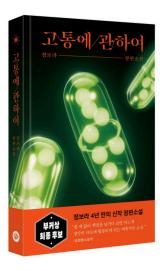
## **Greenbook Agency 2025 Highlights**

English samples are available for all titles listed in this catalog.

Please feel free to contact us for more information



## THE PAIN CHASERS by Bora Chung

"... the premise is poignant and haunting - and the tension in just those first few pages is fantastic." — Hachette

A speculative thriller set in a world where pain has been eradicated by Big Pharma and a cult that believes suffering gives life meaning rises up against it.



## TALES OF THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES by Kim Bo-Young

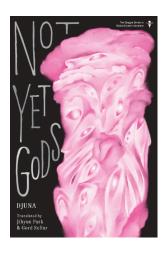
Longlisted for National Book Award

"It is perhaps the most science-founded science fiction I have outside of Three Body Problem and some Ted Chiang. ... She writes not only compelling narratives, but also compelling existences."

— Goodreads Review

WEL(Hachette US) sold, all other rights available

WEL, IT, SC, TC, and TR rights sold, all other rights available



## NOT YET GODS by Djuna

"Djuna's stories are an engrossing hymn to diversity and to the hybridization of genres, teeming as they are with transgender cyborgs, vampire girls, space-faring teddy bears, and other scary-but-endearing figures of the post-human." — Kaya Press



## BLEEDING EMPIRE TRILOGY

#### by Sung-il Kim

Named a Best Fantasy Book of the Year by NPR, Amazon, Paste, and Book Riot Selected as an Amazon Editors' Pick and one of the Best Books of 2024

NA(Kaya Press) sold, all other rights available

NA, UK, RU, ES, IT, PL, and AR rights sold, all other rights available

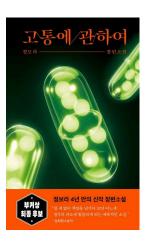
Contact:
Toni Kim toni@grb-agency.com



## The Pain Chasers 고통에 관하여

by Bora Chung

August 2023, crime, mystery, speculative novel, 35,000 words+ WEL(Hachette US) rights sold, all other rights available



## From the author of Cursed Bunny, this speculative fiction shows how human can or cannot live with pain, ironically stirring up the meaning of living

"[It] penetrates the source and meaning of pain." - Kim Yu-ri, editor of Yes24

"Bora Chung has consistently dealt with the pain and salvation of the real world, or the failure of salvation, through the infinite possibility of speculative fiction. The Pain Chasers is a continuation of the author's work in this reflection and also a proof of the literary quality of speculative fiction." – Anton Hur, Booker-shortlisted translator of Cursed Bunny

NSTRA-14 was the perfect painkiller. The powerful and safe painkillers without side effects or being addictive, changed the culture of the pain. Bearing any pain is now suspected of being a sign of mental illness. However, as pain disappears, people who seek the pain appear. They have created a cult, which argues that having pain is essential for being human. Their followers believe that the pain is classified as nine stages. The believers gain the sense of accomplishment by overcoming pain arranged by the cult, but this makes them evade from the real problems of their life. For the fanatic, the painkiller means the source of evil and the rejection of God and they attacked the office of the pharmaceutical company.

Twelve years after the terror, the fanatics, who committed it, are found dead one by one. Traces of torture and drugs are found in victims' bodies with the note: "The dead have been saved."

Now, police follow the traces left on the crime scenes, ruminating on the terror 12 years ago to find the murderer. Along the way, the investigation reveals the real, complex, ugly truth around the painkiller.



## The Midnight Timetable 한밤의 시간표

#### by Bora Chung

June 2023, speculative, horror fiction, 28,000 words WEL, PL, ID, IT, FR, TR, DE, and VN rights sold, all other rights available Simultaneous publication in the US and UK scheduled for 2025

A novel in stories, set in modern-day Korea, about a mysterious institute in the middle of nowhere, and this place stores haunted objects in each room. The stories are narrated by the protagonist, I, who has just started working as a night guard in the institute. In each chapter, the senior nightguard tells her about how an object or one of their employees ended up here.



#### What's New

Bora Chung's new novel was published in May! Upon its release, it quickly rose to the weekly bestseller lists on major Korean online bookstores such as Kyobo Bookstore and Aladin.

