Adapted Podcast ([00:00:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=xcLZT6Vbr-SiaKcfhoi4ty3iCpAvDSm19MW9d4-hwVo_m0zPyJ7sE78cEu1VKRXWQjf3CEgcpOxMh3B_zGANpa0V9Gk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4.15)):

Welcome to adapted podcast. Season five, episode 18 starts now

Speaker 2 ([00:00:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Hoy3x1E59eftb3izya9k_2i8o33p7EfWVDkJyFBDrU38Zt5Va5z60L_CVnZGOpmfRKKaTD_EUVC_ZAQII7SPnAyV4v4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=19)):

Feel the sun rising from below. I keep running. I keep running to a place where no one knows

Kim Stoker ([00:00:28](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=bYGUbmLe6JLxWqq5YJnZD_NEOdiRuSUBN9j6lvE4_LwCIHZ6ileBzs9jjY89HOFFbhcEvg-uZuHr4kMStw6PGpGg_dA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=28.57)):

People who haven't been to, where you were living, have very little interest in hearing about what you have to say.

Speaker 2 ([00:00:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=A2gq3qqTAxAY3qU1ldUoA7qa2ViIn8IO-py6dUzQFXMnb7uNm0TPAylaL_JePqivl0O2TLLqbd_gXckSJtUV2_Ct8TA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=38.3)):

Nowhere to go. I drove the other day from where I,

Adapted Podcast ([00:00:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=CVi50LjFzS8G6obq-OFItcpLg7P6mgEFAOB7bje_PaMhGueMyQqzfOvHZR-d-DSij3FHFpvc_Q93yVsmVTAHmAWqEi0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=58.34)):

These next guests need no introduction, but they definitely deserve one adoptee activist, pioneers, Kim Stoker, and Kim Thompson. Sit down to talk to me about life. Post, post Korea, all three of us left Korea. The last time, about five years ago, Kim Thompson and Kim Stoker, who goes by just Stoker. I left behind years and years of the lives. They had built up there, friends and memories and experiences that shaped them into adulthood. I was already well into AMA age when I moved to Korea to start this podcast in 2016. And many of you have heard me say, I stayed only a year. Despite those differences, our lives crossed paths in some strangely wonderful ways. Buckle up as Kim and Stoker dish up some wisdom and snark. And you'll wanna listen to the end for an update about adoptee activism in Korea now onto the show.

Kim Stoker ([00:02:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=kcC9i34dYcckDMgaeaIBuwUMJxyYPxbJaHk9BHjcqdqmyFBKfWBrkch-VjO15CZUUdYKxGLpLMD1O-YndD5F0ZgO92U&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=123.33)):

Sure. My name's Kim Stoker and it's a pleasure to be on this podcast again. I think it was 2018. Was it season two? Kaomi, or season one for you? When I first came on,

Adapted Podcast ([00:02:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=inaBE0SeNCp6LRKz3QKhGt2970Xu_h5Fp7lwrP-6ZT5oNZqJxEiXK0_j7tgUdpuMzi8NOV86p7iEuhYRphB42rdxKWk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=139.21)):

I think it was season one because I was still in, Korea correct? Yeah. Oh, okay. So yeah, season one and we might have, yeah. I left in 2017, so we would've probably done it in 2017.

Kim Stoker ([00:02:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=qtuG4IVSoCc97J7lZrCpo4INq0Cp0rjiwHfQZq7HV8YVpkSi7E_6bvTWOwTIKq488QIr2vkzzAmnBEFfrbNzCkfmwGs&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=155.46)):

Oh, was it? Oh, wait, what am I thinking? Gosh, what am I thinking? I, I, I left Korea 2017, so it wasn't 2018. See, this is what happens the past. So I left in, yeah, it's just all kind of a blur. I think I must have done your podcast in 2016. That's me back in the us since 2017. It's almost been five years and a five years just has gone by and a complete blur, but I was in Korea for almost 20 years.

Adapted Podcast ([00:03:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=i4TfQdLE5-v0BeTBUZYTy9kKVWjHXe75g9SGDMgZfgIFoQZ_Tkh_o1AhRo5FchXtGtn9LgSk4_ulDco6yN8-pruZSpc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=185.88)):

All right. Yeah. And if you, anyone listening wants to go back and listen to that episode, it was really, really interesting that one stayed with a lot of listeners for a while actually. And, and Kim's too you wanna introduce yourself, Kim?

Kim Thompson ([00:03:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=wA8kuX8H70K_jMXS6Exj6mzaCUuAUL45VfBom8f04CC2ADT52Y_5lhBjQGJUNFtuqoDKBYEO4htTN7SB9MG8wE5z_x0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=202.93)):

I'm Kim Thompson and I am living in Portland, Oregon. Now last time I, when I, the first time I was on, I was living in Minneapolis and I had just been back from Korea for about a year, I believe. So I also left Korea in 2017 and it's been just over five years now of being back in the states, which is craziness to me.

Adapted Podcast ([00:03:49](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Fow9uEW0V6OIeNdqxKiblCHCiP7TJHyFLa9BbGFW0jJkEe1QgLsypHiRsxxVdBpj3eQ7Ff39sko_XdUk6ARjKkQOUaU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=229.98)):

Yeah. It's interesting. We all kind of left at the same time. I mean, within a window

Kim Stoker ([00:03:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=u4oMm48BQ_54HpcnjSBgyOYB6FSBhwReVHrqAho7d4ylkWV9qpBkcnvEyLHEQ_YT55ib4qxhoKMcH7_QnK6GdloOuo4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=235.07)):

Within one calendar year. Right?

Adapted Podcast ([00:03:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=oOj_5YkVU5sYyAlb6zBTqQbEV8WAJKB_KTRWAjn8UxNvgfDQmUMFfxxkwJ2m8GgTMIvlcAz-03WRsOQJNnYYG7pOVgs&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=237.24)):

Yeah. Interesting. So that'll be interesting to unpack, you know, five years being back you know, something, this is kind of surreal, but I remember Kim, you were on a podcast called. "We Have White Names."

Kim Thompson ([00:04:11](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=QRHJJOwZAA-RrlsajDpw4_tKR6GcUEX74jtGvUAOaw3BM6Y-MF5SZtaxBHe4xG6nbDsd95AlTQyVOtPhF8AVLGbTn9E&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=251.41)):

With Stoker.

Adapted Podcast ([00:04:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=oFZpAgPp_RHYNqjmsUcCZb09gB4uHPptxN27bEUBAJLCP4QcxB_cRlghNoQ-yzm_ShjfbGfjRIe0VOlqDJEg51jw9-U&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=252.41)):

I know. And this is so meta because here we are, again, I called, I called into that podcast because you were talking about,

Kim Thompson ([00:04:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ArAXRDhljYMfczO7gq6Javp57AaGKc9dpJU0nL__SQ2kNQQs8wgeERPErVdzT_rX00znLl_HP0q1P1fuYwGxmZu3fww&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=261.02)):

Oh, right,

Adapted Podcast ([00:04:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=rRzyKpm1tkYZDGqub_fikMQ8Knx9JjBp7KBg7QnSeBYy7yKGgK-pmPG4oK6WIb87LWgNN3U3i_WGMVz87noK8lRo62k&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=262.01)):

Right. You were talking about names and people were talking about, you know, what, it's like having like a quote unquote white name and people thinking you're going to be white when you walk in. And then I called in saying, well, you know, having a Japanese name, people didn't really, I didn't really have that really. I mean more that no one could say my name. So that was also like, you know, difficult. But so I called in and this was before I knew any view. And so it's just, I was thinking about this, like, yeah, the first time I called in and, you know, and I think even Kim had asked me, you had asked me questions about it, but what was it like how, you know, I had a Japanese name, German last name. So it's just, it's crazy here we are. And the, and Stoker you on it too.

Kim Stoker ([00:05:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=4O4PFFZKaTyymOmJwp2YWqWomB_39vRA3829j4nHIBNl1lOtq8H3LTQ14oXvungS5ladcLf5bsS6AWxaI3QDSEvzky8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=310.16)):

Yeah. And so, as you were talking about that, I do remember that. So gosh, those were in the, the nascent days of podcasting, you know, and, and it was I remember listening, I think Kim did we do too? Or did we do three episodes?

Kim Thompson ([00:05:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=GLmwJtw7c4SBH75XXJ6tpIQKjTMq27pImMZeGfnAZv8aL5AlMbtsLLrqGnGbzLL1q6RIrHbl7j3Z5Tp4ZQSZ-uh3emQ&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=330.38)):

I think maybe three. It was a very short, I know

Kim Stoker ([00:05:32](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=2qZkibprxl8XTNtPbme90HgqwkxWfLzJJb63pUGZYEZnFL43pg3X8j5H8XoaHDzxzFDBFQWj7eDWPM8DPDJ2UbpQaIg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=332.88)):

One was, I don't feel like the quality probably wasn't very good, but I do remember Kaomi, you calling in, right? Yeah.

Adapted Podcast ([00:05:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=GJwh4sxPsGt5NqNwf3DrkfhdCHDKVKz7uzcqPcUVtSamLETn1mkYzf9ZpHgRbe_Bn4-_KJ5H4enNL0Ev02ry0rjJwmU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=342.26)):

Yeah. It was kind of cutting edge for the time. And how did I call in? And

Kim Stoker ([00:05:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=VwqQI-TCGjBOpG786kjsqA4V9pxxE98weMUfKt9jnoCngG6xHNbpimCGLohobpnaxxlOsUUuPyYzOZRn6fIlZnuRtSY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=346.58)):

Right.

Adapted Podcast ([00:05:47](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=varCNUsFZtT7UQsHAGYyzHi5Zrb7zkXYHNXE8QLo9lWI2VcyMKUAodJcERe8DqIXib5otuk0laT2v0QYfQ-DsdjyXFM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=347.42)):

Kevin Vollmers had that all figured out at an early,

Kim Stoker ([00:05:51](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=CFWKnq_15fWA7e2cipZxvgy6pmYhb5z8B4IS9nkK9tEBPPm8gFnj96UO83B7wg1YRusWo9BS6dV5uWHKe9O2_T_2s78&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=351.21)):

They, they must be located somewhere in the, in the cloud. That is the internet.

Kim Thompson ([00:05:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=fp7PV8F33YJ4wYr4ZUv9m2dAp9-mu_UTV7dcGShE5hh3aaP3ngIHs26Z1gZiuV1pZhWXPPdPxeKxR5sOdrkw0eTcOtI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=357.279)):

All right. Welcome to, we have white names and this is Kim Thompson. I'm here with Stoker and Kevin will be with us shortly. And we, we talking about unpacking whiteness. So stoking yeah. Back. Oh, and Kevin's back just in time.

Kevin Vollmers ([00:06:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=0lGDwI1P1Jw9PiGaHwF6H92yxwmLb6szmeWqwp9WSGBXMH6p38WJC6EzdFn7cfSln8UI2z1yZd8yQC8EW8Z8V5CebPQ&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=372.35)):

Yeah. So everybody everyone is here. Everyone's clear. Can I just do my introduction? Is that

Kim Thompson ([00:06:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=3KywX_C3EeSjRt7u-_Zcf9nuxbWCZfnNCK-cpzpvPiwhxKHmkFZqDl_Du0mAz509kM2tp80bA4_8BPJjfoBveSjdRcw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=378.029)):

Cool? Yeah. Go for it.

Kevin Vollmers ([00:06:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=GffC0LFUXt7J4vTeNLkR8hvO8TROI6Lgw3zU8e0fUsCBDy27ICEBeoP87sNilR5XSy2a7AzEdiPt98HZlARuCZmSYYE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=380.07)):

All right. So hello, everyone. Welcome back to another episode of,We have white names. My name again is Kevin as Kim had mentioned, and I'm joined by obviously Stoker and Kim Thompson who are joining me from Seoull South Korea. And I'm calling you from Minneapolis, Minnesota today. We're talking about how we have unpacked the greatest gift of all our whiteness and today's episode is. Yeah. And today's episode is brought to you by wonder bread, the whitest substance in the

Kim Thompson ([00:06:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Fnnc6hx6D_P2skSAnY_pboxREOP472E0DQqpQUxOvrHFATB4GLmomtpbeUUfh9GDqVhkj5jBKs5cS8H29cPQJzLKnUg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=406.86)):

<Laugh>.

Kim Thompson ([00:06:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=zGboFci7I4Ngs47cKSfFX4ZP9qSQXHiHxfDOxgIc76nh9p3_LQGnKfX76-Ovbb7mWDQCp43MQUYh7oExNtCryUxnB98&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=408.74)):

Hey, did either of you guys grow up eating wonder bread? My mom wouldn't let me, I wanted it. What, and Stoker and I still have white names. So <laugh> it's well, partially, you know, but white names and yeah. Ish <laugh> what was it?

Adapted Podcast ([00:07:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=6H4CrzgSRvng3gvnv454yBB2QS95WeeumM6r024XxgIFDSaBSmufbnzj6E83A2qVx1m1TpEnSJi0O6XZUBk3p_q1rU0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=426.48)):

What was it like, sort of co-hosting that pod? I mean, what was it, where did you get good calls did, was, was there a lot to talk about?

Kim Stoker ([00:07:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=WrW4Dw0gW5kh2LNwt3CC97P23NbgH390BT3c6BKM17ilKsURyLN6OX4s-YIncRrbGKhsSAOi19wjAT-1ctnIwDlXIPw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=436.6)):

I think we just planned on Kim and I were in Korea. Kevin was in Minneapolis and I

Kim Thompson ([00:07:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=S-jD863mymsc6QMfqIZ3AavAZfcGvFTMhsAf-gMRNS-y5qKNjPmH1MVvgmIMpZWEbbsQ87HLsg5IzU5uMKcqy_1Fark&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=443.4)):

I Think Seongmi

Kim Stoker ([00:07:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=9DLwKMhFiGuSVFViU3cwhexIdXpKf_RX4sV7-BynfiiQQSeR8qdRGt9UeVydU9rAUPgY5DNObLZdc2HB5SR6ntHJ_GU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=445.08)):

Was she on it too?

Kim Thompson ([00:07:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=AhQXSRvkiTael3F4GM7zgj2GPkzJVXp6crHyds90F40DFjBx6qNrTsxvhEFcZzehxawynz8NWFFnGXHSkVWHVXRudsc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=447.35)):

Yeah. I don't remember. She was back in, I think she was maybe back in Minneapolis at that point as well. Gosh, I don't even remember

Kim Stoker ([00:07:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=I_h_9olk7G9oBlnNeWalX8Dj54VwUlG-Y7uumHYiRJb8ITW-mAlApPKyh7RW61Oq3ZUePYDpWgu3pYqimABYFpMisxg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=455.36)):

Anyway. Yeah. We don't remember these things because <laugh>, it was, it was fun though. I remember we, I don't think we ever had anything in terms of anything grasping in terms of what to talk about. I think we were probably partaking in some adult beverages at the time mm-hmm <affirmative> and you know, the conversation just flows good times, right. Yeah.

Kim Thompson ([00:07:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=D2dYHQTJEYVB-M4uJSPFc5_wx_nlCWClbWORM9RBE_HLSTL7_gforYdv0bHOZhioYZitAg7fGIg7aT2GPUhCgB9x-QE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=478.14)):

Right,

Adapted Podcast ([00:07:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=-fTQ-cA-iFM9HsLuyaBJmRifyQv1_P8zEG2mt0PzJVUurpkXTeV6ufgcyG3QIt2B5Hb513m-OOf6rlJFOe1pRbvDWp0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=479.34)):

Right, right. Adoptee, adoptee, rage.

Kim Thompson ([00:08:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=6LKIvIaB_G8pF3_IWfS5gtdoe0Byx5Q8ZQRTcN2onOgxAPOc8bGbOmgdHNmOFXbIqMSgDugTCcjErmJZSMe7CjhQqQs&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=483.41)):

<Laugh>

Kim Stoker ([00:08:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=DxIYd55UX0nNQNRCDHVlX7BaF2UTQtusTeqXmvqNW0wTE0SeER692zYWepiWI1VmI_h3J22iN561l_Px3W7aKaRDaB4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=484.44)):

It's not all about the rage.

Kim Thompson ([00:08:07](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=9Gg9j0uYnbAO-66mDl_Ym5dHeeEqQE7s2-TfEp7qzNOv_1F7lGowhUW3rnlTQhC9TaJqET62CCEzD2E-DcaVT-rr4bc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=487.8)):

I think Stoker and I would like text or kakao each other little snarky comments between yeah. And then we would, it added to our amusement. There we go.

Kim Stoker ([00:08:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=b5OCAO2VwjtedVDh5ESkbee5fbQ6qrrRmLxFEabNP62tS6KdDVg_sCMMzP7EvfQNGhJpt8jXIcEGJ8ANepDLNthvnsI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=497.86)):

But it was fun doing that and, and trying it out in the beginning. It was, I think you right. Came. It was very sort of new newish technology at the time.

