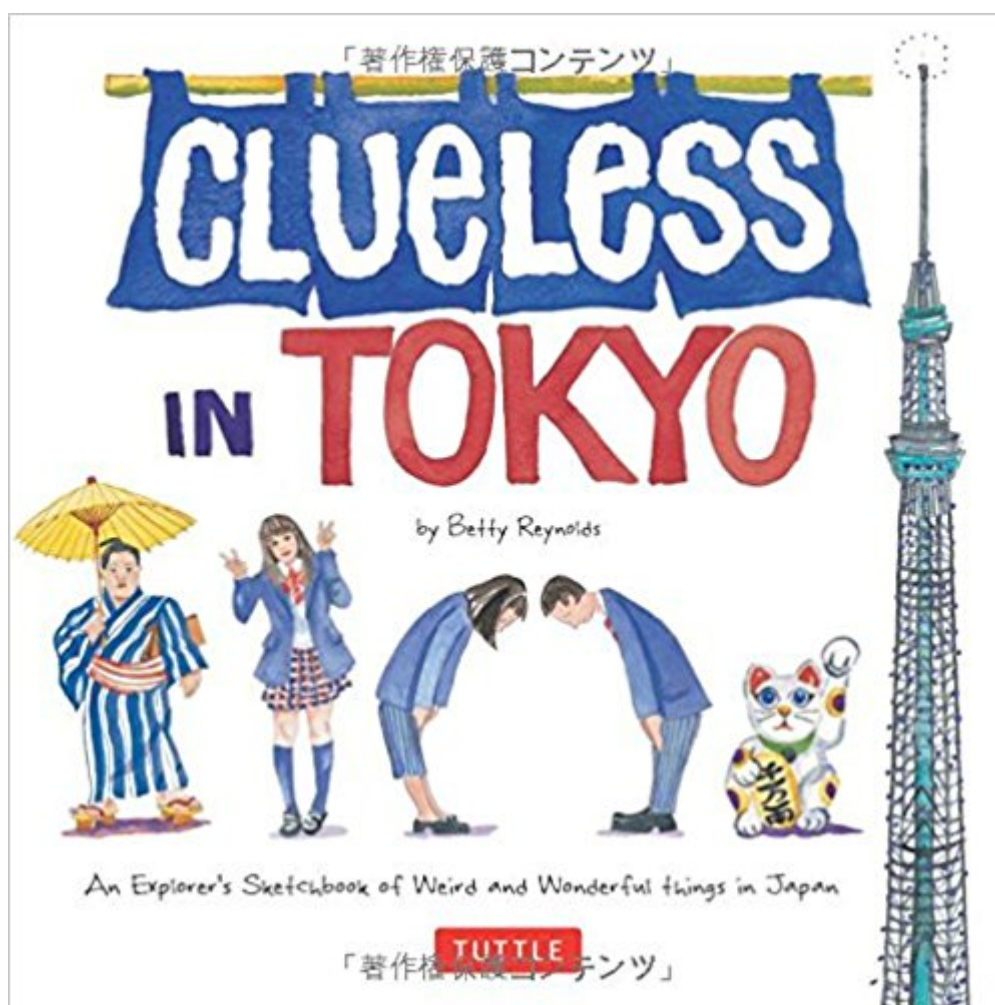


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Clueless In Tokyo: An Explorer's Sketchbook Of Weird And Wonderful Things In Japan



Synopsis

A perfect introduction to Japan and Japanese culture, this illustrated culture and travel guide contains loads of original drawings as well as the Japanese script for key words and phrases. Some people take photos, but artist Betty Reynolds captures memories with her paintbrush and watercolors. *Clueless in Tokyo* provides an outsider's take on everyday life in Japan's capital city— a place where vending machines talk, toilets can be terrifying, and centuries-old festivals unfold against a backdrop of space-age architecture. During the seven years Reynolds lived in Japan, she filled thirty sketchbooks with everything that caught her eye. Whether it's fashion, food, sport, transport, seasonal rituals, or Japanese pastimes, each vibrant sketch is a delight, and Reynolds' witty hand-lettered captions in both Japanese and English provide an entertaining resource for beginning learners of the Japanese language. Adult students and travelers alike will find this Japan travel guide to be a charming and insightful addition to their trip.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"It's a fun little book with lively and brightly colored stretches of nearly every aspect of Japanese daily life and tradition. Reynolds dissects the many dishes of a ryokan ryori (those elaborate meals you get when you stay in a traditional Japanese inn), she breaks down what's in those street corner vending machines (the food, the drink, and the porn), and she sifts through the styles of sumo. She does this for pretty much every major aspect of Japanese life. *Clueless in Tokyo* is both a solid reference guide and a comical softcover for the coffee table." —GoJapan.About.com "It's a fun introduction to Japan." —Parka Blogs "A cool, clever and captivating look at modern

