



# Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea

*Barbara Demick*

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**Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea** Barbara Demick

**A National Book Award finalist and National Book Critics Circle finalist, Barbara Demick's *Nothing to Envy* is a remarkable view into North Korea, as seen through the lives of six ordinary citizens**

Award-winning journalist Barbara Demick follows the lives of six North Korean citizens over fifteen years—a chaotic period that saw the death of Kim Il-sung, the rise to power of his son Kim Jong-il, and a devastating famine that killed one-fifth of the population. Demick brings to life what it means to be living under the most repressive totalitarian regime today—an Orwellian world that is by choice not connected to the Internet, where displays of affection are punished, informants are rewarded, and an offhand remark can send a person to the gulag for life. Demick takes us deep inside the country, beyond the reach of government censors, and through meticulous and sensitive reporting we see her subjects fall in love, raise families, nurture ambitions, and struggle for survival. One by one, we witness their profound, life-altering disillusionment with the government and their realization that, rather than providing them with lives of abundance, their country has betrayed them.

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