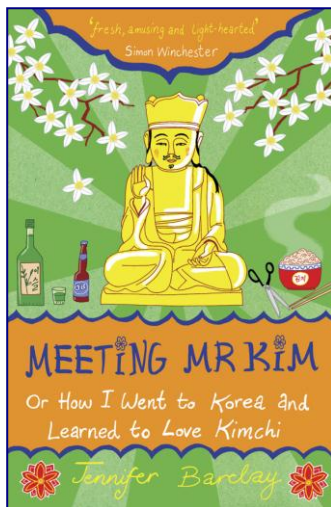


● Summersdale New Book Press Release ●

The first travelogue about South Korea for 20 years reveals the culture, the spiritual life and the fabulous cuisine of the Korean people

Setting out alone to discover modern-day South Korea, Jennifer Barclay's journey changed her outlook on life, brought her new and lasting friendships – and led to “an addiction” to the Korean national dish, kimchi



MEETING MR KIM

OR HOW I WENT TO KOREA
AND LEARNED TO LOVE KIMCHI

by

Jennifer Barclay

ISBN: 978-1-84024-676-6 Paperback 283pp 4th August 2008 £7.99

“To most Koreans, a meal without kimchi is unthinkable. It's kimchi, and not variety, that's the spice of Korean life. And now I was hooked.”

As a peace summit heralded a new era for a country divided for 50 years, Jennifer Barclay searched for the spirit of South Korea, discovering a land full of passion, tradition and spirituality, good humour and great food.

Having followed her musician boyfriend to Seoul, where his band had a contract to play funk at a luxury hotel, she set off alone to explore the country.

At ancient tombs, at Buddhist temples, in strangers' homes and on forest-covered mountains, people's kindness and pride in their culture began to work a special magic on Jennifer. The people of Korea seemed to be on a mission to ensure that Jennifer left with happy memories – and even, perhaps, a new set of values.

With useful background information on the history, politics and religious beliefs – and an invaluable appendix of etiquette tips and travel hints (plus a recipe for kimchi too!) – Barclay's travelogue sparkles with humour and warmth. Through its pages we discover a modern hi-tech country – that still has so much to offer for those seeking beauty, passion and serenity.

“There were so many stories to tell of that summer, and I was anxious to preserve them, and eventually put them all together to try to thank the Korean people in the only way I could, by showing others it can be a place to go to acquire happy memories.”



About the author: Jennifer Barclay has written for *The Korean Herald*, *Lonely Planet: Korea* and *A Woman's Asia*. She regularly contributes to the blog www.londonkoreanlinks.net. She is now based in West Sussex.

Notes to Editors: Barclay's book is the *first* travelogue on South Korea to be published since Simon Winchester's *Korea: A Walk Through the Land of Miracles* which described South Korea in 1988 when the country was still under military dictatorship. Simon Winchester has praised Barclay's *Meeting Mr Kim* as “fresh, amusing and light-hearted”. Margaret Drabble has also endorsed Jennifer Barclay's book: “Brilliantly evokes the strangeness of Seoul for a western visitor ... invaluable and entertaining.”

Meeting Mr Kim: Or How I went to Korea and Learned to Love Kimchi by Jennifer Barclay is available through all good booksellers or by telephoning Mail Order at Summersdale Publishers on: +44 (0) 1243 771107
To request a review copy of Meeting Mr Kim or to be put in touch with the author and/or a representative from the Korean Embassy, please contact Elly Donovan: tel: 01243 771107 / elly@summersdale.com



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