

Reviewed by Jamie Michele for Readers' Favorite

STEAMed Off to China by E. B. Davidson follows Eleanor Brown, an engineer sent by Elias, CEO of ZeeComm, to Beijing to address urgent technical failures in the Cphone cellular network.

Working with Wu Xiaoping and Li Xinyi from the local office, she investigates dropped calls and service disruptions at critical sites across the city, starting with a major intersection on the Third Ring Road.

Their work takes them to Cphone headquarters, the flagship store, the clock tower site, and other locations, where they conduct field testing, climb rooftops, and run diagnostic equipment to pinpoint sources of interference and equipment malfunctions.

As Eleanor pushes further into the investigation, she uncovers patterns that connect the technical problems to decisions inside Cphone and its supplier, Radiola, while managing the company politics surrounding the failures.

STEAMed Off to China by E. B. Davidson is a fresh and inventive novel that blends technical detail with international teamwork in a way that makes engineering feel like an adventure.

Eleanor's partnership with Wu Xiaoping and Li Xinyi draws readers into Beijing's busy networks, rooftop cell sites, and corporate boardrooms, where persistence and ingenuity drive every breakthrough.

The troubleshooting scenes, from the cracked connector at the Third Ring Road site to the repeater problem inside the Xidan Shopping Mall, are described with such accuracy that they feel both educational and energizing.

Davidson's strength lies in making radio signals, spectrum analyzers, and power amplifiers as fascinating as any mystery clue, while the camaraderie among colleagues adds a welcoming touch to the story.

By the end, readers gain not only a strong appreciation for problem-solving but also for the friendships built through shared technical triumphs. Very highly recommended.