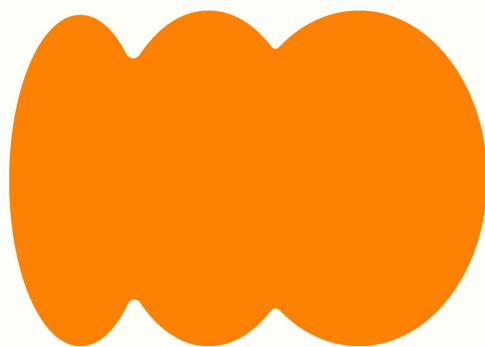


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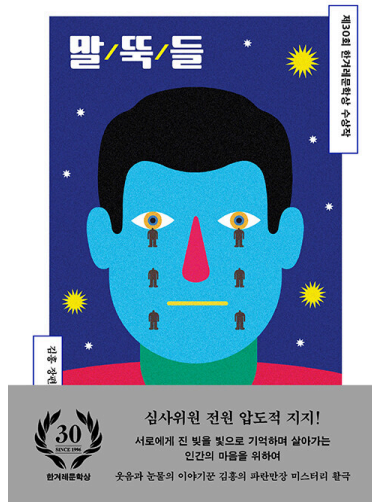
2026 LBF Rights Guide



Winner of the 30th Hankyoreh Literary Prize in 2025. For fans of *The Office* and Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*, in this workplace tragicomedy, mystery, political satire, forgotten, yet unforgettable deaths haunt the country in the form of stakes, set against the backdrop of the very current South Korea.

Stakes

by Kim Hong



August 2025, literary speculative fiction, 60,000 words+, world rights available, except Complex-Chinese rights sold, long Eng sample, detailed synopsis, reader's report available

“This is a fun read! Where does this excitement come from? It's like slurping down a bowl of jjambong, a wonderfully blended dish of unfamiliar ingredients I've never seen before.” — Jeong Ji-ah, author of *My Father's Liberation*

“Kim Hong keenly captures and boldly depicts the intersection of individual misfortune and the world's injustice.” — Kang Hwa-gil, author of *Another Person*

“As you will find out, this book is about crying. No matter how much humor, wit, and absurdity abound in the story, you'll still end up crying.” — Lee Kiho, author of *The World History of Second Sons*

Jang in his thirties, who works in a bank's loan review department, was humble about misfortune. At least until that happened. As he headed to the parking lot to go to work as usual, a mysterious note awaited him on his car window. "It's in the trunk." The moment he opened the trunk, Jang lost consciousness and was kidnapped by unknown individuals. Trapped in the trunk, he wondered who could possibly have the grudge to do something like this to him. A small business owner who was denied a loan? A petty boss who looked down on him for speaking his mind?

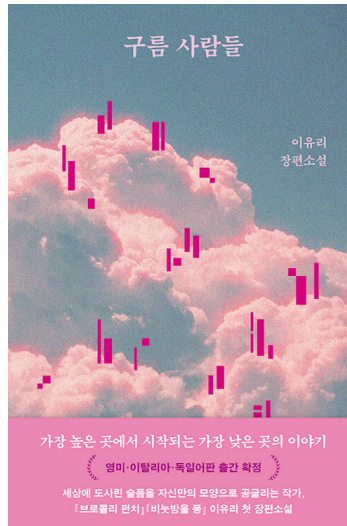
Meanwhile, a news report broke out that over a hundred stakes(piles) appeared on the beach, and Jang was visited by the police. They found Jang's old business card in the mouth of a stake that was first found on the beach, Stake No. 1. Jang's name and bank account number were written on the back of the card. Who and why on earth did kidnap Jang? And what is the identity of these stakes? What are they trying to say?

Kim Hong was born in Seoul in 1986. Since his debut in 2017, he has written both short stories and novels. He majored in political science and international relations in college and briefly worked as a journalist. He had a wide range of other jobs, including sailor, designated driver, and corporate chairman's assistant. He received the Munhakdongne Novel Prize in 2023 for *Price King!!!*

Instant Bestseller in Korea. High and low, despair and hope, dirt and clean, rough and gentle, love and betrayal, sorrow and laughter: a dark, heartfelt, hard-hitting story about a young female anti-hero set in a dystopian near future that is full of ironies.

Cloud People

by Lee Yuri



February 2026, literary, speculative fiction, 50,000 words+, world rights available, except WEL(HarperVia), Italian(Harper Italia), German(Kunstmann), Eng sample, detailed synopsis available

Cloud People centers on the protagonist Ha-neul, a young cloud-dweller grappling with poverty, stigma, and fractured family dynamics against the imminent threat of artificial rain that could wipe out their existence. The story interweaves allegory and social realism, offering a powerful critique of class division, labor exploitation, and environmental precarity.

