Introduction of <Five Years Later>

Imagining Korea under a never-seen-before system of renewing one's marriage every five years, *Five Years Later* is a novel that deals with the current problems of a low birthrate, a rapid decrease in the labor force, the childcare system, and an aging society.

Written by Jeong Yorang and published by Wicked Wiki Books, *Five Years Later* introduces the provocative idea of a marriage renewal system as it prompts readers to reconsider the value of marriage and the responsibility of childcare in present-day Korea. In her novel, the government tries to deal with the falling birthrate by introducing the system of renewing one's marriage every five years, and it asks readers to consider what social infrastructure would be needed to provide solutions to the rapidly aging society. Under this new system, if a couple does not renew their marriage after five years, the marriage simply becomes nullified, and this leads to completely different and unexpected social problems and conflicts.

The novel weaves together different episodes: a couple deciding whether to renew their marriage, an old couple whose marriage comes to an end with a murder, a woman who chooses to be a single parent, and a teen couple who chooses to have a baby without getting married. The novel succeeds in generating readers' interest in the provocative idea of the marriage renewal system, as well as in the problem of who should be responsible for childcare. As the writer states in the book, "many cases of inequality will be resolved when the work of raising children is recognized for its true value, and the experiences of educating and raising the new generation are recognized and respected regardless of the sex or gender of the caregiver or the type of labor involved. This is also connected to the problem of providing effective welfare for the elderly. The key to raising the falling birthrate lies in tackling the problems of inequality of the marginalized."

The book was reviewed by more than twenty different experts working in the fields of education, law, psychology, special education, and social welfare, and it is no wonder that it has received such positive reactions and high praise from readers. The story hits so close to home that it makes readers wonder whether they're afraid of its impending reality or whether they're looking forward to it.

About the Author:

Jeong Yorang studied Spanish Literature at Korea University and worked eight years at the Literature Translation Institute of Korea. She also received her MA in Korean Education from the Graduate School of Education of Kyung Hee University. She wrote *In Search of Mommy Tree* in 2019, and her short story, “Photoshop Han” was included in the collection titled *You Trust Me, Don’t You?* published by Paul and Nina Publisher in 2020.

About the Publisher:

Wicked Wiki Books is a Seoul-based publishing house, specializing in titles on the theme of diversity and global citizenship education. In 2019, they published a children’s book, *In Search of Mommy Tree*, in their diversity series titled *So Many Similarities and Differences*, and in 2020, they published *Five Years Later*.