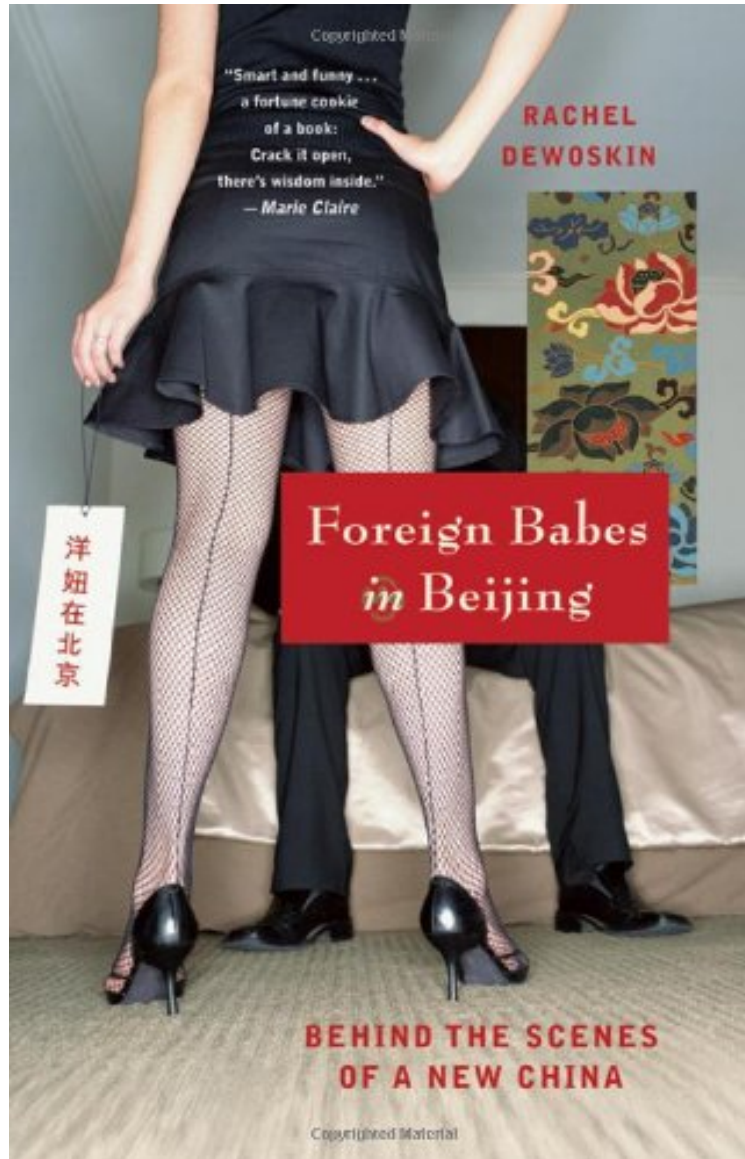


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Foreign Babes in Beijing: Behind the Scenes of a New China

Rachel DeWoskin

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#1061830 in Books Rachel DeWoskin 2006-04-17 2006-04-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.30 x .90 x 5.50l, .67 #File Name: 0393328597352 pages Foreign Babes in Beijing Behind the Scenes of a New China | File size: 50.Mb

Rachel DeWoskin : Foreign Babes in Beijing: Behind the Scenes of a New China before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Foreign Babes in Beijing: Behind the Scenes of a New China:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Cultural LOOK OF CHINA IN THE 1990's with humor By Ken Glotzer I loved this book because I also travelled to China in the very late 90's. I FELL IN LOVE WITH

THE PEOPLE WHO WERE GENEROUS, CURIOUS AND FRIENDLY. I DID NOT LIKE THE SCRUTINY OF THE POLICE, THE AIR QUALITY, THE LACK OF MODERN PRODUCTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE. NO MATTER THE TIME OF DAY, IT WAS ALWAYS RUSH HOUR IN BEIJING. I LOVED THE FOOD FOR THE CHINESE KNOW HOW TO COOK THEIR VEGETABLES. MOST OF ALL, I RETURNED TO THE US WITH LOVE OF TAI CHI. THIS BOOK MADE ME LAUGH OUT LOUD. THE AUTHOR WOULD BE FUN TO KNOW. I WOULD LIKE TO READ A BOOK LIKE THIS THAT DESCRIBES THE PRESENT PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of my favorite memoirs set in China By Jocelyn E. This is one of my favorite memoirs set in China. A woman who dared to love Chinese men on screen (and off), as well as Chinese culture, Rachel writes about it all with passion and humor. It's fun to read because of Rachel's engaging voice and also incredibly informative at the same time. Rachel has gone on to write some fantastic novels (which I love) but for me, this is one of the best books she's written and one that will always remain in my personal library.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting memoir, but too many historical references By Taipan When buying "Foreign Babes in Beijing" I was expecting an interesting look at the experiences of Ms. Dewoskin's life in China, and to some extent I got that. I did however also get too many generic historical and cultural explanations. I like reading China memoirs to learn about culture and cultural differences through the experiences and encounters of the author. Sometimes historical background explanations are necessary and helpful, but in this book they are mostly not. I can still recommend the book if you have an afternoon or two to kill, it's a light read and enjoyable enough. I have been living in China since 2007 and many of the situations she encounters are still valid. I think people who have an interest in China or have lived there will find it a mostly entertaining read (but skim the history lessons).

