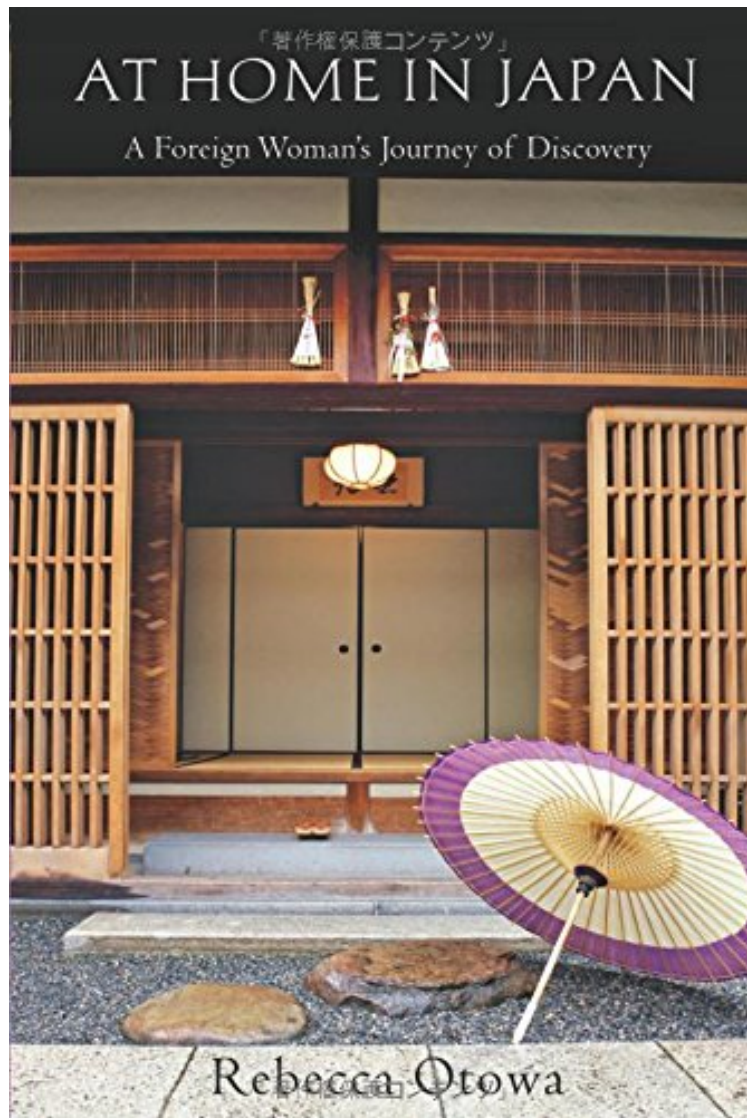


[E-BOOK] At Home in Japan: A Foreign Woman's Journey of Discovery

## At Home in Japan: A Foreign Woman's Journey of Discovery

*Rebecca Otowa*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1225958 in Books Tuttle Publishing 2010-05-10 2010-05-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .70 x 6.00l, .90 #File Name: 4805310782176 pages | File size: 44.Mb

**Rebecca Otowa : At Home in Japan: A Foreign Woman's Journey of Discovery** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised At Home in Japan: A Foreign Woman's Journey of Discovery:

26 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Living Life the Way the Locals Used To By Austin H. Moore Having myself lived for over two decades in Japan, with more than half that period being spent in an environment very similar to the author's, I was struck by the similarity in our experience and the fact that Ms. Otowa has taken note of some many important details that I had already forgotten. There are many books about Westerners

