestseller lists. Some of the best-selling books include *Manage Your Emotions to Manage Your*

Life (Cloudia) and *One Bad Move Can Destroy Ten Good Ones - And That's What a Relationship Is* (Cloudia) by Kim Da-Sul, *How To Respect Myself* (Simple Life) by psychiatrist Yun Hong-Gyun, and *If I Were To Relive My Life* (Maven) by Kim Hye-Nam, another psychiatrist. The idea is that it's okay to not be strong or perfect, and the practice of looking at oneself with compassion rather than tolerance. These sentiments are now becoming the language of reclaiming one's voice for Japanese readers as well. The word "healing" has perhaps become too commonplace, but the language of Korean writers goes one step deeper than that: there is a kindness in their language that encourages us to think about how to live our lives together. Perhaps what Korean essays have been saying all along is a humble and warm view toward "being alive." We are now witnessing that this view can reach anyone, regardless of cultural and language differences, within the Japanese publishing industry.

ONE-LINER QUOTES

Two Views Capturing the City and Nature in Korea

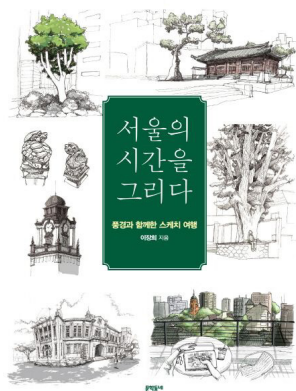
Travel drawing artist's pick

Written by Rimo (Travel drawing artist)

Travel drawing artist “Rimo” is a former software researcher at Samsung Electronics who decided to become a travel drawing artist after traveling to Tibet. He is an artist sponsored by the German stationery company Staedtler, and has created rough drawings for JTBC’s 16-episode drama, “Sketch.” He is currently based in Jeju Island, Korea, where he continues to spread the joy of drawing. His books include *Alone, Slowly, Northern Europe* (SangSang Publishing), *I Hope You’re in Jeju Again* (SangSang Publishing), and *Start Urban Sketch Today* (SangSang Publishing).

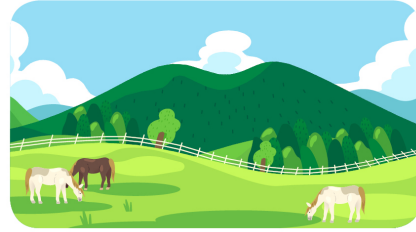
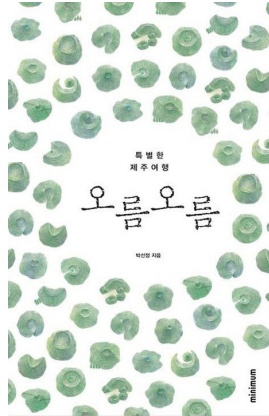
I am one of the rare illustrators who majored in computer science instead of painting. After graduating from university, I joined Samsung Electronics right away and worked as a researcher for four years. My heart was filled with the desire for creation, despite being an office worker, but the life of an artist seemed too distant, from the perspective of a non-professional.

Then I coincidentally came across a book like a beacon of light, titled *Sketching Time in Seoul* (Munhakdongne Publishing). This book is the culmination of the artist's extensive walks and drawings of Seoul, documenting the city from a deeper and more intimate perspective than anyone else.



Many new meanings were born as I wandered around Seoul, imbuing the places I stayed with history.

This book is a fiercely intense and well-documented account of various stories within the city of Seoul, from the famous tourist attractions to the city's most under-explored alleys that even its citizens are unaware of. Hundreds of illustrations, large and small, prove the author's diligence. The author majored in urban engineering as an undergraduate student, and his attitude toward Seoul's cultural heritage and the spaces of the past reflects his background as an urban engineer. The book introduces both the long-forgotten and the newly created landscapes. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to experience Seoul at a slower tempo than a vacationer with a short schedule.



It's too overwhelming to look at it alone that you can't help but think of your loved one, and it makes you come up with all sorts of excuses to stay that it becomes hard to go down.

This is a book that captures the natural beauty of Jeju Island, a unique island in Korea. Jeju Island is located in the south of Korea and is the largest and most populous of the country's islands. In the center of the island rises Hallasan, the highest mountain in Korea at 1,947 meters above sea level. Jeju Island is the result of many volcanic events that took place over a very long period of time, and because of its unique geological features, it was designated as Korea's first UNESCO World Natural Heritage site in 2007. This book focuses on "Oreum (small parasitic cones in Jeju Island)" among the many attractions of Jeju Island. The title of the book, *Oreum, Oreum* (Minimum), comes from the Korean word "oreum," which has the following two meanings.

1. A small volcanic cone found throughout Jeju Island except Hallasan
2. A noun that refers to the act of going up, or the place thereof

The title of the book, *Oreum, Oreum*, literally means "the act of climbing a small volcanic cone on Jeju Island." There are over 360 different *oreums* on the island. It is quite a rare phenomenon

in the world to have so many small eruptions on one island. Each *oreum* boasts a variety of charms depending on its location and the shape of the ridge. This book describes their unique stories and landscapes in great detail, and even recommends the best time to visit them. The hand-drawn trail maps also demonstrate the author's thoughtfulness. It is a great guidebook for travelers looking to experience the real essence of Jeju Island.

KNOWLEDGE

The Korean Children's Book Association Marks its 45th Anniversary

Reading, sharing, and promoting books

Written by Kang Mi-Young
(Secretary-general of the Korean Children's Book Association)

The Korean Children's Book Association (KCBA) is an organization founded in 1980 that promotes a culture of reading among children in Korea. It marks its 45th anniversary this year. The 1970s, the period before the KCBA's founding, was a time when human rights were severely violated in Korea, with freedom of speech and publishing being taken away amidst the oppression and repression of the dictatorship. Against this backdrop, teachers formed reading circles focused on children's books to discover and introduce to children literature that captures Korean sentiments and culture. Then, in 1980, the KCBA was formed to carry out the campaign for children's reading culture in earnest. The KCBA's activities spread from teacher- to parent-oriented in the 1990s, and local clubs named "Adults Reading Children's

Books (동화읽는어른모임)” were created nationwide, in which members gather and read children’s books. The organization also studied children’s books and organized symposiums and books based on the results. They proposed policies for a desirable reading culture, and thousands of members across the country carried out book-reading campaigns for children. They also continued to identify and reach out to regions and people who were marginalized from book culture, sending them books. By breathing life back into old stories and word games that have been passed down from generation to generation, the organization makes it easy and fun for children and adults to enjoy together. Since its inception, the KCBA has centered its activities on “reading children’s books, reading children’s books to children, and promoting children’s books.” They understand children through the daily life of reading books and deepen their experience of children’s literature. Based on the power of children’s books, the organization has developed various activities to foster a desirable reading culture. The following are some of the major activities.

Publication of Books for Children and Adolescents Selected by the Korean Children’s Book Association

The KCBA has been introducing books in various ways to help children connect with good books and have fun reading them. Since 1995, the organization has been publishing an annual

list of *Books for Children and Adolescents Selected by the Korean Children's Book Association*, allowing many people, not just children, to experience high-quality books. The Listing Committee reads and discusses the books published that year and selects the finest titles. The list has been made palm-sized since 2015 to make it easier for everyone to carry and utilize, and is funded solely by donations from members, with no advertisements. The list is distributed free of charge wherever needed and is also freely available for download on the KCBA website.



Books for Children and Adolescents Selected by the Korean Children's Book Association

Number of recommended titles by genre in 2025

Genre	Sub-genre	Number of recommended titles
	Picture books	53
Folk tales	Folk tales	1
	Folk tale picture books	1
Poetry, writing collections	Poetry	4
	Children's <i>Sijo</i> (Korean traditional poetic form)	0
	Songbooks	0
	Writing collections	0
Fairy tales	Korean fairy tales	13
	Foreign fairy tales	6
	Society & culture	8
Science	The world of nature	6
	Life & science	5
	Art	1
History & figures	History	5
	Geography	1
	Figures	0
Young adult literature	Fiction	21
	Non-fiction	1
	Comics	8
	Teachers & Parents	7
	Total	141

Source: The KCBA

“Send Books (책 보내기)” Project

The KCBA has been sending books to places in need since 1995. It is a project that supports children and organizations, particularly those with limited access to books, with the goal of helping children around the world enjoy the right to read. Starting with

the “Send Good Books” project to revitalize classroom libraries, the KCBA sends books to study rooms in poor educational environments and small libraries for children that lack books. It has also been sending books to facilities for overseas residents, study rooms for North Korean children and teenagers, centers for migrant women, centers for foreign workers, and multicultural families. Also, the organization has been sending braille (dual-media) books for visually impaired children since 2022.



A book and a braille book sent through the “Send Books” project

The KCBA’s “Send Books” project adheres to the following principles

- ① Send books to places where they are needed (local children’s centers, multicultural centers, etc.).
- ② Send books multiple times, not just once, so that children can meet new books often, enjoy picking them out, and become familiar with them.
- ③ Share the joy of reading by visiting and reading books to children, instead of just sending books.
- ④ Buy books at full price at local neighborhood bookstores and send them.

“Read Books to Children (책읽어주기)” campaign

The KCBA began reading books to children who were marginalized from the reading culture in the late 1990s. In 2004, it launched the “Read Books to Children Campaign” and subsequently spread it nationwide. It has been carrying out the campaign in various places such as school classrooms, libraries, local children’s centers, nurseries, welfare centers for the handicapped, and multicultural families. This activity has become the most basic and important activity for the members of the KCBA. There is no better way to teach reading than to let children fully enjoy the joy of reading. Reading books to children and teenagers helps them grow into lifelong readers who enjoy books, and enrich their lives. Through the joy of reading together, it contributes to the creation of reading families, a reading society, and wise readers who value good books, which in turn fertilizes the soil for good writers and nurtures the growth of their works.



“Read Books to Children” campaign

Book club for children,

“*Donghwa-dongmu-ssidongmu* (동화동무씨동무)”

“*Donghwa-dongmu-ssidongmu*” is a reading club for children in grades 3-6 of elementary school run by the KCBA in partnership with public institutions. When children reach the third grade, they often become less engaged with books as the amount of learning increases. The program was initiated to expand the reading experience of children in upper grades by reading fairy tales, as the majority of reading programs were focused on picture books for lower grades.

In this program, young readers choose a book they want to read and listen to an adult reading it fluently to them, deepening their appreciation of the story. They have the opportunity to share their thoughts with friends and reflect on their lives, neighborhoods, and society. Members of the KCBA across the country partner with schools and public libraries to support this activity, and provide training to operators and staff involved to ensure it runs smoothly. The KCBA also creates and disseminates book-related content to foster children’s appreciation of reading as a primary activity.

The process of *Donghwa-dongmu-ssidongmu* is as follows. Members from across the country select books suitable for the “*Donghwa-dongmu-ssidongmu*” program from among domestically produced fairy tales. Participating organizations invite children and display the books for a specified period. Children can browse through the books on display and become

familiar with a variety of locally produced fairy tales. When the operator introduces the books during the book talk, the children choose the book they want to read together, and the operator reads the book to the group. This process is not just a simple read-aloud, but a more interactive joint appreciation. After the book is finished, the children's comments are collected and forwarded to the author and publisher for their review and consideration. *Donghwa-dongmu-ssidongmu* promotes the works of Korean authors and helps elementary school students have a spontaneous and enjoyable reading experience.



