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Kat Vespucci Takes Taiwan (Kat Vespucci Series Book 2)

INGRID
ANDERS



KAT VESPUCCI
TAKES TAIWAN



Synopsis

Kat Vespucci barges onto the scene in Taipei, Taiwan, unprepared. Escaping a job she hates, another broken relationship, and living at home with her parents, Kat decides to try her hand at teaching English abroad. She speaks English, so how hard could it be? Only her second time leaving New Jersey, Kat commits a host of hilarious faux pas in Taiwan. As she fumbles her way into the mysterious, new culture, Zhang Weiming "who calls himself Wayne" is trying to escape it. A modern Taiwanese guy with perfect Hollywood English, he just wants to enjoy life. Unfortunately, he is the cherished first son of a traditional Taiwanese family, which means an arranged marriage. Just when Wayne accepts his fate, he crosses Kat's path and throws everything into question. 'Kat Vespucci and the Renegade Province' is at once the amusing adventure of a young woman searching for something more and a young man struggling to find his place between his family's past and the future they have planned for him. Questions of independence, duty, and who we are versus who others want us to be, permeate the lives of every character as they play out on the beautiful and rebellious island of Taiwan. If you have ever strayed wildly from the norm or wondered what would happen if you threw convention to the wind, you will love 'Kat Vespucci and the Renegade Province.' Note: This book was originally released under the title, "Kat Vespucci and the Renegade Province."

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Customer Reviews

I was looking for books having to do with Taiwan prior to my taking a vacation on the beautiful island. I read this book with pleasure, and smiled at the way Ms. Anders writes her story. I laughed a lot, and while I was in Taiwan, I reflected back on Kat's adventures. It was true to the sights and sounds I experienced. I recommend "Kat Vespucci Takes Taiwan" whether or not you're actually going to Taiwan. After you read it, you may just want to travel there. It is a wonderful country.

When I picked 'Kat Vespucci takes Taiwan', I had no idea there was a prequel to it. The second book on it's own is a great read. For someone like me who loves to read expat blogs, this was an unexpected bonus. If you love reading about new places, travel, life in a foreign country this is a must read. Though I've read quite a few travel related books, this one has the best combination of travel + story + sightseeing + quirky comedy. Kat is an American with a slightly mad family (whose isn't?) and stuck in a miserable job. So when her uncle suggests a English teaching job in Taiwan, she decides to go ahead with it. It is a beautiful & a funny journey of exploring a new country & an expat world and more importantly it feels like you are right there, looking at Kat. It truly draws you a picture of life in an Asian country. Being an Indian myself, I could relate with the bus rides in the remote places or having a hip corner in city or knowing that the older generation's beliefs can't be changed. I definitely recommend this and sadly a quick read. If you're thinking of volunteering, this will hopefully give you an idea of life away home. I am eagerly waiting for the next in the series and I'm hoping she chooses another exotic location. Now I'm gonna go back and hunt for that 'Earth to Kat Vespucci'

Kat Vespucci dives head first and unprepared into a very different culture: the island of Taiwan. And it's great fun to be inside the head of this intrepid traveler, like globe-trotting Alice finding herself in a weird and wacky Wonderland, every day a kaleidoscopic roller-coaster ride through a strange culture with its own rules and rituals. Having lived in Taiwan myself, it's fun to re-live the disorientation and discovery of the island through Kat Vespucci's eyes. And she's packed all of the experience into this novel: the dazzling variety of food, the traffic, the smells, the sounds, the politics, the threat of raw nature in earthquakes, typhoons, tropical diseases, and of course the fascinating hybrid culture, partly Chinese, partly Taiwanese (or "Tainese", as she comes to call it),

partly aboriginal, and partly a global mishmash of Western movies, 7-Elevens and Chinglish. And of course, romance, love, and, yes, sex -- plenty of it, in fact, but intermingled with humor, cross-cultural mixed messages, and strange twists of fate. And along the way, we also learn a lot about Chinese history, politics, and language. This is a great book for anyone who has been to Taiwan, or is thinking of going there, but it is also a wonderful reverie on the experience of travel itself, on what it's like to struggle with identity and culture in any new cultural context. It's a novel replete with both open-ended questions and satisfying epiphanies. There are also some great, hilarious scenes of unexpected "cultural" clashes, such as a broken-hearted, drunk Kat trying to find solace and camaraderie with a couple of Mormon missionaries. So if you like a mixture of serious sociology, silly puns, and sensuous abandon, this would be a good book to take on the plane with you.

While planning my trip to Taiwan to visit my son and his wife who teach English there, I learned of a newly released work by Ingrid Anders. It is about her adventures teaching English in Taiwan. Perfect! I downloaded it on the Kindle app for my iPad and waited for just the right moment to crack it open and learn a bit about the country I was about to visit. It was a great plane read; funny, and the pages and the time just flew by. The author has a knack for capturing the essence of the country and its culture in her vivid descriptions of her adventures. My son had meticulously planned our visit with him so that I would get to know Taiwan as much as possible in a short time but he could have just used Kat Vespucci as a travel guide! By the time I arrived I already knew about the BYOTP- be sure not to flush!, Night Market foods, massaging shampoos, mineral springs and more. It was a delight to experience what I had just read about. Buy this book and enjoy Kat's adventures, but be prepared - you will not want it to end! Where in the world will Kat land next? Can't wait!

I'm an expat teacher in Taiwan, and to be fair, I didn't make it that far into the book because I just couldn't relate to Kat Vespucci. She's really a light weight. I'm not saying that you don't experience culture shock and weirdness, but she lost me when she kept on fishing toilet paper out of the toilet (just flush it, you're not supposed to, but we all forget sometimes) with her roommate's chopsticks (seriously, you're worried about a little paper getting into the sewer but you're willing to dip your roommates eating utensils into your #1s and #2s?). When she spit out the not-quite-right bagel with whipped cream on it, I just stopped reading. We put up with weird food, culture shock, cultural misunderstandings, but Kat Vespucci is too lame for me to relate to or root for.

Anders has an amazing gift for describing places and situations. And a wonderful sense of humor. You feel the experiences Kat has and the places she visits. When Kat is in Taiwan, the reader is there with her. As when she was in Berlin. My only wish is that Kat would grow up! For all her worldly experiences, Kat is too naive. Looking forward to a grown up Kat in a new situation. Anders' writing just gets better and better.

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