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DIFFERENT ADVENTURES ON PLANET EARTH...



BY LINDY SCHNEIDER

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Dancing Fish

The restaurant chosen by our hosts, three rounded Japanese business distributors, has a classic Tatami room, fabulously expensive and noted for its strict adherence to traditional custom and ritual. Apparently the food was supposed to be pretty good too.

As the only woman in the party, I am afforded a discrete amount of respect, notwithstanding it is highly unusual for a woman, of my age and from Australia, to be included in a business mans lunch.

‘You like Sushi?’ says my Japanese colleague, Yas.

‘Yes, of course.’ I say, because I do.

A woman shuffles into the room, weighted down by her heavy kimono, and places a large platter directly in front of me. Four smiling faces motion to me to begin.

I pick up my chopsticks and lean forward, doing my best impersonation of someone who has used these utensils many times. This is the biggest, freshest tuna fish I have ever seen in my life. Fillets have been sliced from its side, rearranged into rosettes and ribbons and placed decoratively back onto the fish.

Chopsticks poised, all eyes upon me, I am about to select a juicy morsel when all of a sudden ...the fish starts jumping on the plate.

I recoil so suddenly I topple backwards over the cushion I have been sitting on and crash into the bamboo and rice paper tatami wall behind me.

‘It alive, Miss Lindy,’ says Yas in his best high school English. ‘We call...dancing fish.’

‘Delicious,’ I say, recovering my composure, ‘pass the wasabi.’

In Tokyo, Japan

About Author

Lindy Schneider

Lindy Schneider is a freelance writer and editor with the courage to make a story real. She writes articles, blogs and books and everything in between. You can read more about Lindy on her website.

Why is the website called bytestories.com?

This is a place for "byte-sized" stories and there is a 1500 character (about 250 words) limit for two main reasons. Firstly, we want you to know that "War and Peace" isn't required to leave your mark. Secondly, it takes about 2 minutes to read each story meaning you can head here whenever you want a quick (and entertaining) read.

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