
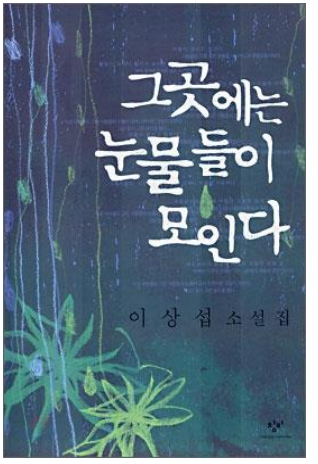



Read Busan List

(With support from: Busan Novelists' Association, Busan Metropolitan Simin Library, and Busan Metropolitan Library)

| No. | Title | Author | Publisher | Publication Year | Price (KRW) | ISBN |
|-----|--|--|-------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Gamnamu House Camellia</i> | Moonhong Kim | Haeseong | Aug. 2019 | 15,000 | 9788979212389 |
| 2 | <i>Where All the Tears Gather</i> | Sangseop Lee | Changbi | Dec. 2006 | 9,500 | 9788936436964 |
| 3 | <i>The End Where Everything Begins Again</i> | Gapsang Cho | Sanjini | Jun. 2015 | 16,000 | 9788965452812 |
| 4 | <i>Mist over Dalmaji Hill</i> | Sungjong Kim | Saeum | Mar. 2015 | 13,800 | 9788993964936 |
| 5 | <i>Village of the Runaways</i> | Jeongim Lee | Geodneun Saram | Jan. 2024 | 17,000 | 9791193412237 |
| 6 | <i>Life Jacket</i> | Hyun Lee | Changbi | Jul. 2024 | 13,000 | 9788936457273 |
| 7 | <i>Mosaic, Busan</i> | Minhye Kim, Younghae Park, Mihyung Jo, Youngi Oh, Miyoung Jang, Jisook Ahn | Sanjini | Oct. 2021 | 15,000 | 9788965457565 |
| 8 | <i>Soft and Sticky Fear</i> | Youngsun Jung | Najeunsan | May 2014 | 10,500 | 9791155250167 |
| 9 | <i>The Era of Mildawon</i> | Dongni Kim (Edited by Dongni Kim Memorial Society) | GyeGan Munye | Jun. 2013 | 12,000 | 9788965540809 |
| 10 | <i>Busan Laundry</i> | Jungsun Kim | Fast Book | Apr. 2024 | 15,000 | 9791169294812 |
| 11 | <i>Sahachon</i> | Junghan Kim | Moonji Publishing | Dec. 2004 | 13,000 | 9788932015583 |
| 12 | <i>Dreams on the Hillside Roads</i> | Hwisuk Lim | Kang | Nov. 2022 | 14,000 | 9788982183072 (Out of Print) |
| 13 | <i>Ordinary People, Shimcheon-do</i> | Hocheol Lee | Saemi | Mar. 2001 | 12,000 | 9788989352259 |
| 14 | <i>Children of the Forest</i> | Jooyoung Park | Munhakdongne | Jun. 2020 | 13,500 | 9788954672153 |
| 15 | <i>The Light of Nothingness</i> | Youngsun Jung | Kang | Mar. 2023 | 14,000 | 9788982183157 |
| 16 | <i>Father's Rhapsody</i> | Sungki Cho | Hangilsa | Apr. 2024 | 17,000 | 9788935678631 |
| 17 | <i>The Child Who Swallowed an Ice Flower</i> | Hyang Park | Silcheon Munhak | Jun. 2010 | 9,500 | 9788939206366 |
| 18 | <i>A Long-Burning Ember</i> | Geumran Ko | Homilbat | Jul. 2020 | 13,000 | 9791197022258 |
| 19 | <i>The Round Dance of Laughter and Tears</i> | Taek Heo | Kang | Mar. 2025 | 15,000 | 9788982183621 |
| 20 | <i>The Great Deception</i> | Seongsoo Moon | Jeonmang | Nov. 2020 | 13,000 | 9788979735369 |
| 21 | <i>The Horn of the Narwhal</i> | Yeonhee Yoo | Kang | Nov. 2022 | 13,000 | 9788982183096 |
| 22 | <i>Hotel Haeundae</i> | Sunyoung Oh | Changbi | Dec. 2021 | 14,000 | 9788936438678 |