### The House of Growth 아이들의 집

### by Bora Chung

May 2025, speculative, mystery thriller novel, 276 pages All rights available

A chilling mystery thriller centered on childcare and caregiving. A devastating tale of children who are murdered, exploited, abandoned, and sold.



**Bora Chung** is a writer and translator whose works include the National Book Award finalist and International Booker Prize-shortlisted Cursed Bunny. She has an MA in Russian Studies from Yale University and a PhD in Slavic literature from Indiana University. She has taught Russian language and literature and science fiction at Yonsei University and translates modern literary works from Russian and Polish into Korean.

Contact:



## Tales of the Origin of Species 종의 기원담

by Kim Bo-Young

June 2023, science fiction, 43,000 words+ WEL, IT, SC, TC, TR, and FR rights sold, all other rights available An earlier version, containing Parts 1 and 2, was longlisted for the 2021 National Book Award. The current complete edition includes Part 3.



The strikingly original, thought-provoking work teems with human and non-human beings. This trilogy offers some of the most rigorous and surprisingly poignant reflections on posthuman existence being written today.

#### Part 1. Origin of Species

In the far future, when all organisms have perished, only Als, robots and machines exist. The robots believe machines are living things, and that organisms are just a myth. Naturally, organic biology is the least popular subject at universities. A group of students, including Cecil, however, think that organisms are truly living existence and they try to prove that through experiments. Cecil persuades Biology professor Kay to join his experiments, and together they work to prove a theory that cells contain a vast amount of vital information that runs organisms. One day, when Kay instilled oxygen and heat into dead organisms, something miraculous happens.

#### Part 2. Origin of Species - What Might Have Happened Thereafter

30 years after the end of Part 1. Kay discovers that human restoration research is continuing in secret inside a lab and sees young humans, intuiting that humans are divine beings. However, humid and mild climate for humans meant destruction for robots. Kay murders all the humans and exposes the restoration research.

#### Part 3. Origin of Species - What Might Never Have Happened

70 years later. Some robots that escaped from the laboratory became believers of the 'Cult of Humanity.' Environmental Commissioner Kay is exterminating plants that emit the toxic 'oxygen' and arresting humanists. Anti-humanists hate Kay for creating humans, and humanists hate Kay for massacring the humans. One day, Kay discovers 12 human survivors in a polluted area. It is Kay's duty to kill them all, but she is conflicted between instinct and reason. Is the coexistence of robots and humans really impossible? The story moves toward an open ending.





### Saba Samsara: West 사바삼사라 서

by Kim Bo-Young

September 2024, speculative fiction, 200,000 words+ (1,700 pp) All rights available

Inspired by Asian mythologies, in this action-packed, yet philosophical story, the battle between exorcists who have been reincarnated in the twisted history of Korea, the personification of desire, 'Kama', and 'Maguni', who uses them as an army, begins now in the heart of Seoul.





#### What's New

Bo-Young Kim's *Stars Shine in Earth's Sky* is being adapted into an animated feature! The story was also published in German as part of an anthology. Her fabulous short story collection The Fifth Sense includes *Stars Shine in Earth's Sky*.

## The Fifth Sense 다섯번째 감각

by Kim Bo-Young

February 2022, story collection, 440 pages All rights available

A legendary collection of ten early masterpieces by Kim Bo-Young, as praised by Korea's leading sci-fi authors



**Kim Bo-Young** is one of Korea's most significant and influential SFF authors. Among a number of publications, her story collection On The Origin Of Species was long-listed for the National Book Award in 2021. Kim's work enjoys widespread popularity in Korea and has been praised by award-winning film director Bong Joon-ho, and she acted as a script advisor for Bong's 2013 film Snowpiercer.

Contact:



### Not Yet Gods 아직은 신이 아니야

by Djuna

September 2013, speculative fiction, 30,000 words+, NA rights sold, all other rights available for fans of the worlds of Philip K. Dick and *Severance* 



Not Yet Gods, explores the universe-shattering effects of teenage anger cross-pollinated with radiation-induced psychic powers, unscrupulous governments, and corporate avarice.

