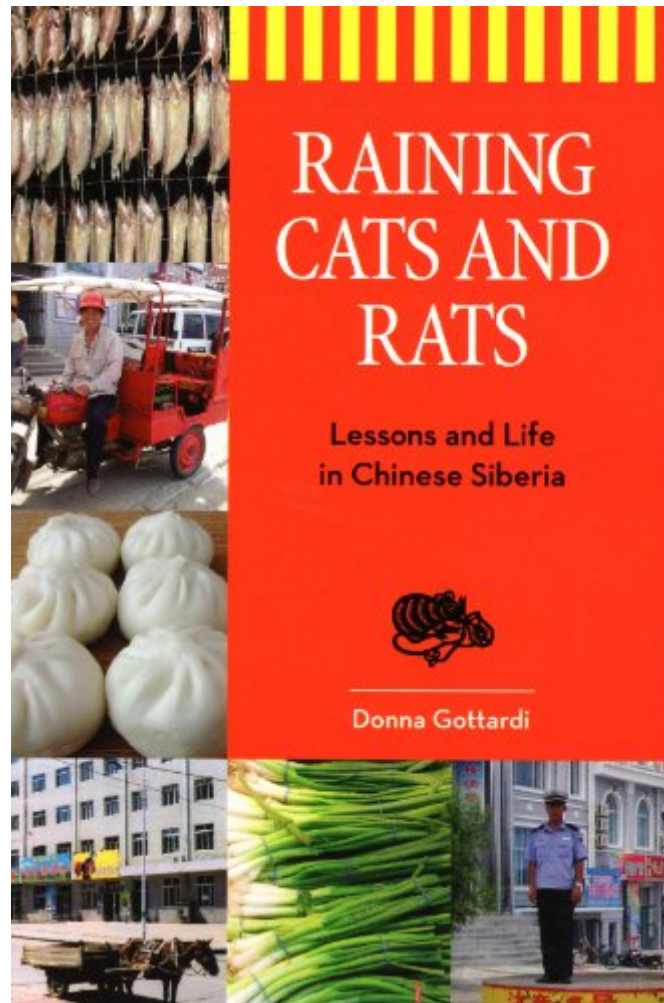




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Raining Cats And Rats: Lessons And Life In Chinese Siberia



Synopsis

Donna Gottardi answered an internet ad for a teaching job in the last town in northeastern China, on the border with Russia-in Chinese Siberia. Without knowing a word of Chinese, or a single person in China, Gottardi booked a ticket to one of the greatest adventures of her lifetime. In a matter of weeks, she found herself in the front of a classroom full of Chinese teachers of English, in a place 10,000 miles from her friends, her family and her home. Find out how her trust in others and in herself opened a window into this rural Chinese outpost and to its people. Laugh along with the many interesting predicaments Gottardi finds herself in as one of the first Western educators to live and work in Fu Yuan and as the only native English speaker. Witness how Gottardi begins to help the teachers not only to learn English, but to understand Americans as she learns to understand the people of rural China and navigate through the cultural maze of unfamiliarity that has become her latest everyday reality.

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Customer Reviews

I am sure I will never go to Chinese Siberia but Donna Gottardi's vivid and charming account is the next best thing. Actually, I would argue it is a better thing. I don't have to suffer the small and large indignities and obstacles she encountered and recounts with humor and grace. And still, I was able

to spend time with Donna and the fascinating cast of characters she shares with us. If you are interested in China but don't think you will spend months in a small town in China, very close to the Russian border, this book is for you!Jody W

Gottardi's chronicle, which weaves its way through the culture shock of teaching in a foreign land, reminds the reader why we love to travel and explore new worlds. She has you laughing throughout the whole book, except on those pages where she makes your eyes water. This book is perfect for the person who respects the risk that every remarkable adventure carries with it.

This book had potential. It jumped around. I also would have been happy without the negative comments about America in a book that was written about someone teaching in communist China. Really?

Was very well written and enjoyable. Was nice to see that people anywhere in the world are basically the same. This made you feel like you were along on the adventure with Donna.

Raining Cats and Rats is a fun read ... great for those who get the itch to travel ~~ soothes the itch for a little while but prompts you to get the globe, spin it and pick a spot to venture to ... funny, honest and endearing - highly recommend for anyone who has ever experienced wanderlust.

I always thought of China in shades of grey. Donna's descriptions bring color to the country and it's people. I hope she decides to share more of her travels. It sounds like an interesting life.

More a personal journey than an ethnology, Gottardi avoids the dryness that some sociologists employ in their work presentations. Her observations are astute and sharp, but more heart centered and warm than most. The writing is clear and thoughtfully presented in a conversational manner. I felt like I was there with her experiencing these times and activities. Most enjoyable of all is the self-reflective way Gottardi has taken her experiences and found life lessons in them. She honestly states right from the start her desire to not only see the world, but to escape from her own personal world and to avoid dealing with hurt she has found living a more ordinary life in the U.S. Her travels bring her full circle back to the life she left behind, but with new insight and a sense of peace. Rather than running away she has in actuality found her own heart and the warmth of the ones she left behind. Her use of humor and candid conveyance of indignities endured in a foreign culture are

poignant and endearingly honest. Through it all though she retains her humor and her humanity as she learns from the lovely people she meets and the experiences she encounters on a daily basis arriving at the truth of mankind's commonalities and that we are all of us not so very different in our needs and fears and our loves.

At first I was not sure if this was about China, as the beginning started out with the author in India, and frequently reverted back to her travels in other countries. I also felt this as more of a biography of her life, versus, a story of living in China. Additionally, I didn't like the added US political views of the author, just tell us the story of your stay in China. Why was that even in there? Aside from that, the story of her stay in China was interesting and very informative.

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