

What is a name?
Why does everyone have a name?
What purpose does it have?
And for whom?

I couldn't stop thinking that people initially started to use names for convenience only, but that names morphed into something more significant. A destiny can be attached to a name. Some parents carefully check the meaning of a name and wish their child will live up to that. But a name can't define that baby and also you will never know if the baby will grow up like that name, or will like the meaning or expectation that comes with that name. Then which name becomes the perfect name for someone or something?

In Korea, where I born and raised, people do care a lot for name. Parents are spending some time to make name which contains nice meaning and life direction for their child. Also when people open their own business or store, they try to find a perfect name which can bring a lot of money and success. When people make a name, they check 'Saju' of the person first. Saju is a Chinese astrological concept, used in Korea and also Japan. It claims that a person's destiny or fate can be divined by the two characters assigned to their birth year, month, day, and hour. People try to find the Chinese character which can redeem a defect and also can boost good energy. In Korea, if someone thinks life goes wrong way or everything is pretty bad in their life, they can also change their name.

Actually I have had two Korean names. My first name was originally 'Min-gyeong'. My parents are called Su-gyeong (my mom) and Seok-min (my dad), and they picked from parts of their names to create my name. Probably they were young lovers at that time and were driven by romantic reasons. And the meaning of the name is 'The people has an occasion to celebrate'. But in the beginning of my teenage years, my mom suddenly changed my name to 'Sun-young', which means 'reflection of beautiful jade'. She told me that my previous name was not a good match with my life and if I keep using that name I would die young. I don't remember that moment clearly, but there was no discussion about it with me. My mom said: "I tried to make your new name so that you can be a strong and independent woman who has her own life".

I didn't have a certain attachment with my names. Both of my names were really common in my age, so my friends addressed me with nickname instead in order to separate me from the others. Also I didn't like the idea of a given name, a name assigned by your parents in which I don't

have any single chance to put my opinion in. My parents gave me life, they wish some good things in my life and made my name. Sometime I felt pressure for my life with that name. What if my name and me didn't live up to their expectations?

When I moved away from South Korea, I decided to give a different name to myself and my life. I changed my name to Alma. This is the decision I made fully myself, and this name does not carry any expectations from someone else.

One day, all the sudden, I realised I gave name to all my plants. Like what my parents did to me, I thought my plants are special. I really love them. And naturally thought, they need a name and all of them have a name now. They all look happy, none of them complaining. But are they happy? What did I do? Am I being a hypocrite?

What is a name? Is it really for convenience only, or pushing a selfish expectation to someone or something? It seems like names exist for the person who is giving the name. For that person's convenience and happiness. Then what can be an ideal name, which can both satisfy the person with that name and the person who is actually going to use that name?

No Name, can that be the best form of name? Without a name, could all living things on this planet lead a life with more freedom, more individuality and less pressure?

"I used a few sentences from my thesis 'Ultimate guide for people who are not close enough to me to ask about my name.'"