Adapted Podcast ([00:08:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=8X_bULgR-LdqM6iJLz247AyKdtLp4oqTDeRpzJc9sc-YIa9HmRGv37hZfi42-Kuqkb8tWTXINxkHxsOH1d6Ws-Op7Ck&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=506.47)):

Mm-Hmm <affirmative> yeah. I think it was before I was podcasting.

Kim Thompson ([00:08:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=LwLpvD3jbSou0CwNKfx7CqdQ6UwISU76g9u2DnDZ1UNRdj5GPcFTBPK8G8M3RKuwpCiv3xbxHJB8GOXB4jqbN-fQMTI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=509.97)):

Oh yeah. Yeah.

Adapted Podcast ([00:08:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=0BudPU3o-kOrASh63b7nXdAjq0pAI8UttSmsJa0XTpYrgHYa6z60Keo83pSCiLtBVI98OzDMGvefvv0x3BikTWguT4Y&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=511.65)):

And so yeah, and I called in and it was just cool cuz yeah. You guys were in Korea and, and then just how kind of strange how life works that I ended up, I mean, you've been on my podcast twice now, but that you, you know, I ended up, you know, getting to know you and interviewing you myself. So

Kim Stoker ([00:08:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=K2X9j5BO2VtVHC7DxM55SJZRbWgiMrJLZtxkKTHRXhriNo2A7FknQL7HBTRXQSjqf8dOzpW43INyIMhmLyPo64gfurI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=535.07)):

Yeah. It's cool. I think it's really fun. How for, for certain people you know, you meet, you end up meeting in Korea because you're involved in something often it's related to, you know, the production of, of some kind of content like for you came, you having the podcast you coming, I think you were back on a Fulbright, right?

Adapted Podcast ([00:09:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=MTJl3M96Iptl0uNjbp7kYVxhKcX_kb2kHTfIUlcKoujbX9Rjobgko4t98xIyzSutPNibZgCPlBBInK3kWvcSXvLsK_c&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=557.9)):

Yeah. I was there on a

Kim Stoker ([00:09:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=XuNjBfQuLRnIN_PZ7vM9RIJ9c7XGAnvFUeEXVyOhGtNY0tKLSTpIgvqnRcGZnHvraTCIKk4lMjD6c3HawTwqzu770UU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=559.19)):

Fulbright, so you're there for a purpose to do things. And, and then, you know, you meet people who are maybe involved in activist stuff, people who are involved in art related stuff. And I think that a lot of those people kind of find each other, right. It's not like we're lawyers or we're, you know, people with MBAs going there to work for home song or something like that. Right. We we're, it's kind of a different expat crowd. And so it's kind of cool to be able to meet up and say, Hey, yeah, you know, like I listened to your podcast or I met you back in the day, now we're all back and just comes around.

Adapted Podcast ([00:09:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=nVIEB-sKI1WUHQR3TYOgDEqMj3QE9dP7NLdzQoSPb6Qi7uOnn5_B4-6GucJmgUbMp7CRVg-uXdUH8OaxAwb02oP-6Os&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=598.09)):

<Laugh> so you know, I'm in St. Paul, Minnesota, which is where my family is. And I, I ended up, you know, with a job and, and stayed here. And Kim you're in Portland, as you said, and Stoker, where are you these days?

Kim Stoker ([00:10:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=IyVd2zrmeWo4AMG2o0iBVTOE8BgbziAMfCD5klvpPoONdV62s4lPeaGhd72Vtd60t2B8IREsmpchi5R9aJw1xMRVYOI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=615.6)):

I am in the fabulous state of Idaho, probably one of the only adopted Koreans presently living in the state of Idaho. I

Kim Thompson ([00:10:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=HqrXKWD6l6FsxK7xiwzu9UMOY0BprZH8Sl68Y5JjTY2pQptKuldTofqssH-I8SJyE5FCC9n8BK7l4sDGUItaCtoEKD8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=630.07)):

Know, except for the night, the night that I drove through and spent the night that there were two of us.

Kim Stoker ([00:10:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=_qu096B_J0paTVSSNuM9ZoARGmS7wA4GUL7GvIZqZ0e_E3WTwlQ_uCO3HIDltJ9fyj99vhF5BOiPX-kKuR6NjfVT9ZA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=635.11)):

I know there, there are some, but, but certainly not very many.

Adapted Podcast ([00:10:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=lYIPEbdC8LYy0_Rh3rS8Yex2o57KmfUtsje6ODpRHxorATABZW4rchKuMQObpL-5t7z5fducTVbr99gmXIBOGmWxgu4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=638.75)):

I feel like Idaho in Maine would have like a good, like who has the Le who has the least amount of adoptees like you guys I think would be going for? I don't know. I don't know, but just kind of,

Kim Stoker ([00:10:51](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=TAOYHNXw2_HjiyCA1fz_eAzYLJNyWOpjrfNS2BURYKtODQ7SKrX_Ifow0Me0MFCuglEWtjC6y6BjV72l32bOBf79qK4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=651.44)):

You know, even like Montana, Wyoming, Idaho numbers are probably pretty small. Even North Dakota, even South Dakota, probably numbers are pretty small.

Adapted Podcast ([00:11:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=_BL64mcASfozf3v4DbXASlTBr-vxKsl4zoA5BZPlpzJlH-rU3hmkktSX4lEvQyREFwcH9jmws1acIOsY28NzQ6ioDtg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=663.679)):

So well I'll just start off, kick it off with a little bit about, you know, after you mentioned I was on a Fulbright, it ended, I had these plans to go to Japan. And I think because, you know, it's, I had, you know, my first kind of foray into living and working in Asia was, was in Japan when I was young. So then I ended up back in soul and it was so close to Japan and I had all these memories and I constantly for better, or for worse, I was always like comparing, but I was comparing like Japan 20 years ago to soul, which actually there was some things that were kind of comparable, but yeah. And so I, I, I had this plan and, you know, one way to go over was you know, unlike Korea, which is easy for adoptees to get residency and ability to work there.

Adapted Podcast ([00:12:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=fm_xd4sa8FBinbtpoH9LtWPAhd5uE320tkyl4sOYWRJ5LFAhwYwtFuBsd-4QBYD-q0LwdTYuGPPovoRhG0WJm3wFmQo&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=724.54)):

And you basically, you can self sponsor yourself, but in Japan, you know, I wasn't, I didn't have any of that heritage stuff. So I'd have to go, like, it was really difficult to get a visa. So I was kind of planning like, maybe I'd go and teach, but then I kind of got freaked out about teaching because I don't really wanna go back into teaching English, you know, at, at my age. So, and then I ended up back in Minnesota and I just remember, you know, touching down in Minneapolis and just all the white people. It was, so everybody was much taller and just white. And I just that whole, like, because I just gotten such used to like comfort of living, you know, in a majority place where Asian majority, Korean majority country, and then, you know, just with like overnight, you know, you just land somewhere and it's just, yeah, it's just a different it's culture shock,

Kim Thompson ([00:13:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=3lAJwdd--qA4DifOOWSygOV69c9HFL-jpfsA1hIi8nr0BGAFo-EXfVaUJsv-Zd1FYSS7EzuUymQiA9K4oOj2UWyw3tw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=784.99)):

Man.

Adapted Podcast ([00:13:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=3u9tfGWErjwEXaoTl5CU1krgTNO_hpObEvp-q5Wh6KKP4PSRbrbviY2cn6Fszjc7SsGTUPdY4-AjAh1DQVweV6ueOas&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=785.52)):

Yeah. That was the culture shock. And I don't know, how was it, how was it for, for you all? I mean, having been gone for so long, I mean, I'm assuming you came back and forth, but when you knew you had packed up and like this time, it wasn't just traveling back and forth, but it was actually like everything you owned was, you know, in cargo <laugh>.

Kim Thompson ([00:13:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=c3vWArehaTKrv0rIB-t6poMqrWsoumDk5AMJJBNcywO-saW4ikdW7RRaqywIBu5HCLhSARBujv05E52T5LCjJbx6i9M&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=809.82)):

Yeah. I mean, for me it was, which I, I don't think is uncommon for many of the adoptees. I know who left Korea. Like I came back with a very broken heart because someone I had loved very much had just passed and who was a mother figured to me. And so she had passed like two, three weeks before I moved. So there was that, and then there were some other personal things going on in my life. So it sort of, there was that blur of just, you know, the whole flying and travel and when you're just jet lagged and tired and you're out of it anyways. And then all of these emotions of, you know, the things going on in my personal life at the time, and then all, and then combined with, you know, these thoughts of like, I chose to leave Korea, like this time, that choice isn't being made for me, I'm making that decision and there's that deeply emotional thing.

Kim Thompson ([00:14:28](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=nDmbXwDo8Ml3kqz7Q__eOCiN5MdjrFxFgSTeJGZTWtktna6gmYDzFpXISps6m9m2u-jL505ZmjSp_ELle0EQ_7_wjaQ&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=868.06)):

And then, yeah, I, I also landed in Minneapolis and I was like, oh, it's so white. It's so loud. People are so loud. Why do I have to hear everything you're saying, why do I understand you? I really miss not understanding people like, so there was all those like kind of practical things. And that was kind of the immediate, but I think as a little bit of time went by, especially in the first month, maybe even year, it was all the other stuff around culture shock. That was really hard to adjust to just about how people relate to each other, about the way you just go about everyday. Life is very different and it's not bad. It's just a different thing. And then combined with, you know, I often say that, I feel like when you live overseas for any stretch of time, I often feel that coming back for me coming back to the states, it's like having been in a coma and it's like, it's like, everyone's life moved on except for years. And yet yours did as well, but it's like, you know, I came back and suddenly all my friends were eight years older and they, a bunch of them suddenly had kids and they had, we had all gone from really struggling to get by to most of them had houses and, and very stable jobs. And, and it was just sort of a, where am I and what's going on. And, and was I as, did I just have an eight year dream? So,

Adapted Podcast ([00:15:51](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=q227GFeE5ADVYoXRLZUtipjw36ZPaHgqvcU8WmCjN1tOGgMi8Lncr1rC7p7yTmvoiQzZDNxAjDDU_qhonr3g5F7v92E&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=951.39)):

And were people just tired of you talking about how good the food in Korea is, or

Kim Thompson ([00:15:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=UZBVoTzEun4L20HLT53NxfHnNiYDTKtFOyEw7Xcelf22Aba8a92DzQnHiFYEvznHpgcpZ_7QjmgPfEXhsBXNHYv8Vfc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=957.17)):

I actually didn't talk about Korea that much when I, I, I probably, I don't feel like I really started talking about Pria until maybe around the time I did the interview with you. But I mean, it even like just looking at a picture of soul would like hurt too much. And so I couldn't look at photos that I had on my phone from for almost two years without it just really hurting. So I, I had a, my thoughts were so loud that sometimes I felt like I was talking about it all the time, but then I would hear from friends that I wasn't talking about it that much. And in terms of food, I not surprisingly, it was a snob about it. So I would kind of snare when someone would be like, oh, this is, you know, there's this really great Korean place here in Minneapolis. And I'd just be, yeah, fine, whatever <laugh>. But it's it actually, I mean, and I'm, I'm very inward with my, with how I process things. And so I feel like in a lot of ways I was very quiet and I was just trying to understand what was happening and I was trying to deal with yeah. A lot of different kinds of heartache.

Adapted Podcast ([00:17:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=b9Z-gvmq-WQPjODlyXuGSkXrKZ9fbCUzsIIeenAOyLIyCI0XMKHA3N-crZoWwWGbDq2i-PepWKCJEeSBTWjCOi-L6Sk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1030.92)):

Yeah. Yeah. For sure. Stoker, I, I know that you kind of had this, I mean, being, you had been away, you had been in Korea off and on for about 20 years, right. That's right. And I think I remember you saying that you had kind of a, you had a, a writing program or something that you were a class or something you were going to do. And I thought to myself, you know, that was really smart. Like, you really knew what you were doing that because, I mean, cuz the culture shock is so real. Like you're lost for, I felt really lost for a good six to eight months after getting back because I just was like, you know, it's sort of like, yeah, time had gone on without you. And I felt like this con I was conflicted as where should I be? Because part of me still wondered if I should still be back in Korea and if this was the right move and there was all this like career stuff that was making me crazy, you know, like, oh if I would've, did you ever watch that movie sliding doors with Gwyneth Paltrow

Kim Stoker ([00:18:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=xcsR7L_AQwEnSr8XavH2lxnK8hbkZlelsYbR6Ztji3i2QIbxgM4xu1T6WqKpjOwYUz0hyhP7rFSlfIge5U5BCWmPfrg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1099.58)):

Many years ago, but people love to reference that movie.

Adapted Podcast ([00:18:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=h_yc7hsgwtf5iDSp5L4FvTbFSJ3XnHlLtVETucZRzf85Wq9afS1bRFnvTMTqDksAZE76xqEOO4ccKPKeXHUqDpTY-Uw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1103.51)):

Yeah. Like we would've taken that movie turn at the corner. Right. Would've gone. Right. And I just constantly, it actually like the whole, I would say for a year and even now like just constantly questioning had I stayed in Korea, where would I be? How would I be compared to, you know, the reality of what I've got now? <Laugh>

Kim Stoker ([00:18:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=4eLN26JHfZoLJ8Pj0R_0rJiYeK-JfuQqtJ1JUpibDxE2Man63FumTza_5bcKjvtZOewSjc4vlR_ZVqKlYkFm9ja6bFQ&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1128.06)):

Well, you know, that kind of sounds like you, you weren't ready to leave.

Adapted Podcast ([00:18:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=rxN3ZwuCd3nNzU-K4I-qwzJFRYAkVMbDYgRo-3FN1QmFBfpSKN1fcsaAg6C3Uvg73oUyjIfsxJSaZeUQNoPTl77DIp4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1132.7)):

Yeah. I mean maybe, maybe that is, I wasn't ready. I mean, it was only there a year and I mm-hmm <affirmative> people, but I was also like having a really, I would say I had a tough time.

Kim Stoker ([00:19:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=b8Qf-75ky57sy8TTAsSQ9PMD6cM-2ZWTacGAY-hBGDhJYczXKIAlxE1MRmyjo1DhhYIXEYMBmxc2TJFerMqrKq_SvvE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1145.93)):

Well, that first year is, is tough.

Adapted Podcast ([00:19:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Qi8IFRmAuGGR3XujSnC7Of5sd-XzSCEo4GHGWMKjWG3Yq9LvXXIwtKUNuehbkr4nAiCHYg0VlQqlI9hcinpFlj6qxCw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1149)):

And that's what I hear from a lot of people that, oh, if you just make it past the first year, you're two year three can be better. And suddenly you wake up and it's year 10, you know? So, but yeah, year it was just really kind of the shock of just throwing myself in. I hadn't spent that much time in Korea prior. So it's like then picking up and moving when you haven't had that much experience in that country, it was just really intense. The, and, and like Kim, what you said about you kind of got annoyed that you could suddenly hear things and conversations. And I actually, when I came back that was actually relief because I was so used to not understanding much going on much of the time that, you know, and, and feeling like a baby, you know, being the way people treated you and the way I could communicate and move through Korea was oftentimes like a, a kid level, you know of so then suddenly coming back to Minnesota and just feeling like back in the us and just feeling like, okay, I have competency again. I I'm an adult again here. I'm an adult here.

Kim Thompson ([00:20:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=QcuUI5lcDhyj7mvYcRmD2x11F9jLqY5FfSVCa9guXwQHc8R1fr_FlrkueaNjsMr1cZzAnzpH0Fpnsu5cEeftC2mjuGg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1219.94)):

I dunno. Yeah. I mean, it's an interesting, I mean, I think it's yeah. Personality types maybe. And then, I mean, cuz I had, you know, what I miss to this day in Korea is there, I felt not invisible, but I blended in, I mean I have my physical appearance, the things about my physical appearance that make me stand out in Korea, but just the color of my skin didn't cause me to stand out and my features didn't cause me to stand out and in Minneapolis I felt like I stood out again and it's not, it wasn't, you know, in this self-centered just, I didn't think that everyone was looking at me, but I was just like, I can't hide. I can't be invisible. I can't blend in. It's a sea of white faces again. And the sea of Korean faces is, you know, now it hurts so much still to be with that. And when I see someone who's east Asian, specifically Creon on the streets here in Portland, I feel like this joy because I feel like, oh, for a second, we're both kind of blending. And it's just, so that was, that's something that I still really miss,

Kim Stoker ([00:21:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Kw27q1vHi8XrigAPfE9l0LNr9P0ofINLcOdpCIyhd6XLCWVnPFj6ZZ99vb31m3kTDCz68011OfHpZjAwZ5GthEMdPvg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1281.01)):

But you know, Kim it's, I know you have your reasons, but dude, you're living in like the widest metropolitans city in the us.

