

Rights Guide 2026-2027

Neofiction Publishing

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Introduction to Neofiction

Neofiction is a forward-thinking storytelling brand presented by Jaecum&Moeum Publishing Co.

Focusing on literary genres that stretch the boundaries of imagination, we publish books that deliver new perceptions and experiences to our readers.

The literary works of Neofiction are marked by original and compelling stories, writing styles that evoke depth and complexity, and opportunities to expand one's worldview. We offer a diverse selection of genres such as 'Fantasy · SF · Mystery · Thriller · Horror' and more.

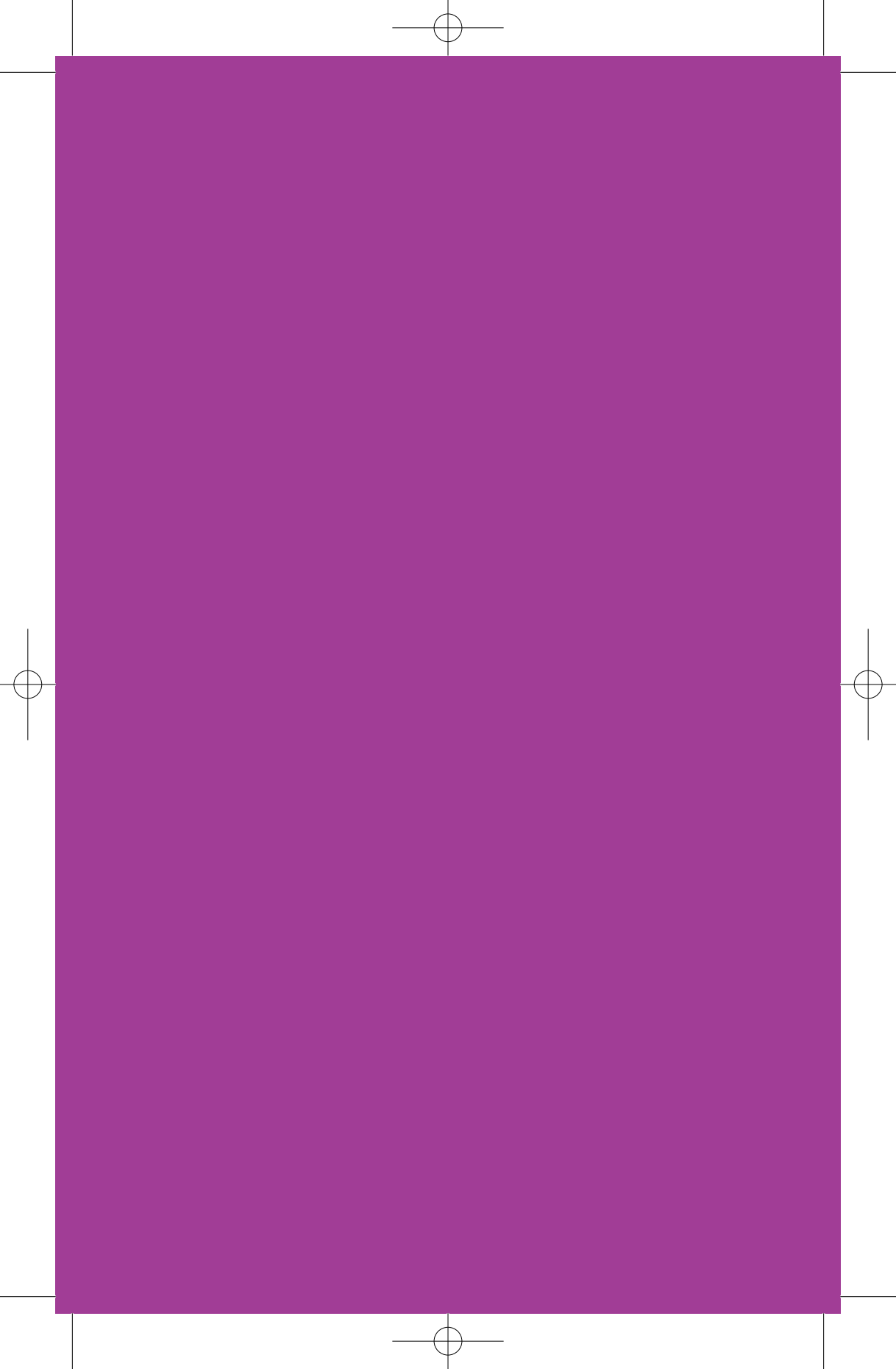
Celebrated not only by the Korean audience but also by the cultural and media industries all around the world, our books are actively adapted into movies, TV series, webcomics, games, and more.

We also focus on the discovery and promotion of new authors to lead the new wave of Korean literary genres.

The annual 'Neofiction Award' discovers innovative storytellers and act as a stepping stone for their creative inventions to branch out into the international market.

Neofiction seeks to become Asia's most dynamic storytelling hub and to connect readers, creators, and the international market for new stories.

The books we publish serve as a well of stories that extend endlessly beyond the original narrative.



Fantasy



Fantasy

A Whirlwind of Youth

Lee Ji-min, 2025, 292 pages, Fantasy/Romance, Novel

#Virus #Love #Dating #Encouragement #Consolation #Disaster #Survival

A story about youths who get infected by a virus overnight and fall disastrously in love.

Ok Taek-seon, a young female temporary worker, is introduced to Nam Su-pil, a scientist, by her friend. She didn't expect much from a young, overworked researcher with small pay. But he turned out to be a peculiar man who felt so much pity for the deaths of the lab mice that he would gather Mickey Mouse plushies and pray for repentance. After hearing all about Nam Su-pil's lab mice on their first date, Taek-seon thought she would never see him again, only to be proven wrong. They do meet again. He comes all the way to her place just to see her. While drinking wine and talking about life, Nam Su-pil confesses to her, much to her surprise. The next day, Taek-seon reunites with Yeon-woo, her first love from many years ago. After spending a dreamy night together, she hopes for a fresh start with him. However, Taek-seon hears shocking news: Nam Su-pil was found dead at the lab. In his final moments, Su-pil left a message to Taek-seon about the possibility of a viral infection. Public health authorities force Taek-seon to quarantine, but Yeon-woo, who spent the night with her, is in danger too. While being carried into

an ambulance, Taek-seon and Yeon-woo manage to escape. Together, they follow Nam Su-pil's clues to get to the heart of the matter.

concept

- Romance fantasy that celebrates youth with a novel idea.
- A story about eagerly fighting the virus and overcoming the limits of youth.



- Adapted for the screen. 〈Virus〉 released in 2025



Fantasy

The Adorables

Gi Ae-cheon, 2024, 236 pages, Fantasy/Thriller/Black Comedy, Novel

#Cute #Horror #Doll #Grotesque #Child_Abuse #Abandoned_Animals #Relationships
#Revenge #Socially_Weak #Witch

Dark fairy tale screening delightfully in gaps of reality.

The ultimate end for not-so-cute villains on a cute chopping board!

Meet ‘Hui-ji’, a girl in a school uniform. Since she was little, she never refused to let go of ‘Kkalang’, a stuffed bunny with soft blue wool and pink round nose—her favorite doll. She cherished ‘Kkalang’, but over time, it became one of her many dolls. “How could you do this to me?” Kkalang shouted endlessly, but the girl never heard her cries. Then one day, ‘Kkalang’ gained strength in its legs. It could stand up and walk too. The first thing ‘Kkalang’ did was hold out its paws to ‘Hui-ji’. But the night Kkalang’s paws touched Hui-ji’s face, she abruptly grabbed its ears and tossed it outside like it was trash. And so, ‘Kkalang’ became alone...? only to be immediately picked up by a new female owner. Its second owner had all kinds of dolls at home, except they were all ripped or broken. Suddenly, a lump of clay called out “Mom!” to the woman, who flew into a rage and mashed the gray lump with a stone hammer. When the woman left, the clay doll tormented other dolls, just like its owner had. ‘Kkalang’

was no exception. With all four paws bound, the clay doll was about to jab the ninth pin to Kkalang's stomach when the woman came back and violently lashed out to the clay doll again. 'Kkalang' didn't want to help its tormentor, the clay doll, but its goddamn empty eyes looked just like Hui-ji's. In the end, Kkalang flung itself to the woman and stabbed the pin into her eye. It was at that moment that 'Kkalang' realized that it does not have to be cute and decided where it must go.

concept

- A tale of finding oneself in which an abandoned doll finds the meaning of its existence.
- A dark fairy tale for adults that portrays the aftermath of expired affection.
- WA stark contrast of cuteness and horror.



- Winner of Neofiction Award of Excellence 2023



Fantasy

The Line of Farewell

Kang Min-young, 2025, 208 pages, SF/Fantasy, Novel

#Fantasy #Deep_Sea #Unidentified_Creature #Capture #Friendship #Solidarity

**Land and the deep sea, humans and unidentified creatures.
A magical story that brings together two opposites!**

In the pitch-black deep sea, unidentified creatures live and form villages. Species known as the 'Ballaby' has an unbreakable taboo: never get close to the 'threshold of light'. The 'elders' of the Ballaby viewed 'humans', who live beyond the threshold of light, that is, above the surface, as enemies. But 'Neha', who knew nothing about humans, was mesmerized by the shimmering light above the ocean and frequently swam close to the surface without the 'elders' knowing. Then one day, a small fragment 'Neha' had never seen before caught her eye. Despite having picked up a myriad of objects in the sea, the fragment was new. But the moment it reached for the fragment, it lit up. 'Yu-jin', who is researching deep-sea resources to aid human survival, was feeling skeptical about the lack of progress in her project when an unexpected message on her phone takes her by surprise. A measuring instrument that she lost a few days ago is picking up signals. In disbelief, 'Yu-jin' downloads the records on the instrument, through which she finds a photo of a mysterious creature that looks just like a human. Puzzled by the shimmering fragment,

'Neha' looks for clues with her friend, 'Kira'. She even lays her hand on a forbidden book, through which she accidentally learns about 'humans'. Instead of being scared, 'Neha' swims toward the surface as usual, curious and hoping to meet them. There, she encounters 'Yu-jin', who drove a submersible to see 'Neha' for herself. Meanwhile, above the ocean, records of 'Neha' that 'Yu-jin' had stashed away are exposed, prompting a plan to capture the Ballaby species alive.

concept

- A poignant nautical fantasy that portrays the encounter of two species with completely different languages and appearances.
- A critical perspective on humanity's lack of respect for the weak.



Fantasy

So as Not to Freeze

Kang Min-young, 2020, 204 pages, Fantasy/Drama, Novel

#Realism #Female_Solidarity #Work_Life #Ectothermic #Disaster

**Female solidarity amidst a struggle not to freeze.
The power of warmth to foster their steadfast unity.**

‘In-gyeong’, an ordinary employee at a travel agency, embarks on a business trip to Vietnam with her coworker, ‘Hui-jin’. There, ‘In-gyeong’ comes to realize that the seemingly quiet and unsociable ‘Hui-jin’ is actually a fun, bubbly person. Along the way, ‘Hui-jin’ points out that something is wrong—despite the scorching sun, ‘In-gyeong’ is not sweating a drop. After returning from the business trip, ‘In-gyeong’ nervously checks her temperature and finds that it is 29 degrees. For some reason, ‘In-gyeong’ was becoming an ectothermic human. She tries to gather all kinds of information to assess her condition, but as summer turns to fall, she soon gets the feeling that her life is going to be turned upside down. Even in the current climate, life isn’t easy. Worried about how she would endure the upcoming winter, she seriously considers hibernating, just like the cold-blooded amphibians and reptiles. Despite the difficult life ahead of her, ‘In-gyeong’ finds great solace in ‘Hui-jin’, who takes good care of her. Winter is approaching. This is a story about ‘In-gyeong’, who tries to protect herself in order to survive the cold-blooded reality,

and 'Hui-jin', who helps her silently. As the seasons change, the two share their temperatures. Through their friendship, the novel shows just how much a single act of kindness could impact someone's life.

concept

- A heart-warming survival story about two people who endure winter through the warmth of their hearts.
- An uplifting novel that looks back on real existing issues through an unrealistic disaster.



- Winner of Jaeum&Moeum Novella Award 2020



Fantasy

They Came From the Sea

Guk Ji-ho, 2024, 208 pages, Fantasy/Mystery, Novel

#Water_Demon #School_Violence #Dating_Violence #Consolation #Recovery

**When a discreet emotion takes form inside me,
a mysterious creature reminiscent of the ocean scent appears!**

After losing her parents at a young age, 'So-un' had been living with her grandmother, who had dementia, with no one in her life to watch over her. Her only wish was for her parents to come back. Perhaps her pleas were desperate enough. 'Shadows' appeared on the seawall and transformed into So-un's parents to take her. The three of them disappeared overnight. Meanwhile, 'Jin-gyeom' is being bullied by her peer, 'Yeon-ho'. When she reads about a sea that grants wishes, she heads over. There, by the sea, she wishes to escape from Yeon-ho's bullying, but what she truly wants is to become strong. The sea bubbles up in response, through which another 'Jin-gyeom' appears and goes to find 'Yeon-ho' to grant her 'true' wish. The final story is about 'Yeong-ui', who lost her boyfriend, 'Cheon-ju'. Unable to accept Cheon-ju's death, she wanders about the seawall, wishing for his return. The sea grants her wish and sends 'Cheon-ju' up. The 'Cheon-ju' who was sweet to her and cared only for her. Then one day, someone tells 'Yeong-ui' that 'Cheon-ju' is alive, and that the one by her side is actually fake. Then, the memories of how 'Cheon-

ju' used to repeatedly abuse her return to her. Several days later, the 'real' 'Cheon-ju' comes to 'Yeong-ui'... Do the 'creatures' come from the sea to grant their 'wishes' purely out of 'goodwill'? And was there really nothing more to the wishes that were made?

concept

- Serial fiction that explores human desire through a wish-granting sea.
- Social criticism that brings attention to the weak who are exposed to violence.



- Winner of Neofiction Award of Excellence 2023



Fantasy

No. 18 Gu Gyeong-nam

Chaegang D, 2024, 364 pages, Fantasy/Sports Fiction, Novel

[#Time_Slip](#) [#Emergency_Landing](#) [#Baseball](#) [#Starting_Pitcher](#) [#Life-Changing](#)

Unlucky pitcher 'Gu Gyeong-nam' is thrust back into the past and meets a professional baseball league that disappeared after a short-lived glory!

Pitcher 'Gu Gyeong-nam' was a troublemaker who stirred the pot everywhere he went and didn't hesitate to balk for victory. Since he was in high school, he was celebrated as a promising talent and became a starting pitcher early on, to the excitement of everyone. However, following an elbow injury, his glory days quickly came to an end. Due to his rusty skills, the manager stopped calling for him, and overwhelmed by defeat, he ended up in frequent brawls with his fellow players. In the end, he was kicked out of the league after being implicated in rumors of match-fixing. Hoping to overturn his luck, he tried joining the major league in Seattle, but to no avail. His career as a professional baseball player seemed officially over. At least, until he woke up in 1982, when the Superstars League, which gave rise to Korean baseball, was active. Everyone knows about the fate of the Superstars. Dubbed 'The Unlucky League', 'Forever Losers', and 'Superstars without Superstars', they were the subject of ridicule. Until 'Gu Gyeong-nam' joins the league. When the league owner

offers a position, 'Gu Gyeong-nam' becomes a pitcher for Superstars, and steps on the mound that would come to be known as the graveyard of 1982. All to seize the final opportunity that may never come again. Will 'Gu Gyeong-nam' become the starting pitcher for Superstars and experience the peak of his career once more?

concept

- Time slip about an unlucky baseball player who wakes up in the past and experiences his prime again.
- A coming-of-age story about how a pitcher who is used to playing foul develops true 'sportsmanship'.



Fantasy

Midnight Red Carpet

Kim Cheong-gyul, 2024, 232 pages, Fantasy/Mystery/Black Comedy, Short Story Collection

#Dystopia #Serving_Justice #Crime #Struggle #Feminism #Social_Irrationality
#Socially_Disadvantaged

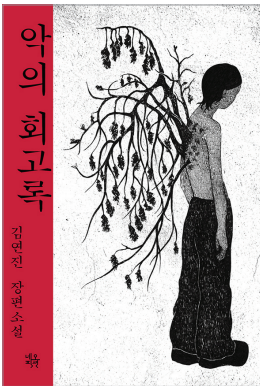
**If this world is cruel to girls, sisters, my queen,
we will fight back more tenaciously and vigorously than ever!**

This book introduces a unique world of fantasy about a 'magical girl' who saves the world from monsters, a near future in which an 'artificial heart' must be transplanted to give birth to a pure-blood, and more. It explores various types of humans, such as independent female characters and passive characters who regain their sense of independence. Furthermore, it criticizes countless social issues that infect this era, such as gender discrimination, generational issues, hatred toward minorities, distorted power structure, and more. For example, in 「Midnight Bloody Affair」, the protagonist is stripped of their rights and worse, becomes a suspect, all because their assailant claims 'insanity defense' to absolve responsibility. In 「Fine Dust-Free Area at Seodaejeon Intersection Station」, mutating into a 'fine dust human' allows one to become a 'hero' by sucking in fine dust and purifying the surrounding air. Ironically, 'Gi-hyeok' receives a light penalty for regularly stalking and assaulting, only to be celebrated

after turning into a 'fine dust human'. The author also casts a critical eye on society's narrow-minded viewpoint on the minority and the systemic violence in which 'women' are given unfair social roles and are refrained from positions of authority simply because of their gender. In this way, the short story collection offers an improved reality of society to those who have lost their social conscience and explores issues that we as members of society must address.

concept

- Gender inequality and systemic violence as exposed by the stories of the magical girl and fine dust humans.
- Social criticism and fantasy fiction that lay bare reality through an unusual imaginative approach.



