Biographical Information of Women Mentioned in This Book

Below is an alphabetical list of pseudonyms of people quoted or mentioned in this book categorized by the city in which I met them. I did not collect all the biographical information about each person, such as number of siblings or whether they subsequently married. In the interest of consistency, I list their age and the information I had upon our first meeting. I have not included people I interviewed who are not mentioned by name in the book.

Shanghai

Amanda, 27, was a bank executive. She had studied for ten years in Canada and lived in an apartment that adjoined her parents’ apartment in Shanghai.

Beatrice, 28, came to Shanghai from a village in southern China. She studied at a top foreign language university in the city and worked as an interpreter. She lived by herself in a rented apartment.

Cindy, 33, was an executive at a national sporting goods chain in Shanghai. She came to Shanghai after graduating university, obtained an M.B.A. from a university in Singapore, and was living with her sister in a rented apartment in the city.

Feng, 27, worked as a commercial chemist. A singleton, she lived in central Shanghai with her parents.

Huiling, 28, worked in a Japanese factory in the Shanghai suburbs. A singleton, she lived with her parents and grandmother.

Jacky, 35, came to Shanghai from a southern province to become a professional singer. She lived with her boyfriend, a divorced European banker.

Jean, 23, came to Shanghai from Anhui Province to attend university and was working as a financial journalist. She was a singleton and lived alone in a rented apartment in the city.

Jing, 38, was self-employed. She had obtained an M.A. from a university in the United Kingdom. A native of Nanjing, she lived alone in the city. Her parents also lived in Shanghai, where they had come in order to care for her sister’s children. She was a Christian.
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Karen, 35, worked as an accountant in a French firm. As a child, she arrived in Shanghai with her family from Anhui Province. She lived alone in a condominium that she owned. Her older sister was married and had a child. Kathy, 28, arrived in Shanghai from Nanjing. She worked as a technical support officer in a major bank and lived in an apartment shared with other recent migrants to the city. Lee, 29, was a postdoctoral researcher at a top university in Shanghai. A singleton, she lived with her parents in the city. Luna, 35, worked for a human resources company. She was a singleton, and her parents lived in the city. She lived alone in a rented apartment. Margaret, 27, worked as an office clerk and lived with her parents in Shanghai. She was engaged to be married. Marie, 34, was a manager in a multinational firm. She had come to Shanghai from a nearby province and had obtained an M.B.A. at an overseas university. Marion, 35, worked as an executive in a foreign firm. She lived in a condominium apartment she had purchased in the city. Her parents lived nearby and spent their time caring for her brother’s child. Mingxia, 29, worked as a legal assistant at a U.S. law firm. She held a master’s degree from a prestigious university in Shanghai. Her parents lived in the nearby city of Suzhou. She was engaged to be married. Nicole, 38, worked in human resources at a medium-sized company in Shanghai and had a side career as a corporate trainer. She was a singleton and lived with her parents. Nora, 23, worked for the government. A singleton, she lived with her parents. Penny, 29, came to Shanghai from Nanjing. She worked at a small, foreign-owned design firm and lived by herself in a rented apartment in the city. Samantha, 25, was an assistant editor at a textbook publisher. She was a singleton and lived with her mother in Shanghai, as her parents had divorced. Sarah, 34, owned and managed a successful art gallery. Originally from the city of Tianjin, she lived in a condominium apartment she had purchased. Her sister was married and lived in Tianjin. Her parents visited Shanghai frequently and stayed with her in the apartment.

Hong Kong

Angel, 28, was preparing to leave for Europe to study for an M.B.A. She lived with her parents and siblings.
Becky, 29, worked as an administrator at an art gallery. She lived with her brother and her parents. She had recently returned from studying for an M.A. in the United Kingdom.

Bernice, 24, was a student at a local university. She lived with her parents and siblings.

Bianca, 34, worked as a university lecturer and had obtained a Ph.D. through a correspondence course. She lived in a condominium apartment she had purchased.

Eliza, 31, worked as a secretary at a public school. She lived with her mother after her parents divorced. She spent one year living in Canada as a high school exchange student. She was a Christian.

Fran, 32, worked in an advertising firm. She lived with her parents but was engaged to be married and planned to move out soon to live with her future husband.

Iris, 42, worked as a public relations executive for a large company. She had spent five years in Australia, to which her family immigrated when she was a teenager. She returned to Hong Kong after graduating from university to establish her career. She rented an apartment in the city.

Lisa, 38, was a human resources manager for a Japanese firm. She lived alone in a rented apartment. She had lived and worked in Japan for a few years.

