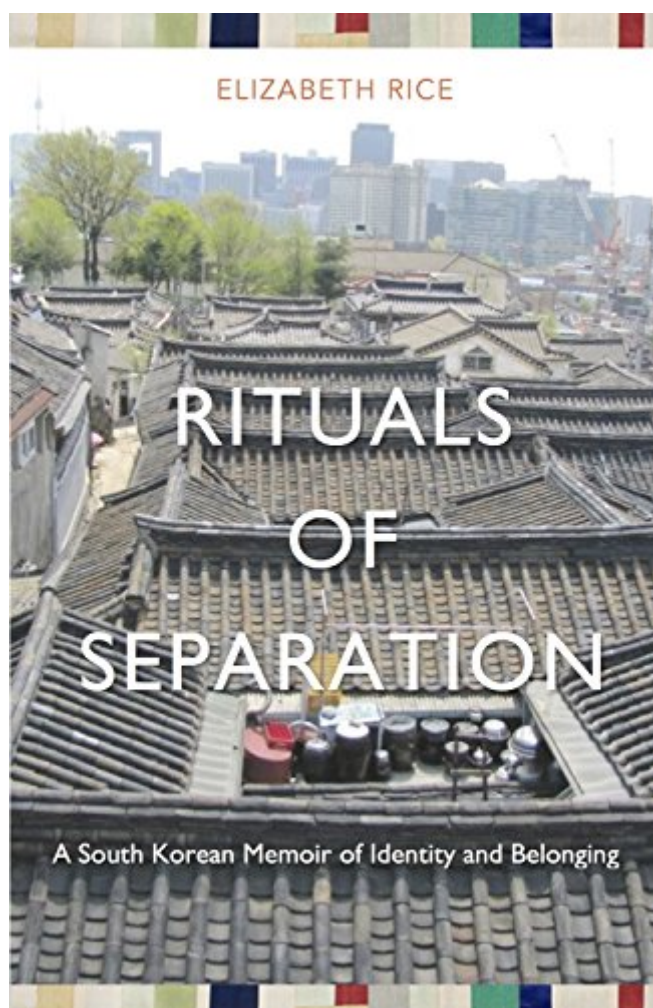


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# RITUALS OF SEPARATION: A South Korean Memoir Of Identity And Belonging



## Synopsis

When her American family returns to the U.S. after sixteen years in South Korea, Liz is a hidden immigrant. Her mixed-up cultural identity is veiled behind the face of the girl down the street. She's the granddaughter of upperclass Americans, but her homeland is a divided Asian peninsula of neon-lit cities, five-hundred-year-old palaces, and army dictators. Rice tells the story of her life in South Korea from ages nine months to sixteen, the influence of the tragedy and tension of the Korean peninsula, and the story of her parents, who walked arm-in-arm with social activists during South Korea's democratic revolution. Told with honesty and humor, *Rituals of Separation* captures the tension of living between identities, the deep longing for home, and the determination to find healing in the face of unrecoverable loss.

## Book Information

File Size: 6489 KB

Print Length: 259 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Tojang Press (November 7, 2016)

Publication Date: November 7, 2016

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01MQFLWDK

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #364,866 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #51

in [Kindle Store > Books > History > Asia > Korea > South](#) #67 in [Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

A beautifully written memoir about transitions and belonging. People who have lived internationally, especially as children, will appreciate the author's description of sorrow and loss of culture and community. Knowing someone else has gone through the transition, will help others through the

grief process.

Having lived in Korea during the time period of this book, I had never given much thought to how growing up in a foreign land must impact our children. This insightful, beautifully-written, moving account of Elizabeth's young years taught me much about a child's perspective and experience of living in Korea (or in any other foreign land) -- especially the challenge of adapting to life in the U.S., her "home" country, when it doesn't really feel like home. The reality of having to emotionally straddle two cultures, described so eloquently in this book, gave me a completely new appreciation for what so many expat kids must go through. A true page-turner, I could almost "taste" the sights, smells and rich beauty of this small but vibrant country, once again.

A very interesting first person journey through identity of place and culture. It not only makes me want to visit South Korea and experience some of the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes, but also give me perspective on the challenges of cross cultural experiences.

A great journey! Very well written book detailing life in South Korea as a missionary child. Poignant tale that gives the reader an insight to the Korean culture of the 70s. I enjoyed the book immensely and highly recommend it!

This is an extremely well written book which enables the reader to experience the history and the heart of Korea. At the same time, it helps explain the complex lives of those who live in a country which is not their "own" and yet that is what it becomes. I highly recommend it.

I also grew up in Seoul, South Korea. So I really was able to identify with Liz's struggles. She experienced life slightly differently by her own background and how her parents took on social gospel issues. It was quite insightful for me. I learned a lot both politically and emotionally from what it brought to surface in me.

I was a Southern Baptist missionary in South Korea from 1975 to 1991 and loved your MK perspective. My husband and I raised 3 children and the book helped me view life in Korea from their eyes.

Reading Liz's remarkable story you can't help but ask questions about yourself. What place or

places define me -- where am I at home? How do you reconcile the person you see today with all the places that make that person. It's a beautiful story- read it.

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