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|  | <p>1 Gamnamu House Camellia (감나무집 동백꽃) Kim Moonhong / Haeseong / 2019</p> |
| <p><i>Gamnamu House Camellia unfolds within an imagined multigenerational household nicknamed “Gamnamu House,” tucked inside a quiet residential alleyway in Busan. Told through the perspective of Chaewon, a high school student, the novel traces the intertwined lives of four generations. Like magnolia blossoms in spring, like camellias, like silent whispers, each character seeks their own path while experiencing the shifting seasons of relationships and time. A tender family novel that meditates on the shadows and light of life, embracing slowness, memory, and warmth.</i></p> | |
|  | <p>2 Where All the Tears Gather (그곳에는 눈물들이 모인다) Lee Sangseop / Changbi / 2006</p> |
| <p>This collection of short and medium-length stories comes from writer Lee Sangseop, known for portraying Busan with honesty and fierce attachment. The title story, winner of the 5th Changbi New Writers’ Award in 2002, is set in the narrow alleys of a bustling fish market. There, a stubborn mother-in-law disapproves of her seemingly incompetent son-in-law, while a new bride—pale-skinned and strangely out of place—stirs tension among the locals. The stories vividly depict life on the margins: fishermen dislocated by the Korea–Japan Fisheries Agreement, undocumented migrant labourers working in fish farms, and everyday survival rather than ordinary living. Despite its grounded realism, the collection remains sharply observant of social reality and human vulnerability. Seven stories capture the raw rhythms of life along the waterfront.</p> | |
|  | <p>3 The End Where Everything Begins Again (다시 시작하는 끝) Cho Gapsang / Sanjini / 2015</p> |
| <p>This volume includes Cho Gapsang’s debut work <i>Laughing Alone</i> and <i>The Vanished Sky</i>, which confronts the history of the National Guidance League Incident, along with seventeen other short and medium-length stories. These works explore people driven to the edge—those burdened by hardship, isolation, or trauma—narrated with restrained description, atmospheric settings, and an unforced refusal to offer easy consolation. In an era overflowing with fantastical narratives, this collection brings readers back to the painstaking digestion of reality. Through these stories, one encounters lives that persist—lives that begin again after endings. (Stories reference locations such as Busan Station, Eun-gyeong-dong, Sinpyeong, and Nampo-dong.)</p> | |
| | <p>4 Mist over Dalmaji Hill (달맞이 언덕의 안개) Sungjong Kim / Saeum / 2015</p> |



Written by the author of *Eyes of Dawn*, this short-story collection brings together works originally serialized weekly in the *Busan Ilbo* in 2014. Set against the iconic Dalmaji Hill in Haeundae, the stories explore mysterious murders, the eccentric daily life of a crime novelist, and the aftermath of a nuclear-plant explosion, among many others. With Kim's signature hard-boiled narrative voice, the twenty-five stories ignite imagination while skilfully balancing suspense and emotional resonance.



5 **Village of the Runaways (도망자의 마을)**
Jeongim Lee / Geodneun Saram / 2024

Village of the Runaways takes place in a quiet town on the outskirts of Busan and portrays characters whose lives seem to grow heavier—not easier—the harder they try. Though they possess little in material terms, they live with a stubborn pride, refusing to bow to expectations or conformity. Like drifting clouds, the characters move freely through the narrative—unruly, layered, and unapologetically alive. (The author notes that the work is inspired by the lives along Busan's steep hillside residential districts.)




