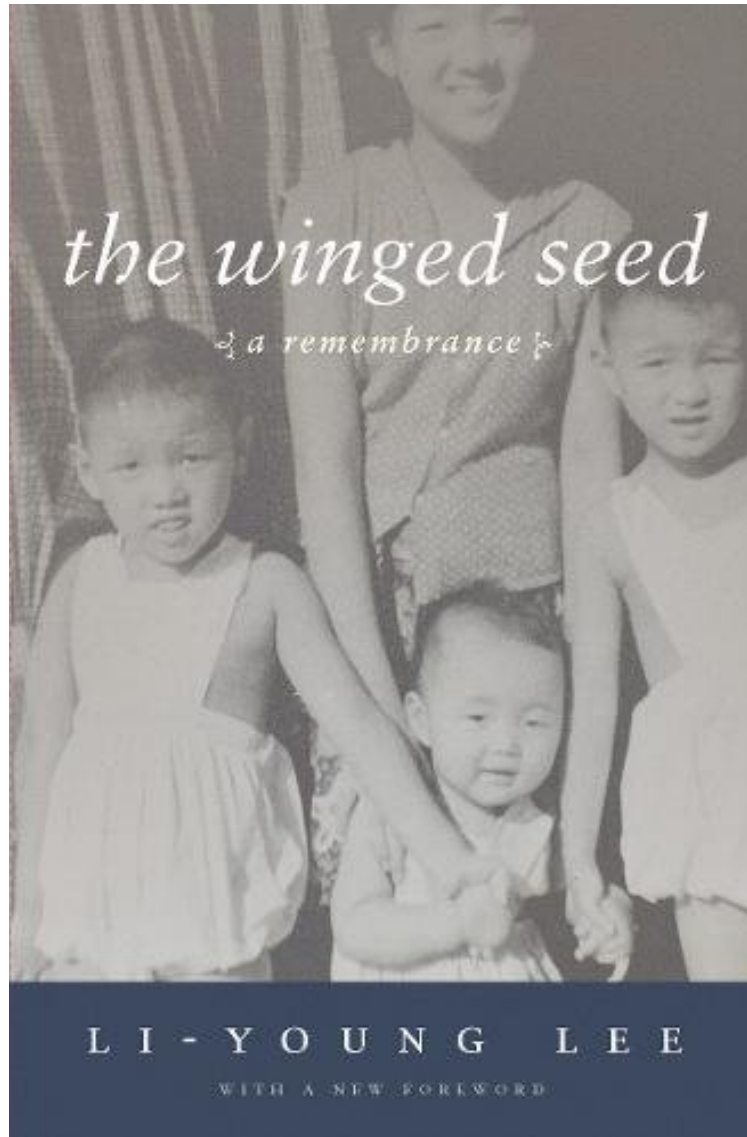


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The Winged Seed: A Remembrance (American Readers Series)

Li-Young Lee

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Li-Young Lee : The Winged Seed: A Remembrance (American Readers Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Winged Seed: A Remembrance (American Readers Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is one of the most beautifully written memoirs I've readBy J. StreamasThis is one of the most beautifully written memoirs I've read. I'd be tempted to say that only a poet could have written it, but I can think of no other poet than Lee who could have. The story is moving, and Lee knows how to

weave together history and family narrative in a way that is intimate without being embarrassing, and without, on the other extreme, making an extravagant David Lean production. I read it when it first appeared, in the 1990s, and return to it often. I am glad to see it remains available. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Mary L. Russell His poetry gives brushstrokes to unarticulated feelings. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful work by a great poet By citizen A wonderful work by a great poet. A story full of biographical facts of a family fleeing a despotic country and making their way in a new world. A story of faith and survival.

"It has true spiritual importance for contemporary American literature." Edward Hirsch Upon its initial publication, acclaimed poet Li-Young Lee's memoir *The Winged Seed: A Remembrance* (1995), received an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. In lyrical prose, Lee's extraordinary story begins in the 1950s when his parents fled China's political turmoil for Indonesia. Along with many other Chinese members of the population, his family was persecuted under President Sukarno. Falsely accused and charged for crimes against the state, his father spent a year and a half in jail as a political prisoner, half of that time in a leper colony. While his entire family was being transported to a prison colony, they escaped and fled to Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, and back to Hong Kong where his father rose to prominence as an evangelical preacher. Eventually, the family sought asylum in the United States in 1962. When the author was six, they emigrated to a small town in western Pennsylvania where his father became a Presbyterian minister. This reissued edition contains a new foreword by the author and never-before-seen photos of the family from different stages of their journey. Li-Young Lee is the author of four critically acclaimed books of poetry that have garnered such awards as the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award from New York University; the 1990 Lamont Poetry Selection; the Writer's Award from the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation; and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Lannan Foundation, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

