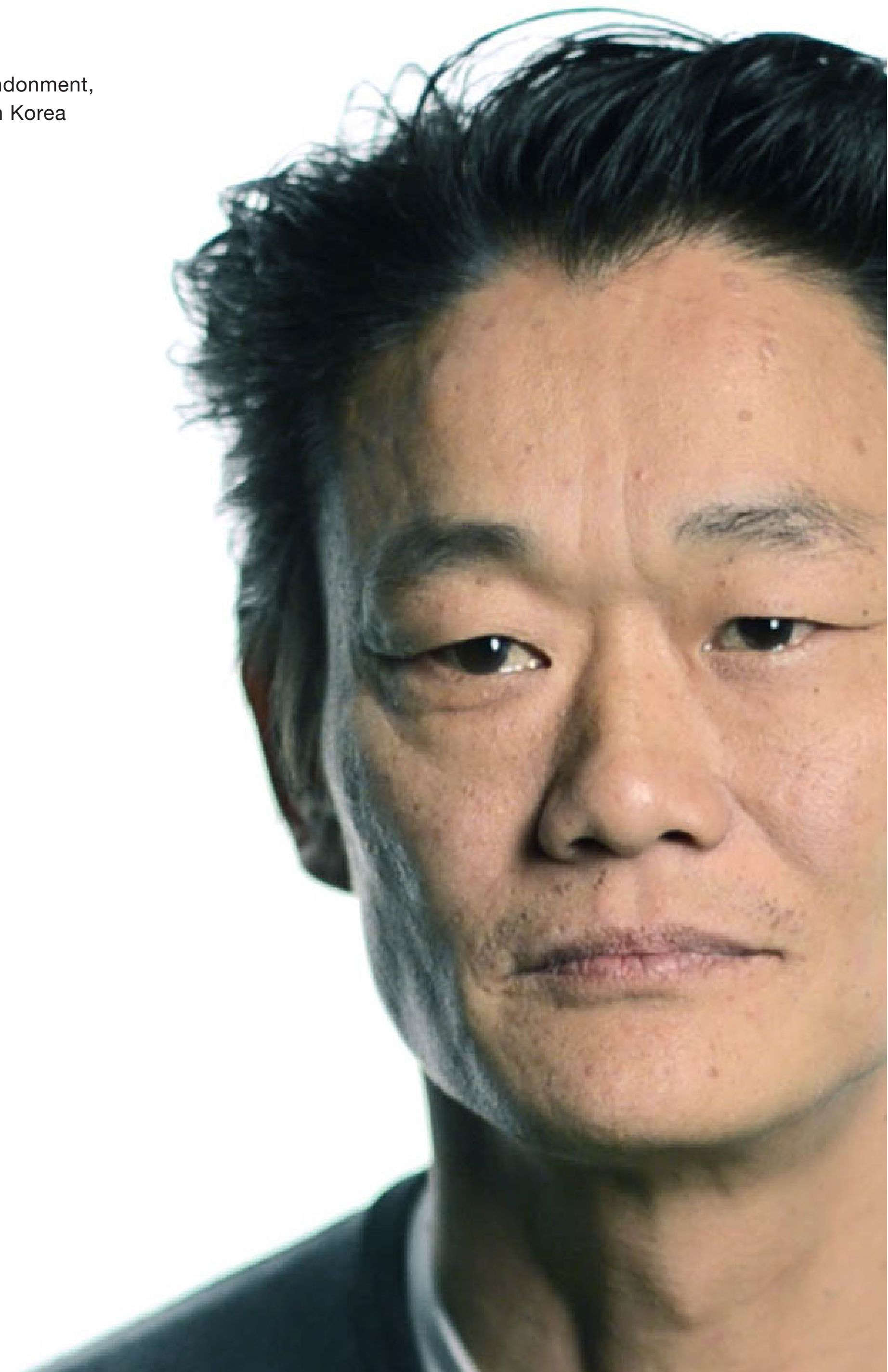


7 countries 6 languages 16 cities 100 stories

An international journey through the personal memories and experiences of abandonment, relinquishment, orphanages, aging out, and inter-country adoption from South Korea

# side x side

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OUT OF A SOUTH KOREAN  
ORPHANAGE AND INTO  
THE WORLD





A DOCUMENTARY  
FILM PROJECT BY  
GLENN MOREY AND  
JULIE MOREY

Launches May 18, 2018  
[sidebysideproject.com](http://sidebysideproject.com)

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

### What happens when wealthy western countries adopt the orphans of the world?

Since 1950, there have been nearly a million inter-country adoptions. South Korea represents the longest and largest case (over 180,000), establishing a model for adoptions out of China, Russia, India, Columbia, Brazil, Chile, Vietnam, Guatemala, Ukraine, Ethiopia, and many others—peaking between 2000 and 2010. To date, there has been little information-gathering, following up on the lives of adoptees or their aged-out peers, even though inter-country adoption has become an embraced and widely practiced convention.

We should know more than what we read about Angelina Jolie's and Madonna's adopted children. Society should see more than the simple, reductive narratives of humanitarianism and rescue. Families formed out of inter-country adoption can become stronger and healthier, with deeper understanding of the issues they will face.

