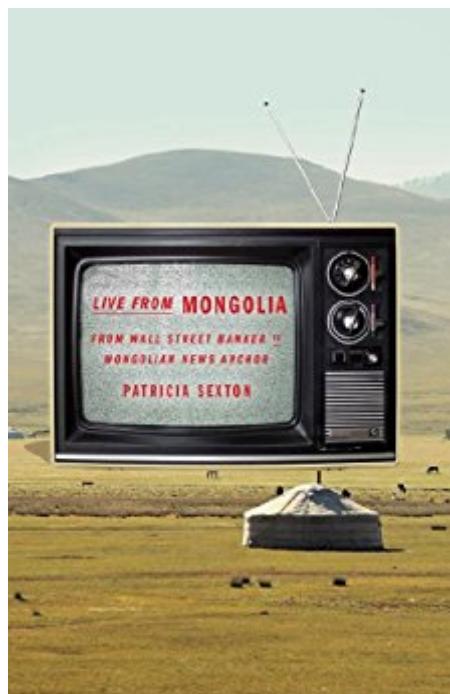


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Live From Mongolia: From Wall Street Banker To Mongolian News Anchor



Synopsis

In 2006, author Patricia Sexton set out on a journey most of us have only fantasized about. She quit her job to pursue her dream. Thirty years old and a rising star at a Wall Street investment bank, Patricia wanted nothing more than to work as a foreign correspondent. So, that's just what she did, moving to Mongolia after landing an internship at the country's national TV station. *Live from Mongolia* follows Patricia's unlikely journey from Wall Street to Ulan Bator. Not only does Patricia manage to get promoted to anchor of the Mongolian news, she also meets some unusual people following unusual dreams of their own. There's the Mongolian hip-hop star who worked in London restaurants to make his dream come true or the French corporate exec now tracking endangered horses in the steppe. All this while Patricia is living with Mongolian Mormons, camping with nomads in the Gobi desert, and even crashing Genghis Khan's 800th anniversary party. But of course Patricia has her fair share of stumbles, including a brief return to Wall Street--even after meeting with the president of CNN. *Live from Mongolia* is the story of this ongoing journey--from a corporate career to a dream job Patricia hadn't even imagined she would land.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have always had a weird fascination with Mongolia. So when I saw this book about the author's move from banking to Mongolia, I was intrigued (plus there was a Kindle daily deal). The story was interesting in that most Wall Street bankers do not quit their jobs to live with a Mongolian family drinking fermented milk and eating greasy lamb. The author also used Mongolian history as filler for what could have otherwise been a much shorter story. Despite my fascination with Mongolian culture, I am less interested in its history so I skimmed those portions generally. The book generally flowed well but one thing that drove me crazy was how the author would tell you earlier in the story something that would happen later. (For example, "later she would be pumping my stomach" and then, chapters later, writing a bit the event. Etc.). This happened multiple times. I found it irritating. I couldn't tell if this was a way of the author encouraging the reader to keep reading, but it nearly had the opposite effect on me. I don't want to know in chapter 3 about something that will happen in chapter 7. There's other thing is that she didn't tie up one loose end and it originally was a big narrative point. SPOILER: Early in the story, sexton tells of a fortune teller who tells her she will meet a younger man whose name begins with an E, he will sweep her off her feet etc. They do meet and later decide they aren't meant to be. She uses the same narrative device as previously saying "later I would run into him and he was engaged" but unfortunately for this one event doesn't then actually tell how or when that happened. I was dying to know more about that. But, alas, it was never described further. Overall, the story was interesting.

Wall Street starlet, Patricia Sexton quit her job to pursue her dream as a foreign correspondent. An internship at Mongolia's national TV station followed as well as the TV anchor gig on her way through cultural and social vertigo. Written in first person narrative, I'm glad I went along for Patricia's ride going 'Live From Mongolia: From Wall Street Banker to Mongolian News Anchor.' It is a fun story written with definite intelligence based on the author's experience. I found the opening scenes from the investment banking scene to be predictable but still entertaining and eye-opening. The rather bizarre tour de force to Mongolia which follows was described with maturity and a strength of character. The author describes her perceptions and culture shock against a background of Mongolian History, which is strange and offbeat to say the least. For the millions of desk jockeys labouring across the world, this type of 'stepping off' point journey can be a fantasy, which some even follow. The comments from Patricia's colleagues when she leaves the world of investment banking are classic. So many want to act on their fantasy but the world is full of people who do very well indeed just placating themselves with the status quo while pretending that they are

a free agent who can step off into 'the void' at a moment's notice. This author did step out into the void and has lived to tell about it. I would put this story more in the travel guide genre due to the author's close descriptions but she definitely has a story to tell as well. Four Stars.

While the book is a biographical account of a woman's interesting change of occupation, it's also a quick peek at the big banking industry and a more thought-provoking look at Mongolia's history. I kept wanting her to use better word-smithing. She overworks a number of descriptions such as "tucking in" to food, pleasantries, surroundings etc. The book is predicated on the idea that one should follow his/her dreams. With that concept, I have no problem. However, the average person might not be able to handle such a journey without both her professional contacts and her financial resources. For that reason, I found it an interesting story but not particularly inspiring in the category of dream fulfillment.

"Live from Mongolia" by Patricia Sexton is a fun book with a powerful message to embrace your passions and follow your dreams. Ms. Sexton walks away from a lucrative, although high-pressured career as a Wall Street banker to become an unpaid intern at a Mongolian television station. As an ex-investment banker I can appreciate and admire this gutty decision. The author uses her natural reporter's eye to paint a vivid picture of her adventures in Mongolia. She deftly mixes in history with her personal narrative to educate and entertain the reader. After returning to NYC, Ms. Sexton briefly returns to Wall Street, but swiftly realizes that she can no longer sell out for money. The price is too high and there is too much to lose to walk away from her new passion in life. This book would make a great Christmas present for high school and college students struggling with what to do with their lives. The lesson is simple. Throw caution to the wind, follow your heart's desire and give it everything you got.

This book is perfect for a collegian, a married housewife, an executive, a retiree and even my 91 year-old grandmother (who raved about it!) More than a travel guide, this story takes dreams and puts them to prose. Patricia does what most of us want to do. Scream, "Take this job and shove it!"... and then head for the hills of adventure. But none of us really have the courage or direction to do so. Readers can live vicariously though the commonality of her middle-class upbringing, her lavish banking days and her life as a nomad in search of her dream broadcasting opportunity. The narrative is authentic, whimsical (at times) and vividly colorful... but always easy to read. In the end, the reader grows and develops with Patricia. And, somehow, even though I never left my couch

(much less traveled to Mongolia) - part of ME is a better person for having read this one. A keeper.

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