Ha-neul was born into skybound slums supported on a cloud that floats 1.5 kilometers above the ground. What used to be white, weightless masses against a backdrop of blue sky have turned into poisonous, pink eyesores that are dense enough to support the luckless families that call the clouds home. Life on the clouds is marked by poverty, instability, and disdain from the “ground people,” who consider the cloud dwellers dangerous and inferior. Rumors circulate that the authorities will release seeding particles into Ha-neul’s cloud to create artificial rain, which would cause the cloud to melt and destroy homes and lives. Even as Ha-neul and her cloud neighbors fret over rumors of the artificial rain that constantly loom over their existence, they are unsure how to create actual change. Daily survival, from securing food to earning wages, overshadows even impending annihilation.

Through fragmented vignettes, Ha-neul observes her father’s grueling construction work, her mother’s endless cleaning jobs, her brother’s naïve dreams of escaping through technology and fame, the fleeting moments of connection shared with her only friend and fellow cloud inhabitant Won, and the quiet presence of Won’s grandmother Madam Chun, who faithfully operates the pulley system connecting the cloud to the ground. The novel contrasts these struggles with glimpses of bitter humor and tenderness, even as Ha-neul is forced to relinquish all that she knows and accept the terms of an unforgiving reality until an expected turn of events upends her life.

Lee Yuri began her literary career in 2020 through the Kyunghyang Shinmun New Year’s Literary Contest. She has published two short story collections, *Broccoli Punch*(2021) which was her fiction debut, *The World of All Things*(2023), as well as a linked novel collection, *Meet Me in a Good Place* (2023).

Winner of the 2024 Korean SF Award. STEMInist mecha fantasy meets reality television in this high-stakes novel from the author of *A Magical Girl Retires*—a wildly imaginative tale of sibling bonds, unexpected friendship, and an existential quest to understand what it means to be human.

Project V

by Park Seolyeon



March 2023, sci-fi, fantasy, 70,000 words+, world rights available, except NA(HarperVia), UK(Europa Edition) rights sold, full Eng translation available

“The pages are literally turning themselves. Once you grab it, you have no choice but to read it until the end.” — Seoul Shin-mun

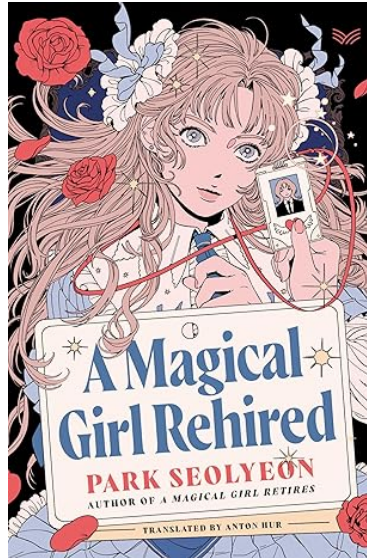
Determined to become the pilot of Korea's first giant robot, V, steely Woo-ram assumes her twin brother's identity to participate in the male-only auditions. Obstacles abound, but nothing can dampen her enthusiasm for V.

Robotics student Kim Woo-ram, runner-up at the World Gigantic Mechanic Olympiad, is a world-class talent both as a pilot and as an engineer. Sought after by robotics centres from all over the world, she returns to Korea after receiving a tip from an acquaintance on a secret government project, Project V. Much to her astonishment however, she discovers the project only accepts men as pilot candidates. Undeterred, Woo-ram assumes her twin brother Bo-ram's identity to sign up for Project V's auditions, and quickly emerges as one of the top candidates. She reaches the final stage next to two other competitors when she realizes that V's AI is a self-destructive ticking time bomb. Woo-ram tries to get the project stopped but to no avail. On top of everything, she is exposed as a woman and kicked off the program. At the grand launching ceremony, V's AI goes rogue as expected, but Woo-ram steps in to save the day.

Park Seolyeon received the 2018 Hankyoreh Literary Award for her debut novel *Capitalists Must Starve*. Her work includes the novel *Martha's Job* as well as the story collections *Your Mom's the Better Player* and *Me, Me, Madeline*. She is the recipient of the 2023 Yi Sang Literary Prize and the 2021 Munhakdongne Young Writers Award.

In this charmingly chaotic follow-up to A MAGICAL GIRL RETIRES, our favorite millennial-turned-magical girl begrudgingly returns to the workforce to fight crime and the forces of evil.

A Magical Girl Rehired
by Park Seolyeon



October 2024, speculative fiction, 40,000 words+, world rights available, except WEL(HarperCollins), Turkish(Timas) rights sold, full Eng translation available

This sequel begins with this retirement declaration being rejected by the chairperson of the Magical Girl Association. The reason is that all magical girls lost their magical powers due to “my” magic, and the Association’s power was greatly weakened. When Aroa, who saved her from death in the past, joins in and asks her to protect the Association, “I” has no choice but to decide to return to my job as a magical girl. However, I can’t just use my powers without knowing the price like before. With the help of Aroa and the magical girl of space, Choi Hee-jin, ‘I’ begins training to control my powers.