"Donghwa-dongmu-ssidongmu" program

Furthermore, the KCBA is engaged in various reading culture activities. With 12 regional branches, 81 chapters, and over 2,000 members nationwide, the KCBA is working to shape children's

lives by reading children's books together every week, and to improve the reading environment. Some branches and chapters also have their own small libraries, and they are practicing the library's role as a cultural community that grows with the local community to bring good books into children's lives. Even amidst the increasing difficulties of running small libraries, the members of the KCBA, who understand the importance of libraries more than anyone else, continue to work tirelessly to protect libraries as users and activists.

KOREAN PUBLISHERS

Zeen Scene

The true essence of everyday moments
hidden in authentic scenery



The logo of Zeen Scene

When we encounter a rare or exceptional moment or scene, we often say, “I’ve encountered something authentic.” In a literal sense, it refers to something rarely seen, but when interpreted through emotion, the term conveys both delight and joy. Perhaps

that's why books from the publisher 'True Scenery' spark the curiosity of readers simply by their existence. Those who open the books may find themselves encountering the true essence of spaces, objects, and daily life. In this issue of *K-Book Trends' Korean Publishers*, we spoke with Zeen Scene's CEO, Kim Jin-Hee, about the reality she sees and how she hopes to convey it through her books.

It's a pleasure to have you with us on *K-Book Trends*. Please introduce to our international readers about publisher Zeen Scene, along with the meaning of its name.

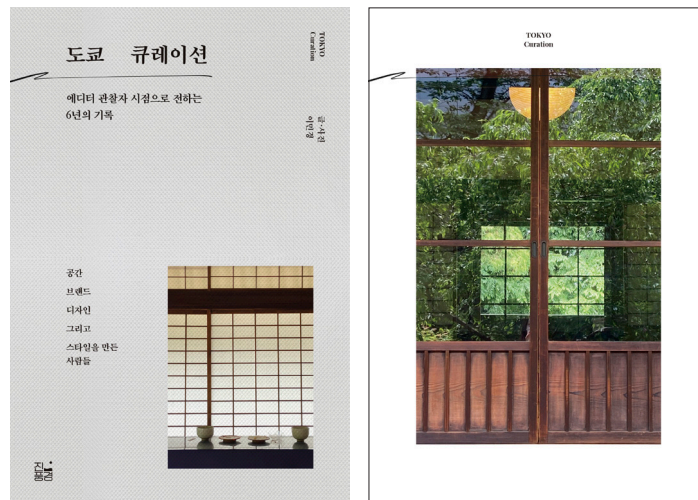
When I was asked to do the interview, my first thought was "Wow, it's *K-Book Trends* - would it be okay for me to do it?" But, I'm thankful that your warm welcome helped me muster up the courage. 진풍경 (*Jinpoongkyeong*) in Korean is described in the Korean dictionary as "a rare scenery, an uncommon scenery that is worth seeing." Here, I added "*Jin* (纘)," one of the letters in my name, so it also has the meaning of "the kind of scenery that an editor would like to see and convey through his/her books."

Zeen Scene has published a total of 5 titles - *Tokyo Curation; Yesterday's Movie, Today's Director, Tomorrow's Conversation; The Romantic Observation; Fashion Makers*; and this year's *Books are Space-Time Machines*.

Zeen Scene's first book, *Tokyo Curation*, published in 2022, must be a significant release. Why did you choose *Tokyo Curation* as your first book, and how did you go about the process from planning to production to marketing? We would also like to know what you focused on in terms of promotion, especially since it was the first book of a new publishing house.

I was lucky in some ways with the outcome of the first book. Traveling got so difficult at the time of that book due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and I was worried that the city of Tokyo wasn't going to be that new. So, I designed *Tokyo Curation* as a business book, not a travel book - so people could look at Tokyo as a brand, not a tourist destination. That decision made it different from other Tokyo-related books during the editorial process. As for the cover, I think it stood out because the book's cover was rather plain, whereas most business books tend to be colorful and have large titles.

Also, traveling to Tokyo started to take off at a rapid pace around the time of publication. Plus, the book was put into the center of attention because it was my, and the author's, first book. I believe that when a new book comes out, it should be picked up by at least one person (MD) at a major bookstore. That pick-up can expand the book's reach to a wider audience. Promotional opportunities arise along the way, and the book takes on a life of its own.



The cover and the title page of *Tokyo Curation*

Many readers often choose a book based on the publisher's reputation. As a new publishing house, how are you working to build awareness of Zeen Scene's name and identity?

I once pondered about the “books and responsibilities” that go with the name of a publishing house. Under the name Zeen Scene, I didn't expect to publish a series of books with photographs and drawings like this. I feel amazed with each book, thinking that perhaps it's the responsibility created by the name of the publishing house. So, I think carefully about whether images should really be included in a book. For example, I started to look at whether the moment the photo captures is more than just being pretty, whether it captures a sense of life, and whether readers can feel the message it's trying to convey. When I post photos on social media, I try to speak to people with such photos first, as if they were a trailer before they turned into a book.

When I make a book, I spend a lot of time thinking about the layout of the text and images, as well as the cover. I organize the pages and arrange the images as if I were building a house. The first image, sentence, or phrase that the reader encounters when they open the book is also what I want to say in each book. The cover of *Tokyo Curation* was designed with the idea of walking into a landscape that unfolds when you open a small door. The covers of *Yesterday's Movie*, *Today's Director*, and *Tomorrow's Conversation* are doubled, which I hoped would make readers feel like they were heading to the screen in the theater when they opened them to meet the director of the day (the image on the title page). As for *The Romantic Observation*, I put it in hardcover, though it wasn't an art book, as I wanted it to be a more collectible book. The logo for Zeen Scene and all the covers of the five books were done by designer Gyu.



The cover and title page of *Yesterday's Movie*, *Today's Director*, and *Tomorrow's Conversation*

The second book, *Yesterday's Movie, Today's Director, and Tomorrow's Conversation*, is a collection of interviews that film critic Min Yong-Jun has conducted with Korean filmmakers since 2021. It's rare to see a book compiled of interviews, and it's even more unusual for a new publishing house to produce one. The film industry has also been on a downward spiral since the COVID-19 pandemic. Was there a reason for this bold decision?

Well, I never thought of it as a bold decision. I actually remember being nervous around the time it was about to be published because film essays by some of my favorite writers were being published in succession; I found solace in the fact that this book was not a film essay. The image I had of the book was more of a work of art than an essay. I think an author's first book should be the one that best expresses and represents his or her work. I always hope the first book will be successful.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 70 - Find more about the books recommended by film critic Min Yong-Jun

“The first image, sentence, or phrase that the reader encounters when they open the book is also what I want to convey in each book.”

The book, *The Romantic Observation*, by physicist Professor Lee Kie-Jin, who is widely known as the father of 2NE1 member CL, is also unique. The cover design and illustrations inside the book are as distinctive as the author's background. How was the planning process for the book? Which aspects of Professor Lee's work did you think would appeal to readers?

The book was initially contracted as a basic concept book that summarizes physics terms for teenagers. I changed the direction of the planning because I wanted to convey the human side of Professor Lee rather than a physicist who has already published various books in the field of science. I wanted to show the positive character of the professor who loved people and work. Like the first sentence of the book, "Painting was another universe for me (...) It made me look at the world with a curved perspective," the book is an illustration of the positive way a physicist looks at the world. We had numerous conversations during the planning phase, particularly regarding the style of the drawings.

Because all of the books published so far have been illustrated essays, I initially wanted to make a complete change in the style of the illustrations. I even tried some with just simple pencil lines, but in the process, I realized that instead of making changes, it would be better to highlight the artist's colorfulness in a more stylish and sophisticated way. So, I didn't add any other design elements to the illustrations so that they could show their characteristics better, and printed them on green-light paper.

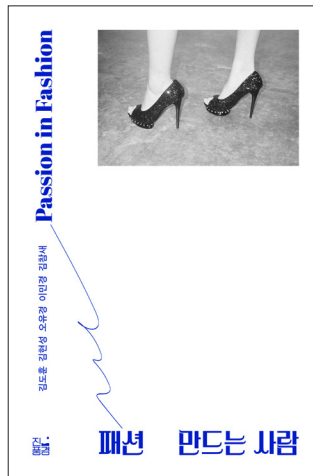


The Romantic Observation

I think the cover really captured the artist's artwork and the designer's layout beautifully - it's the cover on which we received the most compliments for its beauty at the time of publication. I wanted to express the intense moments of the season, like the most natural romantic feelings. I wanted it to look artistic rather than a cute illustration.

Fashion Makers grabs our attention with its intuitive title. It's also interesting to see how it was produced in a smaller size than the shingukpan (신국판; new standard size: 152×225mm), as opposed to the larger format that many fashion books choose to showcase their many images. Of course, it's not intended to be a book about images, but we wonder if there was any desire to make it a bit larger.

No, there wasn't. (Laughs) I keep being surprised by all the detailed questions you ask about the books by Zeen Scene. Thank you. At first, I was thinking of smaller formats, either narrower or



Fashion Makers

more compact, so that it could fit in a fashionable bag. I wanted the book to look like a fashion accessory, too. It's because small bags were trendy at the time, and we were starting to see essays in more boldly small formats. However, seeing these extremely small books made me rethink my idea. I wanted it to be a little bit bigger, based on what I had in mind.

First, I wanted the drawings and photographs to be bigger and more visually appealing; second, I kept the basic idea that the book should be easily recognizable on the display shelf. However, I didn't want the book to be too large and overwhelming when it was placed on the shelf. Specifically, I didn't want to present Kim Cham-Sae's paintings in a scaled-down format. Shingukpan was a modified format because I thought it would be boring to call it a fashion book. I was more worried about the paper than the format, because I, and the designer, also liked and used non-glossy green-light paper. Since the book is a mixture of drawings and photographs, and the photographs are of different tones and

resolutions, I thought of and chose a paper that would balance and hold the middle ground.

You recently published Kim Jung-Hyuk's *Books are Space-Time Machines*. The description, "A new hybrid universe of fiction and non-fiction," is as intriguing as the title itself. Is this a sign that Zeen Scene will be publishing narrative books as well in the future?

I have been asked this question quite a lot. I think it's more of a sign - I tend to be interested in bringing together things that happened in different fields and at different times in one book, but I'm also conscious of the fact that books that have a clear focus are the ones that sell. I started putting that curiosity and the conflicting elements within me in *Fashion Makers*. First of all, in terms of visuals, I wanted to showcase the arrangement of drawings and photographs, as well as the different themes and ideas about fashion, all in one book - so that they could coexist as distinct elements, while preserving a not-so-uncomfortable rift. This book was the beginning of the "entanglement." (Laughs)

And, such aspects were further expanded in the book by Kim Jung-Hyuk. It wasn't a plan of mine, but rather an opportunity given to me in the manuscript. This book was an attempt that was only possible because of the author's text and photographs. I often felt like I was reading an essay or sometimes a self-help book while reading his novels. I don't, of course, consider the stories told in his novels to be autobiographical, but as a reader, I

What do these five books have in common, and what is the story that Zeen Scene is trying to tell the reader through them?

It's a really hard question. They don't seem to have anything in common, but they seem vaguely similar. When I'm planning a new book, I often think that I want to make something radically different from the books I have made in the past. So, I try to give books some intentional tonal differences - but ultimately, in retrospect, they don't turn out to be that different. I had an author who told me that even though the covers of the five books were different, the story I was trying to tell was the same. I hadn't noticed that until then, so I was grateful for the comment. Now I don't intentionally try to make changes. However, I do feel like if I talk about something too dark or serious, it doesn't seem real. Someone's joke about how "it might be pretentious for you to make a book like that" really sounded true.