Kim Thompson ([00:21:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=_dIri4IwjZscQHOuXMy20Uk4UDwLjxjxtn-ogleFmf5s1Vtomc8Bkx4951RY2GGcB48ORU-U8sb6VfhKgEYMe60Qitg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1289.65)):

Well, I lived in Minneapolis before, so I think it's pretty neck and neck <laugh> ah,

Kim Stoker ([00:21:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=EIPytPmbdLX_JOC_0J-MuC0CuAYBDnp6QvwdryC4SHV79Qy20N1o2CGNCM1FH1M-TmlSX8jVyAPm2oRZSGXnjzcbN_M&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1294.49)):

Fair enough.

Kim Thompson ([00:21:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=gRYLKKthB7DzZhyxdJZgMIV9Eu6vME3D4ekI5ewMtlNBONsfCyJB5wJ0D6W4SxyzHBBuUMKGiyMqm6JqeuMBcL0c-0w&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1295.53)):

Fair enough. I would say that Portland, at least where I live in Portland compared to Minneapolis, compared to where I lived in Minneapolis, there is a far, there is a much large, higher number of east Asians. Oh. In this area than there were in Minneapolis, at least whom people that I see on the street and in the grocery store and it, I see more east Asians than I did in Minneapolis.

Kim Stoker ([00:22:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=cB5S5855XXgj3kLnYNjir1IikyVlABDwTIJouCFhvL1sWoFo-H5Uek9z8JXvVsLPO2mXsndIS-OmE5sKohHDnXCKsRI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1320.51)):

Oh, how interesting.

Adapted Podcast ([00:22:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=FEPZPCVfmxzXUWUQIon5UETQ4tROKA66BMTLM80tOiEUn4FBQx_zqEkGhThop238_sUmEIrrN256HFySqfGhsrCaQic&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1322.19)):

Yeah. That's that's true. It's probably predominantly Hmong Southeast Asian Cambodian Lao, Vietnamese here and then the adoptees who are sometimes Asian, sometimes not <laugh>.

Kim Stoker ([00:22:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=XXWTBTJcWU6zQK8Sqs-D-9C59gj_toKGsKX881PI6abzdfuRMH7fHEZImvC7xkm9m-B5PFI97HltJdjTHRw4zvjBe_w&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1338.03)):

Well, you know, you, you were saying that you remembered me talking about being, I was in a low, a low residency MFA program. And so I was going back to Los Angeles twice a year. And so I will say that at that time I had kind of been thinking, oh, I'm going to move back to the us at some point in the nearish future. Wasn't necessarily, I didn't necessarily have like a timeframe, but starting that MFA program helped me sort of dip my toes in the water as it were. And more than anything, I, I, for me that program was, was a shock cause I hadn't been in school for 15, I don't know, 15 years. And kind of coming back to being in a, an academic environment in Los Angeles, I had certain expectations and my expectations weren't met. And then there were other things that I hadn't expected that were very culture shocky to me.

Kim Stoker ([00:23:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=MNuzWlnas4fhRjn44MVnA0F1i5h8O0uCX8CY9W2gdUgqTWabw0gvUsIAw3La5EaUx1CM2N-bkL0VyghAA3yT6RcgWfI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1399.98)):

And so that experience was very, very discombobulating. If you're in an MFA program, especially a low residency MFA program, what you do is you do these 10 day residencies where everybody comes to, to wherever it is the school is. And it's like 10 days of very intense workshops and seminars and it's like therapy for cuz all these people you've got non-fiction writers, you've got fiction writers, you've got poets, you've got creative, non-fiction writers. You've got people who are writing for children's books. And so you've got all these writerly types and we're all probably average age is like 35. And, and it's just so much stuff going on. So intense. And that was overwhelming for me. And my program was much less diverse than I thought it would be. And so that was kind of a disappointment for me, but a lot had changed. Like I, I was less in school, in graduate school in 2000 when I finished.

Kim Stoker ([00:24:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=L4b4rBKcPSM7xDmSfFtuWiu2VY89xTkKcgR42137UE4FAw1zx3Z-0C2qYACUCAydd23ZTJ_ig37-y9fa8RbyXZ5yKEA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1457.53)):

And so from 2000 to like 2015, the culture in academia has really changed. Right. You've got like, I felt very you know, I had read a lot about sort of cultural shifts. Right. You know, but when to, in Korea it's like, whatever, nobody, Korea just does. Not a lot of things that apply in the us don't apply in Korea. And so when you're you read about things and then you actually experience them, you know, it's kind of shocking. And, and like, you know, I'd never, I'd never seen people bring service animals into a classroom before I'd never seen gender neutral bathrooms that were designated for actually not, not just like anybody can use it, but you know, had like shower facilities for people who need, who wanted to use. It's just like things like that. And people doing pronouns and stuff. Like I had no idea what the hell, all that was a about. And so that kind of, that was a shock to me. And it was a big adjustment really because when I was in school, I, I, I just think that people were, were less sensitive towards each other. And especially like if you've ever critiqued or done a workshop with writing like that, that was very different from what I thought it would be too. And, and so I kind of came in like a, maybe an insensitive person <laugh> imagine that

Adapted Podcast ([00:25:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=12LHeDd56TgTWVTVNekx1H33h1_Ms9zOkWKThTS8eufjmnKVNlFlvC8ENVMk_T2aUOVQKHRuwZ6q_ZOIM9CTtDhGJK4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1538.04)):

All the identity, identity politics, and

Kim Stoker ([00:25:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=DwZ4ZKnbMKQQsqT-kr7cptdJwBG43I8PRbWmukOVfNl4pK8XGbeKnSN_AZkpSZL2OLirMah6vTzWY4O1BoWkRQZQ5ps&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1541.05)):

Exactly I had to do catch up pretty quickly.

Adapted Podcast ([00:25:44](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=uFUhjRVL9vXZmCeVf-6WxEUkACML-gLIfb9T-bEiA5zvEUGd3rllvSAJOt_LFWcjRsxEtI5t8snm5qb7yqQr10V0V5c&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1544.9)):

<Laugh> that's so funny. You said low re low residency,

Kim Stoker ([00:25:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=podswuYzKbq6THz99qwecUl1cH-QVf3X_uXq5eEiW4CN5FWMGzo-xMUDkBUL7dGsa9y_5HL98L5UWGMDxnA03myWE4c&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1548.619)):

Low residency. Yeah.

Adapted Podcast ([00:25:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=7cpvvC48ox61dni_zBWY79IXG_s-FHsPudDNLLPOBtDOvBhC0D93s0pKEDAl9Ix6JWpnrPsAFDhHo5dBznwNYy7Y7g8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1550.42)):

It just, it, it, it just reminded me of like, you know, minimum security prison or something.

Kim Stoker ([00:25:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=HNkXU3hgFBkYA_wOclwqKOsBY3NUH-KOc4yzVvcnvNIHYjEMwmgxqIqRbjytkT5WeqeBm33WxxFMMjjhXxPjqtEpbRc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1557.359)):

Well, it feels like that. No, I'm joking. It's a thing. It's, you know, it's, it's a, it's a thing with MFA programs. Oh,

Adapted Podcast ([00:26:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=VHit0FbD7CulMBXyplq-6RypsZJKh2fMvblEBROWj4QTO5Kpd7D8TM4oJrYF_KFoyWavZreMDykgJH1HqKMopge-dBg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1564.869)):

Is it like so low? It's just like you come together less. It's not really that

Kim Stoker ([00:26:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=KYs18v8GkLnA4USnwekq1bghj0OMrOZKfxBEqWA3lhPDA-apWaD4mtSbuo8AWM_6v4fmdmXk7MLvLqZo3Y16_7iDYNI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1569.44)):

Yeah. You come together twice a year. And so it, what it does is it allows people to maintain their working life. Right. They don't have to go back to get an MFA for two to three years. And so that's why most of the people in the program are older. And then you do your, you work with a mentor during the semesters and you do exchanges with a cohort and do stuff online. And do you do just all this stuff? Like, it's funny because now, you know, in the past two years people are, if you're a college student, you know, you've been doing a lot of your work virtually and so low, low res MFA is kind of, you're doing that as well. And they're, they're, they're relatively new. They're not they're more and more programs like that all the time. But yeah, it allowed me to stay in Korea to live in Korea and then do my MFA.

Kim Stoker ([00:26:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=7IvweMtXqPJBgFKntjj_dVjDgFpGfwK_UquDgWIKt8w573yKD56Ui8EAw8rMfhZd5izppxTie-sbaR0-uAMW5ZVMMuI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1618.42)):

But then, so what happened is my dad died quite suddenly. And so he got diagnosed with cancer and died in three months. And so when that happened, it was pretty much like, it was really just a complete, no brainer for me. I, I was teaching at OI university at the graduate school of translation and, and interpretation. And the day after I taught my last class, I was on a plane back to the states. And the funny thing about that is that flight, I knew three other people on that flight that were leaving Korea for good. And two of them were adoptees. It was funny. I mean, it wasn't really funny, but it kind of was <laugh> two were going to Minneapolis. <Laugh>

Speaker 6 ([00:27:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=jyI5xsUt0TyJiOF0vzov39qaDqXuZAPEQxhVO1Xi3p1ShKS1bsCy8jsYqSGdwwuahoV5CgyNXVhRIxgp5wvuki1va5Y&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1662.17)):

<Laugh>

Adapted Podcast ([00:27:44](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=QtkeRx4elWv43pY5olLGEHjwuv89fYuNcfIvFPIpqac4gg8GP3wFtcFHZzc0PuybaaKxCkGNn4m8xNMiUY7olaufWms&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1664.4)):

Yeah. It it's like the whole extent that you're in Korea. Like, I think we all kind of end up, you hang out with other adoptees and, and other people, but like the question of like, you know, how long are you staying? Mm-Hmm <affirmative> like, and then people didn't wanna talk about it. Don't ask me how long I'm staying, you know, but it was just like this constant, okay. Is this the year? What, you know, two years, what's your plan? Are you here? Are you back for life? You know, I, and then to finally like do the deed and, and, and leave, like,

Kim Stoker ([00:28:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=eEI0NC5FgdNR7mfbPJo4biUiMv14MfEso0r8UsEkTS-ki1YuPAHfnXqbZ3zGdFlTbvrjGMBKFUA-jTYyv0WxyG03p8E&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1698.66)):

I think I knew for me, you know, when it was gonna happen, it was gonna happen. It wasn't gonna be this like, oh, maybe I'll leave next year. Oh, I'm thinking about it was just, you know, it's just like, it's done a decision like that for me. And, you know, with my, my family situation, it was an easy decision to make, but I'm not the kind of person that's like, if I, if it's gonna be something big like that, I'm either, it's like all in or not. I'm not gonna hem and haw about it. So it was a, you know, packing up all of my stuff and all of that, it was, it was a pretty intense period and kind of a, you know, a lot of friends helped me out, helped me sell stuff. And I even had two months left on my rent, you know, had to bite that nobody for some reason was in town that summer. So I couldn't even sub lead it to anybody. And you, you know, it's like, you know, you ship your, I had get a shipping container and send stuff back. I mean, the whole shebang man, and it was, I think to go out suddenly or with not that much planning you know, you can draw, draw it out, I guess, draw it out forever. But for me it was just do it, man, and get out.

Adapted Podcast ([00:29:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=lL259J6iWyxeUZMp2iUcTYHtewyQnS-6HUWtt69T5xCPzJaq_Ym7kt24HOPUm-qJWN6jsYXDoEREMuCrRIr4c5rD6dE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1775.01)):

Well, had you been thinking about it?

Kim Stoker ([00:29:37](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=qPrEfJ7P_QaEJU74I5--TpEq2skEaDOfojMlXiEK2sXO6B2ZKhMsKzddYRwxqLqFrsFcWPLDcEBxKyuErnN48r-yZtA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1777.52)):

Not concretely? No. I mean, it was, it was something that I knew was going to happen at some point, but I had not, I was not making plans for it.

Adapted Podcast ([00:29:44](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=s2zGEJGQfL1wwDjpWbv4Ew8Cn42JqmqSs--mn1txlW6gjZyMUYQYotTtIxCI5aThAP78wvaWJlSMvMAVzp3KOX5ympQ&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1784.76)):

No mm-hmm. And then did you do, like how Kim handled it at the time? Did you just, once you came back, you kind of didn't talk about Korea or kind of avoided,

Kim Stoker ([00:29:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ZE0u_q2hpYWPoC0VZRjwuq3Rq68dbZs2mPR3BgtfSnm9FwMf-6838gH-yZQSufzZtLzFj6fjEMJdZJoWQG713VdmMTM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1797.14)):

You know, I find that most in my, in all of my experience being, living overseas for more than 20 years, people who haven't been to where you were living have very little interest in hearing about what you have to say. So for me, I don't expect anyone to have any interest in Korea who doesn't already have an interest in Korea, if that makes sense. And so it's something I've just kind of been used to. And I don't ever, I only talk about Korea with people who I hung out with in Korea that, that I know, because if you, I think if a person doesn't have a point of reference for something it's really hard to relate, you just, it's hard to engage, you know, in a, in a typical, like a typical friendship or relationship. So yeah, that doesn't really bother me actually. I think because I've gotten used to it over time. My family never even, they didn't give it crap what I was doing over and never asked. And I don't know, I just got used to it.

Kim Thompson ([00:30:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ftpmaRRCIDncgQLxNE1kFec7gvosJTGphe-WP4Q6-WC4BC965Fw9srNBXBLHBTxsuZCbLP_azKGOVLjuMCTWzDSlg48&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1859.47)):

Yeah. I mean, I, I think to piggyback off of Stoker, you know, I, I feel like sometimes speaking about, I think too often it makes it profane. I feel like, you know, actually I have this memory of, I was just thinking about one time cuz Stoker and I used to go out to lunch a lot because we worked together at the same radio station on the same show. And I have this very specific memory of, you know, that we were walking down the street right by the ping duck place. And it was this place that was doing, I think, like hummus and FAF and it wasn't that great, but we had decided to check it out and Stoker was asking me something about leaving, cuz I had been talking about it and I was on the fence. And I remember Stoker saying, well, when, you know, you'll know and, and Stoker was right.

Kim Thompson ([00:31:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=XPwt4Hx9Lkg4jDCAVAwBneeM8q4Ola0QnyNUbWIebLcP--7rZ5rtRebd_JakpfhrKVUFss2pTOK0a6osS65Aq-qcxrs&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1908.89)):

Like I just knew that it was time to go. And I think to, I feel like to almost everyone around me, except for Stoker, I feel like a lot of people saw it as very abrupt. And I, I remember telling Stoker I was leaving. She was like, yep. Like, you know, it's time to go. Like it was very, and I think, you know, talking about those moments even right now, it sounds very flat, but I have very specific emotions and memories and I can, you know, I can see that street that day. I can see the restaurant where soaker and I were sitting and what we were eating and just the way things felt. And that's a really hard thing to talk about with anyone. And it's, there's no way to convey the depths of all of that, but I can do it right now because Stoker is quote unquote sitting here across sitting,

Kim Stoker ([00:32:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=BqH-B02lR3IT4iCwAcFKlxLkFcvhxNCYb5rmaEgpJSQKX3XI5lGD9G64JIMuVi-ycBf4LwPwmQG-jBqQZWJfHKNeg84&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1959.8)):

Writing. Right, right across from you. Yes <laugh>. But you know, also, I, I, I think that like, this is what I came to think of in a, to apply in many ways to my life in Korea. And it's the it's, that's where I lived. It's where I worked. It's where I made my life. It's where I chose to live for many, many years. And it's like, it could have been any other place. It doesn't have to have this magical power or this like sacred power that, oh, Korea's such a, a sacred place. You know, I ne I'd never felt like that. I was like, this is where I live, you know, and how I would live if I was living anywhere else. I, you know, I had an apartment, I had a car, I had a hell's insurance, you know, I had a scooter I got around and you know, like I would in any other place.

Kim Stoker ([00:33:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=rlt3NIpG-AZ_ejec6Zw89p7IJ5wsg_VmLWVF3jEIpffcb4i4BwjjcLZx10W5rzh_pFciKdnzVdCxVBtfCT6Av_dI4fw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2005.72)):

And I think for a lot of, I think, especially for a lot of adoptees because Korea has this kind of hold upon our imagination. And then when you finally go there and you anticipate you have all these expectations and anticipations, but the reality is at the end of the day, Korea's a place where people live. And so I think for me, I wanted to also remove my own attitude about Korea being so special of a place. Of course it is a special place for, for people like us, but I didn't want to elevate Korea on this, like pedestal of like, oh, it's always gonna be my something only that I can own because I feel like those years I spent in Korea were years of my life. And it's not like, I mean, there were special years of my life, but I would hope anywhere that I live would be special years of my life, like being back in the states.

