Finding My Voice by Marie G. Lee

Summary by Meghan V.

For my Asia book I read Finding My Voice by Marie G. Lee. The book is about a girl from North Korea and what her life is like in Minnesota. The author of this book, Marie G. Lee, is also from Korea and now living in Minnesota.

Ellen, the main character, is a high school girl from North Korea. She has very strict parents and they think that she has to be everything that her older sister is. Ellen faces a lot of hurtful racial remarks. On the first day of school she is called a chink by one of the most popular boys at school. Things only get worse as the year goes by. Even her teacher teases her for being Oriental. Ellen decides to just put up with the bullying and one thing is making it better; her boy-friend.

Ellen can’t wait to get away from Minnesota, the bullying, and especially Marsha. Ellen is in her last year of high school so she is looking at colleges. Her sister went to Harvard so that’s where Ellen’s father expects her to go, too. She applies to three different colleges and gets accepted to two if them, including Harvard. At the last high school party Ellen goes to before heading off to college, she gets in a fight with Marsha. Marsha has had a little too much to drink and she takes things to far. Marsha calls Ellen a F\*\*\*\*\*\* ching chong Chinaman and Chingchongchingchong-God-d\*\*\* slitty eyes. Ellen ends up in a hospital. But, in the end Ellen realizes that it doesn’t matter what people said in high school because she is off to college, far away from them and closer to better things.