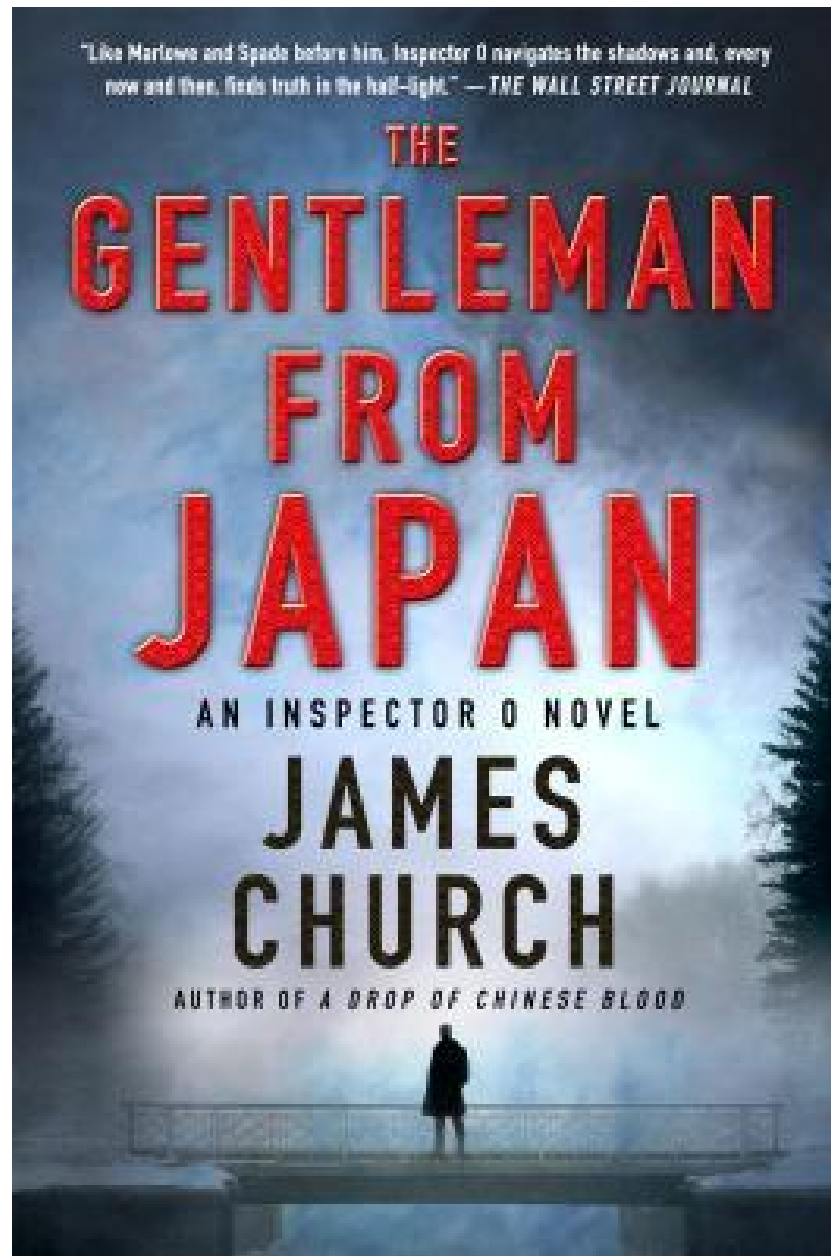


## The Gentleman from Japan Book PDF Download



By:  
James Church

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## What people Say:

### Adam McPhee

The crime:

The crime:

The investigators:

I love the Inspector O novels. This one he's back with his Chinese nephew Bing, but the end

The stuff in Barcelona got convoluted, but that's par for the course with Inspector O, and anyway, the fun of it all is working through all the insinuations in your head.

I think I've come to appreciate Bing more, too. He's more Chandleresque, good with metaphors. As opposed to O, who is more of an elderly, North Korean James Bond.

