

55 MINUTES OF FREEDOM

By Karelia Scott-Daniels

INT. BRITISH EMBASSY HOUSE, PYONGYANG, NORTH KOREA

JUNG SOOK, British Korean, agitated, fills a box with food checks rice on the stove and paces in front of a TV. Typical program. She glances repeatedly at a clock.

Doorbell rings. She looks out and runs to the gate.

KALEE, 35 American Korean dabs tears cascading down her face.

KALEE  
I didn't know where else to go.

JUNG SOOK  
They still haven't said anything!

KALEE  
They're not gonna.

JUNG SOOK  
What?

Kalee shakes her head and collapses on Jung Sook's shoulder.

Devastated, Jung Sook comforts her howling friend.

A guard bashes the gate.

GUARD  
Quiet!

조용히해!

GUARD

JUNG SOOK  
I'm sorry, Sir.

미안합니다.

JUNG SOOK

Kalee's body shakes with silent sobs as Jung Sook walks her inside. The minute the door closes, Kalee lets it all out. Jung Sook sits her friend opposite her and takes her hands.

JUNG SOOK (CONT'D)  
You're sure? Like, it's official?

Balling, Kalee nods. Jung Sook slaps her friend. Kalee stops.

JUNG SOOK (CONT'D)  
Sorry but you need to calm down.  
I've got the travel permits. I'm  
going to my family. You coming?

INT. CAR DRIVING ALONG A POTHOLED COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Jung Sook drives, determined. Kalee, stony faced.

They stop at a road-block. Jung Sook hands the guard a paper. He gestures for more. She hands another one over. He gestures for more again. She shakes her head. He gestures.

In their faces. She stands her ground. An impasse.

