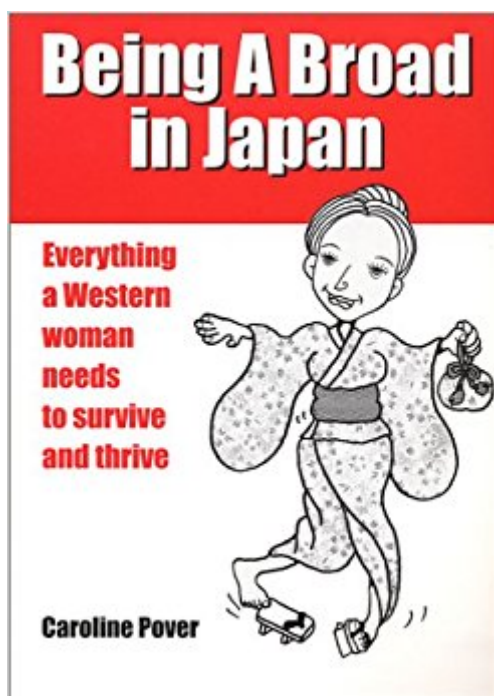


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# Being A Broad In Japan: Everything A Western Woman Needs To Survive And Thrive



## Synopsis

My encyclopedia, my translator, my phone book, my best friend! Western woman living in Japan Being A Broad in Japan includes everything you need to make the most out of your life: case studies of Western women working in almost 50 different types of jobs; anecdotes from many of the 200 Western women interviewed; profiles of 23 women's organisations; essential Japanese words and phrases; and indispensable resource sections listing telephone numbers and Websites for English-speaking housing agencies, banks, doctors, dentists, gynaecologists, therapists, lawyers, maternity classes, day care centres, employment agencies, labour unions, graduate schools, and MORE. An essential book for any Western woman living in Japan. Read about: Coping with culture shock. Finding clothes and shoes that fit. Avoiding hair disasters. Cooking Japanese food. Telling a chikan where to go. Dating and the singles scene. Organising contraception. Getting married and divorced. Adopting a baby. Educating your child. Finding a job. Teaching gender studies in the English-language classroom. Coping with reverse culture shock when you leave Japan.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

... a necessary resource for a wide range of women. -- Kansai Time Out, July 2001  
No stone is left unturned. Pover covers everything ... -- The Daily Yomiuri, September 15, 2001

From the foreword to 'Being A Broad in Japan' When I first came to Japan in 1996, I wasn't

prepared. Twenty-one thousand Western women move to Japan every year and most of them aren't prepared either. I don't mean being prepared for the language or the culture; I mean being prepared for what it is like to be a Western woman living in Japan. Throughout 1999 I interviewed about two hundred Western women living in Japan. Most of them were women from the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. They were from different ethnic and social backgrounds, and of different ages and sexual orientations. Employment and marital statuses differed. Some were here for six months, some for most of their adult lives. It was a diverse group of women, each with unique experiences, but they all had one thing in common: they were Western women in Japan. I was touched by their willingness to share their experiences to help prepare and support others like them. These interviews form the foundation of this book. With other research, interviews with specialists in certain fields, some of my own experiences, resource sections and useful Japanese phrases, I have tried to create a comprehensive guide for Western women in Japan.

As a woman who arrived in Japan years ago, when there were next to no resources to help one settle into everyday life, I commend Caroline Pover for her almost monumental resource book for foreign women living in Japan. She covers almost every possible issue from job hunting and setting up one's own business to dating to being a mother, and extremely important to anyone living in a foreign country --- how and where to get good health care --- and much more, listing a treasure of organizations, books, useful addresses and telephone numbers, and web pages. Included at the end of each chapter is a basic and useful Japanese vocabulary pertaining to the subject. As a personal touch, a number of expatriate women involved in a variety of jobs tell their stories, sharing the frustrations and successes they have experienced in a country not always friendly to the working woman. Because so much research was involved, a few references became out of date while the book went to press; it would have been helpful to have a loose page addition with corrections. Nevertheless, the book is invaluable for foreign women living in Japan and for any woman, married or single, who contemplates a move there.

For western women resident in Japan, this is the bible, the encyclopedia, and the Holy Grail all rolled in one. In spite of a somewhat flippant-but nevertheless clever-title, *Being A Broad in Japan* covers all the details women will have when living in Japan. It is comprehensive on, among other topics, survival (emergencies, finance, hair, etc.), home, health, relationships, becoming a mother, jobs and the workplace, Japanese language, and leaving Japan. However, this guide is much more

than a list or a yellow pages-though it is both of those. It is interspersed with quotes and anecdotes from the lives of many women who have struggled with some aspect of living in Japan. In the section on relationships, one woman voices the commonly heard refrain about western men in Japan: "Foreign guys are a big disappointment here. Mostly, they aren't interested in foreign women. Also, I find that many of them, after getting so much attention in Japan, start thinking they are really great." Another woman touches on the loneliness many feel, in particular for lesbians: "If I were in New York, not only would I have more women to choose from for potential friendship, I would also have a developed circle of friends to support me. I have not been on my own in 18 about years-and the loneliness, coupled with the foreign land, has been profound..." There is much advice, many a telephone number, basic Japanese language support, and much more. Indispensable for both those coming and for those still struggling with some aspect or another of Japan.

This is the only book I have seen addressing women's issues in Japan. It specifically deals with the challenges Western women face when they live in Japan. It is quite thorough and well-written. The author and her work are very accessible and I would highly recommend this reference to any female planning a relocation. The book is not written for casual vacationers, but can provide useful insights into daily living, if you are curious.

Whether you're thinking of moving to Japan, or are already here, this book can help you deal with the day-to-day trials of being a stranger in a very strange land. It has both general info and stuff that's more likely to be of interest to women (childcare, finding a good English-speaking gynecologist, etc). All in all, a great resource for foreign women in Japan...

This book is embarrassingly out of date. The phone numbers, businesses and organizations are either no longer in use, no longer in existence, or no longer relevant. There are countless other ways to find up-to-date information. I'm sure it was useful when it was first produced, but selling this basically useless book to people now is irresponsible and dishonest, and buying it is a waste of your time and money.

An excellent book which gives you a lot of information on aspects of daily life in Japan. And although it is aimed at women, it is totally relevant to men. I wish it had been available before I came here.

Caroline Pover is my cousin. She is very smart. Thank you for reading her book.

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