					Korean TV List			
Drama Series Song of The Bandits	Rating			Year 2023	Twitter Summary Strongly influenced by 'The Good The Bad The Weird', 'Red Dead Redemption 2' (and possible references to 'Judge Dredd', 'Star	Trailer https://	Content (WIP)	Ву
Gyeongseong Creature	* * *		*	2023	Wars' & 'One Piece') this Korean Western is stylish, violent fun. Kim Nam Gil (The Fiery Priest!) is once again sad & unstoppable, and Seo Hyun is sad in lots of fantastic hats. Great fight scenes. Lots of great supporting characters that don't get enough time. Interestingly sympathetic to the communist rebels who would later become North Korea.	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=ujgGTWypdWs https://	X • ♣ • • • § ■	
Alchemy of Souls	* * *		*	2022	Things'. It shares some sets with 'Song Of The Bandits' but now they're larger. 'Song of The Bandits' has slightly better hats. Assassins! Mages! Biscuits! Monsters! Romance! Excrement!: One of the best k-dramas I've watched - a bit silly and wobbly in places	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=Q3YgWMxaq8o https://		The Hong Sisters
Vincenzo	* * *			2021	but enormous fun with great characters, effects and huge sets, There's even a second series. It's set in a Joseon-like fantasy kingdom. Excellent, reminds me of The Good Manager in that it's about fighting big corporations, only this time with a high body-count, torture,	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=nlRw1CGbFU0 https://	× coose & I	Park Jae Bum
Inspector Koo	***	**	*		lots of guns, blackmail, and shameless product placement. A Korean-Italian mafia troubleshooter shoots trouble & looks pretty/cool Now firmly in my Top 5 Korean dramas, possibly at number 1. It's very difficult to describe in one tweet: it's a rather unconventional	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=S12-4mXCNj4 https://		
	***	**	*	2021	and innovative detective series with a very women-dominated cast that avoids most k-drama stereotypes. Great music that's strangely Madchestery	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=Mhb1pq_v998	₩ % \$	
Hometown Cha Cha Cha The Uncanny Counter	***	**	*	2021	A kind but awkward & snobbish dentist ends up in a seaside village, meets casual jack-of-all-trades, and nothing much happens. Relatively low body-count. It's nice, funny, mostly cheerful and soppy. Ends with impressively forced Domino's Pizza ad. A romance themed romantic comedy. Originally missed off this list because it's not a romcom, but if Very Serious 'The Tree With Deep Roots' has got on the list I can add a	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=z66fazyp3-M		Yoo Seon Dong
Zombie Detective	***	**;	*		fun Buffy-like superheroes-fight-demons-and-corruption series. Also, like The Tree With Deep Roots, it has Ahn Suk-hwan!	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=rl55SRM6uhs https://	y zz Z	
Mystic Pop-up Bar	***	* * 7	*	2020	pig, boy band, an entire restaurant of tripe (literally), "Express Bus To Busan" & people hit with frying pans.	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=HyTSICDokjE		
	***	**	*	2020	Fun, cheerful double-romcom about death and regrets, ghosts, supermarkets, and one of the odd temporary bars that seem to be in every Korean TV series. Imagine a big budget Rentaghost reboot that dealt with things like miscarriages and fatal illnesses in a sensitive way	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=pqaOkAyo0pl		
Diary of a School Nurse / School Nurse Files Mr Queen	***	**	*	2020	This is very odd. A bit of rom, a bit com, huge amounts of slime, slime demons, teenagers, flesh tentacles, ghosts (slime), mass hysteria, supernatural dumbo squid, and teachers. Only six episodes. A haunted school series focusing on the staff. A+	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=SUUiXTZzhQI https://	20	
	***	**			A smug promiscuous top chef (male) in 2020 ends up possessing the body of a late-Joseon era Queen. It's funny but there's possibly even more political intrigue than in a serious Joseon drama, & strong themes of how patriarchy turns women against each other. Some excellent acting, especially from Shin Hye-sun as The Queen's two personalities. Lots of cooking! Lots of eunuchs! Was one of top 5 most watched things on Netflix.	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=2-lkfk0hJbw	♣ ¼ ♣ Ø § 9 ♣ §	
