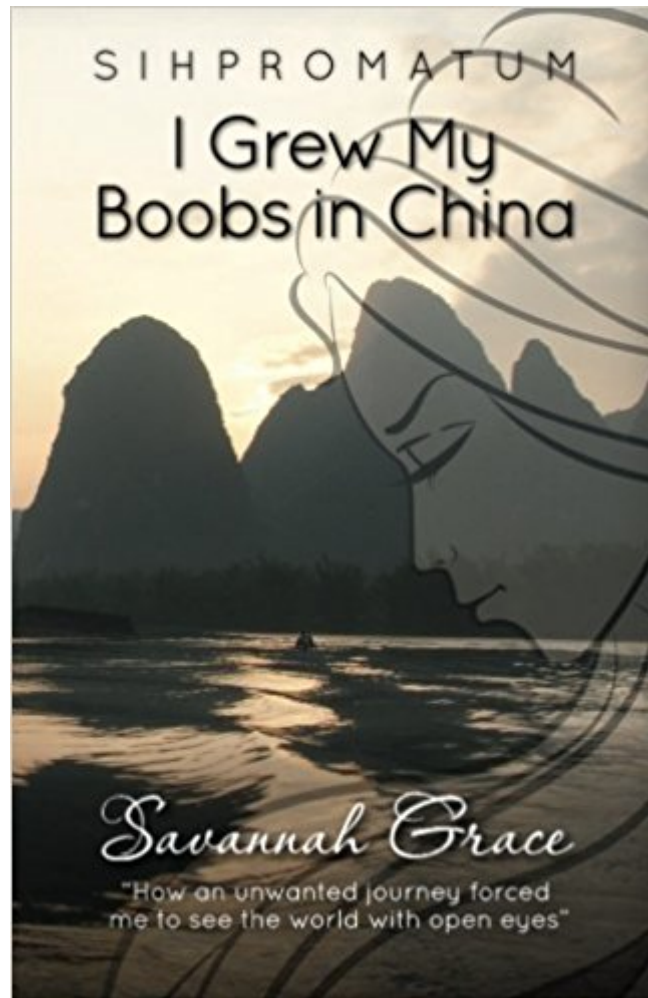




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Sihpromatum: I Grew My Boobs In China (Volume 1)



Synopsis

"SIHPROMATUM" (Sip-row-may-tum) is a memoir series of one family's four-year backpacking adventure around the world. The first installment, "I Grew my Boobs in China", is the beginning of an intensely fascinating, sobering, and emotional memoir of Savannah's introspective and innovative family adventure. In 2005, 14-year-old Savannah Grace's world is shattered when her mother unexpectedly announces that she and her family (mother, 45; brother, 25; sister, 17) would soon embark on an incredible, open-ended journey. When everything from her pets to the house she lived in is either sold, given away or put in storage, this naïve teenage girl runs headlong into the reality and hardships of a life on the road. These pages do not describe a vacation to semi-exotic locales protected from the local culture by a veneer of private transportation, scheduled meals, and ritzy hotels. The family lives and travels as the local people do, a distinction that generates fascinating and unusual experiences rich in multicultural insights, as told from the perspective of a budding young author with a traveler's eye for detail. Built around a startling backdrop of over eighty countries ("I Grew my Boobs in China" relates the family's adventures in China and Mongolia), this is a tale of feminine maturation - of Savannah's metamorphosis from ingénue to woman-of-the-world. Nibbling roasted duck tongues in China and being stranded in Mongolia's Gobi Desert are just two experiences that contribute to Savannah's exploration of new cultures and to the process of adapting to the world around her.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Sihpromatum: I Grew My Boobs in China" by Savannah Grace is an enjoyable memoir. Vividly written in colorful detail, Savannah's adventure is unparalleled by anything that could have been written in fiction. Sharing her emotions, along with her observations, the reader has an opportunity to watch Savannah mature and gain a great deal of depth to her character. It is also her journey of discovery from within. There are many lessons to be learned from Savannah's adventure. "Â - Reader Views"Her ability to reconstruct situations and take the reader along for the ride, to feel the tension, to smell the bus ride and to hear the market bustle is a talent that she's brought to life with the first, of what I hope, are many expansions on that little dog-eared book she took everywhere with her.Congratulations on producing your first masterpiece...now hurry up with the next one (and be kind about Colonel Mustard and his driver)"- Ben Southall winner of Best Job in the World"The packaging is polished and professional. The cover design really drew my attention.Â I have to say that the subtitle of this bookÂ is one of my favorite titles I've ever encountered!Â You have a most interesting story to tell. Good job focusing on actionÂ and dialogue. You supply a great deal of specific details that make the locations and characters come to life. Good attention paid to grammar and proofreading throughout the book." -Â Judge, Writer's Digest 21stÂ Annual Self-Published Book AwardsÂ