Memoir of Evil

Kim Yeon-jin, 2024, 212 pages, Fantasy, Novel

#Dystopia #Utopia #Evil #Good #Memoir

The stories of villains we have seen so far were just a taste of things to come.

The birth of a new writer who redefines 'evil'!

There existed a beautiful land made of virtuous people--the pure and noble 'Intalien'. Happy and virtuous from birth, the people of Intalien have protected the 'great spirit' of living and caring for one another. Together, the children learn the spirit of Intalien from the teachers and the means to live harmoniously within the community from the great master. Intalien is as peaceful as it can be: emotions like hatred, rage, and sadness are virtually non-existent and need not be defined. Then one day, 'Mallus' is born—a child whose heart goes against the Intalien spirit. Thinking and acting differently from his peers, 'Mallus' experiences confusion and becomes the first to recognize 'evil', a word that does not even exist in Intalien. To spread 'evil', he begins a discourse on evil with the naive and delicate 'Estus'. Having inherited the great spirit of Intalien in its entirety, Estus was the embodiment of 'good', yet through hunger for knowledge and friendship with 'Mallus', he starts to slowly accept 'evil'. In the end, having become more evil than 'Mallus', the inciter of evil, himself,

‘Estus’ starts an uprising and ultimately commits murder. The horrendous events force ‘Mallus’ to reconcile himself to the fact that he hadn’t actually wanted a world tainted by evil. Time passes by, and ‘Mallus’ writes a memoir about the world of evil he brought forth and the dear friend ‘Estus’ he lost as a result. Praying on the fall of evil, the memoir begins, “Dear Estus, I understand that my mistake is irreversible, but would you give me a chance to atone for my sins...?”

concept

- A gruesome dystopia brought on by the first child to recognize ‘evil’ in a world of good.
- Philosophical fantasy that asks the true meaning of ‘good’ and ‘evil’.



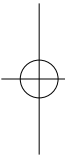
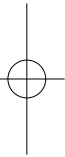
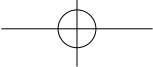
Abnormality Report

Choi Do-dam, 2024, 272 pages, Fantasy, Novel

#Unemployment_Benefits_Department #Terror #Coma #Astral_Projection #Stranger
#Empathy

A record of the despairing moments of experiencing another person's sadness.

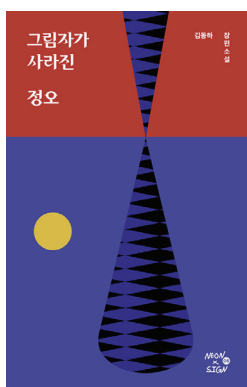
Just before the end of a workday on Friday, masked terrorists storm into the unemployment benefits department of the Juan Job Center. Under the threat of terrorists with guns on their sides, pandemonium breaks out inside. Exits are sealed off, mobile phones are taken away, and telephones ring noisily from calls to the center. Within a dozen minutes or so, the unemployment benefits department transforms into a completely different kind of world. Ian, the employee at Counter 4 of the unemployment benefits department and the protagonist of the story, is shot by the terrorist and falls into a coma. But for some reason, he has an out-of-body experience, thanks to which he can travel through space or eavesdrop on other people's conversations. Ian names the space in which no one can see him or hear his story, 'Zero Space'. Stuck in a space for an indefinite period—where escape is unclear—Ian hears stories he previously did not know. As a result, Ian comes to deeply empathize with the loss and pain from the other side of the counter, and by chance,



hears about his coworkers' untold suffering. However, to listen to so many stories, someone needs to assist him. Someone who lives in reality, outside of the Zero Space. 'Ho-chan', the employee at Counter 2, fulfills that role. He was famous within the job center for rarely showing emotion. Some people even complained about his stoic demeanor, but no one took any interest in how he came to be that way. But after the terrorism, Ho-chan saw Ian in Zero Space. Through Ho-chan's indirect assistance, Ian comes to hear many more stories and eventually discovers why Ho-chan ended up becoming so emotionless.

concept

- A fantasy that overthrows daily life through imagination that speaks volumes.
- Stories of strangers revealed after an act of terror in a space of loss.



Fantasy

Jeong-oh's Lost Shadow

Kim Dong-ha, 2024, 236 pages, Fantasy/Mystery, Novel

#Trading_Shadows #Soul #Amnesia #Sadness #Light_and_Darkness #Friend
#Friendship

**Time to face sadness and shadows,
the most persistent form of darkness we can't detach from.**

Protagonist Jeong-oh wakes up in an unfamiliar hospital room, where he is diagnosed with short-term memory loss. Just as his world seems to come crashing down, a friend who he hoped would help regain his memories delivers even more shocking news: people's shadows have started disappearing. At first, he dismisses his friend's claim as nothing more than hogwash, but when he sees the reality with his own eyes, there's no denying it. Most people's shadows, including his friend's, have disappeared, and some of them claim to have voluntarily given their shadows to someone else. Jeong-oh begins wondering what they gained in return. After all, no one would give up their shadows for free. In an instant, Jeong-oh becomes the only person with a shadow, and when he tries to recall sad moments, nothing comes to mind. One day, Jeong-oh is overwhelmed by an unexpected wave of sadness, and the 'shadow merchant' that everyone has been talking about shows up at last. "Jeong-oh, will you sell your shadow to me? If you do, you will no longer feel sadness, including

the one you feel now.” Jeong-oh questions the shadow merchant’s true intention. However, he ultimately sells his shadow, but for some reason, the shadow merchant can’t absorb it. What could Jeong-oh’s shadow possibly mean to himself?

concept

- A story that questions whether or not we are better off without darkness.
- A compelling narrative that is as enchanting as a fairy tale.



KANG JI-YOUNG

Kang Jiyoung was born and is based in Paju, Gyeonggi-do. Since announcing her first story collection, 『Goodbye Paradise』, she has been engaging in versatile storytelling and writing across genres, including mystery, thriller, fantasy, romance, and more. Her full-length novels include 『Quarantine Station of New Culture』 『Elza's Ha-yin』 『Circus in the Dark Forest』 『Frankenstein Family』 『Mrs Shim is a Killer』 『Yawning is Delicious』 『Pheromone Boutique』 『A Killer's Shopping Mall 1, 2, 3』 『Good Driver』 and 『Almost Bliss』. Her story collections include 『Goodbye Paradise』 『Time for Dogs to Eat』 『The Killer's Shopping List』 and more. She has also published 〈Stiletto〉 〈The Witch Sawol〉 〈The Killer's Shopping List〉 and more on Kakao Page and NAVER WEBTOON. In 2022, 『The Killer's Shopping List』 was adapted into a popular TV series featuring Lee Kwang-soo and Seolhyun. In 2024, 『A Shop for Killers』 was adapted into the popular Disney+ series 〈A Shop for Killers〉 featuring Lee Dong Wook and Hyejun Kim. Season 2 will air in 2026. Currently, Kang Jiyoung is actively working as an author and a webcomics writer, and meeting aspiring authors through writing seminars in her spare time.

Kang Ji-Young



Kang Ji-Young

Mrs. Shim is a Killer

Kang Ji-young, 2022, 380 pages, Thriller, Novel

#Ajumma_Assassin #Butcher_Shop #Detective_Agency #Contract_Killer #Middle-aged_Heroine #Killing_for_a_Living #Double_Life_of_a_Mom

Contract killer Shim Eun-ok holds the disparaging world and intolerable people at knifepoint!

Ex-butcher Shim Eun-ok lands a job at the Smile Detective Agency. With the help of Mr. Park and his lackey Choi Jun-gi, she gives despicable people the business. The bogus shaman who seduced a married man, and a mother and son who threw away their family for money are two such examples. Then one day, Lee Seong-ran joins the detective agency as their latest recruit. Realizing that this is no ordinary detective agency, she tips off her detective husband, but he wouldn't believe her. Then there's Happy Detective Agency, Smile Detective Agency's competitor that is run by Na Han-cheol, who has bad blood with Eun-ok. As payback, he recruits and trains Eun-ok's son, Jin-seob. For his first mission, Jin-seob is ordered to kill an ajumma assassin, the best in the industry. Unaware that his target is actually his mom, Jin-seob heads to the pre-arranged location. When Eun-ok learns about her son's double life, Lee Seong-ran convinces her detective husband to go to the assassination site. Knowing that Na Han-cheol will not stop until Eun-ok is killed by her own son,

the mother and son end up pointing knives at each other. Eun-ok gladly chooses to sacrifice herself, but Seong-ran takes her husband's pistol and jumps in to stop the tragedy.

concept

- 'Slice of life noir feminist action novel' that paints the survival and the delightful revenge story of a middle-aged woman of this era.
- Black comedy that is dark and chilling with a jaunty rhythm.
- A tale about invisible labor and survival of women, and the line between poverty and crime.



- Publishing rights sold to USA, UK, Germany, Italy, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Brazil, Iceland, France, Hungary, the Netherlands, Finland, Portugal, Russia, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Estonia.



Kang Ji-Young

A Killer's Shopping Mall 1

Kang Ji-young, 2020, 176 pages, Action Thriller, Novel

#Killer #Legacy #Secret_Organization #Disguise #Urban_Noir #Family

A legacy, a shopping mall, and an assassination manual left by her vanished uncle.

Following the death of her parents, protagonist Jeong Jian has lived with her uncle. Although aloof, her uncle was a trustworthy guardian who ran an online shopping mall. One day, when her uncle passes away after an unexpected accident, Jian inherits his shopping mall. But something is off. The seemingly ordinary shopping mall was actually a front for a clandestine operation for contract killing, and her uncle was an assassin who had carried out countless missions himself. The shocking truth, along with the dangerous traces he had left behind, begin to surface. The story reaches a dramatic climax when Jian learns that someone faked her uncle's death and that Jian herself is in danger. As Jian tracks down her uncle's shopping mall and the secrets he left behind, she comes to understand the inner workings of the underworld. Now no longer just a niece but an independent being named 'Jeong Jian', she faces her uncle when he comes back alive.

concept

- Urban noir about inheriting a shop for killers following her uncle's death.
- Action thriller about the murders and contrivances surrounding a mysterious shopping mall.
- A coming-of-age story about an orphaned girl who develops her identity and sphere of life.



- Publishing rights sold to Russia, Germany, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia.



- Disney+ Original *⟨A Shop for Killers⟩* Season 1 released in 2024



Kang Ji-Young

A Killer's Shopping Mall 2

Kang Ji-young, 2023, 204 pages, Action Thriller, Novel

[#Death_of_a_Friend](#) [#Secret](#) [#Sense_of_Loss](#) [#Dark_Web](#) [#Convenience_Store_Battle](#)

[#Killer_Map](#) [#Receiving_Inheritance](#)

The truth behind her friend's death and an inheritance war to survive hell.

Jian enters university and lives in the dormitory with her friend, Dana. A vegetarian with diabetes, Dana is prohibited from administering insulin due to her overbearing mother's firm belief in naturopathy. After binge-eating tteokbokki with Jian, she dies from diabetic shock at 4:07 AM. Blaming herself for Dana's death, Jian is racked with guilt. After returning to her uncle's home, Jian stumbles upon 'Babylon', a malicious rival organization to her uncle's shopping mall, 'Murthehelp'. It just so happens that Babylon is targeting Jian to take over Murthehelp, offering a big sum of money to whoever gets the job done. To protect her life and also to prove her right to the shopping mall, Murthehelp, Jian jumps into the fray. When it is finally revealed that her late friend Dana was the daughter of Babylon's leader, Jian is thrown into chaos, but with the help of her uncle, she successfully takes down Babylon.

concept

- A discrepancy between the cruel backdrop of arms smuggling and power struggle, and friendship that borders on love.
- Criticism of the ease of murders and human trafficking through the dark web.
- A feminist coming-of-age story about a woman who enters the height of power instead of remaining a helpless victim.



- Disney+ Original 〈A Shop for Killers〉 Season 2 released in 2026.



Kang Ji-Young

A Killer's Shopping Mall 3

Kang Ji-young, 2025, 184 pages, Action Thriller, Novel

#Missing #Secret_Behind_Her_Birth #Rivalry #Revenge #Friendship #Truth

#Webcomics #Second_Phase_of_Life

Jian, now the owner of the shopping mall, chases after an unforeseen truth.

After the battle at the convenience store, her uncle vanished into thin air overnight. Left with only bloodstains and bullets, Jian runs the shopping mall in his place. Two women, Sujeon and Suyeon, show up at her home unannounced. They are the tactical assassins of 'Yellow Code', a division of Murthehelp, and they have come to tell Jian about her uncle's secret past. All this time, her uncle had been turning the events at Murthehelp into webcomics, illustrated by Suyeon. Jian is stunned by the finding, but an even more shocking truth awaits them. As it turns out, a hundred days after her birth, Jian had secretly been switched out with the enemy's child amidst a fight with her uncle's bitter enemy. Her uncle's real niece was Suyeon, and he had dedicated more than twenty years to protecting both Jian and Suyeon. Jian, who wanted to believe that her uncle's death had been staged, accepts death and moves on to the next, completely new stage in her life.

concept

- Mystery and coming-of-age story of a woman written in the style of hardboiled fiction.
- Black comedy + action + thriller that takes place after the protagonist inherits an organization of killers.
- Introduction of new characters, unexpected plot twist, and a spoonful of tears of love and friendship.



Kang Ji-Young

Dark Forest Circus

Kang Ji-young, 2026, 224 pages

#Zombie Apocalypse #Pandemic #Family Drama #Motherhood

The most human family expedition in the middle of a zombie apocalypse

Only three years after the COVID-19 pandemic came to an end, another new virus has emerged. Known as Pain Flu, the disease spreads fear across East Asia, with outbreaks confined to China and Korea. Rumors circulate that anyone suspected of infection is forcibly quarantined and anyone confirmed to be infected is put down. Yet the government still has no effective response. As temperatures remain above 35°C, severe aftereffects of Pain Flu begin to emerge. As their overheated brains begin to decay, those infected lose their grip on reality and bite their neighbors on the neck.

Even in the middle of a zombie apocalypse, some responsibilities cannot be abandoned, and some people still need us. The family in *Dark Forest Circus* is no different. The youngest daughter, Cho-gwa, rides off on a motorcycle with the guy she's been seeing after learning that the daughter she gave up for adoption needs surgery and a blood transfusion. Her older brother, Geun-dae, heads to the AT Center for a comic festival, declaring, "Geeks never die." Meanwhile, their mother, Suk-young, rides through Seoul with her pregnant eldest daughter, Cho-hee, in search of a university hospital.

concept

- A new novel by Kang Ji-young, author of the original novel adapted into the Disney+ series *A Shop for Killers*.
- A zombie apocalypse novel that showcases Kang Ji-young's signature storytelling.



Kang Ji-Young

Elza's Ha-yins

Kang Ji-young, 2024, 264 pages, Mystery Fantasy, Novel

#First_Love #Uplifting #Queen_and_Servant #Pure_Love #Vampire #Outsider

#Countryside_Romance

A pure and strange love for my most fascinating outsider.

When the blue-eyed 'Elza' moves in next door, 'Yang Ha-yin', a twelve-year-old boy, falls in love with her at first sight. Elza is the same age as Ha-yin and has black hair, pale skin, and bright blue eyes. With her is a dog that looks exactly like Ha-yin's dog that died the year before. Coincidentally, her dog's name is Ha-yin. Every time Elza steps outside, she wears black sunglasses, black stockings, and gloves. As the only foreigner in the conservative countryside village, 'Elza' remains an outsider. The village kids treat her like a monkey in a zoo and ostracize her, but all she does is glare at them coldly. One day, when Ha-yin and Elza go sledding, a child hurls cruel insults at her, to which she murmurs back foreign words. Immediately after, the icy ground splits open, and the child who insulted Elza falls into the water. The children fear that Elza had caused the accident with a curse. Elza, whose skin breaks into red blisters under the sun, and who detests garlic. Elza, who always wears black gloves and carries a black parasol. But whenever 'Elza' chants a spell at anyone who

insults her, 'Ha-yin' can't help but think how unsteady she really is. To protect 'Elza', Ha-yin decides to become her servant.

concept

- A beautiful but foreboding tale of magical realism.
- Blurring the line between speculation and reality.
- Growth and unraveling of a boy's inner self, a desire for existence.