"A new translation of an exhilarating and wildly imaginative work by the mysterious Korean SF phenom Djuna. Interlinked stories of psychics, mutants, conspiracies, dystopia, and the apocalypse that serve as timely allegories of the ills and possibilities of runaway technology in the present and the future. This collection showcases the best and the most beguiling tales of the imagination that are coming out of South Korea." – Minsoo Kang, the author of The Melancholy of the Untold Story

In the aftermath of a nuclear explosion set off in North Korea, an ordinary South Korean high-school classroom becomes ground zero for the discovery of a radical new source of energy: children capable of conducting and amplifying the telepathic and telekinetic powers of those around them. Soon enough the race is on to maximally exploit these newfound human "batteries" by hunting them down and harnessing them to power everything from electricity to space travel to facelifts. But the emotional stakes could not be higher. After all, what happens when the primary energy source being used to run the world is housed within the brains and bodies of teenagers, and thus subject to hormonal shifts and eddies, family loyalties, and interpersonal conflicts?

Told as a series of interlinked stories, Djuna's fractally unfolding thought experiments cycle through genres ranging from detective procedurals to fantasy horror to speculative sci-fi in order to interrogate the nature of power, disability, and illusion in the potential end of history.



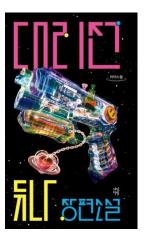


## The Proxy War 대리전

#### by Djuna

January 2006, sci-fi, detective thriller, 29,000 words+ All rights available

A hilarious and absurd story about a proxy war between alien civilizations through the bodies of humans. With the author's sly humor and quirkiness, this novel, set in the modern day Korea and in a marginalized city of Bucheon where any alien war seems very unlikely, shows an unexpected adventure of a queer woman who has no choice but to fight against the alien attempt to dominate Earth while she has to face the tender memory of her first love.



#### What's New

TV/Film rights to Counterweight have been sold to a Korean production in April 2025!

## Counterweight 평형추

#### by Djuna

February 2021, thriller, sci-fi, fantasy, 260 pp WEL, TR, BR, PT, and JP rights, TV/film rights sold, all other rights available

An absorbing tale of corporate intrigue, political unrest, unsolved mysteries, and the havoc wreaked by one company's monomaniacal endeavor to build the world's first space elevator.



**Djuna**, a film critic and speculative fiction writer, is widely considered one of the most prolific and important writers in South Korean genre fiction since their debut in the early 1990s in South Korea. They have published ten story collections, five novels, and numerous essays, and among them, Counterweight (Penguin Random House, 2023) and Everything Good Dies Here (Kaya Press, 2024) have been translated and published in English.

Contact:



## Bleeding Empire Trilogy 피 흘리는 제국 삼부작

by Sung-il Kim

October 2024(2016), fantasy, 90,000 words+ NA(Tor), UK, RU, ES, IT, PL, and AR rights sold, all other rights available



# From award-winning author Sung-il Kim, the very first volume of the BLEEDING EMPIRE trilogy, Blood of the Old Kings begins an epic journey unlike any other

Amazon Editor's Pick, Goodreads Editor's Pick

"Refreshingly different . . . blends classic genre elements together in fresh ways." — Paste

"Epic underdog fantasy in which choice outweighs destiny. . . Readers seeking an exciting new fantasy world to sink into will find this hits the spot." — Publishers Weekly

"Sweeping, epic fantasy with more than a hint of darkness." — Fangirlish

#### There is no escaping the Empire. Even in death, you will serve.

In an Empire run on necromancy, dead sorcerers are the lifeblood. Their corpses are wrapped in chains and drained of magic to feed the unquenchable hunger for imperial conquest. Born with magic, Arienne has become resigned to her dark fate. But when the voice of a long-dead sorcerer begins to speak inside her head, she listens. There may be another future for her, if she's willing to fight for it. Miles away, beneath a volcano, a seven-eyed dragon also wears the Empire's chains. Before the imperial fist closed around their lands, it was the people's sacred guardian. Loran, a widowed swordswoman, is the first to kneel before the dragon in decades. She comes with a desperate plea, and will leave with a sword of dragon-fang in hand and a great purpose before her. In the heart of the Imperial capital, Cain is known as a man who gets things done. When his best friend and mentor is found murdered, he will leave no stone unturned to find those responsible, even if it means starting a war. Step into a world of necromancy, murder, and twisted magic. A world in need of a hero.





## Ends Trilogy 끝 삼부작

The Journey Ends, The Longing Ends, The Mission Ends by Sung-il Kim







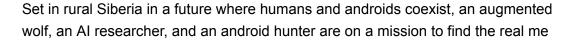
April 2022, cosmic horror SF, 10,000 words+ each All rights available, full English translation available for fans of *Interstellar* and *Three-Body* 

A secondary time emerges on Earth, and cultists soon swarm to follow its god. On the mission to save the Earth, the crew members encounter strange phenomena that blur past, present, and future. Sung-il is writing a new trilogy, set in the same universe, this time focusing on conflicts that play out on land rather than in space.

