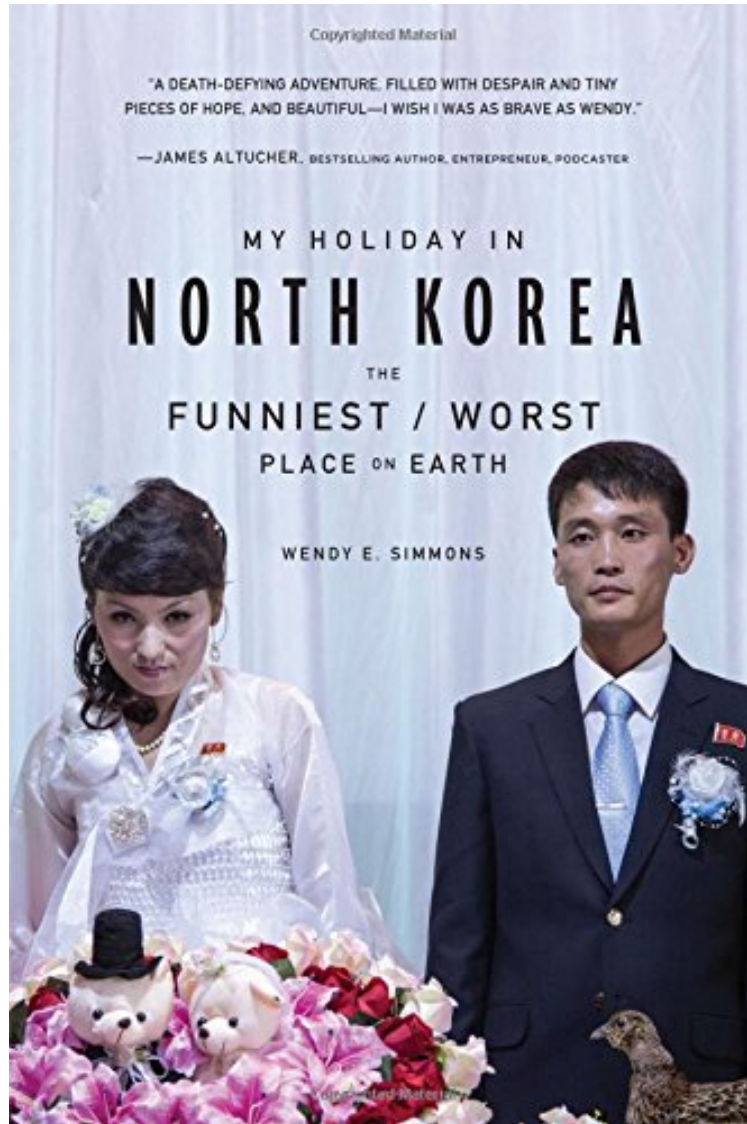


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My Holiday in North Korea: The Funniest/Worst Place on Earth

Wendy E. Simmons

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Wendy E. Simmons : My Holiday in North Korea: The Funniest/Worst Place on Earth before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Holiday in North Korea: The Funniest/Worst Place on Earth:

40 of 41 people found the following review helpful. Gifted writerBy M. JamesThis book is funny for sure. But I'm a bit worried about her two "minders" and if they will suffer any repercussions as a result of this book. Although she didn't identify them by name I'm sure the NKs can figure out who these women were easily enough. Really don't know

why anyone would risk their freedom going to North Korea but I guess if you get a book out of it - okay. Aside from being entertained by Wendy's humorous writing style, I didn't really learn anything new about North Korea. There's a fine line between laughing at someone and laughing with someone and it seemed to me Wendy wasn't too sure where that line was. Sure, it's a light and funny quick read. But since it's written on the backs of 24 million captive brain-washed humans - er, not so sure if I should be laughing or crying. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So now I understand North Korea a little better By Happy Teacher I'll admit I didn't know much about North Korea 2 days ago, and now 2 days later I still don't but I feel I do understand them a little bit. Wendy's 10 day vacation (???) to North Korea wasn't just brave (I would classify it as immensely brave) but also interesting beyond all comprehension! Wendy went places and saw things that very few people, let alone imperialist American people, will ever see. My knowledge/ understanding of this enigma of a country consisted entirely of reports from CNN and other world news channels. Wendy's laugh out loud observations, interactions and verbal sparring with older handler illustrated how similar we all are, and how no matter who you are or where your at if you ask too many questions you will probably pass people off, and if you don't want to answer any questions acting like you didn't hear the question will also puss people off. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good view of N Korea By Maxine This author is so funny. She made this horrible vacation trip hilarious. Why she went alone to N Korea is a mystery to me. The facts of how N Korea really works was fascinating to me. This was a easy read and I read it quickly since I did enjoy the book. Wish she had given names to her handlers(people who would show her around) so it would be easier for me to keep track. There are some words that may not be acceptable to some. Im pretty much a prude and I was ok with it since this was one way she made her point and descriptions. That is not her getting married on the cover.