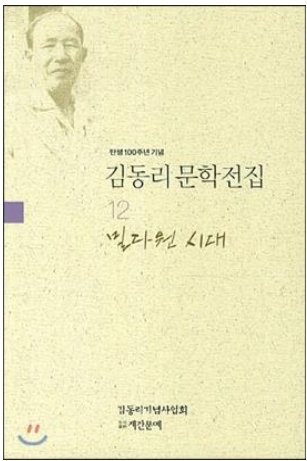

6 **Life Jacket (라이프재킷)**
Hyun Lee / Changbi / 2024

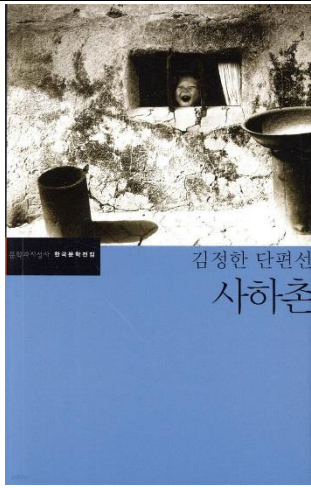
Bestselling author Lee Hyun, known for *Wanini the Blue Lion*, moves beyond the typical metropolitan school setting of Korean young adult fiction and places her characters in Busan—and ultimately at sea. On the vast, terrifying ocean, a tragic accident leaves lasting emotional wounds. Yet this story is not merely a record of suffering. It asks: Must those bound by an inescapable tragedy remain trapped by it? Even fictional characters deserve movement, possibility, and breath. For those who survived the sea, one step forward is not enough—they deserve the chance to return to the waves without being swallowed by them. This is a story about refusing to drown.



7 **Mosaic, Busan (모자이크, 부산)**
Minhye Kim et al. / Sanjini / 2021

This themed story collection brings together six authors—Minhye Kim, Younghae Park, Mihyung Jo, Youngi Oh, Miyoung Jang, and Jisook Ahn—each writing from and about Busan. The book gathers stories rooted in spaces indecipherable to outsiders yet deeply familiar to locals, weaving together personal history, memory, and the evolving cityscape.

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|  | 8 | Soft and Chewy Fear (물컹하고 쫄득한 두려움) |
| Youngsun Jung / Najeunsan / 2014 | | |
| <p>Youngsun Jung’s novel vividly evokes Busan’s local culture and emotional atmosphere. The story follows Eunsu, a girl navigating her parents’ divorce caused by her mother’s same-sex relationship. Forced to relocate, she moves in with her grandmother, who runs a pork-and-rice soup restaurant—a beloved Busan staple.</p> <p>Through sharp emotional layers and subtle humour, the novel examines identity, family fractures, and a young person’s attempt to understand love and belonging.</p> | | |
|  | 9 | The Era of Mildawon (밀다원 시대) |
| Dongni Kim / Gyehan Munye / 2013 | | |
| <p>Published as part of the Complete Works of Kim Dongni marking the 100th anniversary of his birth, this volume introduces the literary achievements of one of Korea’s most significant modern novelists. Based on the author’s own wartime experiences during the Korean War, the work explores existential humanism while capturing the cultural landscape of Busan. Centered around Nampo-dong, Kim led what became known as the “Mildawon era,” named after a café that served as a gathering place for writers and intellectuals during the conflict.</p> | | |
|  | 10 | Busan Laundry (부산 세탁소) |
| Jungsun Kim / Fastbook / 2024 | | |
| <p>This novel follows the life of On Ildeok, whose journey begins in a rural village in Gimje and eventually leads her to become the owner of Busan Laundry. Her story unfolds through love, betrayal, hardship, and the relentless pursuit of identity and meaning. Rather than merely a narrative of personal growth, the novel offers a resonant reminder of resilience and the quiet courage required to seek one’s own path.</p> | | |
| | 11 | Sahachon (사하촌) |
| Junghan Kim / Moonji Publishing / 2004 | | |



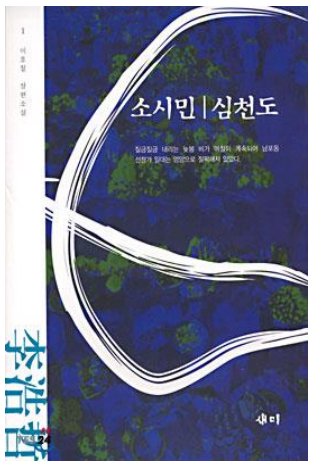
A representative collection of realist fiction by Junghan Kim, *Sahachon* brings together eleven stories set in Busan. Through vivid depictions of working-class life, Kim was among the first to raise literary questions about modernisation and social inequality. Stories such as *Sahachon* (set near Beomeosa Temple), *The Story of the Sandbank* (along the Nakdong River), and *The Path of Suffering* depict dignity, memory, and community in the midst of upheaval.



12 **Dreams on the Hillside Roads (산복도로의 꿈)**

Hwisuk Lim / Kang / 2022

This collection examines the lived reality of those residing along the steep hillside districts of Busan. For these characters, hardship is not abstract—it is physical, visible, and ordinary. Often referred to as the “Gamcheon Culture Village cycle,” the stories portray neighbourhoods largely untouched by rapid urban development. The author foregrounds the idea that what may appear worn or marginalised to outsiders can be, for others, a site of history, dignity, and belonging.