living unique lives in Japan, but this account is different in that it is written by a Western woman who knowingly gave up a great deal of her original self to become a very different and probably far more satisfied person. Certainly the sacrifices that Ms. Otowa made would be impossible for many women or men born in societies placing great importance on individuality. This makes the stories relayed in this book so interesting. Chapter after chapter I was reminded of many of the things that I too have given up (knowingly or subconsciously) and then shown how each of those 'losses' have been replaced by at least twice as many gains. My house, like the Otowa Family's has a very long history and though I bought mine (rather than marrying into it), the descriptions and care shown by Ms. Otowa for her 'new' home and surroundings ring true. Readers who have never spent time in rural Japan may find some of the stories a bit hard to visualize through text alone. However, the author's hand-drawn illustrations and personal photographs go a long way to filling any gaps in perception. Hopefully a Japanese translation will follow in the near future in order that Japanese who are so quickly losing touch with their cultural heritage can realize what is being lost before it is too late.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. What a challenge! By M.G.Oliveira  
It is amazing how a person who was born in a country like the USA fully integrated in the Japanese society, a society that differs so much from the American. A society and culture that are unique and usually inaccessible to foreigners. She not only adapted very well but became part of a traditional family, which is to say part of a very complex kinship unit. She does reveal a sense of consciousness, a strong sense of belonging to her new environment. Through her detailed account, in a poetic prose style, we are introduced to the family life in Japan, to the Japanese life style in rural areas, to their traditions and culture, from birth to death. Her account of the Japanese life style not only reflects the attitudes and concerns of the present day, but also provides a link to the past.

M.G.Oliveira  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.  
AWESOME  
By PetuniaTim  
This is amazing an amazing book!! The time and effort to create such deep, passionate words to flow together and form a perfect assessment of describing the wife's point of view is SPECTACULAR. It is about her transformation - an overview, but so detailed - from the time she initially arrived in Japan and to her present at the time she wrote the book. It is meaningful, making one consider how we have been effected by the place and society we live in, what WE could draw from Japan should we arrive ourselves, etc. Would we be able to take away the same feelings as we leave, or would we ever want to leave Japan? I personally find this account extremely helpful also in seeing what life is like for a foreigner wife's eyes: assimilating to a new way of life, culture, and language. A book to be referenced to and admired. I suggest everyone to read this book - it gives you a new take on life. Or at least I did.

*At Home in Japan* tells the true story of a foreign woman who has been, for 30 years, the housewife, custodian and chatelaine of a 350-year-old farmhouse in rural Japan. This astonishing book traces a circular path, from the basic physical details of life in the house and village, through relationships with family, neighbors and the natural and supernatural entities with whom the family shares the house. Rebecca Otowa then focuses on her inner life, touching on some of the pivotal memories of her time in Japan, the lessons in perception that Japan has taught her and, finally, the ways in which she has been changed by living in Japan. An insightful and compelling read, *At Home in Japan* is a beautifully written and illustrated reminiscence of a simple life made extraordinary.

From Publishers Weekly  
For almost three decades I have been the housewife, custodian, and chatelaine of a 350-year-old farmhouse in rural Japan, writes Otowa in her informative and delightfully illustrated memoir. In 1978, American-born Otowa came to Japan as a university student, filled with an exaggerated confidence in my paltry store of knowledge, undercut with a pervading suspicion that I didn't know as much as I thought I did. Four years later she married into a traditional Japanese family. The short but engaging chapters (none is longer than four pages) explore one aspect of her adopted life. But like any good essayist, Otowa wanders into wider country. In *Comfort*, she recounts the snugly family comforts obtained from the continued use of the traditional kotatsu, a low table with a blanket or quilt spread over it and a heating device inside. In *Sweets*, she delves into the complex obligations attached to the painstakingly shaped, delicately colored, beautifully presented and ritually consumed edible forms. And in *Bamboo*, Otowa reveals the special spot, exotic as a unicorn, and as common as mud, the plant holds in her heart. Filled with personal insights garnered from years spent learning to fit into a radically different culture, Otowa gently illuminates what it means to discover your identity in a foreign land. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Anyone interested in knowing what it is like to become fully immersed in another culture yet always as an outsider will enjoy this thoughtful account immensely." *Library Journal* "Pungent with sounds, tastes, colors and village and family lore...Otowa gives us a book of celebration, radiance, and renewal." *Japan Times*