Kim Stoker ([00:34:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=HOvY-tLsrb3Ql-6fLY5T_otho1ENQYvUUyHfPZYeoiShK_DgaGpVtBySJrzllAj4QNBgX3Ma29XhvsAutO605PAAdXw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2052.29)):

Now, the time that I get to spend with my mother after living away from her for like all of my adult life, you know, it's, it's, it's time that I, I take as you know, it's not exactly exciting at all, but the fact that I can be with her and be here for her when, when, and if she needs me is something that I, I, I think is also very special. It's very magical. And even though it's just very different from whatever I, the things that I experienced in Korea, but I, I feel like it's also, it's my life. You know, it's not, not everybody has the opportunity to do what I can do now. Right. Uproot your life. I don't have children. I don't have a spouse, so I can come and live with my mother and take care of her or be here for her when she needs me.

Kim Stoker ([00:35:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=UU2qqJAZGqBJYfz_wRo0MOpP2ZOuVTeZyklFtinqyahYvUqBN7xlgJbmnzYb47vvCUvLqHErl3jo4B8tFstPxA6W9Lg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2100.37)):

And that's a kind of privilege. So I feel like that's also like a special, a special thing. So I think it's like, we all, you know, I think it's, it's like, you know, the attitude that you have, so we all have important, hopefully important people in your life and experiences that you have. And it's, you know, how do you EV how do you value what you're doing? Right. And, and I think it's, it's kind of the idea of just trying to make the most of where you are in the present, wherever that is. And whomever it is that you spend your time with, because you know, that it's, it's, it's it, it might not be ideal for you, but you hopefully can make the best of it.

Adapted Podcast ([00:35:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=_z4_iPxxA0yopVMPBbbPJ_pb0oKhm-mZXCb7Rjd2OpzhfA6aVf0DpoP3CdomVYbGCdYdOL-NpwFa_Iadt32zSlfU2_Q&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2145.88)):

What, what is your life like there? Now?

Kim Stoker ([00:35:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=39CoJsRLEoB_7DxIg7Ae398GZ6WcIwlXcQIOjrj8uP_h9imkovj8L5jMSHSPl9UfJ9XJRHWppG8YA3unY8BaaifiEwI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2148.71)):

It's hard to imagine for many people, my life is very uneventful and I would've told you five years ago, like fantasizing about, oh, I wish I had a day where I could just read or a day where I can sleep in as long as I want and stay up as long as I want and not have to, you know, go have to go somewhere in the morning or something like that. And so that's kind of my life these days. So if from one, for one perspective, it could be seen as really ideal. But you know, I've really tried to get away from this idea of evaluating myself and my life on work and how I spend my time needing to be productive about something. And so I've, I'm trying to really get away from that mindset, because I think that that's not all there is, you know, you don't have to be making money constantly. You don't have to be producing something constantly. You don't have to be constantly achieving whatever it is. And I think for, for many of us, you know, we've, we've been socialized to think that we, we measure the value of our lives based on these things that are really not at least for me anyway, I, I, I don't want to value them above other things like my personal relationships, but, you know, it's a work in progress. I mean, it's a process. <Laugh>, we're getting old man. And this is what happens. <Laugh>

Kim Thompson ([00:37:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=gBU6QBUCEUwgdYc8Hil2Qt_gUzyHCNI6rzkydo6cyW9NbDYrokOYpIFLd7e2ervPIuARB_xEK3jCXqqpIkfTNct8gq0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2238.93)):

Stoker said something that I oh about living in Korea. And I feel like we probably, I feel like Stoker and I probably even talked about it sometimes when hanging out there that Korea, it, you know, for me, Korea was, and is so much more than searching and reunion and post reunion, which isn't, I mean, those are huge components and they are integral. So I'm not diminishing their significance in my life or in my time in Korea. But to me, soul was very, so I have very vivid dreams and I, you know, to this day, I dream about the street I lived on, I dream about the neighborhood I lived in. I dream that I'm just walking up and down there looking for which kogi jip I wanna go to and looking for which izakaya is open. And I, you know, to me, that's what soul is or that's what it became was, you know, at the end of my street, there was this baker who did the best almond bang, this bread.

Kim Thompson ([00:38:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=w9RFBwe5IKtl-TdMFmrzndKyy898RanuM4QffWiS5z46V1xRVUSBoY4RfgEqzwFfrHJXI1uukFAPMy9OlCXfJpE9niY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2292.26)):

And then, you know, I just, it's all the little places that, that I would go, and it was hanging out with friends like Stoker, and it was walking from shinchon station to my flat and, you know, all of those little things, that's what Korea became. It's the every day. And yes, being an adoptee, being in a complicated post reunion situation. I mean, those did factor in a lot, but that, wasn't what made Korea beautiful to me, or that wasn't what gave it meaning it was just having everyday stuff. It was going out with friends for dinner. It was like Stoker said, it was just doing work stuff and complaining about bad translations that you have to edit and not getting paid on time and having to, you know, constantly email and ask to get paid and doing events and being out until 6:00 AM. And, and all of that every day stuff ends sometimes getting really annoyed with people and also having them get really annoyed with me, but that's, that is every day life. And that's why that's, what's so significant about Korea is to have had the chance, or maybe to give myself some credit to have created the opportunity for myself to have been able to experience everyday life is what is with me.

Kim Stoker ([00:39:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=K6O4QJFZNFzrXIYIgkQXqhNzlK-f0LZoxff9ef88VvPy3fIN13JsY2lsg9l-k_mYzb0rtyxLVd8rFMEUnseMQ8xORoA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2366.85)):

Yeah. You're just your living life as you would live life anywhere. And it takes a point you know, that OB obviously doesn't really happen overnight, but, but I, but I think that it's just this idea that you can live or if, if you're able to live a full life, right. Living as an expat anywhere. And yes, even even more so for, for us who are adopted to be able to live in your birth country. Yeah, it's, it's it's, it's a privilege for sure, but it's also something that, that you, you really cultivate your own life. And I think there's a lot of there's a lot of agency, there's a lot of you know, there's a lot to be said for being able to come back to Korea and, and cultivate your own life and live it the way that you wanna live it on the terms you wanna live it in and, and just get on with things, you know, it doesn't always have to be a special occasion.

Adapted Podcast ([00:40:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=IobPiZJ9vGDgIugdljGGyO12kr2_dpV9GOUhXsRO-07a_zQfHTx-7ekiQ45G0-M7gw08Q-2-PbIcW-hvWf-x3arPMAY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2423.67)):

Do you find that being back in the states has given you more opportunities or things that you hadn't actually expected that, you know, having lived in Korea for so long that coming back there were some, maybe some bonuses of coming back that you ha of being in the states that you hadn't anticipated.

Kim Stoker ([00:40:43](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=PYL2bOFq4znqxRi9eYRsNCDwqo4EjEBCGdKjmNsXzTge58sUzgPFwIeyQYiEXISCeczwx1UtFnlXhlUu_7Q1e5bMKCY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2443.02)):

I will answer that. And I will say not necessarily. So for me, you know, Kim sort of touched upon this earlier, earlier I felt like I had, I, I really felt like I had just graduated from college and I feel like it was like some arrested development going on in my, in my mind, you know, identifying myself as like, I feel like I just graduated from college, but I'm in my mid forties. And, and I missed out on all this stuff and all this time has gone by. And so for me, actually, what, a lot of what I thought about not necessarily like, what are my new opportunities being back in the states, it was like, what is all this stuff that I missed out on for like 25 years? And I felt really, I felt like that I felt like shit, think of all, like, you know, what if I had gone down this career path or what if I had done this and God, where would I be now?

Kim Stoker ([00:41:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=FgHbJOvhq55G93woztaigGMMcf2TRr4aZygpEhB09uVZoDGXr9y8IUJU3m7Yr_NQOA7IdvpEFUuga6cfXzFh45shjzs&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2499.21)):

Right. Like, instead of moving to Seoul, what if I had moved to LA in 1995? You know, what would I be doing with my life? And it, you know, it would look so different. So it's almost this like reverse thing. Whereas, you know, it's an adopt year thing. Whereas as an adopt your adoptee, you, we might have this tendency to be like, oh, what would my life have been if I had lived in Korea, what would my life have been if I had been raised in Korea? Right. I don't know, like the adoptee imagination. Right. But for me it was like, gosh, what would've been like if I had never gone to the Koreans, just stayed in America and gone to LA and like, where would I be in my life? Just think of all the things I could have done and all of like the money I could have.

Kim Stoker ([00:42:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=V5jeZupwMPlTvUNdWXBfm479hxp-fEfp-uE7DZOZY4Lclr7DyPZDrTrbLTfR8Cyp2RxRxETVC4p6s_cs9Vv-mZL_rSw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2538.86)):

I don't know. I mean, shit like that. So that's kind of where my mind went and, and, you know, it's was kind of, I grew out kind of bummed about it. I felt like I lot, I missed out on a lot of stuff, but you know, it's whatever I always, I mean, at the same time I knew that, well, what is the, what is the takeaway, right? Like if I'm keeping a balance sheet at the end of the day, I'm gonna choose. I'm happy that I chose my life in Korea. It's hard sometimes to think of what I could have, what I might have missed out on cuz living in Korea. Yeah. You do sacrifice a lot of perhaps job opportunities or relationship opportunities. But there are other things, you know, it's, there are other things that, that are for me anyway, more important

Adapted Podcast ([00:43:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=0TShUKs1laHFPQBluIsC0lQb9rTd-bTc1kaVw5zSHjKOe5G1Ag04Ntbl0qwKkd6ftvcAcY6-rteBCF1VqQUlPyYR5J0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2580.7)):

And like material stuff too. Right. We come back and ha you know, you play that mind game of have had I stayed here and built up this career and you know, would've been like three houses ago in somewhere else, you know? <Laugh> like what? Yeah, yeah, yeah. That is kind of it's it's because I had also game

Kim Thompson ([00:43:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=kJWzzA0l-iukrky5VUGJl97_z5yBqvqPeiK6Y1A31QUs6CQPFdTeZpGyAgussntnVMb8EIXXCTFQiTS5cW2kfNNztQI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2600.77)):

In Europe for eight years. So I, you know, basically have spent 16 of my adult years outside of states. And there's all these like basic skills that I'm still trying to figure out. And some of it I admit is just because I don't want to, because I don't like it like taxes. I really don't know how to do the most basic taxes. And I know that everyone says, well, I don't either, but most people do for everyone. I know knows how to do like the online thing and you enter some stuff and I, to this day, pay someone else to do it. Not because I have, I don't make enough to, to need that. It's because I don't understand it. I've never really had to do it that much. And I'm like, I'm in my forties. And I don't know how to know how to do the most basic things or like with buying a car.

Kim Thompson ([00:44:07](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=OJz7gJkkbK8uwnL5ocKF_tDSSD7x15mj2Go8hdTcUIQWyoNAL1nqaCRGqEOhyg3eNSN8aWu9w6ueysZ7DpNZykDrcC4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2647.96)):

Like I, when I lived in the states before I would just buy used cars for cash. And oh, a couple years ago I had to get a car that was not that used. And I was like, I can't afford it. And I didn't realize, and this is again my own stupidity, cuz I hadn't really owned a car that was decent. I didn't realize you could do monthly payments on a better quality car. <Laugh> you know, cause I hadn't ever in Korea, I didn't have a car. So it wasn't important to me. I didn't in Europe, I didn't have a car. And then like I said, in the years in between, I just, I drove like a car that was like a couple grand. And so I was, and it was embarra. Like I can laugh at myself about it, but I'm also just like, I can't believe that there's these skill. They're not even skills. They're just common sense. <Laugh>

Kim Stoker ([00:44:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=UbLyCGLhdvWgl1onnCclM39T17h1S1sviqew9XRE1KNBm1VuXYiW6KyOVK6DoXWwce4l8CK2hCzKfIRAuHh9ZDzlGic&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2695.34)):

Well they're experiences, right. They're experiences. Yeah.

Kim Thompson ([00:44:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=3h8eq6m0lZgAMTgdlzBFVZmsh6FW3d40sP937InBGPQKV1Mz0o_llKmtnfe8KoiW0FcP4IJ_Ei7kcMqntxsFKiQUFxk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2698.79)):

And, and I, you know, I would sometimes comfort myself where I'm like, well, I know how to get on subway from point a to point B and I can find this, you can drop me off in the middle of wherever and I'll be able to find my way back. But if you ask me to do one file, my taxes in the states, I am lost and it will take me 30, you know, I'll be better off stranded in a desert. Like it's just, yeah. I mean, it's just those basic skills and it's also, you know, I didn't, it's not those things weren't connected to what my goals were in life and what was important to me. And you know, I will say the one nice thing about being back in the states because I'm a very food motivated person is there were certain things where I was like, oh, pizza's cheaper here. That was actually really the biggest thing one time. And I was like, I was like, oh, this particular pizza chain, which isn't even that great is about 50% cheaper in the states. That's so exciting. And that was so that has been nice. Certain ingredients are cheaper,

Kim Stoker ([00:45:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Af4UeEAkUcYySkoAbX-AxAhOupWKca3kg6TBpx1Xo2bjpIT_slWuBuB-cGNUAzcBVCHNffUSsvnxPELzCvM2fCVVuGU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2758.469)):

But you know, to, to go off of what, what Kim's been talking about when I returned I was told by the bank, the bank that I was a credit ghost. And so these are things for any of you out there who are, have lived overseas for a long period of time and are returning back. Not only do you need to get your taxes in order before you return, especially if you have not filed taxes and you don't wanna get any problems, get that, get that shit lined up before you come back and then, you know, establish a credit thing. Cuz I had, yeah, the, the bank was like, you're a credit ghost. So you can't get a loan to buy a car. And so, you know, that's one of the first things you need, if you, in most places, if in most places in the us is a vehicle.

Kim Stoker ([00:46:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=1wHpYcPSMM6_iqSl4d2t4OIW5AhAPPbeEXDuc_SAVJpIYfbKxYaeWI92qgMEhJE97xUqm_H4qlL97VOBjrp8Lb7aAI0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2806.79)):

And so I bought my first new car when I came back. And I had actually, I had also bought a car in Korea that was new. And I can tell you that those two experiences. So I felt very naive. I felt like a, again, like a college student going to buy my first car, you know, going to the dealership and here I'm a, I'm a woman, you know? And it's like, there's no man with me. And you think, oh, they're not gonna try to take advantage of you or, oh, you know, I can handle myself, dude. I pay probably a good three to four to $5,000 more on my car than I should have. And in Korea when I bought my new car, none of that shit happened. It was like straight up what it was gonna cost. The guy brought my new vehicle to my house and it was even still covered in plastic inside. That's how freaking knew my car was. And he even registered my vehicle for me and got my license plate.

Adapted Podcast ([00:47:54](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Hcy1Q9VV0kXheYi48Gcrrzd-KXu15sxp_xEXSepe9ZxIJGDDQ8x14iQPDcqP7ajY8SfCn3wCcuoO_FHnHSUhnayBArk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2874.79)):

Its so different. Yeah. Like the game and yeah, the add-ons that you don't know that's optional, but they make it sound like it's mandatory. I

Kim Stoker ([00:48:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=lxmQfUEfZC08V--NwQVCSgUvOiRvuu6JcHS6PDb4Mtl8TfUNKnOK-fJcwHiomrvV4HaixjUo4jZDaMfhxyDDNmbjzHc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2884.71)):

Know. Oh

Adapted Podcast ([00:48:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=GCOFYb9GsxQ7O20hE-22MUmbfWYbcd1v-8ShudgwssRYL3cNw0Y0WOU94jRELDeZuefmLAZJywBhjiS7XqMiAHa76GA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2886.739)):

<Laugh> oh my God. Well, I mean that's brings me one thing I remembered that I wanted to talk about. We were talking about kind of being gone for a, a long period of your lives and then coming back and then you know, this kind of displacement and, and, and careers and it sounds like Stoker, you've really made peace with you're doing what you're doing. You there's value in what you're doing that you don't try to like, I mean, it's, it's, it sounds like that you don't, you don't like saddle yourself with comparisons. A lot of like comparing yourself. It's

Kim Stoker ([00:48:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=yywBLJwwhK9x39Jet1DmvoBpTM-GCu5zoDB0_a6I-KW6q5tAqlA1QJNFKUPy_sWb77aobW7kmWhuVRxuiEek6uZVBDc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2920.33)):

A process and I have better days than others. I'll I'll tell you that. And I'm I'm because I'm talking to, to y'all it's it's a day where I can feel like, yes, all these decisions that I've made have been decisions that I don't regret, but you know, some days I feel like shit about it, for sure. Yeah. Or I feel like shit about where I am in my life, but hopefully I have less, fewer of those days

Adapted Podcast ([00:49:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=r_2umOllJX0eK4nptMIhior7pfOCp9L9cH7xgOjrYXpXg-0DTCi7HuohUZ8Wwj3eJUG3rC1E7QqCYW2iaTEehs6Bezc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2944.35)):

Actually our stories cross again because of that job at the radio station. Because I had oh, right at what E TBS,

Kim Stoker ([00:49:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=8T1IW_Y1gYC-4-4k2IESZYdQJKzMOwuabHrSdQ0DodV42aclGE5GPOZIQglh6Kv8_xIsLfaKApJjsy1A5wwTLYOp-P8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2956.95)):

TBS, E FM.

