



Reviewed by Alissa Deann for *Readers' Favorite*

*STEAMed Off to China: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math Adventure in a Foreign Land* by E. B. Davidson is a well-written novel about Eleanor "Ellie" Brown, a senior engineer with a great skill for solving complex technical problems.

A Chinese mobile company, Cphone, is experiencing a serious network problem that is causing dropped calls, especially in the busiest parts of the city. Ellie is sent to Beijing to find and fix the issues, but she discovers more than just technical issues. There is a conflict between the company, Cphone, and its equipment provider, Radiola.

Through her hands-on approach to detecting the issues with the network carriers, Ellie uncovers a flaw that seems intentional and criminal in nature. Her expertise leads her to being tasked with more critical issues at a sensitive government building and another at the Cphone headquarters.

One of the things I loved most about this book was how Davidson took time in developing the characters. I enjoyed seeing how Ellie worked with Xinyi and Xiaoping and how they grew from local employees to confident problem solvers.

VP Chou is another character I find really interesting; he is more interested in saving face and protecting his pride than actually fixing problems. His corrupt and arrogant nature caused problems that are just as big as the technical failures, which makes this book more than just about machines.

**The way Davidson described each scene and character and brought to life the spirit of Beijing—describing in detail the foods, streets, hotels, and local customs—gave me a seamless and fun read; it felt like I was right there with Ellie.**

This book is about persistence, teamwork, and respect across cultures; it shows the challenge of working in a foreign land where both technology and people can fail.

I recommend *STEAMed Off to China* by E. B. Davidson to readers who enjoy books that focus on solving real-world problems and touch on topics about politics, engineering, and corruption.