

## Who Was That Masked Man?

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Only a year ago in South Korea the mask was worn by some folks, especially those who were sensitive to air quality, to avoid breathing the clouds of fine dust that turned the air and anything it settled on a dirty shade of yellow. Now days the mask is ubiquitous in order to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The following is an excerpt from my upcoming novel, *Between Heaven and Earth* about North Korea, China, South Korea and back to the north.

### **Book Three Chapter Two, Conspiracy Theories**

Meanwhile back in South Korea, the land of relative freedom, another pair of conspirators were trying to come up with a plan. After the early snowfalls in late November and early December, the weather in the Seoul metropolitan area settled into a predictable very dry and cold. The citizens rubbed their eyes, spit, and cursed the Chinese for the clouds of fine dust that often enveloped the peninsula. Along with the long padded bench warmer coat, the mask that covered one's nose and mouth had become the fashion trend of the season. Guy thought the look was appropriate for sticking up a liquor store or a gas station but none of his Korean friends got the reference.