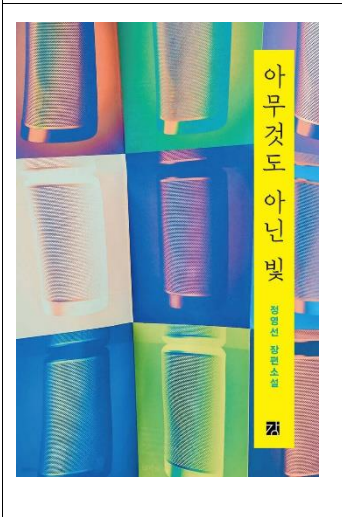
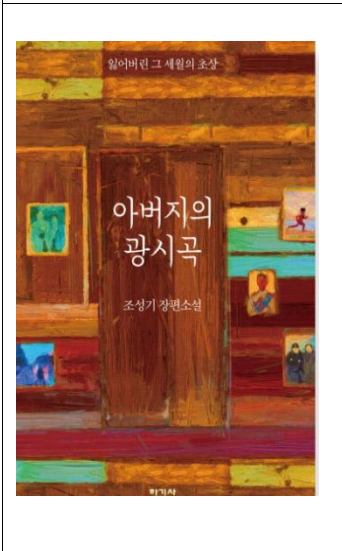
13 **Ordinary People (소시민) - Out of Print**

Hocheol Lee / Saemi / 2001

This volume contains two semi-autobiographical works by Hocheol Lee, drawn from his experiences living as a wartime refugee in Busan. *Ordinary People* portrays a narrator displaced by the Korean War who confronts the uncertainty of a collapsing world while sensing the beginnings of a new era. Through sharp observations and evocative reflection, the work re-examines the social customs and emotional landscapes shaped by historical rupture.

14 **Children of the Forest (숲의 아이들)**

Jooyoung Park / Munhakdongne / 2020

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|  | <p>At a fountain construction site in a Busan apartment complex, a set of human remains is discovered. The bones belong to Lee Young-chaе, who disappeared twenty years earlier at the age of seven. Lee Young-woo, now a doctor who left Busan after losing both his mother and sister, returns when Eun Hye-ju, a cold case detective, reopens the investigation. Both carry unresolved trauma: Eun Hye-ju survived a childhood kidnapping in which her friend died, and Lee Young-woo has never escaped the shadow of loss. As they search for the truth behind Young-chaе’s disappearance, their overlapping wounds draw them toward each other.</p> |
|  | <p>15 The Light of Nothingness (아무것도 아닌 빛) Youngsun Jung / Kang / 2023</p> <p>Set on the outskirts of Busan, particularly in a modest apartment district along the Nakdong River known as Eungok, this novel centres primarily on elderly characters in their late eighties and nineties. The narrative unfolds during the recent pandemic years, where daily life appears slow and uneventful on the surface. Yet beneath these quiet routines lie lives layered with unresolved histories, private grief, and unspoken complexity. The novel reveals how seemingly ordinary days can hold entire lifetimes of memory and meaning.</p> |
|  | <p>16 Father's Rhapsody (아버지의 광시곡) Seonggi Cho / Hangilsa / 2024</p> <p>Told with humour, rhythm, and an almost playful tone, Father's Rhapsody pieces together the portrait of a turbulent father, ultimately reflecting the author himself. Composed of forty-six short yet complete stories linked through free association, the work can be read in any order. Through the chaotic experiences of a family shaped by the aftermath of the Korean War, the narrative depicts the violence and disillusionment of political suppression—particularly the brutal crackdown of the so-called “Revolutionary Government,” which transformed an aspiring activist into an unemployed drunk. In this paradoxical portrait, the novel embodies Korea’s modern history as something worn, endured, and carried in a single human life.</p> |
| | <p>17 The Child Who Swallowed an Ice Flower (얼음꽃을 삼킨 아이) Hyang Park / Silcheon Munhak / 2010</p> |



At first glance, this family appears ideal: a diligent father, a capable mother, a kind eldest daughter, a dependable son, and a bold youngest daughter. Yet beneath their small home lies the buried violence of Korea's rapid development era under the Park Chung-hee dictatorship. A seemingly minor incident triggers a fracture, and one death follows another until the family collapses like a pile of rubble.

