

MORE ABOUT HWANG SOK-YONG'S BOOKS AT ZULMA

"Hwang Sok-yong is undoubtedly the most powerful novelistic voice in East Asia today."

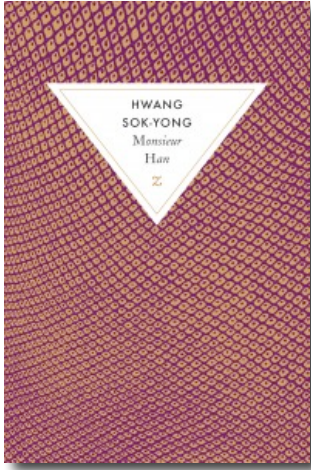
KENZABURO OE, WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

THE AUTHOR

Hwang Sok-yong is indisputably one of the greatest Asian writers of his generation. Born in 1943, his work reflects the many torments Korea has survived. A courageous and dissident author during the dictatorship, Hwang Sok-Yong is adulated by Korean students and intellectuals. He has received many literary prizes and is one of those writers whose work is read and appreciated equally in the South and North. He has published seven books at Editions Zulma; his work has been translated in many languages.

HWANG SOK-YONG'S BOOKS AT ZULMA

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> **MONSIEUR HAN**

October 2010, 160 pages

Original language: Korean

Hwang Sok-yong's first novel, *Monsieur Han* is a classic of contemporary Korean literature.

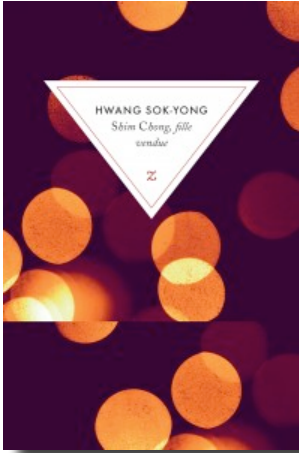
The captivating story of a doctor's life during the Korean War, *Monsieur Han* is a landmark in contemporary Korean literature. Separated from his family, suddenly plunged into a universe of corruption and suspicion, Han is confronted with the perniciousness of his new situation. Through his main character's tribulations, Hwang Sok-yong paints a cruel portrait of a world divided into North and South, in the throes of ideological torment, torn between lucidity and sheer idealism, submission and betrayal. The pathetic beauty of the character Candide, a prisoner of history's machination, emerges from this torment.

Han seems to be constantly sitting on a fence, scrupulous to the point of absurdity, tossed around by events, drifting in a hostile world. A Kafkaian hero par excellence, slithering down the stairway that leads to poverty and a miserable death.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE

RIGHTS SOLD IN :

Italy (Baldini Castoldi), **Sweden** (Bonniers), **Norway** (Solum), **Germany** (DTV).



> *SHIM CHONG, FILLE VENDUE*

January 2010, 564 pages

Original language: Korean

A novelist with epic force and the commitment of a Zola, Dos Passos or Solzhenitsyn, nourished by a sharp knowledge of history and its momentum, Hwang Sok-yong evokes a universe that has been cruelly shaken by wars and struggles for power.

The 19th century is drawing to a close in the destitute rural lands of South Korea, struggling under the taxes of administrators and noblemen. In these times of hunger and corruption, burgeoning wars and medieval lawlessness, the traffic of children and young girls – the former to work as slaves or be crippled to join the countless population of beggars, the latter sold to brothels – is a trade with its own rules and customs, against a background of widespread corruption and trafficking in South East Asia.

The young Shim Chong hasn't slipped through the net: sold to the Chinese when she was very young, she has made up her mind to escape the ferocious rule of pimps and male predators. The ensuing adventure is an enlightening one. On her bumpy and eventful trail, strewn with ordeals and un hoped-for opportunities, we discover all the reality of one life within the greater history surrounding it.

Through the story of a *sold girl*, one Korean child submerged by thousands of years of fatalism, Hwang Sok-yong brings us an impressive saga about prostitution and the professions of seduction in South East Asia.

RIGHTS SOLD IN :

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(Seven Stories)

SHIM CHONG, FILLE VENDUE
HWANG Sok-yong

– PRESS –

Shim Chong, fille vendue is constructed like a bridge over literary times and History. By blending g shapes, styles and periods, Hwang Sok-yong sprinkles echoes and allusions throughout his novel, creating a continuous impression of dizziness and depth.

Nils C. Ahl, *LE MONDE DES LIVRES*

In constant ebullition, Hwang Sok-yong also travels through the history of his country, across its past, the present, and future.