Following fashion, I'm working on books about food and home, and a publisher friend of mine called Zeen Scene a lifestyle publishing house - and I loved it. I want to introduce people who are living their lives with integrity, taking each day as it comes. I want it to be a book that just hints that there's this interesting way of living, even if it might not be perfectly beautiful. I hope to deliver books that make people feel better, even if I won't be able to give them a lot of happiness. I'm making the book in the hope that just looking at the photos or drawings will make readers feel better.

There is a gap of approximately one year between each new release, which is a relatively long interval. Is there a particular reason for this?

I posted my New Year's resolution on social media that I will make Zeen Scene a publishing company that frequently releases books, rather than being rarely active. There is no particular reason for the interval - perhaps it is because I do not have any special talent. (Laughs) I don't think I'm good at rushing things. However, recently, I made a resolution to wait calmly while preparing for the future with a better attitude than before. I want to be more patient with my own judgment, not only in the author's writing but also in the process of making books. The period during which a book can be properly sold is getting shorter and shorter, and once a book is published, it has to live on in its given form and appearance. So, I thought I should be more diligent in the process of making it.

“I wanted to be more patient with my judgment not only in the author's writing but also in the process of making books.”

Please tell us about the image and identity that Zeen Scene aims to establish as a publishing company.

I definitely like beautiful things, but the realm of beauty is so vast. I like cuteness and naturalness, but sometimes I also fall for

artificial beauty. I have to make decisions because I spend a lot of time thinking about what kind of beauty to choose and how much to show. So, I rely on the images of the authors to envision the images of the books and try to complete them. I look at the authors in the books I want to present and discover their identities in them. There have been moments when I wanted to exaggerate the beauty I like, but instead, I ended up wanting to distance myself from it.

The beauty I usually think of is not just an image of a single scene. When I look outside from inside Gyeongbokgung Palace, I often think of the layers of Korean architecture and modern buildings as the charm of Seoul. So, seeing the places that are disappearing in Seoul, I began to think more about the things that will never disappear. Through books, I want to show a more positive side. Looking at Seoul with its many disappearing places with a sense of dissatisfaction, my thoughts led me to reflect on the identity of places and books. What is the true scene I want to show through books? I want to reflect on this in my city, where I live, without going elsewhere in the world.

Everyone lives within the concept of time, but recently, the boundary between the present and the past has lost its meaning for me. If past content has survived to the present and continues to influence me, I would like to take the courage to compile it into a book. The cookbook I am currently preparing is such a book. It is the story of a person who used to develop recipes and run a brunch shop (café), but now raises children at home, cooks

meals, and supports her family (household). Though the shop is gone, the wonderful work that person created has simply moved to another dimension, her home - so I don't think it's gone forever. I thought these recipes were worth preserving as a book, both for myself and to share with others. Could such scenes come together to form the identity of a true scenery? I can't be sure, but I keep finding myself drawn to that image, wanting to see the true scenery that transcends the boundaries of past, present, and future. (Laughs)

We will continue to support Zeen Scene, which offers a diverse range of pleasures through books. Could you please share your plans for new titles and future goals?

Thank you. It was an opportunity for me to reflect on my sense of responsibility while answering your questions. Recently, I often think about capturing the scenery of everlasting things in this capricious city. As for my future plans, I am currently preparing a curated series of books on Seoul and Northern Europe. I will be able to introduce cookbooks and humanities books about homes soon. The book about homes will be Zeen Scene's first book without any photos or illustrations. It always feels like making the first book.

KOREAN AUTHORS

Writer Cho Young-Joo

A writer with a powerful imagination who has no limits

No reader can fail to love an author who has such a powerful imagination and tireless productivity. And, if that author's works are about characters who find peace and redemption through sheer force of will, and if the stories are breathtakingly exciting, the love for the author deepens. This is the case with Cho Young-Joo, who started out writing genre fiction before expanding into young adult fiction. Although her stories take on the appearance of thrillers, Cho has been writing heartwarming narratives about characters who are ultimately redeemed and healed. Here is a look into the whole new world she has created.



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

Hello, everyone. I'm novelist Cho Young-Joo. I started my career as a writer with the mystery novel *The Letter From Holmes* (Noble Mine); now I also write novels and essays for young adults. It's a pleasure to meet you.

The Letter From Holmes is set against the backdrop of the March 1st Movement, and it garnered significant attention for its clever use of both fictional and real-life figures, such as Sherlock Holmes, Kim Nae-Sung, who can be considered the first detective novelist of Korea, and Edogawa Ranpo, a towering figure in Japanese detective fiction. Can you tell us a bit about how and when you conceptualized the story?

Before I made my debut as a writer, I once attended a gathering of writers called the "Korean Mystery Writers' Society," which is

inactive today. One of the writers told me, “There was a novelist named Kim Nae-Sung, who wrote stories during the Japanese occupation of Korea. While Japan holds events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their novelists’ births, we didn’t even know that there was such a novelist in Korea.” The writer also said that it is crazy that we, mystery writers, don’t know about him. Because it was the time when the BBC drama “Sherlock” was airing, I asked them, “How would it be if I wrote a novel about Sherlock coming to Korea and meeting writer Kim?” They said it would be fine. So, without studying anything, I just started writing the novel on my own. The interesting thing is that I had the experience of seeing the characters come to life through that process.



The Letter From Holmes

Since when did you start reading mystery novels? Also, as you might have read many works by other authors, could you introduce us to some of the authors and works that you like in particular?

It was only since 2007. Before that, I didn't even know how to borrow books from the library. The manager of the cafe where I worked part-time showed me how to borrow books from Namsan Library. At that time, the "Book of the Month" selected by the library was, *The Reason* by Miyuki Miyabe. I borrowed the book and read it, but it was so boring that I was only 100 pages into it when the return date was approaching. However, once I got past those 100 pages, the story started to get really startling - I ended up staying up all night to finish it. After I finished the book, I held it up and said, "If this is what a mystery novel is, then I'm going to be the writer of mystery novels."

One of my favorite Korean novelists is Kim Ho-Yeon. I had a chance to meet her at an event, and she signed a copy of her book. It was *Fauster* (Wisdom House), which I read with great pleasure and became an instant fan. She then sent me another copy of her book, *The Uncanny Convenience Store* (Namu Bench). I cried so much after reading that book and seeing how popular it became. If you got to know Kim Ho-Yeon with *The Uncanny Convenience Store*, you should definitely read *Fauster* - it will blow your mind.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 44 - Go to the interview with writer Kim Ho-Yeon



Kim Ho-Yeon's *The Uncanny Convenience Store* and *Fauster*

We think detective fiction is like an intellectual game with the reader, who has made up their mind, saying, “I won’t be deceived.” So, I imagine that for each work, your determination to deceive the reader must be unique. Could you share a bit about the preparation you do to structure the story and its tricks?

You have to be struck by some kind of lightning. You can tell the difference between a book written after being struck by a lightning bolt and one that isn’t. A book written after the lightning strike is read in one sitting, and readers can’t even anticipate the plot twists. However, a book written without the lightning strike is often reacted to by the publisher first. I once had to write a whole new story because my publisher didn’t like it. It was fine at first, but as soon as I got off the phone with them, I started to get really angry and wrote a new 900-page novel in ten days. And, they gave it the green light. It’s a secret

which book it was. For me, I have to be struck by lightning and really get into the story, as if I'm a character in it, to make a good piece. I tend to wait until I'm in that state of mind, as if I were being possessed by a spirit.

“I held up the book I had finished reading,
and then, like a scene from a cartoon, I resolved,
‘If this is what a mystery novel is,
I’m going to be a mystery novelist.’”

Every mystery writer creates a detective or investigator who can be called their persona. Can you tell us about Detective Kim Na-Young in the world of your Detective Kim Series, which spans *Red Sofa* (Hainaim Publishing Co., Ltd.), *There Is No Twist* (Yeondam L), and *Hatred Suicide* (CABINET)?

The character “Kim Na-Young” first appears in *Red Sofa*. She’s a survivor of a homicide and also suffers from hyperthymic syndrome and insomnia. She becomes a detective and tries to find out who made her like this. She then undergoes a period of healing through *There Is No Twist* and *Hatred Suicide*. When I was writing *Red Sofa*, I didn’t think about the future role of detective Kim Na-Young - she just naturally kept showing up as I wrote. For *Hatred Suicide*, I was stuck for two years after starting the story, but her appearance brought it to an end. Additionally, for *There Is No Twist*, her presence helped unravel many of the

plot holes. It was a goosebump experience for me, too, because all the stories came together with the involvement of Kim Na-Young. Oh, yes, Kim Na-Young is the lightning - Kim Na-Young herself became the lightning.



Red Sofa; There Is No Twist; Hatred Suicide

You have been meeting readers with young adult fiction since 2020. Among them, *Glass Mask* (Saenggak Hakgyo), a full-length novel with the same title as Miuchi Suzue’s comics, is also known as your autobiographical story. What was the story you wanted to convey to young adult readers through this book?

I wrote a paragraph about the comic “*Glass Mask*” in my essay, *It’s Good to Have Too Many Things You Like* (Lik-it). Reading that, my publisher asked me to “write a story about a vivacious kid who joyously overcomes bullying.” I was actually bullied by the entire school when I was in middle school. I cried a lot while

writing the book because it was based on that experience, but it was therapeutic, too, at the same time. I used to break down in tears just talking about bullying.

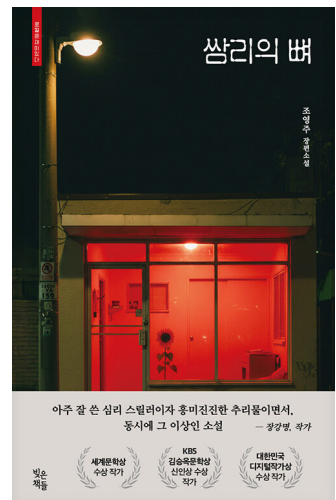
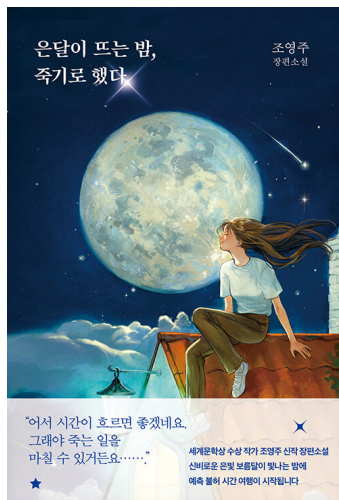
Middle school students once asked me about how to stop bullying. At the time, I said, “I don’t know,” but the question stuck with me for a long time. And so, I decided to write a book that might be the answer. *My Friend is a Narcissist* (Saenggak Hakgyo) is a story about a friendship between a narcissist and a bullied girl at school. It ultimately comes down to communication, but no one knows if that will be enough to stop bullying. But, I think I will continue to talk about bullying for young adults.



Glass Mask; My Friend is a Narcissist

The spaces you spend your time in also seem to be a source of inspiration. Can you tell us about any of your work that has been influenced by the environment or region where you are currently living?

