

**Book Title: Brother's Keeper**

**Author: Julie Lee**

**Reviewed by: Daniel Arun Santhosh, 13**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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In the book *Brother's Keeper*, we find a Communist Korea, "Trust no one, you are being watched." The book centers on the travels of Sora and her family, with the Americans and the South Koreans fighting the Fatherland, this is their only chance to escape, to finally be able to go to church, to walk outside without a worry. To be free. They must walk from North Korea all the way to Busan, in the bottom tip of South Korea. They pack everything they could need until a bombing splits them up. Sora and her younger brother Youngsoo are alone. Can they make it to Busan?

*Brother's Keeper* is an amazing book that is based on the author's mother's experiences as a teenager. The book is also very gritty and shows Sora's desperation to survive and protect her brother. The story traverses through many themes, war, sexism and just plain sadness and dismay. Sora is a very relatable character, and it is made clear that she is very studious. (Even Youngsoo thinks so.) But there is no way she could make it to university when her mother takes her out of school. The story itself stays mostly true to the actual events of the Korean war except for a few changes to make the story more interesting and invigorating.

The ending of the book is very different to what happens for most of the book. It's mostly sad. No more desperation, no more trying to stay alive. Just dealing with what has happened. Overall, I thought the book was great, although I would like to see more voices from the characters that were not seen as much as well. For me It all seems to blend. I do think this book would be good for middle grade readers and historical fiction fans alike although I will warn you, you will cry at the end. I would recommend this book for 8 - 12 years old kids.

**Recommended Titles:**

Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson

Grenade by Alan Gratz

Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Keeper of the Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger

Wings of Fire: The Dragonet Prophecy by Tui T. Sutherland