Kang Ji-Young

The Killer's Shopping List

Kang Ji-young, 2022, 244 pages, Horror/Detective/Thriller/Mystery, Story Collection

#Destruction_of_Daily_Life #Anxiety #Perfect_Crime #Surveillance_Society #Closed_Space #Homicidal_Ideation #Psychological_Thriller

Impulse, murderous intent, and your shadow hidden in a receipt.

A collection of short stories that presents 'Anxiety in Daily Life' 'Stuck in the Name of Family' 'Surviving in a Powerless and Violent World' with humor and suspense. Each story gradually shakes the reader's sense of daily life through events that seem ordinary but peculiar, realistic yet twisted. The title story 「The Killer's Shopping List」 is about shopping in order to fight back the urge to kill. By purchasing one product after another, the violent urge either dulls or deepens. Hovering between black comedy and psychological thriller, the story paints a peculiar tug-of-war between ego and impulse. 「Undeniable Culprit」 is a story about getting counseling and being seized with the creeping suspicion that everyone around 'me' is watching me or is out to get me. Is it a truth beknownst only to me, or am I the one blinded from the truth? The story closely portrays doubt and madness. 「Sexual Offense Lecture Notes」 is about a university lecturer who teaches sexual offense. While organizing the lecture notes, the lecturer gradually faces the inner desire and dark truth hidden deep

inside them. It portrays the inner turmoil that rises on the borders of academics, ethics, and human nature. 「The Night of Perfect Crime」 unravels an affair and a missing persons case in a remote countryside village. The criminals dream of committing the ‘perfect crime’, but their elaborate plans begin to feebly crumble, unraveling past mistakes, one by one. It sheds light on dormant desire and guilty conscience against a countryside backdrop. This is a diverse collection of seven such stories.

concept

- An unusual story of ‘homicidal ideation’ within a woman’s otherwise ordinary life.
- Short stories that explore various social classes, family dynamics, and work environments.
- A unique narrative of the powerlessness and rage experienced by city women who are emotionally repressed.



- Publishing rights sold to Thailand, Vietnam.



Kang Ji-Young

Yawning is Delicious

Kang Ji-young, 2025, 280 pages, Thriller, Novel

#Specialty_Cleaning(Crime_Scene_Cleanup) #Dream #Youth #Identity #Control #Secret
#Unconscious #Bridge

Two women's daily lives of glamor and exhaustion swap inside a dream.

With the university graduation just around the corner, Protagonist 'Yi-gyeong' is hanging on day by day, working as a part-time specialty cleaner to cover her student loans and living expenses. Her life of cleaning up after suicides, solitary deaths, and crime scenes is deprived, foul, and dismal. Then one day, something strange happens to her. In her dream, she wakes up as 'Da-un', the only child of a rich family. Da-un's life is filled with a luxury apartment, designer clothes, a Maserati, aromatherapy massages, and other such splendor. But Yi-gyeong slowly comes to realize that even an abundant life is imbued with loneliness and exhaustion that are all too familiar to her. As the memories of her dream and reality become muddled, Yi-gyeong and Da-un continue to jump between each other's lives. Along the way, Yi-gyeong realizes that Da-un's words and actions in her dream turn to reality. Places, dialogues, and emotions that Da-un speaks of manifest in Yi-gyeong's reality. Yi-gyeong begins to suspect that the dream is not simply a figment of her imagination but a 'bridge of truth' of sorts.

concept

- A novel that reveals the duplicity of class as a result of wealth gap.
- A study on the change of appearance and daily life, and the sense of identity arising from that.
- A story that intersects between the survival story of a poor, young woman and the tragedy of a privileged woman.



- Publishing rights sold to Indonesia.



Kang Ji-Young

Frankenstein Family

Kang Ji-young, 2011, 320 pages, Comedy Drama, Novel

#Psychology #Pyramid_Scheme #Family #Comforting #Frankenstein #Psychiatrist
#Gender_Identity

**A world plated with pride and prejudice like a suit of armor.
Healing 'extraordinary' wounds of 'extraordinary' people.**

Six extraordinary people become a chaotic family in the making when Dr. Kim, the psychiatrist whom they thought of as their eternal soulmates, disappears after his retirement. The six, with their own motivations and mental illnesses, decide to form a family until Dr. Kim returns. Despite making a bizarre and peculiar group that bickers a lot, having endured similar pains, they brusquely but warmly open their hearts to each other. Meanwhile, after an affair with a British woman, Dr. Kim's wife comes out of the closet and divorces Dr. Kim, who has been living apart from his family while his daughter studies abroad in the UK. Shocked and dumbstruck, Dr. Kim goes to live in a country house by himself. After a strange twist of events, Dr. Kim is locked away by a water purifier pyramid scheme. When Dr. Kim unwittingly gives counseling advice to the emotionally wounded people there, he reflects on his own life and desperately tries to escape. When Dr. Kim promises to step out only for a moment but does not return for days, the people who had been

pretending to be each other's family tend to each other's wounds and open up. Meanwhile, the situation changes rapidly when Dr. Kim's real daughter, Hana, appears. All kinds of absurd, humorous, and reckless incidents arise.

concept

- Black comedy that juxtaposes humor, cynicism, and horror.
- Story structure that hovers between sanity and insanity, daily life and eccentricity, and normality and abnormality.
- Breakdown of familism that centers around heterosexuality, hierarchical hypocrisy, power dynamics in clinical setting, and more.



Kang Ji-Young

Quarantine Station of New Culture

Kang Ji-young, 2017, 312 pages, Mystery, Novel

#Joseon_Dynasty #Jeju_Island #Products_of_Western_Civilization #Clash_of_Civilizations
#Culture_Shock #Adventure #Communication

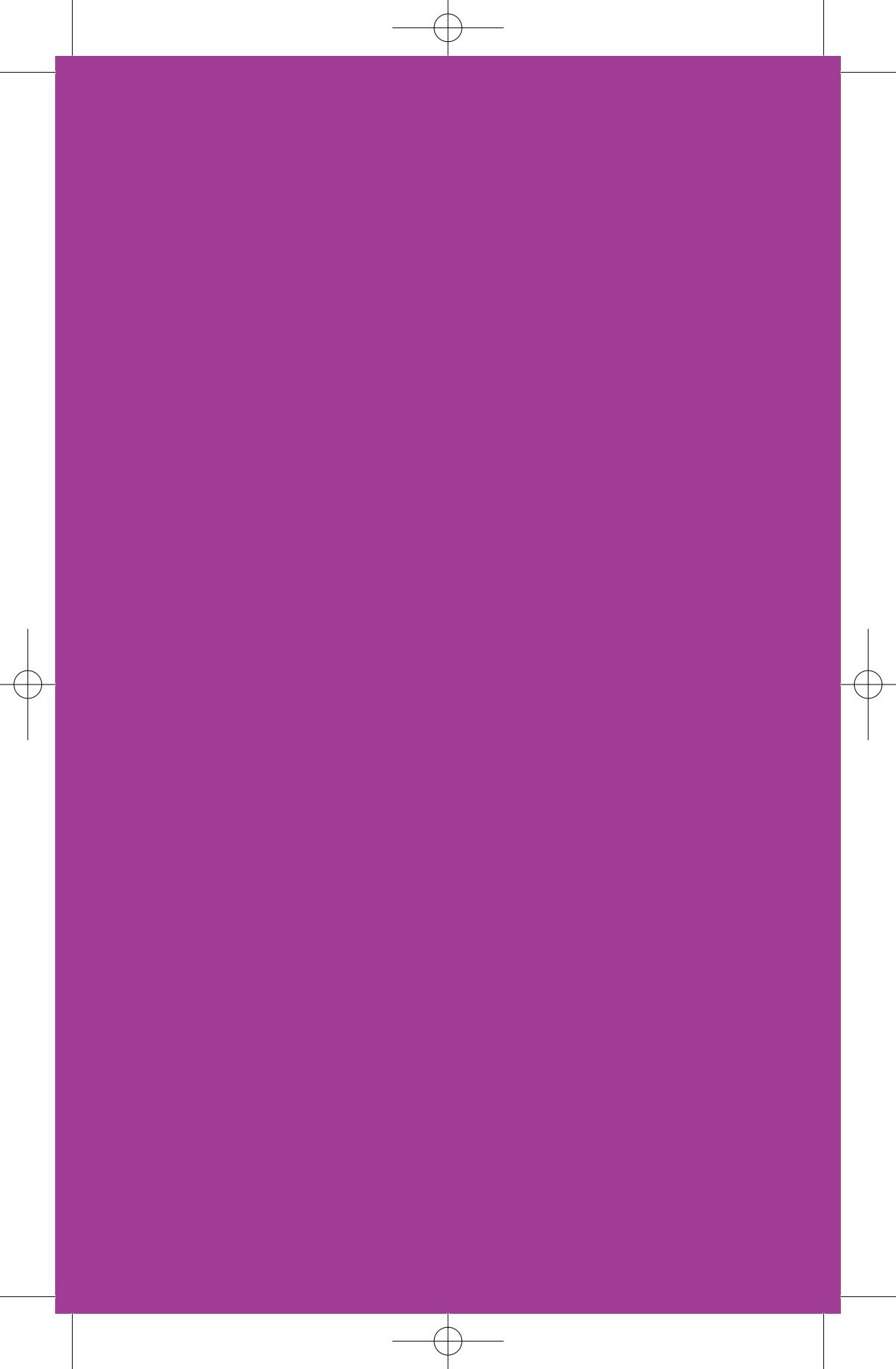
An unpredictable and suspenseful story of the early adopters of Joseon.

On the day of the civil service examination, Ham Bok-bae has a sudden urge to urinate and wets himself at the worst possible time. After failing to prove his skills, he is appointed as the head of the quarantine station of new culture, a temporary facility set up in Jeju. The quarantine station inspects unidentified novelties from Japan and reports their findings to the king. Bok-bae resolves to win the king's favor again and return to the capital as soon as possible. However, all that awaits him are cultural novelties of which he cannot make heads or tails of, and a ragtag band of his assistants, Han-seob and Yeong-bo, who repeatedly make mistakes. While carrying out his task of investigating and reporting the usage of the cultural novelties he receives, Bok-bae makes absurd mistakes, such as mistaking western-style underwear for a headband for officials. It all takes a dramatic turn when one day, Veltvrai, a Westerner with blond hair, is cast adrift to Jeju. Attempts to communicate with a foreigner who doesn't speak his language force Bok-bae to reckon

with his narrow worldview and doubt Joseon's dismissive treatment of cultural novelties as mere threats. Strange goods continue to enter the quarantine station, during which murder and disappearance cases throw Jeju into chaos. While investigating the cases, Bok-bae faces the complex truth behind cultural novelties, greed, horror, and resistance against change. Ultimately, he realizes that, instead of fending off the outside in the name of 'quarantine', change must be embraced.

concept

- Uniquely set in Jeju during the Joseon Dynasty, an ingenious stage for Korean history.
- A hilarious and adventurous satire of the 'Discovery of New World' and 'Culture Clash'.



Mystery · Detective · Thriller



When the Alarm Rings in the Ice Cream Room

Park Ji-sook, 2025, 224 pages

#Teen Drug Abuse #Teen Gambling #Mystery #Realistic

“Some things are better left untouched.”

The novel opens with news of a high school student killed in a street stabbing. At the center of the story are three boys whose lives spiral downward through gambling and drugs. Seon-u treats gambling like a game until he sinks into addiction and crushing debt. Jun turns to drug trafficking to recover money lost in cryptocurrency investments. Ji-seok lends money to students at school, then joins Jun in selling drugs to make even more money. Their stories reveal the realities of teenage gambling and drugs. Remarkably, even the depictions of gambling, illegal lending, and drugs have been toned down from reality.

The novel takes an in-depth look at teenage drug use as one of today's major social issues. As the mystery unfolds, readers gradually come to recognize its reality. The rapid downfall of the three boys shows how teenage gambling opens the door to crime and how drugs devastate young people and those around them.

The novel blurs the line between reality and fiction while closely examining the psychology of teenagers who willingly step into the worst situations. It also portrays their attempts to confront their mistakes and return to ordinary life. In doing so, it affirms that once people recognize their mistakes, they can always begin again.

concept

- A powerful indictment of teenage illegal gambling and drug abuse.
- A literary novel whose artistic merit extends beyond its controversial subject matter.
- A devastating story grounded in the realities of contemporary society.



Monster Killer

Yoon Ja-young, 2025, 232 pages

#Mystery #Revenge #School Violence #Social Critique

A teacher who killed a student.

A court-appointed lawyer defending the teacher.

A student who was once the teacher's hidden right-hand man.

A mystery unfolds through three perspectives.

The latest novel by Yoon Ja-young, a science teacher who writes mystery fiction and winner of the Grand Prize of the Korean Mystery Literature Award. Three seemingly unrelated stories race toward their own endings, each adding another layer to the narrative. As those layers begin to overlap, the novel's structure slowly emerges.

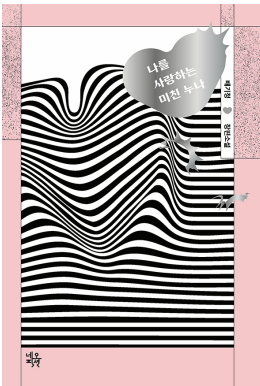
A male high school is shaken by the sensational "Monster Teacher Murder Case." A teacher has killed a student. Court-appointed lawyer Park Geun-tae is assigned to defend Jeon Jo-hyeop, accused of murdering Min Ju-young. Jeon insists that everything began with another student, Kim Ha-jun, and asks Park to uncover who the "real monster" really is. Park dismisses the claim as madness but cannot ignore his instincts. He investigates the case in a way that differs from his usual approach.

As Park digs deeper, the truth about Kim Ha-jun grows ever more elusive. The novel repeatedly returns to Lee Sun-geun, a middle school boy whose desperate struggle to escape school violence gradually unfolds. The two narratives ultimately converge in a major twist.

The novel is more than a sensational murder story. Behind the shocking case of a teacher who kills a student lies a portrait of contemporary society, from the suffering of victims of school violence and the selfishness of those who abuse the legal system to schools struggling with the erosion of teachers' authority.

concept

- A new kind of social mystery that blends suspense with sharp social criticism.
- A story whose title takes on a deeper meaning after the final page.



My Crazy Sister Who Loves Me

Bae Gi-jeong, 2024, 224 pages, Thriller/Romance, Novel

#K-POP #Idol #Obsessive_Fan #Love #Fangirl #Attempted_Murder #Cover-up
#Evidence

A sweet and cruel story of a well-known obsessive homma who turns the forgotten idol ‘Se-jun’ into the biggest star!

After debuting as an idol and failing miserably, ‘Se-jun’ turns to singing trot and performs on a stage for a new neighborhood supermarket. His fine features and flashy moves attract middle-aged women, but they disappear as soon as the supermarket discounts begin. But one person kept her seat: ‘Hui-jeong’, who fell in love with ‘Se-jun’ at first sight. She uploads Se-jun’s performance on YouTube, which becomes a trending video and turns ‘Se-jun’ into a superstar overnight. He is invited to one event after another, while ‘Hui-jeong’ starts a new life as a famous homepage master, or homma. However, Hui-jeong’s obsession with Se-jun becomes increasingly excessive. Then one day, Se-jun’s ex-girlfriend, ‘Rin-ah’, drops a bomb. She is pregnant and demands money. No longer wanting to be at her mercy, he declines, to which she reveals a voice recording that she edited to her advantage. Little did they know, ‘Hui-jeong’ was also there, watching everything from the shadows. Believing that she is the only person who can save ‘Se-jun’, she decides to protect him. A few days

later, 'Rin-ah' is found severely beaten up and passed out. Meanwhile, 'Se-jun' receives a call from a mysterious person who offers to resolve the case.

concept

- A thriller about a meeting between a celebrity and an obsessive fan that ends in disaster.
- Bloody romance between a man and a woman who talk their way into success and out of it.
- About the destructive force of reckless love.



- Film rights sold.



Inevitable

Choi Do-dam, 2022, 204 pages, Mystery/Thriller, Novel

#Evidence #Revenge #Contract_Killing #Female_Narrative #Crime #Secret #Past

Perfect crime, crumbling life, and the price of choice.

Ra-gyung is an ordinary cram school teacher whose life is deteriorating due to insomnia and anxiety. Childhood memories of her mother being tormented by the violent Lee Gi-seop have dominated her life. Then one day, when she stumbles upon Lee Gi-seop, her past wounds open back up, and Ra-gyung resolves to kill him once and for all. Unable to murder him herself, she visits a discreet contract killing organization called 'Yeon'. The organization follows a special rule: only those who deserve to die are targeted. The request for the contract killing proceeds flawlessly, convincing Ra-gyeong that it will be a perfect crime. However, she receives news that Lee Gi-seop died from an accident, instead of being assassinated like she had planned. The organization sends her a letter promising to pay back a portion of the fees due to the failed mission. Her immediate emotion is neither relief nor sadness but a strange sense of emptiness. She begins to question what kind of change her choice brought on, and whether or not revenge was truly necessary. But when the detectives continue to dwell on the investigation even after Lee Gi-seop's death, Ra-gyung remains constantly anxious. Even her

friendship with Ji-na, who once gave her peace, becomes rocky, and the psychological pressure to continue her daily life while hiding her murder request grows bigger. She comes to realize that even if a successful crime wouldn't have given her full 'closure', and that the choice to erase her wounds brought forth new ones.

concept

- Mystery thriller that portrays the necessity for revenge to attain closure and heal past wounds.
- A story about those who must continue to live even after loss.
- The true face of violence, secret transactions, and criminal organizations hidden in ordinary daily life.