I came to write the Time Trilogy of *Cronotopia* (Yoda), *The Silver Moon Café* (Matisse Blue), and *The Unburied* (Bizn Books) by chance, all of which are set in Namyangju and Pyeongtaek, the places where I lived and still reside. *The Silver Moon Café* was inspired by the unmarked graveyard that my dog discovered while we were walking together before it passed away. The story begins with a woman who is so depressed that she can't even remember her own name; she attempts to commit suicide next to the unmarked graveyard, until she meets an old woman who bakes bread at *the Silver Moon Café* and gets some bread from her. Then, her time stops, and she becomes unable to die. The old woman's wish to stop her from dying was put into the bread.



Cronotopia; *The Silver Moon Café*; *The Unburied*

Meanwhile, *The Unburied* takes place in “sam-ri,” a red-light district near Pyeongtaek Station. It is the story of a daughter who is asked by her mother with dementia to “finish the novel I was writing before” and searches for the truth when she discovers that a murder has occurred in the same story she wrote.

The Silver Moon Café and *The Unburied* were also introduced to readers at the 2025 Seoul International Book Fair (SIBF) in June. You personally joined the book fair and held a signing event as well. What was it like meeting readers there, and do you have any memorable stories to share?

At the book fair, I was out and about, pitching *The Unburied* and describing the story of the book. Then some people would actually come and buy the book, asking me to ring it up. When the staff from the publishing house would tell them, “She is the author of this book,” they would be surprised and ask for an autograph. It was very fascinating. I was also surprised to find readers looking for me at the fair. I heard that people were looking for me whenever I was away. I even had actor Park Jung-Min, who is also the head of the publishing company MUZE, come and buy the book when I was away. I was able to sell out the book thanks to the interest of many people. Of course, I have met many readers at book talks, but they were already familiar with me beforehand. However, at events like a book fair, people who don’t know me at all come and buy my book - it made me feel very emotional. It also strengthened the awareness that “I

am a writer.”

You are writing in many genres and fields, beyond mysteries. Where do you get the energy to be so prolific?

Money. When I get paid. (Laughs) When the deadline approaches, lightning strikes me. I put in a lot of effort to try to meet the lightning head-on. I write with the resolve to take a cold shower. In fact, there’s a deadline I’ve already postponed, and soon I’ll have to face the lightning and write while shedding tears of regret.



You are also known as a “successful *deokhu* (덕후; meaning ‘a mania-like person with obsessive interests’).” What is your longest-running area of enthusiasm, and who is your current “favorite character”?

I think I’m a *deokhu* who got successful by being a fan of Jeong Yu-Jeong. I attended a book talk celebrating the release of Jeong’s *28* (EunHaengNaMu Publishing), where I heard the invited band perform Paek Seok’s poem, *There is a White Wind Wall*. Because it was a poem that I loved a lot since I was in my 20s, and I thought I wanted to write a novel about it one day, I got goosebumps all over my body when I heard the song made from it. And then, Jeong Yu-Jeong came out and started talking, and it all sounded like my story, because we had so much in common. I didn’t know her before then, and I hadn’t read any of her books. But, I got to think that she was really amazing as I listened to her talk.

After the event, I asked the publisher who accompanied me there, “What do I need to do to be like Jeong Yu-Jeong?” and the answer was, “You need to win an international literary award.” So, I worked really hard for it - even though I didn’t really think I would win one at the time. Later, when I finally won an award, Jeong was so happy for me, giving me a meaningful gift, saying, “My *deokhu* won the prize!” before joining us for the celebration party. I am still a *deokhu* of her to this day because she is such an admirable and wonderful person.

I have been a longtime fan of writer Jeong Hae-Yeon, too. I have

known her since before her debut, and I have always cheered her on as a “writer who will definitely succeed.” I am very happy that she is becoming famous as I hoped.

We know that you have a lot of readers who are big fans of your works. As a “*deokhu*” and a “*deokhu* maker,” what do you think are the elements of a compelling narrative or character?

It’s important that the characters are alive. When the characters are alive, there is nothing for me to do - their movements become reality. That’s why I feel like the whole scene is unfolding in front of me when the characters are alive.

“I cried a lot while writing the book
because it was based on my experiences.
But, I was healed at the same time as I wrote it.”

Are you currently working on new titles?

I would first pick *The Phantom Spirits of the Forbidden Palace* (KONG), which was the first illustrated novel in my writing life and was showcased at the 2025 SIBF. I’m also working on a young adult detective novel, *The Girl Who Stops Before* (Detective Socrates Series 1). I have Asperger’s Syndrome. It’s not severe, but it makes me repeat peculiar behaviors and speech patterns, and sometimes I don’t understand what people are saying. It

causes a bit of trouble when I'm building social relationships. I was bullied in middle school for this, too. So, I started writing this book, imagining what it would be like to have a detective with the syndrome.

I also have a young adult novel coming out in July titled, *You Always Shine (K-monster Gildal Series 1)*, which tells the story of what it's like after your pet passes away. I also have a condition called prosopagnosia, where I struggle to recognize people's faces - sometimes I don't even recognize my own face. I'm working on an essay about an interview I had with the head of a publishing house who wanted to learn about it.



The Phantom Spirits of the Forbidden Palace showcased at the 2025 SIBF
(Source: writer Cho Young-Joo's Instagram)

Last but not least, do you have any personal goals or wishes aside from literature and books?

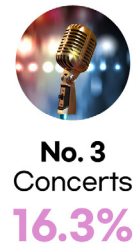
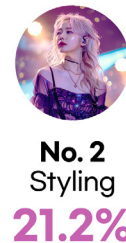
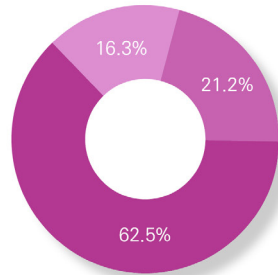
I have one. I would love to become an international author with a billion won publishing contract, just like writer Kang Min-Young of *Plants, Shops* (Hanibook). (Laughs)

* [Click here to watch the interview on YouTube](#)

IMAGE OF K-BOOK

A Story of Friendship and Growth Built Through Fanhood

Q. What defines K-POP culture?



People often feel a sense of connection when they meet someone who shares their interests. This is because common interests make us feel like we have similar preferences. Teenagers, in particular, often form social connections by creating fandoms for their favorite singers, actors, or characters, as friendships hold significant importance to them. Fandoms formed in the online space can open up another world for them offline. A fandom refers to a community of people who share a common interest, building a culture through friendships and emotional connections. It is a collective phenomenon where fans communicate and interact with each other beyond simply liking individual content.



Fandoms have an essential role in K-POP culture

Fandom culture is growing to the point where, according to a survey of readers by *K-Book Trends*, it ranked first as an essential part of K-POP culture in Korea. However, there is also hostility towards things they don't like. That's why it can sometimes be hard to say out loud that we like what we like - and this is where the phrase "respect your taste" comes from.



Our Garden

This month's issue introduces *Our Garden (Sakyejul)*, a young adult coming-of-age novel about how a protagonist, who is afraid of building relationships, learns about friendship and the world through fandom. The book tells the story of how "liking something" can move a person, connect people, and teach a person about the world. For seventeen-year-old Jung-Won, who has always found it difficult to make friends, pop idol A-Seven is the source of her life and her favorite singer in the world. However, it is difficult for her to open up to her friends about them because she is afraid of how they will react to someone who means so much to her. One day, she meets a friend, Dalyi, in an A-Seven fan cafe, and shares her feelings about A-Seven with her only. Then, on the day Dalyi's account disappears, Jung-Won is shocked and heartbroken, realizing that their friendship could end at any moment. Eventually, she meets another group of A-Seven fans at an offline book club that she inadvertently joins, and for the first time, she shares her heart about "liking something" with someone in person. The experience teaches her that each person has a different type and temperature of affection, and how to have confidence in relationships.

This is not the only lesson Jung-Won learns from being a fan. As she watches A-Seven become such great singers through painstaking hard work, she indirectly feels the bond that kept them together through their difficult years. She also examines her inner self, imagining herself as an adult in 10 years, in the quest to become a real adult. This is not just about the world

of fandoms or deokjil (a Korean slang, meaning “the act of enthusiastically supporting and engaging with one’s favorite idols or characters, often through various fandom activities”); it touches on deeper sentiments, including relationships built on preferences, loneliness, and connection in the digital age, as well as teenage anxiety and growth. Every experience of being a fan teaches Jung-Won to cultivate his inner jungwon (정원; meaning “garden”), to understand others, and to live together. The author of the book, Kim Ji-Hyeon, brings together the relationship-affirming attitude of the characters in both online and offline spaces, carefully maintaining distance and respecting each other. The book, *Our Garden*, is a book that I would like to recommend to everyone who wants to live in a kinder world that “respects each other’s taste.”

LET'S TRY

Exercise Independence: Find the Lifelong Exercise Method That Fits Your Body

Event

Let's Try introduces various useful, 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!

*Exercise Independence:
A Guide to Taking Control of Your Body and Fitness*

- Written by Koo Hyun-Kyung, published by Piper Press



Now, achieve “exercise independence”
by taking responsibility for your body
with the goal of achieving lifelong health!

1

운동 독립을 해야 하는 이유

운동하니까 건강할 거라는 착각

“운동 독립”이라는 말을 들으면 직관적으로 운동을 혼자 할 수 있는 능력을 기르라는 메시지로 받아들일 수 있다. 물론 그것도 맞다. 그런데, 여기서 운동 독립이란 단순히 운동을 혼자 할 수 있는 상태를 넘어서는 것이다. ① 자신의 몸 상태를 정확히 파악하고 이해하며, ② 몸의 균형을 유지하고 개선하기 위해 필요한 운동과 스트레칭, 종합적 운동 계획 설계에 대한 충분한 지식을 가지고 있고, ③ 이를 바르게 수행할 수 있는 기술과 실천 능력을 갖춘 상태를 의미한다. 이러한 조건을 충족함으로써 개인은 자신에게 맞는 최적의 운동 프로그램을 계획하고, 건강과 체력을 평생 효과적으로 관리할 수 있다. 즉 스스로 몸을 돌볼 수 있는 능력을 갖추는 것이므로, 이미 운동을 즐기고 있는 중고급자와 운동과는 거리가 먼 삶을 살아가는 사람 모두가 함양하고 평생 가꾸어야 하는 덕목이다.

운동을 진득하게 즐기고 있는 사람이려면 자신이 이미 운동 독립을 이루었고 더 이상 할 수 있는 게 없다고 판단할 수 있다. 그러나 위 정의에 비추어 보아, 운동 독립에 이르려면 운동을 열심히 하는 것만으로는 부족하다. 몸으로 배우는 근신경적 학습을 넘어 지적인 배움의 과정이 반드시 동반되어야 한다. 운동을 즐기는 이들이 지적인 학습을 하지 않았다라는 뜻이 아니다. 수직적인 배움, 즉 특정 영역에 대한 깊은 전문 지식 외에도 몸 전반을 보살피기 위한 포괄적인 수평적 배움까지



비정상적으로 큰 상대로, 정상 흉추가 20~45도의 후만을 가진다면, 45도를 넘어설 때 흉추 후만증으로 진단한다.

그러나 의학적 흉추 후만의 정의까지 가지 않아도 조금만 움직여 보면 쉽게 알 수 있을 것이다. 특히 단순히 승관성 자체가 아니라, 몸을 쥐고 등 앞뒤가 안 피지는 뻣뻣한 상태라면 흉추 신전 능력의 부족을 개선해야 한다는 문제의식을 가질 필요가 있다. 그런 흉추는 대부분의 상체 운동에서 올바른 자세를 만들지 못하도록 상당한 제약을 초래하여 대부분의 경우 리프트 습도, 거북 목을 일으킨다. 더욱이, 척추는 하나로 연결되어 있기 때문에 흉추 후만각이 크면 그림처럼 요추의 굴곡도 과장시키며 운동시 아래 허리 통증에도 큰 영향을 주는 것으로 관찰된다.



