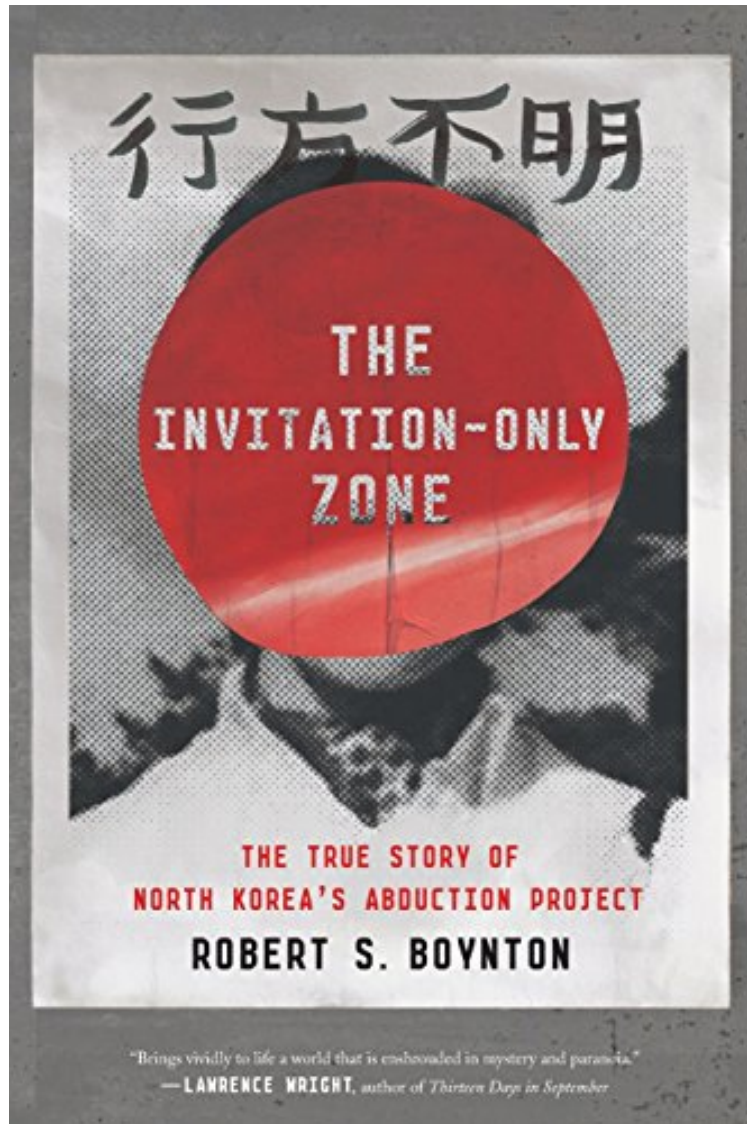


(Ebook free) The Invitation-Only Zone: The True Story of North Korea's Abduction Project

The Invitation-Only Zone: The True Story of North Korea's Abduction Project

Robert S. Boynton

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Robert S. Boynton : The Invitation-Only Zone: The True Story of North Korea's Abduction Project before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Invitation-Only Zone: The True Story of North Korea's Abduction Project:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An Interesting Glimpse of a Little Known Scheme By Jameson Having read quite a few accounts of North Korea, I found "The Invitation-Only Zone" a unique look into a

