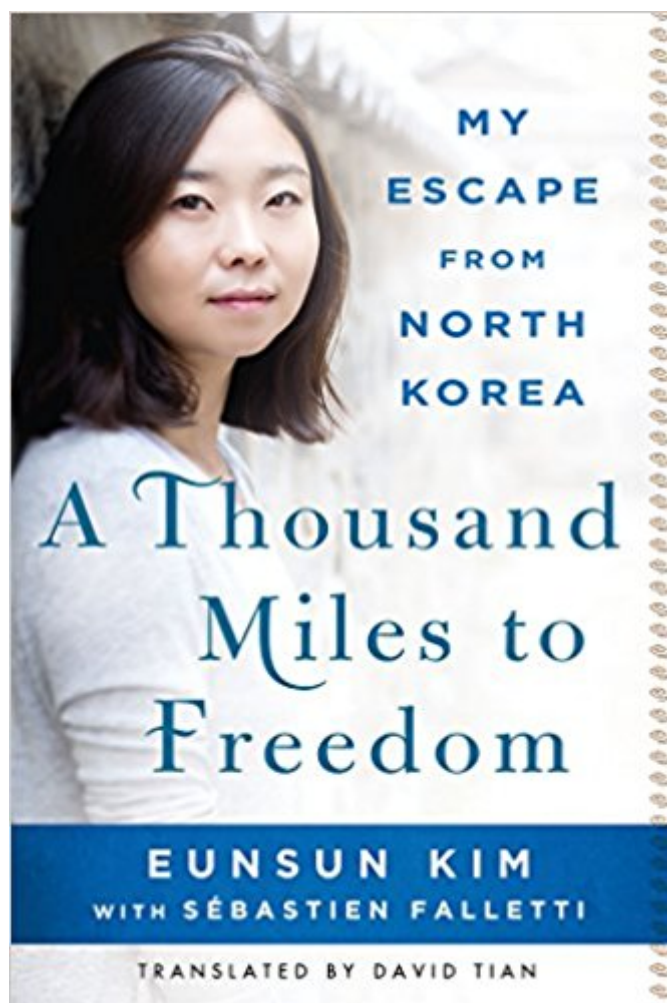


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# A Thousand Miles To Freedom: My Escape From North Korea



## Synopsis

Eunsun Kim was born in North Korea, one of the most secretive and oppressive countries in the modern world. As a child Eunsun loved her country despite her school field trips to public executions, daily self-criticism sessions, and the increasing gnaw of hunger as the country-wide famine escalated. By the time she was eleven years old, Eunsun's father and grandparents had died of starvation, and Eunsun too was in danger of starving. Finally, her mother decided to escape North Korea with Eunsun and her sister, not knowing that they were embarking on a journey that would take them nine long years to complete. Before finally reaching South Korea and freedom, Eunsun and her family would live homeless, fall into the hands of Chinese human traffickers, survive a North Korean labor camp, and cross the deserts of Mongolia on foot. Now, in *A Thousand Miles to Freedom*, Eunsun is sharing her remarkable story to give voice to the tens of millions of North Koreans still suffering in silence. Told with grace and courage, her memoir is a riveting exposé of North Korea's totalitarian regime and, ultimately, a testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin; Reprint edition (June 28, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250092841

ISBN-13: 978-1250092847

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.7 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 219 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #88,242 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > History > Asia > Korea > North #97 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Social Activists #112 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Asia

## Customer Reviews

In *A Thousand Miles to Freedom*, an exceptionally bright young girl grabs your hand and leads you down into the darkness of North Korea. When she lets go of your hand, she is in her twenties and joyously free--and you have felt the texture of life in the world's last totalitarian state. • Blaine Harden, New York Times bestselling author of *Escape from Camp 14* "A Thousand Miles to Freedom is the beautiful and haunting story of a girl who survived against all odds, in the face of

one of the cruelest and most oppressive regimes in modern history. With an intimate and compelling voice, Eunsun shares the details of her childhood in North Korea and the long journey that led her to freedom and hope for a better future. A must-read, as compelling as it is important."

• Senator George Mitchell

Eunsun's extraordinary story brings to light the extreme challenges that the North Korean people have faced for decades, and the dangerous and unpredictable journey that many have risked to escape one of the most repressive countries in the world. Her amazing triumph over adversity also represents a new generation that is breaking free of the controls of this regime to fulfill their potential, raising a source of hope for change in a country where many have seen none.

• Hannah Song, President and CEO of Liberty in North Korea

I read *A Thousand Miles to Freedom* in one sitting. It reads like a fast-paced adventure novel, or perhaps *A Thousand Splendid Suns* in places. But Kim Eun-sun and her family are real people, and their trials and tragedies--and ultimate triumph--will move you all the more for it. Her story is a testament to the best and worst mankind has to offer. You find yourself rooting for her, and though Kim Eun-sun's life must be much less turbulent now, I find myself rooting for her still. Don't read this book just to satisfy your interest in North Korea. Read it to be inspired by an extraordinary person's spirit, and read it to remind yourself what human beings are capable of.

• Daniel Tudor, author of *Korea: The Impossible Country* and Korea correspondent for *The Economist*

EUNSUN KIM grew up in North Korea. At age 11, she fled the country and began the harrowing 9-year journey that led her to freedom. Today, Eunsun works at an NGO promoting human rights in North Korea. She lives in South Korea.

SEBASTIEN FALLETTI has been the Korea correspondent for the French newspaper *Le Figaro* since 2009. He covers political and business news across Asia. Born in Paris, Sébastien is now based in Seoul and Shanghai.

Although the North Korean escapee genre is becoming a well-trod path, I'm always fascinated to read any new additions. While the geographical journey they take is similar, their individual stories are not. Kim Eun-Sun has an interesting tale to tell, but the translation is bland, there are a couple of proof-reading mistakes, and the writer does not do enough to vitalize or differentiate this account from those before it. Having said that, it's not bad. I did enjoy it, and it's easy and straightforward to read. Most probably anyone who has had anything to do with Korea will like this book.

This is definitely a heartfelt story. I don't think that this book is as well written as some of the others I

have read. But kudos to the author for writing this book.

This is the second book I have read about an escapee from North Korea. The book describes a life that is almost unbelievable to us Americans about a child growing into a woman while living in fear poverty and hunger. Her descriptions and memories make the story very real and something most of us cannot imagine doing. Courage and determination in making good life for herself is truly inspiring. I enjoyed reading the book and recommend it to everyone

Loved the book. I actually got to read it before it was delivered through . I just couldn't wait. Very easy read and surprisingly read it in a few hours. Her journey through the famine, despair, hopelessness and finally victory just drew me in and didn't let me go. I am in awe at the determination of the NK to escape the murderous regime of the fat man and the ancestors before him. This is my third NK defector memoir and I must say that her story drew me in the most. She went through so much and here she is victorious and telling her story. Bravo, Eunsun. You are an inspiration to most of us crying over senseless first world problems when at your young age, you have endured things most of us could never imagine.

An honest and interesting account of just how difficult life is for North Koreans. Made me thankful I wasn't born in a country without virtually any freedom. You realize just how indoctrinated these people are. The author was very gritty and determined to finally reach South Korea. A great read.

Excellent and memorable book! It's such a personal story, I became very emotionally involved and couldn't stop reading. To learn what someone else has to go through to have the freedom that we (in the US) take so for granted, This book would be beneficial for anyone to read. Something about the writing really pulled me in and made me want to get to know the author.

This will be a short review. I mainly just wanted to give it a positive star-ranking. I was truly emotionally vested in her story, in her escape from North Korea, her fight to survive in China, what happened next (so as not to spoil the ending) and what she is doing now with her life. More than once I was moved to the point of tears, even when she mentioned about Kimchi after not having eaten it for years. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to read a profound tale, a human story, a situation that needs to be righted. The international community should do much more to help the people of North Korea, to get the North Korean government to start respecting

human rights, to feed their people. . .

When I hear Americans say they want socialism in their country, it makes me shudder. If one reads this book, they will see the atrocities committed against mankind through the workings of a socialist regime. The trials and tribulation this woman and her family suffered at its hand makes your heart weep with sadness. And even through all, she has endured and now helps other. Her story is one that allows you to realize how good you have it. A must read.

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