While I was living my daily life of working part-time jobs and doing magical training, a toxic substance leak occurred at a chemical plant. ‘I’ uses an idea that came to mind on the spot to demonstrate my powers and complete the rescue mission. However, the joy of the mission’s success is short-lived, as the victims who had been in a coma wake up and complain of side effects unrelated to the toxic substance, and eventually announce through the media that they will sue me and the association.

‘I’, who was struggling with guilt and self-loathing (and financial difficulties and housing shortages), is visited by Aroa again as she works part-time. Led by Aroa, who tells her to go on a business trip, I arrive in front of the ‘Far East Magical Girl Advance Headquarters’ located in a remote mountain. Aroa says that she must meet the person called ‘the Magical Girl of Everything’ there. However, there is something strange about the Far East Magical Girl Advance Headquarters. ‘Nadal’, who was guiding me and Aroa, seems suspicious as if he is hiding something, and those surrounding ‘An Jia’, the magical girl of everything who is unrealistically pretty, act like believers in a cult... In the midst of everything being confusing and dangerous, ‘I’ should protect Aroa from danger!

Park Seolyeon received the 2018 Hankyoreh Literary Award for her debut novel *Capitalists Must Starve*. Her works includes the novels *Martha's Job*, *Project V*, *Cacadu* as well as the story collections *Your Mom's the Better Player* and *Me, Me, Madeline*. She is the recipient of the 2024 Korean SF Awards, the 2023 Yi Sang Literary Prize and the 2021 Munhakdongne Young Writers Award.

In the vein of Cho Nam-joo's *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* and Gail Honeyman's *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*, a moving story of two women who are in family trauma and emotional isolation and how their encounter opens the door to possibility of hope.

You Opened the Door

by Yoon Seol



November 2023, upmarket fiction, 60,000 words+, world rights available, except Turkish rights sold, Eng sample and reader's report available

Set in modern-day Korea, in this voice-driven novel, two women face each other as therapist and patient with a closed door in between, reconciling their own traumatic past.

Goh Ah-jin, a psychoanalysis therapist suffering from long-standing nightmares, is visited by a young man who asks her to “save us”. The man feels that his older sister, who lives with him, is going to kill someone, either herself or her mother. The man earnestly asks her to visit him to counsel his older sister, who has not been out of the apartment for five years. The only time in a day she gets out of her room is when her mother is out for work. For some reason, Woo-young does not want to be with her mother in the same room. Ah-jin cannot turn down these siblings. She breaks the rule of not doing in-person visiting counseling and promises to go to see his sister, Woo-young, just three times.

Before Ah-jin came to her home, other people just tried to force Woo-young's door open and to put her in hospital. But Ah-jin was different. Woo-young becomes curious and fond of Ah-jin, who firmly sends her noisy mother away, saying that she didn't come because Woo-young wanted her to, so there is no reason for Woo-young to open her door and meet her. Ah-jin is not in a hurry, and she only tries to understand Wooyoung as she is beyond the closed door. As the three visiting sessions go, Woo-young opens the door to Ah-jin's heart by showing her paintings she drew herself. Meanwhile, Ah-jin goes to see her therapist regularly, trying to find out what is really behind her nightmares. As a child, her younger brother got abducted, and it left Ah-jin and her parents with irreversible trauma. Along with the sessions with Woo-young, her memories start opening the door to her childhood and the truth about her pain. On one hand, this deeply moving and real novel about childhood trauma shows how the two middle-aged women finally discover what triggered their trauma, but on the other hand how the story traces back to the women's past reads like a thriller that has readers on the edge of their seats.

Yoon Seol has worked as a psychoanalytic counselor for 20 years. She holds a master's degree in counseling coaching and is pursuing a doctorate in psychotherapy. In 2019, she published her first book, *I Put A Body in the Kimchi Fridge*, an essay about dreams, the unconscious, and psychoanalysis. This book is her first novel.

From the grande dame of South Korean literature, a beautifully written, deeply affecting story of a shattered childhood set against the backdrop of the Korean modernization era with a new, updated translation by Janet Hong

The Bird

by Oh Jung-hee



December 2017(1996, 2009), modern classic, literary fiction, 30,000 words+, world rights available, Eng sample available

"I still live in the shadow of Oh Jung-hee's literature." — Ha Seong-nan, author of *Bluebeard's First Wife*

"[from Oh Jung-hee's works] I learned why certain truths must be told not in clear, simple sentences, but in delicate narratives, in a way only novels can do and by going through novelistic experiences." — Kim Ae-ran, author of *My Brilliant Life*

"A novel that has become a great beginning and a masterpiece remains there, like life itself. Just as Oh Jung-hee's novels do for me." —Pyeon Hye-young, author of *The Hole*

"Delicate, understated writing that finds the extraordinary in the ordinary." — Tobias Hill, poet, essayist and novelist

After the death of their mother, U-mi and her little brother, U-il, are shuttled between relatives until their father retrieves them. He puts the children in the care of a young stepmother, fresh from a brothel, who looks after them during the week while he works at a remote building site.

