

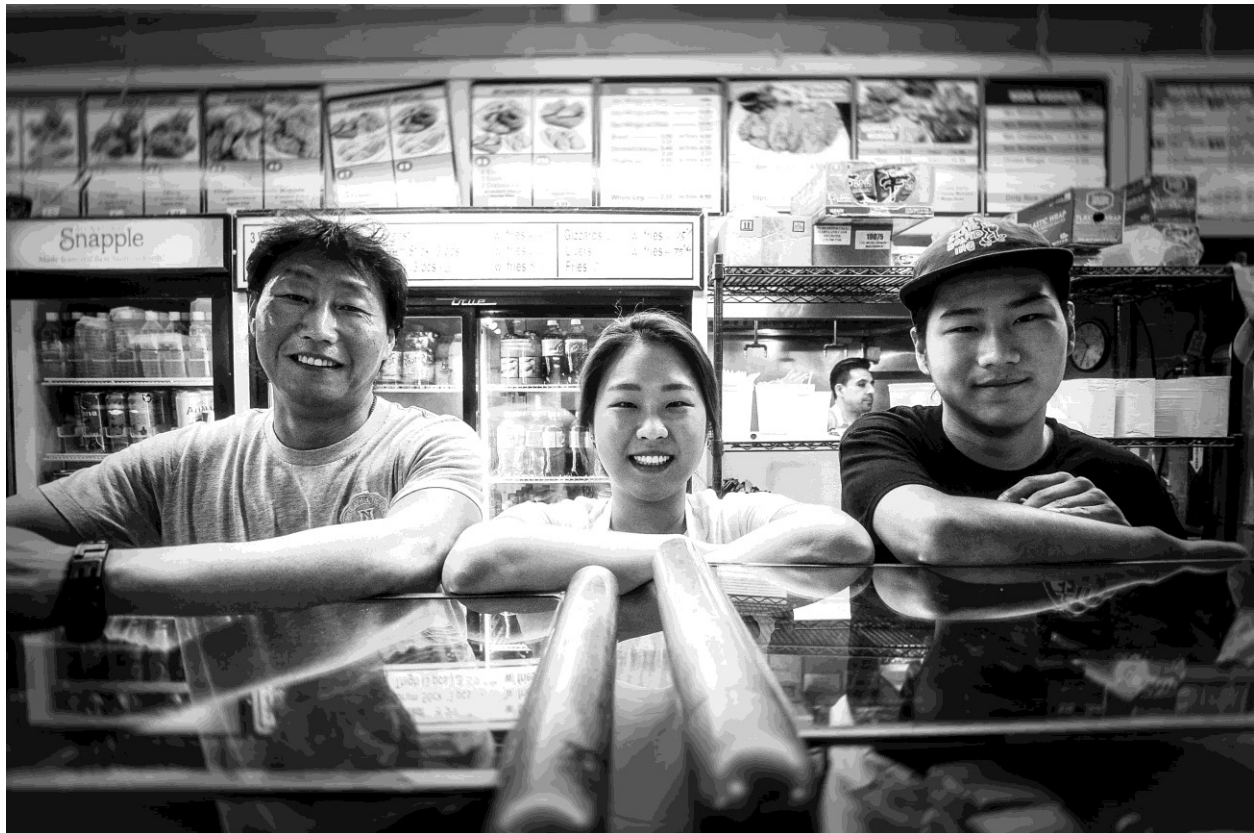
The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Helen Shin ([00:01](#)):

Some people want ketchup on the wings, on the fries, just one wing.

Speaker 2 ([00:05](#)):

A little shot of pepper, that's good, and a little bit of ketchup.

Helen Shin ([00:09](#)):

My name is Helen Shin and we are at Northeast Market on 2101 East Monument Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

Speaker 3 ([00:16](#)):

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Can I get three drumsticks and a water go-go?

Speaker 4 ([00:16](#)):

I guess it. Anything else?

Helen Shin ([00:21](#)):

Actually, my parents came here first to the States two years before we came. And then they started actually at my aunt's basement. They didn't even have anywhere to live. So for two years they worked, I guess, wherever they could to raise money to bring us over here. So we came over here with myself and my two siblings, 1999, when I was nine years old.

Speaker 4 ([00:49](#)):

Do you want anything on your drumsticks?

Speaker 3 ([00:49](#)):

Seasoned salt.

Helen Shin ([00:51](#)):

So I think I was six or seven when they first told me that they were going to come to the States. I mean, I was too young to understand, I didn't even know what America was, but they're like, "We're not going to be here. We're leaving. So please be good with your grandmother and we'll come and get you soon."

Speaker 3 ([01:14](#)):

A little bit of salt, pepper, a little bit of ketchup all over.

Helen Shin ([01:17](#)):

Actually, my mom came back to Korea so that she could take all of us. And my dad stayed in the States while she did. So she just came and she said, "Okay, we're going to America. We're getting on the plane." And I said, "Okay," and we landed in Dulles in Washington. And my first impression was that everyone in America seemed to know everyone because when you go pass someone and you get an eye contact with them, they would say, "Hi you!" [crosstalk 00:01:49]

Helen Shin ([01:52](#)):

Since middle school, I came out and helped them here. And I would work all summer as a cashier. And each week I would get \$40, which is a lot if you're a middle school student. And then that continued

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until I was in high school. And they told me, "If you work this summer and get only \$40 a week, we'll buy you a car." And I said, "okay." So, everything that my parents do, of course, working here could be easy for me, but they made it so that I can really work hard and forgetting something that I really want. And I think that's what I'm learning here even until now.

Speaker 5 ([02:37](#)):

[foreign language 00:02:38].

Helen Shin ([02:37](#)):

He's saying that he's really thankful for us, the two daughters and the one son that he has, and he's just really happy living here. Sorry.

Speaker 6 ([03:08](#)):

It's all right, take your time.

Speaker 7 ([03:10](#)):

It's like a free therapy session, right?

Helen Shin ([03:11](#)):

Yeah, all right.