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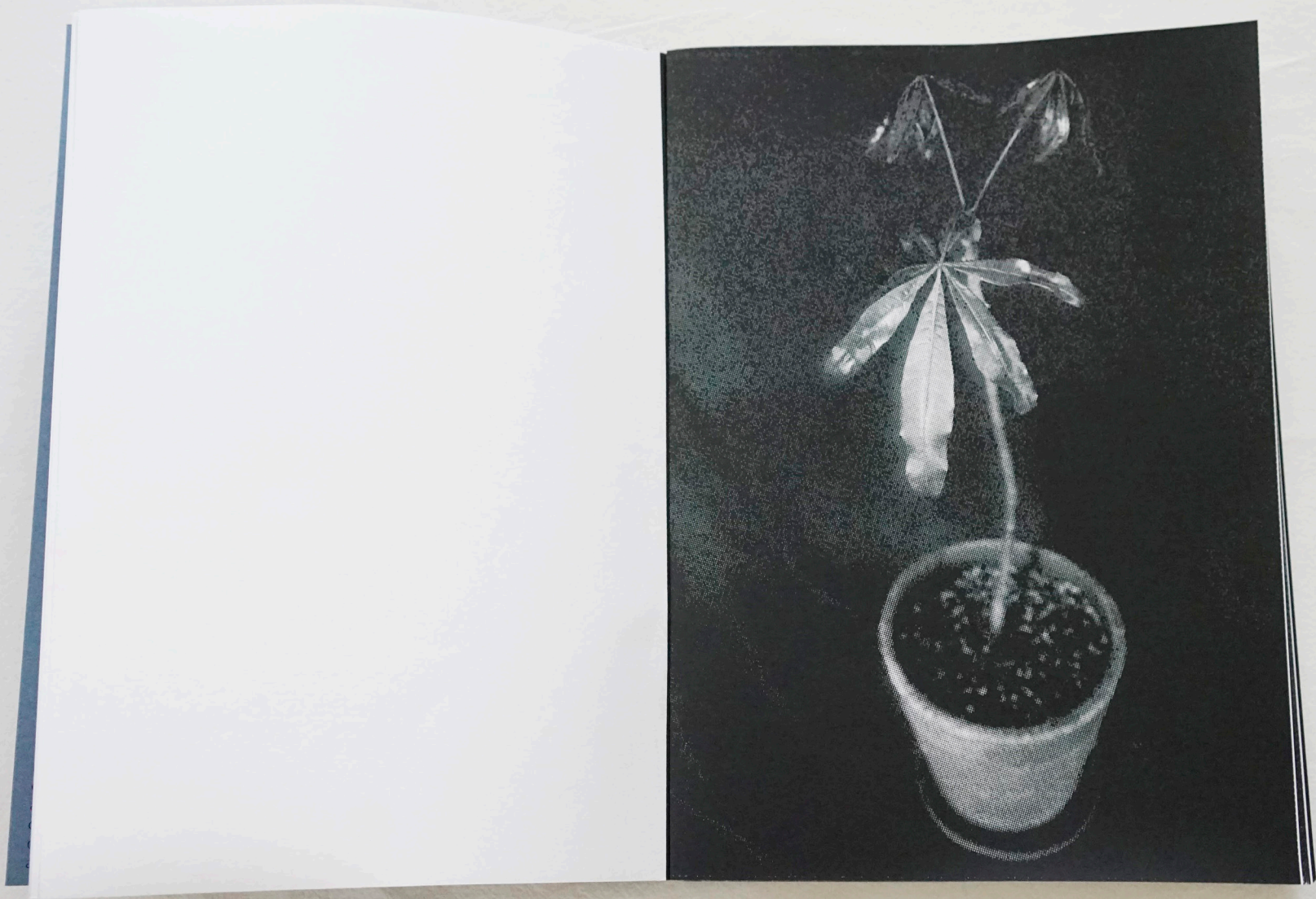
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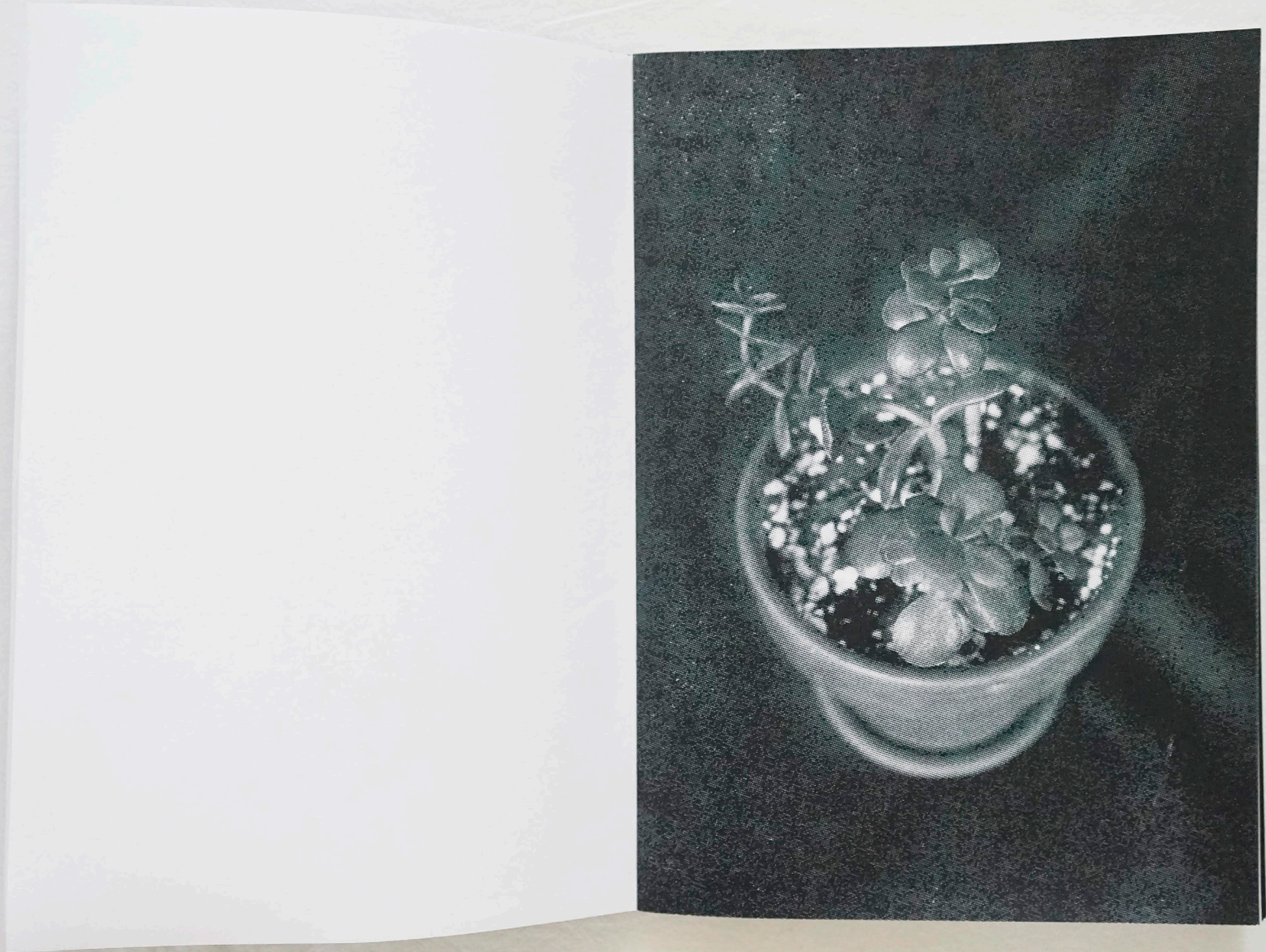
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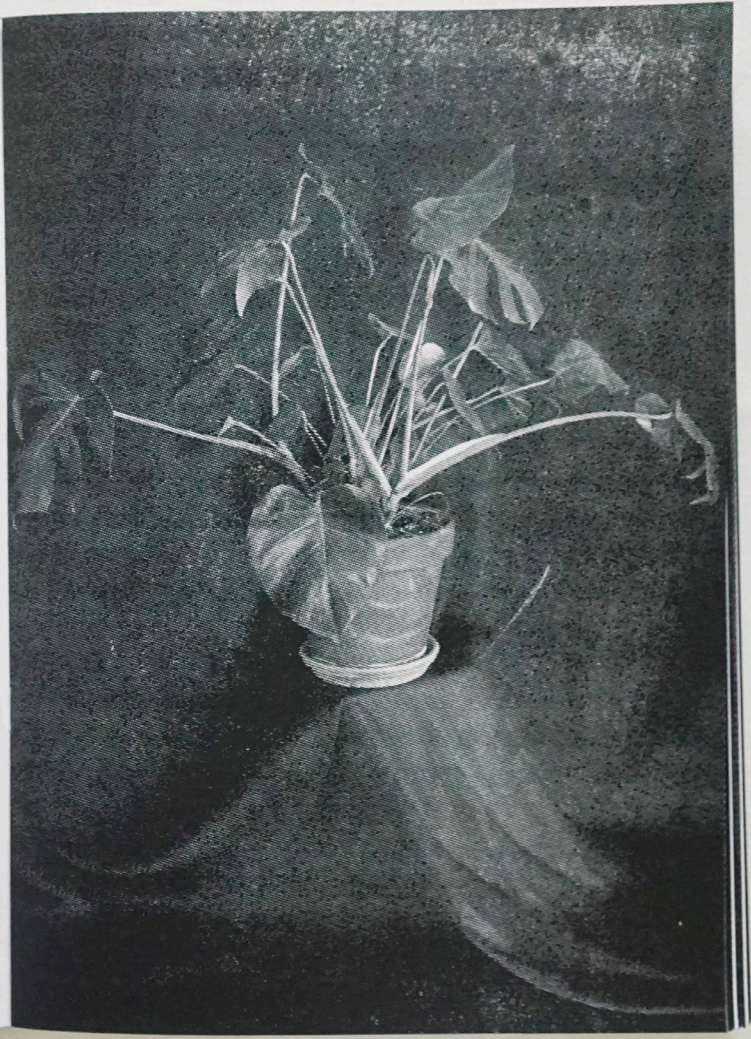
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Barbie
Brownie
Buttercup
Crooki
Fred
Hanky Panky
Harry
Hopper
Konijntje
Lime
Mondriaan
Monsi
Moony
Nemo
Ollie
Pamela
Princess
Randy
Rapunzel
Samantha
Silvi
Theresa
Tristan
Velvi
Vera
Zanzi