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## The Orphan Master's Son

Von Adam Johnson

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**Von Adam Johnson : The Orphan Master's Son** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Orphan Master's Son:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Mensch unter Unmenschen Von Felix Richter Nordkorea - was assoziieren wir nicht alles damit! Eines der schlimmsten Länder der Welt mit einer chronisch unterernährten Bevölkerung, gesichtslose Arbeitermassen, denen man eigenständiges Denken

grundlich und nachhaltig ausgetrieben hat, grausame Arbeitslager, die man lebend nicht mehr verlässt, sobald man ihre Pforten durchschritten hat: Unterm Strich ein Groversuch, in dem ein sadistischer Diktator mit grenzenloser Machtfülle austestet, wieviel Leiden man einer Bevölkerung zumuten kann. Das sind die Eckpunkte unserer Vorstellungen von diesem seltsamen Land. Adam Johnson ist es mit "The Orphan Master's Son" gelungen, diese grobe Zeichnung eindrucksvoll farbiger auszugestalten. Jun Do, der Waise, durchluft die koreanische "Karriereleiter" von ganz unten bis ganz oben und wieder zurück. Dabei gelingt ihm sogar das Unmögliche, nämlich ein Arbeitslager lebend zu verlassen und mit Billigung des Geliebten Führers eine neue Identität anzunehmen. Für Jun Do wird aus einer Realität eine andere Realität, denn die Wirklichkeit in Nordkorea ist das, was der Geliebte Führer als solche bezeichnet. Jun Do entdeckt zum ersten Mal, dass es so etwas wie Gefühle für andere Menschen außer dem Geliebten Führer gibt, etwas, was sich Nordkoreaner eigentlich nicht leisten können. Aber: "Wenn der Geliebte Führer will, dass du mehr verlierst, dann gibt er dir mehr zu verlieren", das ist Teil des Spiels. Und doch gibt es etwas, das sich Jun Do nicht mehr nehmen lassen wird. "The Orphan Master's Son" ist wirklich harte Kost, härter als "Escape from Camp 14" von Blaine Harden. Die erlebenskampfe der Lagerinsassen und die Arbeitsmethoden der Verhrrspezialisten führen einen beim Lesen immer wieder an die Grenzen des Verkraftbaren. Dennoch bringen wir sogar für die Beweggründe und Sorgen mancher Täter mehr und mehr Verständnis auf - es muss im vielen Menschen etwas geben, das selbst ein so perfektioniertes Kontrollsystem nicht zerstören kann. Und sogar der Humor kommt nicht zu kurz - die aberwitzige Propaganda und die sonderbaren Vorstellungen des Geliebten Führers und seiner Paladine bieten reichlich Futter. Im Anhang erläutert Adam Johnson in einem Interview, wie er das, was er vor Ort und von entkommenen Nordkoreanern erfahren hat, nach bestem Wissen und Gewissen fikionalisiert hat. Aber, wie er selber sagt, erst wenn Nordkoreaner selbst die Möglichkeit haben werden, Romane über ihr Schicksal zu schreiben, werden wir wissen, was in den Menschen dort vorgegangen ist. Bis dahin können wir uns glücklich schätzen, dass es Romane wie diesen gibt. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Painful picture of only "democratic" country in the world Von Helpful Advice "The Orphan Master's Son" by is an exceptional work that enabled author winning of the Pulitzer Prize for Literature for 2013. Following the fate of several characters the author has given a portrait of the most totalitarian country in the world, North Korea, which is sometimes very painful to read. The main character Jun Do (not a coincidence that the name is similar to the American name for an unknown person John Doe), which in the words of those who are governing it lives in the only democratic country in the world, is an orphan who grows up in an orphanage run by his father, though he was never acknowledged by him. Already in early childhood he will become a pawn, a worker in the mighty machinery of a totalitarian state where the question isn't what the government can do for you, but what are you going to do for it all your life. When he will grow up, he will become a soldier specialized for the combat in the tunnel and a kidnapper of Japanese and South Korean civilians from the shores of their countries. After achieving excellent results, he will be sent to learn English, and as a spy sent to the ship where he will become a national hero based on false story which will save the crew of his ship from certain death. As a reward he will be given the opportunity to be part of a delegation which will visit Texas where he will be introduced to a different life, where for example, he will learn that dogs are not bloodthirsty animals or that North Korea hasn't won the war against its southern neighbor. When he will return home, due to a government quirk for the prize he will be sent to a labor camp from which nobody usually return, and thus ends only the first part of this exciting novel, which is easily read, but permanently cut into reader's memory. In the second part, the story will move a bit in the future, when main character will be accompanied by one more, and a few minor whose fate will be followed. Also the narrative will change, therefore besides from the perspective of the two main characters additional narrator will be propaganda machinery that airs daily pronouncements that can be heard from loudspeakers everywhere, even in each apartment. I won't speak about further details to not spoil the pleasure of reading, but when the story will come to an end in some way it will be rounded to the beginning and the propaganda of this criminal state will show up in its most cynical edition... On "The Orphan Master's Son" novel the author had worked for seven years, he talked with many refugees and even he was able to visit Pyongyang. Thus, his book is full of tedious details from North Korean daily life of constant hard work, the absence of any privacy, government control at every step, torture of those for which is only enough to think they did something wrong and all possible distortion of facts for the population held in delusion that they live in the happiest and the only democratic country in the world. The book is difficult to classify by genre, it is a blend of dystopia, romance, thriller, spy novel, and even humor, and all these elements complement each other in this story, which although isn't based on real events is happening even now, as you read this, to many people in this sad country. "The Orphan Master's Son" isn't a book without flaws, it could be objected for some inconsistencies regarding the plot and characteristics of the individual characters that are changed during story which doesn't sound convincing, but all this does not diminish the importance of this work which you should definitely read. Therefore, the "The Orphan Master's Son" is best dystopian novel after Orwell's 1984, with the difference that 1984 year happened for North Korea and is still happening every day... Be sure to read it. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. interesting, but definitely fiction Von Annika I read this book for a university course on literature about North Korea and this was the only fiction book. This book was very interesting, exciting, and I couldn't put it down. However, I couldn't take the book too seriously because it's so clearly fiction and although the author has done a lot of research I found it hard to see his version of North

