David Annand on 'The Orphan Master's Son', a heartbreaking, hilarious novel set in Kim Jong-il’s North Korea. As well as a heartbreaking insight into the unreality of life north of the 38th parallel, Adam Johnson has produced a brilliant exploration of the act of fiction-making and the importance of narratives, both public and private. Employing a range of registers from the intimate first person to the disembodied bullshit that blares constantly from Kim's loudspeakers, he seems to question the very act of storytelling, intimating that the inventions of the novelist might be in some way analogous to the falsehoods of the Dear Leader. On this last point he can rest assured: his brilliant novel singula