Adapted Podcast ([00:49:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=QQrXnJkDJZnr7eOfKip-c3XyhFuvl8YT7CykEvsF7QkiCGOb_3AX1_lMbH-B33A-UW2O5kNb0g2NlwvQi3ku1BBxNso&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2958.69)):

TBS EFM. Yes. And I had filled in for you and yeah,

Kim Stoker ([00:49:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=_-htKYzLYriMbrFWtRHkw3-AU4jv5_Nfw5OzATIknztkRVdclj1cUo-Znk_e8Ai0p8iz_8lE2Iac-tHJRLw7y1bZbEM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2963.16)):

You did.

Adapted Podcast ([00:49:24](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=tKrS-HPYgKKqGqh9mNaTdgjadAlMlAAni8KwmfGK0ghntyL3HHJHdW9GaZvNYnd9Kt4_1CZbk4VNO1Ty0qijIfI4hbc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2964.27)):

Right. And then you know, we were talking that's right. You, you very kindly recommended me to, for the job if, you know, when you decided to, to leave. And I had a very torturous couple months where, and poor Seul PD nim <laugh> I, and I've had, I had adoptee friends. So, you know Stoker had her a radio show at the English language radio station. And you know, for adoptees, that's a really, I mean, I don't wanna say for adoptees, but I mean a really good gig to get, you know, it's not, you're not teaching and obviously you had gotten it from being there a long time, but it's not one of these jobs that kind of falls from the sky for people. And I remember like that had kind of happened to me where my Fulbright was ending and you know, I had this whole question of was I staying?

Adapted Podcast ([00:50:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=cZGZwLGrKqp9gozItjLHVNHxs81PxqkVuHNdwFmROaJ3Q5aX8b65paOmcpaNmyUHH4N3B5vZ5lR6le5DvUZcd4QUoeY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3023.57)):

And so this kind of dropped into my lap and you know, it wasn't full time, but it certainly would give me, you know, something and that something interesting to do. But I just remember like, yeah, people were saying, oh, you gotta take it because you know, for adoptee, you don't have to teach English. And it's a, it's a good gig. And then on the other hand, I had like friends in journalism that were like, well, you know, it's like, you should come back now to the states and like jump into your career, you know, like, you know, do you wanna just end up, I, you know, staying there for years kind of doing this show or do you wanna get back into, you know? So I just, I just remember, I really struggled, struggled, but,

Kim Stoker ([00:51:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=P_R0vGgr-2aZLes7UurpCDUKhrMFwJFJl1eF9Tf0PheQKXyabjGcHdlmoWb4axPkaUYQ5pbc0mhIqN7P-N2MNjvCEbI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3070.219)):

But were you, so how long were you at that? The weekly review? How long did you do it?

Adapted Podcast ([00:51:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=9DXafHTYCtnmnGP-wOAGmNUEIAsryfeG1TM4Vi1VPTE-gK2g3CcZrcevamwJ6Jc4LG7igD1Vg245R8Q4wSsNByHbh7k&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3075.66)):

I didn't do it. I

Kim Stoker ([00:51:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=VtchZkBuf9IRxDJ5F8qyrWmaFe1fLStX19yUtdB-AfTOzXbQqijkn7ChAFFDG7aqdnuSTAg7-Ax9PZGjcFXQjnmKWto&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3077.52)):

Oh, you didn't.

Adapted Podcast ([00:51:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=kfZon6usomtWa1arJXSWCCWX6ffRXcInirRSA0133fmvRe2LFL4tIzb3goRTE4hGlbG0iCR9Bfj0f9USreY_1wpgRxk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3078.5)):

I ended up telling, I ended up declining it, like I accepted it and then declined it and then accepted, declined like times. And I'm like, I felt, I felt so horrible and I knew it was like the last straw. Seul was like, are you, you know, she was like, okay, one last chance. But then, because it was sort of like, I was just struggling so much with even just the question of what should I be doing now. And like what's the best career move. And, and even for a really long time, because I, I came back in April and I didn't get my current job, which is working as a reporter. I am back, I did land back into journalism, but it didn't happen for like what, what is that like 6, 7, 8 months, you know?

Kim Stoker ([00:52:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=uVqLoW9Xb0m6BfqPy6rBB9HOkKYt40FyGJtnxPzthzJ2lnejEToMKtIfDNZ81_u0xVFcBO7OU68cmISoyfGZiwaCzN0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3125.26)):

Yeah.

Adapted Podcast ([00:52:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Jw4X9xAiArWM2234PVYt_ajsv0_ggjrOMM4tyaq240R2nDkbby5jn-jEOTHdkCJyhndL0ZDC44wj_c8-ZUXKs6Ewnw8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3126.13)):

So I spent that time just kind of like temping, trying to figure out, you know, applying for jobs, you know, just sort of having to start over again. So that was difficult. Cause I did feel through that whole time, I kept thinking, oh, if I would've stayed, I would've had my radio show. I've had my face, you know, where I saw Stoker, like by the elevators, like your, your, your press photo and you know, you've got your suit on whatever that could have been me. <Laugh>

Kim Stoker ([00:52:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ng0Y_cWYVaiQYVfrBLMUU5pKDVMbnrnllkZFAw7hEv6S46pZzRrRxNA9NOCF7oDndZ7aOmOztYcZgT_wMvpZkIwukF0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3158.16)):

Okay. Now it, it comes, it is coming back to me now that, that, yeah. Okay.

Adapted Podcast ([00:52:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=HM2fbQHwutEJMwiw9E7SbShO8DT2As6cg74nEYrswXfmAPzoPoXDlKpCox38oI7e_3fkSTQtSbE24YzHmn4tx6FvBGk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3162.01)):

Right. But, but honestly it did take, it took a couple years, you know, it's been like, what, like five total, since I've been back, it took a couple years, but then I finally reached a place where I was, I'm glad I, I chose this path. I mean, there's some days like I, and we were talking about like the romantic, romantic romanticization romanticizing, Korea. Yeah. And that I found that I found now that I'm back, I do romanticize Korea a lot because I just think about like where Kim was just talking about walking by her favorite cookie chip and you just remember the smells and then you see photos and then Instagram and then, oh, you just remember some of these good memories. And so I, I romanticize it like even after I'm back of wanting to go, but there were real reasons I wanted to leave. I mean, I moved up. Yeah. I moved up my flight three weeks cuz I couldn't get out of Korea fast enough. Mm-Hmm <affirmative> there were a lot of things I was struggling with and mental health I was really concerned about and my friends are concerned that if you stay in Korea longer, you know, your mental health is really gonna suffer. And so I was really, that was one of the reasons why I left.

Kim Thompson ([00:53:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=IBegUGihK2LBMdfhulyNUuWbcfKwZeTfmI4hGHDyD62x9zlW_M-PnkubRrDvRsLo-i_pXPFjLlHDq1WypBWLGP0UFJg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3238.39)):

I mean, I think, you know, it with you mentioning mental health, I think, you know, for me that's another thing that was really important that, you know, goal and especially meju, and I believe Jason as well. They, but I know, especially meju they did a lot with goal to help start with help find therapists, affordable therapist for adoptees living in soul. And I know that for myself having a therapist there and I believe I went to therapy maybe my last two years there, whether or not they were the very best therapist in the world, it really helped me. And there was something about being able to speak to someone who, who was also Korean in Korea about the things I was struggling with in Korea and, and the emotions I was having and to feel that kind of sometimes validation from them. So I do think, you know, I think it's really important and really great that resources like that are much more available to adoptees than they used to be.

Kim Thompson ([00:55:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=RfhlrYhOIO13UDji8lyVxHHCs1TAOeDswFMUfPd-w8wRm0QiZ82Ll2sJyyg5OnNWTWRp_R4O57sORyUom7oZAkRLo64&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3303.69)):

And it's thanks to the work of a lot of adoptees. So I think that's another thing, you know, it's yeah, Korea's really hard. And it's, there's something that at least for me, it's like, it was both the heaviest and the lightest I've ever felt in my life at the same time on a daily basis. And the heaviest was really, really heavy and the lightest was out of this world. But having, having good friends, having friends like Stoker, having and having a therapist for me really helped make being there possible or helped me from completely self sabotaging, every single thing.

Adapted Podcast ([00:55:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=E-x-xV3w69R6Dtw4aJZl3x9iPD_pXk_2owkroToueZPyweajxFbmC7jnVcRwMRl3Jx8BZINkmKLrwejon8mbQg-1VAw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3346.31)):

How, how is it for you guys not having like when you were in soul being able to easily meet up and now just being spread out across distance with, you know, between yourselves and other friends that you've had either still in Korea or others who have moved back,

Kim Thompson ([00:56:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ZcJkTG-V63KU4ZRMnVXC1J6CncQeNPPDPmiCeFxHFTotOg1VspIMf-_f_KRzqgaKuyQevCUHb5Cn2KPtcxmZzo9vmg0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3365.16)):

I can't speak for Stoker, but I can say for myself that I think of Stoker, like family and a family in the positive way, cuz I also have some very negative family stuff.

Kim Stoker ([00:56:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=GJXoi9DUhioAHrQk1bfNNa28Y4eEDFbV6KxnmAisCVmzv-45IswPZctBLawUZOhfjOPdkkCmkQ8koRsZBan24YDZfDw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3375.33)):

I'm like her, that uncle that shows up for Thanksgiving

Kim Thompson ([00:56:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=5whIAbPej8Ka6QBlJvyDswyZNPjMoGazzhPEz3fjS6gxB_1PGpwqKSntKrsYVwnr1KWBPxA_Vb3f0ToqsnlFkiaSvVA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3379.469)):

<Laugh> I mean, no Stoker is not that way. Stoker's like a favorite cousin and for me, I don't need to see family all the time. I don't need to be in touch with family all the time. It can be a year years can go by, but when we meet up, it feels, I'm not gonna say exactly the same, but we don't have to like start all over again. I mean, Stoker and I happen to be able to see each other last spring or summer. And at least for me, I didn't, I wasn't like, well, that was weird. <Laugh> you know, it was, it just felt like when we used to hang out and, you know, we went out to this sushi place and had some adult beverages and Stoker was using phrases that I remembered her using in Korea. And it just, and it was so comforting to me and it made me laugh and it made me feel like not that time hadn't passed, but it was just like, yeah, there's still, we never are really in touch and that's okay for me. Like, it doesn't change how I feel. And maybe that's one of my adoptee issues. I don't know that could also be tied in <laugh>. But, but yeah, I mean, I think knowing that there's people like Stoker out there is sometimes enough for me. It, it makes me feel less alone, but I don't need to always have a conversation, but I'm really glad for all the times that, I mean, we used to hang out obviously almost on a daily basis at one point. And those times are really, really valuable to me.

Kim Stoker ([00:57:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=PqleAhktBaWtpLtda1SfiJlEQjaUE4-LXZ_1uvGcGftnyyBd-6_yrie-AVi_kfCy1nAApLtoLUR1l4MgE8I74CtVyDE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3470.27)):

Yeah. I think that's one of the beauties about living in soul at a certain time in a person's life. The city is once you get used to it, it's very accessible in terms of getting from one place to another. And, you know, if you're, if you're, if you're a social person and, and, and you, you like to go out and see people or meet new people, or just meet up new with new friends, people are very up for that. You know, you go to a place like LA, you know, you live on the west side and somebody lives on the east side and it's like 10, 15 miles away. And they're like, you might as well be in New York city, you know? I mean, and that attitude is real, right. Whereas in whole, I mean, I lived in Northern Seoul for like 10 years. It would take me an hour to get to home each day almost, you know, 45 minutes to see people.

Kim Stoker ([00:58:37](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=0V9B_DBASMjiNhqAlWnNb1wT2jkAOJjjggxleBeW9tTO_mcUjUvrumRsrJyFjYfDRlgY27g5pg0t3i2hv1ybU0BVYbw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3517.51)):

But I would go out like almost every day. And it was just fun. You know, you sort of get used to that and, and, and, and just, yeah, people are up for it. You know, people are game it's like people wanna hang out, people wanna, and it's very intense. You know, it's a very, it can be a very intense social situation, a lot of intense just relationships, whether they're like physically intimate relationships or emotionally intimate relationships. Just very, there's a lot of intensity going on, especially not just among our, the adopted Korean community, but just the people that you meet. Because even if you're meeting other expats, like things are often very heightened for various reasons. And so I think a lot of the relationships and the friendships that you make from that time, hopefully if you're able to maintain them. Yeah. They, they, they live in this certain place in your mind.

Kim Stoker ([00:59:28](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=YR_rarzcOf7BubNXt3bEbgKNAdgLMGodsrMm0GusVZKd7GEOfM4r-9Xnju0ZKogtroD7TykiRgG-epTyk58pIGWlO_4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3568.1)):

And, and hopefully a lot of them are really good me, good memories. And just, you know, times of, you know, if you're not, most of us don't, or didn't have close relationships with family members. So you really look at your friends as your family and like all families, you got your ups and downs, but you know, you, you, you're all kind of on your own in a way, in many ways. And so I think people look out for each other and try to support each other in ways that are very meaningful. And, you know, you bond in a certain way that, that it's like, it's like the bond you have with like somebody, if you've been friends with them since elementary school or middle school, you know, you have this sort of knowing, right. You don't have to see each other all the time. And I think if you spent a significant, a significant amount of time in, in Korea with people and you are no longer in Korean, you see them again, you can sort of revert back to that time because it's a very particular time in your life and probably a very intense time in your life.

Kim Thompson ([01:00:28](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=yQVLIkNrNC7PktfLQefkfX0S_cSXdChf2VA5eg4HNJiB-I9Uu2tjXYyZ--ZSBMdaRidm4xurrRnX_8bqbnuWWKqPINM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3628.53)):

I was gonna say another good friend of mine. Who's also an adoptee. We often not often, but will every so often refer to living in Korea as, and I say this as someone who's very not into the military, but will be like, I think it's kind of like it, what they show in these war movies, where people go through a battle together. And it's like that soldier thing. And I'm like, I don't know, I'm a pacifist, but it's what I imagine that bond to be, because I think it is you're going, like Stoker said, you're going through something that is on one hand, deeply mundane. And on the other hand, deeply intense and, and difficult and emotionally trying in a million different ways. And yet also just, you know, hum drum every day stuff. And I think to go through that with other people, a of course, you're gonna really grade on each other at times, but I think afterwards, you also are disconnected for, for life as they say, because that person is one of the only other people on the planet who can understand what you've gone through and vice versa, or who has a sense of it.

Kim Thompson ([01:01:37](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=BxzehDcBHdnwRa67irgidbaTNsks5HZUMImDK5TCwhzUMyAR2W6xbWiqqLnDNq-6jkf6Wn5hy_8O8owTH6-wTIYPOO4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3697.75)):

And it's a very, very deep bond or connection. Like I think about some people there who, by the end, weren't really my favorite people. And I probably wasn't their favorite person, but if I saw them today, there'd be something in me that would be so happy to see them because we still went through this thing together. And that is much stronger than any kind of unpleasant memory.

Adapted Podcast ([01:02:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ONNnZcrubat6T5f_Hst0GkAzKnWbzQ8XgB76yg1ItM6EjMXmNYXGVp4PYwhbKuUipUpuAbaoQHvntHe4jEOKyTecwnM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3723.91)):

Yeah. I, you were talking about that. You mentioned like the heightened kind of living in Korea just feels like it was this heightened kind of sensory emotion or connection or memory that we have. And, you know, I wondered if, if it's that also the relationships are also heightened too. And, and if you felt like having after returned, not really having those kinds of relationships or just life experiences that are on that level, like it is that why also we romanticized Korea in a way, because everything was so elevated. Sure.

Kim Stoker ([01:02:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=2BoPwfadD4jcjc_8HLxEgTyjL58AHFoaETXpLj3WUwHXKyd4ObC3nm_8UnSDfy9tsvnZtOduX2UUUnNgOvNvuJJL6w8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3760.11)):

So you're talking about this intensity, you know, and it's an intensity on, on not just in emotional level, but on a sensory level as well. You know, when you're, when you're living in a, a place where you're there, people are speaking a language you're not familiar with and all these differences you're you know, you're either gonna like totally try to shut down or desensitize yourself or your, your senses are gonna be peaked. Right. And you're gonna be hyper aware of all these things that are going on that are new. And so, you know, you create so, so much memory in that way. And I think that's why people talk a lot about food, you know, food, the, the, the taste and the smell of things, because those are very, very you know, very I don't wanna say basic, but like essential sort of experiences of, of having, being able to experience those kinds of sensations of having a body, for lack of a better description, like fully experiencing these things that are out there that are totally new and yeah, they're powerful and they create powerful memories.