Savannah Grace was born and raised in Vancouver, Canada. At 14 she was pulled from school to travel the world before returning home 4 years later to graduate from high school. Age 24, she has traveled to 100 countries and is the author of the award winning series "Sihpromatum" which includes "I Grew My Boobs in China" and "Backpacks and Bra Straps". Co-founder of popular weekly Twitter travel chat #TRLT. Savannah is currently living with her Dutch partner in The Netherlands, where she continues to write and travel.

From the title, the reader could assume this is a different kind of travel book, which it is, but not in the sense the title might suggest. It is the story of a family's travels (mother and three siblings) far removed from the tourist path. The chronicle is laced with humor and the difficulties of backpacking in Asia. The narrator is Savannah, who at the time of the travels was 14 years old, very reluctant to leave her comfortable, middle-class home. Eventually her unhappiness changes to a reality that this is a positive, life-changing, growing experience.Their backpacking experience is both the story of their travels through China and Mongolia -- with a short added section about Siberia -- and the life of the family itself. They are somewhat odd and dysfunctional but all grit and heart.Because of their limited budget, they had to avoid the tourist trail, frequently traveling much like the locals, enduring

hardship and harsh conditions that brought them into the 'real' life, into the heart, of the countries. Because they interacted daily with mostly average people, the reader learns a lot about culture and customs -- the real deal. This is an intriguing adventure, well told, off-the-beaten-track. Reviewed by the author of *The Children's Story, About Good and Evil*.

The book's title is explained by the author as "a Blessing that initially appears to be a curse", and this memoir takes us on the first part of a journey that its narrator truly believes is her curse. A young Savannah, 14 years old, meets her mother's bombshell idea to spend a year with three of her children living out of backpacks in China, Mongolia and places beyond with a typical teen's overwrought response: it's the end of the world! Except of course, it's not. Ms. Grace's account retains the authentic voice of its teen-aged narrator: dramatic, inexperienced, and nervous about change: the smells, squat toilets, and the unknown world of food and culture ahead of her. What I would have given to grow up with a mom like hers (with apologies to my own, wonderful mother); willing to strike out with three teens, 4 packs and a dream! Savannah takes us step-by-step, from initial trip planning and giving away those belongings she can't carry, through using her first squat toilet, and a search for recognizable food in a Chinese market. She gradually realizes that "everyday normality and the still beauty" that surrounds her in this new place might be worth the trip, and she stops complaining long enough to make connections with locals and travelers they meet along the way. The narrative is gleaned from journals and postcards written from the road, and the effect is an immediacy that travel memoirs sometimes lack. I look forward to Volume 2 of the family's travels.

I admit the title got my attention, but the book stands on its own merits. The author's descriptions on the journey she did not want to take are so interesting and funny in places. You can see her whole attitude changing as the book progresses, and she comes into her own as a young world traveler. Looking forward to the next installment of the family's travels.

This memoir was fascinating on so many levels, I hardly know where to begin. To start with though, the concept of a single mother traveling across Russia, China and Mongolia for a year with two teenage daughters and a sometimes cranky, if brilliant son is amazing to me. The fact that they managed to do this without all-out war, is even more amazing. But aside from those two issues, the book takes the reader on a tour of these countries with great details and anecdotes, wonderful images, sights, sounds, scents; I feel like I've been there! Savannah Grace is a terrific writer who through her journals has been able to share her experiences with the world in a way that will

make countless people want to experience a journey like hers for themselves. What a gift this book is! And even better, there's a sequel, *Backpacks and Bra Straps*. It's sitting patiently in my Kindle queue, On with the journey! Thanks, Savannah for sharing your life with me!

Love this book. This is an autobiographical recounting of a teenager's international travels with her family. Savannah was resistant to the idea of traveling with her sister, brother and mom to Asia on a year long trip. The plan was to travel and live as economically as possible to extend the funds as long as possible. These plans enabled the family to interact directly with the local citizenry by travelling and living as they did, and in the process, opening the eyes and heart of the teenager. The writing style makes the book very easy to read and I was anxious to find out what happens to the family with each page. This book is very recommended, in addition to the follow-on book..

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