From Publishers Weekly In this lyrical memoir, Chinese-American poet Li-Young (Rose: *The City in Which I Love You*) recalls scenes of his childhood and youth in a kaleidoscope of dreams and nightmares with a factual recitation of events. He moves back and forth among prerevolutionary China, when his forbears were rich and privileged; the China of Mao Zedong, when his father was Mao's physician; Indonesia, where he and his family fled in the early 1950s after the father's release from the leper colony where he had been imprisoned for suspected disloyalty; and thence to Hong Kong and the U.S., where his father became a Presbyterian minister. Through the illogic and distortion of his dreams, Li-Young leads readers into the emotional landscape of his childhood, while objective events become clear in the narrative. In this evocative tale, politics plays a lesser role than family history and love in a world that was sad, frightening and hard for a child to understand. For the reader, however, Li-Young's portraits of the times are vividly illuminating. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal An autobiography at once intimate and sweeping, this work traces the path followed by poet Lee (*Rose*, BOA Editions, dist. by Consortium, 1986, and *The City in Which I Love You*, BOA Editions, dist. by Consortium, 1990) and his family. Born into a prominent Chinese family in residence in Jakarta, Lee was shaped by his scholarly father's imprisonment under the virulently anti-Chinese Sukarno; the family odyssey began when they escaped from Indonesia. His father eventually became a preacher in Hong Kong, with his final calling in a church in rust-belt Pennsylvania. Lee interweaves remembrances of incidents from his childhood with dreams, myths, his father's sermons (dimly remembered), and mundane recollections, such as the seeds in his father's coat pocket or the coconut oil in his Indonesian nanny's hair. To the son, the powerful father figure embodied cruelty, Christian kindness, inspiration, deprivation, devotion, and penetrating insight. In this lyrical yet stark rendering of a family of modern China, we see the inner development of the author from his childhood in the 1950s to the present and his adaptation to new world and new perceptions of reality. For general collections. D.E. Perushak, Univ. of Tennessee Libs., Knoxville Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Li-Young Lee is the author of four critically acclaimed books of poetry, his most recent being *Behind My Eyes* (W.W. Norton, 2008). His earlier collections are *Book of My Nights* (BOA Editions, 2001); *Rose* (BOA, 1986), winner of the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award from New York University; *The City in Which I Love You* (BOA, 1991), the 1990 Lamont Poetry Selection; and a memoir entitled *The Winged Seed: A Remembrance* (Simon and Schuster, 1995), which received an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. Lee's honors include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Lannan Foundation, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, as well as grants from the Illinois Arts Council, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. In 1988 he received the Writer's Award from the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation. He is also featured in Katja Esson's documentary, *Poetry of Resilience*. Born in 1957 of Chinese parents in Jakarta, Indonesia, Lee learned early about loss and exile. His great grandfather was China's first republican President; and his father, a deeply religious Christian, was physician to Communist leader Mao Tse-Tung. After the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, Lee's parents escaped to Indonesia. In 1959, his father, after spending a year as a political prisoner in President Sukarno's jails, fled Indonesia with his family to escape anti-Chinese sentiment. After a five-year trek through Hong Kong, Macau, and Japan, they settled in the

United States in 1964. Through the observation and translation of often unassuming and silent moments, the poetry of Li-Young Lee gives clear voice to the solemn and extraordinary beauty found within humanity. By employing hauntingly lyrical skill and astute poetic awareness, Lee allows silence, sound, form, and spirit to emerge brilliantly onto the page. His poetry reveals a dialogue between the eternal and the temporal, and accentuates the joys and sorrows of family, home, loss, exile, and love. In *The City In Which I love You*, the central long poem in his second collection, Li-Young Lee asks, Is prayer, then, the proper attitude / for the mind that longs to be freely blown, / but which gets snagged on the barb / called world, that / tooth-ache, the actual? Anyone who has seen him read will add that Lee is also one of the finest poetry readers alive. He lives in Chicago with his wife Donna and their two sons.