

nothing to envy

nothing to envy is a phrase that evokes curiosity and reflection, drawing attention to themes of contentment, aspiration, and comparative living. This article explores the multi-layered significance of “nothing to envy,” examining its historical context, cultural impact, and relevance in modern society. We’ll delve into its roots in literature and media, especially the acclaimed book about North Korea, and analyze how envy influences individual and collective behavior. Readers will gain insights into how the concept applies to personal growth, mental health, and global perspectives. This comprehensive guide is designed to be informative and SEO-optimized, ensuring depth and clarity for anyone seeking to understand the complexities behind the phrase “nothing to envy.” Read on to discover how this concept shapes our views on happiness, ambition, and social dynamics.

- Understanding the Origin of “Nothing to Envy”
- The Literary Influence: “Nothing to Envy” by Barbara Demick
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Understanding the Origin of “Nothing to Envy”

The phrase “nothing to envy” carries profound meaning across cultures and languages. Its literal interpretation suggests a state of satisfaction where no external factor provokes jealousy or longing. Historically, the term has appeared in literature, music, and political discourse, often used to describe societies or individuals who claim complete fulfillment. In some cases, the phrase is employed ironically, highlighting disparities between perceived happiness and underlying struggles.

In modern times, “nothing to envy” has become a powerful statement about contentment and societal expectations. It challenges people to consider the true sources of happiness and to question whether material possessions or social status actually bring satisfaction. The phrase also serves as a mirror to societal values, prompting introspection about the pursuit of more and the dangers of comparison.

Understanding the origin of “nothing to envy” is essential for grasping its broader implications. It is more than just a saying—it is a lens through which we can examine the nature of fulfillment and the pitfalls of envy.

The Literary Influence: “Nothing to Envy” by Barbara Demick

One of the most notable modern uses of “nothing to envy” is in the acclaimed book “Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea” by journalist Barbara Demick. This work provides a rare glimpse into the everyday experiences of North Korean citizens, challenging the state’s propaganda that claims its people have “nothing to envy” compared to the outside world. The book’s title is a direct reference to a popular North Korean song that extols the virtues of the regime, emphasizing national pride and supposed self-sufficiency.

Key Themes in Demick’s Book

- Disparity between propaganda and reality
- Individual struggles for survival
- The meaning of freedom and fulfillment
- Effects of isolation on personal perspective
- Resilience and hope amid adversity

Demick’s detailed interviews and narrative style expose the contrast between the official message of contentment and the actual hardships faced by North Koreans. The book uses “nothing to envy” not only as a title but as a central theme to question what it truly means to be content—and whether such contentment can exist under extreme circumstances.

Envy in Human Psychology and Society

Envy is a fundamental aspect of human psychology, often shaping social interactions and personal aspirations. The concept of “nothing to envy” challenges the prevalence of envy by advocating for satisfaction and acceptance. Psychologists define envy as a complex emotion that arises when individuals compare themselves to others, often leading to feelings of inadequacy or resentment.

Social media and globalization have amplified the effects of envy, making it easier to compare lifestyles, achievements, and possessions. This constant exposure to others’ successes can undermine self-esteem and mental health, fueling a cycle of desire and dissatisfaction. The phrase “nothing to envy” serves as a counterpoint, suggesting that the antidote to envy is embracing what one already has.

How Envy Impacts Daily Life

- Decreased self-esteem and well-being
- Strained relationships and trust issues
- Reduced productivity and motivation
- Increased anxiety and stress

By understanding the psychological roots and societal consequences of envy, individuals and communities can work toward creating environments where contentment and gratitude are valued over comparison.

Global Perspectives on Contentment

The idea of “nothing to envy” resonates differently around the world, influenced by cultural norms, economic conditions, and social structures. In some societies, contentment is seen as an admirable goal, while in others, ambition and competition are prioritized. The global conversation about happiness and fulfillment has evolved, with many cultures now recognizing the importance of mental well-being and life satisfaction over material wealth.

Studies on happiness consistently show that contentment is not solely determined by external circumstances but by mindset, relationships, and a sense of purpose. Scandinavian countries, for instance, often rank high in global happiness indexes due to their emphasis on social equality, community, and work-life balance. In contrast, highly competitive societies may struggle with higher rates of anxiety and dissatisfaction.

Factors Influencing Contentment Worldwide

- Economic stability and security
- Strong social support networks
- Freedom of expression and choice
- Access to healthcare and education
- Cultural attitudes toward success and failure

Exploring global perspectives reveals that the journey toward “nothing to envy” is complex and multifaceted, shaped by both personal and collective experiences.

Lessons from North Korea's Reality

North Korea's use of "nothing to envy" as a slogan highlights the power of messaging in shaping national identity. Despite the government's claims, the reality for many North Koreans is marked by scarcity, limited freedom, and chronic hardship. The phrase thus becomes a paradox, illustrating the gap between propaganda and lived experience.

Barbara Demick's book and numerous testimonies from defectors reveal how North Koreans interpret and internalize the concept of "nothing to envy." For some, it becomes a coping mechanism, a way to find meaning amid deprivation. For others, exposure to outside information sparks a desire for change and a reevaluation of what true contentment means.

Key Lessons for the World

- Critical evaluation of official narratives
- Importance of personal freedom and autonomy
- Role of resilience in facing adversity
- Value of empathy for those in different circumstances

North Korea's story serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of enforced contentment and the need for authentic fulfillment rooted in reality.

Applying the Concept of "Nothing to Envy" in Daily Life

Embracing the philosophy of "nothing to envy" can enhance personal well-being and foster healthier relationships. It encourages individuals to focus on gratitude, mindfulness, and intrinsic values rather than external comparisons. This approach is supported by research in positive psychology, which shows that gratitude and acceptance are key drivers of happiness.

Practical strategies for cultivating a "nothing to envy" mindset include regular reflection, setting realistic goals, and celebrating personal achievements. Communities and workplaces can also benefit from promoting environments where collaboration and mutual support replace competition and rivalry.

Actionable Steps for Individuals

1. Practice gratitude daily by acknowledging what you have
2. Limit exposure to comparison-driven media
3. Set personal goals based on values, not external benchmarks
4. Engage in activities that foster connection and purpose
5. Seek support when struggling with envy or dissatisfaction

By integrating these practices into everyday life, individuals can move closer to a genuine state of “nothing to envy,” experiencing greater satisfaction and resilience.

Frequently Asked Questions about “Nothing to Envy”

Below are trending and relevant questions and answers related to the concept of “nothing to envy,” its origins, applications, and impact.

Q: What is the meaning of “nothing to envy”?

A: “Nothing to envy” refers to a state of contentment where an individual or group feels no need to desire what others possess. It highlights satisfaction and acceptance, often used to critique or analyze societal standards of happiness.

Q: Who wrote the book “Nothing to Envy”?