Kim Stoker ([01:03:47](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=J-GixkkVzEXNV9SKrzFSR2ohjGoeS0pWgqRphSmG_TY4fRKnP6UmNv_DBuGXZ7M-cCsmToRS-LnEhmGBFAXZnkHWuIs&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3827.74)):

But the, the heightened I think relationships that people have, I think there's this fear, this period of, especially if you, you go to Korea and you, you don't know how long am I gonna stay? You know, who, who the hell ever knows and whoever the hell ever do, you know anybody that said, yes, I'm gonna come for to Korea for one year and I'm gonna leave after that year. Not that many people fall into that category. I mean, some do, but not that many. And so there's this idea that, oh, you know, I have to make the most of everything while I'm here. Cuz I don't know when I'm gonna leave. I don't know how long I'm gonna be here. So I need to like, so there's a lot of, I think personal expectations that are put upon oneself, but also you wanna make the most of your time there.

Kim Stoker ([01:04:32](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=kBYA4dwkET-q2JVh6YEWwOiM-QDZIHZurAA0RHwpIC83x76bmi4D2bvgK0kG99NG8cZ_du_2EysSOt9ECicc8r45uE0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3872.69)):

Right? And so you wanna do an experience and talk to a lot of people. You don't go to Korea, you don't go to live in Korea to sit in your office, tell by yourself all day typically. Right. I mean, that's not why you go there. You might end up doing that for various reasons. You know, if you have, if you're struggling a lot, but yeah, I think it's just this combination of all these people having heightened expectations for themselves and maybe not even knowing that. And so, and then this intensity of among adoptees of sharing, personal experience, personal information, bonding that you've never really experienced maybe with anybody else before a lot of people never having been around other adoptees before, especially adoptees from all over the world and it's exciting. It's intense and it's, it can be toxic.

Kim Stoker ([01:05:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=vLwkPtu2lBLTzQPBpsCMc4NTGKukbkWzb4sNjBjchALWaoB23xQq-yy7Q46UBAl1ZfNTHG0UKD0fN4E6M_gbT2PprvE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3926.88)):

I mean, it's, I shouldn't say it's not like a can't, but it's like, if any of you guys out there have ever been to one of the gatherings, whether it's been in Seoul or another city around the world, like that shit is intense. And if you've ever been to one of those, you know, that it's like a week or 10 days and it's just like, you're doing shit. You never thought you were gonna do you. I mean, it's like, it's crazy, but just, you know dilute that a little bit for like over a year. <Laugh> it's still intense.

Kim Thompson ([01:05:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=DKrvfNs5abOEG0P6ytlkGHbcdoWaJwWL2Kj52e5gImRIC2DYTinhcItLRTm3bJLZqmj__j8uPvMmp-Ntf-O7DKXj0hU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=3957.21)):

Yeah. I mean, I think there's also with the intense, I mean there's a couple things. One is, you know, in my experience, I think one with the romantic is the romanticizing of soul or of Korea. I think it's like, you know, on Instagram, you any accounts, you know, where people post like these really beautiful photos of soul at night or of, of, I love that snuck what? And it's like, I love it. But what I love about it is this like snarky side of me is like, yeah, it doesn't really look that good or yeah. And you know what the pollen is, the, the yellow sand is so bad today. You can't even breathe. Like it's, it's not that I'm looking for the negative, but there's the reality of like soul. That is not what soul is like. It's yes, it has these very beautiful moments, but it is nothing like that photo.

Kim Thompson ([01:06:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=NMeKXTtc9tbt7F_rm-vLLxqbQQnkppyjGhfkUQzdu047uMd_D7Mg_B7UV9bd6HpR7VnEbGzmqGEm2WmVrydlaEbZIK4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4002.74)):

And that's why it's wonderful. But you know that like when people are like, oh, the cherry blossoms is like, you know how crowded that place is. It is. I went once and I'm never, I never wanted to go again, like it's not this beautiful romantic thing, unless you like being not barely able to move. Like, and if you like being shoved around, like then it's, it's, it's beautiful, but it's really not this it's not the picture you see. And I think there's also, I think on a different side with the intensity, at least for myself, that I, you know, I've been reflection on this more of, of how it's a rebirthing of yourself. And I, at least for me, it was, and I, and it's really hard to be in your late thirties or I was in my mid to late thirties when I moved to Korea to find myself reverting in certain ways in my behavior that was appalling to me. Like I could see it happening, but I couldn't stop it from happening for some reason. And sometimes I felt like a teenager all over again and not in a, not in the fun way. And I kind of felt like a hot mess. And I know that I was, you

Kim Stoker ([01:07:51](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=nz2ejkUGAeXE4Q202nqnt55AR6cS5rnnmGEZd0JOtIg1g0AB3b7H0S7XBzNPVpByrZ7OMBrr-8Jj42ywGBNjTxdfs_w&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4071.92)):

Said that not in

Kim Thompson ([01:07:53](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=7ksm8xn-sywHYnIhf-t24jRENsBOcoYA3eQzVjmyySMolVWPj2Umw5NLvY6D-iZK6vFsmINwuih3Rknn4g293AdqwK4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4073.16)):

No. Yeah. <laugh> but I mean, I know that I was, and I know that I could be, I know that my there's, you know, there's things where I look back and I'm like, I cannot believe how selfishly I behaved. Like that's not who I am. I, but I can under, I can have a little more grace towards it when I look back because to be re to rebirth yourself is very difficult and painful and there's not a handbook for it. And the best you have, which isn't putting anyone down, but the best you have are maybe adoptees around you. Who've maybe been there some years longer than you, but they're still going through it as well. They're maybe further along, but it's like, everyone's being reborn and that's just an intense experience to have. And I think it's hard to be, at least for me, it was hard to be gentle with myself as well within it. It's easier for me to, to judge and condemn myself for messing up and for making mistakes or for not behaving in a way that, that I would like to have, and to not just have the grace to be like, you know, it takes time, these things take time.

Adapted Podcast ([01:08:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=hoDrf113Q-3EDABpBmjWwFD30weY3Rdw5I4LavXoxXXIliwYTWCFe_H64o_BdxQc50UG2I8kV3mEghS0twmQuRqYzEA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4135.56)):

Kim, what's an example.

Kim Thompson ([01:08:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=2d7e79LO7JGmf7gbz6XTxGUvHfJikk2mBLHQ3gwp5gKmrKehVPL8zU_NkuYYqYQy9IF7YDg1jytRF4TLtV8pvvfYUIU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4139.59)):

Let's see. I'm like

Kim Stoker ([01:09:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=7PVKEUAZBvKSrb_v0O6OsKmwDnt_QARlvWVlh0MzF-mYXMFcsHQKVhWYjjvElodjLPTp6H2Klhw9uEGnlXZWkY0H1gA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4140.88)):

Asking for a receipt she's asking for a receipt.

Kim Thompson ([01:09:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=cKqy2iRgwCn6UN2CZVFTQq5hjnkDTMJxvqoIfsqOiu2m3Ipeui8iXQO_a-QI_tzK4EfhBP79746gjoTWMv4SBM0DmSQ&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4145.22)):

<Laugh> like Stoker could tell you lots of stories. Okay. I'll for, for one example after I had found, so I was there, I was in Korea on this Jerome Foundation travel grant. So I ended up being there for six months and within my first few weeks of being in. So I found my OMA, which is a whole story. And then I was staying with, I would say a really good acquaintance who went above and beyond to say the least and let me stay with, or the majority of the time. And, and I, I, wasn't a good guest basically at the end of the day. And I, and it's the first time, you know, not in a bragging way, but I've never been a bad guest. And I didn't, you know, it's not that I was rude to her, but I didn't, I couldn't re I don't know.

Kim Thompson ([01:09:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=3RUHYUE50WnYDug4k_tSQSC9IYBn9sb109z4Ir0MSyJ1jgY442b2QOw0lBygSJUn1x51FmzyKdcoKeEnk9siuKjbsJY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4192.27)):

I, I behaved in, it's harder for me to completely explain, but I behaved in ways that I wouldn't ever behave at someone else's as a guest in someone else's home. I wouldn't overstay my welcome. I completely overstay that welcome. I didn't respect that it was a very tiny space. Well, now I'm like, that was a big flat, but at the time I thought it was small and I didn't respect how sound traveled. I didn't respect that. You know, she had her own work schedule. There were just a lot of ways that I acted that I didn't feel good about. And, you know, and still girl always hears me repeat this story with within that time, you know, and she rightly at one point asked me to leave. And there was a period where I kind of, I was having a poor me moment or poor me period.

Kim Thompson ([01:10:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=kvOHQkHLtaU7FZ2pTbsDIqQpaJziS-gNvXV3Z8nKFFGBoj0zrxoXVUuWXQhR8BePKdt7tD_3szLKYfvO4HbXINbarwU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4239.35)):

And I thought, I felt like everyone was turning against me. Basically when I look back, I wasn't taking accountability for my own actions and behaviors within that time. But I remember meeting up with Stoker or she'd actually reached out and asked if I wanted to go to this. I think it was a queer women's film festival. And we met up at this at xxx for, for a drink beforehand. And I remember kind of, there was some drama going on. That was my own fault. And I remember Stoker saying something to the effect of like, you know, that's none of my business, like, I don't know when I wasn't there. And I don't remember your exact words now, but I remember that Stoker was like, I'm only, I only know what I know of. Like, I'm only gonna judge based on my experience of you.

Kim Thompson ([01:11:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=CBZFXXFGtKXOFJ6GeYWoNlHmOU90pSqD4wNSg9mFHfjJ9dbCzYaq4A-poSv3DbQgHOUPMT7pF63AsLKPzhgtGvltQz8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4280.82)):

And I felt like Stoker was the person who she didn't tell me to have grace with myself or to be gentle, but her actions and words showed me that it's okay to struggle that it's okay to basically act like a immature taught to put it nicely. And that, and I, and I remember Stoker kind of implying that she'd seen this happen a lot with people that, that this wasn't new to her and it just, it helped me a lot. And it's, you know, that was 14 and a half years ago. And I still remember it. And I still remember where we were sitting. Like it's, I think that was another thing as I could, for as ridiculous as my behavior was, or as, as ashamed as I was of my behavior to have someone who didn't really know me, come in and show some grace and say like, you're okay, this is hard for everyone. Like that was really important for me. And it taught me a lot, you know, and I will say for the record later, after a couple years, I was able to go back and apologize to this acquaintance, to this acquaintance. Cause I then understood how I behaved. And in part, I came to understand it because I'd had adoptee stay with me who were visiting. And I started to understand the other side of it.

Kim Thompson ([01:12:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=byd-IUkcOsd_IjgC7sA4EAdxUzu4JZNmkyvdy_RTATA1GivU4nUTaxoCLv8dirSPp7RBzljrcQL0zUTJZp-MQPTOazw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4376.79)):

I just found my omma. She was calling me every day. I didn't know how to deal with that. I was, you know, it was, again, it was like the highest highs and the lowest lows. It was everything all at once. And I don't think we, we, as people are built to just know how to deal with that right away. I think it's something we all have to learn. And I don't, I think everyone has different versions of the, that experience in their life. It's like drowning and swimming all at the same time and floating. And when, you know, when someone like in this case, Stoker comes by in their boat and throws you a life raft. You know, she didn't, it wasn't Stoker's job to hold my hand and to build me a boat that was my own responsibility, but she helped make sure I didn't completely drown whether or not she knew that at the time, like just by showing kindness and showing grace, then I was able to later start to build my own boat and not, and then I, you know, had, I think in different ways, opportunity to repay that to others.

Kim Thompson ([01:13:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=EXM04Z76ARKfiU6CtEFhEn0PzozccG7VDlT4GYcHJKxn5pz-0gDIQZsSe4BAaBORdLojjbyRPdxejoj695zPXby4tXU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4436.62)):

But yeah, it's, it's, it's just so much to, to have to deal with for any person. I don't think there's any personality type that would handle it perfectly. At least that's what I tell myself. <Laugh>, I mean, Stoker, were

Adapted Podcast ([01:14:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=VrHI_Mo82eBMDr9Onfgt1sr7Dh847iiiUCz1G-QBQvdI_j9qinT2lWP6Ttpt4lbTy8k7i7X8sQlBAq34jUkyemeRaV0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4450.83)):

You consciously doing things like that for Kim and other, other adoptees that, you know, being the Unie? I don't know if you consider

Kim Stoker ([01:14:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=9R5OLKPb1nPfDDKdddq6X-c-Exd3kt6tVPnIt8bM01IDrTxTisgWSEpMql7KrOvtr9_W2oUU6Q4OHw2C2vTlOA0twV8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4463.99)):

Well, you know, I wouldn't say I wouldn't say that. No, but I think you know, you, you sort of have a, a certain acquaintance circle, friends circle and sort of, I think when somebody comes into that circle as, as Kim did, I, I, I, I met you through this person you're talking about, I believe. And you know, it's like a friend of a friend, you know, like, you know, like your, my friend's friend you're, you know, like you're a good person kind of thing or somebody that I would likely socialize with. And so I think it's you know, Kim and I have a lot in common. And so I think we also connected in, in, in other ways. But I think if you, for me having lived there for such a long time, having been pretty active, having been very active in the adopt community in terms of activism, you know, actually like trying to advocate for, for adoptee rights.

Kim Stoker ([01:15:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=1MBXPAmCSnTE7atOSf7myDU6sQxO3ieGvyup5VTRY5QzDCGZqaleNegCcTDlpY0a0BMdDHm3bUSRVB_9rpxmD00x6Lg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4517.27)):

And so, you know, I come across a lot of people over the years and I, and I think that you see a lot of beha, like acting out or whatever, you know, you see people struggling. And I think you hear a lot of really personal life stories, which is a privilege to be privy to that kind of information. And I think you just realize that, Hey, yeah, we're people are struggling and you can't try not to judge people that you don't like, I didn't really know her at, at that time. Right. You know, try not to judge people and, and just say, Hey, you know, it's gonna be, you just gotta try to go easy on yourself because you know, you're gonna be the worst critic to yourself or judge her towards your own yourself and just know that, yeah, it's hard. Like it, you're never gonna be in a situation like this being in Korea or reuniting with, with birth family ever again, it's never gonna happen again. You know? And it's like, you're never gonna experience this, this emotional territory that is entirely new. And so you gotta cut yourself some slack and, and hopefully know that yeah, people will be there to listen. If you need somebody to, to listen to,

Adapted Podcast ([01:16:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=hnd-YFm9KD7wHjBcEDT40bYCKOyb6_j5lantLE0EETiV5lZDyqqH369EjWuEfiBEvCr5XAVFZohHhWPtV2ylhMUX32A&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4583.11)):

Do you think that you would go back? You mean Korea 4.0

Kim Thompson ([01:16:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=p6mpQAoh5aaeC1iZfQ7MpeJTJv_o-N8kUiPuqn3LuLgOvyc_e4drRJp2sZHNFyE9eFr9aBO-zJ3CYmyqM4A1njLpYWM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4591.77)):

I wouldn't go back to live at this point. Although, you know, current situations in the states and the Supreme court makes me want, I have been fantasizing again about, I'm just gonna live in Korea. I don't care how hard it is there I'm going back. But at this point I don't see it happening. I'm not saying it won't cause I've learned every time I say never it ends up happening. So, but it's not in my intentions. I will say I went back to visit in December of 2018 and it was the best experience ever. And I was like, oh my God, this is why people like visiting Korea. Like I was, I was like, oh, this is why adoptees get all, whatever about Korea, because I didn't have it. Wasn't my life. Like I just got to hang out with people that I hadn't seen in a long time.

Kim Thompson ([01:17:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=X-AXdtq4lVVRvFzbFysqv0JENGu4743yh2OHqnxgRlvjPLkdBHw9i65299f2gc9xer2FfFTyzJc9QeQvV4BUhgz90SA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4637.52)):

I got to go out and eat at all the places I missed. I didn't have to work. I didn't care if, and or actually when ajumma or just, she would judge me. It actually felt comforting because I missed it somehow. So all, and all the things that would be difficult, they, they either didn't exist at that, in that moment. Or I took them in very differently where I was like, oh, I missed, I missed like ajusshis spitting on the street, like, you know, or I, I miss being scolded or mocked for not speaking Korean or, you know, it suddenly it was different, you know, even because the pollution was so much worse even a year later and I was wearing a mask and I was like, I miss the pollution, which I don't, but <laugh> like, it just was this very, that was the closest I've ever had to having a magical experience. And I was like, man, being a visitor is so much easier than living here. I'm like, go back for a month, hang out, have fun and know that this is not your daily life.