Marine Landrot, *TELERAMA*

A complete storyteller, Hwang Sok-yong is equally eloquent and convincing in the distant past.

Françoise Dargent, *LE FIGARO LITTERAIRE*

In Shim Chong, fille vendue, Hwang Sok-yong, currently considered as the greatest contemporary South Korean writer, reaffirms his very powerful imagination.

Jean-Claude Perrier, *LIVRES HEBDO*

From darkest poverty to courtesan's life, Shim Chong travels accross an orient made of mud and tears with one luggage only, this pride and this insolence that she won't stop brandishing against men's concupiscence.

LIRE



> *LE VIEUX JARDIN*
(*THE OLD GARDEN*)

September 2005, 576 pages

Original language: Korean

***With great poignancy, Hwang Sok-yong tackles the eternal questions —
the endurance of love, the price we pay for a cause***

Political prisoner n° 1444, O Hyônu, is freed from prison after eighteen years to find no trace of the world he knew. The friends with whom he shared his utopian dreams have disappeared. 'His' Seoul has been unrecognizably transformed, brutally modernized. Han Yunhi, the woman he loved, died three years before his liberation. A broken man, he drifts toward a small house in Kalmoe, where he and Yunhi once stole a few fleeting months of happiness in hiding from the authorities. With only her diaries for company, he relives and reviews his life, trying to find meaning in the revolutionary struggle that consumed their youth — a time of great energy and optimism, now devoured by the implacable grind of history.

Hyônu weighs up his own life, spent in prison, and that of the strong-willed artist Yunhi, whose involvement in rebel groups took her to Berlin and the fall of the wall. With great poignancy, Hwang Sok-yong tackles the eternal questions — the endurance of love, the price we pay for a cause — while depicting a generation that sacrificed its youth, freedom, and often life for the dream of a better tomorrow. Through the eyes of O Hyônu, the author assesses contemporary South Korea, whose 'masses have fallen into inertia', whose 'youth has traded idealism for hedonism, hypocrisy, and opportunism — the qualities required for success'.

RIGHTS SOLD IN :

Germany (DTV), Greece (Livanis), Sweden (Bonniers), UK & Commonwealth (Picador), USA (Seven Stories)

> *L'INVITE*
(*THE GUEST*)

September 2004, 288 pages

Original language: Korean

***Carnage and forgiveness in a country, a village and even in a family:
the result of alien ideologies imposed on Korea.***

The guest is Ryu Yosop, a preacher living in exile in the USA. He returns to his homeland in North Korea to see his family. His will be a difficult task: that of reconciling the souls of the dead and the living.

RIGHTS SOLD IN :

Brazil (Tinta Negra), **Germany** (DTV), **Israel** (Kinneret), **Italy** (Baldini Castoldi), **UK (worldrights)**
(Seven Stories)

> *LES TERRES ETRANGERES*
(*FOREIGN LANDS*)

April 2004, 192 pages

Original language: Korean

A building site on the shores of the Yellow Sea, or on the outskirts of Seoul, men strive to survive the human conditions of the labourer in the 60s. A tragic population on the border of violence and sacrifice, despair and resignation.

> *L'OMBRE DES ARMES*
(*THE SHADOW OF ARMS*)

April 2003, 656 pages

Original language: Korean

***Rackets, string-pulling, deals, blackmail, guerrilla and US military operations
against a background of barbarity.***

In the middle of the Vietnam war, Ahn Yeong-kyu, a young corporal in the Korean army, is posted to the allied forces' investigation department in Da Nang. His job is to keep an eye on the black market, which is rife. In the backstreets of the Lê Loi market, he discovers the fates of Pham Quyen, commandant of the South Vietnamese army, and his younger brother Pham Minh, who joined the Vietcong. But also the American Stapley, the Korean Hae-jeong, Madam Lin, and Master Trinh...

RIGHTS SOLD IN :

Italy (Baldini Castoldi), **The Netherlands** (De Arbeiderspers)

> *LA ROUTE DE SAMPO*
(*THE SAMPO ROAD*)

April 2002, 144 pages

Original language: Korean

A collection of short stories

A man recalls his childhood with Tægum, the young girl who looked after him. Weeds have overrun the ruins of his district now devastated by war, and where Tægum, driven out of her mind, wanders aimlessly. With the same ease, the scars and failings of humanity betray a Korean soldier posted in Vietnam; a naïve wrestling champion who's a bit of a gigolo; two day labourers and a prostitute on their way to Sampo. Through just four narratives, Hwang Sok-Yong exposes the wrenching apart of a whole country.