Korea as a good representation, everything is too exaggerated. Although his book deals with the propaganda about America in North Korea, sometimes it felt to me like American propaganda about North Korea. If you want to read an amazing work of fiction with twists and turns and incredibly written characters, this book is for you!

Kurzbeschreibung WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION 2013 Pak Jun Do knows he is special. He knows he must be the son of the master of the orphanage, not some kid dumped by his parents it was obvious from the way his father singled him out for beatings. He knows he is special when he is picked as a spy and kidnapper for his country, the glorious Democratic Republic of North Korea. He knows he must find his true love, Sun Moon, the greatest opera star who ever lived, before it's too late. He knows he's not like the other prisoners in the camp. He's going to get out soon. Definitely Pressestimmen PRAISE FOR ADAM JOHNSON Emporium "Impossible to forget . . . Adam Johnson unleashes a big, thrilling, and fully realized talent."--Jennifer Egan, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "A Visit from the Goon Squad" "Remarkable . . . Johnson's heroes are isolated and alienated, but are capable of feeling just the right emotion at just the right time."--The New Yorker "" Exhibits a fierce talent, showcasing Johnson's quirky humor and slicing insight."--Publishers Weekly "" "Parasites Like Us "[Johnson's] characters are wonderfully weird and charming, and he is so witty a storyteller that this strange novel manages to captivate."--The Washington Post "" "Teeming with clever conceits, superb turns of phrase, observations as precise as Updike's, and tonal echoes of Vonnegut, Boyle, and George Sanders . . . The author is wise, weird and worth watching."--Seattle Weekly "Brilliance to burn."--The New York Times Book Review, ch "Adam Johnson has pulled off literary alchemy, first by setting his novel in North Korea, a country that few of us can imagine, then by producing such compelling characters, whose lives unfold at breakneck speed. I was engrossed right to the amazing conclusion. The result is pure gold, a terrific novel."--Abraham Verghese, author of "Cutting for Stone" "An addictive novel of daring ingenuity, a study of sacrifice and freedom in a citizen-eating dynasty, and a timely reminder that anonymous victims of oppression are also human beings who love--"The Orphan Master's Son" is a brave and impressive book."--David Mitchell, author of "The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet" "I've never read anything like it. This is truly an amazing reading experience, a tremendous accomplishment. I could spend days talking about how much I love this book. It sounds like overstatement, but no. "The Orphan Master's Son" is a masterpiece."--Charles Bock, author of "Beautiful Children " ""Johnson's novel accomplishes the seemingly impossible: an American writer has masterfully rendered the mysterious world of North Korea with the soul and savvy of a native, from its orphanages and its fishing boats to the kitchens of its high-ranking commanders. While oppressive propaganda echoes throughout, the tone never slides into caricature; if anything, the story unfolds with astounding empathy for those living in constant fear of imprisonment--or worse--but who manage to maintain their humanity against all odds. The book traces the journey of Jun Do, who for years lives according to the violent dictates of the state, as a tunnel expert who can fight in the dark, a kidnapper, radio operator, tenuous hero, and foreign dignitary before eventually taking his fate into his own hands. In one of the book's most poignant moments, a government interrogator, who tortures innocent citizens on a daily basis, remembers his own childhood and the way in which his father explained the inexplicable. A great novel can take implausible fact and turn it into entirely believable fiction. That's the genius of "The Orphan Master's Son. " Adam Johnson has taken the papier-mache creation that is North Korea and turned it into a real and riveting place that readers will find unforgettable. This is a novel worth getting excited about, one which more than delivers on its pre-publication buzz... I haven't liked a new novel this much in years, and I want to share the simple pleasure of reading the book. But I also think it's an instructive lesson in how to paint a fictional world against a background of fact: The secret is research...It's this process of re-imagining that makes the fictional locale so real and gives the novel an impact you could never achieve with a thousand newspaper stories. Johnson has painted in indelible colors the nightmare of Kim's North Korea. When English readers want to understand what it was about -- how people lived and died inside a cult of personality that committed unspeakable crimes against its citizens -- I hope they will turn to this carefully documented story. The happy surprise is that they will find it such a page turner." --"The Washington Post " "Adam Johnson's remarkable novel ""The Orphan Master's Son"" is set in North Korea, an entire nation that has conformed to the fictions spun by a dictator and his inner circle...Mr. Johnson is a wonderfully flexible writer who can pivot in a matter of lines from absurdity to atrocity...We don't know what's really going on in that strange place, but a disquieting glimpse suggesting what it must be like can be found in this brilliant and timely novel." - "Wall Street Journal" "Magnificently accomplished...Part thriller, part coming-of-age novel, part romance, " The Orphan Master's Son" is made sturdy by research...but what makes it so absorbing isn't its documentary realism but the dark flight of the author's imagination...rich with a sense of discovery...The year is young, oPressestimmen "A great novel can take implausible fact and turn it into entirely believable fiction. 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