Most people want out of North Korea. Wendy Simmons wanted in. In My Holiday in North Korea: The Funniest/Worst Place on Earth, Wendy shares a glimpse of North Korea as it's never been seen before. Even though it's the scariest place on Earth, somehow Wendy forgot to check her sense of humor at the border. But Wendy's initial amusement and bewilderment soon turned to frustration and growing paranoia. Before long, she learned the essential conundrum of "tourism" in North Korea: Travel is truly a love affair. But, just like love, it's a two-way street. And North Korea deprives you of all this. They want you to fall in love with the singular vision of the country they're willing to show you and nothing more. Through poignant, laugh-out-loud essays and 92 never-before-published color photographs of North Korea, Wendy chronicles one of the strangest vacations ever. Along the way, she bares all while undergoing an inner journey as convoluted as the country itself.

"You remember Eat, Love, Pray and Under the Tuscan Sun? Yeah, this really isn't like those. It's better." ?San Francisco Chronicle "...funny, witty, and fascinating....if you have a weird fascination for North Korea and need a little laughter and raw utter truth as to what it is like vacationing there then I urge you to go read this book." ?San Francisco Book "...an irresistible read.... Simmons presents a rare and fascinating look at the tourist's North Korea in a work that is humorous, appalling, and very sad. A highly recommended and revealing glimpse into a secretive land." ?Library Journal "A death-defying adventure, filled with despair and tiny pieces of hope, and beautiful ? I wish I was as brave as Wendy." (James Altucher Bestselling author, entrepreneur, podcaster) "Wendy Simmons traveled to a place few of us will ever go and found herself in the ultimate Potemkin Village. Her intrepid desire to discover the reality behind the stagecraft escorts the reader through My Holiday in North Korea with words and pictures that render this mysterious country both knowable and unknowable, and always fascinating. Simmons' insightful and funny storytelling evocatively captures the deception, corruption, humor and, ultimately, anguished humanity of a bizarre nation. It's a wild trip." (Jon Reiner James Beard Award-winning author of The Man Who Couldn't Eat) "My Holiday In North Korea by the very funny Wendy Simmons is a must-read for anyone who wants to lift the veil and spy on the real North Korea. But more than that, it is Ms. Simmons ease at being a traveler to distant and strange lands that gives this book its unusual insight into what people behind a real iron curtain think, and yes, feel." (Maria T. Lemmon Novelist, a screenwriter, and the author of Confessions of a So-Called Middle Child, and Making It Up as I go Along) "Wendy Simmons gives a glimpse into NoKo in this humorous and entertaining book. Through her eyes we see the sometimes absurd, yet always aching existence of a country under the thumb of oppressive rule." (Myles Kennedy Singer/Songwriter Alter Bridge/Slash The Conspirators) "Writer and photographer Wendy Simmons shares a personal account of her vacation to one of the most reclusive nations on the planet, North Korea. During her journey she finds herself caught between an international crisis sparked by the release of the Sony Pictures film The Interview and accidentally crashing the 'wedding' of a North Korean bride to be." (Gabriel Sanchez BuzzFeed) From the Back Cover A born explorer, she is thrilled when granted a rare entry visa? despite the country's penchant for detaining tourists. In My Holiday in North Korea: The Funniest/Worst Place on Earth, Wendy offers readers a glimpse of North Korea as it's never been seen before. Because even though it's one of the scariest places on Earth, she somehow forgets to check her sense of humor at the border. Even worse, she's never met a rule she didn't want to break! Oh my Dear Leader. But Wendy's initial amusement and bewilderment soon turn into frustration and growing paranoia. For ten days, she hurtles through a "North Korea is Great! America is Not!" tour. She's attached by a virtual shock-collar

to two female handlers, who monitor her every step?and guard their every word. And Wendy's pretty convinced one of them is crazy, even by North Korean standards. Before long, she learns the essential conundrum of "tourism" in North Korea. "Travel is truly a love affair. But, just like love, it's a two-way street. And North Korea deprives you of all this. They want you to fall in love with the singular vision of the country they're willing to show you and nothing more." Ultimately she's left with more questions than answers?the most urgent being whether she can find a bathroom with running water, electricity, AND toilet paper! Through poignant and laugh-out-loud essays, Wendy chronicles one of the strangest vacations ever. Along the way she bares all while trying to befriend her enigmatic minders, and undergoes an inner journey as convoluted as the country itself. About the Author Wendy Simmons won't stop travelling until she visits every country in the world! Despite her hatred for packing, she's managed to explore more than eighty-five so far?including territories and colonies?and chronicles her adventures on her blog, wendysimmons.com. Wendy is president of Vendeloo, a consultancy she founded in 2001, co-president of a NYC-based global eyewear brand, and an award-winning photographer. She's also owned a bar in Manhattan, worked for a lobbying firm on Capitol Hill, and written a Japanese-language phrase book. Though her Japanese is now terrible, Wendy's Pig Latin is flourishing. She graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from George Washington University. Wendy practices Muay Thai daily and lives in Brooklyn in a converted 1800s schoolhouse.