Rookie Historian Goo Hae-ryung	***	**	_ -	2019	Another Joseon romcom - rather funny at first, then more romantic, and then focuses on a constitutional crisis. Strong theme of women's rights, progress and anti-corruption. It's about honest, accurate historians but is quite anachronistic in places. Lots of likeable, almost Dickensian characters, and a very-Austen like female protagonist. We started calling the male lead "Sweet Prince Doofus". It often feels more like a Japanese 'Isekai', as the heroine is an educated, smart, very modern woman living in an almost medieval country, and being very smug about it at times. I want my own eunuch now.	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=akqoXm7xu18	♣ ▲ ※ ⑤	
Crash Landing On You	***	**	* 2	2019		https:// www.youtube.com/	⊕ X ♥♥ S zZZ	Park Ji-eun
The Good Manager	* * *	* * 7	* 2	2017	A gangsters' accountant dreams of moving to Denmark but ends up an accidental hero to workers at a huge company. The entire series is about dramatic inter-departmental accountancy battles and it's really good. Really. Barely any romance. Excellent antagonist.	watch?v=eXMjTXL2Vks https:// www.youtube.com/	XX See S zzZ	Park Jae Bum
The Tree With Deep Roots*	***			2011	Not a romcom, more a historical romtrag with fighting, betrayal, murders, scheming, linguistics research & Joseon big hats. Absolutely brilliant. Stars the actors for the Sad Gangster in Wok of Love & Sad Psychotherapist from Bride of Habaek	watch?v=712pgZUFshs https:// www.youtube.com/		
Crash Course In Romance	***			2023	A nice, funny series focused on the stress of university entrance exams, on the students, parents and teachers. An aloof celebrity maths instructor falls for a humble side-dish cook and mother. Lots of nice characters and a slow romance between older people,	watch?v=15ccZFV4zQE https:// www.youtube.com/	≜ ∰ ♥ ♥ z ^z	
The Uncanny Counter 2: Counter Punch				2023	plus, of course, a serial killer. A direct sequel for 'Uncanny Counter' and more of the same fun. A new team member, new tougher villains (led by a surprisingly muscular Kang Ki-Young, usually a nice nerd) with all the usual silly superhero team drama, this time based in an IKEA. There's a	watch?v=M0roNlisQ5w https:// www.youtube.com/	Six (<u>A</u> <u>A</u> _z z ^z <mark>6</mark>	
Strong Girl Nam-Soon	* * *	*		2023	wrestling in cow manure scene. Ahn Suk-hwan with a big machine gun! Blatant product placements for food from the company that makes the series, which I then bought. A sequel to 'Strong Girl Bong Soon', focused on another branch of the strong-women family, this time three generations of super-	watch?v=LOXTIrTcwVk https://		
	***	**		_0_0	powered women at once - a wealthy family in Gangnam - and the Mongolian-raised hero Nam Soon is even stronger than Bong Soon. It's daft and fun. The heroine's Batman-like mother is frankly terrifying and I felt sorry for the villain. The super-strong grandmother's wooing of the charming barista is possibly my favourite second-couple.	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=bPnfXlsedvc	~~ пп ← (5) 😃	
Cafe Minamdang	***	* *	•	2022	*takes a deep breath* a group of disgraced police officers start a "sexy man cafe" that lets them run a fake shaman scam to catch a murderer, meet the sister of their dead friend who's now a vengeful super-cop and *then* it gets confusing. Somehow both grim and silly. The romance element is mostly sidelined after about 2/3 through. It uses the same twist as a number of other dramas on the list.	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=jooKgfdfPJg	≜ ¼ § <i>♣</i>	
Extraordinary Attorney Woo	***	* *	•	2022	A legal romcom centred on a new lawyer with a rare form of autism. Generally very good but that makes its flaws and contradictions stand out more. I disliked how one character was treated by the writers, otherwise it would get 5 stars. It has some lovely characters and manages to highlight social issues despite the law firm often representing the bad side of a dispute. Lots of whale facts.	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=MxeXECe2t-c		
Unlock My Boss	* * *	**		2022	with great acting and characters, but somehow too predictable. Phone-in-toilet scene wins a despite later claim there was a lack of "number two". Portrays self-driving cars as rubbish so may actually be more realistic than 'Startup'. Also features what looks like the	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=PxF6n_2Wd7Y	♥♥ Š À SZZZZ	
