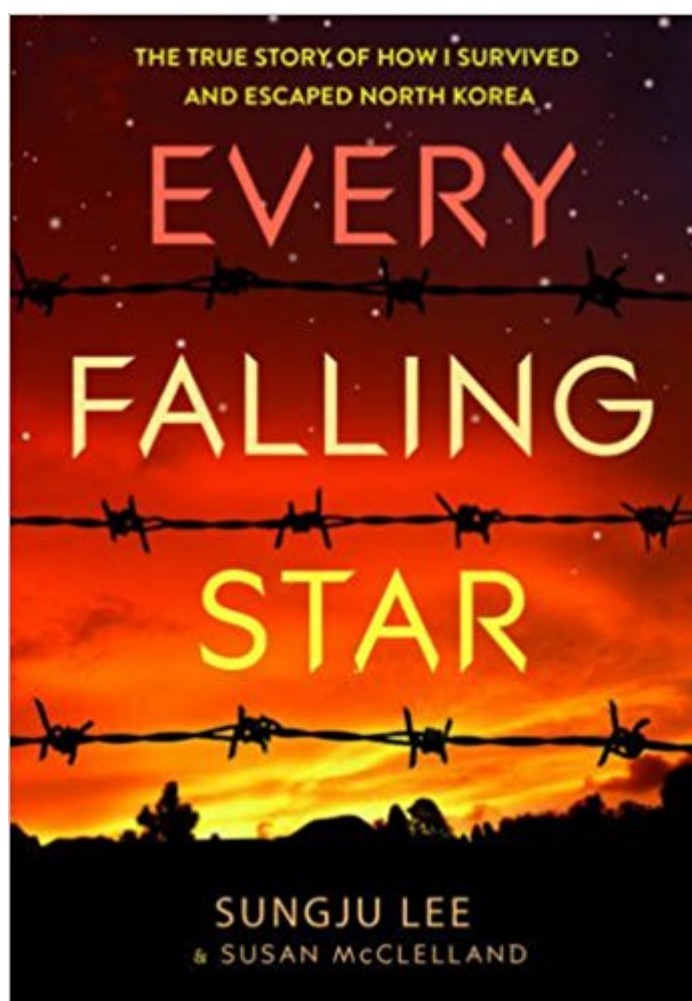


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# Every Falling Star: The True Story Of How I Survived And Escaped North Korea



## Synopsis

Every Falling Star, the first book to portray contemporary North Korea to a young audience, is the intense memoir of a North Korean boy named Sungju who is forced at age twelve to live on the streets and fend for himself. To survive, Sungju creates a gang and lives by thieving, fighting, begging, and stealing rides on cargo trains. Sungju richly re-creates his scabrous story, depicting what it was like for a boy alone to create a new family with his gang, his “brothers”; to be hungry and to fear arrest, imprisonment, and even execution. This riveting memoir allows young readers to learn about other cultures where freedoms they take for granted do not exist.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 336 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #78,820 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Homelessness & Poverty #18 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Political #30 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Cultural Heritage

## Customer Reviews

Gr 6-9 • Lee pens his harrowing journey from one of North Korea's city elite to a homeless and hungry vagrant. Lee, an only child, grew up comfortably in the nation's capital of Pyongyang because his father was a well-respected member of the military. Yet with no warning, the boy and his parents were deported to the countryside. Lee, who had known only the strict rituals and decorum of Pyongyang, was initially horrified by life in Gyeong-seong. Mass hunger, public executions, and unemployment were rampant—a stark contrast to the propaganda Lee had been taught his whole life. Forced by starvation, Lee's parents left him in search of commerce or emigration. He fended for himself for almost five years. His struggle is chronicled in a tightly written first-person narrative. Lee would eventually lead a gang of boys who lived by their wiles, stealing just enough to survive. The tension that runs throughout the narrative is somewhat alleviated by the mere existence of the work. Lee provides a summary of the history of Korea and the politics of the

famine in North Korea, achieving a great balance between historical context and storytelling. Lee incorporates Korean words throughout the text and defines them with a pronunciation guide in the back matter. VERDICT An excellent inside look at childhood in poverty that will resonate with middle schoolers. —Amy Thurow, New Glarus School District, WI

"A pampered son of the elite survives a nightmarish ordeal in this page-turner of a memoir... This fast-paced story will likely compel its readers to learn more about North Korea after finishing it." (Kirkus)"A testament to resilience, Lee's story pulls back the curtain on life in North Korea." (Publishers Weekly)"Lee provides a summary of the history of Korea and the politics of the famine in North Korea, achieving a great balance between historical context and storytelling." (School Library Journal)"There are lessons about resilience, friendship, and family to take to heart... The ending satisfies and offers some hope." (School Library Connection)"[Sungju Lee's] sheer determination rings loudest in this rarely heard perspective. Better yet, the memoir is accessible to younger teens first being exposed to complicated global political conditions." (Booklist)"An amazing tale of resilience and an interesting history of an area westerners rarely hear about." (VOYA)

Interesting but not especially well written.

I devoured this book. It is well-written and really opens your eyes to a different reality for people. Absolutely heartbreaking. I definitely cried. I snatched this book up when it was \$2.99 on Kindle but it's DEFINITELY worth more than that!

A great study of what is going on in North Korea - a must read! You will not be disappointed

This book was amazing and speaks the truth of children growing up North Korea. The gripping tale of Young boys facing much adversity, but stick together as well as Family.

This book is one of my favorite books ever, it is beautifully written and so interesting. It made me cry, laugh, and yell.

Excellent book by a promising, thoughtful offer. I highly recommend this for young readers and students. A moving, fast read.

I have read many books about North Korean defectors I have to say I really enjoyed this book it kept my attention and it was hard to put down highly recommend it

I could not stop reading this book once I started and read the whole thing in one sitting. I was immersed the story. Highly recommended

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