

Tell Me Again, a short story collection



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Abstract

“Tell Me Again” is a collection of four semi - autobiographical short stories that are woven together in theme and motif to discuss traditional Korean philosophies of nonlinear time and intergenerational memory through the lenses of memoir, ghost story, experimentations in form, and myth.

I apply these concepts and genres to my own experience as a working -class diasporic Korean nonbinary lesbian.

The stories go backward in time from my own experience in the present day to 2009, the 1980s, and then the early 1900s to illustrate how the Korean peninsula’s recent history of colonialism permeates the Korean people’s relationships to family, religion, and identity both in the homeland and across the diaspora.

I try to evoke the sensation of wading through history and finding out you’re not crazy after all, the pain is not imagined but inherited.

euphrates bears a new wound

- Memoir piece
- Irvine and Los Angeles, present day.
- Methods of survival
- Counter-narrative to Asian-American assimilation
- Fragmented, divided by Korean headings



I've come home

Lauren Hana Chai, 2017

Research

- In the Dream House by Carmen Maria Machado
- Zami, a New Spelling of my Name by Audre Lorde
- Drifting House by Krys Lee
- Beloved by Toni Morrison
- From Trauma and Experience by Cathy Caruth

SUNNY AFTERDEATH

- Koreatown, Los Angeles, 2009.
- Virgin Ghost vs Ktown Bitch
- Mother-daughter relationship
- Afterlife, ancestors, reincarnation
- Intergenerational trauma



Frontier #2

Hellen Jo, 2013

Research

- Encyclopedia of Korean Folk Literature by the National Folk Museum of Korea
- Human Acts by Han Kang
- The Vegetarian by Han Kang
- The Song of Ariran by Kim San and Nym Wales

Kumiho (To You, The Nine - Tailed Fox)

- Seoul, 1980-90s
- Intergenerational trauma
- Effects of colonization on family, language
- Myths as reminders of history





The Shaman's Apprentice

Tiger Hunting in Korea
Lauren Hana Chai, 2016

Sanshin - Mountain Gods



Manshin Hiah Park





Reading

Kumiho (To You, the Nine Tailed Fox)