



The Story of Hong Gildong (Penguin Classics)

From Kang Minsoo

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The Story of Hong Gildong (Penguin Classics) From Kang Minsoo

A new, definitive translation of the quintessential Korean classic: the Robin Hood story of a magical boy who joins a group of robber bandits and becomes a king

*Selected as a Best Book of the Year by *NPR* and *The Washington Post**

The Story of Hong Gildong is arguably the single most important work of classic Korean fiction. A fantastic story of adventure, it has been adapted into countless movies, television shows, novels, and comics in Korea. Until now, the earliest and fullest text of this incredible fable has been inaccessible to English readers.

Hong Gildong, the brilliant but illegitimate son of a noble government minister, cannot advance in society due to his second-class status, so he leaves home and becomes the leader of a band of outlaws. On the way to building his own empire and gaining acceptance from his family, Hong Gildong vanquishes assassins, battles monsters, and conquers kingdoms. Minsoo Kang's expressive and lively new translation finally makes the authoritative text of this premodern tale available in English, reintroducing a noble and righteous outlaw and sharing a beloved hallmark of Korean culture.

"Hong Gildong is an iconic figure in the Korean literary canon...He's the mythic center of a sometimes-delightful, sometimes-unsettling tale, and it's time the Western world gets to know him." —*NPR*

"[A] marvel-filled swashbuckler...Besides being half fairy tale, half social protest novel, *The Story of Hong Gildong* possesses a profound resonance for modern Koreans." —**Michael Dirda, *The Washington Post***

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translators.

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The Story of Hong Gildong (Penguin Classics) From Kang Minsoo Bibliography

- Rank: #188533 in Books
- Brand: Kang Minsoo
- Published on: 2016-03-15
- Released on: 2016-03-15
- Original language: Korean
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.71" h x .35" w x 5.07" l, 1.00 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 128 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"[A] marvel-filled swashbuckler...*The Story of Hong Gildong* begins to resemble a sword-and-sorcery fantasy in the mode of the film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*...Besides being half fairy tale, half social protest novel, *The Story of Hong Gildong* possesses a profound resonance for modern Koreans."

—Michael Dirda, *The Washington Post*

"Hong Gildong is an iconic figure in the Korean literary canon...He's the mythic center of a sometimes-delightful, sometimes-unsettling tale, and it's time the Western world gets to know him...The edition Kang has delivered is a chewy one, combining historical context and the archness of myth with wry personality."

—NPR

"Minsoo Kang's long-anticipated and eminently readable translation of this Korean classic, with his incisive introduction, makes this edition of *Hong Gildong* indispensable for both casual readers and scholars of Korean literature."

—Heinz Insu Fenkl

"[An] engaging, essential tale."

—Publisher's Weekly, "Pick of the Week"

"Wonderfully complex, rich with moral questions, and an easy read, like a fairy tale."

—Asymptote

"If you read only one book about Korean heroic outlaws this season, this should be the one."

—Kirkus

"For such a slim volume, *The Story of Hong Gildong* has an incredible array of implications for scholars of history, Korean literary history, and even contemporary political life...[Kang's] engagement with the radical contours that would spread to East Asia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries brings a welcome critical eye to a story that deserves to be cherished as a massively influential piece of fiction, but maybe not as a blueprint for a new world."

—Asian Review

About the Author

Minsoo Kang is an associate professor of European history at University of Missouri-St. Louis. He is the author of *Sublime Dreams of Living Machines: The Automaton in the European Imagination* and coeditor of *Visions of the Industrial Age, 1830–1914: Modernity and the Anxiety of Representation in Europe*. He is also the author of a short story collection, *Of Tales and Enigmas*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Peter Tesch:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading habit give you

lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with training books but if you want feel happy read one using theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The actual The Story of Hong Gildong (Penguin Classics) is kind of publication which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Antoinette Hagen:

The actual book The Story of Hong Gildong (Penguin Classics) has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was authored by the very famous author. The author makes some research before write this book. This book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this article book.

Michael Berry:

Reading a book to get new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to examine a book. When you read a book you can get a lot of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your analysis, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, such us novel, comics, in addition to soon. The The Story of Hong Gildong (Penguin Classics) will give you new experience in reading through a book.

Lashunda McCloud:

Many people spending their moment by playing outside together with friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV 24 hours a day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, do you think reading a book will surely hard because you have to take the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Cell phone. Like The Story of Hong Gildong (Penguin Classics) which is obtaining the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's find.

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