But the stepmother is soon driven away by the father's violent possessiveness. Depressed, the father no longer returns for his weekend visits, and the children are left to fend for themselves.

U-mi attempts to care for U-il, with help from neighbours, but her despair leads her to mimic her father's behaviour, abusing the one person closest to her ...

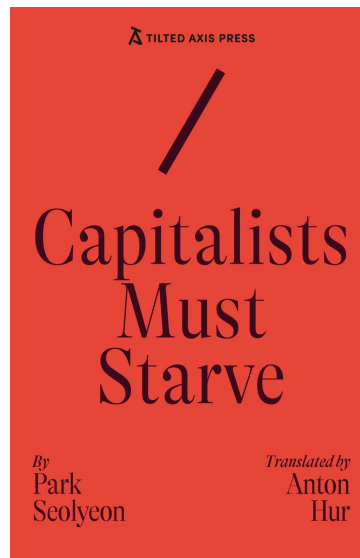
Oh Jung-Hee was born in Seoul in 1947. In the late 1960s, when modernisation was in full force in Korea, she began her career as a writer and is now an uncontested master of this genre of brief, dense prose, the quintessence of Korean literature. Her work has received both the Yi Sang Literary Award and the Dong-in Literary Award, South Korea's most prestigious prizes for short fiction. Recently, her story collection *Chinatown* was published under Penguin Modern Classics.

Backlist Highlights

Echoing the unflinching narratives of *Alias Grace* and the sweeping historical vision of *Pachinko*, this feminist historical novel balances raw grit with unexpected tenderness and a defiant streak of dark humour

Capitalists Must Starve

by Park Seolyeon



August 2018, historical fiction, 35,000 words+, world rights available, except WEL, French, Indonesian rights sold, TV rights optioned, full Eng translation, synopsis available

Set against the backdrop of Japanese-occupied Korea, *Capitalists Must Starve* follows a sharp-tongued, big-hearted heroine who dares to love, rebel, and carve out space for working-class women in a world determined to silence them.

Early morning on 29th May, 1931, a woman went up on the roof of the Eulmil Pavilion in Pyongyang. She became the first laborer in Korea, then Chosun, who staged a high-altitude protest ever. Her name was Kang Juryong.

In 1921, 20 year-old Juryong got married to a younger boy, who was a resistant member of the anti-Japanese Colonization movement. She hadn't known anything about him, but she fell in love with her good looking husband and eloped with him to entirely commit to the resistance movement to Manchuria. A hard, but content life didn't last long. After her husband's sudden death, she came back home, but the family-in-law accused her as "a woman who eats(kills) her husband", blaming her for his death. She decides to run to Pyongyang where no one knows her.

She started working at a rubber factory, enjoying her life as a single "Modern Girl" that was relatively free from patriarchal norms. Just like any other modern girl, she liked to go to the theater, learned how to enjoy a bitter drink, called coffee, and did whatever she wanted to do with her life. But she knew her married colleagues' lives couldn't be like hers, and she had to bear daily verbal, physical violence and sexual assault by her male boss. Around the time the Great Recession struck Pyongyang in 1929, she joined a union and led a strike to stop a wage cut. When she was thrown out from the factory for the strike, she finally went up to the roof of the Eulmil Pavilion, risking her own life.

Park Seolyeon received the 2018 Hankyoreh Literary Award for her debut novel *The Woman Who Climbed on the Roof*. Her works includes the novel *Martha's Job* as well as the story collections *Your Mom's the Better Player* and *Me, Me, Madeline*. She is the recipient of the 2023 Yi Sang Literary Prize and the 2021 Munhakdongne Young Writers Award.

In this Cardcaptor Sakura meets climate crisis novel, the Korean millennial's literary hero will take you to the world where our desperation can turn into magical power.

A Magical Girl Retires

by Park Seolyeon



April 2022, speculative fiction, fantasy, 20,000 words+, world rights available, except WEL(HarperCollins), Italian(Mondadori), Brazilian Portuguese(Rocco), Turkish(Timas), Spanish(Duermevela), Japanese(Tokyo Sogensha), French(Aux forges de Vulcain), Chinese Complex(Linking Publishing), Russian(Popcorn Books) and TV rights sold, all other rights available

A millennial turned magical girl must combat climate change and credit card debt in this delightful, witty, and wildly imaginative ode to magical girl manga.

