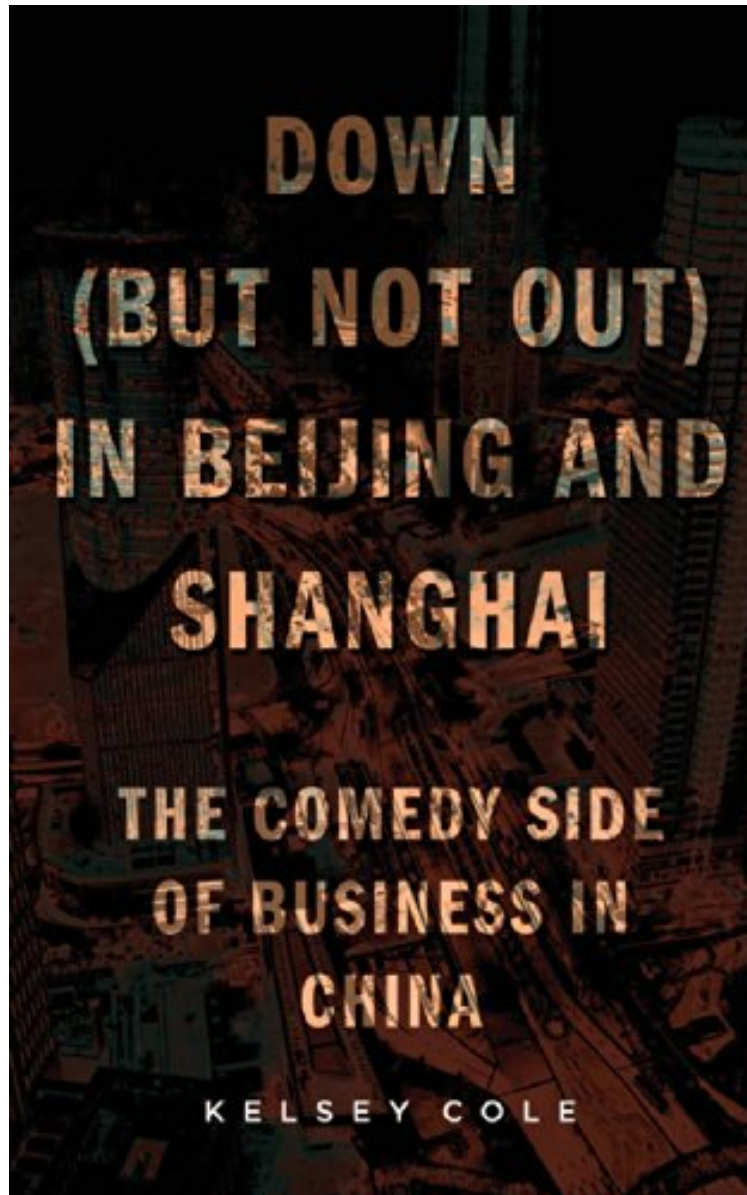


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Down (But Not Out) in Beijing and Shanghai: The Comedy Side of Business in China

Kelsey Cole

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Kelsey Cole : Down (But Not Out) in Beijing and Shanghai: The Comedy Side of Business in China before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Down (But Not Out) in Beijing and Shanghai: The Comedy Side of Business in China:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Forget '50 Shades of Gray' - this is 50 Shades of China By Lisa Claire Thomas Forget '50 Shades of Gray' - this is 50 Shades of China (or at least business in China). A well written book that highlights the serious risks of cross-cultural business relations but with a ready wit that will keep the reader turning the pages. Having experienced some of the 'pain' first hand, I can attest to the accuracy of these experiences! TIC!!! Overall, an immensely enjoyable and interesting read!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Appallingly Hilarious! By Customer Part case-study, part comedy, Kelsey Cole shares anecdotes from his years working at a Chinese location of a multinational automotive parts supplier. To those unfamiliar with doing business in China, his riotous stories frequently fit the expression, "truth stranger than fiction" to a tee! In fact, another subtitle for this book could be: "Everything I need to know about doing business in China, but who in the hell would think that these things were questionable?" One of the central themes throughout the book is the importance of understanding the national, organizational, and personal cultures of the people one is working with. He is constantly reminding his readers that principles which a Westerner takes for granted are frequently turned on their ear. He introduces us to a mantra to help us accept this non-judgmentally: "This is China". Not exactly an explanation, but more of a notice that the culture is not going to adjust- you must adjust, or probably risk losing your sanity. This might sound like some heavy reading, and the corruption/ misbehavior are serious, but Cole's writing style, and the sheer absurdity of the situations, (to this Western mind), allow the narratives to play like a Three Stooges routine! Indeed, there were many times where I experienced what I call the "Pulp Fiction Effect"- laughing out loud at something which I should be very offended by. The boundless energy which must have been necessary to live through these adventures permeates the entire book. Cole packs every sentence with meaning, which can make keeping up with his thoughts a bit of a challenge. As an American, I also had to look up some of the British colloquialisms which pepper the text, but give it an added layer of cultural texture. I'm sure the energy pace of the book are also a reflection of the chaos which was the Genesis of the book itself. Whether you're a seasoned ex-pat, or someone who is just interested in global business cultures, Cole's book offers an entertainingly educational read. I can't wait to read his next effort. I get the sense that he has much more to share with us! -D. Vogel

I have for many years, like many people, harboured the ambition to write a book. For me the glass is always half full and with the experiences I have been through I finally plucked up the courage to put pen to paper. This book was written partly out of the desire to share these experiences and partly to bring a smile to the faces of the readers who may or may not have had similar experiences. It was built around a lessons learnt process of what I describe as a "perfect storm" in terms of what could go wrong when naively getting into something you are just not prepared for. It is far from being aimed at business people as day to day life is relevant to the visitor and the business person alike. Whilst this book is written about experiences in China there is a much deeper message out there of the importance of culture and business naivety and I am sure similar experiences will be relevant for others in any part of the world. China is not a unique place to do business and live, however it does come with cultural differences that many in the West have no ability to comprehend, nor the desire to. I hope you enjoy and finish this book with a smile on your face and for all of you on a long haul flight or journey, hopefully a lot closer to your destination.