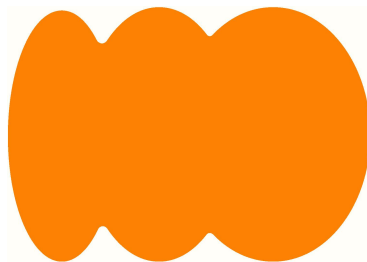


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2026 FBF Rights Guide



For fans of Hiroko Oyamada's *The Factory* and *Spirited Away*, and winner of the 31st Munhakdongne Novel Award. Set in a modern-day Korean factory, this is a coming-of-age story of belonging, labor, and guilt.

Blackout | Haam Yuni



Munhakdongne, March 2026, speculative fiction, 70,000 words+, world rights available, Eng sample, detailed synopsis available

“Even if it’s for one night, I want everything in that building to go wrong.”

When her family’s finances collapse, twenty-year-old colleague student Mak is forced to leave campus behind and take a job at a pharmaceutical factory. Life on the factory floor is harsh, but with the help of her coworkers, she gradually finds his place.

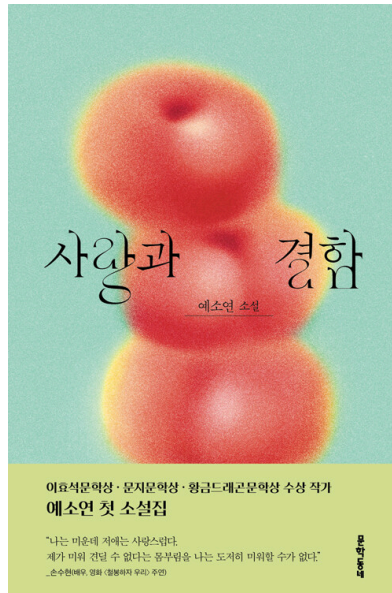
Then there is Lahiru—the factory’s golden boy from Sriranka, admired by everyone and impossible for Mak to ignore. The more time Mak spends with him, the stronger her feelings become. But their fragile happiness is cut short when a workplace accident leaves Lahiru injured and out of a job. Desperate to help, Mak joins the labor union, stepping into a world of strikes, protests, and struggles she barely understands. The work is daunting, awkward, and often humiliating, but giving up on Lahiru is not an option.

Just when hope seems out of reach, Mak remembers the secret ability of her childhood classmate, Eundan. If the factory could be brought to a standstill—even for a few moments—it could change everything. And with Eundan's mysterious power, Mak may finally have a chance to fight back.

Haam Yuni began her literary career by winning the 2022 Seoul Shinmun New Year’s Literary Contest for a short story, *The Returning Bear*. She has published one short story collection, *The Temperature of a Mother-of-Pearl Cabinet*(2025). In four years since the debut, she has won some of the most prestigious literary awards, including Yi-Sang Literary Awards and Young Authors Awards.

From the youngest-ever winner of the 48th Yi Sang Literary Award, an acclaimed story collection with over 40,000 copies sold in Korea — sharp, intimate stories of love, dysfunctional relationships, and resentment, for fans of Madeline Cash’s *Lost Lambs*.

The Dog and the Revolution | Ye Soyeon



Munhakdongne, July 2024, literary fiction, 70,000 words+, world rights available, except Simplified-Chinese rights sold, Eng sample, synopsis available

“Ye Soyeon’s *The Dog and the Revolution* is like biting into a soft, overripe peach that has been left out at room temperature for too long. It gives way with a mushy softness, then its juice runs everywhere, leaving everything sticky.” — Chosun Ilbo

In the award-winning title story “The Dog and the Revolution”, a daughter turns her father’s funeral into a small revolution when she fulfills his dying wish to bring his beloved dog to the ceremony. In “Love and Flaws”, after her complicated aunt dies, Seonghye is forced to reckon with the painful love, resentment, and impossible burden of care that bound their family together. In “Very Naive Age”, “Every Season”, and “Facing That Face”, three stories spanning childhood to adulthood, a friendship forged between two girls is haunted by a shared secret, a devastating loss, and the wounds that refuse to stay in the past.

The characters in the collection are flawed, selfish, lonely, jealous, tender, and sometimes cruel; yet Ye Soyeon observes them with an extraordinary intimacy and generosity. The result is a collection that is at once emotionally raw, darkly funny, and deeply moving—a portrait of the messy, complicated nature of contemporary relationships.