Maggie, 25, was a Ph.D. student in Hong Kong who planned to return to Shanghai to get married. She was a singleton who grew up in Shanghai.

Mei Kwan, 56, worked as a supporting staff member at a Christian charity organization. She lived with her mother, elder brother, his wife, and their children.

Melissa, 44, worked as a manager for a charitable foundation. She lived with her sister in a rented apartment after her parents passed away.

Ming, 56, worked as an office cleaner. She lived with her mother, brother, and his family.

Peggy, 36, was a chef at an Italian restaurant. She lived with her mother in a rented apartment. She had lived in Italy for five years and after returning to Hong Kong had become a Christian.

Ronnie, 39, was an assistant professor at a local university. She obtained her Ph.D. in Canada. Her parents spent half the year living with her in her rented apartment in Hong Kong and the other half living with her brother in the United States.
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Ruth, 52, worked as a clerk in a government office. After her parents passed away, she lived by herself in an apartment she purchased through a government home ownership scheme.

Sally, 31, worked as a financial consultant and was attending accounting classes in the evenings. She lived with her parents and siblings.

Siu Lan, 54, worked as an office clerk at a university. She was living alone in a rented apartment since her parents passed away.

Sue, 54, worked as a clerk in a government office. She lived alone in a rented apartment after her parents passed away.

Toni, 24, worked as a textbook editor. She lived with her parents and siblings.

Trudy, 31, worked for the government. She lived in a condominium apartment she had purchased with her sister.

Wing Yee, 48, worked as accounting clerk for a nonprofit organization. She lived in an apartment that she had purchased with her mother.

Tokyo

Ayumi, 26, worked for a large employment agency. She came to Tokyo from a regional city in Nagano Prefecture and lived with a friend in a rented apartment.

Chisato, 33, was a clerical worker dispatched to various companies through a staffing agency. She lived in a rented apartment not far from her parents’ home in Kamakura, about ninety minutes away from the city.

Etsuko, 37, worked as a computer technician. Originally from Osaka, she lived alone in a rented apartment since being posted to Tokyo by her company, a pharmaceutical firm.

Gen, 56, worked as a human resources trainer. She had spent part of her youth in the United States. She lived alone in a rented apartment.

Kazuko, 32, worked as a travel agent and lived with her parents in the city.

Kotoe, 35, worked as a hostess in a nightclub. She lived alone in a rented apartment.

Madoka, 29, worked as an executive at an advertising agency. She lived with her parents in the suburbs, not far from the city center.

Maki, 54, worked for a travel agency that provided services for a large Japanese firm. She lived in a condominium apartment she had purchased. She came to Tokyo from Kyushu after graduating high school.

Miyuki, 34, worked as a personnel trainer for a medium-sized company. She lived with her parents in Tokyo.
Nami, 30, worked as a manager in an international hotel chain. She lived with her parents in Tokyo.

Noriko, 32, worked as a free-lance editor. She worked at her home, a rented apartment, and lived alone. Her parents lived a few hours away from the city.

Rika, 42, worked as an accountant for an architectural firm. She lived with her parents in Tokyo.

Sachiko, 32, worked as a manager for a large bank and lived in the company dormitory for female workers but she would need to move out soon due to company policy that gave priority to junior employees. Her parents lived in a suburb two hours away from the city.

Saki, 34, worked as an administrator in a branch office of a foreign firm. She had studied English in the United States for a year. She lived by herself in a condominium apartment she had purchased in the city. Her parents and brother lived in Yokohama.

Sana, 31, helped her mother run the family business. Upon the death of her father, she quit her job working for a firm in Tokyo and moved back to the suburbs to live with her mother.

Shiori, 46, was unemployed and living on unemployment insurance while looking for work. She lived in an apartment by herself. She had come to Tokyo to attend university, and her parents lived in northern Japan.

Teruko, 43, worked as an employee for a personnel dispatch firm. An only child, she lived with her parents in Tokyo. She had lived in Hong Kong for a year while studying Cantonese.

Tomoko, 34, worked as a manager in a major Japanese bank. She lived with her parents in a suburb located two hours away from the city center by train. She had previously been posted to a regional branch office and had recently been reassigned to the Tokyo headquarters.

Yasue, 36, worked for a cosmetics firm in the Ginza District. She lived with her parents in a small apartment not far from the city center.

Yui, 28, worked as a receptionist for a medium-sized firm in Tokyo. She lived with her parents in the city. She had spent two years in the United States studying English.