A: “Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea” was written by journalist Barbara Demick. The book investigates the lives of North Korean citizens and explores the gap between propaganda and reality.

Q: How does envy affect mental health?

A: Envy can lead to decreased self-esteem, increased anxiety, and chronic dissatisfaction. It often results in negative emotions and strained relationships, impacting both mental and emotional well-being.

Q: Why is the phrase “nothing to envy” significant in North Korean culture?

A: The phrase is part of North Korean propaganda, used to promote the idea that citizens are fully content and lack nothing compared to other nations. However, it often contrasts sharply with the country’s actual living conditions.

Q: Can adopting a “nothing to envy” mindset improve happiness?

A: Yes. Research shows that focusing on gratitude and intrinsic values, rather than external comparisons, leads to greater happiness and resilience. A “nothing to envy” mindset encourages acceptance and self-worth.

Q: What are practical ways to reduce envy in daily life?

A: Strategies include practicing gratitude, limiting exposure to comparison-driven media, setting personal goals, and engaging in meaningful activities. Developing self-awareness and seeking support can also help manage envy.

Q: How does the concept of “nothing to envy” relate to global perspectives?

A: Different cultures interpret contentment and envy uniquely. The concept encourages reflection on cultural values, social structures, and individual experiences in the pursuit of happiness.

Q: Is “nothing to envy” always a positive statement?

A: Not necessarily. While it can signify genuine satisfaction, it may also be used ironically to mask underlying problems or perpetuate propaganda, as seen in North Korean messaging.

Q: What lessons can be learned from North Korea about contentment?

A: North Korea teaches the importance of questioning official narratives, valuing personal freedom, and understanding the complexities of fulfillment. It highlights the dangers of enforced contentment and the need for authenticity.

Q: How can organizations foster a “nothing to envy” culture?

A: Organizations can promote collaboration, recognize individual achievements, and create environments that value personal growth over competition. Encouraging gratitude and mutual support helps build a healthier workplace culture.

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Nothing to Envy: Unpacking the Complexities of North Korean Society

Have you ever wondered what life is truly like behind the heavily guarded borders of North Korea? The term "Nothing to Envy," often used to describe the North Korean experience, is far more nuanced than a simple slogan. This blog post delves deep into the realities of life in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), exploring its complexities beyond the often-propagated propaganda. We'll examine the social structures, economic realities, and human stories that paint a far richer - and often heartbreaking - picture than the official narrative allows. Prepare to challenge your preconceptions and gain a deeper understanding of this enigmatic nation.

H2: The Illusion of Self-Sufficiency: The North Korean Economy

The official ideology of North Korea paints a picture of self-sufficiency and national pride. However, the reality is far more grim. The country's centrally planned economy has consistently struggled to meet the basic needs of its population.

H3: Chronic Food Shortages and Famine

For decades, North Korea has faced severe food shortages, leading to widespread malnutrition and periodic famines. These shortages aren't simply a matter of poor agricultural practices; they are deeply intertwined with the country's political and economic system, characterized by corruption, mismanagement, and a lack of investment in infrastructure and technology. The prioritization of military spending over civilian needs further exacerbates this problem.

H3: The Role of the "Songbun" System

The "songbun" system, a social stratification system based on family background and loyalty to the regime, significantly impacts economic opportunities. Individuals belonging to lower songbun categories face systemic discrimination, limiting their access to education, employment, and essential resources. This creates a deeply entrenched inequality that perpetuates poverty and hardship.

H2: Navigating Daily Life: Challenges and Resilience

Beyond the macroeconomic picture, the daily lives of North Korean citizens are marked by constant challenges. Access to basic necessities like food, electricity, and healthcare is often unreliable and unpredictable.

H3: Information Control and Propaganda

The North Korean government maintains an iron grip on information, controlling access to outside media and shaping public opinion through pervasive propaganda. This carefully curated narrative presents a distorted view of the world, reinforcing the regime's authority and suppressing dissent. The lack of access to independent information severely limits citizens' understanding of alternative perspectives and possibilities.

H3: The Strength of Family and Community

Despite the immense hardships, strong family and community ties provide a crucial support network for many North Koreans. Mutual aid and shared experiences forge deep bonds that help individuals navigate the challenges of daily life. This resilience in the face of adversity is a testament to the human spirit's capacity to endure.

H3: The Human Cost of Repression

The repressive nature of the North Korean regime results in significant human rights violations. Freedom of speech, assembly, and religion are severely curtailed, and dissent is met with harsh punishment. The use of political prison camps, known for their brutal conditions, serves as a chilling reminder of the regime's power. Thousands have perished in these camps, highlighting the devastating human cost of authoritarian rule.

H2: Escape and Defection: A Risky Path to Freedom

Escape from North Korea is a perilous undertaking, often involving dangerous journeys across treacherous borders. Defectors face immense risks, including capture, imprisonment, or even execution. Yet, many risk their lives seeking freedom and a better future.

H2: Understanding "Nothing to Envy": A Deeper Perspective

The phrase "Nothing to Envy" encapsulates a complex reality. It isn't a denial of suffering, but rather a reflection of the carefully crafted narrative that the North Korean regime pushes both internally and externally. It represents the dissonance between the official image of a prosperous and self-sufficient nation and the lived experiences of its citizens. Understanding the complexities requires moving beyond simplistic labels and engaging with the diverse perspectives of those who have lived under the regime's control.

Conclusion

"Nothing to Envy" compels us to confront the harsh realities of life in North Korea. By exploring the economic struggles, daily challenges, and human rights violations, we gain a more comprehensive understanding of this complex nation. While the phrase itself might appear contradictory, it acts as a potent symbol of the enduring strength of the human spirit amidst unimaginable oppression. This understanding is crucial not only for fostering empathy and support for the North Korean people but also for informing effective strategies for promoting human rights and peaceful resolution in the region.

FAQs:

1. What is the current state of human rights in North Korea? Human rights are systematically violated in North Korea. Freedoms of speech, assembly, and religion are severely restricted, and there are credible reports of widespread political imprisonment, torture, and extrajudicial killings.
2. How does the North Korean government control information? The government tightly controls access to information, limiting exposure to outside media and using propaganda to shape public opinion. Independent journalism and access to the internet are essentially non-existent for most citizens.
3. What are the major challenges faced by North Korean defectors? Defectors face immense risks, including capture, imprisonment, and even execution. They also often struggle with resettlement, language barriers, cultural adjustment, and trauma.
4. What role does the international community play in addressing the situation in North Korea? The international community plays a vital role in monitoring human rights abuses, providing humanitarian aid, and applying diplomatic pressure on the North Korean government. However, progress has been slow and often hampered by geopolitical complexities.