Ye Soyeon began her literary career in 2021, when her short story “Dobble” was selected for the Emerging Writer Recommendation in *Hyundae Munhak* magazine. In 2025, she won the Yi-Sang Literary Awards, one of the most prestigious literary awards in Korea, for her short story “The Dog and the Revolution.” She is the author of the novella *Cat and the Sisters of Desert*(2023) and another story collection *Your Bad Company*(2026).

From the author of *Capitalists Must Starve* and *A Magical Girl Retires*, in this *Love Actually* meets *The Measure* story, **POWER OF LOVE** is a speculative novel-in-stories where falling in love triggers random powers, using a playful speculative premise to explore intimacy, identity, and what it will make of us.

Power of Love | Park Seolyeon



Munhakdongne, March 2026, speculative fiction, 80,000 words+, world rights available, Eng sample, synopsis available

Power of Love is set in a world where loloma—a microbe named after the Fijian word for “love” that responds to the hormones released when we fall in love—has become as ubiquitous as oxygen. Whenever people fall in love, loloma grants them new powers or amplifies their existing abilities beyond imagination. Enhanced athleticism, immunity to hangovers, miraculous linguistic aptitude, overwhelming charisma—the possibilities are endless, and entirely unpredictable. But love is never simple. As these random abilities emerge, those affected by loloma find themselves plunged not only into love, but also into all the trials and tribulations that come with it.

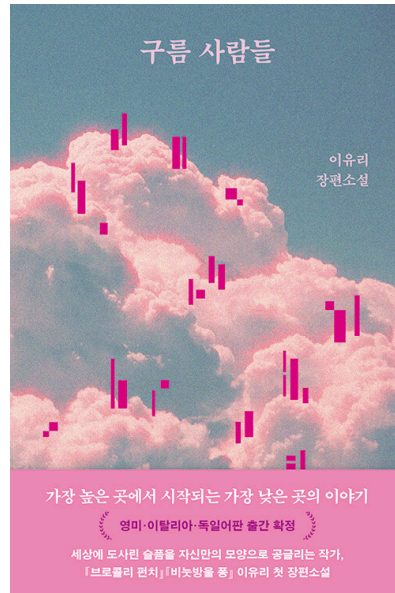
Here, love extends far beyond conventional romance, encompassing queer love, polyamory, maternal affection, and self-love. So do the darker emotions that are inseparable from love itself: self-hatred, jealousy, and humiliation. Although each chapter focuses on different characters and explores different facets of love, their emotions accumulate and linger, creating connections that resonate long after the final page. At a time when we are increasingly trying to quantify, optimize, and even engineer love and relationships, Power of Love reminds us of what we cannot control about them: what they will make of us.

Park Seolyeon received the 2018 Hankyoreh Literary Award for her debut novel *Capitalists Must Starve*. Her works include the novels *Martha's Job*, *Project V*, *A Magical Girl Retires*, *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.

Backlist Highlights

Longlisted for the 57th Dong-In Literary Prize, one of the oldest and most prestigious awards 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 | Lee Yuri



Munhakdongne, February 2026, literary, speculative fiction, 70,000 words+, world rights available, except WEL(HarperVia), Italian(Harper Italia), German(Antje Kunstmann),Complex-Chinese(Locus), Spanish(Las afueras), French(Calmann-Levy), full Eng translation, 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.

Twenty-year-old 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.

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 novel in stories, *Meet Me at a Good Place* (2023).

In the vein of Cho Nam-joo's *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* and Gail Honeyman's *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*, a dark yet moving, voice-driven novel about two women who meet across a closed door—as therapist and patient—and confront the traumatic pasts that have shaped them.

You Opened the Door | Yoon Seol



Book Namul, November 2023, women's fiction, 70,000 words+, world rights available, except Turkish(Timas) rights sold, Eng sample and reader's report available

Goh Ah-jin, a therapist haunted by recurring nightmares, is visited by a young man who begs her to “save us.” He fears that his older sister, Woo-young, who has not left their apartment in five years, may kill herself or their mother. Breaking her rule against in-person visits, Ah-jin agrees to counsel Woo-young just three times.

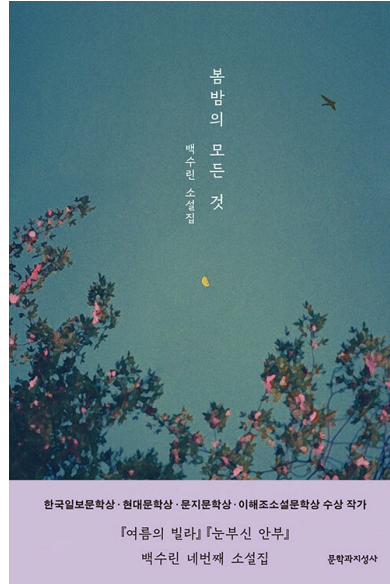
Unlike those who tried to force Woo-young out or have her hospitalized, Ah-jin does not pressure her to open the door. Instead, she patiently tries to understand the woman behind it. As Woo-young gradually opens up through her paintings, Ah-jin's own buried memories begin to surface. When she was a child, her younger brother was abducted, leaving her family with an irreparable trauma.