Hello, Me!	***	* *	•	2021	same AR tech as 'Memories of the Alhambra' but wins twice as many stars. A depressed 37-year-old is visited by her obnoxiously cheerful 17yo self & starts fixing her life. Lots of snacks. The main love-interest man is daft but Very Nice. Sweet, sad and funny, but ultimately about death like almost every other Korean romcom.	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=7i7XZ3eXNhc	▲ 🥹 👸 😨	
Sell Your Haunted House	***	* *	•	2021	A warm-hearted fake exorcist.conman with a dark past teams up with a cold, gothy estate agent with a dark past, who is actually a real exorcist haunted by her own mother. Unsurprisingly it's all about death, family, regrets (with occasional humour and SHAMELESS	https:// www.youtube.com/	€ • • • §	
Startup	***	* *	•	2020	product placement) and is very sympathetic to the ghosts. There's also political corruption and gangsters, of course. An almost perfect example of a good Korean romcom, plus it has Python and Raspberry Pi vs Raspberry Pi drama. And lots of corndogs. It has a VC who is secretly nice so it's obviously a work of fiction. A good first k-drama.	watch?v=ZJ-FwGvpMFk https:// www.youtube.com/	₩	
The Fiery Priest	***	* *	•	2019	Ex-special forces Catholic priest with PTSD because he accidentally blew up 11 children takes on a murderous cartel and corrupt police. Many similarities to Vincenzo (same writer) but much lighter & funnier. Huge buns, lots of poo, fights	watch?v=BemKyzbLDDc https:// www.youtube.com/		Park Jae Bum
Extraordinary You	***	* *	•	2019	but is actually really rather sad and, once again, all about mortality. Apart from the running-joke continuity errors - the school uniform	watch?v=CnVU9tqQmj8 https:// www.youtube.com/	2 2	
Hotel Del Luna	***	* *	•	2019	keeps changing. A perfect modern hotel manager & a 400-year-old vengeful semi-ghost hotel owner have romantic squabbles & the occasional murder-attempt while running a hotel for ghosts. Lots of flashbacks to a previous romance. Quite sweet really but yet another sad series about	watch?v=a_1Tf3Rhf6E https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=IJ3_1v8sB48	** **********************************	The Hong Sisters
Her Private Life	***	* *		2019	death Competent, skilled art gallery curator is also an obsessive stalker/fan of a younger k-pop star. Her new boss at the art gallery is a Very Serious Artist. Confusion & romance occur. It all sounds relatively dull but it's done very well: characters are good people, enemies reconcile rather than take revenge, positive portrayal of gay characters, and the underlying theme is shared motherhood, not death.	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=kw47Jga6tgw	màn 🍑	
Flower Crew: Joseon Marriage Agency	***	•		2019	Although it does have a death. Product placement for Canon cameras, the first K-drama product placement to work on me.	https://www.youtube.com/	≜ ×	
Lawless Lawyer				2018	and fancy hats. It's still often very funny, good acting, great characters and some neat cinematography. Not a romcom, it's an anti-establishment justice drama like The Good Manager, Fiery Priest, Vincenzo, etc. Full of familiar characters and scenes but enormous fun, despite some legal bits straining credibility. Lots of punching, gangsters & Subway food	watch?v=HqaNL txVzw https://	≥	Park Jae Bum
Wok Of Love	***			2018		www.youtube.com/ watch?v=HZ QhFnAcTg https://	× vo v	
Strong Girl Bong Soon	* * *			2017	Super-powered slacker game-designer wannabe heroine. Macho cop boyfriend vs arrogant game company millionaire boyfriend.	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=jt FCNQQjt4 https://	<u>&</u> × 4 ≈ §	
Korean Odyssey	* * *		•		Comedy gangsters! A creepy serial killer. Grandma's powerful excrement wine. Dad's walnuts. Theme tune! Terrible special effects at the end. What if the characters from 'Monkey' were modern celebrities, and Monkey wanted to eat Tripitaka (the heroine, a psychic estate	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=XLAIRGc7b8E https://		The Hong Sisters
Bring It On Ghost!	***		•		agent)? With a nice, sad zombie, TV talent shows, ghosts, KPop Pigsy, a loveable moustached villain/bull god, lusty octopus god & much more. CGI pig. Terrible special effects at the end. Uni student teams up with nice ghost to punch bad ghosts for money. An evil vet! Nice drunken monk! Blatant homages to Scooby	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=n2Y8EeHEkDE https://	× ₂ z ^z	