### A ground-breaking journey through 60 years of inter-country adoption from South Korea.

The *Side by Side* documentary project is based on the first-person accounts of 100 men and women, born as South Koreans between 1940 and 1995, separated from their families of origin as infants and children, and placed in orphanages to be adopted to countries around the world, or to age out and remain in South Korea. Filming occurred over three years in South Korea, the United States, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, France, and Australia—in 16 cities and 6 languages. This project exists to tell many stories, because that's what it takes to more fully understand 60+ years of history, and to represent an international subculture.

### An unconventional immersion into 100 short films, and 21 hours of first-person narrative.

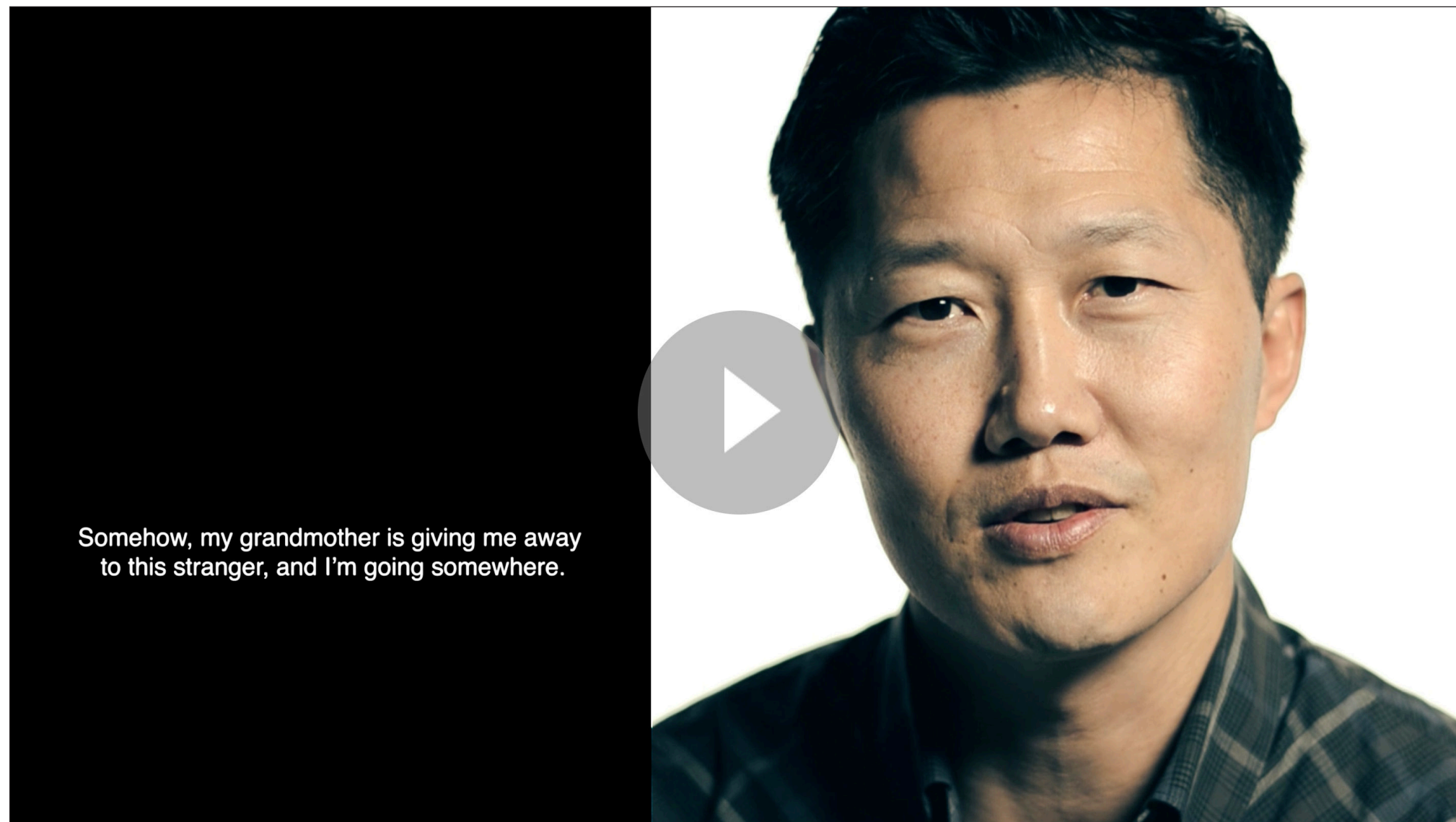
*Side by Side* initially takes the form of an [online video installation](#). Immersion into this online experience will be very different from viewing a conventional movie. Each story is its own film, presented very nearly in its entirety, as it was filmed in a single sitting—a total of 21 hours of available material. With every resurfaced memory, every pause, every revelation, and as every minute goes by, viewers will come to know these storytellers.