전방등 (Flat back syndrome)

척추의 정상적인 곡선이 소실되어 등이 편평해진 상태. 정상적인 척추는 목과 허리가 전방으로 굽은 곡선, 흉추는 후방(뒤로) 굽은 곡선이며 이러한 곡선이 척추에 가해지는 부하를 분산시키고 신체 균형 유지에 도움을 준다. 그러나 전방등이 발생하면 척추가 일자로 변형되어 충격에 취약해지며, 경추에도 영향을 주어 일자목을 악화시키거나 목상 경첩을 유발하기도 한다.



척추 곡선 (scollion)

척추가 정면에서 봤을 때 옆으로 휘어진 상태. 단, 실제로는 단순히 2차원적인 기형이 아니라 추체 자체의 회전 방향과 동면되는 3차원적인 기형 상태이다. 흉추에서 일어날 수도, 요추에서 일어날 수도, 두 영역 모두에서 일어날 수도 있다.

The book featured in this month’s issue, *Exercise Independence: A Guide to Taking Control of Your Body and Fitness*, is a health guide that helps you understand your body and find the right exercise routine for it. While many people know that exercise is good for them, they often repeat the cycle of starting and giving up, and end up drifting away from exercise altogether because

they couldn't find a routine that suits their body. This book is designed for that very reason: it guides readers toward building a habit of exercising "on their own" and "safely," much like brushing their teeth, while also helping them manage stress and cultivate an attitude of valuing their bodies. The goal is not just to reach a state where one can exercise alone, but to achieve "exercise independence"—a state where one accurately understands their physical condition and limitations, and combines knowledge of anatomy, principles of movement, and physical fitness elements to find the right exercise routine for themselves.

This book offers a checklist that helps you assess your body type, posture, and range of motion, enabling you to find exercises that are appropriate for you. It also provides a comprehensive overview of anatomy, explaining the structure of the human body, including muscles, as well as exercises for specific areas and types of activities, and the connection between our bodies and the exercises we perform. For example, individuals with longer femurs often struggle to perform squats properly. Here, the book suggests alternatives like wearing weightlifting shoes to increase the range of motion in the ankles or performing one-legged squats, thereby helping them find exercises that fit their physical characteristics. Furthermore, the book holistically addresses every aspect of life that affects the body, from breathing and sleep to diet, all with the aim of fostering a healthy lifestyle. After finishing the book, you will gain confidence and

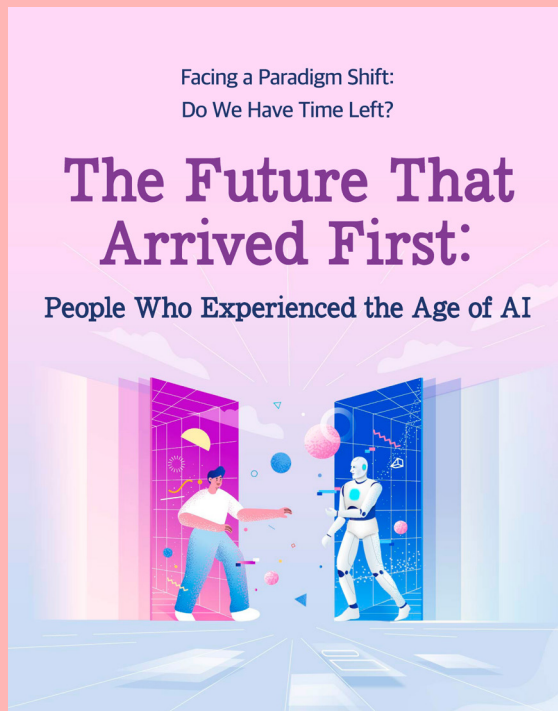
strategies to manage and take responsibility for your own body. So, why not start your journey toward “exercise independence”—the self-directed planning and practice of workouts—with the goal of lifelong health?

[» Go To Article](#)

NEW BOOKS

The Future That Arrived First: People Who Experienced the Age of AI

Facing a Paradigm Shift: Do We Have Time Left?



The **advent of AlphaGo** shattered the belief that only humans could turn play into art.

For the **average person**,
it was a testament to the progress of technology,

but it was a traumatizing moment
for **professional Go players**
who had spent their entire lives playing the sport,
as if their very existence was being denied.



Having **experienced the post-AI world**
before anyone else,
they were aware of it.

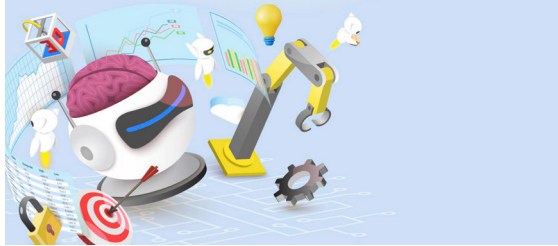
The **“future that came first”** had
finally arrived.

However, the impact of AI is not limited to Go.



The progress of technology has never stopped,
and it has taken all aspects of human life including
literature and art, labor and education
into the era of AI.

Is “no” an option
in the face of technological progress?



Author Chang Kang-Myoung states,

“Even if you don’t use AI,
your values change and shift
because of others who do.”

- from the book



Is the belief that
technology will never be able to
encroach on areas that are intrinsically
a human domain valid?

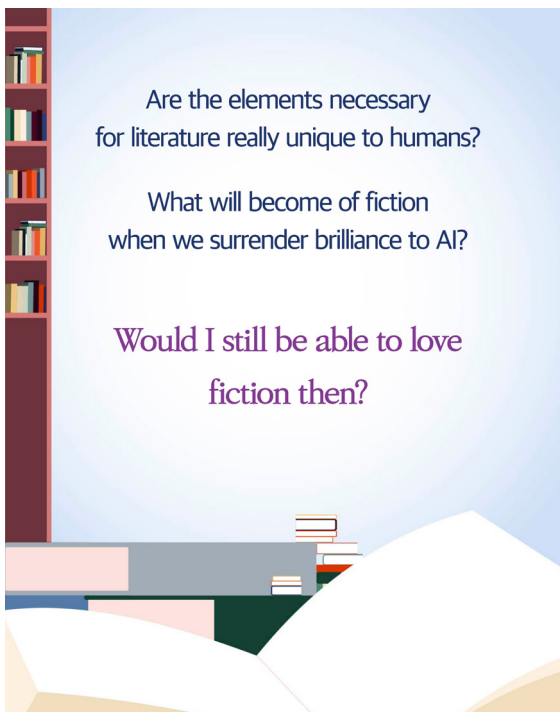
What will be the meaning of existence for humanity,
having entered the age of AI without realizing it?



Are the elements necessary
for literature really unique to humans?

What will become of fiction
when we surrender brilliance to AI?

Would I still be able to love
fiction then?





BEST SELLERS

Summer, Between the Ideal (*isang*; 理想) and the Abnormal (*isang*; 異常)

Bestseller Trends in the Three Biggest Online Bookstores in Korea for the 2nd week of July, 2025

Summer in Korea is a time when weather extremes intersect, with heat waves followed by rainy seasons. This is why summer vacations are a time when people look forward to escaping both the heat and the rain. We all dream of perfect vacation plans and ideal (*isang*; 理想) summer days, but with the escalating abnormal (*isang*; 異常) climate events, expecting weather similar to the past may be more of a fantasy than a reality. In between the ideal and the abnormal, we have compiled a list of the top travel books of July, along with some of the overall bestsellers ahead of the summer vacation season.


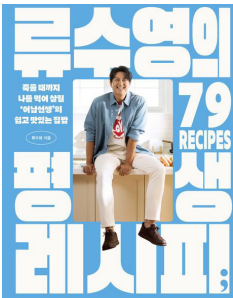
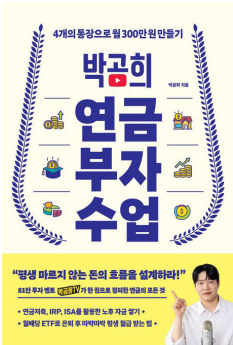
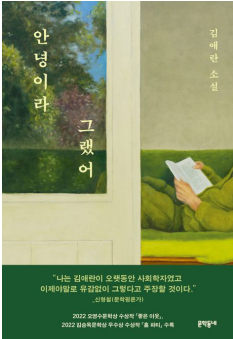
While the overall top 10 bestsellers in July remained largely unchanged from last month, *Choi Tae-Sung's Korean History Exam 2025: Advanced (Levels 1, 2, and 3) Vol. 1* and *2* rose to No. 5 and No. 7, respectively, in part because of the upcoming 75th Korean History Exam in August in Korea. In the No. 2 spot

was *Ryu Soo-Young's 79 Recipes for Life*, which quickly became a bestseller upon its release at the end of June. Actor Ryu Soo-Young has been popular on Korean TV entertainment shows for his variety of simple and delicious dishes, and *Ryu Soo-Young's 79 Recipes for Life* is a collection of recipes for 79 of his most popular dishes. Also, *Park Gom-Hee's Lesson on Getting Rich on Annuities* came in at No. 3, reflecting the continued enthusiasm of Korean readers to learn something even during the summer vacation season.

The No. 1 book in the travel category was *The Reason for Travel*. It is not just a travelogue, but a collection of essays that reflect on the meaning of travel in everyday life, making even those of us who have never been able to take a vacation imagine an ideal (理想) trip. Other top five travel titles include *Friends Shanghai*, a guidebook to Shanghai, Suzhou, and Hangzhou, three of the most modern and exciting cities in China, and *This Is Tokyo*, a guide to Tokyo, a city that has always been a popular destination for its proximity to Korea. While the summer in reality is getting farther and farther away from the ideal (理想) and closer to the abnormal (異想), Korean readers are nevertheless making their own ideal summer by dreaming of traveling and reading books.

* The rank of bestsellers below was organized after integrating domestic bestsellers in the second week of July from the three biggest online bookstores in Korea – Kyobo Book Centre, Aladin, and Yes 24.

