

**Please come on zoom at 5:30 PM (I'll take attendance and we'll get ready to invite her!)**

### **10 - 15 minutes Q&A Interview Session with Patricia Park**

Jungah Kim

Patricia Park is a well renowned author of *Re Jane*, a tenured Associate Professor of Creative Writing at American University, Fulbright Scholar in Creative Arts, Jerome Hill Artist Fellow.

She has recently published another amazing novel, *Imposter Syndrome & Other Confessions of Alejanda Kim*. Her next YA novel, *What's Eating Jackie Oh?* will be published in Spring 2024. She is also working on an adult novel about the Koreans in Buenos Aires called Chino. Her novels are all part of the "Queens Multiverse."

She was born and raised in Queens, graduated from the Bronx High School of Science, Swarthmore College, and received her MFA from Boston University. She lives in Brooklyn.

- **Fun Fact:** Patricia is trying her hand at stand-up comedy to research her next novel about an aspiring comic. Follow her "method writing" journey on Instagram.

Patricia Park has spoken at over 100 schools, bookstores, and institutions including: Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gotham Comedy Club, Stuyvesant H.S., Colegio Nacional de Buenos Aires, Seattle Arts & Lectures, and many others. And so, we are very happy and grateful to have her, amidst her busy schedule!!

### **General Questions that I will begin the talk with (mixed with my own questions & yours):**

- 1) What initially inspired you to write the novel, to write of *Jane Eyre* in a Korean and New York setting?
  - a) *Jane Eyre* was originally called an autobiographical novel - how autobiographical is this book to other sources for information (for Patricia Park) - how autobiographical *Re Jane* is to her?
  - b) If you have ever struggled with uncertain identity (not having a grasp of what exactly her personality is?) - culturally/ racially / nationally (like *Re Jane & Jane Eyre*)
- 2) Did you see any parallels between the Victorian culture to the disciplinary Korean cultures while writing the novel?
  - a) Why do you think *Jane Eyre* is relevant to this day, and why did you find it

appropriate to use *Jane Eyre* to write out some Asian American experiences?

- 3) What were your inspirations for writing the ending of the novel? What goals did you have in mind when writing the ending, related to *Jane Eyre's* ending?

### Reasons for writing the novel?

- Of all the Victorian era, why did she choose *Jane Eyre* to represent Korean - American culture? + What influences you to mix Victorian literature with modern-day asian experiences?
- *Jane Eyre* was originally called an autobiographical novel - how autobiographical is this book to other sources for information (for Patricia Park) - how autobiographical *Re Jane* is to her?

### Personal Questions

- If you have ever struggled with uncertain identity (not having a grasp of what exactly her personality is?)
- Was New York the original place that she wanted the novel to take place - were there any other alternatives or environments?

### Students) Specific Novel Related Questions <Model after *Jane Eyre* / Considerations/ Plot Related>

- What shoes Jane Re would wear when she is going on a date with Ed → because initially, she was wearing heels when she was going on a date with Changhoon. The shoes are never referenced, however, in her date with Ed.
- Why did Jane leave Ed in *Re Jane*. It is never explicitly explained.
- Why didn't she already make Bertha crazy and divorced – in *Jane Eyre*, she starts Bertha as crazy, it makes it easier on the storyline for Beth - as she gets crazier and into her job later?
- What was your process in creating *Re Jane* (Lowood school is missing)? The key figures are not there. Timeline wise: starts with her adolescence / does not include childhood / Brocklehurst figure missing
  - Bildungsroman related? Variation?

### Jane Eyre Related Questions

- How much did she relate to Jane when she read it?
- What her perspective is of Jane's ending - is it happy or not happy? What is her

take on Jane Eyre's ending?

### **Writing Related Questions**

- How long did it take to write *Re Jane*?
- What was your favorite part in the process of creating the story?

### **Last Question that I had in mind:**

- 4) **Selfish question:** There are frequent references to transportations & rhythms. Our class is based on the idea of "Cultivating rhythms of *Jane Eyre*," what were your inspirations in using the idea of "rhythm," and public transportations? + What is the relationship you see with the subway in terms of Jane's relationship with identity? I notice that you end it with the "rhythm" of the train she is on.