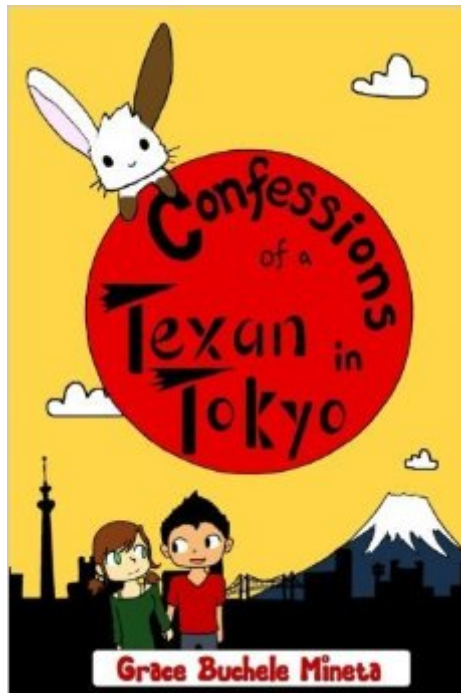


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# Confessions Of A Texan In Tokyo (Texan & Tokyo)



## Synopsis

It's not easy squeezing your life into a suitcase and hopping on a plane halfway across the world. Then again, the most meaningful things in life are never easy. In this hilarious comic book, Grace weaves fact and fiction - to create an authentic window into the life of an American living in Tokyo. Joined by her husband, Ryosuke, and their imaginary pet rabbit, Marvin, watch as this young couple tries to carve out a little slice of "home" deep in the concrete jungle of Tokyo, without going crazy.

## Book Information

Series: Texan & Tokyo

Paperback: 188 pages

Publisher: Texan & Tokyo (June 21, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0990773612

ISBN-13: 978-0990773610

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (309 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #22,330 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Romance](#)

## Customer Reviews

As a follower of the blog and Youtube channel of the author, I was very excited to hear about her new book coming out, and it did not disappoint! I love learning about the Japanese culture, and getting the insider view from a fellow American is always a treat! Her comics are adorable and put together well, and I feel the book flows very naturally. I love the extra bits, that explain parts of Japanese culture, and differences between it and American culture. What I love most about Grace's writing is that it's very human. It feels natural, and almost as if I know her like I would a friend, not a person I've never met on the other side of the world. She does a good job of bringing the reader into her life, and making them feel like she's sharing herself. On another note, I cannot help but laugh out when I read some of her comics, because I know I would react in a very similar way if put into some of those situations. I can only hope there is more to come in the future, and I cannot wait to see what she comes out with next!

Confessions of a Texan in Tokyo is the 3rd and most recent comic collection in the series, released

only yesterday. Like the previous 2 books, it continues Grace and Ryosuke's adventures in Japan as an interracial couple, dealing with the amusements of life as they happen. More and more, as I read through these comics, I'm struck by the thought that so many of the little things that Ryosuke points out are weird and how they're done in Japan. They're often the way I've been doing things for years, just out of personal taste and comfort. So I get extra amusement seeing him explain certain things to Grace. Personal chuckles aside, once again I saw a good development of the art style here, with more generally-approachable humour rather than a solid reliance on cultural weirdnesses to carry the comic. There's still plenty of that in here, to be sure, and for those who love culture clash stuff, this comic series is a gold mine. But there's more that can be appreciated even by those who don't have that as a particular interest, which is nice to see. Aside from that I love how the artist talks about being a big book-lover, and how there's a term in Japanese for someone who buys so many books they can't read them all. I think just about everyone reading my blog can identify that way, at least a little! Having read all 3 Texan & Tokyo comic books now, I can say that they're definitely worth the read, a fun diversion for the afternoon if you want a bit of odd humour, cute drawings, cultural ponderings, and the fun of being married to a goofball. Which is right up my alley, and I love that I got the chance to read them!

I found out about and began to read Grace's blog Texan in Tokyo just a few weeks ago. I was struck by her ability to use humor while still being very insightful about life in Japan for a foreigner. I lived there myself many years ago, I am married to a Japanese woman, and I have made a number of trips back since we got married to visit my wife's family and friends. It impressed me that her observations of the culture, its people, etc resonated with my own. For example, it really IS very difficult to get fluent enough to follow and participate in conversations in Japanese with more than one person. Or the use of English on t-shirts, or in other circumstances, is sometimes silly, if not even nonsensical. My wife and I call that "Japanese English," by the way. Or people sometimes ask questions or make observations about oneself and/or one's partner that reveal a distressing lack of sensitivity at best if not an underlying racism at worst. This book is a wonderful collection of her observations. While Grace clearly loves Ryosuke and their life in Japan, she does not hesitate to point out the challenges they face living there. Amongst the insightful and often humorous anecdotes that she draws and writes about she shares some very informative insights into Japanese society. For example, her writing on the 'hikkomori' (housebound people) was particularly interesting. I liked this book so much that I intend to read her two other ones. I will also continue to

read Texan in Tokyo. If you have an interest in things Japanese, read this book. And then read her blog. You may find as I do that her blog is a great way to start your day. That is what I do here in California where I live.

Another very entertaining and informative book from The Texan in Tokyo, Grace Buchele Mineta. I love Grace's style of short comic strips depicting her day today life while being married to Ryosuke a Japanese guy and living in Japan. I like how the strips are intercut with more detailed information and almost journal entries of events depicted in the strips. Her take on the little details of being a foreigner and living in Japan are unique and are usually things I have wanted to know but wouldn't know who to ask. She lets the reader into her life showing all of the joy and confusion of trying to understand and be a part of the Japanese way of life while retaining her "Texan Heart". I also love the fact her husband Ryosuke has drawn two strips and does the forward on all her books, it's something I find entertaining. I would recommend this and her previous two books to anyone who has a love for Japan and is wanting to know things a travel guide will never tell.

It's good comic book to explain difference in Japanese culture to outsiders. Gringos (Spanish). Gaijins (Japanese).  $\hat{A}$  (Korean). About culture clash in every day life. I myself married to Caucasian and it's hard to explain why I eat smelly squid or pickled fermented cured clams and fish eggs.

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