

***China Beyond Belief!***  
**A country with tradition, or maybe a country  
without culture?**  
**Kinga Litynska**

**Author: Weronika Tomala**

**December 15, 2016**

**Source: <http://ktoczytaksiazki-zyjepodwojnie.blogspot.com/2016/12/chiny-nie-do-wiary-kinga-litynska-kraj.html>**



*“He who has not climbed the Great Wall is not a true man” – Mao Zedong*

*“He who has survived traveling by K train during Chinese Spring Festival is a true hero.”*

*– Kinga Litynska*

China – a country with tradition, or maybe a country without culture? Modernized or still backward? A place where rubbish piles up next to modern venues, and smelly streets reek of some magic. Tempting or repulsive? Friendly or hostile? What is China really like?

**Kinga Litynska** not only opens the door to, but also guides you over the threshold of this exotic, somewhat scary land. In China, she manages to observe many surprising things, phenomena, customs and habits.

Fancy reading about them? Would you like to wander through the bustle of Chinese cities, bazaars, and marketplaces? Tempted to try the traditional, spicy *huo-guo* (hot-pot) and spend the night in the Pamir Mountains at the foot of Muztagh Ata glacier near the Kyrgyz border? Come with Kinga Litynska who will take you to tiny Chinese backstreets, courtyards and Buddhist temples on the pages of her travel book **China Beyond Belief!**

A teacher by profession and a traveller by passion, Kinga Litynska has, among others, been to South Korea, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia and Vietnam. **She spent four years in China, experiencing the everyday life of the inhabitants of the Central State. Filled with interesting facts, brilliant observations and dialogues with the natives, the book unmasks Chinese mentality and habits, showing the reader a very different life from that shown in the media.**

### **BRIEF OVERVIEW**

Spitting men, women and children. Students entertained at school by teachers-cum-comedians. The Chinese – parading in their pajamas and enjoying dog meat. Friendly, helpful mess-lovers who at the smell of perfume and coffee pinch their noses. Why do the Chinese use chopsticks? How do they perceive a foreigner – as a VIP, or perhaps, an unwanted guest? How do they dress, spend their free time? What do they believe in?

Through the largest cities, villages destroyed by modernity, Putuo Shan – the kingdom of monks, the Chinese Gobi, and cramped, colorful Hong Kong, Kinga Litynska takes us on a journey. Feel like tasting marinated chicken feet, drinking *baijiu* – *Chinese vodka*, or tea prepared according to the old recipe, surrounded by friendly, nosy-cum-shy, giggling locals?

With Kinga Litynska's book, it will not be so difficult. **The author introduces you to the world of China which you might not yet have heard of because where hackneyed facts end, adventure begins...**

### **ANALYSIS**

**China Beyond Belief! is one of the best travel publications I have read.** Why? The author hitch-hiked to China and travelled around the country taking her time to savour both the good and the bad. In China, she settled down for longer, teaching at the local school, sharing her daily life with the native inhabitants, experiencing and analysing. **In her story, you will find carefully selected memories – the essence of Chinese mentality and culture – which will amuse, sadden, or shock you.** Kinga Litynska did not “pump” the book full of generally available information, just to fill the next page. Instead, she focused on the most unusual, and yet typical aspects of Chinese customs and habits that she portrays in the most straightforward, unfiltered way.

The cited conversations, situations, descriptions of inspiring encounters and places evoke conflicting emotions. From public restrooms to karaoke clubs – the **broad spectrum of topics carefully delineated by subsequent chapters keeps the book alive. The report** takes the reader to the world of distant China, following in the author's footsteps, who ventures where other travellers do not. The story reflects Kinga's involvement, passion and courage that allowed her to wander off the beaten track, peeking not only into China's living room, but first of all – the kitchen. **You will read Kinga's account with a smile on your face, developing a liking towards this extraordinary Polish woman.**

**The book has been enriched with photos** showing the natural landscapes of towns and villages, as well as oriental dishes and ordinary life of the people. Thanks to them, in between the chapters, you can feast your eyes on the richness of the local colour.

### SUMMARY

**I recommend this publication to both – those who want to set foot on Chinese soil, but also those who do not have a chance to get there. The kaleidoscope of impressions, unknown facts, customs, habits and a wide range of topics make the portrayal of China – a country whose economic dominance is present worldwide – complete. What else can I tell you? Well, with China Beyond Belief! you will certainly not be bored.**



my grade: 7 + / 10  
publisher: Bernardinum  
number of pages: 302  
year of publication: 2016