

GTU Dean of Students Office, Women's Studies in
Religion, & the Korean Student Association
Host A Conversation and Book Signing
with Maija Rhee Devine

Wednesday
March 19th
in the
Student
Lounge
2465
LeConte
5-6:30 pm



Maiha Rhee Devine is the author of *The Voices of Heaven*, a novel based on her family experience during her childhood in South Korea set against the backdrop of the Korean War. The story focuses on family dynamics in a society influenced by Confucian values. According to tradition, if a married couple did not bear a much-preferred male child, the husband was encouraged to try to bear a male child with another woman. If another woman gave birth to a male child, often that son would be taken from her to be raised in the husband's original family. The woman would then face a dire future with no family and now considered unfit for marriage. To avoid this unjust situation, some husbands would marry another woman as a second wife and bring her into the home where both wives would try to coexist and raise their children under the same roof. *The Voices of Heaven* tells the story of a family with a daughter, Mina. The husband, Gui-yong, marries a second wife and brings her into the household in hopes of bearing a male child with her. The young Mina bears a burden of guilt for not being a male child and blames herself for the emotionally complex family situation. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

(1 WSR Unit)