

APPENDIX I

SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL

FORGOTTEN COUNTRY

On the night that Hannah, Janie's little sister was born, her grandmother was telling her a story: Since the Japanese occupation in Korea, their family has suffered the loss of a daughter in every generation, and with that, Janie is charged with the obligation to keep Hannah safe. As time goes by, Janie hears more and more stories, while the actual facts still remained unspoken. Her father, on the other hand, tells tales about numbers, and in his stories, everything ends up working out. In her mother's stories, deer explode in fields, frogs bury their loved ones in the ocean, and girls jump off of cliffs and fall down like flowers into the sea. Within all these stories are implicit warnings for her.

A few years later, when Hannah unexpectedly cuts all ties and disappears, Janie embarks on a mission to look for her little sister and finally got to uncover the truth beneath her family's agonizing silence. But in order to do that, she must first confront their dark history, the reason behind her parents' sudden move to the United States twenty years earlier, and ultimately her conflicted feelings toward her little sister and her own role in the betrayal behind their estrangement. Briefly after Hannah's disappearance, her father was diagnosed with terminal stomach cancer. It was then that the stress and pressure added even more onto Janie's mental capacity, because now she has one more person in her priority. This, more than anything, aggravated her the most on her sister's departure from everyone, thinking of it as an act of selfishness, instead of being there helping out and making everything better.

It took a year until Hannah finally made her long awaited return. At this point, her family had already moved back to Korea in order to get the best medical help for their father. Everyone was joyous about it and welcomed her with open arms. Although this didn't seem like something fair according to Janie, she eventually managed to adapt to the unjust situation. As for their father, he eventually lost his battle to cancer. But his death, was ironically what brought everyone back together, when he exhaled his last breath back in his homeland.

Reference: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/309421/forgotten-country-by-catherine-chung/9781594486524/readers-guide/>

APPENDIX II

CATHERINE CHUNG'S BIOGRAPHY

Catherine Chung was born in Evanston, IL, and grew up in New York, New Jersey, and Michigan. Writing has been her life-long passion, but as an undergraduate she indulged in a brief, one-sided affair with mathematics at the University of Chicago followed by a few years in Santa Monica working at a think tank by the sea.

Eventually she attended Cornell University for her MFA where she was lucky enough to meet amazing teachers and friends, and she spent the following years teaching, working on her novel, and moving from place to place. She and her book were given shelter and encouragement at MacDowell, Jentel, Hedgebrook, SFAI, Camargo, The University of Leipzig, and Yaddo. Her brother, Heesoo Chung, also gave her a bed and fed her lots of ice cream during this time. *Forgotten Country* was published by Riverhead Books in March 2012, and won an Honorable Mention for the 2013 PEN/Hemingway Award. It was also picked for *Booklist's* Top 10 Debut Novels of 2012, and *Bookpage's* and *The San Francisco Chronicle's* Best Books of 2012 lists.

Catherine is the recipient of a 2014 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Creative Writing, a *Granta* New Voice, and a fiction editor at *Guernica Magazine*. She is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Adelphi University, and currently lives in New York City.

Reference: <http://www.catherinechung.com/bio/>