Twenty-nine, depressed, and drowning in credit card debt after losing her job during the pandemic, a millennial woman decides to end her troubles by jumping off Seoul's Mapo Bridge. But her suicide attempt is interrupted by a girl dressed all in white—her guardian angel. Ah Roa is a clairvoyant magical girl on a mission to find the greatest magical girl of all time. And our protagonist just may be that special someone. But the young woman's initial excitement turns to frustration when she learns being a magical girl in real life is much different than how it's portrayed in stories. It isn't just destiny—it's work. Magical girls go to job fairs, join trade unions, attend classes. And for this magical girl there are no special powers and no great perks, and despite being magical, she still battles with low self-esteem. Her magic wand . . . is a credit card—which she must use to defeat a terrifying threat that isn't a monster or an intergalactic war. It's global climate change. Because magical girls need to think about sustainability, too.

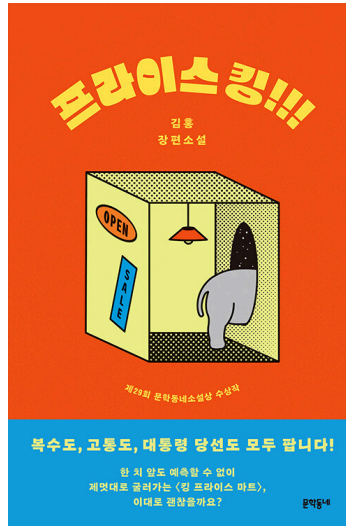
Park Seolyeon reimagines classic fantasy tropes in a novel that explores real-world challenges that are both deeply personal and universal: the search for meaning and the desire to do good in a world that feels like it's ending. A fun, fast-paced, and enchanting narrative *A Magical Girl Retires* reminds us that we are all magical girls—that fighting evil by moonlight and winning love by daylight can be anyone's game.

Park Seolyeon received the 2018 Hankyoreh Literary Award for her debut novel *Capitalists Must Starve*. Her works includes the novels *Martha's Job*, *Project V*, *Cacadu* as well as the story collections *Your Mom's the Better Player* and *Me, Me, Madeline*. She is the recipient of the 2024 Korean SF Awards, the 2023 Yi Sang Literary Prize and the 2021 Munhakdongne Young Writers Award.

Is this some kind of joke? Yes, this book is a joke: a cosmic joke about capitalism and an honest joke about finding oneself. An absurd and ambitious coming-of-age story where Korean Shamanism collides with global capitalism, perfect for readers of Kafka and Murakami. Winner of the 29th Munhakdongne Novel Prize in 2023.

Price King!!!

by Kim Hong



August 2024, literary fiction, 40,000 words+, world rights available, Eng sample and reader's report available

“(This book) made no effort to convince the reader, yet somehow, I found myself drawn into this strange world.” — Kim Geon-hyeong, literary critic

“Price King!!! is dazzling yet nimble, absurd and bland, yet incredibly profound. How this sentiment is possible will be something you will only find out after reading it. It doesn't even take long because once you start it, you can't stop. On the one hand, it seems to touch on things like the stupidity of commercial capitalism and representative democracy, but on the other hand, it's a novel that pats you on the shoulder and asks you to just read it as a funny story.” — Eun Hee-gyong, novelist

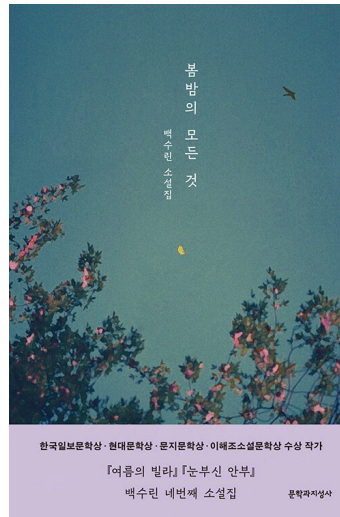
Its protagonist, a twenty-seven-year-old man named Gu Cheongu, has never left his hometown, a provincial backwater village known for its many shamans and deep political connections. He lives under the watchful eye of his terrifying mother, a powerful shaman whose tutelary deities include both General Douglas MacArthur and Saint Peter the Apostle, and alongside his twin half-brothers who routinely subject him to violence. But Cheongu's passive, insular life begins to shift when he is hired to work at King Price Mart, a newly opened store in town run by the elusive and globally notorious businessman, Batch Crowder.

Kim Hong was born in Seoul in 1986. Since his debut in 2017, he has written both short stories and novels. He majored in political science and international relations in college and briefly worked as a journalist. He had a wide range of other jobs, including sailor, designated driver, and corporate chairman's assistant. He received the Munhakdongne Novel Prize in 2023 for *Price King!!!* and the Hankyoreh Literary Prize in 2025 for *Stakes*.