Within these 100 stories is a full range of human experience—from love to hate, acceptance to rejection, nurturing to abuse, blessed to broken. The website leads with a warning to the audience, alerting them to various accounts of racism, abuse, rape, addiction, homelessness, and mental health issues. Young viewers should view the films with a parent, guardian, or professional therapist, and be encouraged to discuss the experience after viewing.





TRAILER (3:06)



[ Click image to open trailer in browser ]

## BIOGRAPHIES AND CREDITS

**Side by Side Co-Director and Producer, Glenn Morey**, has worked in film since 1981 — as a writer, creative director, commercial and documentary filmmaker, including as an Executive Producer for the Mustapha Khan documentary film, *House on Fire: Black America Responds to AIDS*, featuring Julian Bond, Rep. Maxine Waters, Kweisi Mfume, Maya Angelou, and many other African-American leaders; awarded Best Documentary for the Houston International Film Festival, broadcast on PBS and selected for a number of international film festivals. As the CEO of the Morey Group of branding, advertising, and online publishing companies, he is the recipient of hundreds of creative advertising awards, as well as recognition by Adweek and Advertising Age magazines. Glenn's personal story, as an inter-country adoptee from South Korea, was the initial motivating and creative force behind *Side by Side*.

**Side by Side Co-Director, Julie Morey**, has a 40-year career as a designer, creative director, commercial and documentary filmmaker. Julie is a co-founder of the Morey Group, and has won hundreds of advertising awards, including the One Show, Communication Arts Annual, Clio, and International Film and Television Festival of NY. Filmmaking credits include *Reinventing an America of Opportunity*, advocating for diversity in the TV industry; *Bring the Riding to the People*, about three urban communities who banded together to build mountain bike parks in NYC, Denver, and Seattle, selected for the Boston Bike Film Festival, Estes Park Film Festival, Foursite Film Festival, and Kalamazoo Bicycle Film Festival; and *The Culture of Content Creation*, a large-scale assemblage of the early days of blogging, video content creation, and podcasting as experienced by noted content creators across the US.

**Side by Side Editor, David Emrich**, is the Academy Award-winning Founder and President of PM Media Services, a leading post-production facility in Denver, and also works as an independent editor and post-production supervisor for a wide variety of film and video projects. His editing credits include the Academy Award-winning short documentary, *Story of Healing*, in 1997; the Discovery program, *Spirits of the Rainforest*, which garnered two Emmys; multiple programs for PBS and CBS; and post-production supervision for ESPN.



**Directed by Glenn Morey and Julie Morey**  
**Produced by Glenn Morey**  
**Edited by David Emrich**

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Technical Advisor.....Andrew Kemler  
English Language Transcription.....Betsy Pearce  
Colorist .....Rick Gougler

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South Korea Producer .....Jay Lee  
Stockholm Producer.....Anahi Borde  
Copenhagen Producer .....Thomas Yong  
Amsterdam Producer.....Martijn van de Reep  
Paris Producer .....Rebecca Levin  
Melbourne Producer.....Adam Bigum

Korean Translators.....Ed Park  
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Vincent Buijtendijk  
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Director's Commentary Production .....Andrew Kemler, Best Footage Productions

Development & Funding ..... Rosa Berland  
Production Accountant..... Janet Russell  
Legal Counsel..... Tony Berman

Fiscal Sponsorship provided by







## DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

### **58 years ago, I was an orphan in South Korea.**

There were millions of us. Some, like me, were plucked out of the orphanages and adopted out to countries around the world. The rest of us either failed to survive, particularly in the early years after the Korean War, or we aged out. What ultimately happened to us? Are we okay? What happens when wealthy western countries adopt the infants and children of countries in crisis? What happens when they don't?

Five years ago, we started filming interviews. Subjects told us what they remembered or what they'd been told about their origins in South Korea. How they were separated from their Korean families of origin. How they were adopted or aged out. How they grew up and came of age. Who they are today.

We started with eleven South Korean nationals who had aged out of orphanages. For adoptees, they represent the reality of lives that we have only ever imagined, and the beginnings of an answer to the question, "What if I had stayed in Korea?" *I interviewed two men who were in my orphanage with me.* They both aged out. It was one of the most profoundly humbling experiences of my life.

From there, and all over the world, we quickly began to understand the unimaginable disparity of our subjects, contrasting the stories of the adopted and the aged-out, the nurtured and the abused, the blessed and the broken, the loved and the lost, and the stories that lie between. We also realized what our subjects were fully prepared to give us—in the human cost and emotional toll of remembering love and loss, in the spontaneous and sometimes searing revelations of the moment. Each session became its own filmic experience, captured as subjects drew on and re-lived repressed memories, connected events, finally acknowledged truths, resolution and reconciliation.

We could have filmed many, many more interviews, going to a dozen other countries. We stopped at 100. It's not a magic number. It was just a way for us to stop.

In all of this, we were driven by "the danger of a single story," as described by the author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. We were inspired to minimalism by the one-hour video portraits of the German photographer, Thomas Struth. And we were supported by the love and active participation of a worldwide community of inter-country adoptees out of South Korea.

Glenn Morey  
Producer, Co-Director, *Side by Side*

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