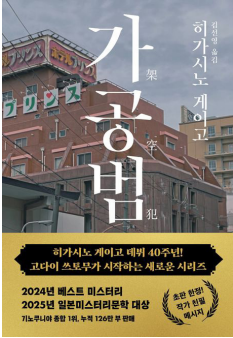
Top 10 bestsellers for the 2nd week of July

<p>1</p>		<p><i>Honmono</i></p> <p>Author Sung Hae-Na Publisher Changbi Publishers Genre Fiction</p>
<p>2</p>		<p><i>Ryu Soo-Young's 79 Recipes for Life</i></p> <p>Author Ryu Soo-Young Publisher Semicolon Genre Cooking</p>
<p>3</p>		<p><i>Park Gom-Hee's Lesson on Getting Rich on Annuities</i></p> <p>Author Park Gom-Hee Publisher Influential Genre Business</p>
<p>4</p>		<p><i>They Said They're Doing Good</i></p> <p>Author Kim Ae-Ran Publisher Munhakdongne Publishing Genre Fiction</p>

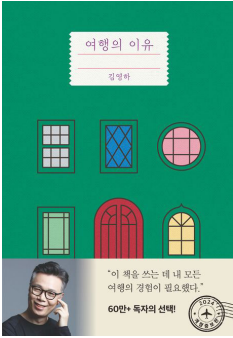
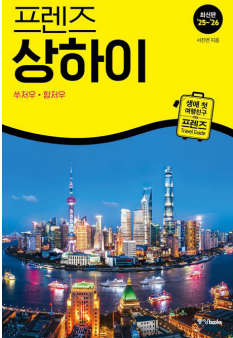
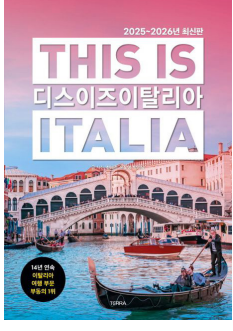
Top 10 bestsellers for the 2nd week of July

<p>5</p>		<p><u>Choi Tae-Sung's Korean History Exam 2025: Advanced (Level 1, 2, 3) Vol. 1</u></p> <p>Author Choi Tae-Sung Publisher ETOOS Genre Exam</p>
<p>6</p>		<p><u>A Country Protected by Its People</u></p> <p>Author Legal Representatives of Impeachment Prosecution Commissioners for President (Yoon Suk-Yeol), et al. Publisher Digital Prunsoop Genre Politics/Society</p>
<p>7</p>		<p><u>Choi Tae-Sung's Korean History Exam 2025: Advanced (Level 1, 2, 3) Vol. 2</u></p> <p>Author Choi Tae-Sung Publisher ETOOS Genre Exam</p>
<p>7</p>		<p><u>Contradictions</u></p> <p>Author Yang Gwi-Ja Publisher Write Publishing Co. Genre Fiction</p>
<p>9</p>		<p><u>My First Summer, Wanju</u></p> <p>Author Kim Keum-Hee Publisher MUZE Genre Fiction</p>

Top 10 bestsellers for the 2nd week of July

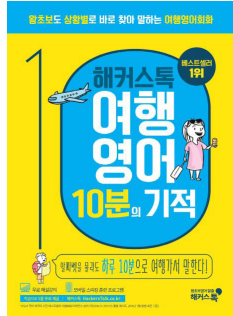
10		<p><i>Malice</i></p> <p>Author Keigo Higashino Publisher Vookda Genre Fiction</p>
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Top 5 travel books for the 2nd week of July

1		<p><i>The Reason for Travel</i></p> <p>Author Kim Young-Ha Publisher Bokbokseoga Publishing</p>
1		<p><i>Friends Shanghai</i></p> <p>Author Seo Jin-Yeon Publisher Joongang Books</p>
3		<p><i>This Is Italia</i></p> <p>Author Jeon Hye-Jin, Yoon Do-Young, Park Ki-Nam Publisher TERRA</p>

Top 5 travel books for the 2nd week of July

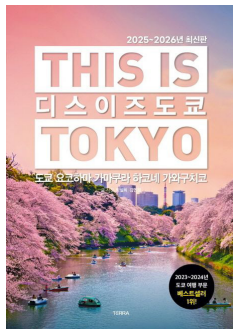
3



***Hackers Talk:
10-Minute Miracle of Travel English***

Author | Hackers Education Group
Publisher | Hackers Education Group

5



This Is Tokyo

Author | Park Seol-Hee, Kim Min-Jung
Publisher | TERRA

#K-BOOK

#Vacation

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

The Summer of a Mole

1. Publication Details

Title | The Summer of a Mole
Author | Kim Sangkeun
Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.
Publication Date | 2022-08-05
ISBN | 9791160949599
No. of pages | 56
Dimensions | 221*247



2. Book Intro

A friendly saying by grandma opens the beginning of the summer in a long time. In the forest where a mole family lives, many animals are ready for the summer vacation. The mole also leaves his boring work – digging the ground– behind, and heads towards somewhere for vacation. Then, he meets his first destiny under the shade of a tree. He thinks he is sitting on the ground, but it turns out to be the back of a turtle. The sweet mole has decided the sea is today's destination as the turtle is accompanying him to help him on his way home safely. He has postponed digging the ground for vacation, but he still needs to dig the ground to head toward the sea. He is somewhat hesitant to volunteer what he is not good at, but he works up the courage for the turtle. When you read this book, you will imagine the mole waiting for a bus near a snowball in the winter and then, you will smile while realizing how considerate the mole is.

Since they begin to dig the ground, their journey becomes such an adventure. They dig around anywhere and come up at strange places, saying, “I’m sorry”. Their surprise visits are presented rhythmically three times in a row. Their journey gets bigger and faster, and finally, the joy explodes in the end. They are not good at finding a way or digging the ground, but they also feel excited by having each other as a company. Where is the sea by the way? Their cheerful journey then gets quieter when they have to be separated. They have become a good friend to each other, but now it’s time to go their way home. Then, some other friends join in the journey, and they get to have an unexpected ending. Perhaps, those other friends might be adults who have protected the world of moles all the time. Readers, who haven’t noticed the truth of the turtle until now, may laugh out after reading a cute twist. The turtle and the mole didn’t know each other and had different personalities, but they were united as one. Their valuable friendship glitters in the summer night sky.

[See more details >>](#)

Winter Vacation in Seoul

1. Publication Details

Title | Winter Vacation in Seoul
Author | Jeon Jung-im
Publisher | Hello Robin
Publication Date | 2022-01-25
ISBN | 9791191942026
No. of pages | 174
Dimensions | 152*205



2. Book Intro

Ms. Yangi has opened the doors of her Hanok-style hotel in Seoul’s Bukchon Village to guests for the winter season. The story features a hotel employee called Mingyeong who becomes friends with a guest at the hotel called Lini. Although the friendship between the two young girls is off to a good start, it isn’t long before things begin to turn sour due to their differing personalities and difficulty understanding each other. How will Lini, the hotel guest, and Mingyeong, who acts as her guide, come to remember their time spent together in Seoul? Will they make any lasting memories of the big city? This travel guide introduces readers to the best family-friendly attractions in Seoul.

[See more details >>](#)

Man of Facts and Woman of Feelings

1. Publication Details

Title | Man of Facts and Woman of Feelings

Author | Sukyeong Lee; Hakgu Jeong

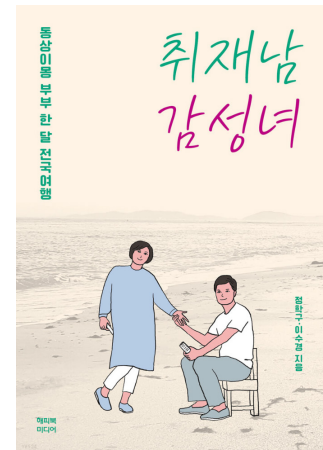
Publisher | Happybookmedia

Publication Date | 2021-12-13

ISBN | 9788998079451

No. of pages | 304

Dimensions | 150*220



2. Book Intro

Since meeting at a newspaper company and getting married, this agile couple have been busy going on road trips – even after their children were born. Always with an excuse of having to see the world, they are travel enthusiasts who have been all over the country and even all the way to Russia on the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Then their dream opportunity comes along – domestic travel for a whole month – not too long and not too short. The husband was planning a trip for his sabbatical before retiring, and the wife took a month from work due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A man who always plans everything and does things exactly as planned, and a woman who is just happy to go anywhere. They chronicle their journey of traveling together and rediscovering their differences, only to reaffirm that they are each other’s perfect life companions.

Starting from Jeju Island, they travel around the country from the West Coast, the Armistice Line, and the East Coast to Busan. It is true that this trip reflects the husband’s tastes and is a bit of a history tour, but it doesn’t stop there. They visit the wounds of modern history that cannot be seen in famous tourist attractions and observe ordinary people’s way of life as well as the other side of a glamorous city. The book makes us look into the heartbreaking fragments that we’re not aware of, or perhaps we want to look away from, in many corners of the country. Furthermore, you will see with fresh eyes the beautiful nature admired by a sentimental lady as well as charms in arboretums, museums, art galleries, and parks that have been well maintained. All this, and the couple’s love for each other.

Their one-month travel starts in Jeju Island. The scenery around the island is enchanting, but the tour starts off in a “dark” way. Part 1 depicts the couple’s week in Jeju. From the airport, they head to Hangpaduri Castle in Aewol for the first stop on their itinerary, and look back at the history of Anti-Mongol struggle. The Sambyeolcho resistance is well known, but the Mokho who settled down after defeating the Sambyeolcho is unfamiliar to us. When the man accidentally discovers the word “extermination of the Mongols” on a stone monument on the shore, his guts are activated. He pauses and searches the Jeju Provincial

Office website to find relevant historical facts. After suppressing Sambyeolcho as members of the Goryeo–Mongol Allied Forces, some Mongolian soldiers who remained in Jeju lived with the native people for 100 years. The word “extermination” refers to the annihilation of Mokho, or former Mongolian soldiers, by General Choi Young during the reign of King Gongmin at the end of the Goryeo period. Yet, there is a view held by some Jeju people that Sambyeolcho, the Mongolian army, or the Goryeo army were all foreign powers after all. The man is lost in thought. Is it appropriate that General Choi Young is accepted as a guardian deity by the Jeju people? Is the history we know true?

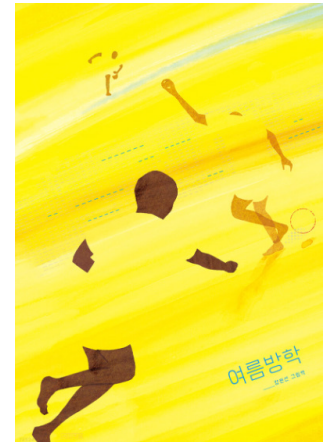
Such questions arise not only on Jeju, but also at various other destinations, and the man does not hesitate to pause and investigate. At night, he goes back to his room and scours the internet and belatedly studies history. When still not resolved, he tries to find data and even go on a follow–up trip after completing the one–month trip. The Yeosu–Suncheon Rebellion is another historical scene that he digs into.

[See more details >>](#)

Summer Vacation

1. Publication Details

Title | Summer Vacation
Author | Kang Hyun Sun
Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.
Publication Date | 2021–08–31
ISBN | 9791160947526
No. of pages | 60
Dimensions | 210*301



2. Book Intro

During the summer vacation, children go on a journey by bus. They happen to meet friends in different color skins while playing soccer. This round ball accidentally is kicked by children and the soccer game begins. The game never stops until the sunset becomes red. This picture book beautifully describes the heatwaves in the middle of the day, movements of kicking a ball, nervous emotions, and running players with bare feet on a wide sand beach based on dynamic images.

One summer day, a red bus is leaving. The story begins when this red bus stops after finishing its curling journey and children with backpacks get out of this bus. These children are looking for somewhere else using a map. They build up their tent and start playing in the water, but only one child wanders with a soccer ball.

And there are other children looking at this scene. They have different color skins! Where do they arrive in this summer vacation?

The writer, Kang Hyun Sun, has shown her personal style with stamp art and collage technique so far, and now she has beautifully described how friends with different skin colors become united after happening to meet together and playing soccer games at the strange place through this book, '*Summer Vacation*'. This book is presented only with images without descriptive writings, so that readers can feel the attractiveness of picture books. The empty faces of children without facial expressions provokes imagination. And the writer attracts readers with red color ranging from but, to a soccer ball, to the sunset, and by doing so, she provides us with such a special summer vacation story.

[See more details >>](#)

Summer Vacation Homework Fabricators

1. Publication Details

Title | Summer Vacation Homework Fabricators

Author | Jeong Jinhui; Lee Jin Ha

Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.