The instant bestseller, sold more than 30,000 copies just in three months from the most-anticipated new story collection from the multi-award winning author that is reminiscent of Elizabeth Strout's *Olive Kitteridge* and Lorrie Moore's *Self-Help*

Everything About Spring Nights

by Baik Sou Linne



February 2025, literary, story collection, 49,000 words+, world rights available, long Eng sample and reader's report available

Everything About Spring Nights is the latest short story collection by the widely acclaimed author Baik Sou Linne. In seven short stories set against backdrops as varied as Seoul, New York, and Paris, Baik draws on universal emotions to paint striking yet subdued portraits of people grappling with loneliness, estrangement, grief, and simply growing older.

In "Radiant Days," a woman in her seventies named Okmi has long been estranged from her daughter. One day, her son-in-law makes a surprise visit with a parrot and asks her to foster the bird until her grandchildren grow to become less scared of it. As she warms up to her new feathery housemate, she reminisces about her past and her daughter's childhood. "White Snow and Dogs" follows a father who travels to Switzerland to visit his estranged daughter, hoping that his daughter has invited him with the intention of making amends. However, this trip to the snowy Alps ultimately leads the father to reconsider who was truly wronged in the fallout and who owes whom an apology.

Forming a triptych toward the end of the collection, "Heavy Rain," "It's Snowing," and "What Could That Have Been?" delve even deeper into the sense of loss. "It's Snowing" begins with a recollection of Dahye, Sohee's friend from college. During college, Dahye stayed with a distant relative to save on rent. Years after her passing, the memory of the times she spent with the old lady suddenly floods Dahye's head. "What Could That Have Been?" is an omnibus chapter in which each of the four characters shares their own account of a mysterious event that happened 11 years ago in Germany. Now in their forties, the four friends are on holiday together at a resort, where they have a long conversation about the past and deaths.

Baik's candid, lyrical storytelling as well as her grounded and deeply human characters offer insightful glimpses into everyday life at a certain age. Everything About Spring Nights is a beautiful and illuminative collection about growing older, enduring loneliness and loss, and pursuing hope and reconciliation as the lights at the end of the long tunnel of life.

Baik Sou Linne is a South Korean writer and a translator of French literature. The winner of the Hankook Ilbo Literary Award, the Hyundai Munhak Literary Award, the Young Writer's Award, and many more, Baik is the author of the novels *To Love and Be Loved* and *Brilliant Regards*, as well as the short story collections *Falling In Paul*, *Wretched Light*, and *Summer Villa*.

Stunning bestselling debut novel, sold more than 40,000 copies in Korea alone, from the most important discovery in the recent Korean genre literature, a tender coming-of-age story for fans of Won-Pyung Sohn's *Almond* and Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*

Dive

by Danyo



May 2022, YA, speculative fiction, 35,000 words+, world rights available, except Complex-Chinese, Russian rights sold, Eng sample and report available

It's the year 2057 in Seoul, and a war has destroyed dams around the world, leaving only mountain peaks and rooftops of high-rises above water. Survivors grow crops, fish the flooded cityscape, and scavenge for food and relics in submerged ruins. Seonyul, a second-generation survivor raised on the mountain of Nogosan, has never known the world before the flood. As a diver—a nickname for a young person who explores the remnants of the fallen civilization underwater—she connects with a lost past through discarded gadgets and forgotten treasures. These underwater excursions, while seemingly aimless, reflect a generational desire to reimagine identity through fragments of a world they have inherited but never lived in.

During a high-stakes bet with Wuchan, a former resident of Nogosan turned bitter after his sister's death, Seonyul uncovers an unscathed, fully functioning android girl named Suho. Though presenting Suho as her “find” would guarantee her victory, Seonyul is haunted by a series of ethical questions. Is it right to treat an android as a salvageable item? Would Suho have chosen to awaken in this broken world? What would Suho want to do once the bet is over? This moment presents an opportunity to reflect on the moral complexity of personhood, agency, and dignity in a post-human world.

Despite its post-apocalyptic backdrop, *Dive* offers a vision of resilience and optimism. In a world ravaged by climate disaster and war, children raised on mountaintops create new forms of kinship and survival, even in the absence of traditional family structures. The elegant descriptions of sun-kissed ocean horizons and mysterious underwater cityscapes also lend a dreamlike beauty to the novel. Its overall mood reminds readers that even in the wreckage, something tender and hopeful can take root and blossom.

Danyo began their literary career in 2022 with the publication of their first novel, *Dive*. Their other books include *The World Changes Like This* and *The Architect of Dog*. They won the Moon Yunseong Science Fiction Prize for the former and the Park Ji-ri Literary Award for the latter in 2023. Their identity remains anonymous, but they have recently revealed that they are a Third Culture Kid. They currently reside in Gangwon-do, South Korea.

