

R.O. KWON

“To read her...is to follow an inexorable flame coming closer and closer to the object it will detonate – the characters, the crime, the story, and, ultimately, the reader.” —Viet Thanh Nguyen

R.O. Kwon was born in South Korea and has lived most of her life in the United States. As an author and essayist, her writing explores identity, sexuality, and the comforts and complications of religion.

R.O. worked for ten years on her nationally bestselling debut novel, *The Incendiaries*, which *The Atlantic* describes as a “[portrayal of] America’s dark, radical strain, exploring the lure of fundamentalism, our ability to be manipulated, and what can happen when we’re willing to do anything for a cause.” *The San Francisco Chronicle* calls her novel “a debut of dark, startling beauty” while *The Guardian* lauds it as, “a startingly assured book by an important new writer.”

Named a best book of the year by over forty publications, *The Incendiaries* also received the Housatonic Book Award and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Award, the *Los Angeles Times* First Book Prize, and the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association Fiction Prize. R.O.’s writing has appeared—and often gone viral shortly thereafter—in the *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Paris Review*, *Buzzfeed*, NPR, and elsewhere. She has received fellowships and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, Yaddo, MacDowell, the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, and the Sewanee Writers’ Conference.

R.O. coedited *Kink*, which was published by Simon & Schuster in 2021, and her next novel and essay collection are forthcoming from Riverhead.