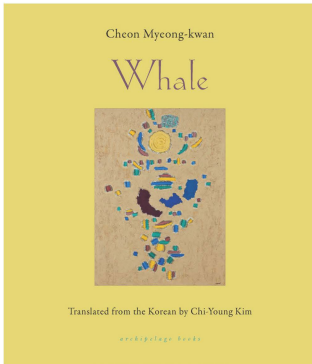


# Whale shortlisted for the 2023 International Booker Prize!

Trade paperback original · \$22 US / \$29 CAN · ISBN: 978-1-953861-14-6 · 372 pages



**An adventure-satire of epic proportions**, which sheds new light on the changes Korea experienced in its rapid transition from pre-modern to post-modern society

**Whale is a rollercoaster adventure through Korean history and culture**, a magical and grotesque epic about life and death, liberty and self-fulfilment, dried fish and bricks. —Booker Prize Judges

## ◆ Praise ◆

Told in an omniscient and playful narrative voice, smoothly translated by Chi-Young Kim, this is a distinctly Korean take on *Great Expectations*, a tale of aspiration and folly punctuated with artisanal bricks and dried fish . . . an affecting theme emerges about the sins of mothers, while philosophical notions broach the comic . . . and the profound . . . The novel succeeds thanks to its multi-sensual atmosphere of strangeness and a conflicted protagonist who simply refuses to accept the mundane.

—Christian House, *Financial Times*

A spry, cunning work of invigorated tale-telling. Cheon Myeong-kwan harnesses the ferociously erratic flow of shared narratives, embracing their natural disposition toward salacious detail at every turn. *Whale* is a billowing, boundless novel.

—Justin Walls, *Bookshop.org*

This eccentric debut novel, now shortlisted for the International Booker prize, has oodles of character. The chaotic story succeeds by black wit, even the worst things delivered with brio... [An] extraordinary book.

—John Self, *The Guardian*



CHEON MYEONG-KWAN is a South Korean novelist and screenwriter. Upon publication of his first story, “Frank and I” (2003), he received the prestigious Munhakdongne New Writer Award. His debut novel, *Whale*, was published the following year, won the 10th Munhakdongne Novel Award and became one of the most loved novels in South Korea, where it is regarded as a modern classic.



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