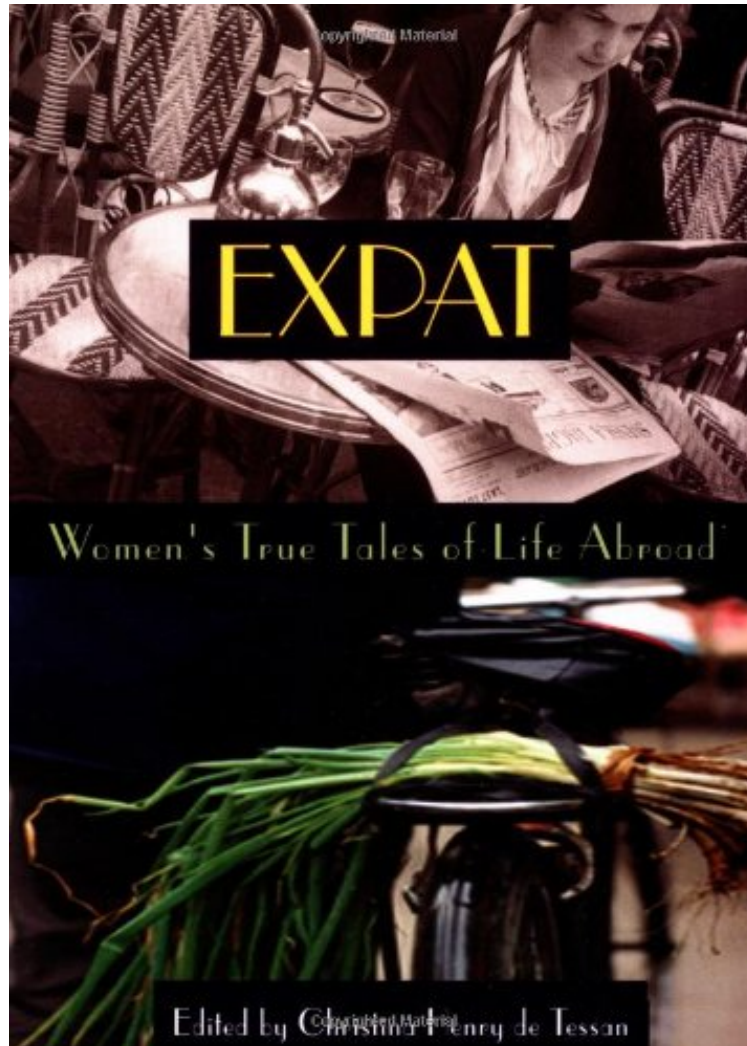


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Christina Henry De Tessa

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Christina Henry De Tessa : Expat: Women's True Tales of Life Abroad (Adventura Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Expat: Women's True Tales of Life Abroad (Adventura Books):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The book is great.By CMI love the book- I had already read it, and purchased it as a gift for a friend. It's a great collection of stories from women living all over the world, and inspired me to do more world traveling myself.In addition, the book did quite a bit of traveling of its own before it got to me- the postal service sent it all over the country a couple times before it got to my local post office, and after a month and a half the package arrived in less than peak condition. However, the seller wrapped the book well, and thanks that, it arrived in great condition. If I could take off points for the USPS's poor service, I would, but I don't think it would be

fair to rate the book or the seller based on that.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good readBy Therese Renee CinottoInteresting to hear all the stories from these insightful women. As I ponder living abroad it provides me inspiration and courage.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Humorous and insightful collectionBy Arkansas TravelerThis book is a collection of first-person experience narratives, written by women who chose to live the ex-pat life. The contributions from various age groups and cultural settings make each of the stories stand out. Yet, together they weave a very full picture of the heart transitions that occurred in the lives of people who accepted the challenge of leaving the familiar.I laughed aloud at the story of the first purchase of a live chicken for dinner, and I felt the pangs of loneliness experienced by another woman who struggled to make friends. I also shared the joy of those who found and treasured the beauties of cultures that they had not previously known.I am a woman considering retirement abroad. This book has helped me to set my emotional expectations more realistically than I would have done otherwise.

For generations, literary figures from Ernest Hemingway to Frances Mayes have fueled our fantasies about the romance of expatriate life. But its one thing to dream about living abroad and quite another to actually do it. In *Expat* a diverse group of women explores in vivid detail how the reality of life abroad matches up to the fantasy. Tonya Ward Singer craves a roasted chicken in China and must buy it alive and kicking. Karen Rosenberg reevaluates both her family's Judaism and her own when invited to a Passover seder in a remote Japanese village. Mandy Dowd tries to teach the French about Thanksgiving. Emily Miller admits that in Italy she craves the Hollywood entertainment she generally deplors when on U.S. soil. Tall and fair, Meg Wirth tries hard to blend in, in Borneo to no avail. *Expat* taps into the bewilderment, joys, and surprises of life overseas, where challenges often take unexpected forms and overcoming obstacles (finding Drano in Ukraine, shrimp paste in Prague) feels all the more triumphant. Featuring an astonishing range of perspectives, destinations, and circumstances, *Expat* offers a beautiful portrait of life abroad.

From *Library Journal*Tourists merely visit, but expatriates get to live in another culture. Some of the women represented in this collection of 22 "tales" have lived abroad as students, teachers, or aid workers, while others either pursued career opportunities or fulfilled a romantic fascination with a particular country or culture. Motivation aside, almost all have chosen to relate experiences of vulnerability and unease and a nostalgia for the culturally familiar. An expat living in appliance-deprived China recounts her craving for and courageous attempt at roasting a chicken, while another in Prague relates the challenge of finding fresh produce in order to cook a chicken stir-fry. Yet another, in the south of France, homesick for Thanksgiving turkey, describes the troubles she had concocting such a dinner for acquaintances. Others are disheartened to discover that not all Australians have an abiding love for Yanks, that not everyone in Greece, Borneo, or Japan speaks English, and that most cultures have distinctive cues or codes that the foreigner will inevitably misinterpret. Most of the reporting is of disillusionment and cultural dissonance-cautionary tales for all who believe the global village is America. Recommended for public libraries.Lonnie Weatherby, McGill Univ. Lib., Montreal Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.From *Booklist*More than romantic adventure, living abroad means that 24-hour supermarkets, reliable fuel sources, and even blankets can't be taken for granted, as the 22 contributors to *Expat* attest. Many of their stories focus on food. Tonya Ward Singer craves golden roasted chicken while in China, so she must purchase a newly killed bird and dress and cook it in a Chinese kitchen that is little more than a toaster oven and a slop bucket. Other contributors crave American pop culture. Emily Wise Miller finds herself eagerly anticipating lowbrow action-adventure flicks she wouldn't deign to watch on TV in the States. Still others show the expat (short for expatriate) imparting American values while learning to appreciate new friends' perspectives on life. For instance, in Egypt and among parents whom Westerners would think negligent, Laura Fokkena sees child rearing anew, as a matter of enjoying one's family rather than heroically trying to mold children into predictable products. The collection engages us because these expats are humbled and transformed by their contacts with cultures different from their own. June PulliamCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Offers many charms....evocative portraits of the ways true travelers establish a sense of home no matter where they roam." -- USA Today, May 23, 2002"The collection engages us because these expats are humbled and transformed by their contacts with cultures different from their own." -- *Booklist*, June 1, 2002