5. Are there any positive developments in North Korea? While progress is slow and limited, there have been some small improvements in certain areas, such as limited market reforms that allow some degree of economic flexibility. However, these improvements are often overshadowed by the ongoing human rights violations and systemic challenges.

nothing to envy: *Nothing to Envy* Barbara Demick, 2009-12-29 An eye-opening account of life inside North Korea—a closed world of increasing global importance—hailed as a “tour de force of meticulous reporting” (The New York Review of Books), with a new afterword that revisits these stories—and North Korea more broadly—in 2022, in the wake of the pandemic NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FINALIST In this landmark addition to the literature of totalitarianism, 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 (the father of Kim Jong-un), 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 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. She 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. Praise for *Nothing to Envy* “Provocative . . . offers extensive evidence of the author’s deep knowledge of this country while keeping its sights firmly on individual stories and human details.”—The New York Times “Deeply moving . . . The personal stories are related with novelistic detail.”—The Wall Street Journal “A tour de force of meticulous reporting.”—The New York Review of Books “Excellent . . . humanizes a downtrodden, long-suffering people whose individual lives, hopes and dreams are so little known abroad.”—San Francisco Chronicle “The narrow boundaries of our knowledge have expanded radically with the publication of *Nothing to Envy*. . . . Elegantly structured and written, [it] is a groundbreaking work of literary nonfiction.”—John Delury, Slate “At times a page-turner, at others an intimate study in totalitarian psychology.”—The Philadelphia Inquirer

nothing to envy: Dear Leader Jang Jin-sung, 2015-01-27 In this rare insider's view into contemporary North Korea, a high-ranking counterintelligence agent describes his life as a former poet laureate to Kim Jong-il and his breathtaking escape to freedom. The General will now enter the room. Everyone turns to stone. Not moving my head, I direct my eyes to a point halfway up the archway where Kim Jong-il's face will soon appear... As North Korea's State Poet Laureate, Jang Jin-sung led a charmed life. With food provisions (even as the country suffered through its great famine), a travel pass, access to strictly censored information, and audiences with Kim Jong-il himself, his life in Pyongyang seemed safe and secure. But this privileged existence was about to be shattered. When a strictly forbidden magazine he lent to a friend goes missing, Jang Jin-sung must flee for his life. Never before has a member of the elite described the inner workings of this totalitarian state and its propaganda machine. An astonishing expose; told through the heart-stopping story of Jang Jin-sung's escape to South Korea, *Dear Leader* is a rare and unprecedented insight into the world's most secretive and repressive regime--

nothing to envy: Under the Loving Care of the Fatherly Leader Bradley K. Martin, 2007-04-01 *Under the Loving Care of the Fatherly Leader* offers in-depth portraits of North Korea's two ruthless and bizarrely Orwellian leaders, Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il. Lifting North Korea's curtain of self-imposed isolation, this book will take readers inside a society, that to a Westerner, will appear to be from another planet. Subsisting on a diet short on food grains and long on lies, North Koreans have been indoctrinated from birth to follow unquestioningly a father-son team of megalomaniacs. To North Koreans, the Kims are more than just leaders. Kim Il-Sung is the country's

leading novelist, philosopher, historian, educator, designer, literary critic, architect, general, farmer, and ping-pong trainer. Radios are made so they can only be tuned to the official state frequency. Newspapers are filled with endless columns of Kim speeches and propaganda. And instead of Christmas, North Koreans celebrate Kim's birthday--and he presents each child a present, just like Santa. The regime that the Kim Dynasty has built remains technically at war with the United States nearly a half century after the armistice that halted actual fighting in the Korean War. This fascinating and complete history takes full advantage of a great deal of source material that has only recently become available (some from archives in Moscow and Beijing), and brings the reader up to the tensions of the current day. For as this book will explain, North Korea appears more and more to be the greatest threat among the Axis of Evil countries--with some defector testimony warning that Kim Jong-Il has enough chemical weapons to wipe out the entire population of South Korea.

nothing to envy: Eat the Buddha Barbara Demick, 2020-07-28 A gripping portrait of modern Tibet told through the lives of its people, from the bestselling author of *Nothing to Envy* "A brilliantly reported and eye-opening work of narrative nonfiction."—The New York Times Book Review NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY Parul Sehgal, The New York Times • The New York Times Book Review • The Washington Post • NPR • The Economist • Outside • Foreign Affairs Just as she did with North Korea, award-winning journalist Barbara Demick explores one of the most hidden corners of the world. She tells the story of a Tibetan town perched eleven thousand feet above sea level that is one of the most difficult places in all of China for foreigners to visit. Ngaba was one of the first places where the Tibetans and the Chinese Communists encountered one another. In the 1930s, Mao Zedong's Red Army fled into the Tibetan plateau to escape their adversaries in the Chinese Civil War. By the time the soldiers reached Ngaba, they were so hungry that they looted monasteries and ate religious statues made of flour and butter—to Tibetans, it was as if they were eating the Buddha. Their experiences would make Ngaba one of the engines of Tibetan resistance for decades to come, culminating in shocking acts of self-immolation. *Eat the Buddha* spans decades of modern Tibetan and Chinese history, as told through the private lives of Demick's subjects, among them a princess whose family is wiped out during the Cultural Revolution, a young Tibetan nomad who becomes radicalized in the storied monastery of Kirti, an upwardly mobile entrepreneur who falls in love with a Chinese woman, a poet and intellectual who risks everything to voice his resistance, and a Tibetan schoolgirl forced to choose at an early age between her family and the elusive lure of Chinese money. All of them face the same dilemma: Do they resist the Chinese, or do they join them? Do they adhere to Buddhist teachings of compassion and nonviolence, or do they fight? Illuminating a culture that has long been romanticized by Westerners as deeply spiritual and peaceful, Demick reveals what it is really like to be a Tibetan in the twenty-first century, trying to preserve one's culture, faith, and language against the depredations of a seemingly unstoppable, technologically all-seeing superpower. Her depiction is nuanced, unvarnished, and at times shocking.

nothing to envy: *North Korea Undercover* John Sweeney, 2013-11-14 North Korea is like no other tyranny on earth. It is Orwell's 1984 made reality. The regime controls the flow of information to its citizens, pouring relentless propaganda through omnipresent loud speakers. Free speech is an illusion: one word out of line and the gulag awaits. State spies are everywhere, ready to punish disloyalty and the slightest sign of discontent. You must bow to Kim Il Sung, the Eternal Leader and to his son, Generalissimo Kim Jong Il. Worship the dead and then hail the living, the Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. North Koreans are told their home is the greatest nation on earth. Big Brother is always watching. Posing as a university professor, award-winning BBC journalist John Sweeney travelled undercover to gain unprecedented access to the world's most secret state. Drawing on his own experiences and his extensive interviews with defectors and other key witnesses, *North Korea Undercover* pulls back the curtain, providing a rare insight into life there today, examining the country's troubled history and addressing important questions about its uncertain future. Sweeney's highly engaging, authoritative account illuminates the dark side of the Hermit Kingdom and challenges the West's perception of this paranoid nationalist state.