### Wolf Hunt 늑대사냥

by Sung-il Kim

June 2023, adventure, YA, sci-fi, 29,000 words+ All rights available, full English translation available for fans of *Blade Runner* and *Never Let Me Go* 





**Sung-il Kim** writes science fiction, fantasy, horror, or some blend of those. He is known for *Blood of the Old Kings, I Will Go to Earth to See You, Wolf Hunt*, and *The Knight of La Mancha*, the last two of which earned him a Grand Prize and an Excellence Award at the Korean SF Awards in 2024 and 2018 respectively. The English translation of *Blood of the Old Kings* was on the 2025 Crawford Award Honour List. His epic fantasy trilogy, *The Bleeding Empire (Tor Books, 2024)*, which includes *Blood of the Old Kings*, is being translated into five languages.

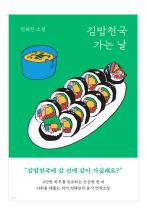
Contact:



## Heading To Kimbap Heaven 김밥천국 가는 날

by Jeon Heyjin

April 2025, food omnibus novel, 351 pages
All rights available
for fans of *Midnight Diner: Tokyo Stories* and *Fifty People* 



# Ten portraits of everyday workers in Korean society, each chapter centered around a different dish of bunsik — Korea's beloved comfort food, such as tteokbokki, kimbap

In the sprawling cities of the world, Subway offers a quick bite in the U.S., and Sukiya brings warmth in Japan. But in Korea, there exists a sanctuary, humble yet beloved, Kimbap Heaven. This story unfolds in one of its Incheon branches, the very city where the now 300-strong franchise first began. The author, whose main profession is a public servant, brings a keen eye to the daily struggles of the working class, pairing their stories with a different dish of bunsik. A range of characters, from the workbook tutor, the working mother, and the public servant exhausted by endless complaints, to a single gay man undergoing cancer treatment and a migrant worker, all seek solace in Kimbap Heaven. For instance, Eunsim, a workbook tutor, sits before a dish of cheese tteokbokki, which gets a deeper, richer taste with just a slice of cheese, and recalls one of her adult students who, even while undergoing chemotherapy, never once procrastinated his homework. Reflecting on this, she finds herself hoping that, just like the flavors of the sauce with cheese, her life too will eventually be filled with a richer, deeper taste (in Cheese Tteokbokki). Similarly, Aram, who had been enduring a tough office job while taking antidepressants, rediscovers her passion after tasting the 'tonkatsu' that comic book characters ate before heading into their big victory (in Tonkatsu). In each chapter, the characters reappear across stories, shifting from center stage to background, and in doing so, gradually reveal their hidden depths and histories, offering the reader the layered pleasure of discovery. With vivid, mouthwatering descriptions of bunsik, this title not only evokes the flavors that sustain city life but also weaves in the history of Incheon and the cultural backgrounds of select dishes, creating a rich and savory reading experience.

**Jeon Heyjin** made her literary debut in 2007 with the light novel *Exorcists at the Community Office*, which received the Editor's Prize at the 1st Issue Novels Contest. Since then, she has published over 80 works, including co-authored story collections. Her non-fiction *Women, Becomes Ghost And Goddess* has been published in Polish.

Contact:



## Kyung Ah 경아

#### by Kim Junnyung

March 2024, post-apocalypse AI music romance, 200 pages All rights available for fans of *Robot Dreams* and *Micky 17* 



## Unrequited love chain between creators and creatures - two robots both programmed to love their maker set off an adventure on a ruined planet, guided by the 90s Korean love songs

On a barren planet swept by radioactive storms, a robot named Kyung-ah wakes up alone. The first thing she sees is a video—her memory chip playing back footage of the planet's last living human: Kim. Before dying, Kim had programmed Kyung-ah with one core directive: "Love me more than anything."

