

Love Love

Publication Date: September 15, 2015 (Soft Skull/Counterpoint Press)

[Powell's](#) | [Amazon](#) | [B&N](#) | [Books-A-Million](#) | [Indiebound](#)

An edgy, tender novel about art and athletics, family and adoption, remembrance and forgiveness – and Judy and Kevin, a sister and brother who share more than they know.

Judy Lee's life has not turned out the way she'd imagined. She's divorced, she's broke, and her dreams of being a painter have fallen by the wayside. Her co-worker Roger might be a member of the Yakuza gang, but he's also the only person who's asked her on a date in the last year.

Meanwhile, her brother Kevin, a former professional tennis player, has decided to donate a kidney to their ailing father — until it turns out that he's not a genetic match. His father reveals he was adopted, but the only information Kevin is given about his birth parents is a nude centerfold of his birth mother. Ultimately Kevin's quest to learn the truth about his biological parents takes him across lines he never thought he'd cross: from tony Princeton to San Francisco's seedy Tenderloin district, from the classy tennis court to the gritty adult film industry.

Told in alternating chapters from the points of view of Judy and Kevin, *Love Love* is a story about two siblings figuring out how to live, how to love, how to be their best selves amidst the chaos of their lives.

Advance praise for *Love Love*:

"A writer of deep pathos and empathy, Woo (*Everything Asian*, 2009) has given us a deeply felt novel of parents and children, husbands and wives—the many ways we try to connect and fail; and how sometimes, somehow, we succeed."

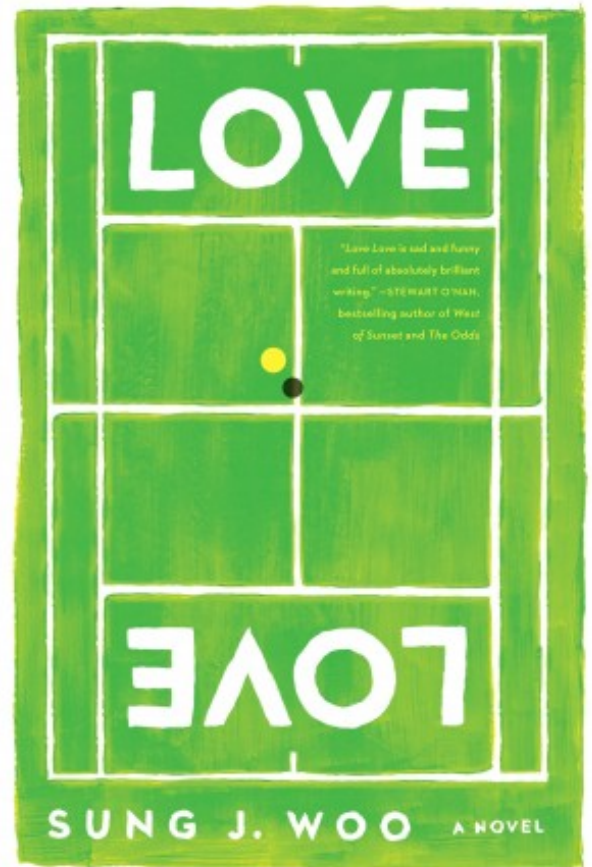
– [Kirkus Reviews](#) (7/1/2015)

"You will love *Love Love*. Like Kevin on the tennis court, Sung J. Woo marries brute force with clever misdirection; brilliant flourishes with measured restraint; craft with strategy. The result is a gem of a novel, by turns poignant, heartbreaking and wickedly funny. The only dangling thread: when's the film adaptation coming out?"

– [Jon Wertheim](#), Sports Illustrated executive editor and author of *Strokes of Genius: Federer, Nadal, and the Greatest Match Ever Played*

"*Love Love* is sad and funny and full of absolutely brilliant writing."

– [Stewart O'Nan](#), bestselling author of *West of Sunset* and *The Odds*



“*Love Love* is a wonderful book about two characters I fell for instantly. I was hooked by the novel’s unexpected twists and pitfalls, which kept me on the edge of my seat all the way until the end. Sung J. Woo’s sure voice and beautiful descriptions will seduce any reader who enjoys a good story about love that doesn’t come easy. A great read.”

– [Katie Crouch](#), bestselling author of *Girls in Trucks* and *Abroad*

“With antic humor and boundless sympathy, Sung J. Woo gives his broken characters something to reach for. *Love Love* is an ace.”

