



2007

The Fold

Larysa Bordner

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Na, An. *The Fold*. The Penguin Group, 2008. ISBN 9780399242762. \$16.99. 280 p.

Reviewer: Larysa Bordner

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction;

Subject: Beauty, personal--Juvenile fiction; Self confidence--Juvenile fiction; Korean Americans--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

John Ford Kang is the guy of Joyce Park's dreams, and all she wants is a chance to stare into his beautiful eyes without feeling embarrassed. But there is one problem: John Ford Kang has no idea who Joyce is. This harsh realization leaves Joyce feeling heartbroken and desperate to find a way to stand out in the crowd. Over the summer, Joyce's aunt gives her the opportunity to get expensive plastic surgery. The offer both thrills and terrifies Joyce as she weighs her options of whether or not the pain and sacrifice are worth the chance to permanently change the way she looks—and maybe the chance for her dream guy to finally notice her.

The Fold addresses the tender issues of appearance and how important it is for people, especially teenagers, to feel like they are attractive and accepted. Na approaches the discussion of plastic surgery and beauty from a realistic angle; showing the pros and cons of the choices Joyce must make. Interwoven with the basic plot of discovering beauty, are subplots showing how Joyce deals with family, friends, and life decisions. *The Fold* has some mild swearing and mature situations, but it can be recommended to anyone who has ever felt the need to change something in order to feel accepted by their peers.

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