But all Kyung-ah knows about Kim is limited: His last name was Kim,he was 178cm tall,and he liked listening to Korean 90s music. Kyung-ah, poor thing, is stuck with a mission: to love someone who no longer exists. She searches for the meaning of love, clues about Kim, and a way to fulfill her purpose, but hope seems lost. Then she remembers: part of her system was modeled after Kim's brain. With a new resolve, and only limited battery, Kyung-ah begins dismantling the abandoned research facility to build a robot body. Its appearance doesn't matter; with the right visual filter, any robot can look like Kim. She loads it with data: neural patterns from Kim, his music from Walkman, his way of speaking and moving from old videos. And at the end, she writes one final line of code: "Love Kyung-ah." Then she waits, full of trembling hope, for robot Kim to open his eyes. When he finally does, his first words are: "Damdadi, damdadi, damdadidam... I really love you..." The upbeat lyrics of a 90s pop song by Lee Sang-eun, one of the most famous singers in the 90s, fill the air. Not exactly the reunion Kyung-ah had dreamed of. She reaches to pull his battery—but then, robot Kim says: "I will... teach you what love is." "How?" "If I love you... someday you will come to understand love." Thus begins a sweet and strange journey of Kyung-ah and robot Kim. As you follow the vain yet beautiful efforts to reunite with a lost love, to protect someone they cherish, you'll find that their bickering conversations begin to sound like the lyrics of love songs. This is a story of impossible love and unwavering devotion—one that will leave a warm little glitch in your heart.

**Kim Junnyung** has made his name known to the public by winning the fifth Korean Science Literature Awards in 2022. His publications include the novels *Shines Brighter Than Stars, The Case of Deleted Avatar,* and a story collection, *Bus No. 0 Heads to Earth No. 2.* 

Contact:



## Goddesses of Yggdrasil and other stories 위그드라실의 여신들

by Hae Doyeon

September 2023, hard sci-fi stories, 50,000 words+ All rights available, English, Japanese samples available for fans of *Interstellar* and *Ad Astra* 



# Written by an astronomer, these visionary hard science fiction stories explore both the farthest reaches of space and the deepest corners of human connection

This collection includes the three short stories, including "The Goddesses of Yggdrasil", which has made the author's name widely known to South Korean sci-fi fans in 2018.

In the title story, *The Goddesses of Yggdrasil*, in an age when humanity on Earth teeters on the brink of extinction due to the Kuí Xiù virus. Three female scientists, Cecilia, Sumy, and Maya, reside on Europa, one of Jupiter's moons, striving to find a cure by studying its oceanic life forms. They discover that certain lifeforms in the Niflheim region of Europa's seas possess structures similar to the Kuí Xiù virus, and their research intensifies. Soon, the project manager orders them to collect samples and return to Earth immediately. Sumy, risking everything, dives into Europa's ocean and successfully obtains the samples. At that very moment, a colossal bolt of lightning strikes Europa, emanating from Jupiter itself, severing Sumy's communication with her team.

**Side Note, or Continuing Stories** is a prequel and sequel to *The Goddesses of Yggdrasil*, showing how the three women live in different times and spaces.

**The Great Silence** is a response to the Fermi Paradox, the question of why we have yet to encounter alien civilizations, despite the vastness of the universe. A junior publicist at an interplanetary communication corporation uncovers a conspiracy involving a traitor within the company. And she finds herself forced to choose between destroying her Moon base to follow the warnings of an ancient civilization or risking humanity's downfall.

**Hae Doyeon** is an astronomer and writer. His publications include two novels, *Vertia* and *The Last Wizard*, and his short stories and novellas have been included in anthologies, *The Night of Korean Horror Fictions*, *Turing's Thoughts*, and *Where Our Signal Does Not Reach*.

Contact:



## Expand, Divide, Reincarnation 확장윤회양분세계

by Cho Hyuna

June 2024, simulation universe speculative novel, 220 pages All rights are available For fans of *The Brand New Testament* and *Black Mirror* 



In this *Black Mirror meets The Brand New Testament (Le Tout Nouveau Testament)* dystopian novel, nothing can die. It all starts with a series of errors in a virtual reality system called Sam4 that causes catastrophic consequences: death and sunlight cease to exist within the virtual world.

A Buddhist research institute developed *Sam4*, a software that condenses millennia of human history into a virtual world to study the cycle of life and death. Its maintenance is entrusted to a university's virtual reality lab. However, an unexpected error, compounded by a power outage, throws Sam4 into chaos.

