

Unraveling Eunjoo's heritage is a bit like mining for gold—painstaking and seemingly futile. Her family's Korean past and the conditions of their subsequent immigration are as hazy and ever-changing as her mother's moods.

Growing up, she struggled to piece herself together, sifting for truths of her family's heritage while navigating the American culture that now engulfs them. But one thing was always crystal clear: she was expected to marry by twenty-five.

As this dreaded birthday approaches, she dodges her mother's attempts to pair her off with the perfect Christian Korean suitor. Little do her parents know, she is already in a serious relationship with a successful engineer who could tick off a lot of boxes on their checklist for a suitable husband. If only she could reveal this and put an end to the unfolding mad hunt for a suitor. But Sam isn't Korean, nor a Christian; he is Eastern Indian and a devout Hindu.

When combining their lives puts their relationship to the test, Eunjoo must decide whom to please, whom to lean on for help, and whom she wants to become.

In *dog dreams*, En Park crafts a tale of love, expectations, and identity, traversing not only the struggles of crosscultural relationships but the deep need to be understood, loved, and supported by those who matter most.

en park decided to reinvent herself after a long career running public relations campaigns for new technology, start-ups, and deep-blue sky sciences, pursuing her passion as a writer with blind abandon. Growing up Korean-American in the 1980s, En struggled to find role models, feel a sense of belonging, and embrace a clear self-identity. Instead, she grew up on a regular media diet of the Huxtables and Oprah, but never felt that community was her own. As a misfit with a Korean father who asked her to explain new things like the word "constipation" and ultra-religious parents who unknowingly selected triple-X-rated videos for family movie night, she had to develop a sense of humor to survive into adulthood.

Today, she believes the kids of her cultural duality are so lucky to have Awkwafina.

read by the author

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