The real mystery here is who is James Church. For a while, I had my own elaborate, convoluted theory that he was Stephen Bosworth, but that can't be the case because Bosworth died before the most recent Inspector O article was posted at 38north.org. I kind of think maybe Tim Shorrocks? But it's not a strong suspicion like it was with Bosworth. I don't know.

My favourite lines:

O doesn't know who he's working for, but he has a hunch:

On peninsular life:

### Chris

If you enjoy reading books that are incomprehensible then this series is for you. The author, James Church, is a former CIA employee and his name is a pseudonym. There aren't many mystery or police procedurals set in North Korea so this is a rarity. This is the sixth book in the series and it's set in China, Spain, and Portugal. The title is the identity of Inspector O while on a mission. In fact we wonder where Inspector O is at the beginning of the book. Inspector O is the principal character

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police procedurals set in North Korea so this is a rarity. This is the sixth book in the series and it's set in China, Spain, and Portugal. The title is the identity of Inspector O while on a mission. In fact we wonder where Inspector O is at the beginning of the book. Inspector O is the principal character who has been exiled out of the North Korea. He is a former police officer from Pyongyang who couldn't stay in his lane. There are four parts to this one with parts I and IV being narrated by Inspector O's nephew, Major Bing, who is with the Chinese Security Service in a city in Manchuria near the North Korean border. Parts II and III are narrated by Inspector O while on a mission in Europe. This mystery is a labyrinth of unknowing. We have the inscrutable Asian stereotype going full speed. Bing is like his uncle but more caustic while dealing with a murder wave that is not his concern. We go from murders in an unimportant Chinese city to international intrigue in Europe involving the shipment of machined parts instrumental in the nuclear industry. At the end you are left shaking your head and wondering what was the point. It reads like Ludlum or Le Carre with the spy intrigue. Nevertheless it is so unique and different it's a compelling read. Inspector O is a character much like Inspector Arkady Renko in Martin Cruz Smith's Russian police series. Both try to solve crimes in societies that technically won't acknowledge the existence of crime as they are socialist paradises. Inspector O loves to work with wood and is almost Zen like in his lifestyle. The ending of this book has me looking forward to his next adventure as he is crossing the border.

## Jeff Z

I have read hundreds of books in this genre, and write very few reviews.

This is the worst book I've ever read. I haven't read anything else from this author, and have no intention to.

The writing style is extremely basic, and the plot is unsophisticated and disconnected. The words are written in a very academic style, with virtually no emotion or personality.

The story was so broken up, it seemed as if the author randomly removed chapters to reduce the size of the book.

Yet I stuck with it to see

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The story was so broken up, it seemed as if the author randomly removed chapters to reduce the size of the book.

Yet I stuck with it to see how it all wrapped up, and the ending was a total let down.

## **Cindy**

i GOT A LITTLE CONFUSED KEEPING MAIN CHARACTER AND NEPHEW APART. BUT GOOD BOOK.

## Monica

There are so many layers of deception and misdirection in this book that it is sometimes hard to keep track. There are the seven deaths, probably murders, perhaps related to a noodle shop vs dumpling shop rivalry, in the Chinese town of Yanji. The corrupt mayor hopes that O's nephew, Major Bing, the local chief of State Security, will fail to solve the crimes and be removed from office. Bing wants no part of the investigation.

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Meanwhile, an old friend of O's persuades him to go to Spain to investigate (and perhaps thwart) a company that is preparing to ship an alleged "dumpling machine" perhaps related to development of nuclear technology, to somewhere in Asia. The crew involved in this mission changes names, identities, and intentions with breathtaking speed. O is entertained, poisoned, beaten, drugged, kidnapped, and questioned by a series of Spanish, Portuguese and Russian people who are alternately his allies and his foes. O has to present himself as Chinese, a Japanese tourist, a traveler from Costa Rica. The people interrogating him either know or do not know what the machine is and where is it going. It's extremely complicated as reality shifts and shifts again and again.

The uneasy yet respectful relationship between O and Bing is fascinating, as are O's meditations on trees and their characters (he is a maker of bookshelves in his retirement). The story is told, first by Bing, then by O, and finally by Bing which adds to the interest.