Throughout this book, I generally romanize Japanese names and words using a modified Hepburn system and Mandarin Chinese names and words using the pinyin system. To protect the confidentiality of my informants, all of their names as provided in the text, as well as those of the marriage agencies, are pseudonyms. Except for the names of large cities, such as Tokyo, Dalian, and Harbin, the names of all other communities where my informants lived, including the names Xinghai and Dongyang, are pseudonyms.

All translations are mine unless otherwise so identified. When provided, original Japanese words or phrases are denoted with “Jp” and original Chinese words or phrases are denoted with “Chin.”

Japanese yen and Chinese yuan renminbi (RMB) amounts and their approximate converted rates in US dollars are provided as they stood at their respective times in the course of my fieldwork. As a result, there may appear to be inconsistencies in conversion throughout the text as the rates changed over the period of my fieldwork. The changes in the exchange rate also form part of the backdrop to the ethnographic stories provided here.