

FROM A DISTANCE, UP CLOSE, AND IN-BETWEEN

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From a distance, America is Hollywood.

Up close, America is Korea and not Korea.

In-between, you discover,

"America is the labor, the beauty and the brains from all over the world."

In-between, you wonder,

"Where is that American paradise I saw in Korean dramas?"

From a distance, an adult son is taking his old dad to Alcatraz Island.

Up close, the old dad is taking the adult son to Alcatraz Island.

In-between, your two friends who are lovers ask,

"Take a picture of us with the bridge in the background."

In-between, the old dad is handing you a camera,

"Us too, please."

From a distance, she is a star in the academic world.

Up close, she is a ruthless pragmatist with magic speech without a soft smile.

In-between, you imitate all the awesomeness in her:

English phrases, gestures, gazes, the endless energy,
satisfaction without contentment, confidence, and
seemingly absolute independence.

In-between, you integrate all the puzzles in her:

'How can one work when her mother dies?'

'Why the passionate fights with nearly everybody?'

'Why have either hard-core followers or hard-core enemies?'

PEACE CHRONICLE

From a distance, snow in deep winter Ames from Phoenix's burning sun is enchanting.
Up close, only a golden retriever can show you how to joy-play during the brutal Iowa winter.

In-between, you solo-travel far deep into an unknown abyss of depression, even with
all the light therapy and
assortment of counselors.

In-between, you constantly ask,
'Why am I here? What for?'
'Where are my friends?'
'Where is my man?'

From a distance, an older sister sheds all her weight and boasts of her new shape with an infinite
number of feminine clothes.

Up close, her first son pivots out of her unfulfilled dream, and develops society's ordinariness.

In solitude, she has many sleepless nights, not being able to chew or to swallow his reality.
At his side, she loves him regardless.

In-between, she quits her dream job and spends many countless hours
making eye contact with her first baby;
makes entries in her diary every day, and
teaches her baby how to read and write.

"He is a genius!"

In-between, aside from the cheating husband, she dedicates herself to the boy's
Piano lessons,
English lessons,
Math lessons,
his library, books and books and books, and
all the smart toys.

From a distance, you are a perfect specimen, running everywhere with the season's variety.

Up close, a slow-growing tumor has stretched you so far to change you and your meaning,

It has to rot at the very center to wrest you and rend your former degree and unity.

PEACE CHRONICLE

In-between, as anesthesia overtakes you 3, 2, 1, you prove one word,
'so, it wasn't the money.'

In-between, as anesthesia overtakes you 3, 2, 1, you crave one thing,
'I want to say, I love them.'

In-between, as anesthesia overtakes you 3, 2, 1, you have one image,
'me, a tiny baby, cuddled by mom.'

