

## Swan Princess

VHS tapes, we had several.  
Me and my younger sister. Mulan,  
Lion King, and my favorite was Swan Princess.

When I grew up, in the town of West Sea in Korea,  
I knew there was a world  
bigger than our own.

Swan Princess, in English  
as Korean kids,  
in English insisted by my mother  
who was an English teacher herself.  
No cable, so that we won't listen to Korean TV shows.

When I was growing up, in Korea,  
South Korea,  
a whole country that is smaller than the state of  
Texas,

we knew there was a world  
bigger than what we had.

As a Korean kid,  
eating our popcorned rice snack,  
watching Swan Princess,  
being impressed by her attitude,  
I knew there was a world bigger than we had.

Every weekend, before church  
our parents would drive us to the USA military base,  
because they had Burger King  
that had pool filled with plastic balls,  
all colors of kid's crayons, some broken and flattened.  
For one hour while they are at church,  
we would be jumping around in the kids section  
where all the other kids were American, speaking English.  
I knew there was a world bigger than what we see now.

We would sit there eating from the kid's menu,  
that was always too big for us to finish,  
our little hands trying to grab the whole burger without dropping anything,  
enjoying the toys, most of the time Disney,  
Mickey that shakes his arm, 101 Dalmatians dog figure, or our least favorite, Mini Mouse,  
with Kid's menu food that was too big for *Korean* kids to finish,  
listening to a language that we couldn't understand,  
adults who were generally taller than our parents,  
I wondered about the world that was bigger than what I had.

So after they picked us up from Burger King,  
we started to insist on watching Swan Princess,  
with blond hair unlike ours,  
with blue eyes unlike ours or any one of our friends,  
with a puffed-shoulder dress unlike any one of our dresses,  
talking in English,  
as two Korean kids,  
drinking rice sugar drink,

because we wondered about the world that was bigger.