program that is often briefly highlighted in other books. The Abduction Project pursued by North Korea in the latter part of the twentieth-century appears to be something ripped from the pages of a novel. Mr. Boynton does a superb job of highlighting both the details and scope of the project, all the while humanising those who were affected by it in one way or another. Aside from the abduction program, Mr. Boynton goes on to put the program into a larger geopolitical context. He provides a thorough, interesting account of the history of Korea that led to the ultimate creation of Kim Il Sung's "Juche" ideology. Especially considering recent events over the past few years, I consider this a great introductory book for anyone looking to learn about the psyche of the North Korean regime that has remained closed off from the rest of the world during the twentieth century. The accounts are alarming, thought-provoking, and occasionally entertaining. A short, quick read, it is suitable for those looking who have no basic knowledge of the regime to those looking for an overview of this fascinating subject. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well written narrative that still leaves us wondering - why? By Ralph Osgood In the course of telling this story - a story almost too strange to be true - the author takes us through important elements of the inter-relationship between Korea and Japan post-Meiji - we really don't see why until the story completes; as the author notes, he didn't realize how important this was either. The telling of this history with the story of the abductions is not meant to excuse the acts, nor is the introduction of numerous Leftist characters. (If you read the fiction or history in fiction books by W. F. Buckley you will know that communists all come from somewhere very human; they are not really spawn of Satan). The only disappointment is one I am sure the author shares: why did the kidnappings happen? For what purpose? There are many who speculate but we may never know. The return of abductees is central to Japanese politics these days; it should also be noted that many non-Japanese were also abducted, and many many more duped into going North and never being allowed to leave again. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Fascinated and gripping. A thoroughly researched yet highly readable ... By Poetry lover Fascinated and gripping. A thoroughly researched yet highly readable account of the abductions of Japanese (and other) citizens by the bizarre, inscrutable North Korean regime. I could not put this down. Boynton writes with authority yet also with humility, focusing on the gentle souls whose lives were stolen.

A bizarre, little-known tale about the most secretive culture on earth For decades, North Korea denied any part in the disappearance of dozens of Japanese citizens from Japan's coastal towns and cities in the late 1970s. But in 2002, with his country on the brink of collapse, Kim Jong-il admitted to the kidnapping of thirteen people and returned five of them in hopes of receiving Japanese aid. As part of a global espionage project, the regime had attempted to reeducate these abductees and make them spy on its behalf. When the scheme faltered, the captives were forced to teach Japanese to North Korean spies and make lives for themselves, marrying, having children, and posing as North Korean civilians in guarded communities known as "Invitation-Only Zones" the fiction being that they were exclusive enclaves, not prisons. From the moment Robert S. Boynton saw a photograph of these men and women, he became obsessed with their story. Torn from their homes as young adults, living for a quarter century in a strange and hostile country, they were returned with little more than an apology from the secretive regime. In *The Invitation-Only Zone*, Boynton untangles the bizarre logic behind the abductions. Drawing on extensive interviews with the abductees, Boynton reconstructs the story of their lives inside North Korea and ponders the existential toll the episode has had on them, and on Japan itself. He speaks with nationalists, spies, defectors, diplomats, abductees, and even crab fishermen, exploring the cultural and racial tensions between Korea and Japan that have festered for more than a century. A deeply reported, thoroughly researched book, *The Invitation-Only Zone* is a riveting story of East Asian politics and of the tragic human consequences of North Korea's zealous attempt to remain relevant in the modern world.

"Boynton . . . gives us a riveting portrait of these bizarre kidnappings . . . His musings about Japan's reaction to the abductions, 'Japan's 9/11,' and the sudden realization 'that the world was more dangerous than it had thought' are cogent. His study of the ordeal that the abductees went through is moving." ?Sheila Miyoshi Jager, *The New York Times Book* "Boynton has done his homework well, converting the suffering inflicted on a few dozen individuals into an eye-opening and surprisingly moving narrative." ?Publishers Weekly "A thorough investigative report into the systematic abduction of Japanese citizens by the North Korean intelligence network over many decades. . . . More than anecdotal stories, [Boynton's] work zeroes in on the deeply uneasy makeup of the Korean-Japanese relationship. Engaging reading, surreal in some of the Orwellian detail." ?Kirkus "An excellent work that is an optimal choice for both North Korea and Japan watchers." ?Joshua Wallace, *Library Journals* (starred review) About the Author Robert S. Boynton's journalism has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and other publications. He is the author of *The New New Journalism* and directs the Literary Reportage program at the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute at New York University.