nothing to envy: *The Real North Korea* Andrei Lankov, 2015 In *The Real North Korea*, Lankov substitutes cold, clear analysis for the overheated rhetoric surrounding this opaque police state. Based on vast expertise, this book reveals how average North Koreans live, how their leaders rule, and how both survive

nothing to envy: The Cleanest Race B.R. Myers, 2011-02-01 Understanding North Korea through its propaganda What do the North Koreans really believe? How do they see themselves and the world around them? Here B.R. Myers, a North Korea analyst and a contributing editor of *The Atlantic*, presents the first full-length study of the North Korean worldview. Drawing on extensive research into the regime's domestic propaganda, including films, romance novels and other artifacts of the personality cult, Myers analyzes each of the country's official myths in turn—from the notion of Koreans' unique moral purity, to the myth of an America quaking in terror of "the Iron General." In a concise but groundbreaking historical section, Myers also traces the origins of this official culture back to the Japanese fascist thought in which North Korea's first ideologues were schooled. What emerges is a regime completely unlike the West's perception of it. This is neither a bastion of Stalinism nor a Confucian patriarchy, but a paranoid nationalist, "military-first" state on the far right of the ideological spectrum. Since popular support for the North Korean regime now derives almost exclusively from pride in North Korean military might, Pyongyang can neither be cajoled nor bullied into giving up its nuclear program. The implications for US foreign policy—which has hitherto treated North Korea as the last outpost of the Cold War—are as obvious as they are troubling. With North Korea now calling for a "blood reckoning" with the "Yankee jackals," Myers's unprecedented analysis could not be more timely.

nothing to envy: *Becoming Kim Jong Un* Jung H. Pak, 2021-04-06 A groundbreaking account of the rise of North Korea's Kim Jong Un—from his nuclear ambitions to his summits with President Donald J. Trump—by a leading American expert "Shrewdly sheds light on the world's most recognizable mysterious leader, his life and what's really going on behind the curtain."—*Newsweek* When Kim Jong Un became the leader of North Korea following his father's death in 2011, predictions about his imminent fall were rife. North Korea was isolated, poor, unable to feed its people, and clinging to its nuclear program for legitimacy. Surely this twentysomething with a bizarre haircut and no leadership experience would soon be usurped by his elders. Instead, the opposite happened. Now in his midthirties, Kim Jong Un has solidified his grip on his country and brought the United States and the region to the brink of war. Still, we know so little about him—or how he rules. Enter former CIA analyst Jung Pak, whose brilliant Brookings Institution essay "The Education of Kim Jong Un" cemented her status as the go-to authority on the calculating young leader. From the beginning of Kim's reign, Pak has been at the forefront of shaping U.S. policy on North Korea and providing strategic assessments for leadership at the highest levels in the government. Now, in this masterly book, she traces and explains Kim's ascent on the world stage, from his brutal power-consolidating purges to his abrupt pivot toward diplomatic engagement that led to his historic—and still poorly understood—summits with President Trump. She also sheds light on how a top intelligence analyst assesses thorny national security problems: avoiding biases, questioning assumptions, and identifying risks as well as opportunities. In piecing together Kim's wholly unique life, Pak argues that his personality, perceptions, and preferences are underestimated by Washington policy wonks, who assume he sees the world as they do. As the North Korean nuclear threat grows, *Becoming Kim Jong Un* gives readers the first authoritative, behind-the-scenes look at Kim's character and motivations, creating an insightful biography of the enigmatic man who could rule the hermit kingdom for decades—and has already left an indelible imprint on world history.

nothing to envy: North Korea Confidential Daniel Tudor, James Pearson, 2015-04-14
Named one of the best books of 2015 by *The Economist* Private Markets, Fashion Trends, Prison Camps, Dissenters and Defectors. North Korea is one of the most troubled societies on earth. The country's 24 million people live under a violent dictatorship led by a single family, which relentlessly pursues the development of nuclear arms, which periodically incites risky military clashes with the larger, richer, liberal South, and which forces each and every person to play a role in the theater

state even as it pays little more than lip service to the wellbeing of the overwhelming majority. With this deeply anachronistic system eventually failed in the 1990s, it triggered a famine that decimated the countryside and obliterated the lives of many hundreds of thousands of people. However, it also changed life forever for those who survived. A lawless form of marketization came to replace the iron rice bowl of work in state companies, and the Orwellian mind control of the Korean Workers' Party was replaced for many by dreams of trade and profit. A new North Korea Society was born from the horrors of the era--one that is more susceptible to outside information than ever before with the advent of k-pop and video-carrying USB sticks. This is the North Korean society that is described in this book. In seven fascinating chapters, the authors explore what life is actually like in modern North Korea today for the ordinary man and woman on the street. They interview experts and tap a broad variety of sources to bring a startling new insider's view of North Korean society--from members of Pyongyang's ruling families to defectors from different periods and regions, to diplomats and NGOs with years of experience in the country, to cross-border traders from neighboring China, and textual accounts appearing in English, Korean and Chinese sources. The resulting stories reveal the horror as well as the innovation and humor which abound in this fascinating country.

nothing to envy: Logavina Street Barbara Demick, 2012-04-17 Logavina Street was a microcosm of Sarajevo, a six-block-long history lesson. For four centuries, it existed as a quiet residential area in a charming city long known for its ethnic and religious tolerance. On this street of 240 families, Muslims and Christians, Serbs and Croats lived easily together, unified by their common identity as Sarajevans. Then the war tore it all apart. As she did in her groundbreaking work about North Korea, *Nothing to Envy*, award-winning journalist Barbara Demick tells the story of the Bosnian War and the brutal and devastating three-and-a-half-year siege of Sarajevo through the lives of ordinary citizens, who struggle with hunger, poverty, sniper fire, and shellings. Logavina Street paints this misunderstood war and its effects in vivid strokes—at once epic and intimate—revealing the heroism, sorrow, resilience, and uncommon faith of its people. With a new Introduction, final chapter, and Epilogue by the author

nothing to envy: Every Falling Star Sungju Lee, Susan Elizabeth McClelland, 2016-09-13 Written for a young audience, this intense memoir explores the harsh realities of life on the streets in contemporary North Korea. *Every Falling Star* is the memoir of Sungju Lee, who at the age of twelve was forced to live on the streets of North Korea and fend for himself. To survive, Sungju creates a gang and lives by thieving, fighting, begging, and stealing rides on cargo trains. Sungju richly recreates his scabrous story, depicting what it was like for a boy alone to create a new family with his gang, "his brothers," to daily 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.

nothing to envy: Freak Out Pauline Butcher, 2023-09-11 This new, completely revised and updated edition contains a wealth of new material, excerpts from the author's diaries and private letters home about life in Hollywood. In 1967, 21-year-old Pauline Butcher was working for a London secretarial agency when a call came through from a Mr Frank Zappa asking for a typist. The assignment would change her life forever. For three years, Pauline served as Zappa's PA, moving with him, his family and the Mothers of Invention, to a log cabin in Laurel Canyon in the Hollywood Hills, where the 'straight' young English girl mixed with Oscar winners and rock royalty. *Freak Out!* is the captivating story of a naive young English girl thrust into the mad world of a musical legend as well as the most intimate portrait of Frank Zappa ever written.

nothing to envy: In Order to Live Yeonmi Park, Maryanne Vollers, 2015-09-29 "I am most grateful for two things: that I was born in North Korea, and that I escaped from North Korea." - Yeonmi Park One of the most harrowing stories I have ever heard - and one of the most inspiring. - The Bookseller "Park's remarkable and inspiring story shines a light on a country whose inhabitants live in misery beyond comprehension. Park's important memoir showcases the strength of the human spirit and one young woman's incredible determination to never be hungry again."