First, the boundary between life and death vanishes, rendering death impossible. Second, the sun ceases to rise, leaving the world in perpetual darkness. As researchers outside scramble to repair the system, Sam4's inhabitants must navigate an existence where neither sunlight nor death remains. The old grow frail but never pass away, and the mortally wounded linger in endless agony. But, through the records extracted from Sam4, we glimpse the lives of individuals who, despite suffering, seek meaning, hope, and ultimately, salvation. And here, too, the unwavering dedication of Korean public servants shines through. Even in an abandoned shelter, they remain to assist the last surviving citizens. Public health doctors ensure the well-being of these officials, while public service workers continue striving to help others until the very end.

And whether this world is merely a dream dreamt by a brain in a jar or not, their perseverance is breathtakingly beautiful.

**Cho Hyuna** writes about all the strange and fascinating happenings in the city. Her characters speak in a sharp, cynical tone, yet they never hesitate to take on the toughest tasks if it means saving someone or walking alongside them. She is the author of the young adult short story *Breadwinning Clown Play* and the children's novel *Welcome to Loner Club*.

Contact:



## Cuteness Will Save the World 귀여움이 세상을 구원하리라

by Park AeJina

August 2023, sci-fi stories, 436 pp All rights available

## Professional protester and Booker Prize—shortlisted author Bora Chung describes this title as "a lively and adorable form of resistance."



The author poses a question: What truly saves the world? For her, the answer is clear—it's the people and beings we care about most. To be with them, the characters are willing to face any challenge, even journeying across the universe. This collection features eight short stories, divided into two parts. Part One focuses on the relationships we are born into, such as family ties and inherited connections. Part Two explores the meaningful relationships we choose to build with others, and often with cats.

non-fiction

## A Slow Goodbye: The Lisbon Memoir 다정한 구원

by Lim Kyoungsun

May 2015, essay, 272 pp

JP rights sold, all other rights are available

## JP rights sold, all other rights are available

# With over 20 books to her name and a new title each year, bestselling author Lim Kyoungsun calls this her most cherished work



At the age of ten, the author spent a joyful year in Lisbon, following her diplomat father on assignment. Decades later, now the mother of a ten-year-old daughter, she returns to the city to retrace those memories. Only upon arriving in Lisbon, where her father once spent his youth, is she finally able to bid a true farewell. Bathed in the same dazzling sunlight, she comes to realize that the most enduring legacy he left behind is the memory of being unconditionally loved.

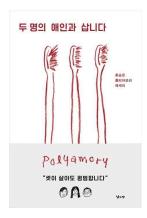
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## I Live With Two Lovers 두 명의 애인과 삽니다

by Hong Seung-eun

July 2020, first-person polyamory essay, 80,000 words+ TC rights sold, all other rights available for fans of *Two Women Living Together* and *The Argonauts* 



## From deciding to become polyamorous to learning to live as friends, lovers, and as a family in conservative South Korea

The moment polyamory enters the conversation, a familiar question tends to follow: "If you truly love someone, how could that possibly work?" And this book will offer a compelling answer, inviting readers to reconsider what love and family can look like.

For Hong, her love life is as mundane and ordinary as anyone else's, rather than the salacious or thrilling sexual fantasy many people imagine polyamorous relationships to be. Her typical day consists of getting up, seeing her lovers Wooju and Jimin off to work, discussing what to have for dinner, and meandering chit chats over food.

With an uplifting tone, this book features lighthearted stories about Hong learning the importance of carving out alone time, getting along with Wooju's and Jimin's parents, and taking a family portrait with her partners to commemorate their first year of living together. The book concludes with an extended interview with Wooju and Jimin that captures the three lovers' humour and chemistry, and allows Wooju and Jimin to speak for themselves. That being said, Hong doesn't shy away from delving into more difficult experiences. She writes about her parents' failed marriage, Jimin being outed as non-binary and polyamorous, and the time when a professor sexually harassed her, under the guise of explaining polyamory.

*I Live With Two Lovers* is ultimately a book about love. Their story is proof that any relationship built on love, commitment, and effort is real and worthy of respect. The author offers this book to readers with the hope that they, too, will come to believe that it's okay to be different and that what seems strange to others may be an ideal kind of love for oneself.

**Hong Seung-eun** is a writer and activist archivist. She rose to prominence in 2017 with her debut book, *I Hope You Stay Uncomfortable*, a bold and influential feminist essay. She has since published three additional collections of essays: *Words of Relationships*, *Finding Hidden Words*, and *I Hope You Write*.

Contact:

