



# **In the Absence of Sun: A Korean American Woman's Promise to Reunite Three Lost Generations of Her Family**

*Helie Lee*

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A breathtaking true story of a rescue mission undertaken by a young woman and her family in one of the most repressive countries in the world.

Helie Lee often had heard her grandmother speak of an uncle, lost decades ago when he was a child during the family's daring escape from North Korea. As an adult, he was still living there under horrid conditions. When her grandmother began to ail, Helie became determined to reunite her with her eldest son, despite tremendous odds. Helie's mission became even more urgent when she realized that her first book, the bestselling novel **Still Life with Rice**, about the family's escape, might have angered the North Korean government and put her uncle in danger.

Pushing through rivers and forests, fighting the cold, bribing and manipulating border guards, gangsters, and secret service agents, Helie and her father finally achieve their goal. But there are many hurdles. Her uncle is forced to make a harrowing choice: leave his North Korean family behind or continue to live in oppression and starvation away from his beloved mother. And Helie has to face her deep, sometimes ambivalent, emotions about her identity in the family and as a Korean American woman. Unmarried and outspoken, she struggles in Korea, where women marry early and keep silent, and writes eloquently about the landscape there, both literal and cultural. She comes through a heartbreaking love affair only to face an intense and confusing relationship with the Guide—the man who, despite being crude and macho, ultimately helps to save her uncle and eventually his extended family through several daring acts of heroism.

**In the Absence of Sun** is a riveting adventure story and a powerful tale of family bonds and reunion.

“An eerie fear crawled through my flesh as I stood on the Chinese side of the Yalu River, gazing across the murky water into one of the most closed-off and isolated countries in the world. I couldn't believe it. Even as my boots sank into the doughy mud, I had trouble coming to terms with the fact that I was actually standing there. . . . I was not prepared for the kind of despair and insane fear I felt that day. My wizened old uncle looked nothing like the sweet-faced teenager in the faded photograph that Halmoni kept pressed between the pages of her Bible. That day, at the Yalu River, staring helplessly into his terrorized face, I hadn't fully realized what a dangerous thing I had done the year before. I had placed him and his family in danger. By including details of my uncle's life in a book, I had alerted North Korea's enigmatic leadership to the identity of my relatives in a nation where it was better to remain invisible.” —From **In the Absence of Sun**

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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#### **Charles Lee:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or all their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book can be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the reserve untitled In the Absence of Sun: A Korean American Woman's Promise to Reunite Three Lost Generations of Her Family can be good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

#### **William Rocha:**

In the Absence of Sun: A Korean American Woman's Promise to Reunite Three Lost Generations of Her Family can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to get every word into joy arrangement in writing In the Absence of Sun: A Korean American Woman's Promise to Reunite Three Lost Generations of Her Family but doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can drawn you into brand new stage of crucial pondering.

#### **Louise Suttle:**

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