Publication Date | 2021-07-08

ISBN | 9791160947441

No. of pages | 160

Dimensions | 147*210



2. Book Intro

Isn't the summer vacation for a real break? However, mom never stops nagging even during the summer vacation. Today, Jun Bo got pushed by his mother again by being asked to do homework while watching the television. He tried to just ignore her saying, but at that moment, his mother proposed a very tempting bet. If he got awarded for the vacation homework, she promised to buy him a 'Playstory' gaming machine! So, Jun Bo decided to work on a vacation homework diligently, and called his friend, Gu Bong, to tell this good news. However, he got disappointed right away when Gu Bong said, "It's impossible for you to get awarded." Eventually, Jun Bo and Gu Bong asked Gyung Soo, the top student of the class and got award for vacation homework last year, for help. However, Gyung Soo rejected them, saying, "Why am I supposed to help you?". Will Jun Bo succeed in persuading Gyung Soo and getting the award for his homework with Gu Bong? Can Jun Bo earn a 'Playstory' gaming machine?

These three friends gathered together for homework, sometimes argued one another, and got rain while listening to cicadas under the sunshine. By doing so,

they all slowly learned how to get along with others, how to help and care for others who think differently from me and realized what friends were for. In the end, they all earned the opportunity to think of what really the important thing was on their own. Finally, these three characters in *'Summer Vacation Homework Fabricators'* spent their summer vacation through hands-on learning about being together, learning, and building true friendship or relationship with others. It could be somewhat typical and obvious like textbooks themes, but readers can feel how capable of the writer is to describe these unique and lovable characters in a realistic situation by using an easy material of 'vacation homework'.

[See more details >>](#)

I Want to Be Happy Now

1. Publication Details

Title | I Want to Be Happy Now
Author | Kim Jeonghee
Publisher | Goraebook library
Publication Date | 2019-01-04
ISBN | 9791187427803
No. of pages | 212
Dimensions | 130*190



2. Book Intro

Puberty is something everyone experiences. There are people who go through it quietly, without any emotional distress, and people whose mind and body fluctuate wildly with various thoughts. Who am I? What do I want? What kind of person do I want to become? The writer states it this way: once a thought strikes you, you can't do anything properly. During this time of life, one imagines a bright future while simultaneously being weighed down by insecurity and confusion about it. During this time, the forceful guidance of adults who push their way of life on youth, cause one to rebound in a random direction like a spring. The main character of this story, Junseo, is a spiritless boy. Not a troublemaker, just a lost boy who fails to get along in school and with friends. Limiting his life will only act as a poison to his growth. So the boy is sent off to his uncle's farm to experience a new world and reflect on his life. A special summer begins for Junseo, who does not know what he truly likes or what he wants to do. Junseo gets to spend his last summer break of middle school at his uncle's farm. This was something decided by Junseo's parents, rather than something he wanted, and they set the condition that he spends his time there without a smartphone instead of going to summer school. Junseo is worried about how he

will do on his uncle's farm.

His uncle raises sheep and chickens. One hen who does not get along with the flock shows interest in Junseo, who did not have much to like about the place, and Junseo eventually names the hen Gwiyomi. A Jindo dog named Khan which had been abandoned but was taken in by uncle, slowly became friendly with Junseo. Junseo tries to escape the farm, anxiously counting the days left until his return, but he is not completely hateful towards the life at the farm with his uncle. As time goes by, he gets used to the farm life and even becomes close with the Seulki's family in the neighborhood. But then one day, Junseo is attacked by a herd of wild boar. At the end of his summer break, Junseo returns to Seoul leaving the wounded Khan behind. Get on board with the special summer break of Junseo.

[See more details >>](#)

One Late Night in the Countryside

1. Publication Details

Title | One Late Night in the Countryside
Author | Myoung-jin Jeon; Kim Minjeong
Publisher | Wisdom House, Inc
Publication Date | 2018-08-10
ISBN | 9788962479614
No. of pages | 132
Dimensions | 153*220



2. Book Intro

Jangu went to grandmother's house in the countryside with his younger brother, Seonu. It had been three years since their last visit. For Jangu, who liked VR games, grandma's house was a boring and tedious place. Although his grandmother took very good care of them when Seonu and Jangu were younger and their mother was always busy, Jangu was just unhappy that he couldn't play the games he liked.

From the moment Seonu and Jangu arrived at their grandmother's house, all of their expectations were blown away. Grandma didn't come to the train station to pick them up because her legs were aching. They were no longer her top priorities. She only gave them steamed potatoes or boiled barley for meals. Seonu and Jangu didn't want to go to the toilet because it was way too dirty. On top of that, grandma said she caught all the mice in the house, but Jangu kept seeing the horrible rodents and it made him furious. The biggest problem was that grandma had become somewhat unfamiliar and cold. Jangu couldn't complain or

ask her for help.

Her weird words and behavior made him nervous. She told him not to go outside at night because he might encounter mountain animals. She said her dog and cat left home together one day. She didn't stop Seonu when he tried to climb a tree. Jangu even found her cat's leash and some bones, which made him extremely afraid and confused. What could be more scary and fearful than a person who's always on my side, who always loved me, suddenly becoming so unfamiliar? For Jangu, she was the person who loved him even more than his mom. They were so close that he thought those three years when they couldn't see each other wouldn't affect their relationship at all. As soon as Jangu started to think that his grandmother might hurt him, he ran away from the house.

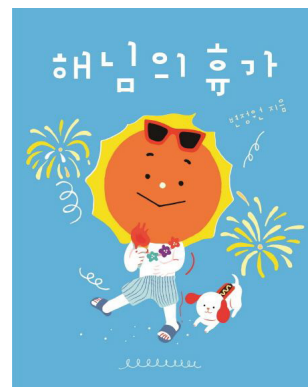
Then he started thinking that she may have a serious disease like dementia. So he came back to her house in the middle of the night, despite her warning that he should stay inside at night because of the dangerous mountain animals...! Will it be possible for Jangu to stay safe during this summer vacation?

[See more details >>](#)

The Sun's Vacation

1. Publication Details

Title | The Sun's Vacation
Author | Byeon Jeongwon
Publisher | BORIM PRESS
Publication Date | 2018-07-31
ISBN | 9788943311773
No. of pages | 26
Dimensions | 150*190



2. Book Intro

What does the Sun do when it rains? The Sun enjoys fishing stars with a frog in the galaxy and plays hide-and-seek in a sunflower garden. The Sun also enjoys hot swimming in a volcano where lava flows and has a party with friends. The Sun does quite a lot of things during its free time until the rain stops. Let's enjoy the Sun's special vacation together!

[See more details >>](#)

HOTEL PARADISE

1. Publication Details

Title | HOTEL PARADISE
Author | So Yoonkyoung
Publisher | Munhakdongne
Publication Date | 2018-07-20
ISBN | 9788954652032
No. of pages | 64
Dimensions | 250*330



2. Book Intro

Welcome. This is your paradise.

I have been waiting for you for quite some time.

This is the latest book of So Yoonkyoung, who has been staring at the other side of the safe, sleek world. The blend of dense pen lines and digital colors creates a sensation both throbbing and overwhelming at the same time. The story begins with a family going on vacation. After the tiring flight to their destination, the first thing to welcome them is an air of unfamiliarity. A disinfected interior and fancy decorations, great-tasting delicacies and eye-catching performances. Everything they need is prepared. As the family finds themselves in an atmosphere that provides them escape from their daily routine, the reader is met with a new narrator. Who is this voice that we meet in the middle of the story? This voice that has entered the story like an uninvited guest invites us to a world outside of the straight path towards Hotel Paradise.

[See more details >>](#)

I Travel to the Hotel

1. Publication Details

Title | I Travel to the Hotel
Author | Kim Dayeong
Publisher | Banni
Publication Date | 2018-07-10
ISBN | 9791187980766
No. of pages | 320
Dimensions | 140*205



2. Book Intro

Stop renting rooms in hotels just to sleep! How to enjoy a hotel vacation just for you.

Just as backpacking alone to famous destinations has become popular, taking a trip and enjoying a vacation at a hotel has also seen a sharp increase in popularity. Hotel trips are not only for special occasions, and they're not only for those with deep pockets, either. If you enjoy the special services that hotels prepare and like making short trips around hotels, you do not have to waste time and money traveling to distant destinations. Also, given that you have to sleep at a hotel for 1/3 of your total trip, the comfort and safety offered by the hotel is a great advantage of a hotel trip.

The author does not insist on a standardized hotel seen anywhere in this book. Instead, this book offers unique hotels rather than luxurious hotels, and hotels with their own policies. Like a hotel that offers a new tourism model in association with the local community, the author argues that the most important point in a hotel trip is experiencing new relaxation offered by the hotel. If you travel for relaxation, spending time at a hotel to relax and prepare is as important as the time you take traveling around the area. The quality of the time also determines the quality of the trip.

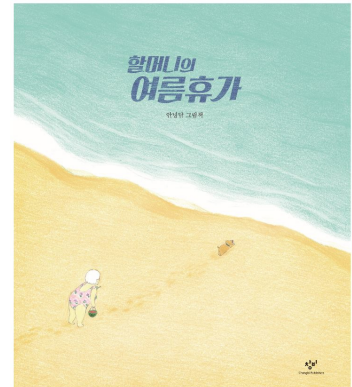
There is no reason to pay good money for a stay at a hotel just because it is luxurious and kind. A small service can move the customer's heart and change the overall feeling and satisfaction of the trip. The 28 hotels around the world that the author introduces are just like that. They allow you to see the area in a new way in association with the local community, offer you more attentive service unavailable anywhere else, and satisfy you with their unique concepts. The author enjoys services in person and delivers the experience directly from the perspective of the customer rather than that of those involved in the hotel or travel industry. It seems more intriguing to ordinary travelers who like traveling but know only the brands of large hotel chains, and the book provides a vivid portrayal that may well make you add some of these hotels to your plan for your next trip. Also included are useful transportation and pricing information and information about the hotels.

[See more details >>](#)

Granny's Summer Vacation

1. Publication Details

Title | Granny's Summer Vacation
Author | Bonsoir Lune
Publisher | Changbi Publishers, Inc.
Publication Date | 2016-07-01
ISBN | 9788936454951
No. of pages | 56
Dimensions | 227*260



2. Book Intro

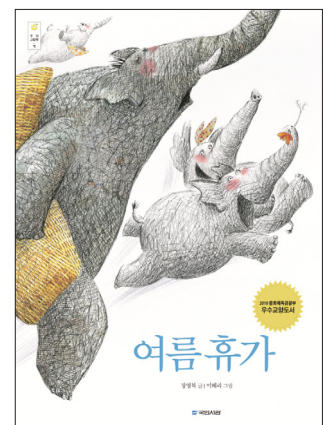
Noteworthy for its imaginativeness, freely moving between reality and fantasy, this work begins with a grandson visiting his lonely grandmother one summer day. After her grandson gives her a conch, which resonates with the sound of ocean waves, and departs, Granny is seated in an empty room, watching the television. Suddenly, she goes inside the conch with her puppy, Mary, and enjoys a nice summer vacation. In contrasting the home where Granny leads her everyday life and the seaside where she enjoys her vacation, the author shows an impressive expressiveness. Whereas the protagonist's home is exquisitely depicted with bric-a-brac, the sea is shown as a space where a wide-open view and a bold composition unfold. While Granny is portrayed as reticent and quiet in her daily life, she is as lighthearted and humorous at the sea. Adding outstanding imagination and sensitive mise-en-scène, the author spins the magical adventures of the heroine into a fascinating story.