—Publishers Weekly In *In Order to Live*, Yeonmi Park shines a light not just into the darkest corners of life in North Korea, describing the deprivation and deception she endured and which millions of North Korean people continue to endure to this day, but also onto her own most painful and difficult memories. She tells with bravery and dignity for the first time the story of how she and her mother were betrayed and sold into sexual slavery in China and forced to suffer terrible psychological and physical hardship before they finally made their way to Seoul, South Korea—and to freedom. Park confronts her past with a startling resilience. In spite of everything, she has never stopped being proud of where she is from, and never stopped striving for a better life. Indeed, today she is a human rights activist working determinedly to bring attention to the oppression taking place in her home country. Park's testimony is heartbreaking and unimaginable, but never without hope. This is the human spirit at its most indomitable.

nothing to envy: *Nothing to Envy* Barbara Demick, 2010 North Korea, run by a mad dictator, is cut off from the rest of the world, unknown and unknowable. But North Korea is also a place where ordinary people live, dream and learn to survive. Demick draws a powerful portrait of a bizarre society and the very real lives it affects.

nothing to envy: *How I Became a North Korean* Krys Lee, 2016-08-02 Lee takes us into urgent and emotional novelistic terrain: the desperate and tenuous realms defectors are forced to inhabit after escaping North Korea." -Adam Johnson, author of *The Orphan Master's Son* The more confusing and horrible our world becomes, the more critical the role of fiction in communicating both the facts and the meaning of other people's lives. Krys Lee joins writers like Anthony Marra, Khaled Hosseini and Elnathan John in this urgent work. -San Francisco Chronicle Yongju is an accomplished student from one of North Korea's most prominent families. Jangmi, on the other hand, has had to fend for herself since childhood, most recently by smuggling goods across the border. Then there is Danny, a Chinese-American teenager whose quirks and precocious intelligence have long made him an outcast in his California high school. These three disparate lives converge when they flee their homes, finding themselves in a small Chinese town just across the river from North Korea. As they fight to survive in a place where danger seems to close in on all sides, in the form of government informants, husbands, thieves, abductors, and even missionaries, they come to form a kind of adoptive family. But will Yongju, Jangmi and Danny find their way to the better lives they risked everything for? Transporting the reader to one of the least-known and most threatening environments in the world, and exploring how humanity persists even in the most desperate circumstances, *How I Became a North Korean* is a brilliant and essential first novel by one of our most promising writers. A FINALIST FOR THE 2016 CENTER FOR FICTION FIRST NOVEL PRIZE Longlisted for the Carnegie Medal One of The Millions' most anticipated books of the second half of 2016 One of Elle.com's 11 Best Books to Read in August One of Bookpage's Six Stellar Summer Debuts

nothing to envy: *Only Beautiful, Please* John Vivian Everard, 2012 Coverage of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea all too often focuses solely on nuclear proliferation, military parades and the personality cults around its leaders. As British Ambassador to North Korea, John Everard had the rare experience of living there from 2006 ... to 2008 ... While stationed in Pyongyang, Everard's travels around the DPRK provided him with numerous opportunities to meet and converse with North Koreans. [This] goes beyond the official North Korea to unveil the human dimension of life in that hermetic nation. Everard recounts his impressions of the country and its people, his interactions with them, and his observations on their way of life. He provides a picture as well of the life of foreigners in this closed society, considers how the DPRK evolved to its current state, and discusses the failure of current approaches to tackle the challenges that it throws up--Publisher's description.

nothing to envy: *Destiny and Power* Jon Meacham, 2016-10-18 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • In this brilliant biography, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham chronicles the life of George Herbert Walker Bush. NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST AND ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Times

Book Review • Time • NPR • St. Louis Post-Dispatch Drawing on President Bush's personal diaries, on the diaries of his wife, Barbara, and on extraordinary access to the forty-first president and his family, Meacham paints an intimate and surprising portrait of an intensely private man who led the nation through tumultuous times. From the Oval Office to Camp David, from his study in the private quarters of the White House to Air Force One, from the fall of the Berlin Wall to the first Gulf War to the end of Communism, *Destiny and Power* charts the thoughts, decisions, and emotions of a modern president who may have been the last of his kind. This is the human story of a man who was, like the nation he led, at once noble and flawed. His was one of the great American lives. Born into a loving, privileged, and competitive family, Bush joined the navy on his eighteenth birthday and at age twenty was shot down on a combat mission over the Pacific. He married young, started a family, and resisted pressure to go to Wall Street, striking out for the adventurous world of Texas oil. Over the course of three decades, Bush would rise from the chairmanship of his county Republican Party to serve as congressman, ambassador to the United Nations, head of the Republican National Committee, envoy to China, director of Central Intelligence, vice president under Ronald Reagan, and, finally, president of the United States. In retirement he became the first president since John Adams to see his son win the ultimate prize in American politics. With access not only to the Bush diaries but, through extensive interviews, to the former president himself, Meacham presents Bush's candid assessments of many of the critical figures of the age, ranging from Richard Nixon to Nancy Reagan; Mao to Mikhail Gorbachev; Dick Cheney to Donald Rumsfeld; Henry Kissinger to Bill Clinton. Here is high politics as it really is but as we rarely see it. From the Pacific to the presidency, *Destiny and Power* charts the vicissitudes of the life of this quietly compelling American original. Meacham sheds new light on the rise of the right wing in the Republican Party, a shift that signaled the beginning of the end of the center in American politics. *Destiny and Power* is an affecting portrait of a man who, driven by destiny and by duty, forever sought, ultimately, to put the country first. Praise for *Destiny and Power* "Should be required reading—if not for every presidential candidate, then for every president-elect."—The Washington Post "Reflects the qualities of both subject and biographer: judicious, balanced, deliberative, with a deep appreciation of history and the personalities who shape it."—The New York Times Book Review "A fascinating biography of the forty-first president."—The Dallas Morning News

nothing to envy: The Orphan Master's Son Adam Johnson, 2012 The son of a singer mother whose career forcibly separated her from her family and an influential father who runs an orphan work camp, Pak Jun Do rises to prominence using instinctive talents and eventually becomes a professional kidnapper and romantic rival to Kim Jong Il. By the author of *Parasites Like Us*.

