

Failed Summer Vacation By Heuijung Hur



Translated from Korean by
Paige Aniyah Morris

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**‘This summer vacation is
not a complete failure
quite yet – there’s still a
lot left we can ruin.’**

**The debut collection of genre-defying short stories from the
Korean Literature and Society’s New Writer Award.**

Seven diversely wild and gripping stories – dreamy, dark, lyrical and wry – that expose the oddness of how we live and how we might come to live. Moving between science fiction, surrealism, speculative fiction and uncanny realism, these are rich and exhilarating stories that will haunt your summer.

‘Pack your bags – we’re going somewhere totally weird this summer. *Failed Summer Vacation* is a slippery collection that follows desire lines to unexpected places. Strong voices and strange concepts merge to create unforgettable narrative knots. It’s going to haunt me for a while.’ **Alice Slater, author of *Death of a Bookseller*.**

‘A bold, weird, brave exploration of the imagination.’ **Vanessa Onwuemezi, author of *Dark Neighbourhood*.**

‘These strange stories of isolation and longing will stay with you – puzzles you can’t quite solve.’ **Jessie Greengrass, author of *Sight* and *The High House*.**

‘Hur’s stories force us to reconsider our reality, trace back our memories, re-examine our lives. A unique experience.’ **Bora Chung, author of *Cursed Bunny*.**

‘Adventurous, experimental, and brimming with wit.’ **Gu Byeong-mo, author of *The Old Woman With the Knife***

‘I have a craving for mysteries I can’t solve and this most definitely scratched that itch! The stories in this collection explore isolation, longing, and the human imagination. All things that plague me (and many of us) during the summer months. There is often a pressure to associate summer with happiness, unequivocal warmth. for me however, summer holidays often come with the very same questions explored in this collection, and give rise to deep thoughts about my future, my present, and how I want to be in the world. That’s exactly what these stories explore, and so they made me feel seen, in a way that I didn’t know I needed; and that’s what all the best literature should do. would 1000% recommend picking up a copy if you are also prone to the summer existential questions, lying on a beach thinking about the nature of humanity.’ **_Lou.Reads, Instagram.**

‘An isolating and imaginatively off-kilter collection of short stories. Loneliness, transformation, disembodied memories, some outstanding combination of symbols translated into entire syntactic clauses – a little bit of everything really.’ **Just_the_books, Instagram.**

‘A weird and wonderful collection of short stories. From a man made of paper to giant triangles falling from the sky, each story feels like a detour you didn’t plan but are glad you took. Strange, smart, and slightly unsettling in the best way. None of the stories offer clear resolutions, leaving you guessing, pondering, and itching to reread with fresh eyes. I loved it!’ **tash.is.reading, Instagram**

‘This was such an interesting short story collection, with insightful reflections on a range of themes. I love it when short stories instantly draw you in and these were all so enticing, instantly engaging me in the narrative. From weird and experimental plots to thought-provoking musings, this was such a brilliant collection that I’d highly recommend. Imaginative, exciting and perfect to read this summer!’ **Things Amy Read, Instagram.**

Heuijung Hur is the winner of the Korean Literature and Society New Writer Award Winner. Her work has appeared in *The White Review*.

Paige Aniyah Morris is the co-translator of Han Kang’s forthcoming *We Do Not Part*.

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Available from **Central Books** and **Gardners**. All inquiries, contact Tom Conaghan at Tom@scratchbooks.org