In this *Convenience Store Woman* meet a real-life queer artist memoir, with propulsive swagger and disarming humor, Korean queer feminist icon Ibanjiha bounces across “small Asian girl” stereotypes as a larger-than-life patriarch

Why Am I So Hilarious?

by Ibanjiha



May 2023, memoir, humor, 45,000 words+, world rights available, long Eng sample & proposal available

“Emphatic, yet never rushing to a tidy conclusion, Ibanjiha keeps you hooked.” — Dahye Lee, film critic at Cine 21

“Flipping through the book, one cannot help bursting into laughter... The push and pull between Ibanjiha and the pains of living as a queer artist is the source of their sly, astute humor.” — Kyunghyang Shinmun

Enthralling audiences at queer feminist parties and protests alike since 2004, Ibanjiha is a multi-disciplinary artist infamous for performing songs such as “Oppa’s on His Period” in a pink, phallic headpiece. In this uproarious and poignant essay collection highlighting their spirited “survivor’s humor,” Ibanjiha muses on the precarity of life lived on the margins of Korea and North America, where they traveled in 2021. Whether they are expounding on topics as mundane as taking driving lessons and phallic sculptures in public space, or as local as Korean queer funerals and North American anti-abortion protests, Ibanjiha not only makes readers burst out in laughter but also prompts them to look back on their own unexamined beliefs. Ibanjiha’s writing is a must-read for anyone interested in contemporary Korean queer cultures, as well as all those who delight in the unexpected camaraderie humor can spark. *Why Am I Hilarious?* shares a sense of unflinching, no-holds-barred humor akin to that of writer Samantha Irby and comedian Youngmi Mayer. While Park Sang Young’s *Love in the Big City* guides the reader through the glitter and tumult of Seoul’s gay nightlife, Ibanjiha shares the perspective of a genderqueer, feminist artist in Korea, one who works shifts at their neighborhood convenience store one week then travels abroad to America to hold art exhibitions the next. Ibanjiha’s irreverent yet tender reflections will also remind readers of Eileen Myles’ nimble, insouciant wisdom.

Ibanjiha is a multidisciplinary artist who plays with and alongside patriarchy, gender boundaries, and queerness. They are the author of three essay collections, *Ibanjiha, A Queer Next Door* (2021), *Why Am I So Hilarious* (2023), and *Ibanjiha Infiltrates* (2024), as well as a number of short stories. A 2022 resident of the Korean National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Ibanjiha’s visual art has been exhibited in the US, Canada, Scotland, Bangladesh, Germany, and Brazil.

More than half a million copies sold in Korea alone, the *Love Warrior* meets *The Let Them Theory* phenomenal psychology bible for the wounded and diminished from the South Korean healer on the street

You Are Right
by Jung Hyeshin



October 2018, psychology, self-help, 49,000 words+, Spanish(Planeta), Brazilian Portuguese(CdL), Japanese, Complex-Chinese, Simplified-Chinese, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Thai rights sold, all other rights available, Eng sample and reader's report available

- * **No. 1 Non-Fiction Book on the Korean Public Libraries' Top Loan List in 2019**
- * **Selected as the Book of the Year by nine cities in Korea in 2019**

A simple yet solid 'home-cooked' psychology from the South Korean affectionate warrior, built with the skills of empathy and vigilance. A perfect book for everyone suffering from chronic 'I Shortage' - also translated at self-esteem famine - and conflict in relationships

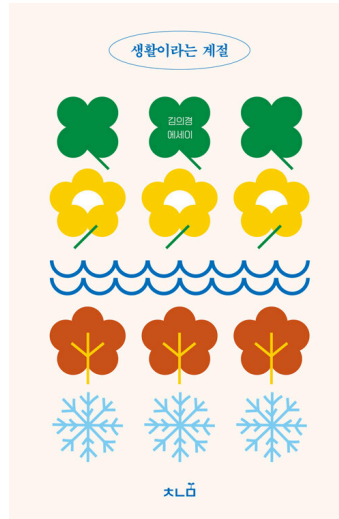
In this long-standing bestseller, Chung argues that we are suffering from a “self-esteem famine” that has pushed our sense of self to the brink of extinction. In a society obsessed with efficiency and measurable success, our individuality often gets tossed aside or even maliciously trampled. As uncertainty within us rises, so do cases of anxiety and depression. A mental health pioneer who is well-known for her coining of the phrase “appropriate psychology”, Jung argues that what we need now is not “a blowhard expert’s version of psychology, but rather an appropriate psychology that can actually change lives.” Inspired by the concept of appropriate technology and how it relies on small but mighty technological innovations to solve some of the world’s most basic yet pressing problems, appropriate psychology is all about the power of simple, genuine connections that can bring about remarkable transformations. She says right from the get-go, “I will not be quoting Freud, Jung, or Adler—these psychoanalysts you see in all the textbooks. I don’t feel the need. I’m going to speak from my experience and tell the stories of the people I’ve met over the years.”