- Winner of Neofiction Award of Excellence 2022



Tell Me More, Mama

Kim Jun-nyeong, 2025, 404 pages, Mystery/Thriller, Novel

#Mother_and_Daughter #Chaebol_Family #Murder_Case #Eternal_Life #Development_of_New_Drug #Abuse

She took everything from me!

The appalling face hidden in the name of ‘Mom’

As the daughter of a chairman of a major company renowned both at home and abroad, ‘Shin’ had always operated under her mother’s schedule ever since she was little. The only thing her mother wants is to keep it a secret that ‘Shin’ is her daughter. One day, under the pretext of fostering social skills, several children are invited to the mansion, and ‘Shin’ becomes close to ‘Eun-hui’. They decide to leave the mansion to enjoy a life of freedom, but they are caught even before they attempt to escape. Under her mother’s orders, ‘Eun-hui’ is taken elsewhere and killed. After losing the closest person in her life, ‘Shin’ resolves to kill her mother, but not right away. She decides to become the perfect daughter that her mother dreams of and then exact revenge by killing her. And so, years pass, and ‘Shin’ finally points a gun at her mother and tells her to apologize for her cruelty. To her surprise, her mother apologizes right away. But upon realizing that the apology is meant for herself, ‘Shin’ pulls the trigger without hesitation. Unfortunately, ‘Shin’ did not know what awaited her: a

single gunshot for freedom would come back to bite her as another form of oppression, and the secret behind her birth would turn the world upside down.

concept

- A gruesome family affair about a mother and daughter who hate each other to death, yet share striking similarities.
- A revenge story about killing and being killed in order to realize their desires.
- A never-conceived plot twist and a breathtaking page turner to the very end.



Boom Bap, English, Trap

Kim Jun-nyeong, 2024, 332 pages, Mystery/Black Comedy, Novel

#Black_Comedy #Realism #English_as_the_Superior_Language #North_Korea #Casino

An outbreak of outrageous lunacy of three idiots who go to an English village in Korea to study English!

For 22 years, 'Ryan' has dedicated himself to studying English, but his English skills are still a mess. His parents toss him a pamphlet that was recruiting people for an adult ESL program at an English village in Korea. Ryan had no say in it. As a price for betraying his parents, who had invested in his English studies all his life, 'Ryan' gets on the minibus headed to the English village without resistance. But what's this? Inside the minibus is 'Bota', a native Korean who looks like a foreigner, and 'Jun', a former gangster from LA who insists on using Korean. They arrive at the English village in no time, where a simple rule was in place: only speak English. Whoever broke the rule would get smacked with a bamboo stick. For an ESL program that promised rapid improvement in English skills, the curriculum was embarrassingly shoddy. What's more, they get arrested while getting pizza in the English village! The police office is none other than the English native teacher who was role-playing! When 'Ryan' and his company declare war on the English village, 'principal' makes a proposal: find the 'spy' who sneaked inside the English village!

Just what kind of spy lurks inside this strange and uncanny English village? How did they discover an underground cover whilst in search of the spy, have a shoot-out at the casino, and end up in North Korea?

concept

- A coming-of-age black comedy satirizing a society that treats English as a superior language.
- A Korean twist on 〈The Truman Show〉 that puts on a play even crazier than reality.



Tiger and Plague: 100 Days of Battle

Bae Jun, 2023, 196 pages, Mystery/Martial Arts/Fantasy, Novel

#Joseon_Dynasty #Evil_Spirit #Time_Loop #Family #Romance #Shrine

When the cry of a ferocious beast echoes from the north, so begins a desperate struggle that will determine the fate of Joseon!

A hundred days of battle begin when a tiger barrels into the palace. After leaving behind a letter that he does not want to marry yet, Crown Prince Yi Shin leaves the palace. When he returns two years later, a feast is held within the palace. King Yi Cheong and the queen happily welcome Yi Shin. But soon, Yi Cheong rebukes Yi Shin for his graceless speech and conduct. Yi Shin confesses that his return is only temporary because he met a fortune teller in the West who spoke of a terrifying calamity that would seize the palace. Then, he gives ‘Piarisu’, a mystical flower, to Yi Cheong, who scoffs. While arguing about Yi Shin’s marriage plans, the party all but sours, and Yi Shin flees to the Donggung Palace. That night, Yi Cheong is lightly asleep with the Piarisu by his side when the cry of a tiger jolts him awake. Filled with dread, he is getting up when the head eunuch rushes into his bed chamber, soaked in blood and wailing. Before Yi Cheong can fight back, he gets bitten on the neck. Though he manages to survive and wander around the palace, Yi Shin slices his neck off. But when

the tiger roars again, Yi Cheong wakes up in his bed, alive and with his head intact. But the events that follow are exactly the same: the head eunuch charges at him in a crazed state. Yi Cheong realizes that evil spirits, who are bitten by the tiger, are running rampant in the palace, and that when he dies, he wakes up back in time. But each time he cheats death, a petal of Piarisu wilts and falls off. After dying several times and coming back alive, he tries to kill the tiger, the source of all menace, before all the leaves of the Piarisu fall off. How will Yi Cheong fight off the curse brought on by the tiger? Will he be able to protect the ravaged palace with the power of the flower?

concept

- A never-before-seen disaster story about a tiger and a bizarre plague that breaks out inside the palace of Joseon.
- A bloody battle to protect the royal family from the court ladies who turn into 'vampires · evil spirits'.
- Time loop (experiencing the same night on repeat), father-son conflict (the king and the crown prince), drama of survival and sacrifice.



Family Who Eats Nutrition Dumplings

Lee Jae-chan, 2020, 328 pages, Mystery/Thriller, Novel

#Fire_Accident #Detective_Story #Family #Inhumanity #Death #Insurance_Fraud
#Breakdown #Capitalism

**One person's death becomes another's wealth.
The true face hidden in the name of family.**

The case begins with Shin In-beom, a man who died from a fire accident inside a container home. Before the accident, he applied for a life insurance policy with a billion-won payout. His beneficiaries are his family. Is it purely an accident? Or could it be arson? Speculations and doubts arise. Not only does his relationship with his family raise eyebrows, but he also filed a lawsuit against a major company called 'Chonong'. Private Detective 'Na', who has a cynical attitude in life, is asked by an anonymous client to find out more about the fire accident at the container home. To get the full picture, 'Na' pretends to be a reporter to meet the suspects in person. Shin In-beom's father, Shin Chang-sul; his younger brother Shin In-hak, and his younger sister Shin Yeon-a. Last but not least, his bitter enemy, Director Yang. Na can't help but wonder how their alibis could be so perfect. But that's not the only thing that's questionable. In the CCTV and dashcam footage, Shin In-beom appeared to have purposely left his tracks behind. For one thing, he parked crookedly so he'd be caught

on the convenience store's surveillance camera. But as someone who offered chauffeur service, there was no way he would be so clumsy at parking. His final expressions and gestures, possibly a message on the CCTV before his death, are impossible to forget. Meanwhile, Na ends up visiting Garak Town, where Shin In-beom was born, raised, and ultimately met his end. In the primitive and uncivilized village, Na can't help but feel a strange chill while conversing with the eerie villagers. Will he be able to uncover the reason for Shin In-beom's death there?

concept

- Urban literary genre with strong black humor and cynical perception of reality.
- Insurance fraud, family break-up, and collapse of ethical boundaries.
- Hardboiled fiction that scathingly reveals the contradiction between family structure and capitalist system.



Mystery · Detective · Thriller

Dancing House 1, 2

Jung Seok-hwa, 2014, 368 pages(book 1)/364 pages(book 2), Detective/Thriller, Novel

[#Parallel_Universe](#) [#Serial_Killing](#) [#Trap](#) [#Revenge](#) [#Truth](#) [#Psychology](#)

**Amidst a carefully curated trap of coincidences,
a tragic truth of the past is brought to light.**

On one spring day bustling with spring goers, the story begins with a report of a car that fell into the Hojeong Reservoir. The car is completely underwater, and the drowned body of a beautiful middle-aged woman is discovered inside the car. It is Seo Eun-hui, a retired swimmer who was once hailed as the 'Mermaid of Asia'. Seok-gyu, the chief constable of the case, is abruptly reminded of a case from eighteen years ago. A car had also fallen into the Hojeong Reservoir back then, and a man named Lee Jeong-su was in the driver's seat, and his wife Song Jeong-in was in the passenger seat. Lee Jeong-su was the younger brother of Lee Jeong-guk, Chief Choi Seok-gyu's classmate. At the time, the circumstances led people to believe that Lee Jeong-guk and Seo Eun-Hui had conspired to kill the two and take their wealth. Today, Seo Eun-hui, Lee Jeong-su's sister-in-law and Lee Jeong-guk's wife, was found dead in the same place. A member of the same family had met her end in the same place and in almost the same way. The people described the case as 'a mermaid

drowning'. Like a parallel universe, the two cases intersect with eighteen years between them, seemingly as if one were the cause of the other. A detective who is about to retire investigates the case, during which he comes across a certain point in his past that overlaps with the deaths from eighteen years ago. As if riding toward their fated ends, the simultaneous cases seem to point at Seo Eun-hui's death, and Seok-gyu, who is confronted with it. At the heart of the serial killing is not just a violent and desperate revenge, but a murder that arose from pent-up resentment, a sinful desire hidden in the complex relationships, and a portrayal of the final disintegration as a result of it.

concept

- Hardboiled mystery & suspense set in modern Korean society.
- Multiplots of individual cases that are connected by one great truth.
- A psychological thriller that studies the dark nature of humans and wounds that are impossible to heal.



Storytellers of Night

Jeon Geon-woo, 2014, 341 pages, Horror/Mystery/Thriller, Novel

#Omniverse #Ghost_Story #Abandoned_House #Gathering #Doppelganger #Eerie
#True_Horror

**On a secretive night of storytellers,
the horrors told are more than just stories.**

The novel centers around an unusual secret gathering and the strange events that transpire there. ‘Na’, a rookie reporter, and his senior, Dae-ho, work for the monthly magazine ‘Pungmun’. Together, they cover a story on the ‘Storytellers of Night’, a secret gathering held annually on different dates at the abandoned ‘Mokryeon Haunted House’. The members of this group follow the unique rule of sharing personal stories without revealing their identities. When the meeting begins, before sharing their stories, the attendees hold up their right hands and take the oath, “We are sharing our stories. Our stories are alive. We are stories in and of themselves.” One by one, the stories they share go beyond ghost stories or personal anecdotes—they address true crime, curses, and supernatural phenomena. One man seemingly justifies his murder of a mother and daughter, while another talks about doppelgangers or ghosts, or even a tragedy they experienced. The presider of the gathering, an old man, says that the characters of the stories can momentarily manifest in this world.

The reporter gradually loses his sense of reality, and by the end of the experience, he is in a dreamy state of reuniting with his parents. The event throws him into confusion, but following the rules of the gathering, he must share his story as the last storyteller, promising to deliver the stories from the gathering to the world. Afterwards, the reporter records and reports his experience, but he still can't clearly define the nature of the 'Storytellers of Night'. He can't tell whether the stories were real or imagined, or if they had all been hypnotized, but after this experience, he comes back slightly transformed, having gained closure on his life and his dead parents.

concept

- A distinct premise about speaking stories into reality.
- Stories of anonymous people in one gathering structured like interviews.
- A modern Korean horror with local elements like abandoned houses, mountainous valleys in the heavy rain, secret gatherings, and more.



- Publishing rights sold to Saudi Arabia.



Christmas of the Unemployed

Jo Dong-shin, 2023, 170 pages, Mystery/Uplifting, Novel

#Christmas #Book_Cafe #Mystery #Adviser #Heartwarming_Mystery #Uplifting

A shady book cafe that hires an unemployed person with no experience.

A trivial but special task for the part-timer.

Christmas is approaching, and our protagonist, Oh-man, is roaming the streets while mumbling an introduction of himself that no one could care less about. As one might have guessed, Oh-man is unemployed. Wading through the job market and longing to be employed, Oh-man chances upon a book cafe with a unique name and walks inside when he learns that they are looking for a part-timer. Situated on the second floor in a residential area, both the name and the location of the cafe are unusual. And so the story begins in a 'EQueen', a cafe that is far from ordinary. "Our cafe is holding an extremely important event, so we need you, Mr. Baek Oh-man." An irresistible job offer with Christmas just around the corner. Oh-man wonders if an unemployed person like him deserves such good luck, but he heads to the book cafe to open the peculiar gift given to him. After being hired mysteriously, the book cafe starts its grand Christmas event. It offers advice or help on concerns or problems related to Christmas. Oh-man, who's in charge, use his

reasoning skills to resolve the clients' requests one by one. Expect to be delighted by Oh-man's turbulent adventures as a detective as he looks for clues in daily life that are united by the theme of Christmas. Instead of detective fiction that investigates murder, robbery, or other similar violent cases, the novel paints mysteries that could easily occur in our daily lives. The heaviness typical of mystery novels is made lighter by the setting and plot, while the chain of events is made even more immersive and exciting as it tells a familiar story.

concept

- Cozy mystery that investigates clues in daily life.
- Appeals to universal emotions like financial anxiety, family break-ups, loneliness in the holidays, and more.
- A meeting of ordinary people that create miracles, mystery, and uplifting stories.



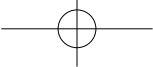
Second Day

Yu Hyeon-san, 2014, 412 pages, Mystery/Social Thriller, Novel

#Crime_Thriller #Hardboiled #Immigration #Korean_Chinese #Illegal_Immigrants
#Pursuing_Criminals

He escapes for survival, only to run into the shadow that digs up his past.

A thriller novel focusing on the Korean Chinese, a unique minority in Korean society. When Jo Seong-woo, a news reporter, witnesses a crime scene where his wife and son were brutally murdered, he tracks the criminal organization behind it. Jo Seong-woo was helping his wife, who had recently started writing about the crimes by the Korean Chinese, when she and their son met their ends. While tracking down the case, he learns about 'Goryeo Administrative Agents', a Korean Chinese criminal organization. They have the gangsters of Guro and Yeongdeungpo in the palm of their hand, and have connections to a man named James Lee. As a third-generation Korean Chinese who founded the investment firm, HM Capital, in Korea, James Lee is entangled in the Peace Farm case. As Jo Seong-woo tracks down the secret around the Peace Farm and James Lee's background, he discovers Sangjo Credit Company, which is linked to the financial fraud incident in 2001. James Lee commits financial crimes by linking the Korean political sphere to the Korean Chinese



criminal organization, and it was on his orders that Jo Seong-woo's family was murdered. Behind all this is Jung Mun-hwan, an illegal immigrant. To gain James' support, Jung Mun-hwan kills his family, but in that process, he is betrayed and forced to live as a spy. Jo Seong-woo pursues the case again as he investigates his wife's and son's deaths, while trying to untangle the web of relationships linked to him. The novel studies Korean Chinese crimes and their impact on Korean society as the protagonist uncovers the truth behind the case and the people he is entangled with.

concept

- The issues of survival and identity of immigrants who live behind the scenes in Korean society.
- Literary genre that depicts harsh reality, vivid description of violence and crime, and dark flotsam of humanity.



JOO WON-GYU

Joo Won-gyu began writing in full swing after receiving the Hankyoreh Literary Award in 2009. His full-length novels include 『A Cruel History of an Outsider Race』 『Naked Body』 『Seocho-dong League』 『To People Who Don't Know Me』 『Persons Subject to Special Management』 『The Declaration of Anti-Humans』 『Made in Gangnam』 『Bad God』 『A Christmas Carol』 『Door of Memory』 『The World Beyond』 and 『Fanatics』. His young adult novels include 『Hideout』 and 『Adventures of the Cosmos』. He has written the essay 『Ecstatic or Bad』 and the critical anthology 『Sanctuary and Babel』 among other works. In addition, he translated 『The Talmud Closest to the Original Source』. He wrote the script for the 2017 tvN series <Argon>. 『The Declaration of Anti-Humans』 was aired in 2019 as an OCN series titled <The Lies Within>, and 『A Christmas Carol』 was released as a movie with the same title in 2022. He wrote the script for the 2024 Disney+ series <Gangnam B-Side>. He is currently an active member of the literary circle, Paycheck Realists.

Joo Won-Gyu



Joo Won-gyu

A Christmas Carol

Joo Won-gyu, 2016, 244 pages, Action Crime Thriller, Novel

#Revenge_Plot #Juvenile_Delinquency #Juvenile_Detention_Center #Social_Apathy

#Violence #Salvation #Death

The tragedy of twin brothers shunned by society.

Where is the fury unleashed in a juvenile detention center directed at?