– [Ed Park](#), author of *Personal Days*

“Sung J. Woo’s *Love Love* is a wonderful read — funny, tender, touching, and true. This is the novel about tennis, porn, art, and family that the world has been waiting for.”

– [Alix Ohlin](#), author of *Signs and Wonders* and *Inside*

“Sung J. Woo has written a surprising, moving novel that powerfully explores notions of family, creativity, skill, and — yes — love.”

– [Louisa Thomas](#), staff writer at [Grantland](#) and author of *Conscience: Two Soldiers, Two Pacifists, One Family—a Test of Will and Faith in World War I*

“This tale of unconventional love in unconventional families is funny, knowing, and always surprising. *Love Love* has got it all: tennis, of course, but also organized crime, pornography, a venomous snake, and more twists than a bag of Rold Gols. Give it half a chance and it will charm the terry-cloth headband off you.”

– [J. Robert Lennon](#), author of *Familiar* and *See You in Paradise*

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Tumblr](#)

Read & Volley!



“You will love **Love Love**. Like Kevin on the tennis court, Sung J. Woo marries brute force with clever misdirection; brilliant flourishes with measured restraint; craft with strategy. The result is a gem of a novel, by turns poignant, heartbreaking and wickedly funny. The only dangling thread: when’s the film adaptation coming out?”

– [Jon Wertheim](#), *Sports Illustrated* executive editor and author of *Strokes of Genius: Federer, Nadal, and the Greatest Match Ever Played*

“Sung J. Woo has written a surprising, moving novel that powerfully explores notions of family, creativity, skill, and — yes — love.”

– [Louisa Thomas](#), staff writer at [Grantland](#) and author of *Conscience: Two Soldiers, Two Pacifists, One Family—a Test of Will and Faith in World War I*

If you’ve seen the cover of [Love Love](#), it’s obvious tennis plays a significant part in the book. So it probably comes as no surprise that hitting a fuzzy yellow ball is a big part of my life. I’m happiest when I’m out on the court, and almost as happy when I’m watching the game. I’ve been to three of the four Grand Slams. I’ve watched Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer at a tournament in Doha (that’s in Qatar, the Middle East!). At my local club, I’ve exchanged rallies with one of the Bryan Brothers (though I can’t remember which one). I’ve played in official USTA leagues. I follow both the ATP and the WTA, even beyond the Grand Slams. Like I could actually carry a semi-intelligent conversation discussing such players as Ernests Gulbis and Camila Giorgi.

Anyway, with the publication of my second novel, what I would love more than anything is to bring two of my passions together: literature and tennis. So what I’d like to do is **hold readings of my novel at tennis clubs around the Tri-State area, and also at cities I’ll be visiting during my book tour**. I don’t know how receptive the clubs will be, but I’ll do my best to entice them. Because this won’t be just reading. I want everyone to play, myself especially. So I’m suggesting events along the lines of...

1. I’ll read from my book for 15 minutes.
2. Q & A/sign books for 15 minutes.
3. **Play tennis!** For an hour, hopefully. Maybe two? Three? (Hell, I’ll play until the club closes.)

Doesn’t it sound like a fun time? It sure does to me. I call it **Read & Volley!** I hope other tennis-loving authors will follow in my squeaky footsteps and meld these two great activities together for their own events.

Bio

Sung J. Woo's short stories and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *PEN/Guernica*, and *KoreAm Journal*. His debut novel, *Everything Asian* (2009), has received praises from *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review), the *Chicago Sun-Times*, and won the 2010 Asian Pacific American Librarians Association Literature Award (Youth category). In 2014, *Everything Asian* was chosen for [Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township](#). A graduate of Cornell University with an MFA from New York University, he lives in Washington, New Jersey.

Selected Published Works

- The New York Times:
 - Private Lives: [Saying 'I Love You' With Baseball](#)
 - Modern Love: [Overfed on a Mother's Affection](#)
 - Complaint Box: [The Lost 'Library Voice'](#)
 - Generations: [A Mom and Pop Store, and Then Some](#)
 - Generations: [Not Just a Place for Food, but for Bonding](#)
- The New York Times Magazine: Lives – [Like Father?](#)
- WNYC: [Sandy, You Were Delicious](#)
- Financial Times: [Darkness and the divide](#) (book review of Krys Lee's *Drifting House*)
- PEN/Guernica: [1950](#)
- The Margins: [The Suitcase](#)
- McSweeney's: [BJÖRK: The Great Underground Musician Adventure](#)
- [The Nervous Breakdown: Searching for Richard Yates](#)
- Carve Magazine: [Limits](#)
- Hyphen Magazine: [Translation \[PDF\]](#)

