

DISPATCH FROM  
The Dome  
*a monthly installment of art & literature*  
December 2025



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*Yuki Hu '26*

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## Cheot-Noon, First Snow

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### *Cheot-Noon*

Is eating *goguma*<sup>1</sup> and *Bungeoppang*<sup>2</sup> on crowded subways  
And making a warm fire of laughter  
Family and *miyeokguk*<sup>3</sup> becoming the wood  
In my *halmoni*'s<sup>4</sup> small, smiling apartment.  
The heater always off—*halmoni* says,  
“Why waste money on things  
That love can solve?”

### *Cheot-Noon*

Is skipping *hagwons*<sup>5</sup> to skate with cousins around *Lee-Sun-Shin*<sup>6</sup> statue, History  
married by Christmas lights.  
And browsing cardboard and *hoddeok*-scented bookstores  
On silent Sundays, trailing behind my dad.

Let me tell you, though.

It's a little different from 'first snow',  
The one that envelops my luggages at JFK Airport  
And rests on security guards hollering, “Move!” “Uber this way!”  
Yet, the promising pulse of New York's boasting breeze lifts me up,  
Up into Undermountain Road.

First-snow, to me,  
Is sledding and gingerbread cookies, Black Friday sales and Christmas carols.  
It's rushing to catch flights, basking in feasts, and jamming out to Spotify  
playlists.

First-snow, here, means breaking in brand-new boots,  
And learning to let go of old ones—  
Even if the laces are still in good shape, and the new soles feel off.  
Hey, no matter what, you gotta love first snow,  
Right!

*Cheot-Noon* and First Snow.

They mean the same thing in the dictionary. But do they,  
Really?

1 Korean sweet potato

2 Korean fish-shaped pastry with red-beans and custard

3 Korean seaweed and beef soup

4 Grandmother

5 Korean afterschool study academies

6 Korean admiral who fought against Japanese