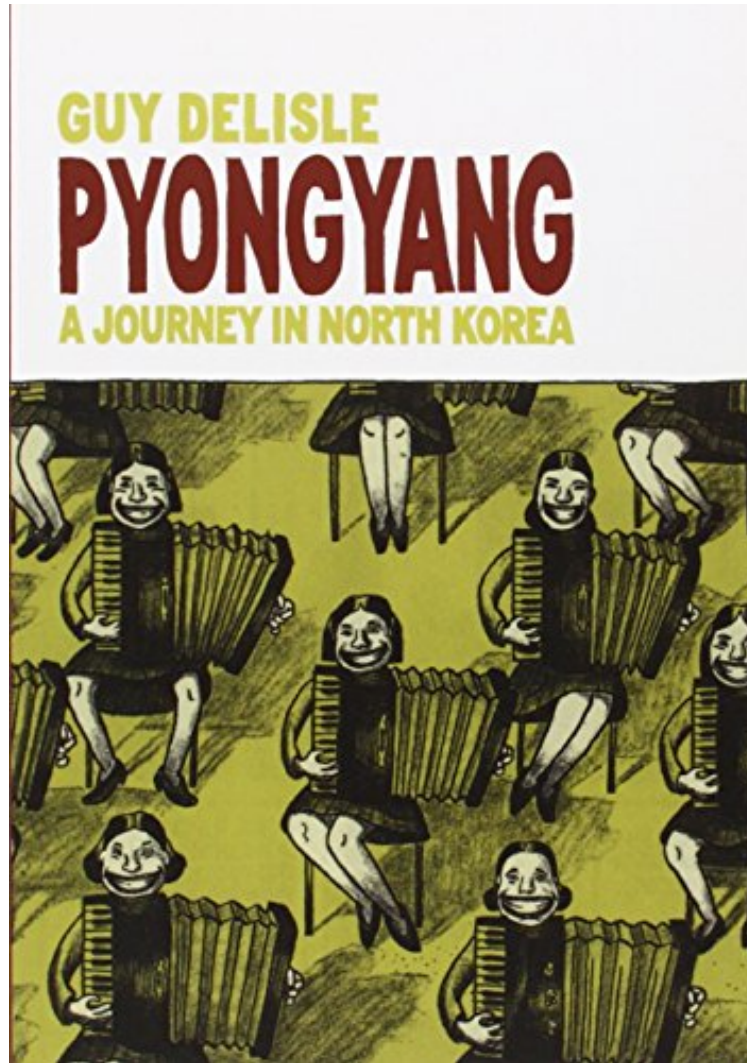


## Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea

*Guy Delisle*

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#64120 in Books Drawn Quarterly 2007-05-01 2007-05-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 216.41 x 11.56 x 6.041, .65 #File Name: 1897299214176 pages Drawn Quarterly | File size: 18.Mb

**Guy Delisle : Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is easy to read By Mellow Man This book is an interesting, unique, and clever look into the reclusive state of North Korea. It is easy to read, humorous, and still relevant. I have bought it several times and always end up giving away my copy to someone who is interested in it as well. I will most likely continue this trend until it is out of print. This is a great first book for anyone who interested in learning about North Korea. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. And now for something really unpopular... By Charles Pooter The premise of this book astounded me- Western cartoons are being produced in North Korea?! More shocking,

Westerners are being brought in to oversee this? Whoa. This book us something I have to get my hands on! My overall reaction - to the story - is WHOA. North Korea is every bit as freaky as the rumours, certainly the little bit the Delisle was allowed to see. (other reviewers have wasted time whining that all the author did was hang out in hotels with other foreigners- hey morons, did you miss the point? He wasn't able to do anything else!) Now here comes the disturbing bit- I lived in South Korea some years ago, and Delisle's North Korea is not entirely dissimilar. "volunteer" is a word the South Koreans did not understand either - saying "no" to a proposed volunteer activity gets you raked over the coals. Fine, it wasn't a forced activity for the state, but not participating got you black balled. There was a lot of enforced group-think going on, and while it did not reach the propaganda extremes of what Delisle saw in Pyongyang, it wasn't a million miles away either. This book was informative - it explained the Berlin subway carriages I saw in Pyongyang's subway in a recent documentary! Any book that can complement other material is worth the price! Bon travail, Guy! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Read, Enjoy, Reread. 'Nuff said. By Ray Velez Took me a little bit to get used to the art style; admittedly, I'm a bit of a comic snob. However, I absolutely loved the narrative, and the art style fit the story and more than adequately conveyed the subtle hypocrisies Guy experienced in NK. I didn't realize how much I really was attached to it until the style changed about 4/5 of the way through the book for a few pages. It's a humorous but dark tale and definitely worth your time to check out. Rereading now after lending to a friend!

In 2001, cartoonist Guy Delisle lived in the capital of North Korea for two months on a work visa for a French film company. In this remarkable graphic novel, Delisle recorded what he was able to see of the culture and lives of one of the last remaining totalitarian communist societies.

From Publishers Weekly In 2001, French-Canadian cartoonist Delisle traveled to North Korea on a work visa to supervise the animation of a children's cartoon show for two months. While there, he got a rare chance to observe firsthand one of the last remaining totalitarian Communist societies. He also got crappy ice cream, a barrage of propaganda and a chance to fly paper airplanes out of his 15th-floor hotel window. Combining a gift for anecdote and an ear for absurd dialogue, Delisle's retelling of his adventures makes a gently humorous counterpoint to the daily news stories about the axis of evil, a *Lost in Translation* for the Communist world. Delisle shifts between accounts of his work as an animator and life as a visitor in a country where all foreigners take up only two floors of a 50-story hotel. Delisle's simple but expressive art works well with his account, humanizing the few North Koreans he gets to know (including "Comrade Guide" and "Comrade Translator"), and facilitating digressions into North Korean history and various bizarre happenings involving brandy and bear cubs. Pyongyang will appeal to multiple audiences: current events buffs, *Persepolis* fans and those who just love a good yarn. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Pyongyang documents the two months French animator Delisle spent overseeing cartoon production in North Korea, where his movements were constantly monitored by a translator and a guide, who together could limit his activities but couldn't restrict his observations. He records everything from the omnipresent statues and portraits of dictators Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il to the brainwashed obedience of the citizens. Rather than conveying his disorientation through convoluted visual devices, Delisle uses a straightforward Eurocartoon approach that matter-of-factly depicts the mundane absurdities he faced every day. The gray tones and unembellished drawings reflect the grim drabness and the sterility of a totalitarian society. Delisle finds black comedy in the place, though, and makes small efforts at subversion by cracking jokes that go over the humorless translator's head and lending the guide a copy of *1984*. Despite such humor, which made his sojourn bearable and overcame his alienation and boredom, Delisle maintains empathy. Viewing an eight-year-old accordion prodigy's robotic concert performance, he thinks, "It's all so cold . . . and sad. I could cry." Gordon Flagg Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Guy Delisle is a wry 37-year-old French Canadian cartoonist whose work for a French animation studio requires him to oversee production at various Pacific Rim studios on the grim frontiers of free trade. His employer puts him up for months at a time in 'cold and soulless' hotel rooms where he suffers the usual maladies of the long-term boarder: cultural and linguistic alienation, boredom, and cravings for Western food and real coffee. Delisle depicts these sojourns into the heart of isolation in [the] brilliant 'graphic novel' . . . "Pyongyang.'" --"Foreign Affairs"