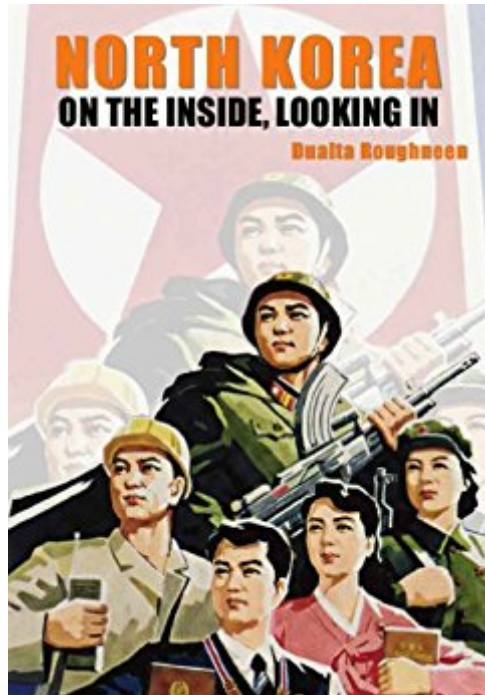




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North Korea: On The Inside, Looking In



Synopsis

North Korea remains one of the last bastions of old-style communism: a military dictatorship, ruled with an iron grip for the last sixty years by the Kim dynasty. Every aspect of society is rigidly controlled; a country of paranoia, propaganda, and *juche*. Irish Engineer, Dualta Roughneen, experienced the trials and tribulations of North Korea from 2004 to 2007 as an aid agency worker - keeping notes of his observations and thoughts. Based in the capital, but with access to towns and the countryside outside Pyongyang, he was able to see inside this most secretive of countries, beyond the picture of a socialist paradise portrayed on officially sanctioned tours. Beautifully written, with a gentle humour, and offering eye-opening insights of life in the "Hermit Kingdom" consistently denied to the few tourists and formally approved visitors that venture in, the book superbly observes Korean politics, the people, freedoms, and hardships, (as well as a bit of food and shopping). It details the day-to-day idiosyncrasies of being a foreigner in this most strange and unusual country. Living as a foreigner in North Korea is like watching television with the sound off.

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Customer Reviews

This book is different from many of the "analyses" of life in North Korea, in that it is a diary of the daily activities and observations of an NGO actually working in the country. Roughneen is an engaging writer. The book provides many apt descriptions of what the life of the "typical" North Korean must be like, and the tremendous challenges that person must face. I would give it a five...excellent...save for the times the author strays from his analysis of North Korea to his past experiences in Afghanistan and other countries and his personal challenges with smoking.

The description of this book is apt: "Living in North Korea is like watching television with the sound off."

Was more about the author than on the Korean People

A very skilful and personal insight of the apparently all embracing and suffocating State Machine that is the DPRK today.

all about life inside north korea.hard to beleive living in a country where your every move is watched and you have no rights.

very personal and interesting experience. a very different angle to look at DPRK.

This is a personal memoir so is one man's personal perspective on North Korea. I am not an expert, but have read three other books on the current situation there. This adds another perspective on this most secretive country...so is useful from that standpoint. Each book gives a slightly different and new view of the situation from that individual's vantage point. Nothing to Envy is the most detailed and scholarly of the four books, but each one is useful in its own way. Because the outside world knows so little about North Korea, everything that is printed by one with some actual time "in country" is valuable.

Fascinating, perplexing, touching, and frustrating. An Irish aid worker with extremely rare access to North Korean society shares his journal of his work, impressions of the country and its people (both official and civilian), and thoughts along the way. I was captivated from the outset. The author hadn't any ideological attachments one way or another that others who've written about North Korea have let seep into their works. He went to help real people and was largely successful, and I think he

should be quite proud of his efforts. This book is a very human look at a very inhuman system. I highly recommend it.

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