nothing to envy: The Aquariums of Pyongyang Chol-hwan Kang, Pierre Rigoulot, 2005-08-24 Part horror story, part historical document, part memoir, part political tract, one man's suffering gives eyewitness proof to an ongoing sorrowful chapter of modern history.

nothing to envy: Summary of Barbara Demick's Nothing to Envy Everest Media, 2022-03-05T22:59:00Z Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 North Korea is a country that has fallen out of the developed world. The country is covered in darkness, which is something that teenagers love. #2 In the late 1990s, North Koreans would meet in the dark to escape the prying eyes of the authorities. The girl would lead her boyfriend to a hot-spring resort outside of town, where the grounds were poorly maintained but the trees were still beautiful. #3 When I met Mi-ran, she was a 31-year old woman living in South Korea. She had defected six years earlier. I wanted to know what life was like for defectors in North Korea, so I interviewed her. #4 In 2004, Mi-ran was a kindergarten teacher in a mining town in North Korea. She was working toward a graduate degree in education. She had a dream about her boyfriend, a South Korean civilian military employee, who had married her the previous year.

nothing to envy: Capitalist in North Korea Felix Abt, 2014-05-28 Business in North Korea: a paradoxical and fascinating situation is interpreted by a true insider. In 2002, the Swiss power company ABB appointed Felix Abt its country director for North Korea. The Swiss Entrepreneur lived and worked in North Korea for seven years, one of the few foreign businessmen there. After

the experience, Abt felt compelled to write *A Capitalist in North Korea* to describe the multifaceted society he encountered. North Korea, at the time, was heavily sanctioned by the UN which made it extremely difficult to do business. Yet he discovered that it was a place where plastic surgery and South Korean TV dramas were wildly popular and where he rarely needed to walk more than a block to grab a quick hamburger. He was closely monitored and once faced accusations of spying, yet he learned that young North Koreans are hopeful—signing up for business courses in anticipation of a brighter, more open, future. In *A Capitalist in North Korea*, Abt shares these and many other unusual facts and insights about one of the world's most secretive nations.

nothing to envy: *Envy* Sandra Brown, 2013-08-27 In this explosive New York Times bestselling thriller, a New York City-based book editor travels to a Southern island to meet a mysterious author -- but she's about to uncover a shocking truth about a carefully concealed crime. Maris Matherly-Reed is a renowned New York book editor, the daughter of a publisher and the wife of a bestselling author. It's rare for an unsolicited manuscript to pique her interest, but a new submission with blockbuster potential inspires her to search for the book's elusive author. On an obscure island off the Georgia coast, amidst the ruins of an eerie cotton plantation, Maris finds Parker Evans, a writer determined to conceal his identity as well as his past. Maris is riveted by his tale of two friends who charter a boat with a young woman for a night of revelry . . . an excursion from which only one person returns. Working with Parker chapter by chapter, Maris becomes increasingly convinced that his story is based on real-life events. Disturbed by this realization -- and her growing attraction to Parker -- she searches for clues relating to a crime that was committed long ago. When someone close to Maris suddenly dies, an evil presence looms even closer: a man who will use anything -- and anyone -- to get what he wants . . .

nothing to envy: *Escape from Camp 14* Blaine Harden, 2012-03-29 With a New Foreword The heartwrenching New York Times bestseller about the only known person born inside a North Korean prison camp to have escaped. North Korea's political prison camps have existed twice as long as Stalin's Soviet gulags and twelve times as long as the Nazi concentration camps. No one born and raised in these camps is known to have escaped. No one, that is, except Shin Dong-hyuk. In *Escape From Camp 14*, Blaine Harden unlocks the secrets of the world's most repressive totalitarian state through the story of Shin's shocking imprisonment and his astounding getaway. Shin knew nothing of civilized existence—he saw his mother as a competitor for food, guards raised him to be a snitch, and he witnessed the execution of his mother and brother. The late “Dear Leader” Kim Jong Il was recognized throughout the world, but his country remains sealed as his third son and chosen heir, Kim Jong Eun, consolidates power. Few foreigners are allowed in, and few North Koreans are able to leave. North Korea is hungry, bankrupt, and armed with nuclear weapons. It is also a human rights catastrophe. Between 150,000 and 200,000 people work as slaves in its political prison camps. These camps are clearly visible in satellite photographs, yet North Korea's government denies they exist. Harden's harrowing narrative exposes this hidden dystopia, focusing on an extraordinary young man who came of age inside the highest security prison in the highest security state. *Escape from Camp 14* offers an unequalled inside account of one of the world's darkest nations. It is a tale of endurance and courage, survival and hope.

nothing to envy: *Street of Eternal Happiness* Rob Schmitz, 2016-05-17 An unforgettable portrait of individuals who hope, struggle, and grow along a single street cutting through the heart of Shanghai, from one of the most acclaimed broadcast journalists reporting on China. Modern Shanghai: a global city in the midst of a renaissance, where dreamers arrive each day to partake in a mad torrent of capital, ideas, and opportunity. Marketplace's Rob Schmitz is one of them. He immerses himself in his neighborhood, forging deep relationships with ordinary people who see in the city's sleek skyline a brighter future, and a chance to rewrite their destinies. There's Zhao, whose path from factory floor to shopkeeper is sidetracked by her desperate measures to ensure a better future for her sons. Down the street lives Auntie Fu, a fervent capitalist forever trying to improve herself with religion and get-rich-quick schemes while keeping her skeptical husband at bay. Up a flight of stairs, musician and café owner CK sets up shop to attract young dreamers like

himself, but learns he's searching for something more. As Schmitz becomes more involved in their lives, he makes surprising discoveries which untangle the complexities of modern China: A mysterious box of letters that serve as a portal to a family's—and country's—dark past, and an abandoned neighborhood where fates have been violently altered by unchecked power and greed. A tale of 21st-century China, *Street of Eternal Happiness* profiles China's distinct generations through multifaceted characters who illuminate an enlightening, humorous, and at times heartrending journey along the winding road to the Chinese Dream. Each story adds another layer of humanity and texture to modern China, a tapestry also woven with Schmitz's insight as a foreign correspondent. The result is an intimate and surprising portrait that dispenses with the tired stereotypes of a country we think we know, immersing us instead in the vivid stories of the people who make up one of the world's most captivating cities.

nothing to envy: *The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story* Hyeonseo Lee, 2015-07-02 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER An extraordinary insight into life under one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships – and the story of one woman's terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom.