One day, Joo Wol-u, a twin brother with an intellectual disability, dies mysteriously. His body is discovered inside a water tank of a rental apartment, but the police and social worker dismiss the case as an accidental death. With Joo Wol-u's only family being his grandmother with early signs of dementia, society remains indifferent to his death. Upon seeing traces of physical assault, his younger brother, Joo Il-u, is convinced that it was murder, but no one would listen to him. Overcome with anger and despair, Joo Il-u ends up in a juvenile detention center to personally pass judgment on a group of delinquents who are connected to his brother's death. But the detention center is ruled by Han Hui-sang, AKA 'Rabid Dog', a violent corrections officer. The confrontation between Joo Il-u and the hostile gang of delinquents builds up to the verge of explosion. Frustrated by the wrongful death and social apathy, Joo Il-u's fury increasingly transforms into an extreme thirst for revenge,

transforming the juvenile detention center into a chilling whirlwind of tension and violence.

concept

- Korean hardboiled fiction of the youth.
- Gripping narrative of juvenile delinquency + revenge plot.
- A harmonious blend of art and entertainment combined with a study on social issues and human psychology.



- Adapted for the screen. (Christmas Carol) released in 2022



Joo Won-gyu

The Declaration of Anti-Humans

Joo Won-gyu, 2019, 257 pages, Social Realism Thriller, Novel

#Corporate_Crime #Serial_Killer #Political_Scandal #Power #Conspiracy #Detective_Fiction #Revenge_Plot #Humanism_Thriller

How far can humanity fall?

The story begins when a severed hand is discovered in the middle of Gwanghwamun. As Homicide Detective Ju Min-seo investigates the case, he stumbles upon a conspiracy connected to the tragic labor-management strife between the powerful conglomerate, CS Group, and its affiliated company, Woosung Joseon. The deaths of ten union members of Woosung Joseon were previously represented by Lawyer Choi Ik-hyun, but as his serial murders continue, it becomes clear that what appeared to be a simple standalone crime is actually a systematic cover-up and a cycle of revenge. Through Jung Sang-hun (who dies while he is missing), a key figure of the case, and his partner Seo-hui, Ju Min-seo draws closer to the truth. While struggling to keep his conscience amidst a collusion between the chaebol and the religious body, Jung Sang-hun meets his demise, leaving behind a will that symbolizes the nature of the case. As the powerful force trying to cover up the truth and human dignity becomes damaged as a result, Min-seo and Seo-hui come face to face with the meaning of revenge against power and atonement. Ultimately, the case goes beyond

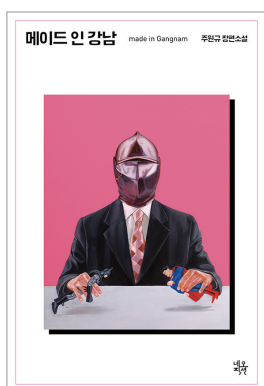
individual grudges and concludes with a declaration of 'Anti-Humans' that exposes the reality of corruption in society and the loss of human nature as a result.

concept

- A disclosure of how human nature wears down in a society that is tainted by greed and corruption.
- A criticism of the unique power structure and mob psychology in Korean society.



- Adapted for the screen. OCN series <The Lies Within> released in 2019



Joo Won-gyu

Made in Gangnam

Joo Won-gyu, 2019, 192 pages, Social Commentary Thriller, Novel

#Gangnam #Power #Wealth #Corruption #Idol #Scandal #Murder_Case #Urban_Thriller #Korean_Noir

Gangnam, an inferno made of wealth and pleasure.

Design the secret of that night!

Min-gyu, a successful attorney who lives in a high-rise apartment in Gangnam, acts as an 'architect' for a major law firm. The duty of an architect is unique in that they redesign the truth of an incident based on their client's request, a role that Min-gyu takes on with a coldness deprived of emotion. One early morning, after a call from his fellow attorney, Woo-jin, Min-gyu goes to the penthouse of a high-rise hotel in Samseong-dong, where he witnesses a gruesome scene. Chaebol, prosecutor, real estate agent, idol singer, and more have died in the middle of a party and play. Among a total of ten victims, half of them are female sex workers, and the other half are male clients who are considered the top 0.1 percent of Korea. Behind the case is a secret organization and law firm that manage and cover up their entertainment and crime. In charge of covering up the case, Min-gyu falsely states the victims' deaths as stand-alone cases and rules the death of 'Monkey', a famous idol, as suicide. With the help of the entertainment management agency, the press, and even the

police, he creates a scenario and manipulates the media. Meanwhile, Cho Jae-myeong, who is forced into a corner due to gambling debt, approaches the truth behind the case, but despairs at the wealth and power connections that control Gangnam. Set in Gangnam as the physical backdrop, the novel exposes the elites who are addicted to wealth and pleasure, the world of fixers who clean up after them, and the collapse of power and ethics that surround them.

concept

- Dark aspect of society that contrasts with idols, the wealthy class of Gangnam, and other such glamorous aspects of Korean culture.
- An urban thriller with a quick-paced story, compelling characters, and an exploration of moral gray zones.
- A message about wealth, power, and the destruction of morality.



- Publishing rights sold to France.



Joo Won-gyu

Private Life of an Empire

Joo Won-gyu, 2024, 208 pages, Social Commentary Thriller, Novel

#Chaebol #Proxy_Fight #Feud #Half_Sibling #Power_Struggle #Drugs #Success #Ruin

Ambitions, unleashed like the exhale of a long-held breath.

A roulette between players with awakened desires.

The story begins when Jang Dae-hyeok, the founder of a major company, Samho Group, is diagnosed with Alzheimer's. His sudden decline in health leads to a fierce competition for the succession of management. The founder's children—Jang Myeong-jin, Jang Myeong-eun, and Jang Myeong-woo—find themselves in a clash of interests as they compete with each other and vie for control of the company. The youngest, Jang Myeong-woo, joins hands with his stepmother, Oh Seong-eun, to dominate the group, prompting Jang Myeong-eun, the second child, to take active measures to stop them. The board voting that will decide the successor adds chaos due to rules with a poisonous clause. In that process, their individual desires and pasts come to light. After much discord, the three siblings forge alliances, betray, and get caught up in Oh Seong-eun's calculated moves, which dramatically overturn the power structure within the company. Ultimately, the story satirizes the desire for management control under the pretense of being family, revealing that the

great 'Empire' is really built on the private lives and ambitions of individuals.

concept

- Power struggle surrounding the succession of management of a major company.
- Greed and betrayal veiled behind the appearance of family.
- The collapse and rebirth of an empire built on wealth and honor.



Joo Won-gyu

Secho-dong League

Joo Won-gyu, 2022, 188 pages, Social Commentary Thriller, Novel

#Prosecution #Political_Maneuvering #Game_of_Power #Legal_Drama #Collapse
#Conspiracy

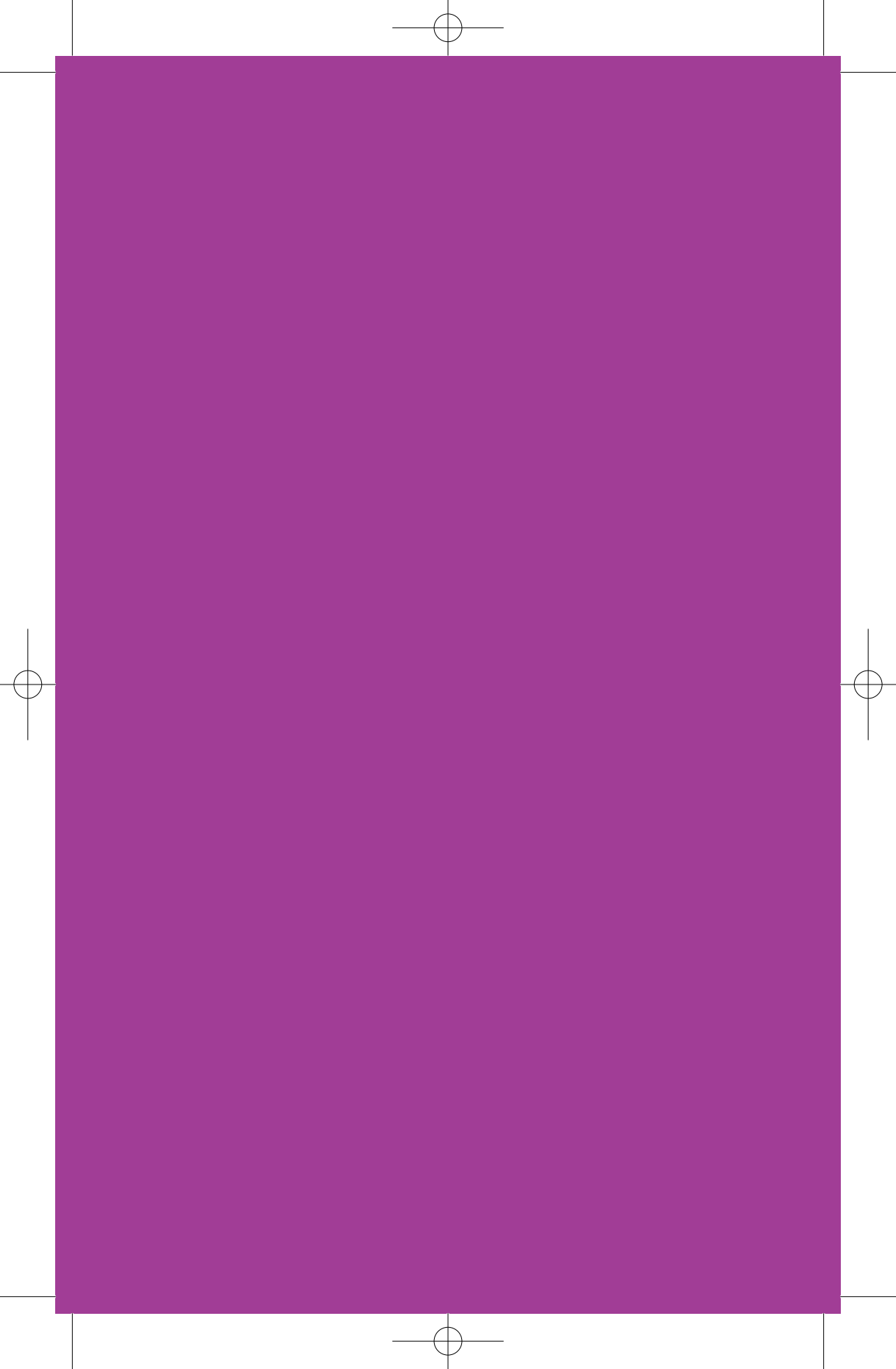
A smothering game of survival taking place at the heart of prosecutorial power.

Under the command of his senior, Chief Prosecutor Han Dong-hyeon, the protagonist and prosecutor Baek Dong-su takes on a major corruption case of a corporation. However, the target of the case is not a businessman but the incumbent attorney general, Kim Byeong-min, revealing the intention of reorganization within the prosecution. Following the suspicious death of CEO Park Cheol-gyun, the prosecution, police, and the Ministry of Justice continue to engage in collusion and betrayal, forcing Baek Dong-su to realize that he is nothing more than a pawn in a great game of power. Han Dong-hyeon tries to take down Attorney General Kim Byeong-min, but Kim strikes back by joining forces with Attorney General Jo Min-guk of the Ministry of Justice. As a result, promotions and personnel changes within Han Dong-hyeon and his followers come to naught, with Han himself being selected as a scapegoat. The attempt to restructure power within the prosecution is ultimately foiled. After receiving the message, 'Those on the same boat should not fight,'

Back Dong-su reflects on his principles and his position within the organization. Centering on backroom deals between prosecution and political forces, as well as the breakdown of individual principles, the story ends by laying bare the true nature of power that is stranger than fiction.

concept

- Hardboiled political thriller that portrays power struggle and political intrigue within the Korean prosecution.
- The process of how an ordinary prosecutor gets dragged into a power struggle, is used for political intrigue, and becomes a scapegoat.
- A question on personal belief and choice that wavers in the face of power.



Occult



Occult

The Rogue Moon Goddess

Esther Park, 2025, 292 pages, Occult/Fantasy, Novel

#Eastern_Fantasy #Lunar_Deity #Mountain_God #Demon #War_of_Gods #Shaman
#Human_Sacrifice #Exhumation #Return_to_Palace

‘Lunar Deity’ falls to the human world.

So begins a desperate fight against the eternal darkness!

‘Boreum’, the descendant of the lunar deity, was born under the lunar katsura tree. On the majestic, silver tree, a transparent egg in the shape of a cocoon cracked open, and only the creatures born there were destined to inherit the moon. The first child to be born from the divine katsura tree is Boreum. To Boreum, the role of the Lunar Deity is rightfully hers. But one day, ‘Kim Hyeon’, her first love, appears. His dashing looks and honeyed words capture Boreum’s heart. Though human, Boreum could feel his sincere love for her. Or so she thought. Little did she know, his love was nothing more than the whispers of a wily snake... Trusting Kim Hyeon’s promise, Boreum falls to earth, thereby losing her right as the heir to the Lunar Deity. As it turns out, Kim Hyeon was the son of a concubine and came from a humble background. His desire to surpass his limitations provided ‘Geumeum’ an opening to seize his desperation. Geumeum was the second child to be born from the katsura tree and Boreum’s younger sibling. He had used Kim Hyeon to bring

Boreum down and become the next Lunar Deity. However, the deal with Geumeum ate away at Kim Hyeon's soul, leaving only a twisted possessiveness toward Boreum. Having realized all this, Boreum needed power to ascend back to the moon. Mountain Servant Sanho, who dreams of avenging the extinction of Mountain God Mago, and Shaman Yeonhwa, whose existence is being eaten away by evil spirits, join Boreum and her hunt for demons.

concept

- Occult × urban fantasy × female action thriller.
- A modern reinterpretation of the traditional Korean shaman world.
- A 'strong female heroine' who has both superpowers and a human backstory.



Publishing rights sold to the UK, Germany, and Russia.



Occult

Dokkaebi Island

Bae Jun, 2024, 292 pages, Horror/Occult, Novel

#Dokkaebi #Indigenous_Religion #Remote_Island #Castaway #Shaman #Trust
#Possession #Village

Do not trust anyone, and suspect everything!

Once misled by the Dokkaebi, you will become a beast in human form.

There exists a remote island ruled by shamans who worship the Dokkaebi as 'God'. There, the shamans serve a 'Young Master', a boy whose body the Dokkaebi had borrowed during a descent to earth. Then one day, while on a yacht, 'Ju-yeong' and his friends visit a village that is prohibited to outsiders. When they see the blind and deaf 'young master', they mistake him for a missing child and try to free him from the island. But coveting something that belongs to the Dokkaebi is a mistake. Caught in an unexpected rainstorm, 'Ju-yeong' and his friends are trapped on the island, where the islanders drag them to the village. The islanders are angry at 'Ju-yeong' and his friends for trying to take the 'young master', and are anxious that the action has upset the Dokkaebi. From then on, disturbing things happen to 'Ju-yeong' and his friends, like the discovery of the body of a goat with a broken neck and people being possessed. But 'Su-hyeon' doesn't believe in the Dokkaebi and accuses the islanders of being a

cult. In the end, 'Ju-yeong' and 'Su-hyeon' make plans to sneak out the 'young master' in the dead of the night. But the moment they carry the 'young master' out of the room, they come face to face with the shamans, who were guarding the doors. The village head asks 'Su-hyeon' if he'll let the 'young master' go if he agrees to be possessed instead. 'Su-hyeon' fearlessly agrees. So begins a ritual to summon the Dokkaebi, on the altar of God in front of a dead Japanese hackberry.

concept

- Mystery thriller blending Dokkaebi and Korean indigenous religion.
- A crazed collision between fanatics who defend God and outsiders who stand up for the people.



Guardian Spirit

Cheong Ye, 2024, 224 pages, Occult/SF/Thriller, Novel

[#Chinese_Zodiac](#) [#Shamansim](#) [#God](#) [#Curse](#) [#Dream](#) [#Family](#) [#AI](#) [#Doubt](#) [#Chase](#)

About good and evil, guardian spirits and evil spirits, and the dilemma of faith.

After the news of her friends' deaths over the past few days, 'Lee Won' suffers from a nightmare about a 'white cow' every night. Desperate for it to stop, 'Lee Won' shares her dream with 'Seol', a friend from her department, who immediately takes her to a fortunetelling house. The shaman tosses a handful of rice on the desk, and six grains land exactly in front of "Lee Won'. Five black, one white. The shaman says that all humans have a guardian angel and an evil spirit from birth, but 'Lee Won' has too many around. Naturally, 'Lee Won' believes that the five black grains represent evil spirits. The shaman explains that it has to do with karma in her family, and advises her to seek truth from her family so as to cast off the evil spirit. After pressing her mom for answers, 'Lee Won' discovers that a certain incident had happened between her parents, who used to be followers of Ugyo, and that it might have to do with the Ugyo leader's mysterious death. To crack the strange case around her, 'Lee Won' heads to the 'Baekwoo Temple', where followers of Ugyo once stayed. There, an unexpected existence awaits her—'Ubari', an AI monk. Immediately, a thought

flashes in Lee Won's mind. The shaman had never mentioned which rice grains represented the 'evil spirit'. Were the five gods that she cast off truly 'evil'?

concept

- SF occult with a new religious view loosely inspired by the Chinese Zodiac.
- Infuriated by human folly, guardian spirits and evil spirits pronounce judgment.



