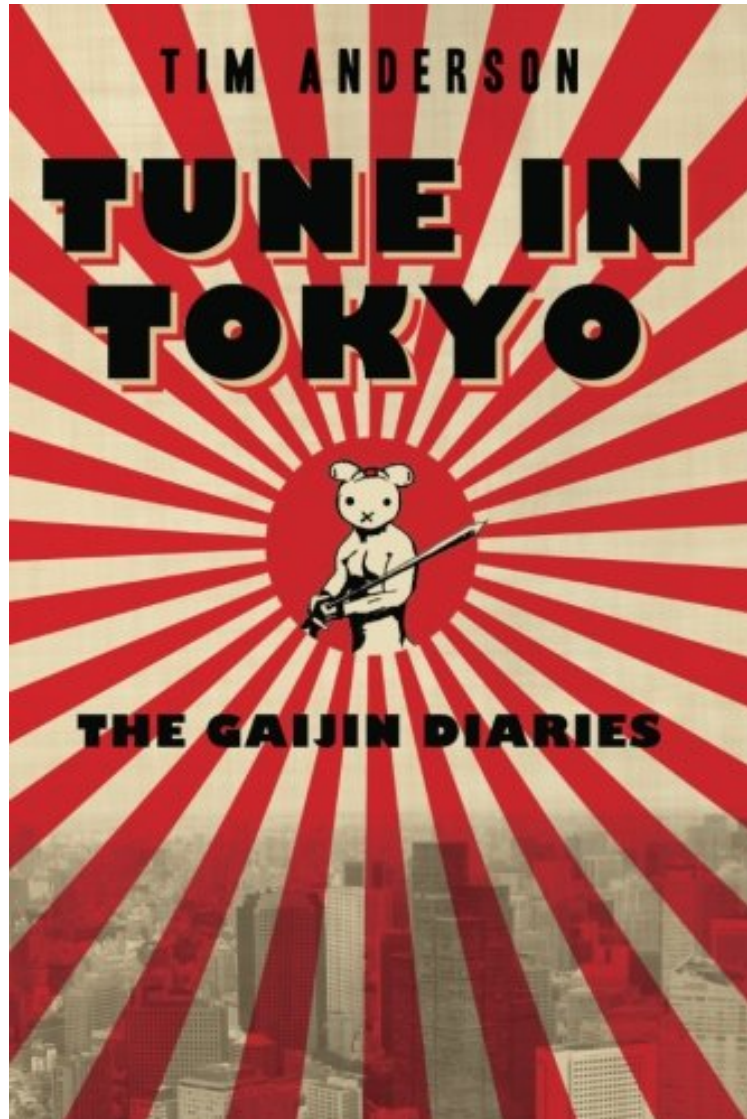


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Tune In Tokyo: The Gaijin Diaries

Tim Anderson

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Tim Anderson : Tune In Tokyo: The Gaijin Diaries before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tune In Tokyo: The Gaijin Diaries:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I loved this bookBy calmingeffectsI loved this book. I love that it was not about sexual conquests or about judging those he taught. He presents life abroad with a love and honey moon feeling that makes you want to be there seeing and experiencing it with him. He pulls you in with his over the top fantasies and has made me laugh out loud with the sometimes lack luster reality. Sure I would like to have read more about some things, for him to delve deeper. But this was perfect as is in my opinion. He comes out of his shell, pushes

his own boundaries, and falls in love with a city. And makes me not only want to do that too, but feel like it is indeed possible. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An effective portrait of Japan's endearing idiosyncrasiesBy AntaresI don't usually give 5 stars to "light reading", but I found "Tune in Tokyo" to be well-written, original, funny and interesting, and a more effective portrait of Japan's endearing idiosyncrasies than other books focused on it. It also brought me to consider the value of just taking a leap of faith, of doing something completely new and perhaps uncomfortable, of rebooting your life by uprooting yourself from daily existence as you know it; and it was more successful at it than the many self-improvement books I've read, despite its low-key, unassuming and colloquial writing. Made me want to run and get a job as an English teacher in Japan. Ah, if only I were a native speaker of it! ;) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fun look at life in Japan as an outsiderBy Chaunie LBy the time I was 1/3 of the way through this book I ordered two printed copies to give to people I know who have spent time working in Japan (but only for a month or less at a time). Tim Anderson seamlessly segues from actual events to imagined events and back. Many of us try to imagine what is going to happen in new situations that are coming up in our lives. Tim includes this in his storytelling comparing what he imagined it would be like with how events actually did unfold. Many of the fads in Japan are mysterious and crazy to people in the states. (And probably vice-versa.) I was intrigued to see a review of this book written by a US citizen working in Japan, stating that it was not possible to separate Tim's fantasies from his descriptions of actual events. This suggests to me that people from the US really do find Japanese popular culture to be mind-boggling. I didn't have any problems along these lines, but I read it safely in my own family room. I admire Tim's sense of adventure and his willingness to get out there and experience another culture. I really enjoyed his book, and so did the two people I shared it with.

Everyone wants to escape their boring, stagnant lives full of inertia and regret. But so few people actually have the bravery to run -- run away from everything and selflessly seek out personal fulfillment on the other side of the world where they don't understand anything and won't be expected to. The world is full of cowards. Tim Anderson was pushing thirty and working a string of dead-end jobs when he made the spontaneous decision to pack his bags and move to Japan, where my status as a U.S. passport holder and card-carrying American English speaker was an asset rather than a liability. It was a gutsy move, especially for a tall, white, gay Southerner who didn't speak a lick of Japanese. But his life desperately needed a shot of adrenaline, and what better way to get one than to leave behind everything he had ever known to move to a tiny, overcrowded island heaving with clever, sensibly proportioned people that make him look fat? In Tokyo, Tim became a gaijin, an outsider whose stumbling progression through Japanese culture is minutely chronicled in these sixteen howlingly funny stories. Yet despite the steep learning curve and the seemingly constant humiliation, the gaijin from North Carolina gradually begins to find his way. Whether playing drums on the fly in an otherwise all-Japanese noise band or attempting to keep his English classroom clean when it's invaded by an older female student with a dirty mind, Tim comes to realize that living a meaningful life is about expecting the unexpected right when he least expects it.

From Booklist Aside from such classroom encounters and problems of his own with the Japanese language that vaguely recall David Sedaris' *Me Talk Pretty One Day* (2000), Anderson regales his readers with tales of Japanese popular culture and his own social life. Booklist From Kirkus s "...most impressive is the author's ability to sustain his hyperactive comedic voice throughout most of the book without losing his edge. A laugh-out-loud look at the East/West culture clash. -Kirkus s "Tim Anderson's account of the two years he taught English in Japan stands out among such stories [in the travel genre]...it's so much fun. Anderson refuses to take himself too seriously, and he's unafraid to let his status as a gaijin (outsider) who 'doesn't speak a lick of Japanese' get in the way of seeking out experiences that make great stories...Anderson moved to Tokyo to have a good time. His *Gaijin Diaries* are your invitation to the party." -Shelf Awareness