

What if we can't handle the truth?:

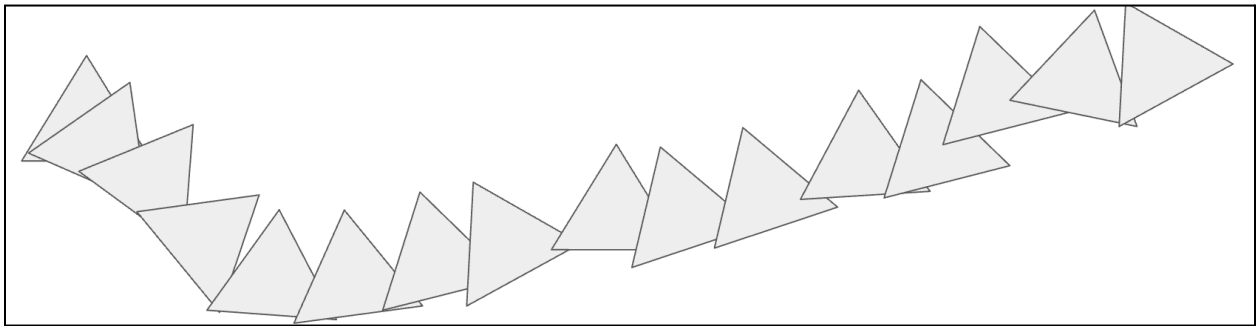
The Aftermath of Trauma in *Just between Lovers*

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About K-drama

K-drama is a long-form of storytelling popularized by Korean television. A drama is typically 16 or 20 episodes long, beginning with a “situation” and ending with a resolution of major conflicts and segue to the future. Though called “Korean soap operas,” these shows are not like our American soap operas, which run interminably, nor are they like our “series” which can run for many seasons. K-dramas begin and end in what we would think of as a single season. The stories use many genres, including romance, science fiction, mystery and thriller. In the drama, *Just between Lovers* (그냥 사랑하는 사이), we follow the stories of four young people who are trapped in a building collapse. Two die and two survive. The survivors are still suffering 10 years later when developers start to rebuild on the site, “disturbing the ground.” Many truths emerge and the problem of “handling the truth” is placed squarely on the table. My thanks to [Variety Recaps](#) for a super summary of the show and lots of photos.

Sixteen episodes, rather like the Odyssey



The catastrophe



Don't you remember?



Bulldog Mansion's song, *Destiny*,
Closer closer
Love me
Come closer to me.
I met you
It's not an absolute dream

Memory is hell



KangDoo just grabs her in a desperate hug, telling her that he loves her.

"I love you. I love you. I feel like I have to say it now otherwise I will never be able to." (recap 202)

Love finds a way



Kang-du is thinking of giving in to her wish to be apart. His friend says, "I guess you don't like her that much?"

"I like her a lot, really, greatly, wholly, totally, completely, okay! That's why I'm going crazy!" (recap 203)