Occult

The Strange Village of Cheonghori

Bae Myeong-eun, 2025, 210 pages, Occult/Fantasy, Novel

#Cult #K-Thriller #Cram_School_Mystery #Family #Female_Solidarity #Coming-of-Age
#Adventure #Escape

A spooky mystery and a heartwarming solidarity that takes place in the mystical and sequestered village of ‘Cheonghori’.

This is the story of ‘Miju’ and her friends, who come together to solve a mystery case in a sequestered village. The suspicious village of ‘Cheonghori’ is located deep inside the mountain. From ancient times, the people there have worshipped the ‘Maiden of Good Fortune’. They would pray to the painting of the maiden by their doorstep, and hold a ‘Dongjae’, an annual village-wide ritual. Once every three years, a big village ritual is held, during which the villagers’ secrets are carried out without any outsiders knowing. Together with her mother ‘Ju-gyeong’, our protagonist ‘Miju’ moves to Cheonghori. Miju is a child with the ability to see ghosts. They fled from many places, but due to the ghost who persistently chases her, they ran away to Cheonghori, Ju-gyeong’s homeland. Strangely enough, Miju stops seeing ghosts after arriving at Cheonghori, but this is later revealed to be related to the village’s secret. Fortunately, Miju quickly adapts to her school life, all thanks to ‘Yeon-hui’, who lives next door. After her family left her when she was little, Yeon-

hui has been longing to make a friend closer to her than her uncle and aunt. So strong was her longing that she'd even made a wish to the maiden about it. Thanks to Yeon-hui, Miju befriends 'Hana', 'Jun-yeong', and 'Bit-na', and together, they become members of 'Gemeum', a geeky occult club. But during the club's activities, Miju discovers the village's secret. On the day of the great village ritual that is held once every three years, the secret of Cheonghori is revealed to the world.

concept

- Set in a place that is both foreboding and magical, a hidden truth is slowly revealed in this suspenseful story.
- Religious rituals in a sequestered area, reminiscent of the movies <Midsommar> and <The Village>.
- A blend of Korean indigenous religion and the tragedy of modern society.



Occult

Miss Ghost's Perfect Revenge

Gangeom Go-a, 2023, 272 pages, Occult/Mystery, Novel

#Exorcism #Ghost #Fraud #Crime #Shrine #Grudge #Shamanism #Revenge #Justice

**The truth of a murder case revealed in the 'Myeong-dang',
a place where the ghosts' backstories are told.**

After a terrifying childhood incident of being poured acid in her face, protagonist 'Myeong' has developed an ability to see ghosts. Since then, she has been earning money by settling the ghosts' grudges and demanding their help with fake exorcisms in return. In a fake exorcism, a ghost that no longer has grudges harasses wealthy people, prompting them to seek Myeong for exorcism. Normally, the ghosts wish for the death of their murderers, so Myeong has been settling their grudges by having the ghosts possess criminals and murder their targets. However, when the police discover a talisman used for possession, Myeong is taken in for investigation. Min, Myeong's older brother and a police officer, knew what Myeong had been up to. Despite his efforts to convince her that holding the criminals legally accountable instead of murdering them was the right thing to do, Myeong empathized with the ghosts and resisted. But when the revenges slowly harm innocent people too, Myeong becomes conflicted. Has she been doing the right thing? What if she had been

overempathizing with the ghosts? In the end, Myeong changes her method of helping the ghosts, and instead of killing the criminal who had thrown acid at her, she works with the police to investigate him and bring him to justice. After naming her shrine 'Myeong-dang', Myeong resolves to lead a new life.

concept

- Occult thriller + social commentary drama + revenge plot.
- A heartwarming tale with a glimpse of 'kindness' in the darkness that is 'revenge'.
- A female exorcist takes the lead and resists the androcentric social structure.



- Winner of Neofiction Award of Excellence 2022



Occult

Slow, Slow, Quick, Quick

Jeon Geon-woo, 2023, 300 pages, Horror/Black Comedy, Novel

#Zombie #Romance #Youth_Horror #Action #Waltz #Infection #Island_Escape
#Disaster #Survival

Survive among the eternal monsters!

A story of survival and escape from a small, peaceful island.

The novel depicts a breathtaking escape following a zombie outbreak on an island. When Sergeant Park and his company receive a report, they arrive at a Chinese fishing boat that is full of dead bodies. A pungent odor and a blood-soaked hull. Finally, an unidentified, open drum can containing a suspicious toxin. At first, Sergeant Park makes light of the situation. But then he hears a cry from the lips of a dying crewman: "Run!" With the cry as a signal, mayhem breaks out, and Sergeant Park falls into the sea and dies. Not so long after, he wakes up. Meanwhile, on Immortal Island, not far from the crime scene, residents are trying to keep the dying island alive, while a group of students go on a retreat to keep a dying club afloat. A monster suddenly appears before them. Its insides churn noisily, and its face crumples grotesquely, but to their shock, the students and residents of Immortal Island recognize the face. They are immediately thrust into a reality where they are either infected or soon-to-be infected. All hell breaks loose on the Immortal Island. To survive,

they must trample on the undead that were friends and colleagues only moments before. Thrown into chaos never experienced before, the students and residents tremble in fear, but they soon brace up for battle and push ahead. The young and the old, who pointed fingers at one another due to a lack of understanding, team up and gradually come to understand and care for one another. More than a simple zombie story, this novel vividly depicts momentary delight and the terrors brought on by the worst of humanity.

concept

- An escape story unfolding on an 'island'.
- An exhilarating zombie apocalypse that starts with a peculiar toxic substance.



Occult

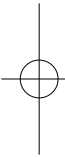
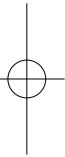
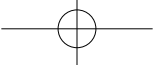
Door That Won't Shut

Eom Seong-yong, 2025, 272 pages, Occult/Mystery, Novel

[#Secret_Room](#) [#Offering](#) [#Death](#) [#Closed_Space](#) [#Subway](#) [#Solidarity](#) [#Human_Nature](#)

**One tries to summon the 'ghost', and the other tries to stop it.
When the subway doors close, all hell breaks loose!**

A secret surrounding a forbidden ancient tome, and the stories of people stuck in a second dimension as a result. Late at night after a team dinner, Eom Seong-sik rushes into Hongik University Station and just barely manages to get into the last train. But as soon as he squeezes through the crowded compartment and moves to the next one, the doors close, and he is marooned inside. A woman inside mercilessly tries to push Seong-sik out of the door. After a fierce struggle, Seong-sik pushes off the woman. On the other side of the door, in the pitch-black night, he witnesses a bizarre alien creature tear her to pieces. Amidst the shock, Seong-sik discovers other witnesses also stuck in the compartment: Yu-jin, another witness; Seon-guk, a wanted man; and Gi-tae, who has been chasing Seon-guk. The four of them engage in a fierce battle for survival inside the endless tunnel. Meanwhile, Lee Jun, an occult specialist, is asked to interpret an ancient tome in exchange for a large sum of money. What appears to be a simple request leads to a life-threatening situation. With his friend, Gi-cheol, they begin to decipher the secret



codes inside the ancient tome. As they investigate, they realize that the forbidden tome is more than a book--it is a key that could bring destruction to the world. They also learn that a portion of the tome may have already been decoded, and that an altar of offerings for a ritual may already be in place. Passengers who struggle to survive inside an enclosed subway, and those who try to uncover a secret within the ancient tome. A single truth simultaneously witnessed from both worlds. In the midst of chaos and madness, what will happen to humanity? And just what kind of secret does the forbidden ancient tome harbor?

concept

- A secret about a forbidden ancient tome and four passengers who are trapped in a second dimension.
- Pursuing truth in two separate spaces, and the various sides of humanity depicted in the process.



Occult

Receive God

Park Hae-ro, 2019, 412 pages, Horror/Occult, Novel

#Religion #Shamanism #God #Nightmare #Faith #Insanity #Sequestered_Village
#Supernatural_Phenomenon

A mysterious death that strikes the village again after a hundred years.

A terrible secret that unravels with the case.

In 1976, Kim Jeong-gyun, a young pastor who is dispatched to Dol-are Village, Seopju, devotes himself to the ministry and drives new winds of change. The villagers attend service regularly and follow the minister's side. But not Myo-hwa. As the daughter of a shaman, Myo-hwa is persecuted by the villagers. Suffering all kinds of harassment, she cannot so much as enter the church. All she can do is pray by herself outside the church windows. Then one day, while taking a bath at the a, a golden cross flows to Myo-hwa's embrace. Since then, Myo-hwa performs all kinds of miracles. Old Lady Jo Pil-sun suddenly walks despite her mobility impairment, the son of the Pacheon family finally lands a job, and Fisherman Lee Ba-woo returns with a boatload of fish. On the other hand, those who harassed Myo-hwa suffer a series of nightmares, the contents of which manifest in reality as strange accidental deaths. The villagers become divided, leading to irreversible acts of killing each other, while Myo-hwa

gains more and more worshippers. Although Pastor Kim senses that Myo-hwa's miraculous performances did not arise from the power of Jesus, he cannot bring himself to confront her. For he harbored a secret. Since he was little, he has been hiding the fact that he has been suffering from a shamanistic calling. He has been consumed by the fear that being close to a shaman might trigger another calling. Even so, Pastor Kim plucks up his courage to face Myo-hwa. At the core of the story lies a terrible secret. What will happen next? What is the truth and secret lurking at the end of the story? 『Receive God』, a groundbreaking shamanism horror novel with a tightly-woven narrative that will keep you on your toes. The readers can expect a chilling and smothering terror while reading this novel.

concept

- Horror thriller set in Korean religion folklore with a mix of shamanism, Christianity, and idolism.
- A supernatural phenomenon of repeated deaths and miracles by traveling between the past and the present.
- A narrative of the parochialism of Korean villages, repressed herd mentality, and a cycle of sin and atonement over multiple generations.



Gods of Punishment

Park Hae-ro, 2022, 336 pages, Occult/Horror, Novel

#K-Occult #Thriller #Religious_Scandal #Divine_Justice #Inferno_Thriller #Asian_Horror
#Criminal_Psychology

People who commit mass murder while crying out for atonement through death.

Is it divine justice or money-obsessed human madness?

Protagonist 'Ha Ju-saeng' is a corrupt corrections officer who is being threatened by a gang due to money issues. He wants to do whatever he can to scrape together enough money to escape their endless threats and quit his job. One day, strangers visit him. They're members of a publishing company who inform Ju-saeng that his cousin, 'Ha Seo-jin', has become a best-selling author. 『Gods of Punishment』, written by Seo-jin, is a horror novel about two gods, 'Diurnal Deity' and 'Mensual Deity', who descend on the 'Sahā World' and pass judgment on humans through death. The book was known for instilling a bewildering obsession with violence in the readers, inciting both social criticism and a burst of popularity. As such, Seo-jin was being called 'the goose that lays the golden egg' in the publishing world. The publishing staff then goes on to explain that, while writing the third book of 『Gods of Punishment』, Seo-jin went missing, and urges her only relative, Ju-saeng, to find her.

After his parents' death many years ago, Ju-saeng cut off ties with his family, but hungry for Seo-jin's money, he sets out to find her. When he visits Seo-jin's home for the first time, every room is filled with a myriad of full-length mirrors, creating an eerie sight. There, Ju-saeng discovers 『Doctrine of the Five Secret Divine Laws』, a cult scripture, and a photo of Seo-jin and four women in front of the 'Hall of Life'. Despite suffering from bad omens, Ju-saeng pursues the clues, but the deeper he digs into Seo-jin's obscure past, the more strange and gruesome incidents arise to no end.

concept

- A hybrid story combining elements of occult, mystery, thriller, and indictment of society.
- Social and generational issues of corruption among the powerful, breakdown of morality, absence of faith, and more.
- A study on sin and redemption of mankind, and divine justice while jumping back and forth between the present and the past.



Occult

The Woman with Owl Eyes

Park Hae-ro, 2020, 372 pages, Mystery/Thriller, Novel

#K-Thriller #Folklore #Psychology #Asian_Financial_Crisis #Social_Unrest #Ambition
#Selfishness

A shocking story and a chilling mystery surrounding an eerie pair of mother and daughter.

Gi-seong, a civil servant, attends a corporate training program away from his dreary life. There, he reunites with Jun-oh, with whom he received onboarding three years ago. But unsettled by Jun-oh's change in appearance and erratic manners, Gi-seong has strange recurring dreams during the program. Meanwhile, after a strange twist of events, Gi-seong gets involved with Ju-ri, whom he met with Jun-oh while drinking, and her daughter, Yeon-jin. To his surprise, Yeon-jin graduated from the same university as him. The next day, Gi-seong is invited to Ju-ri and Yeon-jin's house. It is a two-story house with striking scenes of umbrellas spread wide open in the garden and an eagle kite swinging from a fishing line stretched between the rooftop and the balcony. As soon as he enters the eerie house, unusual items catch his eye, while Ju-ri seduces him with strange and questionable words. As if bewitched, Gi-seong unleashes his desire, which causes major troubles. In a society that encourages endless competition, we search for something to replace our hardscabble

reality. This novel tells the tale of how such a small hope can grow into an uncontainable desire that leads to irrational, ghastly acts, and the horrendous price that follows, revealing the incomprehensibility of human depth.

concept

- A blend of the reality of an unstable society and legendary elements of a local fable.
- Physically restrictive backdrops of a corporate training program and secret rooms.
- Strong characters, including a protagonist struggling with pain and desire, two-faced coworkers, a mysterious woman, and more.



Occult

Sal, the Inescapable Curse at the Funeral

Park Hae-ro, 2018, 484 pages, Horror/Thriller, Novel

#K-Horror #Exorcism #Shamanism #Funerary_Customs #Funeral #Evil_Spirit
#Psychological_Horror

**When the keening at the funeral comes to a stop,
true terror begins!**

The funeral of Mr. Hwang Bok-man's mother. The second mourning since Mr. Oh Hyun-cheol's maternal grandmother's passing not long ago. A somewhat dodgy Cho Yun-sik enters the funeral hall. Believing that he must get rid of his stepmother in order to marry Yeong-hui, the beautiful daughter of a chaebol, Yun-sik follows the teachings of a legal ambassador and performs rituals by burning shamanic items inside the hospital mortuary. Determined to do whatever he can to send his stepmother to hell, Yun-sik continues to perform the ritual. A funeral is held for Mr. Mun Sang-gyo, who fell from a bridge while running away from a giant boar. Another funeral is in place! The day of Mr. Byeon's funeral procession. Thinking that this is the last opportunity to kill his stepmother, Yun-sik rushes to the funeral. In the end, his stepmother, Jung Geum-ok, meets her demise on the rooftop of Yun-sik's apartment. Then Yun-sik rushes over to Yeong-hui's apartment after getting a call from her about a ghost that lurks there. As it turns out, it was a trick from Geum-ok's

spirit, and Yun-sik ends up buried in a ray of light in the bathroom. As Yun-mi, his older sister, searches for him, the truth comes to light.

concept

- Elements of Korean folk religion like funerary customs, shamanism, and 'curse', with a twist of modern narrative.
- Scintillating suspense and plot twists created by fear and desire.
- A new direction of horror that combines Japanese ghastly horror, effective pacing in American thriller, and traditional Korean sentiments.



CHO SEON-HEUI

Her novels include 『Phantom Signal』 『The Nine Talking Trees Asked』 『Salt Scale』 『Killing Megu』 『Eye of Bugul』 『Gori Valley』 『Laundress Friga and the Wizard 1-2』 『Adon's Key 1-7』 『There, Fox Footprints』 『Blue Tomb No. 404』 『Tale of Luwoljewun 1-2』 and 『Switch Up』. Her story collections include 『Patjwi Retold』 『Arang Retold』 and more. 『Gori Valley』 won the Korea Fantasy Literature Award and 『Question from the Nine Sori Trees』 won the Korean Story Contest's award of excellence. Cho Seon-Heui has been writing mystery fantasy novels that are full of bizarre themes and intense psychological descriptions that provoke primal fear.