She Was Pretty	***		•	2015	Doo. Quite sweet really. The heroine ends up with a job at a fashion magazine but lots of mistaken identity, childhood sweet-hearts, mysterious handsome	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=YYRMsrBCRYw https://	٨	
My Love from the Star	***		•		but daft journalist things, drinking, more drinking, cow manure, bus stops.	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=Av G2B8p6IA https://	♣ ⊌ §	Park Ji-eun
Rooftop Prince	***		•	2010	superpowers. Not bad, quite daft. The obligatory Sad Love Rival looks a bit like John Noakes. Joseon-era prince's wife is murdered, he somehow travels to 2012 with his trusty eunuch, academic & swordsman sidekicks, and then	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=AyQVdUxCA9E https://	S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	
Doctor Cha	***		•	2023	there's comas, corporate intrigue, omelettes, and INTENSE nice sister vs evil sister sibling rivalry & hapless villain. A medical divorce-comedy (divcom?) with some surprises, particularly in how it shows relationships and people to more complicated.	www.youtube.com/ watch?v= V7zypaUb2c https://		
Behind Your Touch	* * *	•	•	2023	Much of the fun is from watching egotistic smug bad-husband doctor humiliate himself. Lots of good melodramatic acting and quality farce, also lots of bowels-related action and surgical bits.	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=qDjF9Bkib28 https://	₩ S •	
	***	•		_020	human's memories by fondling their bottoms like a smart phone, and teams up with a grumpy arrogant detective to solve local crimes. The first half was going to get 5 stars, but it drags on at the end and the otherwise competent protagonist behaves poorly to push the plot along. Great supporting characters, especially the thuggish best friend and her ageing girl-gang and the aunt re-wooing her first love.	www.youtube.com/ watch?v=XfH2oW4ylyo	W	
Bad and Crazy	***	•	•	2022	Completed 'Bad and Crazy', a Bad Cop/Mad Cop series in which a corrupt anti-corruption detective has his life changed by a mysterious heroic weirdo. Sometimes funny, sometimes full of stabbings and cruel psychological manipulation. Minimal rom, adequate com. First half funnier and more fun than the second half	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=vLOQkT2B_rk	X:3•••& &	Yoo Seon Dong
The Silent Sea*	***	•	•	2021	Not a romcom: there is no rom, there is no com. There is a spooky abandoned moon base, murders, and water. Surprisingly good, especially if you like shouting "No! Why would you do that?" while people in space make bad decisions. Unusual deaths, weak ending.	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=Af_Hj0MDBBQ	₩ \$? ?	
Was It Love?	***	•	•	2020	A romcom but unusual: female protagonist ends up w/ 4 men in love with her but spends the first 6 hours or so telling them to let her get on with her work & raising her daughter because life is complicated enough. Who is the father? A nice gangster is in this one too.	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=LYGJhj I71A		
Clean With Passion For Now	***	•	•	2018	Scruffy* working class woman & the posh, rude, mentally ill boss of a cleaning company fall in love & communicate very badly. Good at first, handles social issues/topics quite well but then deflates. Too much kissing. * Only in K-drama context	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=CVywAZZ8v9g	A ***	
Bride of Habaek	***	•	•	2017	Sulky naked useless god meets sad, bad psychiatrist, then the usual mix of shouting and pouting occurs. Pretty good but the entertaining 'com' fades away, leaving 'rom' that is mostly awkward slurpy kissing and arguments. CGI pig.	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=UR4p1cL5mrw	4	
W – Two Worlds Apart	***	•	•	2016	A surgeon falls in love with the smug fictional-but-real hero of her dad's comic. Lots of parallel worlds, time travel, and strategic use of It Was All A Dream. Cursed Cintiq tablets. Another one that gets grimmer as it goes on until it's yet another romcom about death. Imagine that Aha 'Take On Me' video with murders, taking a full day to watch.	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=V1NKhET-Z4c	**	
