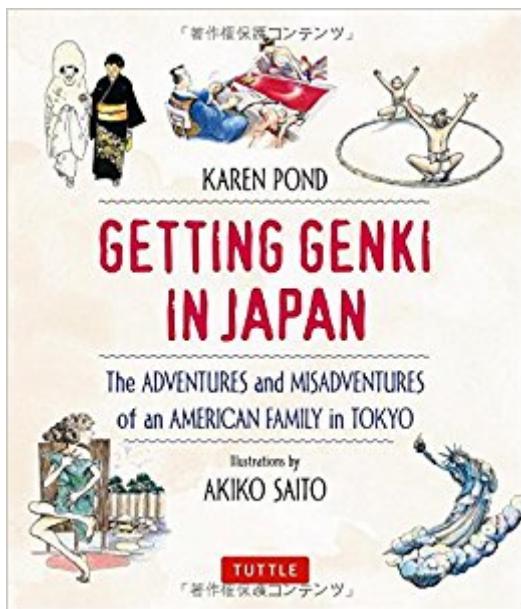


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Getting Genki In Japan: The Adventures And Misadventures Of An American Family In Tokyo



Synopsis

The unexpected gift of a favored bottle of shiraz from her husband leads to the adventure of a lifetime for Karen Pond and her family—moving from rural Maine to the largest city in the world: Tokyo, Japan. Getting Genki in Japan is a collection of illustrated travel and culture essays and musings of a Down East Mom's absurd and exhilarating adventures in the Far East. From bewildered and befuddled (and back again) to (somewhat) wise, these narratives recount a journey of cultural discoveries, experiences and the follies of a newcomer to Japan; including (mis)identifying food, (mis)pronouncing Japanese, (mis)pantomiming for necessities, and finally figuring out how to flush the Japanese toilet!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"There's no funny writer I know who can poke fun at her life in Japan better than this author. If Rudyard Kipling said, "East is east and west is west and never the twain shall meet," Karen has definitely cracked the code to finally getting the two to laugh together!" —Joy Saison, Tokyo Families magazine "This is a funny book. I would get this book for the funny chapters." —City Book Review

Karen Pond worked as a catalog copywriter for LL Bean before moving to Tokyo with her family, where she chronicled her culture shock with essays that appeared in iTOUCH Magazine, Tokyo Families Magazine, and Being A Broad Magazine. Karen still lives in Tokyo, Japan, with her husband, three sons, and their border collie Fergus.

A lot of funny stuff in this book that I'd recommend that folks feeling out of place in Japan read to help them see the humorous side of things that they may be finding frustrating while living in Japan. Japan's a wonderful place to live if you just take the time to immerse yourself in the culture and venture outside your comfort zone. We loved our times in Japan (2 assignments at Yokota Air Base, Japan)!

Pond takes a lighthearted look at her own faux pas and the struggle between her Maine sensibility and the sometimes inexplicable and complicated Japanese culture. Pond takes us grocery shopping, to her language lessons, and on the subways of Tokyo, always managing to find the humor as she fumbles words and customs. Many of these essays are magazine pieces, previously published in Japan. Standout essays for me include Pond's initial attempt at eating edamame, and the chewing chewing chewing of the outside pod. I also enjoyed her adventures at the police station, trying to report a lost wallet, and the always entertaining grocery store adventures. Pond has a rare gift of being able to laugh at herself. Her family good naturedly help her out in her adventures. Readers with overseas experiences - especially in Asia or Japan - will enjoy this very funny collection.

Having known the author for three years in Tokyo and hearing some of her 'tales' firsthand it was wonderful to relive the hilarious moments of a 'newbie' to Japan trying to navigate life in a foreign place. From being mistaken for an exotic dancer to coming home with a pregnancy test for her husband instead of antacid, her pantomiming skills and language 'faux pas' fuel the hilarity of her daily mis-adventures. She truly has a gift of finding the humour in the sometimes not so funny moments of life abroad. I couldn't put her book down and can't wait for the second edition! Keep the stories coming 'tiger'!

It's a fun read. I was preparing for a trip to Japan and enjoyed learning a few of the nuances not told in tour books. I do wish it was longer and had a little more variety in the stories. I am not an avid reader and it kept my attention.

Love this book. My wife is Japanese, I'm American, I've been to Japan many times, and if not for my wife I would be as lost as the author. I can easily relate to so many things she writes about in the book. Even if you know nothing about Japan and the culture, this book will help you learn a little

about it in a very funny and charming way.

This is a very entertaining read. Having lived in Japan for a few years, I remember getting accustomed to the cultural differences. Brought back memories and made me laugh. Great read!

This book was incredible! Karen has given such a wonderfully vivid description of what it is like adjusting to life in Japan. I haven't laughed this hard in years! Also, the illustrations were hilarious. I highly recommend this book!

What a book! Karen Pond has a wonderful sense of humor. She is a very gifted writer. Karen is able to take a simple life experience and develop it into an amusing situation! When you read the book, you know she loves living in Japan

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