Jung Hyeshin has been working as a psychiatrist for over 30 years, listening to and sharing the inner thoughts of over 12,000 people. She has been at the forefront of healing victims and their families in various fields since meeting victims of torture during the Gwangju Uprising in 2008. She led group counseling at the foundation ‘Power of Truth’, which was created to help victims of state violence, and co-founded ‘Warak’, a psychological healing space for laid-off Ssangyong Motors workers and their families. Her publications include *You Are Enough*, *Chung Hye-shin's Study of People*, *In Front of the Parting Called Death* and many more.

From the award-winning author of *Hello Baby*, an uplifting, vibrant slice of life journal talks to readers like a close friend.

This Season Called Life

by Kim Eui-kyung



October 2022, essay, 30,000 words+, world rights available, Eng sample & reader's report available

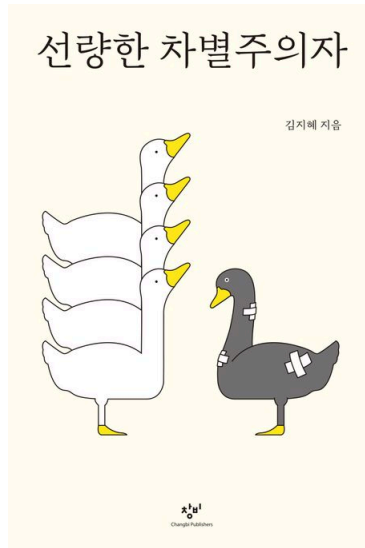
This Season Called Life is the first essay collection by Kim Eui-kyung, award-winning writer of such novels as *Call Center* and *Hello Baby* (the English translation of which is set to be published by HarperCollins in 2026.) It brings together the 52 weekly essays she contributed to the Korean daily newspaper *Kukmin Ilbo* from April of 2019 to the following spring, divided by season. As a result, each piece is a vibrant slice of Kim's life, written with unflinching detail and emotional urgency. The essays are short—about three pages each—and written in clear, simple prose that has the notable effect of making the reader feel as if they're talking to a close friend, creating an instant bond between writer and reader. Kim herself compares her routine of producing an essay a week to organizing her life, a sentiment clearly supported through the reading experience as we live through her days and reminisce about past memories right alongside her. But this collection is not a simple record of one woman's life in Korea. It is full of commentary and meditations on complex, serious issues such as infertility, debt, and social inequity—all told with extraordinary openness and tenderness.

Kim Eui-kyung is a novelist and essayist. Her debut novel, *Youth Bankruptcy* (2014) won the Korea Economic Daily Youth Literary Contest, and her second novel *Call Center* was awarded the 6th Soorim Literary Prize. She also published the story collection *Showroom*, set against the backdrop of IKEA, and her latest novel *Hello Baby*, a groundbreaking work of Korean feminist fiction about a group of women undergoing IVF at a fertility clinic in Seoul will be published by Fourth Estate in the UK and Hogarth in the US in 2026.

More than 300,000 copies sold only in Korea, this crisp, accessible social criticism, now also known and read as a human rights classic, about South Korean perspectives and responses on discrimination

Kindly Prejudiced

by Kim Jihye



July 2019, politics, social science, 43,000 words+, world rights available, except Japanese, Simplified-Chinese, Complex-Chinese rights sold, all other rights available, long English sample & reader's report available

A compelling and incisive exploration of social discrimination in South Korea and beyond, examining its origins, how it's justified, and what we can do to combat it.

Some discriminations are invisible and even disguised as “fairness.” How are these discriminations born and disseminated? With a focus on gender, nationality, and sexual orientation, *Kindly Prejudiced* unpacks the subtle and systemic ways bias infiltrates daily life and offers clear, accessible strategies for a more just society.

A long-running bestseller with over 300,000 copies sold in Korea alone, *Kindly Prejudiced* confronts the roots and realities of discrimination—drawing heavily from American scholarship while grounding its insights in the lived experience of Korean society. Essential reading for those seeking to understand phenomena such as gender conflict in Korea.

Professor Kim Jihye brings both academic expertise and personal insight together in this book, drawing from her “Minority and Human Rights” course taught at Gangneung-Wonju National University. Her approach is rigorous yet approachable, rendering complex ideas understandable to a wide readership. With six years of proven impact and continued relevance, this book stands poised to become a landmark in global conversations around social justice, resonating alongside works like Angela Davis’s *Women, Race and Class* and Rebecca Solnit’s *Men Explain Things to Me*.

Kim Jihye is a professor in the Department of Multicultural Studies at Gangneung-Wonju National University, where she teaches and researches social minorities, human rights, and systemic discrimination. Her work spans a wide range of marginalized communities, including immigrants, sexual minorities, youth, and the unhoused, with a focus on reforming policy and law through grounded fieldwork. Kim holds degrees in social welfare and law, and has previously worked at both the Seoul Metropolitan Children’s Counseling and Therapy Center and the Constitutional Court of Korea. In addition to numerous academic publications, she is the co-author of *Stories No One Knew* (May Books, 2018) and the *Human Rights Administration Guide* for civil servants.

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