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Profiles of KAD Relations with the Black Community | '92 - '20

Yi Woo Ae

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PROFILES
OF KAD
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WITH THE
BLACK
COMMUNITY

by Yi Woo Ae (이 우 애), formerly Ame Ai (雨愛)
a Korean adoptee

George Floyd Protests in Minneapolis in 2020 Excerpted from Profiles of KAD Relations with the Black Community

Despite the inherent challenges of comparing racial relations between two states, because different industries are prevalent in different states¹, it is something I will attempt to do if only as a metaphor or starting point for discussion.

Minnesota is the #1 Korean adoptee (KAD) state. Minnesota itself holds more than 15,000 KADs (Swanson) out of the 150,000 KADs in the U.S. (E. Kim). This is even more than the 11,000-12,000 KADs on Facebook (The Gide Foundation). By the way, there are 167,000 Korean adoptees not living in Korea, with many living in Sweden, Australia, Denmark, France, and the United Kingdom (Kim and Dobson). Adoptee poet Nabiya asserted in 2007 that statistics showed that the number of KADs residing there was close to 30,000, but the numbers have gone down. Prior to that, in the early '90s, which is when this book begins, it was over 12,000, but the State of Minnesota stopped tracking all international adoptions in 1999. In addition 85% of the Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Minnesotan community lives in the Twin Cities, to include Minneapolis (Minnesota Department of Health). The closest thing KADs have to a KADtown is Minneapolis, Minnesota. A large number are also in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Cheri Register, adoptive mother, has noted this among adoptees in Korea. “ ‘Are you from anywhere other than Minnesota?’ American adoptees in Seoul ask each other,” says Register (Register 9). I was also asked this question by the only interviewee who was living in Korea in 2007, Jane Jeong Trenka. Jennifer Arndt-John built an adoptee organization called Rainbow

¹ In LA, the major industries are agriculture, talent suppliers for the film industry, logistics networks, research and development, the services sector (including tourism), and entrepreneurs, the latter being mostly represented by the Asian community. Manufacturing is the primary industry in Minneapolis.

World in Minnesota because the area is rich in adoptee resources (Vickery 71). Her organization has already worked with Kim Dalros, co-creator of the Here photography project, and the International Adoptee Congress (International Adoptee Congress).

I even moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2008, after I wrote the first draft of this book. Unfortunately, I moved from that location after my first winter there, and I remembered how much I hate the snow.

However, the dark underside of this area is that the Twin Cities had 30 thousand racially restrictive property deeds dating back to 1910. The racial divide between the Black and white community is the largest in the country by the measures of poverty, unemployment, homeownership, and at-risk youth, making it an unsurprising location for Derek Chauvin's murder of George Floyd in 2020 (Olitzky). There's a \$47,000 difference between a Black family's combined income and a white family's there. According to "Mapping Police Violence, Minneapolis police are 13 times more likely to kill black residents" than white residents and 99% of cops who murdered did not face charges (Kendi).

Most of the conflict in Minneapolis might appear to be a white vs. Black matter. And truly most Black people do not even consider KADs if they don't know one personally. However, for those who are aware of KADs, they might not resonate with them just for the fact that the majority of KADs may lack awareness of their own ethnicity or lack a healthy perception of themselves as Koreans.

Darnella Frazier, a junior in high school, was part of a large group of onlookers who saw Derek Chauvin knee George Floyd in the back of the neck for about eight minutes outside of Cup Foods while Hmong Tou Thou and half-Nigerian Alex Kueng let it happen (Nevett). The Insurrection Act was invoked with regard to the uprising, which were instigated by out-of-town white people, as in the case of the majority arrested in Minneapolis, with several eyewitness accounts suggesting that the Boogaloo Bois (a diverse

conglomerate of anarchists), Identity Evropa (the American Identity Movement)² disguised as Antifa³ (a loosely organized network of anti-fascists), or even law enforcement themselves. The infamous “Umbrella Man,” who broke AutoZone windows with a sledgehammer, was identified as a member of Hell’s Angels (Treisman). The police officers were a mix of white, Asian, and even Black. It wasn’t the first time something similar had happened, as Minneapolis protests also happened after the shooting of Jamar Clark in 2015, but it was the one that made the biggest headlines (Fletcher). The resulting damage was 70 businesses burned to the ground and 500 businesses damaged or looted (Treisman). Since then Reclaim the Block asked the city council to reinvest \$45 million in communities that would otherwise have gone into the police budget (Bates and Villa).

These statistics still exist despite the fact that Minnesota KADs are 35% more likely to explore their heritage than KADs in the U.S. at large, which is lower than 25% (Sheppard). Does this mean that cultural awareness of one’s birth culture does not actually facilitate anti-racism?

[Get the Full Book of Profiles of KAD Relations with the Black Community: '92 to '20](#)

² Remember that Identity Evropa recruited Kiyomi Brewer. They also were behind the fatalities in Charlottesville, Virginia.

³ The Twitter account ANTIFA_US tweeted “Tonight’s the night, Comrades. Tonight we say ‘Fuck The City’ and we move into the residential area... the white hoods... and we take what’s ours” (Collins, Zadrozny and Saliba)

[Profiles of KAD Relations with the Black community: '92 to '20](#)

About the Author

雨愛

Woo Ae Yi is an author, poet, lyricist, playwright, and unofficial anthropologist who was born in a suburb of Seoul, South Korea, and is a U.S. citizen. Yi has published twelve books, including this one, on the topic of KADs, Goths, romance and sex, spirituality, and prison. Yi was raised in the white-populated area of Little Korea, the Koreatown of the metropolitan DC area, and lived in the Korean-populated area of Little Korea for more than 10 years. Yi volunteers at Adoptee Hub as a copywriter to help stand up a birth search portal, among other adult adoptee services.

[Learn more about Woo Ae Yi](#)

A Complete List of Books⁴

1. *Best Hits of Yi Woo Ae* (2020), a free lyrics book available on OurBoox during the pandemic, <https://www.ourboox.com/books/best-hits-of-ame-ai/>. Please ask for permission before using lyrics.
2. *Imprisoned Love Without a Home in the North vs. the South (and Other Directions)* (2020), a free poetry book available on OurBoox during the pandemic, <https://www.ourboox.com/books/north-vs-south-and-other-directions/>
3. *What Is This, Art Exhibitionistella* (2018), a poetry book available on Amazon and Kindle
4. *Ebb and Flow: Anthology of Korean-American Poets 2017* (2017), a poetry anthology I edited, available on Amazon
5. *Enlightenment without a Home* (2013 and 2020), a free poetry book available on OurBoox during the pandemic, <https://www.ourboox.com/books/enlightenment-without-a-home/#>
6. *Prison, Poetry, and Purpose-Full Songs* (2011), a poetry and lyrics book available on Amazon
7. *Fringe and Frivolity* (2010 and 2019), a poetry book available on Amazon and Kindle
8. *Cheating on Someone* (2010), a novel available on Amazon
9. *Escape from Crystal City* (2010 and 2018), a play available on Amazon and Kindle
10. *Lyrics and Verses* (2009), a poetry and lyrics book available on Amazon, Kindle, and Audible, as well as large print
11. *Valley of the Mind's Shadow* (2009 and 2019), a poetry

⁴ Most are still under the former name of Ame Ai

book available on Amazon and Kindle

12. *Love, Not Love* (2008 and 2019), a poetry book available on Amazon and Kindle