

## Korea Reunited

A Family's Lifelong Dream

by Irene H. Kim



Non-Fiction - Cultural

258 Pages

Reviewed on 09/23/2024

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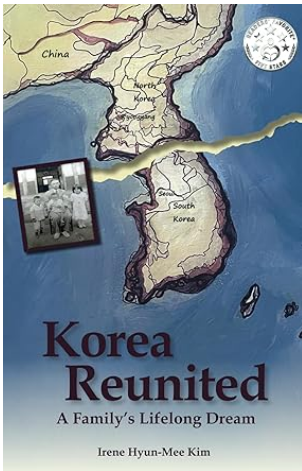
## Book Review



**Reviewed by Afifa Raisa for Readers' Favorite**

Korea Reunited: A Family's Lifelong Dream by Irene Kim presents a poignant recollection of how the turbulent past of Korea tore families apart, including that of the author's father. Kim Chi-Jeon, Irene's father and the central figure of the book, reveals through rounds of interviews with his daughter the painful separation from his family as he fled from the northern areas to the south. Starting with the Japanese occupation to the devastating wars and the formal division of Korea, his childhood had been rough. Despite his eventual settlement in the United States, the agony never left him. The book includes an account of the author and her father as they set off for North Korea in a desperate quest for their lost family.

Irene Kim's Korea Reunited: A Family's Lifelong Dream is an incredibly touching story that is much more than mere history. In her father's voice and her own, Irene shows how the challenging times left a lasting impression on their lives. From the experiences and interactions presented in the book, the universality of certain human emotions becomes obvious. Irrespective of where people are from or what circumstances they find themselves in, there is always something they have in common, something that makes everyone human. As a reader, one cannot help but wonder what became of the individuals who were mentioned in the narration and how many stories revolving around the country's separation will remain untold. The book is recommended for anyone who enjoys memoirs and history.



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## Author Biography



Irene Hyun-Mee Kim is a Gold Award-winning author, storyteller, mother, and first-generation Korean American.

Her memoir, *Korea Reunited: A Family's Lifelong Dream*, was inspired by her family's journey through war, loss, and lifelong separation. What began as an effort to preserve personal history grew into something more universal: an exploration of how our family stories shape us, the unexpected truths hidden in what we thought was lost, and the courage it takes to share them with compassion.

Irene believes that every family holds a legacy worth preserving. In her upcoming YouTube series, she explores the universal elements of storytelling — inspiration, resilience, belonging, vulnerability, and legacy. Her mission is not only to share her own narrative but also to help others honor and protect theirs. Stories do not belong to one place or one person; they travel with us, across borders and through time.

For more than two decades, Irene has also served as a lead medical therapist, specializing in the rehabilitation of complex neurological injuries. Supporting patients and families through hardship has deepened her respect for resilience, healing, and the love that carries us across generations.

When she is not writing, presenting, or working, Irene finds joy in nature, gratitude, and the quiet practice of mindfulness. She lives by a simple but enduring belief: happiness, family, and freedom are precious—yesterday, today, and forever.

Because #YourStoryMatters