nothing to envy: *The New Tsar* Steven Lee Myers, 2015 The epic tale of the rise to power of Russia's current president-- of his emergence from shrouded obscurity and deprivation to become one of the most consequential and complicated leaders in modern history. --

nothing to envy: *A River in Darkness* Masaji Ishikawa, 2018-06 Previously published in Japan in 2000. Translated from Japanese by Risa Kobayashi and Martin Brown. First published in English by AmazonCrossing in 2017.

nothing to envy: *A Kim Jong-Il Production* Paul Fischer, 2015-02-03 Before becoming the world's most notorious dictator, Kim Jong-Il ran North Korea's Ministry for Propaganda and its film studios. Conceiving every movie made, he acted as producer and screenwriter. Despite this control, he was underwhelmed by the available talent and took drastic steps, ordering the kidnapping of Choi Eun-Hee (Madam Choi)—South Korea's most famous actress—and her ex-husband Shin Sang-Ok, the country's most famous filmmaker. Madam Choi vanished first. When Shin went to Hong Kong to investigate, he was attacked and woke up wrapped in plastic sheeting aboard a ship bound for North Korea. Madam Choi lived in isolated luxury, allowed only to attend the Dear Leader's dinner parties. Shin, meanwhile, tried to escape, was sent to prison camp, and re-educated. After four years he cracked, pledging loyalty. Reunited with Choi at the first party he attends, it is announced that the couple will remarry and act as the Dear Leader's film advisors. Together they made seven films, in the process gaining Kim Jong-Il's trust. While pretending to research a film in Vienna, they flee to the U.S. embassy and are swept to safety. A nonfiction thriller packed with tension, passion, and politics, author Paul Fischer's *A Kim Jong-Il Production* offers a rare glimpse into a secretive world, illuminating a fascinating chapter of North Korea's history that helps explain how it became the hermetically sealed, intensely stage-managed country it remains today.

nothing to envy: *The Rumor* Lesley Kara, 2019-06-18 "Keeps you guessing until the final page."—Paula Hawkins, author of *The Girl on the Train* "A rollercoaster ride to the very last sentence."—Fiona Barton, author of *The Widow* "Everyone will be talking about *The Rumor*."—Shari Lapena, author of *The Couple Next Door* When a single mother hears a shocking rumor outside her son's school, she never intends to pass it on. But one casual comment leads to another . . . and now there's no going back. Rumor has it that a notorious killer, who committed a brutal crime as a child, has been living a new life under an assumed identity in Joanna's seaside town. So who is the criminal hidden in their midst? Suspicion falls on everyone. As Joanna becomes obsessed with the case, her curiosity will expose her son and his father to the supposedly reformed murderer—who may be ready to kill again. She will learn how dangerous one rumor can become . . . and just how far she must go to protect those she loves. She is going to regret the day she ever said a word. Praise for *The Rumor* "A brilliant premise with a killer twist. *The Rumor* depicts the prejudices and secrets that simmer in a small seaside town to devastating effect."—Colette McBeth, author of *An Act of Silence* "This mystery has an unusual and resonant theme—how a single rumor can morph into a completely

unmanageable, deadly force. . . . [There's] psychological acuity throughout and [an] astonishing ending."—Booklist

nothing to envy: North of the DMZ Andrei Lankov, 2014-01-10 The Kim dynasty has ruled North Korea for over 60 years. Most of that period has found the country suffering under mature Stalinism characterized by manipulation, brutality and tight social control. Nevertheless, some citizens of Kim Jong Il's regime manage to transcend his tyranny in their daily existence. This book describes that difficult but f existence and the world that the North Koreans have created for themselves in the face of oppression. Many features of this world are unique and even bizarre. But they have been created by the citizens to reflect their own ideas and values, in sharp contrast to the world forced upon them by a totalitarian system. Opening chapters introduce the political system and the extent to which it permeates citizens' daily lives, from the personal status badges they wear to the nationalized distribution of the food they eat. Chapters discussing the schools, the economic system, and family life dispel the myth of the workers' paradise that North Korea attempts to perpetuate. In these chapters the intricacies of daily life in a totalitarian dictatorship are seen through the eyes of defectors whose anecdotes constitute an important portion of the material. The closing chapter treats at length the significant changes that have taken place in North Korea over the last decade, concluding that these changes will lead to the quiet but inevitable death of North Korean Stalinism. Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy here.

nothing to envy: A Good Provider Is One Who Leaves Jason DeParle, 2019-08-20 One of The Washington Post's 10 Best Books of the Year A remarkable book...indispensable.--The Boston Globe A sweeping, deeply reported tale of international migration...DeParle's understanding of migration is refreshingly clear-eyed and nuanced.--The New York Times This is epic reporting, nonfiction on a whole other level...One of the best books on immigration written in a generation.--Matthew Desmond, author of *Evicted* The definitive chronicle of our new age of global migration, told through the multi-generational saga of a Filipino family, by a veteran New York Times reporter and two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist. When Jason DeParle moved into the Manila slums with Tita Comodas and her family three decades ago, he never imagined his reporting on them would span three generations and turn into the defining chronicle of a new age--the age of global migration. In a monumental book that gives new meaning to immersion journalism, DeParle paints an intimate portrait of an unforgettable family as they endure years of sacrifice and separation, willing themselves out of shantytown poverty into a new global middle class. At the heart of the story is Tita's daughter, Rosalie. Beating the odds, she struggles through nursing school and works her way across the Middle East until a Texas hospital fulfills her dreams with a job offer in the States. Migration is changing the world--reordering politics, economics, and cultures across the globe. With nearly 45 million immigrants in the United States, few issues are as polarizing. But if the politics of immigration is broken, immigration itself--tens of millions of people gathered from every corner of the globe--remains an underappreciated American success. Expertly combining the personal and panoramic, DeParle presents a family saga and a global phenomenon. Restarting her life in Galveston, Rosalie brings her reluctant husband and three young children with whom she has rarely lived. They must learn to become a family, even as they learn a new country. Ordinary and extraordinary at once, their journey is a twenty-first-century classic, rendered in gripping detail.

nothing to envy: Friend Paek Nam-nyong, 2020-05-05 Paek Nam-nyong's *Friend* is a tale of marital intrigue, abuse, and divorce in North Korea. A woman in her thirties comes to a courthouse petitioning for a divorce. As the judge who hears her statement begins to investigate the case, the story unfolds into a broader consideration of love and marriage. The novel delves into its protagonists' past, describing how the couple first fell in love and then how their marriage deteriorated over the years. It chronicles the toll their acrimony takes on their son and their careers alongside the story of the judge's own marital troubles. A best-seller in North Korea, where Paek continues to live and write, *Friend* illuminates a side of life in the DPRK that Western readers have never before encountered. Far from being a propagandistic screed in praise of the Great Leader,