For a real insiders look at life in modern China, readers should turn to Rachel DeWoskin. Sophie Beach, *The Economist* Determined to broaden her cultural horizons and live a fiery life, twenty-one-year-old Rachel DeWoskin hops on a plane to Beijing to work for an American PR firm based in the busy capital. Before she knows it, she is not just exploring Chinese culture but also creating it as the sexy, aggressive, fearless Jiexi, the starring femme fatale in a wildly successful Chinese soap opera. Experiencing the cultural clashes in real life while performing a fictional version onscreen, DeWoskin forms a group of friends with whom she witnesses the vast changes sweeping through China as the country pursues the new maxim, to get rich is glorious. In only a few years, China's capital is transformed. With considerable cultural and linguistic resources (*The New Yorker*), DeWoskin captures Beijing at this pivotal juncture in her intelligent, funny memoir (*People*), and readers will feel lucky to have sharp-eyed, yet sisterly, DeWoskin sitting in the driver's seat (*Elle*).

From *Publishers Weekly* DeWoskin moved to Beijing in 1989, shortly after the military squashed the democracy movement in Tiananmen Square, but just as China's younger population began embracing Western ideologies and commodities. This entertaining romp through her five-plus years in Beijing details her life as a PR consultant and as the star of the wildly popular Chinese nighttime television drama *Foreign Babes in Beijing*. After getting the gig on a lark, DeWoskin became known, sometimes even in her real life, as the character Jiexi, an American who falls in love with a married Chinese man, in the 20-episode drama, which aired to an estimated 600 million viewers. Her memoir weaves humorous tales of Sino-U.S. culture clashes both on and off the set with astute observations of the two cultures, as well as a significant amount of Chinese history. Though she admits frequently to being homesick for New York, DeWoskin feels the loss of more traditional Chinese culture: "Consumerism became a religion; companies arrived like missionaries... seducing the average Zhou Schmoe with products he had never known he needed." The book offers a generous helping of Chinese words (along with their English translations and insights into the young people's "Chinglish"), as well as lost in translation glimmers of the differences between the Chinese and American acting worlds. Agent, Jill Grinberg. (May) From *The New Yorker* DeWoskin's memoir takes its title from a popular Chinese soap opera in which she starred in the mid-nineties. Working for a P.R. firm in Beijing, she was approached by a producer at a party and was cast as Jiexi, a sexually liberated American girl who embodies China's simultaneous excitement and nervousness about the spread of Western influence (she seduces a married Chinese man). DeWoskin's cleverly layered account thus charts parallel culture clashes, one that she experiences as a Western woman in modern China, and the other, a TV-ready version of the first, tailored to Chinese expectations. The daughter of a Sinologist, DeWoskin has considerable cultural and linguistic resources, allowing such insights as an implicit comparison between Jiexi and the wilder entries in "Biographies of Model Women," a two-thousand-year-old text of the Han Dynasty. Copyright 2005 *The New Yorker* From *Booklist* Don't let the title fool you. Although one might think that DeWoskin's memoir of her life in China is merely a Far Eastern version of *Sex in the City*, where Prada gowns are replaced by dowdy Mao jackets, nothing could be further from the truth. An executive for an American PR firm by day, by night DeWoskin is the unlikely star of one of China's first television soap operas, an equally unlikely melodrama involving a sexy American college student who wins the love of a rebellious young Chinese man. The merging of two disparate worlds onscreen is nothing compared to the cultural assimilation DeWoskin observes

transpiring within China itself in the years immediately following Tiananmen Square. Hers is the ultimate insider's view, living witness to the philosophical and practical aspects of a traditional and repressed society's tumultuous confrontation with liberated, energetic, and economically dynamic Western influences. Exhibiting sensitivity and uncommon wisdom, DeWoskin delivers a candid and valuable portrait of a China few Westerners get to see. Carol Haggas
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