Adapted Podcast ([01:18:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=jyuwdc4OH5KbU_oeJ-OBA4fM4AZU3KYr05EsVq2F7O-8R1Ww6jUGYOrlL-MulTgy1htvmt20xy-20zV3Uqxb_1UFu_0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4706.03)):

Yeah. I wonder if like how good Korea, how much better it could have been if there were adoptee therapists there, you know, if you had access to folks like us who were practicing therapists, you know, like, cuz I really feel like some things we're dealing with, you know, the mental health needs are just not being met,

Kim Thompson ([01:18:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=5OBb6QDJYNjsBb7F-PyHJ8_PGx4PBxyi58z0-E0UJ5DHnXwzoBFLxa7lNam5GelkbUOIEEhEU0yUPFJQVlFq_r0ydt4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4728.07)):

You know? Well, and I think now it's probably very different for adoptees is my guess because we are the thankfully for the pandemic, I think it's made online therapy so much more accessible and it's easier now to, if you're from the states, oh right online, you can more easily access a therapist in the states. Whereas, you know, when, even when I was there, which wasn't that long ago, but like even five years ago that wasn't really, I think you could maybe do like a chat thing on your phone, but I didn't wanna do that. So I don't know, obviously for adoptees what it's like now, but I, I can't help, but think that that might be a little different. I

Kim Stoker ([01:19:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=48_rwXQ8ERIh9fcIoBCoz-WW7l4Lyz1tGRLr91FaI10aWpxCJYXW1bG6TJEaElvIxkw4FcnhFGqgPJdXJnFhhXry4hs&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4767.41)):

Think that's a good point. Yeah. The, the, the, just the way that the last two years has changed, how or made it less important where you live in terms of what kinds of services you can get, what kinds of services are available. And I think mental health is definitely one. Now that everybody's basically telehealth has become normal for a lot of people, but you know, going what you were saying about it would be nice to have adoptee therapists in Korea. I agree with that. And I think there are people that have thought about moving there, but I will say the downside to that is for the therapist, because the community is so small. Like, can you imagine, like basically having your clients be friends of your friends, of your friends or your friends, you know, like it's like, it's a very, would be a very, I think tricky, very difficult to navigate socially for the therapist and their social life, if they were mainly having adoptees as clients in, in, in a place, in like soul where the community is, is what it is. So I, I, that's just something that I, I know I thought about a lot and I know that, you know, for a professional, you can't have your personal life or your social life, you know, go into your professional life. And if you were living in Korea, that would be very difficult to, to maintain boundaries.

Kim Thompson ([01:20:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=IavCcKUhIWuxjK2tIgq82D6TuT7ApCqJLGzGzl3NSfpi5pvvGjMWWxrzmv4AIBNkciQV0dMhKH4TCQ04KiApiOHsrsY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4852.76)):

And then who would the adoptee therapist be able to talk to about their own? Cause I can't imagine the trauma that they'd be having. Yeah. That'd be well, what

Adapted Podcast ([01:21:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=vOjiSARiJ78P6RQuvU8DODreczIT1OrC98jFb18MyzUbfSlYL6Qp3p9FHfLvs11W6LzLYDji2H0O4_pS-YNgPLuV3oY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4863.689)):

About you Stoker any, is there a Korea, like 4.5 0.0 for you?

Kim Stoker ([01:21:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=xjItyBq2SpaMHXpDxuzAOSHansK0andAA2jcdCt3zuqTDvgr7cWZ6gXYzV_kPAhpY0WSw22y7ahCalA3KTV-X6-PVJM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4869.91)):

Oh, totally. I'll live in Korea at some point point again in my life. No doubt. Yeah, no doubt. I wanna die in Korea and I have no, you know, I wanna die in Korea. I wanna, I want any remains that I have left to be, to be dispersed in Korea and I laugh, but I'm totally serious. The bummer about the past two years is my my F four visa expired. And so that's kind of put a real crimp in my like mobility style and what I wanna do when I go back. And so that's a bummer to me, but no, I definitely plan on, I will live in Korea again in my life. It's not something that, you know, when I left Korea, a consolation for me was knowing that yes, I had established relationships with people who live in Korea. So they're always gonna be well, they'll hopefully be there when I come back.

Kim Stoker ([01:22:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Bt1ulkPQxWqSImp3tcRRzAoUlmrOxPViwncRril-jKg2vqOMvEZyZ4--RlyVR88sbqoomwi_6HUL8PgJCi-dc_3bUqY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=4924.22)):

But you know, Korea is always gonna be there for me. As long as I have the financial means, the physical, the mobility means to get there Korea isn't, ain't going anywhere. And so that to me is a kind of consolation. It's like, you know, I'm never gonna lose Korea. It's not like a possession that I have any way I can always access that in my mind. But in terms of being able to go there, it's like, there's nothing barring me, prohibiting me from going back there, whether it's to visit or to live there again. And that's the, the right to live. There again is a right that we have as adoptees having been born there and, and the rights that, you know, we've advocated for for members of our community to be able to establish some sort of citizenship or visa status. And so, yeah, I mean, I love living in Korea. I miss it. I, I, I mean, it's like where I spent half my life. So I, I think it would be an okay place to grow old, some place in the countryside, you know, go fishing, that kind of stuff.

Kim Stoker ([01:23:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Efuh8VhNjySjBy3apK8u5iBLmhWNqrDr_Fhzw4P0scEsf9B5U-S_OKlKjMoHWTrxrEgE9VtygbVifLl0LcvNZ4edclI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5007.75)):

I don't think anything surprises me. Huh? I miss it all. But I will. I will. I will say I recently last year it took until last year to finally start watching K dramas. I have never been a fan of Korean television, but Korean television has really improved a lot in the past 10 years in terms of like production and acting and, and, and things. And so once I started watching Korean dramas, the intensity of longing that I felt when I watched like mundane scenes of soul, it was just like, that was unexpected for me. It was unexpected. I finally came to appreciate K dramas, but then just looking at, at the scenes, you know, and of course it's a drama, right? So it's like, it's, it's all a fabrication, but just like the longing that I felt, I surprised myself with that.

Kim Thompson ([01:24:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=o_-tz7bUiItAh83l1rgkhCAuIp0F_BaIP2cZkE1lD30xKz4AaAF3KE190WjEPM_wHgPjW66WfdLSdkldrYddr0rJQ8c&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5062.6)):

Yeah. I'm a Stoker. I don't think there's, I mean, I know what, I, I'm not surprised by what I miss. Like it's I miss everything about it. Like the, I mean, the only thing I've never missed and that I, every year there complained about, which is putting nicely is the month of August. If you could get rid of the month of August in Korea in terms of the weather, I would probably then move back there tomorrow, but that's just, cause I really hate hot weather. <Laugh>,

Adapted Podcast ([01:24:54](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=fpbR_d8Z_EAvGT8dgnxgmWQ73xXgE7PbhVkLiiGpJazhoLdIO19mdEnrx8n1ZUK3LAsAt7WdB3EMUJ0ZTBTbninA8-4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5094.03)):

You know, now a lot of adoptees, I feel like, you know, cuz like as a whole we're getting older. Right. and I just hear more and more adoptees, you know, reaching retirement age or get, I mean, I'm getting old to myself and thinking about like going to retire in Korea, like having that be a viable thing and now with dual citizenship, and that seems to be more E the process is more, is easy. Easier. I'm wondering if like what, what's the optics of that, where you've got, if mm-hmm, <affirmative> a bunch of us adoptees, you know, in senior citizens moving back and then does do we create like a critical mass of power for ourselves as being of the older generation there?

Kim Stoker ([01:25:43](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=38yPy_e6zFz88tOLW6xHtsWlFwhTRcNhBPSpY6OsKuuulLPZ2pVSY5V4yHY6y3e5GW-LNLyaPPRHp3wylzkJy1z51rE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5143.11)):

Well, you know, there has been conversation about that for some years, even, even the idea of, you know, maybe like I know someone who has this idea that, oh yeah, there should be this actual retirement community designated just for adoptees. In my, in my vision, I kind of see it as like a place I would love to live in a, not in a kind of interdependent sort of place. I like the word interdependency. And I think to acknowledge how inter interdependent we are on each other or with, with nature and all, you know, it's like we need each other. It, you know, needing somebody is not, it doesn't have to be an unhealthy thing. You know, it doesn't have to be co-dependency right, but this like mutual or reciprocal need and, and give and take that, that you hope to establish with people.

Kim Stoker ([01:26:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=KWHnMpjZuukzEu6v4RH1Dx9bTpjnu0g7GdTb0zKNxNqJsfx9NbN-pf8hsDg6f4WsFKWxqAr1Y0nRTzIQWYgy9iF_bOc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5194.21)):

But I think, you know, having some sort of, you know, having a land, having space and having a place where people who don't have family, meaning they don't have extended family, they don't have even maybe partners or children, adult, children, to look after them to be able to live in a place where you share things. If you wanna share things, if you wanna have somebody to share a meal with, or prepare a meal with, or if you need your own private space, you have your own like little alcove, your own bathroom, you know, and just being able to share in community activities, if you want, like somebody needs a ride to the doctor, somebody needs a ride to the subways, you know, the train station like that kind of stuff, because I really am very much this, you know, you have to be really self-reliant and so nobody's gonna do this shit for you.

Kim Stoker ([01:27:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=GWYXpgI3vB9K0lmvIdIcti2x4SnFsRe-nCMCUksEuWf3KZ0MBkIfRbIwZ2hshYn8nLIgCbinPsXhHt1R-7_pKuMhB_U&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5242.479)):

Like I, you know, I, I've never felt like, I guess, I guess you could say, I feel like I can't necessarily rely on people to do things that I want in my life. I have to make that happen myself. And so if I wanted to live in that kind of community, I have to put forth the means to put it out there and do the practical things to make it happen. But I think I want, I will, I expect to grow old and I I sure as hell am not gonna do it where I'm living right now. I can guarantee you that. Right. And I don't necessarily wanna be isolated in some city like Los Angeles, you know, I don't wanna be, I just don't wanna live that kind of old age. And so living in Korea in my, my golden years seems like it would be nice.

Kim Stoker ([01:28:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=8WHw3xMhXdGgKcLKBDno4wYKtfXmsNNEAYL6r4MZfL_TTdi8Xt7s5sm50755E9IWTObsyH4A28didexrtMZYKvCY3r4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5286.02)):

You know, the healthcare system is it's gotten a lot more expensive, but it's fairly accessible, you know, and affordable. And you know, we're, we, we can't expect other people to take care of ourselves. I, I guess so we, she, we need to take care of each other or you can't expect the system to take care of you. So you need to take care of each other. And again, I'm kind of just emphasizing on this idea of, you know, adoptee who don't have extended family or typical traditional family members that they can expect to share their, their golden years with. Right. I mean, there's no guarantees obviously, but I just, I just see it as a place where people, you know, like, I don't know my friends, I don't know,

Kim Thompson ([01:28:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=LlPv6ZxuvgMemGmndE1B_IWzwbvovUnhligwSBIlyCC6DbsDJlCxeXO3R51S-Jvo7vbodkw42XED4bg_s_YeS4rooD0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5330.62)):

Like I young mansion or something.

Kim Stoker ([01:28:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=NDVtwpK_OBjCuMiumBBztIFdVnqSW8pEWQH3Qq_zhNS95ZU59yWCLIWxeDopiffOQHFZEpttDNqYPcQlAr_oQvon26s&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5332.66)):

Yeah, exactly. <Laugh>

Kim Thompson ([01:28:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=rgAdLuKyX5ps_SWXQt4R_Do2ukaNXZrxkcouxe7G5vfcPuha9Wr1do-xPoMp26_AzAMg2FfNi6BgrugUz-i8ZR8yrdo&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5335.51)):

I have to say for myself, that sounds like my idea of hell on earth. In, in like, I like the idea of living in a neighborhood where adoptees intentionally are all living, but I don't wanna live in the same building or on the same exact piece of land. I want some space. I don't want it's too much. And I can't imagine like, I'm like, I'm like if we're gonna all end up angry, old ajummas, or maybe not angry at old ajummas, I'm like, and how many these I'm like, I don't know. I just don't know if I want that kind of drama in my life. But knowing on the, on the more practical, serious side of like what Stoker said, I think yes, having a community that is accessible and where you can support one another, I think that's a very important thing, but I just there'd have to be, you know, maybe it takes five minutes to walk.

Kim Stoker ([01:29:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=oM85Fjl_teOTvr8zgaAxlBj-JRoZ1Z_KG3ts-TdoaI6zQhsoI0NRqct_on3E3D9N-Y4LWONWgfI0gcfEKv5Z7v1DmCY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5388.88)):

So you would envision yourself, Kim, you could envision yourself in your golden years living in Korea.

Kim Thompson ([01:29:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=kAf9n8WzAPhfEHiKlchLPYbeo6LpaYtxilimpIQN8HYg1PQPkkcqtfKTXg2tg3m36QcVfa5gf2HjJz4wRcL1VLXSXK8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5395.979)):

I mean, I guess, you know, when you did, so I do have to take back what I said about not living there. I, when you talked about dying there, I, I wanna die in Korea too. And I forgot about that. Cause you know, I don't think about dying every single day and, or do I, or do I, I might actually yeah, I mean, I that's, if I can have my choice about where I die, I would like to die in Korea and I have this completely overly romanticized view of it where I just kind of, I don't know, sit by the hah and I just die under

Kim Stoker ([01:30:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=vIF9ANDnR6iLQS38MFgXwFE1Mk2qSH9vZNP0ADeW292xaPaTfCwDH-UubM-DG6EcbGKjeZFHw6vDClAqx-_Sz4VXJx0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5429.05)):

Fall over into the river.

Kim Thompson ([01:30:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ElhpGeAZ6t9-VHO4n4RQfmPtvywTv8_UovXx6I3Mj7RooyyNrp6S0wGSxUxJcvB_JRwz1TxBZE93w94mPA5QdNjCcbY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5430.57)):

Yeah. With a bottle soju next to me. And I just kind of like

Kim Stoker ([01:30:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=8rPBimDFszZDYiUXatb5iUriLbmNifBhp6ngpVM7LImrTeZNGAzsIl6FQ6JnYGc8mDwOFLiKBQ-sU2nHM0FPKfn_gYA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5433.56)):

Your body just like sinks and then floats away.

Kim Thompson ([01:30:36](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=RC3i5FxtOu0YGIhHxyVDsov3ODOlr0NFY-wRvEKs7P66lowT52zvFujjewPmPgB9US9z9meXN86hTx2vqn88qszoPi0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5436.88)):

Yeah. And it's just nice, but that I, in that whole, you know, that I will return to once I came and all of that. But yeah, I mean, I do, I think, I mean, who doesn't like a, a good completion of a circle and I think to, to end where you began, there's, that's deeply appealing and important to me. So yeah. I could imagine being older there. I just, I don't know that I would move back there next year if I, but again, if things in the states keep going in the direction they are, maybe I will be proactive about getting dual citizenship and, and be

Kim Stoker ([01:31:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=VN-_k8KA5gFvokctqA5YNZEz6gzW1dQm0wprl55WYc6qb68hnNlOe4NF-LuXIbRvFk4ik5WoVtR-jlbWtDQ3mtYZcPU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5472.189)):

There. <Laugh> but, you know, I tell you things ain't any prettier in Korea from the political

Kim Thompson ([01:31:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=x97ppO3uEEYpx06OVCWhwj0u7nssSvw7Eb1tdqIJJvmzTtc7e7j2RQlDxrP8hcR53nB9dHNyXPuJjufVkarnbLCFvIM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5476.229)):

Fronts, but I think it's because at least for me in Korea, I felt like I could always live in this little, which I know is like a, a thing that talked about before with U came of like Western privilege. But I'm like, well, that's the one benefit I get about being an adoptee in Korea. I'll take it is there's a certain bubble of protection, I think by being Western. And it's not fair, but it's reality that it's a little easier than to be a Korean national. So I'm not sure I would get my dual citizenship. Maybe I'd stick with my F four, but it's yeah.