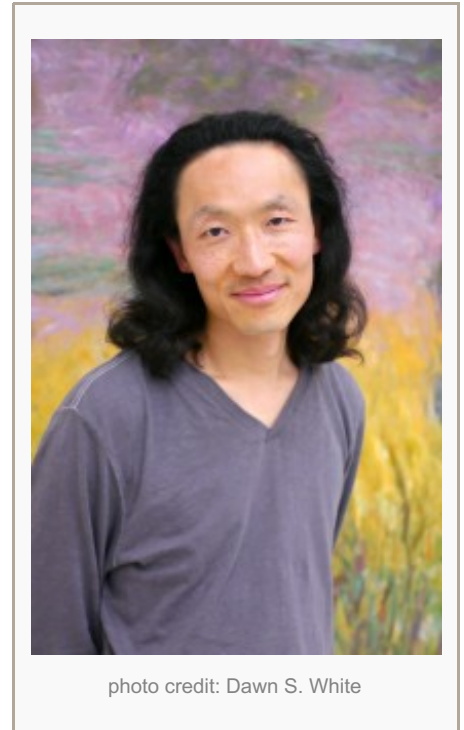


photo credit: Dawn S. White

- KoreAm Journal:
 - First-World Problems, a column:
 - [April/May 2015](#) | [February/March 2015](#) | [December 2014/January 2015](#) | [October/November 2014](#) | [August/September 2014](#)
 - [Bridging the Linguistic Divide](#)
 - [Object of My Affection: A Cat Mug](#)
 - Rumble in the Plains
 - Solve Your Own Mysteries
 - As Good as It Gets
 - Lost in Translation
- Pindelyboz: [Confessions of My Wart, Which Is on My Right Foot, Second Toe](#)
- Paradigm: [The Foundation of the Heart](#)
- Storyglossia: [Love, Anyway](#)
- Miranda Magazine: [Portraits](#)
- East of the Web:
 - [Paris, at Night](#)
 - [American Sister](#)
- In Posse Review: [The Lost Diaries of a Cro-Magnon Man](#)
- Cautionary Tale: [My So-Called Life as a Zombie](#)

Short Film

[Fork in Chopsticks](#)

Representation

[Ghosh Literary](#) (*Love Love*)

[Renee Zuckerbrot Literary Agency](#) (*Everything Asian*)

Publicity

Sharon Wu, Publicist | (510)704-0230 ext. 214 | sharon.wu@counterpointpress.com

Media Kit

[Download PDF](#)

Contact Me

sungjwoo@gmail.com | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [Google+](#)



LOVE LOVE

by Sung J. Woo

Pub Date: Sept. 8th, 2015

ISBN: 978-1-59376-617-7

Publisher: Soft Skull Press

As their father's body is ravaged by illness, two siblings try to recover from failed marriages and rebuild their lives.

Judy Lee is 38 years old. Still reeling from her divorce just over a year ago, she has no husband, no kids, and no house. She's just quit her temp job and lives in a small apartment littered with old food and worn clothes. Her brother, Kevin, a former tennis pro who's also recently divorced, is doing a little better, but he's just found out, after a routine screening to see if he can donate a kidney to his ailing father, that he was actually adopted. Even though Kevin is completely overwhelmed by the news, he thinks Judy should donate a kidney, but Judy is unable to forgive her father for having had “the audacity to carry on an affair while his wife was dying.” Haltingly, Judy embarks on a new relationship with a former co-worker, but Kevin is mired in the past. Memories of his ex-wife haunt him even as he travels to San Francisco to search for information about his birth parents. Kevin and Judy are opposites: Kevin, the calm, methodical, successful one, Judy, the disorganized, chaotic mess. At times, this characterization feels a little too pat—and, when Judy’s presence is occasionally subsumed in the moments when Kevin takes over the narrative, a tad imbalanced as well. But as the plot progresses, and each outgrows these self-imposed labels, the narrative becomes about the performance of self: who we tell ourselves we are, who others perceive us to be. “Who are you?” characters ask each other more than once. In the end, the answer is that we are so much more than can ever be articulated.

A writer of deep pathos and empathy, Woo (*Everything Asian*, 2009) has given us a deeply felt novel of parents and children, husbands and wives—the many ways we try to connect and fail; and how sometimes, somehow, we succeed.