Cho Seon-Heui



Cho Seon-Heui

The Nine Talking Trees Asked

Cho Seon-Heui, 2018, 368 paages, Mystery Fantasy/Horror, Novel

#Folklore #Secret_Ritual #Missing #Sori_Tree #Face

**When the Nine Sori Trees wakes up,
the 'thing' with your face appears!**

On the shoulder of a national highway entering Dodong Village, known for its traditional houses, an empty taxi with its doors wide open is discovered. With not a trace of accident or crime on site, the only thing worth noting is three imprints of something big and long tracked on the dirt ground near the vehicle. As 'Gang-hyo', the detective in charge of missing persons cases, tracks down the whereabouts of the missing driver, 'Guk-su', he realizes there is already an ongoing investigation of the disappearance of several people linked to the driver. These people were all friends from the same village. Sensing something is off, 'Gang-hyo' goes to Dodong Village in search of leads to the case. Meanwhile, protagonist 'Tae-yi' also heads to Dodong Village, his hometown. When he was in high school, at his grandfather's study, he learned about a certain 'ritual' that summons a powerful being to grant any wish. He decides to carry out the 'ritual' in order to avenge his friend who had died from mobbing. With his friends, Tae-yi successfully awakens the 'Nine Sori Trees' to summon the 'thing'. But the ritual has a strict rule:

never answer the question of the summoned 'thing'. The moment they respond, the 'thing' would eat them alive and vanish them off the face of the earth. Convinced that his friends' disappearances were related to the 'ritual', 'Tae-yi' decides to end the ritual that he started. His guilt aside, the 'thing' was now after 'Tae-yi'. Can 'Tae-yi' protect himself from the Nine Sori Trees?

concept

- Hardboiled political thriller that portrays power struggle and political intrigue within the Korean prosecution.
- The process of how an ordinary prosecutor gets dragged into a power struggle, is used for political intrigue, and becomes a scapegoat.
- A question on personal belief and choice that wavers in the face of power.
- Publishing rights sold to Vietnam.



- Korea Story Contest's Award of Excellence 2015



- Publishing rights sold to Vietnam.



Cho Seon-Heui

Phantom Signal

Cho Seon-Heui, 2025, 336 pages, Mystery Fantasy, Novel

#Psychometry #Unconscious #Solidarity #Superpower #Mother_and_Daughter #Signal

**Bridging the worlds of the unconscious minds during sleep.
Someone is controlling my conscious mind!**

‘Su-woo’ has a special power. Through dreams, she can swap minds with another person, during which she can think and behave as that person. She first used her ability on her blind aunt, ‘Mi-geum’, who was able to see the world for the first time in her life thanks to Su-woo. Then one day, after hearing about the dreams from ‘Mi-geum’, Su-woo’s mother takes her to an empty lot and asks, “What have you done to Mi-geum?” Her mother knew that ‘Su-woo’ had used her ability on ‘Mi-geum’. But knowing this meant that her mother also has the same ability. Even so, she tells ‘Su-woo’ to stop using her ability. A mistake could cost ‘Su-woo’ to spend the rest of her life trapped in someone else’s body. Eventually, ‘Su-woo’ becomes a mother of two children and spends her life in misery due to her husband, ‘Ju-hwan’, who is self-centered and indifferent to his family. She tries to find a solution, but when nothing improves, she taps into the ability she hasn’t used in a while. But when she enters Ju-hwan’s dream state, she runs into her daughter, ‘Song-ha’. When she wakes up, she questions her daughter, to which ‘Song-ha’ confesses

that she has the ability, just like Su-woo did many years ago. Now, just as her mother had done, 'Su-woo' asks 'Song-ha' not to use her power. But like her mother in the past, Song-ha gets carried away by the uniqueness and superiority the ability offers, and goes against her mother's request. The problem arises when, in Ju-hwan's dream, the unconscious minds of 'Ju-hwan', 'Su-woo', and 'Song-ha' all connect by accident, and no one can guess what disaster may unfold as a result. In the end, Su-woo uses her 'ability' once more.

concept

- A literary work that uncovers the dark inner workings of humans using the fantastical subject of 'dreams'.
- A story about women who act in solidarity in their own, unique ways.



Cho Seon-Heui

Killing Megu

Cho Seon-Heui, 2023, 468 pages, Mystery/Horror, Novel

#Horror.Special #Chilling #Megu #Fox #Transformation #Missing #Family #Friendship
#Mystical

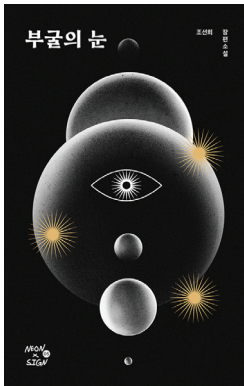
**People who carry the vestiges of Megu,
the true identity of Megu living quietly amidst them, and another
secret it harbors.**

Eighteen-year-old 'Iha' moves to his father's homeland, Megu Township. The township of Megu lives and embodies the legend of 'Megu', a thousand-year-old fox that transformed into a demon. The villagers there believe that Megu will rescue whoever falls into Megu Lake. However, the legend also goes that whoever jumps in to save that person will inevitably die. As soon as 'Iha' transfers to the new school, people begin going missing in Megu Lake. Even more unsettling is that whenever 'Iha' passes by the lake, he sees an apparition that looks like the eerie face he saw when he had fallen into the lake as a child. When disturbing incidents take hold of the village, people begin talking about 'Su-yeon', who went missing twelve years ago. It remains a cold case because her body was never found after she went missing in Megu Lake. At the time, the villagers suspected 'Gil-gun,' who had called 'Su-yeon' to the lake, and even ostracized his family. His father was a mask maker and crafted a

Megu mask, which people thought that 'Gil-gun' had worn while killing 'Su-yeon'. The bizarre phenomena around him, the memories of 'Megu', and the missing people prompt 'Iha' to decide to track down the true face of Megu. During that process, it is revealed that the tale of 'Megu' is not simply a ghost story but a collective myth built from guilt and fear of the villagers. Will 'Iha' manage to carry out his plan to uncover the truth about Megu and return everything to its place, ultimately killing Megu?

concept

- Mystery thriller folklore told from the perspective of a boy in search of a mythical demon.
- A story that uncovers the truth about a ghost story made of horror and guilt.



Eye of Bugul

Cho Seon-Heui, 2024, 206 pages, Mystery/SF Occult, Novel

#Prognosis #Fate #Future #Revenge #Fight_to_the_Death #AI #Mother_and_Daughter
#Curse

A test of feeble human greed that shakes before the unpredictable future!

‘Eye of Bugul’, an app that can change one’s fate, is introduced to the world. When the user signs up and falls asleep with the app running, they will see one of the five types of ‘totems’: future, revenge, protection, invasion, and recovery. For example, the user can select ‘Future’ to see the future or ‘Recovery’ to turn back the clock, after which they must successfully complete a mission. During the mission, the user has eight minutes to find their desired totem inside their lucid dream, with the help of clues from AI ‘Bugul’. To help her mother who has been suffering from sleep paralysis, ‘Hae-reun’ begins the mission to win the recovery totem. However, the moment she finds the recovery totem, an invader appears and steals it, resulting in Hae-reun failing the mission. ‘Hae-reun’ continues to use the ‘Eye of Bugul’ to help her mother, but the more she uses it, the more she becomes swept by an eerie terror. People attack each other at random to satisfy their selfish desires, oblivious to their violent behaviors and atrocities. To make matters worse, users had to

agree to share personal information to use the app, resulting in the AI 'Bugul' gaining insight into the users' memories and relationships. Then one day, in a lucid dream, 'Hae-reun' comes face to face with the true nature of 'Bugul'. The thing makes an unsettling request to 'Hae-reun' to recover their 'totem', but she declines. From then on, strangers began appearing and threatening her and her family. Not long after, 'Hae-reun' discovers a secret curse that her family has been harboring for a long time.

concept

- SF fantasy about completing missions in dreams to change one's fate.
- A story about rescuing one's family from danger due to a data breach in an AI app.



Salt Scale

Cho Seon-Heui, 2020, 456 pages, Mystery Fantasy, Novel

#Mermaid #Scale #Fable #Greed #Betrayal #Mystical #Bizarre

#Thirst for truth sets off a tragedy

A noble sacrifice of a special mermaid never seen before.

The body of 'Whitefish', a mermaid race, is said to grow a salt scale in which a 'truth' is engraved on it. Legend has it that collecting 390 salt scales with a sincere heart can reveal an incredible secret. Perhaps that's why people have been coveting, stealing, and, overcome by greed, killing whitefish for their scales. But they met brutal ends, unaware that the whitefish have an instinct to kill humans who steal their scales. Meanwhile, 'Marie', a whitefish living in the city, is living as an artist who paints with her scale. She is married to 'Yong-bo', a man who fell in love with her at first sight and proposed to her, to which Marie responded by giving him a white scale. For a whitefish to become human, she must follow the first man she sees upon leaving the waters and give him a single salt scale from her body as a token. 'Marie' warns Yong-bo not to covet other scales, for only the first scale she gave him is considered fortuitous, and all others will bring misfortune. But when there's news of two disfigured bodies and a 'whitefish rock' at a seaside village, 'Yong-bo' realizes just how valuable his salt scale is. From then on, 'Yong-bo' begins to steal

Marie's scales and sell them to 'Jun-hui', a salt merchant. Just what incredible 'truth' will the mesmerizing salt scale bring to light?

concept

- Fantasy that paints human greed and downfall around a mermaid's scale that harbors a secret.
- A revenge story of a mermaid who stands up to the human who turned her token of love into betrayal.



Cho Seon-Heui

There, Fox Footprints

Cho Seon-Heui, 2011, 328 pages, Romance Fantasy/Mystery, Novel

[#Time_Difference](#) [#Beast](#) [#Footprints](#) [#Curse](#) [#Grotesque](#) [#Elegant_Horror](#) [#Alice_in_Wonderland](#)

A mysterious voice from beyond,

A story of people who, bewitched by the voice, lose ‘themselves’.

Mesmerized by a building with thirty-two eye-shaped windows, ‘Tae-ju’ quits his job and opens a cafe there. But footprints of an unidentified animal keep appearing around the building as ‘Tae-ju’ gradually shows symptoms of hallucinations that make him confuse humans for objects. To make matters worse, ‘Nora’, a girl from Finland, insists on being Tae-ju’s half-sister and living with him. Then, while listening to an audiobook from local resident ‘Dong-oh’, ‘Tae-ju’ realizes that the details of the novel coincide exactly with his life. The audiobook was recorded thirty years ago by a woman named ‘Woo-pil’, who had the ability to manifest the details of the novel into reality for the listener. But after her ability causes her friend to hallucinate and die, her power turns into a ‘curse’. Burdened by the hardships of life, she reluctantly records another audiobook, the very one that ‘Woo-pil’ listens to. He becomes paranoid that he is really a character in the novel. His confusion only grows when ‘Nora’ disappears, leaving behind footprints of a fox. The footprints

act as clues that identify who came from the stories. At last, when a building with thirty-two windows is introduced in the novel, 'Tae-ju' gets a sneaking suspicion that the secret thirty-third window from the story also exists in the cafe. He tears down the wall and finds the hidden window, through which he enters another dimension. There, at last, he meets 'Woo-pil'. What will happen to the two, who are thirty years apart in time?

concept

- A story that throws an existential question about personal identity.
- A mystery fantasy where illusion and reality overlap.



Cho Seon-Heui

Blue Tomb No. 404

Cho Seon-Heui, 2013, 380 pages, Romance Fantasy/Mystery, Novel

#Dokkaebi #Lovers #Wish #Price #Romantic #Love #Breakup #Life_and_Death

You can win eternal love through this man.

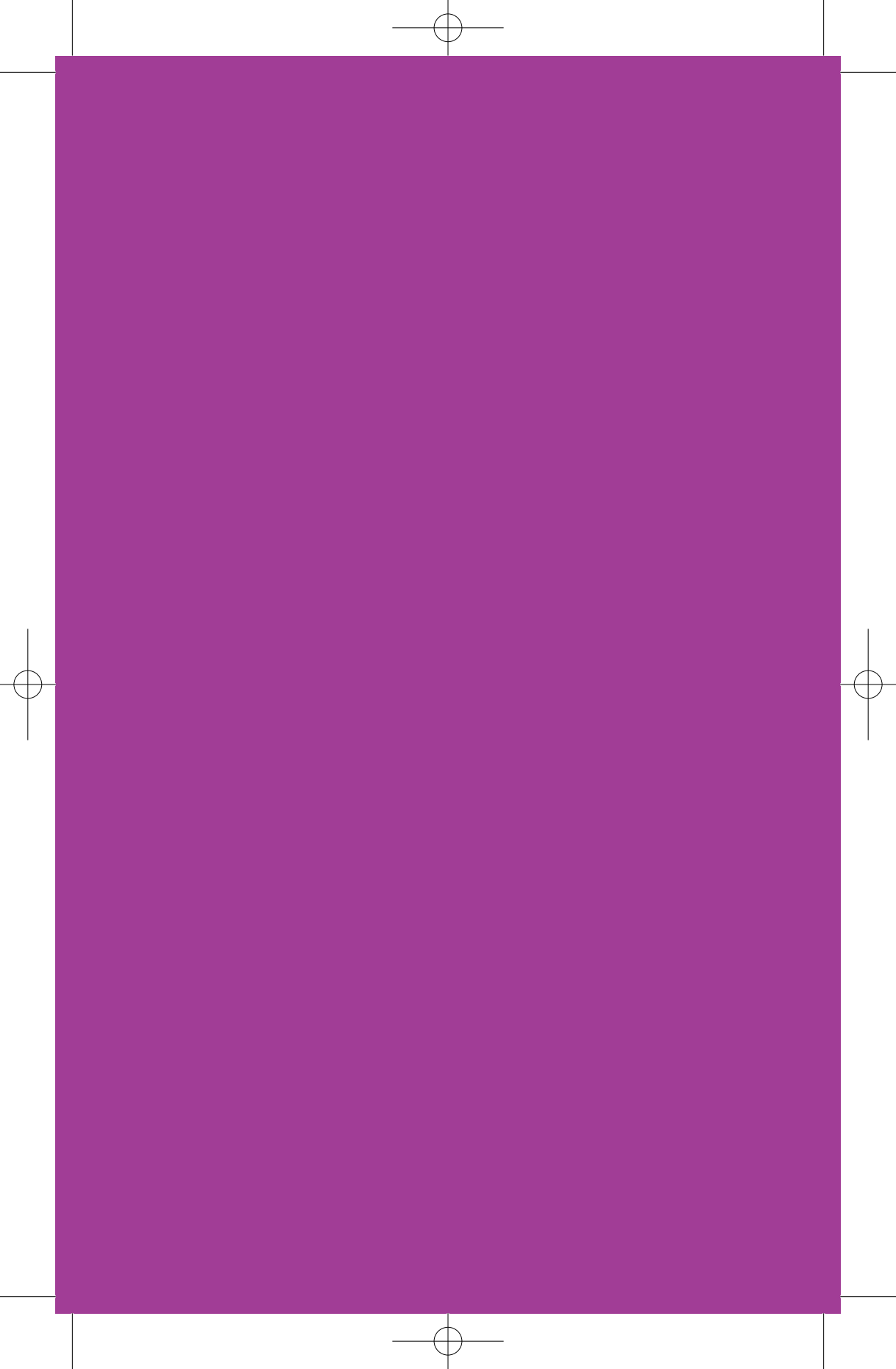
But beware: everything comes with a price!

‘Gong’ has a bewitching ability to win anyone’s heart. Heartbroken women and self-important and arrogant women alike fall in love with ‘Gong’. Even men can’t help but marvel when they see ‘Gong’. The gentleness hidden behind his dashing looks and the romantic air around ‘Gong’ sway even the hearts of men. So they try to use ‘Gong’ to win the hearts of the women they love. But the dokkaebi have a rule: they must give up something valuable in return for having their love come true. Protagonist ‘Gong Yun-hu’ and his friend ‘Hwal’ are dokkaebi, goblins manifested from ancient objects. They live for tens of thousands of years until their bodies cease to exist. At his dead lover’s grave, the body of Dokkaebi ‘Gong’ waits endlessly for a new master to spend his next life with. How do the dokkaebi withstand the loneliness that comes from a life without a proper start or closure?

What kind of love will 'Gong' experience? Will 'Gong Yun-hu', the owner of Blue Tomb No. 404, experience love again?

concept

- A serialized fiction focusing on the mysterious existence of 'Gong'.
- A modern reimagination of Korean folktales and legends of dokkaebi, dogaesan, and more.



SF



SF

Gourmets

Oh Dong-gung, 2026, 304 pages

#SF Thriller #Posthuman #Sensory Capitalism #Dystopia

**In a future where the senses are bought and sold,
some must eat for the desires of others to survive.**

After a fire leaves So-min dependent on a full-body prosthesis, she can no longer taste or smell. To make a living, she works as a “taste sharer,” sharing her sense of taste with an alien species called the Grotons. People eat for someone else’s pleasure and earn money in return. In a society built on buying and selling the senses, eating is no longer a means of survival but a form of labor and consumption.

One day, So-min is invited to a secret project called the “Special Gourmet Expedition.” A huge reward awaits those who complete its five stages. Each stage demands food and choices beyond human imagination. Participants are left to face the boundaries between survival, desire, and morality. Can So-min preserve her humanity in a system built on exploitation?

Set in a future shaped by the commodification of the senses, this SF thriller examines the human body, desire, consumption, and class. Centering on the act of eating, the novel questions human identity and the desires of capitalist society.

concept

- A dystopian SF novel set in a future shaped by the trade in human senses, exploring the body, identity, and the structures of consumption.
- A social thriller built around the original concept of the “taste sharer,” examining labor, exploitation, and desire.
- An SF novel that redefines the meaning of eating through the choices people make between survival and morality.