Tracing history from the assassination of Yuk Young-soo to the tragic finale of the Gwangju Democratic Uprising, this novel reconstructs the 1970s with visceral clarity. For the protagonist, the years leading to adulthood become both a painful coming-of-age story and a report from a nation built on violence.

(The Busan district of Nambumin serves as one of the central settings.)



18 A Long-Burning Ember (오래된 불씨)

Geumran Ko / Homilbat / 2020

This short-story collection offers a sociological and emotional portrait of Busan and the lives rooted within its older neighbourhoods. The narratives centre on elderly residents whose daily routines may seem ordinary or worn, yet carry the quiet beauty of accumulated time. The wrinkles etched into their bodies hold memories of passion, youth, loss, and endurance.

Through understated storytelling, the collection invites readers to step outside their familiar perspective and reconsider the depth and dignity hidden in seemingly modest lives.



19 The Round Dance of Laughter and Tears (웃음과 울음의 원무)

Taek Heo / Kang / 2025

Heo Taek's fiction often reflects a generation born during wartime and shaped by historical and social struggle. As both writer and practising dentist, he brings a distinctive physical and psychological awareness into his work, exploring human desire with clinical sharpness and imaginative breadth.

This collection continues those themes: clear oppositions surrounding desire become narrative engines, yet are gradually dismantled through experimental structure and voice.

(The setting includes Yeongdo, featuring references to hillside housing and a small redevelopment apartment.)





20 The Great Deception (위대한 사기)

Seongsoo Moon / Jeonmang / 2020

This collection contains eight short stories that explore the complexity of human interiority and moral paradox. Most of the narratives unfold in specific locations throughout Busan, grounding universal themes within recognisable geography. Through these familiar settings, the author suggests that the extraordinary and the painful coexist with the ordinary—and that such stories could unfold anywhere.

The work also reflects the author's intention to approach local readers by writing within landscapes they know intimately.

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|  | <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="442 98 499 174">21</td> <td data-bbox="499 98 1479 174">The Horn of the Narwhal (일각고래의 뿔)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="442 174 499 250"></td> <td data-bbox="499 174 1479 250">Yeonhee Yoo / Kang / 2022</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="448 286 1444 555">Yeonhee Yoo’s third short-story collection is composed of narratives set at sea. Her preoccupation with the ocean reveals a persistent curiosity that extends beyond the simple fact of Busan being a major port city. The sea becomes a metaphor for existence: voyages made by sailors echo the unpredictable course of human life. Battling darkness and violent waves, navigating by the faint light of a distant lighthouse—these images become reflections of resilience, longing, and the will to continue forward.</p> | 21 | The Horn of the Narwhal (일각고래의 뿔) | | Yeonhee Yoo / Kang / 2022 |
| 21 | The Horn of the Narwhal (일각고래의 뿔) | | | | |
| | Yeonhee Yoo / Kang / 2022 | | | | |
|  | <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="442 613 499 689">22</td> <td data-bbox="499 613 1479 689">Hotel Haeundae (호텔 해운대)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="442 689 499 766"></td> <td data-bbox="499 689 1479 766">Sunyoung Oh / Changbi / 2021</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="448 772 1468 1176">This second collection by Sunyoung Oh focuses on young adults who live and work in Busan. The stories portray a civil service hopeful who dreams not of “Seoul life” but of remaining in Busan; a writer struggling with the label of “local author”; young workers who cannot afford to enjoy the famous beaches nearby; and adjunct lecturers navigating precarious labour conditions. Through a sharp yet compassionate gaze, the work addresses structural inequality, labour precarity, and the emotional cost of ordinary life. Issues such as adjunct faculty labour, child sponsorship, industrial accidents, real estate, unemployment, campus sexual violence, and online community culture are woven seamlessly into the narrative. The result is a vivid examination of regional identity and everyday resilience, grounded unmistakably in the rhythms of Busan.</p> | 22 | Hotel Haeundae (호텔 해운대) | | Sunyoung Oh / Changbi / 2021 |
| 22 | Hotel Haeundae (호텔 해운대) | | | | |
| | Sunyoung Oh / Changbi / 2021 | | | | |