[See more details >>](#)

Summer Vacation

1. Publication Details

Title | Summer Vacation
Author | Lee Haery; Jang Youngbok
Publisher | Kookminbooks Co., Ltd.
Publication Date | 2010-07-02
ISBN | 9788911029150
No. of pages | 40
Dimensions | 228*316



2. Book Intro

Today is the only one day of the year that the zoo is closed. “We’re going to the beach!” brag Coki and Cori to their friends. But the tired Dad Elephant only continues sleeping and snoring loudly. Srrnk, Pooh~ Srrnnk, Pooh~ Ah, but Dad’s snoring sounds weird. Srrnnk~Yeck, Pooh~ “Ah, ah oh my god!” Cori, Coki, and Mom Elephant are obviously annoyed by the snoring and move to a sand dune on the beach. Tunk, Thunk, Thund!

“Wow! The sea!” Coki, Cori, and Mom ride the waves, play on the squid swings, and roll an octopus ball. But it is weird. It is not fun. They can’t help thinking about Dad. Tired Coki, Cori, and Mom drift off to sleep. Pururung Pooh~Cororong Coh~ Pororong Poh~

Dad, snoring at home, starts to float up to the sky by the strong breath by Coki, Cori, and Mom. Can the Elephant Family indeed enjoy an exciting summer vacation?

Summer Vacation expresses a family’s love through an exciting summer vacation and snoring.

[See more details >>](#)

INFO

Titles Selected for the Overseas Publication Grants 2025

The Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA) provides publication grants to promote the export of Korean publications. The grants provide partial financial assistance to foreign publishing companies that have published or intend to publish Korean content in accordance with copyright agreements. This year's grants were conducted only for non-literary books. And they selected a total of 31 titles from 21 publishing companies across six countries, and they are as follows:

爆爆超人的驚奇科學探險1

English title | Suppperman hidden science 1
Author | Suppperman
Applicant | Azoth Books Co., Ltd
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Complex Chinese



Oh My God 科學偵探1: 戴面具的核能怪人

English title | Oh My God Victor the Monster and Nuclear Energy
Author | Kwon Yong chan
Applicant | Azoth Books Co., Ltd
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Complex Chinese



Sains dalam 6 Dongeng Klasik: Alice di Negeri Ajaib dan Bagian DalamBum

English title | Classic Fairytales Embedded with Science:
Three Little Pigs Build A House with Solid Materials
Author | Cho Rok Yun
Applicant | Bhuana Ilmu Populer
Country/Published language | Indonesia/Indonesian



不辭職也能快樂! 20年上班族不當厭世社畜, 升級理想人生的工作法

English title | How to work myself
Author | Kim Min Cheol
Applicant | China Times Publishing Company
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



Money Starts with You

Author | Kim Jong Bong and Jegal Hyun Yul
Applicant | Noura Books (PT. Mizan Publika)
Country/Published language | Indonesia/Indonesian



PINKFONG BABY SHARK FIRST COLORING BOOK - FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Author | Pinkfong
Applicant | Penerbitan Pelangi Sdn. Bhd
Country/Published language | Malaysia/English



PINKFONG BABY SHARK FIRST PLAY BOOK - DRAWING LINES

Author | Pinkfong
Applicant | Penerbitan Pelangi Sdn. Bhd
Country/Published language | Malaysia/English



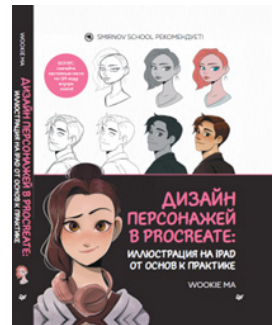
有錢人的書櫃總有一本人文書

English title | A HUMANITIES BOOK FOR THE RICH
Author | Shin Jin Sang
Applicant | Ping's Publications, Ltd
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



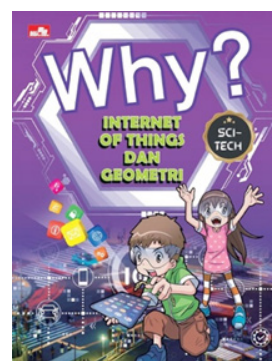
**Дизайн персонажей в Procreate:
иллюстрация на iPad от основ к практике**

English title | Step-by-Step Basics of iPad Character Drawing
Author | Wookie Ma
Applicant | Piter Publishing House Ltd
Country/Published language | Russia/Russian



**Why? Sci-Tech: Internet of Things and
Geometry**

English title | Why? Sci-Tech: Internet of Things and Geometry
Author | Grimnamu, Peak Moon Ho
Applicant | PT Elex Media Komputindo
Country/Published language | Indonesia/Indonesian



**量子科技誕生
雷射、奈米機器人、量子電腦的祕密，與費曼、
霍金等大科學家一起認識原子研究的新發展**

English title | Quantum Mechanics for young Reader 1-5
Author | Lee Yeok Ju
Applicant | Rye Field Children Publishing
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Complex Chinese



ถึงเหล่ามนุษย์แมนทิวอยู่ใกล้เกินก็เจ็บอยู่ไกล ไปก็เหงา

English title | To the hedgehogs who are hurt by being close and lonely being far away
Author | Oh Soo Hyang
Applicant | Se-education PCL
Country/Published language | Thailand/Thai



ไม่ว่าอะไรจะเกิดขึ้นคุณจะสามารถไปได้เสมอ

English title | You are so much stronger than you think

Author | Jun Mee Kyung

Applicant | Se-education PCL

Country/Published language | Thailand/Thai



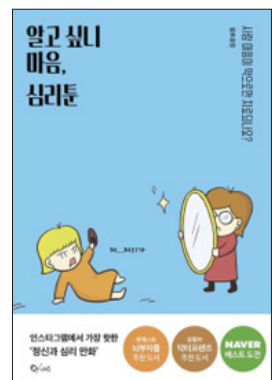
เรื่องของจิตใจที่ใครๆก็เข้าใจได้ (จิตวิทยาฉบับการ์ตูน)

English title | Do you wanna know how mind works-
psychology toon

Author | Jang Kwang Ho

Applicant | Se-education PCL

Country/Published language | Thailand/Thai



เอาชนะความกังวลเริ่มต้นที่การเปลี่ยนนิสัย

English title | Worrying is a habit

Author | Choi Myeong gi

Applicant | Se-education PCL

Country/Published language | Thailand/Thai



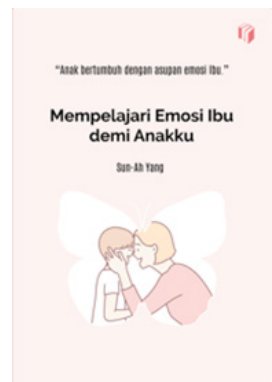
Mempelajari Emosi Ibu Demi Anakku

English title | A mother's emotional study for her child

Author | Yang Sun Ah

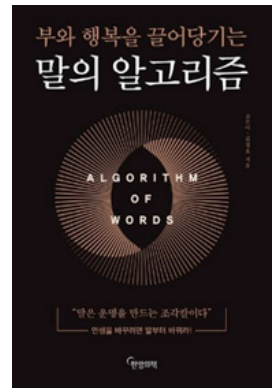
Applicant | Shira Media

Country/Published language | Indonesia/Indonesian



說話演算法(暫定)

English title | Algorithm of Words
Author | Koh Eun Mi, Kim Jung Ho
Applicant | Star East Press, a Division of Cite Publishing Ltd
Country/Published language | Taiwan/Complex Chinese



兒子到底在想什麼?

English title | Choi Min-jun's Son Coaching Encyclopedia
Author | Choi Min Jun
Applicant | SUN COLOR CULTURE CO.,LTD
Country/Published language | Traditional Chinese



MỘT ĐỨA TRẺ GIÀU LÒNG NHÂN ÁI SẼ TRƯỞNG THÀNH THẾ NÀO?

English title | How Do Children With Rich Minds Grow Up
Author | Park So young
Applicant | Thai Ha Books JSC
Country/Published language | Vietnam/Vietnamese



Rối loạn lo âu ở trẻ em

English title | The Child with Anxiety
Author | Lee Darang
Applicant | Thai Ha Books JSC
Country/Published language | Vietnam/Vietnamese



NGHỀ LÀM GIÁM ĐỐC

English title | An Introduction to Business Management

Author | JIM KIM

Applicant | Thai Ha Books JSC

Country/Published language | Vietnam/Vietnamese



Mengatasi Stres ala MBTI

English title | How to Solve stress by MBTI

Author | Yoon Seo Young

Applicant | TransMedia Pustaka

Country/Published language | Indonesia/Indonesian



執行力的20個槓桿

English title | The answer is execution: the psychology of action and practice

Author | Lee Min Kyu

Applicant | Yuan-Liou Publishing Co., Ltd

Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



心靈持久力

English title | Mental endurance

Author | Yoon Hong Gyun

Applicant | Titan Publishing Co., Ltd.

Country/Published language | Taiwan/Chinese



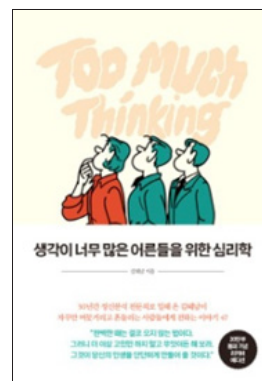
寫給想太多的你

English title | Psychology for adults who think too much

Author | Kim Hye Nam

Applicant | Titan Publishing Co., Ltd.

Country/Published language | Taiwan/Chinese



Pinkfong Baby Shark Buku Mewarnai Pertama Dinosaur

English title | Pinkfong Baby Shark First Coloring Book

Dinosaur

Author | Pinkfong

Applicant | m&c! Publishing

Country/Published language | Indonesia/Indonesian



小醫師復仇者聯盟13: 內分泌疾病, 解開荷爾蒙之謎!

English title | Doctor Avengers Vol.13 Endocrine Disease,
Hormones are the Problem

Author | Ko Hee Jung

Applicant | Hsiao Lu Publishing Co., Ltd.

Country/Published language | Taiwan/Traditional Chinese



INFO

2025 IBBY Asia-Pacific Regional Conference is Coming Up

Living in Harmony with Our Planet

2025 IBBY Asia-Pacific Regional Conference is Coming Up

Living in Harmony with Our Planet

It is high time that we seek ways to live in harmony with our planet



In recent years, Korean children's and young adult literature has been gaining international attention.

This event marks the first IBBY Asia-Pacific Regional Conference to be held in Korea, providing an opportunity to reaffirm the global growth of children's and youth literature and books.





**In August 2025,
We invite you to the IBBY
Asia-Pacific Regional Conference
to be held for the first time in Korea!**

Period August 30–31, 2025

Venue Suwon Convention Center

**The theme of this year's
conference is
“Living in Harmony with Our Planet.”**

We aim to explore ways to co-exist with the ecosystems of our planet for our children and adolescents, who will inhabit this planet longer than we will.

- ✓ Stories of the environment in books for children and adolescents
- ✓ Environmental education and activities for children and adolescents



This event will feature not only leading Korean authors, such as Baek Heena and Lee Suzy, but also Lara Saguisag and Sydney Smith, as well as other children's and young adult literature authors from around the world.

Librarians, publishers, researchers, activists, and readers from 13 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including Iran, India, China, Japan, and South Korea, will also participate.



The detailed program can be found on the official website.

<https://apconference2025.org/registration/>



We ask for your interest in the 2025 IBBY Asia-Pacific Regional Conference!