

(Get free) A Year in Japan

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Kate T. Williamson

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Kate T. Williamson : A Year in Japan before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Year in Japan:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Feel of JapanBy ontheoutsideThis is unique in my experience. Gives a feel for what it is like to live in Japan. The artwork is nice and appropriate.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. She loved it!By Janice JeneraIt was a present for my daughter. She loved it!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy LopiBeautiful illustrations

The Land of the Rising Sun is shining brightly across the American cultural landscape. Recent films such as Lost in Translation and Memoirs of a Geisha seem to have made everyone an expert on Japan, even if they've never been there. But the only way for a Westerner to get to know the real Japan is to become a part of it. Kate T. Williamson did just that, spending a year experiencing, studying, and reecting on her adopted home. She brings her keen observations

to us in *A Year in Japan*, a dramatically different look at a delightfully different way of life. Avoiding the usual clichés--Japan's polite society, its unusual fashion trends, its crowded subways--Williamson focuses on some lesser-known aspects of the country and culture. In stunning watercolors and piquant texts, she explains the terms used to order various amounts of tofu, the electric rugs found in many Japanese homes, and how to distinguish a maiko from a geisha. She observes sumo wrestlers in traditional garb as they use ATMs, the wonders of "Santaful World" at a Kyoto department store, and the temple carpenters who spend each Sunday dancing to rockabilly. *A Year in Japan* is a colorful journey to the beauty, poetry, and quirkiness of modern Japan a book not just to look at but to experience.

From Publishers Weekly This delicately crafted artist's journal offers colorful impressions of a young woman's extended visit in Kyoto, Japan. Williamson's watercolors are playful, bright and spare, and each section illustrates a theme or topic that has inspired the artist/author over her travels to a country devoted to attention to detail. For example, Williamson explores numerous rituals of dining, such as offering a guest green tea accompanied by a piece of wagashi, or bean paste confection, and illustrates over two pages the elegant lunch she ordered at a temple serving shojin ryori, the vegetarian cuisine of Zen Buddhist monks. The sacred rope that unites the "male" and "female" rocks of the Shinto site Meoto-Iwa warrants both an intimate view (the rope) and a full, breathtaking seascape of the wedded rocks. Williamson renders eye-catching holidays from August's O'bon, featuring a trio of three white-socked and sandaled feet under pink kimonos, to April's stately sakura (cherry blossom) season. Some of the people Williamson depicts are sumo wrestlers wearing headphones and riding the subway, and two geishas side by side in full regalia one apprentice, the other professional. For travelers to Japan, and those who treasure their visit, this is a splendid record. 350 color illus. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. As soon as you open her book... everything from cherry blossoms to breathtaking seascapes, you'll fall in love (with Japan) as well. -- *Radiant*, Winter 2007 Best Postcollege Memoir: An insightful journal with text and illustrations of the wonders and oddities she saw. -- *Glamour Magazine*, April 2006 watercolors and text that explores everything from washi paper to karaoke etiquette (hint: singing Elton John, okay; Mariah Carey, not). -- *Travel + Leisure*, April 2006 About the Author Kate T. Williamson is a writer and illustrator who studied Immaking at Harvard University. Her love of travel and interest in sock design, along with a postgraduate fellowship, took her to Kyoto. She lives in New York City.