Adapted Podcast ([01:31:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Ey0wCEBPSz2u3OaAn0PP1lRals1DKVTtqZ_z2xajItg9tjvHDn4omY5b2E3R02uMvth9XaY3pjyk5gbuDHH2zWmgy6g&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5512.46)):

I kind of wanna make the hierarchy work for us, you know, like, you know, go back the age, like yeah. The age thing finally, hell yeah. Make them respect us bow down. And that like have that's right. And like we'll protest, you know, harmonies and Howard Beji, you know, adoptees protest outside the blue house and you know, like

Kim Thompson ([01:32:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=xZtEM7nD74-TSbBBq8iw34ryO6FdmtBuf5a-CMFHAYvK18fNFDB0SvNg39RV5HtsT_daoPpVPA2sYatxdrNdRHRm17A&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5534.63)):

I'll just be at the Pojang macha. I'll be at the, so tent hanging out and <laugh> spitting on the ground with the ajusshis. And I think that's, that sounds like a nice life to me. I'll get a little white, fluffy dog

Adapted Podcast ([01:32:37](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=zEgFEzviYms5ynigOxLb4u7HagEeBEnniUarIi0ji1iKTegF4vjNtk0yaoGQ1zeym-7lI8d-BZJnJuGU3oLn4NlSY-M&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5557.38)):

Speaking, you know, being on the other side, I guess, of having left Korea, what would you tell adoptee still in Korea as to like, how do they know it's time to go or when they should go or if they should

Kim Thompson ([01:32:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=1z7tPoz0V6IaErX_VK6nL1rZMsZDXr6aOkAUBufaWKk8J3pdH2qF62Ak-t5Xb52mCAHxoeo9fSVR4yOKW4FPUwpIZ_U&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5572.38)):

<Laugh>

Kim Stoker ([01:32:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=KfU5pLAUg7TNLIy5dOPTwpSPDLKvUMC0K-192nlrcH8JFEMlQBPWdPT4EisaaxIKeQFFGtBt8oETzzvItyaUGJsR5tk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5572.84)):

It sounds like, it sounds like when you talk about, if you have a pet and it's like, when do you know this time to put the pet down? You know? Like, like how are you gonna know?

Kim Thompson ([01:33:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=-dHVBOm-D10YCam1MZh78WvUQ9LCZsycJqrgZ2Bk1Y8l4cLsuItx4O7IwlJKB2hrbbDvCvCnb4Z9lC5WdpvKJZ9hMV8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5586.01)):

<Laugh>

Adapted Podcast ([01:33:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=EBs5mI_9vQjxx9zNTW4zKJTR6-4m_HywIuUJMprrRzGAXJRQFToDD_MI-zbMP499O9UoPyigPqclbHCrMVlei8oiLCU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5586.39)):

No, but I mean like maybe not like that, but like people always struggle. I mean, cuz I struggle to yeah. Should I leave? And I mean, it's all a personal thing,

Kim Stoker ([01:33:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=BE-BDmy-7FLaWMcNxwlvA2MQ6s4cXgNijoKgEOnrQJ5RPsHQNrjQt2_TkGUTd-eQi0Fuk-82NfGMzE_RtxDDZATlVOk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5597.78)):

You know, here's what I would say. If you have a strong, like wavering waffling feeling of should I stay or should I go, there's probably some reason or many reasons why you feel that way. And instead of torturing yourself with time and not being able to commit and identifying that, that non-committal thing perhaps is, could be an adoptee related issue. Right. And just say, Hey, you know, like Korea will always be there. Like it is a place and, and our community has made it possible over the past, 20, 20, 30 years where Korea is a place where you can always come back, you can always live. There. It is. It'll wait for you. Korea will wait for you. But if there is stuff you feel like you need to do to do people, you need to be with closure and you need to make, or whatever, back in your, the country where you were adopted to then go, Korea will always be there for you. Don't don't you don't owe Korea anything by staying there and, and you don't owe yourself anything by staying there. If it's not a healthy place for you to be, get out.

Kim Thompson ([01:34:43](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Ui8Q8yHq42anmLGafe_qXXBEUL8WcxCV-E6SjuuEdeZnW-4NcIgkdw68gtXW679OHXiRDtx4nRdX1ZLvgkAKxgEBv-0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5683.87)):

Yeah. I, I agree with Stoker. I think it's, it's I think a lot about this conversation I once had with, with this artist in Minneapolis Jay Otis Powell who, when I was in my twenties, I was talking to him about being a fulltime artist. And I was saying like, I don't know, like I really want to, but I don't know how to, and I financially I can't afford it, et cetera. I remember he said to me, he's like, it's not about being financially ready. It's about being emotionally ready. And he's like, and when that time comes you'll know. And I think that applies to Korea it's there will come a point. I think when you are emotionally ready to go and it might not make, and chances are, it will not make sense to anyone else, but you, but I think emotionally you'll know it. And then that's when it's time to go.

Kim Thompson ([01:35:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=e9dUD8IkqEqcr171ZEYEtMKob6R2Td3iFHO3ih5JU-NCX2utIXr9KY4bIPCgYia1HtSPQ9ZXXGyyv1RmSSsQFW2r17M&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5731.16)):

And I think the only danger is ignoring what you know, because then I think that's when things get very difficult. And I know, you know, this is obviously with exception to, I know there's adoptees there who don't have a choice and who are currently for lack of a better word stuck there, but adoptees who have made the choice to move back and who are debating whether or not to leave. I think it's, it's important that you don't ignore that voice when you feel that it's time to go. And like Stoker said, Korea is always gonna be there. And I mean, it's like any relationship. I think sometimes people break up and they actually, and they need to spend some years apart and then they either come back together in a romantic relationship or they're able to come back as really good friends. And I think that can happen with Korea. Like maybe it's time for you to go today, but maybe in three years or four years or 10 years, you're, you're in a different place. Korea is in a different place and you can have a different relationship and a maybe healthier relationship. So,

Kim Stoker ([01:36:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=9xTXiHqdZRnBotEGvYFPVPBt9q2j1vlxHNN9Gu0BlbMUJ9qopQs9065XUeKwoOSVMsJB2ke9Ra2aH9owBg-2SyPoycU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5799.06)):

And you know, it's, it's, it's such a, it's such a high stakes decision because the decision to move to Korea is rarely an impulsive one. And so you give up, I would consider for many people who lived in Korea, they gave up something, you know, unless you're there as a student or, you know, whatever you, you give up some time. Right. And it's, you put yourself in a very vulnerable situation. It's, it's a very UN unusual circumstances. And so to leave, you know, you don't, you might just feel like I'm disappointing myself. I'm disappointing others. I'm, you know just putting this pressure on yourself. And I just think that I would, I would say to people, you know, yeah, like cut yourself some slack and look out for your, your own wellbeing. And you might not know if you're ready to go actually, but sometimes you just need to make a decision and do it with, with do it with all of your, you know, all of your heart, right? Or maybe your mind, isn't sure, but make a decision and, and your, your life who knows what direction your life might might take, but Korea is always gonna be there. And you can always, you're always gonna be welcome to come back.

Kim Thompson ([01:38:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ym_fzjhzycMlBdTXBmo7QmPIZ3_x3Y7X-UDKwb4DZ7DgsPCqkhyMQUBBymihMiiFWHdQ8usn5jPDSwPF1uQLTnJ4dzc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5881.46)):

You're making the choice this time and that's incredibly important. It's I think it's in my experience, it's incredibly empowering. So whether you choose to stay or you choose to leave or you choose to leave and then you choose to go back, all of that's fine. Because the important thing is, is you made that decision, an agency isn't deciding that for you some messed up relative, isn't deciding that for you, some system isn't deciding that for you, you, yourself, as an individual, as a Korean born person who had zero say the first time around you now have all the say. And I think that's a really important piece to remember too.

Kim Stoker ([01:38:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=RmfB0360L1MdiXtOOH3-_0Zrrrd5LQtay9kD4HyVBWCH6ZunW7YlCsMih63GFn1N8aFejboAKqtGpuH5zjxvwcbxmiQ&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5926.54)):

So I'll tell you guys, I'm going back to Korea in June and July. So I'm very excited about that.

Kim Thompson ([01:38:54](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=C8Pm_QxihwQW8rTUEh3JYpjLMyU82Ew2CLcojUdbvY6xBpDXTiE-vCiJ8VqoTUDwQ5s-K0HJoT1ZIS-Zrs_-bDcugyw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5934.17)):

You always go in the warmer months,

Kim Stoker ([01:38:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=NWdy1BNakArJ_9KznkJgNsTlpmSbfr0gV6jsjeHz2zhTCRSfycTvl7mGrSwsFSuoqKQ7A6_k8JMYM_vydXyDitw7Do4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5936.229)):

<Laugh> man. There's stuff going on business to take care of. So yeah, like I, I I was able to go back in 2018 in 2019, and then of course the last two years I have not been able to go back. And so it's been really, I miss it a lot. So I'm very, very excited to be able to be there this summer. So yeah. I'm gonna be able to be a visitor yet again. So I think yeah, it's a privilege for sure. To be able to go back and I'm thankful for that opportunity and that I still have friends that I get to see and, and just kind of have the good times as Kim said, have the <laugh> good times this summer.

Adapted Podcast ([01:39:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Ub9t9wjMTfqHidlKfiLgx79zql4DMcMUdnrQrXJo4mTwyzOWgNX8Yq0L5sV_b8CcHjr0LchPTT4aAmADTr4mqKPiJhk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5985.67)):

What's your like first meal back usually.

Kim Stoker ([01:39:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=0IeeszQklviWIuoxV1_jRJp9MMF_sFOV79wSBjRef0ykmHRnpyTb8YNvqK0R2iZ0kfXTGxo8io27SgwbgR0LC2ayQGg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=5988.15)):

Well, you know, there's like not been a, like a usual really, but I have thought about that. So I get in really, really very early in the morning. And so I will probably, man, you know, I don't even know. It's gotta be like, it's gonna be like a jjigae or something like that. It can't be, it's not gonna be meat. It's not gonna be fried stuff. It's gonna be like a kimchi jjigae. Yeah.

Kim Thompson ([01:40:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=8oTl3B101Y3raU2ayYk6QVyg3c8d3FEghogB8FuViLlY3pX6zbuAfMLcsYtloflFMtmnbv1ESn_Nz5yIQ3UYR-RvNkc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6014.02)):

Mine would be daechan whether or not it would be the first night, whether or not I could do it the first night. Isn't always depend on where I was, but there's this place in Hongdae provided it still there. I would have daechan or all you can eat tuna sashimi

Kim Stoker ([01:40:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=pqdWd8QDMkq78ZqgVMpG_aYGI3XcQ7lpB-wDUOWgbWI8zIn-y1q6JnjHg80iEWhIm4vYaBm-W46zltJK7OLA_SETmas&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6031.41)):

That's heavy stuff, dude.

Kim Thompson ([01:40:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=z6oRr7n2bgzdCBJWYQYkn-NXTHdNaOOiL720yAb1iqzzpjmgi2xl5jILfiDvRleQquCn_XFTj18Omg8dWn5eRxMD0hg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6033.729)):

The day ch

Kim Stoker ([01:40:36](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=2--_O3jClmVn8gixDdX_ZiBP6Gj4R632U2ZZ4PHLPbo5OzBSa67wv9KHaPVexzEAoo_Dlk4Q_oQEQgR-NcwaTo59Iuk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6036.79)):

Kaomi, what would you have?

Adapted Podcast ([01:40:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=CV42CXYryULc5L3IEaHCZeiq7NiqNkx6lYWR_Phohq0XZM-a-2oEgPgbA9qaNvLwqStAntPrEDDkAb4P-MEko0EbdqE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6038.34)):

Well, one thing I'm craving, cuz you can't really easily get it here in the states or in Minnesota's ddakkalbi, you know, with the cheeses. Yeah, yeah, yeah. You can't really, I mean, you can get, you can get barbecue, but not a lot of places here. I mean maybe LA, but I don't know. I, I haven't seen, we can get ddakalbi. So,

Kim Stoker ([01:40:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=RBB1fHlEuiT4c2YD7GGVfBRDPjQn1OiyTjOsqepCTpNfTx9V0NenWFDrsOzII-P5iFUkeio9jvfJSMCXON5YwBIxA9g&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6057.24)):

You know, I will tell you that was the very first meal that I had when I arrived in Korea and I was a vegetarian at the time <laugh> but that was the first restaurant I ever got taken to. And I was like, I'll eat the potatoes and the carrots <laugh> and this is really spicy. I can't even eat those too spicy. <Laugh>

Adapted Podcast ([01:41:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=yTyYiypq-q6RnKje0COwgB78-W9EViM9hHJMwjhqPwj4Nvb_QFYY4TNC7EoMxxZN-ncCAUUEePCj_D-9gY3AWjrFBk8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6082.67)):

And then you didn't, you didn't say vegetarian obviously? No,

Kim Stoker ([01:41:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=-a7AygP3izW0FknCItX476rRNo5FTcfElBwpt6GHyj9xIN50dDmDddty3CSM9WYNg4kuEVpHyBtTef6SIeWhAkRpG8k&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6086.689)):

I couldn't. No, I couldn't. I, I couldn't even vegetarians can completely stay. I couldn't do it, man. No, I lasted like three months.

Adapted Podcast ([01:41:36](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Uj8zVH0q_M3eVrlHh86L06wF5C0ea5nzzcFrxV0DE9KEga95TJ1WkgVWSCwNSiSDkTimWKCxm8lNFCFxR6TgWxN3v28&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6096.82)):

I'm so envious though. Two months that you'll be there. That's awesome. What you'll be in Korea right? Two months.

Kim Stoker ([01:41:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=5pPfvOEtKKesxpE7fETFubA0Z6fg5LM6TWrxanxrsiC0UBDHEUYpRmhOshoXxKgyJ9Dt-KyAkYZ5Dd16eTigHyo03qY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6105.37)):

Oh, I'll only be there for, for like two and a half weeks

Adapted Podcast ([01:41:49](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=7gS34YzJSNL_YfQh4d7NBqWI5zFxgljSddNrZ-zj609Fzsm8TLUA-Vsps1afBxKexLW8fIMOnnsFas84d4nfe-_bLJs&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6109.27)):

Actually. Oh, okay. Mm-Hmm <affirmative> okay.

Kim Stoker ([01:41:51](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=LDhm2t6Bmczi7eUXxNByQslAgLGhQRF-cLEzBf1G0g-eHBYcTR2wHDAfD3yY5W6QwSVcYXX5xCD7mp_6veEMOYqbP5w&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6111.25)):

Yeah. Short, shortest

Adapted Podcast ([01:41:53](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=4frlgT85NYSE3lNFj9nItXWswilItwrxsXC8DtTy34EwNkhTToadkixdK6hX5WtQ-Kn_SFodg7bAXd117vldv5GNSDw&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6113.02)):

Trip. So you're probably like people are, or at least this is like, get your, get your request in to see Stoker now.

Kim Stoker ([01:42:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=3yixr9AxqvwD1uwYAT7uy5qwqboxrwSzQ2-lccUkyYSIFxexGxwahxGo9cNreFSXbXrzAWCzr_u2AtwrdX6EpdeMAYA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6120.76)):

Hey, this is what I'm telling you. We're we're planning a forum where there's gonna be a forum when I'm in town. This is, this is like, you're getting the exclusive, I don't know when this is gonna be broadcast, but maybe by the time this is broadcast, we'll have announced it, but there's gonna be some action when,

Adapted Podcast ([01:42:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=hXuNPHgOtduIxcgzaL7RGrSBxQakv88h3lWOi3fxXaHHjHK9R-7j32j57nbamHC4ccizixylyC7P2NWi7C7bOfy3jUo&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6137.13)):

Okay. Do you wanna say more or just that

Kim Stoker ([01:42:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Jy4G9kzxhw_w-7zlcu_GTyCC9w1Z7nZ428sNDWQv4p196kMyMMGojjTtr13Z8IU7Cvv-mYDNlgFGpAP9Ea062C76G2c&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6140.64)):

It's gonna be about if, if there all things go as planned, it's gonna be about an educational seminar for adoptees to, to catch everybody up on the special adoption law revisions that are going forward at the national assembly assembly prob this year, these will, there are some proposed things for the special adoption law that our big biggest changes since 2011, when we first participated as adoptees into the legislation. And there's some certain things that we're trying to get and trying to get out of. So yeah, we're planning on having a kind of informational session for adoptee so people can know what's going on in Korea.

Adapted Podcast ([01:43:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=QeRcDs67IaFnQVJ28ofAwvVuoBjgaIsKXF3W-NAjvNXt00j24JvfNwcuFRIP2GCQKdTwHT6_dgA7nSlLZ4Whhy3dvSU&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=6193.83)):

Thank you, Stoker and Kim, even though technically you aren't my unnis I definitely consider you two of my teachers. I am grateful. You both took time to come on this podcast for a second time. I've got some exciting news too. Remember the Kickstarter a few years ago, where thanks to you. We funded 25 adoptee audio interviews into Korean. While now we're ready to kick off a media phase where we hope to grow awareness in Korea about this podcast and your stories. If you can help us with this media push, please subscribe to our Patreon at patreon.com/adapted podcast. Every little bit helps. And if you can make a one time donation, please contact me at kaomig@gmail.com. That's it for now. Enjoy these early days of summer. I'm Kaomi Lee.