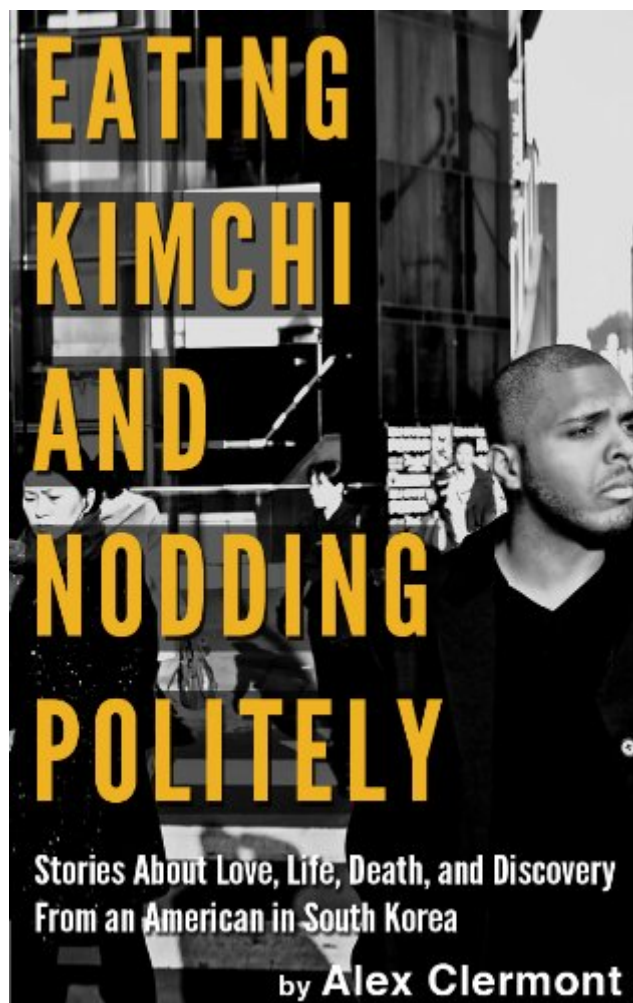




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# **Eating Kimchi And Nodding Politely: Stories About Love, Life, Death And Discovery From An American In South Korea**



## Synopsis

Imagine leaving behind everybody and everything familiar to live in a foreign country where you don't speak the language and don't know a soul. Imagine you wrote a book about your time there...Eating Kimchi and Nodding Politely is a collection of snapshots that cover the two years of an English teacher living abroad in South Korea. Written with a flair for humor, emotion, character and depth, these introspective narratives are not a travel guide. They are creatively written windows into the life of someone discovering new things about himself, the world, and the people who he shares it with- all while stuffing his mouth with kimchi.

## Book Information

File Size: 704 KB

Print Length: 84 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: See The Sun (May 15, 2012)

Publication Date: May 15, 2012

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0083NUMQS

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #742,643 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #42

in Kindle Store > Books > Travel > Asia > South Korea > General #851 in Kindle Store > Kindle Short Reads > Two hours or more (65-100 pages) > Travel #936 in Kindle Store > Kindle Short Reads > Two hours or more (65-100 pages) > Biographies & Memoirs

## Customer Reviews

Traveling halfway around the world to live and work in another country, whether for the short term or longer is by no means an easy task. Some might do it out of a sense of adventure or variety is the spice of life thing; others might do it out of economy and necessity. Whatever the reason, it is the road less traveled in that famous Robert Frost poem. That's exactly what Alex Clermont did and

what he eloquently describes in *Eating Kimchi and Nodding Politely: Stories About Love, Life, Death and Discover* from an American in South Korea. Clermont who came to Korea to teach English offers insights into a way of life which has become the norm for thousands of expatriates who have followed suit. Having lived and worked in Korea since 1990, I could identify with many of the trials and tribulations Clermont went through during his sojourn in Korea. There is something to be said about those who make a life-defining decision to travel halfway around the world to teach English. To be sure, when I decided to come to Korea in December 1990, that life-defining moment changed my life forever. The same can be said for Clermont and the experiences he describes in his book. From describing his first taste of Korea when he samples kimchi for the first time to his triumphs as an English teacher, the book is engaging and illuminating. Although this reads like a memoir, there is much more on a creative nonfiction feel to the stories. Instead of, "I did this" and then "I did that" there is a lot more creative freedom going on here. That's what I liked most about Clermont's book. If you are planning to take the road less traveled by coming to Korea to teach English, I highly recommend this book. Jeffrey Miller, Author of *Waking Up in the Land of the Morning Calm*

The stories are relatively interesting, but the writing is spotty. Occasionally well crafted and structured passages turn sophomoric and appear slap-dash. Would have enjoyed more about Korea and its customs, and less about his love life. But that's just what I was looking for. The chapter on his brother's death (not spoiling anything) was out of context, but beautifully written and generated tears.

I stumbled upon this book via a tweet from the personable @AlexClermont. It doesn't take much for me to agree to read and the title was enticing. I was not disappointed with a) writing style, b) subject matter and c) mixture of emotions it evoked. Alex I believe is destined to become a big star in the literary world as he writes with such ease and makes the reader immerse in his writing on both sublime and conscious levels. The actual book lets the reader step into South Korea through the eyes of a foreigner, taking in all the sensory trails along each journey and unfolds into a life of its own. Reader beware you may develop have the travel bug with the special guidance of this wonderful author! A great read and I give it five stars. Kerry Pintado

Alex Clermont doesn't have to tell me a story: I simply enjoy listening to his author's voice. There's a music to it, a bit like the music of NYC or Seoul: you are drawn to the moments of relative silence, when time seems suspended. When Alex is not listening to the noise but to his own beat, and

realizes it's somehow synced with the city's most vital pulse. Who cares if you dig Brooklyn or if you like kimchi? That's the place where you find your voice, where you face yourself. Where you accept your own alienness as an author. When gloves and masks are off, Alex can deliver powerful punches as well as delicate moments of pure grace. And with such a level of intimacy, the reader is never sitting comfortably beyond the ropes. But you never get hurt yourself: the author always remains this friendly and humane figure, with a most sincere and disarming smile.

I loved this book! I wish it was longer, that's the only complaint I have. Little snippets of life as an American in Korean. Very entertaining.

An awesome story told absolutely from the heart. The ending left me wanting more. A person takes a tough situation and decides to go out on a limb to make things better. Money does not buy you happiness - finding your passion does.

If you are considering a working trip to Korea or you are simply curious - then I would recommend this concise read. On a deeper level this read is really insightful into the mindset of young westerners resulting from the current world economic state and how it is they end up on these 'working holidays'. If I had one critique - I'd would say its needs to be longer!!!

A very surface skimming read. Wish he had expressed his observations a bit more in depth. In two years over there i would think he wpuld have been able to experience a deeper appreciation of the culture, his using of korean in written form from time to time with no translation was a bit off as well. Very superficial and flowed unevenly

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