

(Ebook free) Shenzhen: A Travelogue from China

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Guy Delisle

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#231450 in Books Drawn Quarterly 2012-04-24 2012-04-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.46 x .41 x 5.981, .53 #File Name: 1770460799152 pages Drawn Quarterly | File size: 48.Mb

Guy Delisle : Shenzhen: A Travelogue from China before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shenzhen: A Travelogue from China:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A cheap caricature of a dynamic, complex city... a missed opportunity. By ChrisHonestly? This book was offensive. I like the idea of a graphic novel travelogue and I really wanted to like this but Chinese people are drawn as slant-eyed, wide-smiling caricatures. At one point, Guy literally expresses his bafflement about how "Chinese people can't draw slanty eyes, even though they *have* slanty eyes" (image attached). Shenzhen is depicted as some kind of nightmare and the locals are demure and submissive it didn't seem like he tried at all to experience or see anything beyond his myopic western perspective. There was little investigation or research into the rich inner lives and complex dynamics within Shenzhen, which was honestly a

fascinating place in the 90s with its rapid industrialization abutting cultural traditions and recent political turmoil. The storytelling was bland and overwhelmingly one of a complacent, confused white man who has no interest in honest or authentic interaction with an 'exotic' place because we need more stories like this right? At some point, Guy compares himself to Tintin, which I guess is accurate if you're talking about neo-colonial attitudes and racial insensitivity. I can't believe this was published in 2006 and not 1896. To his credit, the art is good but the content is cheap. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An entertaining look at one man's experiences in China. By Michelle M. This is the first book that I have read by this author and it was very entertaining. As another reviewer stated this truly is the story of a stranger in a strange land. Delisle was in China for work and that was the focus of his activities, he was not there to travel or discover things about the country. It is interesting to see the reactions on both sides of when he did try to interact with the Chinese (I particularly like their response to how overtime is handled in the Canada). There is a sense of loneliness and depression that permeate the book as the author tries to set up a daily and weekly routine and find activities to break the boredom. This however is offset by his thoughts on his experiences and the anecdotal stories from his life that he intersperses with the China stories. I like that he showed the people trying to be good "hosts" to a visitor to their country and entertain him to the best of their ability - what was funny was his slightly puzzled reaction to these efforts. The drawings were simple and clean but conveyed people's reactions well and clearly showed the context of the situations he was describing. I enjoyed this novel and have bought more of the books in his travel series to see what happened to him in Burma and North Korea. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting point of view... By Michael Valdivielso. After reviewing Pyongyang, which I found very interesting and have already reread a couple of times, I ordered his other books, one of them being this one. I happen to love everything about Japan, China, and other Asian nations, so as you can guess I enjoyed this book very much. Yes, I have reread it a couple of times even before doing this review. In some ways Mr. Delisle didn't really tell us anything we haven't heard before a hundred times. Yet I think some of the events, some of the happenings that happened to him, were interesting in the way he presented them to us. Maybe because he deals with the world in the form of shapes and forms and interactions, that he wants to understand cause and effect, and how things work. There is no racism or buckteeth, not sure where one of the reviews got that, he just truly enjoys learning. I get the impression that he wants to understand just for the fun of it. He desires, in the end, to understand people, why they do things and uncover life's little mysteries. Like, who is stealing the manhole covers? Was the girl who put the photo albums on his desk in love with him? Why do the hostesses on the train give a military salute when they pull into the station? Get it used or new, but enjoy it.

Shenzhen is entertainingly compact with Guy Delisle's observations of life in urban southern China, sealed off from the rest of the country by electric fences and armed guards. With a dry wit and a clean line, Delisle makes the most of his time spent in Asia overseeing outsourced production for a French animation company. He brings to life the quick pace of Shenzhen's crowded streets. By translating his fish-out-of-water experiences into accessible graphic novels, Delisle skillfully notes the differences between Western and Eastern cultures, while also conveying his compassion for the simple freedoms that escape his colleagues in the Communist state.

From Publishers Weekly. Last year's Pyongyang introduced Delisle's acute voice, as he reported from North Korea with unusual insight and wit, not to mention wonderfully detailed cartooning. Shenzhen is not a follow-up so much as another installment in what one hopes is an ongoing series of travelogues by this talented artist. Here he again finds himself working on an animated movie in a Communist country, this time in Shenzhen, an isolated city in southern China. Delisle not only takes readers through his daily routine, but also explores Chinese custom and geography, eloquently explaining the cultural differences city to city, company to company and person to person. He also goes into detail about the food and entertainment of the region as well as animation in general and his own career path. All of this is the result of his intense isolation for three months in an anonymous hotel room. He has little to do but ruminate on his surroundings, and readers are the lucky beneficiaries of his loneliness. As in his earlier work, Delisle draws in a gentle cartoon style: his observations are grounded in realism, but his figures are light cartoons, giving the book, as Delisle himself remarks, a feeling of an alternative Tintin. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist. Delisle's Pyongyang (2005) documented two months spent overseeing cartoon production in North Korea's capital. Now he recounts a 1997 stint in the Chinese boomtown Shenzhen. Even a decade ago, China showed signs of Westernization, at least in Special Economic Zones such as Shenzhen, where Delisle found a Hard Rock Cafe and a Gold's Gym. Still, he experienced near-constant alienation. The absence of other Westerners and bilingual Chinese left him unable to ask about baffling cultural differences ranging from exotic shops to the pervasive lack of sanitation. Because China is an authoritarian, not totalitarian, state, and Delisle escaped the oppressive atmosphere with a getaway to nearby Hong Kong, whose relative familiarity gave him "reverse culture shock," Delisle's wittily empathetic depiction of the Western-Chinese cultural gap is less dramatic than that of his Korean sojourn. That said, his creative skill suggests that the comic strip is the ideal medium for such an account. His wry drawings and clever storytelling convey his experiences far more effectively than one imagines a travel journal or film documentary would. Gordon Flagg. Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved.

A fascinating, meandering look at one of China's most storied new cities. Boing Boing