As the two women confront the painful pasts that have shaped their lives, this deeply moving novel gradually takes on the tension of a psychological thriller, keeping readers on edge as long-buried truths come to light.

Yoon Seol has worked as a psychoanalytic therapist 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 Bodies in the Kimchi Fridge*, an essay about dreams, the unconscious, and psychoanalysis. This book is her first novel.

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 | Baik Sou Linne



Moonji, February 2025, literary, story collection, 50,000 words+, world rights available, long Eng sample and reader's report available

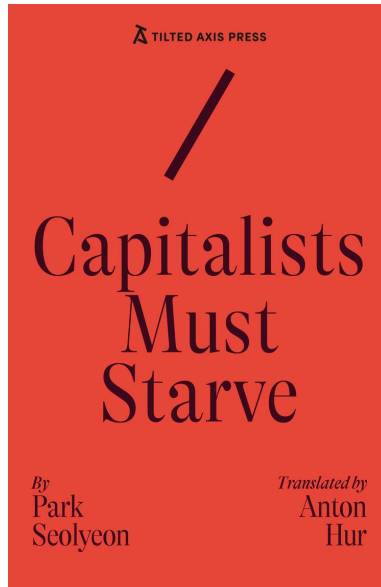
In “Radiant Days,” a woman in her seventies named Okmi has long been estranged from her daughter. One day, her son-in-law makes a surprise visit with a parrot and asks her to foster the bird until her grandchildren grow to become less scared of it. As she warms up to her new feathery housemate, she reminisces 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.

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*.

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 humor.

Capitalists Must Starve | Park Seolyeon



Hankyoreh, August 2018, historical fiction, 60,000 words+, world rights available, except WEL(Tilted Axis), French(Aux forges de vulcain), Indonesian(KPG), Polish(Tajfuny) rights sold, TV rights optioned, full Eng translation, synopsis available

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, who staged a high-altitude protest ever. Her name was Kang Juryong.

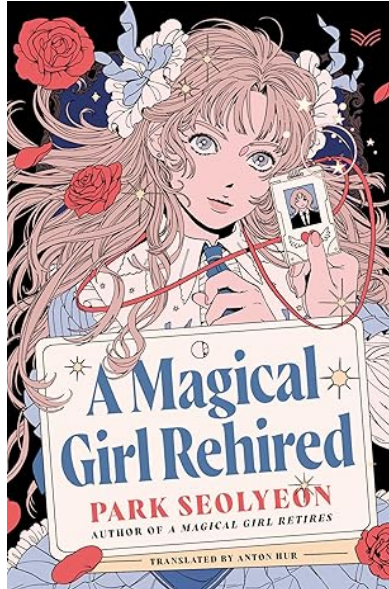
In a Japan-occupied Korea, Kang Juryong leads a peripatetic life with her impoverished parents, moving around from Ganggye to Gando and Seoriwon. She hopes to study and become a 'modern girl', but reality prevents her from realizing those dreams. At her parents' suggestion, she gets married, but when her husband suddenly dies, her parents plan for her to marry again, this time to the owner of their house. Instead, Juryong leaves them, heading for Pyongyang. There, while working at a rubber factory, she joins the red trade union and accuses the factory owners of exploiting the workers.

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

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*, *A Magical Girl Retires*, *Cacadu* as well as the story collections *Your Mom's the Better Player* and *Me, Me, Madeline*. She is the recipient of numerous literary awards, including the 2026 Kim You-Jeong Literary Prize, the 2024 Korean SF Awards and the 2023 Yi Sang Literary Awards.

In this charmingly chaotic follow-up to *A Magical Girl Retired*, our favorite millennial-turned-magical girl begrudgingly returns to the workforce to fight crime and the forces of evil.

A Magical Girl Rehired | Park Seolyeon



Changbi, 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. 'I' has no choice but to decide to return to my job as a magical girl. 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 include the novels *Martha's Job*, *Project V*, *A Magical Girl Retires*, *Cacadu* as well as the story collections *Your Mom's the Better Player* and *Me, Me, Madeline*. She is the recipient of numerous literary awards, including the 2026 Kim You-Jeong Literary Prize, the 2024 Korean SF Awards and the 2023 Yi Sang Literary Awards.

