

WAITING FOR MUMMY

◆
Korea's Book of
the Year 2004

◆
Published in
English for the
first time



◆
40pp Children's
picture book

◆
April 2006 release

◆
Special Mother's
Day promotion

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Set in Korea in the 1930s (a time of poverty, danger and subjugation under Japanese rule), *Waiting for Mummy* is a deceptively straightforward story of a young child waiting at a tram stop for his mother.

Trams come and go, people alight, yet her devoted son waits stoically and patiently, even as a snowstorm gathers.

Will Mummy ever return? The reader must be as patient as the child, as the story is subtly resolved—for those looking closely—in the final magical illustration.

A new edition of a story by one of Korea's best-loved children's writers, *Waiting for Mummy* has been a publishing sensation in Korea since its re-release with Dong Sung Kim's new illustrations in late 2004.

The book won the major Baeksang Publishing Award (Korea's equivalent of the Children's Book Council of Australia or New Zealand Post children's book awards), and was selected as 'Book of the Year' by all three of Korea's national newspapers. It also won the Korean Publishers Association 'Book of the Month' award.

Marrying distinctively Oriental illustration to a moving and universal theme, *Waiting for Mummy* is a first-rate example of the extraordinary quality of contemporary Korean children's literature.

Its publication in Australia and New Zealand by Wilkins Farago will mark its first publication in English anywhere in the world.

THE AUTHOR

Tae Jun Lee was born in Korea in 1904 and, poignantly, was orphaned as a child. He wrote his most famous stories, including many for children and young adults, during the 1930s. His works are well-loved in Korea for their poetic prose and emotional sensitivity. After Korea's liberation in 1945, Lee settled in North Korea and was a war correspondent during the Korean War (1950–1953). Little is known of his activities thereafter, except that he was 'purged' by the North Korean Communist Party, probably in 1956. First published in 1938, his celebrated story *Waiting for Mummy* has received new life almost 50 years after his death.

THE ILLUSTRATOR

Contemporary Korean artist **Dong Sung Kim**'s exquisite illustrations—sometimes historically accurate, other times fantastical—movingly capture the emotional experience of a child waiting for its parent. Kim was born in 1970 and graduated from Hong-ik University, Seoul, with a major in Oriental Painting. He has illustrated several children's picture books. *Waiting for Mummy* is painted on *han-ji* (traditional Korean paper), using traditional *muck-sun* (Chinese ink line) techniques. Dong Sung Kim lives in Seoul with his wife and young son.

DISTRIBUTION

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