Friend describes the lives of people who struggle with everyday problems such as marital woes and workplace conflicts. Instead of socialist-realist stock figures, Paek depicts complex characters who wrestle with universal questions of individual identity, the split between public and private selves, the unpredictability of existence, and the never-ending labor of maintaining a relationship. This groundbreaking translation of one of North Korea's most popular writers offers English-language readers a page-turner full of psychological tension as well as a revealing portrait of a society that is typically seen as closed to the outside world.

nothing to envy: Outwitting the Devil Napoleon Hill, 2011 Originally written in 1938 but never published due to its controversial nature, an insightful guide reveals the seven principles of good that will allow anyone to triumph over the obstacles that must be faced in reaching personal goals.

nothing to envy: Ask A North Korean Daniel Tudor, 2018-03-20 In his new book, Ask a North Korean, Daniel Tudor--a former Economist journalist and current Korean beer entrepreneur-- wants people to understand the true lives of everyday North Koreans. Using translated essays written by defectors, the book covers topics from politics to pornography. -- The Boston Globe Understanding North Korean Through the Eyes of Defectors. The weekly column Ask A North Korean, published by NK News, invites readers from around the world to pose questions to North Korean defectors. Adapted from the long-running column, these fascinating interviews provide authentic firsthand testimonies about life in North Korea and what is really happening inside the Hermit Kingdom. North Korean contributors to this book include: Seong who went to South Korea after dropping out during his final year of university. He is now training to be an elementary school teacher. Kang who left North Korea in 2005. He now lives in London, England. Cheol who was from South Hamgyeong in North Korea and is now a second-year university student in Seoul. Park worked and studied in Pyongyang before defecting to the U.S. in 2011. He is now studying at a U.S. college. Ask A North Korean sheds critical light on all aspects of North Korean politics and society and shows that, even in the world's most authoritarian regime, life goes on in ways that are very different from what outsiders may think.

nothing to envy: Rabbit & Bear: Rabbit's Bad Habits Julian Gough, 2019-01-08 Avalanches, snowmen, a hungry wolf...and more! Named to Kirkus Reviews' Best Middle-Grade Books of 2019 2020 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards GOLD Winner, Young Reader: Fiction (8-12 years) Category When Bear wakes up early from her hibernation, she decides to build a snowman. Her grumpy neighbor, Rabbit, decides to build an even better one. Rabbit & Bear: Rabbit's Bad Habits is full of laugh-out-loud moments and chronicles the forming of an unlikely friendship. With illustrations throughout, this book is perfect for middle grade readers and is sure to become a fun favorite on any kid's bookshelf.

nothing to envy: Life Without Envy Camille DeAngelis, 2016-09-27 From one artist to another, a helpful guide and a meditation on the nature of the ego and its toxic effects on the creative process Life Without Envy by Camille DeAngelis is a game-changer for artists of all stripes: a practical guide for navigating the feelings of jealousy, frustration, and inadequacy we all experience to create a happy life regardless of how your career is (or isn't) going. In these pages you'll find strategies for escaping the negative feedback loop you get stuck in whenever you compare yourself to your fellow artists. You'll begin to resolve your hunger for recognition, shifting your mindset from "proving yourself" to making a contribution and becoming part of a supportive creative community. Best of all, you'll come to understand that your worth—as an artist and a human being—has nothing to do with how your work is received in the wider world. Life Without Envy offers a blueprint for real and lasting contentment no matter what setback you're weathering in your creative life.

nothing to envy: The Innocent Have Nothing to Fear Stuart Stevens, 2017-10-17 It's election season, and this year New Orleans—hot, sticky, squalid—is hosting the Republican National Convention. J. D. Callahan is a political operative backing an unpopular centrist candidate, the sitting vice president, Hilda Smith. Enter Armstrong George, a "dangerous lunatic" of a populist

rival whose appearance on the scene has split the convention. The Republican party is in disarray—but this is only the beginning. Bomb scares, corrupt politicians, and a sexy, gun-toting gossip columnist all conspire to derail J. D.'s plans—and possibly the convention itself. *The Innocent Have Nothing to Fear* is a biting, hilarious satire of political culture from one of our savviest writers on the subject.

nothing to envy: *From Warsaw with Love* John Pomfret, 2021-10-26 *From Warsaw with Love* is the epic story of how Polish intelligence officers forged an alliance with the CIA in the twilight of the Cold War, told by the award-winning author John Pomfret. Spanning decades and continents, from the battlefields of the Balkans to secret nuclear research labs in Iran and embassy grounds in North Korea, this saga begins in 1990. As the United States cobbles together a coalition to undo Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, six US officers are trapped in Iraq with intelligence that could ruin Operation Desert Storm if it is obtained by the brutal Iraqi dictator. Desperate, the CIA asks Poland, a longtime Cold War foe famed for its excellent spies, for help. Just months after the Polish people voted in their first democratic election since the 1930s, the young Solidarity government in Warsaw sends a veteran ex-Communist spy who'd battled the West for decades to rescue the six Americans. John Pomfret's gripping account of the 1990 cliffhanger in Iraq is just the beginning of the tale about intelligence cooperation between Poland and the United States, cooperation that one CIA director would later describe as "one of the two foremost intelligence relationships that the United States has ever had." Pomfret uncovers new details about the CIA's black site program that held suspected terrorists in Poland after 9/11 as well as the role of Polish spies in the hunt for Osama bin Laden. In the tradition of the most memorable works on espionage, Pomfret's book tells a distressing and disquieting tale of moral ambiguity in which right and wrong, black and white, are not conveniently distinguishable. As the United States teeters on the edge of a new cold war with Russia and China, Pomfret explores how these little-known events serve as a reminder of the importance of alliances in a dangerous world.

nothing to envy: *The Impossible State* Victor Cha, 2018-10-23 In *The Impossible State*, seasoned international-policy expert and lauded scholar Victor Cha pulls back the curtain on provocative, isolationist North Korea, providing our best look yet at its history and the rise of the Kim family dynasty and the obsessive personality cult that empowers them. Cha illuminates the repressive regime's complex economy and culture, its appalling record of human rights abuses, and its belligerent relationship with the United States, and analyzes the regime's major security issues—from the seemingly endless war with its southern neighbor to its frightening nuclear ambitions—all in light of the destabilizing effects of Kim Jong-il's death and the transition of power to his unpredictable heir. Ultimately, this engagingly written, authoritative, and highly accessible history warns of a regime that might be closer to its end than many might think—a political collapse for which America and its allies may be woefully unprepared.

nothing to envy: *The Gift of the Magi* O. Henry, 2021-12-22 *The Gift of the Magi* is a short story by O. Henry first published in 1905. The story tells of a young husband and wife and how they deal with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money. As a sentimental story with a moral lesson about gift-giving, it has been popular for adaptation, especially for presentation at Christmas time.

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