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.

A Magical Girl Retires | Park Seolyeon



Changbi, April 2022, speculative fiction, 40,000 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

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*, *A Magical Girl Retires*, *Cacadu* as well as the story collections *Your Mom's the Better Player* and *Me, Me, Madeline*. She is the recipient of numerous literary awards, including the 2026 Kim You-Jeong Literary Prize, the 2024 Korean SF Awards and the 2023 Yi Sang Literary Awards.

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 | Park Seolyeon



Safehouse, 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.

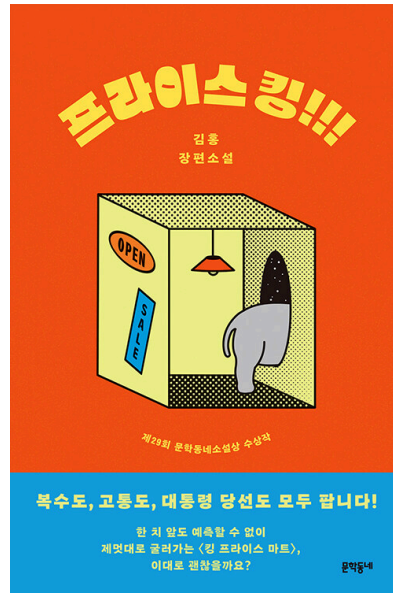
Robotics student Kim Woo-ram, runner-up at the World Gigantic Mechanic Olympiad, is a world-class talent both as a pilot and as an engineer. Sought after by robotics centres from all over the world, she returns to Korea after receiving a tip from an acquaintance on a secret government project, Project 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.

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!!! | Kim Hong



Munhakdongne, 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*.

Winner of the 30th Hankyoreh Literary Prize in 2025. For fans of *The Office* and Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*, this workplace tragicomic mystery explores collective guilt and mourning.

Stakes | Kim Hong



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

“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*

One morning, mysterious stakes begin appearing across the countries. 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.

Meanwhile, a news report broke out that over a hundred stakes 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!!!*

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? | Ibanjiha



Storyseller, 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

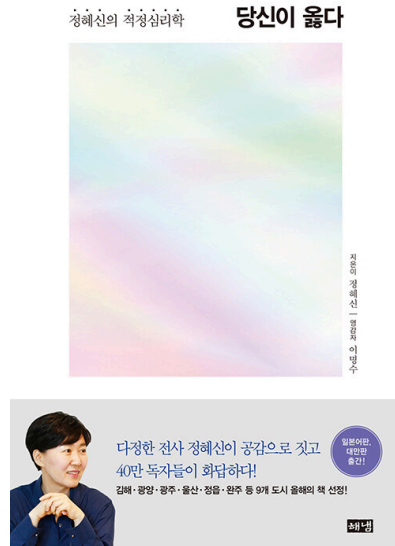
Enthralling audiences at queer feminist parties and protests alike since 2004, Ibanjiha is a multi-disciplinary artist infamous for performing songs such as “Oppa’s on His Period” in a pink, phallic headpiece. In this uproarious and poignant essay collection highlighting their spirited “survivor’s humor,” 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 So 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.

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 | Jung Hyeshin



Hainaim, 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

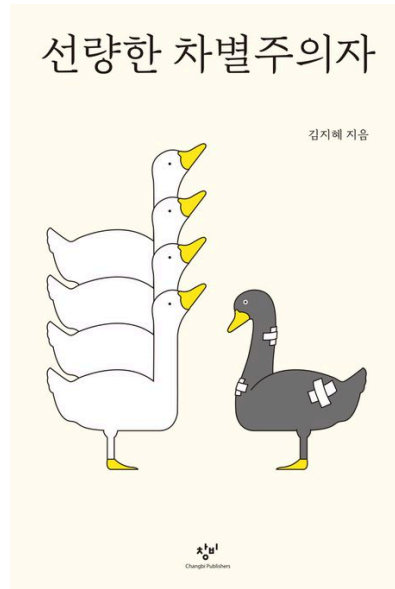
A simple yet solid 'home-cooked' psychology from the South Korean affectionate warrior, built with the skills of empathy and vigilance. A perfect book for everyone suffering from chronic 'I Shortage' - also translated at self-esteem famine - and conflict in relationships

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. 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.

More than 300,000 copies sold in Korea alone, 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 | Kim Jihye



Chanbi, 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.

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