Warm and Cosy	***	.	•	2015	Remarkably not that weird for something by The Hong Sisters - woman moves to an island and romantically bickers with a spoiled playboy chef and the nice mayor, plus there's romance between a diver and property developer, with a bit of Mysterious Death In The Past, lots of background BLOOP sound effects and cooking.	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=iPbAuUdZOtE	9 ,	The Hong Sisters
My Girlfriend Is a Gumiho	* * *	٠.	•	2010	Spoiled rich drama student unwillingly ends up living with daft cutesy ancient fox-spirit/young woman hungry for meat. There's a supernatural scheming vet. It's rather cheap & cheesy and doesn't take itself seriously but is often fun, except for the final 3 hours which become confusing and melodramatic. CGI Pig. Moral: don't drink poison when someone says "drink this poison"			The Hong Sisters
Memories of the Alhambra	**•	• •		2018	It's about Augmented Reality, has an interesting idea, good acting, but both male and female lead characters are just so irritating we spent too much time groaning, facepalming and hoping the bad guys kill them. Might continue later. Update: I finished watching it while ill, nothing improved and it never made sense. If anything it got worse.	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=2Lcy3XUDd_A	% ₩ ■	
Cinderella and the Four Knights	**•	• •	-	2016		https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=VWjXJ3DtSJk	***	
The Sound of My Heart			-	2016	with her apparent rival instead of picking one of the men. Grumpy grandad, and an Evil Sister.	https:// www.youtube.com/	<u>&</u>	
		•			A sexually frustrated ghost that possesses a shy junior chef and makes her harass her employer but we foolishly started watching the	watch? v=FST7XwqNh3U&t=2s https://	₩ ₩ ₩	

A sexually frustrated ghost that possesses a shy junior chef and makes her harass her employer but we foolishly started watching the Korean and Thai versions at the same time and got very confused - don't do that.

| https://www.you

Backlog						
Drama Series	Status					
Strongest Deliveryman	PAUSED	Most dramatic, packed opening episode of any so far but then all characters become unlikeable				
The Kings Affection	PAUSED	A lighthearted role-swap Joseon period drama and OH NO. OH.				
Under The Queen's Umbrella	PAUSED	Wives and concubines scheme and compete to make one of their sons the next king				
Tomorrow	PAUSED	A shabby supernatural team (plus nice guy in coma) try to prevent suicides QUITE GRIM				
It's Ok to Not Be Okay	PAUSED					
Captivating the King	ACTIVE	Cross-dressing Go player meddles in Joseon politics				
Ghost Doctor	ACTIVE	He's a doctor! And he's a ghost! In a coma!				

	Notes					
	Not including the generic depression/anger/guilt/trauma used so often in drama, especially "man seems obnoxious but there is a reason and I can fix him" trope or "PTSD/guilt has made me a violent antihero" cliche					
2	Not cliche hacker stuff where a hacker uses magical powers to deus-ex the plot. Absolutely not 'Memories of the Alhambra'					
3	Almost every k-drama has some darkness/tragedy in the plot, even in the comedies: suicide, childhood trauma and family tragedy are especially common					

Disclaimer: I don't speak Korean, I'm a not an expert in East-Asian media, I'm just someone who enjoys watching k-dramas on Netflix and made this list because I'm a nerd and it saves time when encouraging other people to try some k-dramas.

www.youtube.com/ watch?v=30YGb 1jo k

	Content Key (WIP)							
Icon	Content							
۵	Poop, lots of poop, or toilets, or vomit.							
	There's a wild boar, probably chasing someone							
•	The big theme is mortality							
	Joseon period drama, or flashbacks: lots of hats							
×	Martial arts or general fighting							
200	Cheesy and it knows it							
3	Ham star: probably Ahn Suk-hwan or Kim Won-hae							
••	Gangsters, maybe with a heart of gold after all. Or not.							
	Ghost, demons, and other supernatural creatures							
•	Science fiction, time travel, alternative worlds							
\$	Fighting corruption							
	Evil Sister							
(Look it's that same tree again!							
	Yakhyeon Cathedral again!							
	Neurodiversity and mental health themes [1]							
	Gay characters portrayed in a good way							
8	Sweet Prince Doofus							
	Computer nerd fan service [2]							
	Dark or sad ending [3]							
o ,	Chef Protagonist							
zZ	Someone's in a coma, maybe							