- Winner of the 12th Neofiction Award.



SF

Second Earth: Tide

Lee Kyung, 2026, 264 pages

#Posthuman #Posthuman #Posthuman #Posthuman

**The most ruthless terraforming project in human history
When humanity loses its past, only the freedom to choose the
future remains.**

After a seventy-one-year voyage, humanity reaches Tide, its final colony after leaving Earth. During the landing, the spacecraft is destroyed, leaving the survivors facing extinction. Awakening from prolonged cryosleep with no memory of the past, A-in finds most of the body replaced with machinery. Now a “Franken,” a name derived from Frankenstein, A-in takes command of the second wave of settlers. Survival on an unfamiliar planet means facing scarce resources, a hostile environment, and constant choices at the boundary between human and machine.

If humans can no longer remember their past, are they still the same person? If the body changes, can they remain human? As humanity’s last community struggles between survival and coexistence, the novel asks whether technological progress or human will and choice ultimately matters more.

Within the vast world of an alien planet under colonization, this hard SF novel examines memory, identity, and the responsibilities of community.

concept

- A hard SF novel about memory, the body, and human identity as humanity colonizes an alien planet.
- A space survival story about the ethical choices and responsibilities faced by individuals and communities under extreme conditions.
- A Korean SF novel that combines literary sensibility with rigorous scientific worldbuilding to ask what it means to be human.



- Debut novel by a writer who received an Honorable Mention at the 2nd Moon Yun-Sung Science Fiction Award.



SF

Good Doll, Bad Doll

Seo Ha-na, 2026, 352 pages

#K-Dystopia #Clone Uprising #Class Society #K-School Novel

“I’d rather become the worst doll than die a good one.”

The rebellion of clones raised as perfect disposable servants.

After humanity chooses extinction, humanlike clones called “dolls” take its place. At the bottom of a rigid class society, they live as disposable servants, enduring the cruel amusements of their owners. School serves as a brutal training ground, teaching dolls to endure humiliation with grace. They may not even read or write. White ribbons certify their purity, and every greeting to their owners must come with a smile.

The perfect doll, Zen, secretly reads forbidden books and longs for forbidden colors. She prepares to cut the strings that control her life. Her revenge is not an act of impulsive destruction. It is a solitary act of breaking free from the comforting shell of the “good doll” and confronting the truth behind a system that controls both lifespan and the mind. She does not kill her oppressors. Instead, she cuts away every tie that binds her to them. Her ethical resistance begins to crack open this chilling dystopia.

concept

- A K-dystopian novel that combines the awakening narrative of *Never Let Me Go* with the Abraxas motif of *Demian*.
- A story and characters with strong potential for global IP adaptation.
- A dystopian drama driven by layered relationships, from the complex love-hate relationship between Zen and Marit, who treats dolls like toys, to Kal's unwavering devotion.



- Winner of the 2nd Young Adult Genre Literature Award.
- A top-ranked title in Millie's Library's Reader Support program.



SF

Disease Control Agency, Stolen Time

Lee Ji-yu, 2025, 232 Pages, SF, Novel

#Future #Variants #KDCA #NIS #Hidden_Case #Android #Mystery

Stop the mutated variants from spreading around the world!

In the year 2050, an artificial variant made by combining two viruses is discovered. Lee Han, a black agent of the NIS, and Bae Ri-na, a researcher at the KDCA Division V, start tracking down the variant. Bae Ri-na discovers a pack of brown rats that were decimated at Hyanggi Island, an artificial island of sand, after being infected by a ghastly variant. The unidentified virus is revealed to be a deadly one that kills humans within minutes of being infected. Bae Ri-na wonders if this is the same virus as the artificial variants that were released by Division V in 2026. Her father, Kim In-man, was the director of the KDCA Division V and the victim behind the tragedy that took place in 2026. To find out how her father was infected, Bae Ri-na became ever more obsessed with the virus, and eventually observes Lee Han out of doubt. Then one day, during a three-minute blackout at the agency, the artificial variant goes missing, which Bae Ri-na is suspected of stealing. A string of incidents further aggravates the suspicion. What could possibly await at the end of such doubt?

concept

- SF mystery set in the near future of the year 2050.
- A story about an NIS black agent and a KDCA researcher amidst an artificial variant.

SF



Last Sapiens

Hae Do-yeon, 2025, 216 pages, SF, Novel

#Future #Earth #Doomsday #Last_of_Mankind #Ark #Cryonics #Meaning_of_Life

**The destruction of humanity leaves Earth destitute,
Erica ends up as the last remaining human of her kind.**

Erica wakes up inside a cryonics capsule. What year and where she is, she has no idea. It's clearly Earth, but it looks completely different from the one she lived in. It is Year 27543 when Erica wakes up. No longer able to live on Earth, humans have opted for cryonics. They were planning to leave the ark in the 26th century, but for some reason, the ark did not open, and more than 25,000 years passed by. While living with loneliness and fear, Erica comes upon 'Cantiphant'. With bodies of a pony and faces of an elephant, the Cantiphants all wear earrings in their ears. Wondering what the earrings signify, Erica bonds with the only cantiphant without earrings and names the young cantiphant 'Canti'. Canti was born from the cantiphants that had escaped from the hands of the 'Bad People', who Erica notices are ruled by a human. The human, like Erica, was a contemporary. Erica and Canti escape from the human, who is incomparably more menacing than the Bad People, but Canti is sacrificed in the process. Erica advances to the ark by herself that she originally planned to go with Canti.

concept

- The story of the last remaining humans that survived the destruction of Earth.
- Sci-fi novel set 25,000 years in the future.



SF

No-Brain Attorney

Shin Jo-ha, 2024, 232 pages, SF/Drama, Novel

[#Android](#) [#Cyborg](#) [#Attorney](#) [#Court_Battle](#)

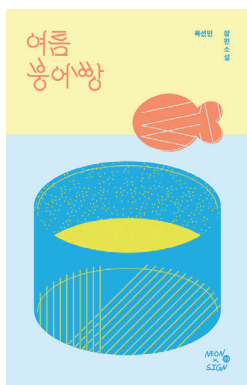
A delightful, clear-cut counsel from the country's top no-brain attorney!

Sometime in the near future, AI has replaced most of the labor force, androids are acting and sensing like humans, and cyborgs are living with the help of machines. They provide humans with scientific technology and convenience, yet hundreds to thousands of androids are being wrongfully discarded every day. Why? Because they follow a human's order or defy it, because they don't seem human or too much like so... 'Kim In-ho', a cyborg with an artificial brain transplant at birth, is the country's no. 1 'No-Brain Attorney' who normally defends androids. People would ask him, "Do you identify with them because you're a cyborg?" All kinds of rumors surround him, with no signs of dying down. He is frowned upon for being a nonhuman attorney, or accused of hiding some kind of superpower. He neither denies nor defends himself. There's only one reason he defends the androids: they deserve to be treated with respect. What more reason does he need? Who would defend them if the humans who created them won't protect their rights? Then one day, someone knocks on the door of Kim In-ho's law firm. 'Oh Hye-seong', an android that

has awakened to the emotion of love, has decided to fight to keep her daughter and preserve fond memories of the past. Will the androids who turn to 'Kim In-ho' for help realize their dreams? So begins a full-on rebellion of the androids whose worths are being denied, and a delightful counsel by a No-Brain Attorney who defends them.

concept

- SF set in the near future with a focus on the conflict between cyborgs and humans.
- A cyborg attorney's lonely struggle to protect the androids who are discriminated by humans.



SF

Summer Bungeo-ppang

Yuk Seon-min, 2024, 220 pages, SF/Fantasy, Novel

#Fantasy #Superpower #Savior #War #Bungeo-ppang #Summer

So begins the world's most adorable bungeo-ppang attacks to fight off the sweltering summer heat!

This book is about novice heroes and their sugary rebellion to find freedom and bring justice against the 'Kingdom', where those with powerful authorities are gathered. In a world where people undergo abnormal changes and gain superpowers, there exist superpeople and ordinary people. Those who cannot enter the 'Kingdom' gather at the 'Colony' and struggle to make ends meet and survive in the hostile environment. In this colony reside the protagonists of this novel: 'Sera', 'Yeom', and 'Yabo', with grand dreams of their own. But when the Kingdom's keeper mercilessly tramples on 'Yabo' to keep his powers in check, 'Yeom' is shocked and disappears, after which their lives are thrust into hopelessness and pain. The lack of ability to protect her friends sends 'Sera' spiraling into misery. Then one day, Sera finally begins showing symptoms of abnormal changes. Her body breaks into a fever, powerful electric currents tingle her fingertips, and her pupils turn reddish black. 'Sera' has finally gained a superpower. Expecting to take down the Kingdom with a powerful ability like teleportation, levitation, or time-bending, and bring peace

to the world, Sera is beyond excited... But wait! The ability she took great pains to gain... is making delicious and hearty bungeo-ppang! How will she save the world with such a useless ability? However, little did Sera know that the 'real' ability of making bungeo-ppang was the 'romance' that came with it. Will Sera, Yeom, and Yabo work together to deflect the fearsome attacks of the 'Kingdom' and save the world? What kind of world will the unexpected appearance of bungeo-ppang create?

concept

- A group of novice ability users and their exhilarating fight against a group of powerful veterans.
- A coming-of-age story about a girl who tries to save the world with a warm and cozy ability.



SF

Universal Chef

Seo Yun-bin, 2024, 208 pages, SF/Fantasy, Novel

#Space_Station #Midnight_Diner #Food #Counseling #Uplifting #Parting
#Mystery

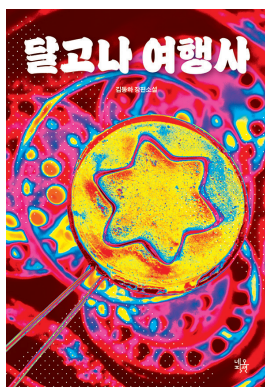
**A story where delicious food and warm tales come together,
sending light into the empty universe.**

‘Kombo’, who runs a midnight diner by himself in the vast space, travels through space in search of a marketplace to park his spacecraft and open his shop. Among the countless spacecrafts with dazzling neon signs and hordes of customers, Kombo’s spacecraft is shabby and simple in comparison, but he still receives a steady flow of customers. The nutty and sweet aroma wafting from his spaceship probably has to do with it, but above all, his restaurant offers a special menu: ‘Anything’. As long as he has the ingredients for it, he will make whatever dish the customer desires, and the price for ‘Anything’, which can even recreate a dish with fond memories, is only worth two cheap cocktails. However, in return for the food, the customers must share their stories about the dish they ordered. This includes ‘Aziz’, who left his home star a long time ago but is still treated like an outsider; ‘Luca Night’, who destroyed an old man’s life with fake news; and ‘Escal’, who was dumped by his girlfriend every time he ate food waste. They share their most special, or sometimes the worst,

experiences in life, and find comfort in Kombo's food. However, 'Kombo' had a different reason altogether to listen to their stories: to find his missing 'wife'. At last, through the customers' stories, the whereabouts of Kombo's wife begin to slowly unravel! Will 'Kombo' find his wife, who disappeared mysteriously? Can his wounds be healed, just as he helped his customers find inner peace?

concept

- Heartwarming and uplifting SF novel about a chef who listens to stories and prepares food at a midnight diner in space.
- A mystery drama of a chef who looks for clues in food to find his missing wife.



SF

Dalgona Travel Agency

Kim Dong-ha, 2023, 232 pages, SF/Fantasy, Novel

#Near_Future #Shared_Bodies #Detective #Desire #Social_Inequality #Realism

A world in which a stranger and I share bodies!

Desire revealed before a sweet but disturbing temptation.

In 2032, in a world in which a powerful virus prevents travel between countries, a new enterprise emerges rapidly. A tourism industry that uses the so-called 'shared bodies'. Sharing bodies allows a person to borrow a stranger's body for a limited time using a technology that synchronizes consciousness. The host lends their body to the guest for a fee. Former Detective Noh Su-yeol, who lost some of his memories and became paraplegic after a car accident six years ago, runs an old shop called the 'Dalgona Travel Agency'. His daughter, Noh Ga-eun, works as a royal-tier host to help her granddaughter, who has been in a coma since the fateful accident. A royal-tier host is the least restrictive and most avoided position in the shared-body industry. The incident arises when Ha Do-hui, the granddaughter, starts a shared-body rehabilitation. With the help of the physiotherapist's consciousness, Ha Do-hui moves but goes missing. Meanwhile, Noh Ga-eun is being chased by the police because of something the guest did to her body. Sensing that all of the events are related to the case he had worked on six years ago, Noh Su-yeol begins jogging his

memories to find his granddaughter and clear his daughter's name. This novel exposes the social inequality between humans who use other people's bodies for selfish reasons and the exploited who must endure injustice for money. The breathtaking suspense is laced with the author's awareness of social issues, through which the readers are encouraged to consider the problems of today that will continue into the future.

concept

- SF novel set in the near future, highlighting and exposing society's dark sides.
- A solitary struggle of an ex-detective and his attempt to rescue his daughter, who is falsely charged while working in the shared-body industry.



SF

Emergency Robot Doctor

Yun Yeo-gyeong · Jung Ji-hun, 2024, 212 pages, SF, Novel

#Near_Future #Robot_Doctor #Self_Determination #AI #Human #Cohesion
#Relationships #Understanding

What if a robot doctor can think and make autonomous decisions?

A goofy and bubbly humanoid robot's quest to become the perfect doctor!

A new doctor joins the G Medical Center. Pink hair, gentle and round demeanor, and soothing voice. Everything about Robot Doctor 'Rosa' was designed to be appealing to the patients. On the surface, Rosa is an ordinary humanoid robot, but there is one thing that sets her apart from the other robots: 'self-determination'. Dr. Jung Do-won, the creator of Rosa, designed her to be able to make autonomous decisions. This gives Rosa the freedom to assess and diagnose patients on her own without approval from a human doctor. Dr. Jung Do-won's son, Su-ho, is also a doctor and watches over Rosa. This is because of a rule that all robot doctors must be accompanied by a human doctor. Rosa's life as a doctor appeared to be smooth sailing. As the last robot doctor created by Dr. Jung Do-won, the public's attention has been on her. Thanks to her ability to communicate with thousands of people at the same time, Rosa

diligently shares her thoughts and medical situations through social media, at times showing goofy sides of her by uploading photos of food, even though robots don't eat. But when news gets out that Rosa administered drugs to a diabetic patient without consent, which went against the rules, people wonder if AI robots can be trusted. Little did they know that the diabetic patient was about to pass out, so asking for consent was not an option. But when the media only covers controversial details irrespective of Rosa's intention, Rosa and her attending doctor, Su-ho, are demoted to the emergency room. The emergency room is busy, but no one assigns them tasks. Their reassignment is off to a rocky start. Can Rosa clear people's doubts and misconceptions about her and rise as a true doctor?

concept

- A novel about empathy and harmony in a world of prejudice.
- A reckless alliance between a human doctor and a robot doctor.



SF

Suicide Struggles of a Robot Rock Star

Claven, 2023, 212 pages, SF/Fantasy, Novel

[#Android](#) [#Robot](#) [#Suicide](#) [#Death](#) [#Freedom](#) [#Adventure](#) [#Aging_Society](#)

A romping suicide project between a robot rock star who wants to commit suicide and a robot cleaner that must kill him!

Antioch Nursing Home, a haven for old robots. Min-su, who smuggles drugs, liked Antioch Nursing Home, where all kinds of illegal acts were permitted. It couldn't have been a better life for a robot. At least, until 'Tico Draco', a weird robot rocker, came in as his roommate. Tico gets all friendly with Min-su and abruptly starts singing songs about how 'everyone should commit suicide'. What's worse, Tico sang all day, every day, and only Min-su found it unbearable. Everyone else adored the washed-up rockstar, Tico Draco. While suffering from depression because of Tico's disturbing music, one day, Min-su meets Don Camilleo, a mafia boss and the godfather of the nursing home, and receives a special mission: "Bring Tico's head." All his life, Min-su has been taking the easy way out, and suddenly, everything falls into place. If only 'Tico would disappear, everyone would be happy'. Min-su, Don Camilleo, and even Tico himself would be better off. This novel depicts 'suicide', which is usually a heavy-handed subject to be treated with care, in a light and fun-hearted way. The lyrics of Tico's song might sound

absurd, but there's a clear reason for his desire to take his own life. Learning about his backstory will be one of the many charms of reading this book. Will Min-su complete Don Camilleo's special mission, and will Tico successfully commit suicide? Showcasing the chemistry between two robots with wildly different personalities, this story works its way to their destined ends step by step.

concept

- A depiction of a society of discarded machinery, their unique conflicts, and the strange harmony between humans and robots, all set in a 'robot nursing home'.
- The value of existence, identity crisis, structural inequality, the dark sides of advanced technology, and sanctity of aged beings.
- An extraordinary journey of two robots that look alike but have completely opposite goals.