Japan. A one of a kind approach to explaining Japanese culture. Buy two copies and give one to a friend." [Robert Whiting](#), author of *You Gotta Have Wa*"Feel lost in Tokyo? Don't know what's going on? You need *Clueless in Tokyo*. This colorful guide will, ahem, clue you in to the city's sights and sounds." [Brian Ashcraft](#), author of *Japanese Schoolgirl Confidential*"Drawn in charming watercolor sketches with accompanying Japanese terms"this is a must-read!" [I Am Aileen blog](#)"A delightful and lighthearted guide to modern Japanese culture." [John Durkin](#), President, Tokyo American Club"Artist Betty Reynolds chronicles her stay in Japan's capital over seven years. During this time, she discovered Japanese fashion, sports, food, festivals, and even talking appliances." [Travel Life magazine](#)"For the picture-oriented traveler to Japan, this should absolutely be in your suitcase. (It's light enough, so no worries there.) Take it with you to the sushi bar and use the page that describes every type of fish you may eat in full color. Take it with you to the flea market so you can identify your bargains. Take it with you to your ryokan, so you know exactly how to act on that trip to the public bath. This book is not only 'pretty', but useful as well. And boy, does it make me wish I could draw!" [Uncovering Japan blog](#)

Betty Reynolds worked as a creative consultant and art director in Philadelphia before accompanying her husband first to Singapore and then Tokyo, where they made their home and traveled extensively for many years. Her fascination with Asian culture led her to fill thirty sketchbooks with the colorful art that inspired this book. She has published three other books on Japanese culture [Squeamish about Sushi](#), [Japanese Celebrations](#), and [Tokyo Friends](#). Betty and her husband now live on a small island in America's Pacific Northwest where she paints local scenes. Betty and Frank return to Asia every chance they get.

While it's a couple more weeks until I actually make it to Japan to test and confirm the accuracy of all this, my sense is that she's right on. because she's written as an American who has lived in Tokyo a long time and knows how Westerners will view and perceive all of Japan's intricacies. The sketchbook style is PERFECT for this, it's not weighted down by too many words, it's visually pleasing, and she's categorized things in a way that helps the learner like myself realize what's connected and what's not connected to each other. Like, oh, is that flag something that has to do with a festival, or is it something the restaurant would always have hanging? Examples like that are useful and I'm considering taking the book with me on the trip!

This book is a waste of money and I was completely disappointed. I thought I would get tips that

would help me around and help me with daily things (simple stuff like there are no public trash cans in Tokyo - always bring a plastic bag for your own trash!), however this book only has useless tips.

We gave this to our 11 year old who has mild aspergers and is currently obsessed with Japan, Japanese, the people, the cities, the movies, the language, food - everything! This book was perfect for her. She has been pouring over the pages offering me trivia questions, showing me new words, etc. I don't know what the target age is for this, but I can say as an adult, I really enjoy reading and as a mother to a Japanophile, we both think it's great. We'll surely find it useful when planning our trip to Japan.

Betty Reynolds' fun and quirky drawings elicit a smile every time! The aspects of Japanese culture that she picks out, too, remind me of what I found puzzling and so attractive when I first moved to Japan. For anyone who has lived in Japan, will live in Japan or just loves the country--this is a great book that brings out those "I love Japan" feelings.

A clever and imaginative way to enable the "clueless" such as myself, to feel at home with what could otherwise be a visual maze of cultural information. Using her own skills as a painter adds a very personal touch to what could easily have been a dryly written dictionary of Japanese cultural symbols.

It looks and reads like a children's book (I got it for my kids), but there are a couple racy topics.

I bought this after seeing it in a bookstore in Japan. It's a nice reminder of my family's recent trip and something that I hope my daughter will be able to read and bring back her memories of the trip in the future. The drawings are colorful and cute. It's just a really fun book. :)

As a frequent traveler to Japan I have found "Clueless in Tokyo" to be a fun and informative window into the many quirks of Japanese Culture. It is clear the author is in love with everything Japanese and this enthusiasm is infectious. Now with this updated version I am even better equipped for my next trip.

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