



About the Author



Nick Vasey was born in 1968, raised in various parts of Australia, and completed a Commerce degree in accounting, marketing and law in 1989 at Murdoch University, in Perth, Western Australia. Thereafter, one year of working in a multinational accounting practice was all it took to convince him to quit the typical career-path, and go travelling instead. Wise choice.

Over the next fifteen years Nick had a variety of adventures in over forty countries around the world. It would be safe to say that travelling itself became his primary passion. These experiences have confirmed in Nick a profoundly libertarian streak, and repeatedly proven to him that governments rarely have their citizens' best interests at heart, and by default, should therefore be regarded with extreme scepticism.

Two of these years of global gallivanting (94/95 & 97/98) were very joyously spent living, working and partying in the nightlife industry, or mizu-shobai (water-trade), of Roppongi, Tokyo, Japan. The purpose each time was simple; to save as much money as possible in order to fund further travelling adventures. Suffice to say these two years in Roppongi proved to be more than sufficient in terms of providing both the material and the motivation for writing the novel.

Out of curiosity, in 2004 Nick briefly returned to Australia and plugged back into the 'Matrix' for a while, but found he still had no use for it. Dumbfounded and disappointed by people's mindless pursuit of material wealth, AFL Football and reality-TV, in 2008 he quit the first-world altogether, for a more tranquil life in the Southern-Sierran township of Vilcabamba, Ecuador.

Nick and his wife Laura now live simply, with their many animals, in the mountain-top sanctuary they have named 'Motu-Iti'. Currently, Nick is probably building a hummingbird feeder, and thinking about writing his second novel. If you would like to contact Nick, please [email him](#) directly.



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Welcome to Roppongi – 'High Touch Town.'
Some have heard of it. Some have lived it.
Others ... have ridden it to the very edge.
Its denizens know Roppongi is a journey, not a destination.
Meet Zack. He knows Roppongi better than most.
After all, it nearly killed him last time.
A surreal pleasure centre of glitter, glamour and temptation.
An irresistible vortex of money, drugs, sex, debauchery, hedonism
... and death.
Roppongi knows no limits.
What is this place, and why has Zack returned?
Will his friends follow?
Roppongi: Illusion or Reality? The blue-pill or the red-pill?
For that matter, do you take pills at all?



'Roppongi' ... is without a doubt the
bastard love-child of 'Lost in Translation'
and 'Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas'!
Fresh Underground Culture Magazine
(FUCM): www.fucmonline.com

Written by a seasoned industry insider,
'Roppongi' punches through the impossibly
glamorous surface of Tokyo's 'High Touch Town'
and plunges the reader deep into its seedy under-
belly ... showing us a disturbing side of Japan not
often written about in the English language.
Fredrik Hjelm – 2002 U.S. Champion, Muay
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www
roppongithenovel
com

Roppongi Back Story

For those who don't know, Roppongi itself is a couple of square miles in Tokyo, which, although changing drastically today, has for many years been an area dedicated to hedonistic nightlife pursuits. Clubs, bars, strip-clubs, hostess-clubs, restaurants, fast-food, casinos, street-sellers, all-night dance parties, breakfast clubs, etc. You probably get the idea. The distinguishing feature of Roppongi is that it has for a long time been the default destination for probably around 90% of the foreigners in Tokyo who head out to party.

Something very different happens in Roppongi. Something weird. There is a different vibe to any other place in the world. It feels like *anything* could happen. For whatever reason, people tend to push the boundaries harder, in all directions. There seems to be unlimited amounts of money, alcohol, drugs ... and many beautiful and interesting people hell-bent on using them to excess. Working the nightlife scene in Roppongi becomes sort of like a planet you live on for a while. And because there's not much downtime, you don't see much of what's happening on other planets. You just go where the Roppongi planet takes you. And believe me, it goes to some interesting places!

Sex is everywhere. Whether hinted at, or trumpeted, or simply sneaking up on you unexpectedly, it is an omnipresent force. Night in and night out, Roppongi is a violent sea of over-eager libidos just waiting to engage. Hostesses, strippers, dancers, models. Bar-workers, croupiers, managers, and door-staff. And they're just the folks working Roppongi! Then you have the clients. Ex-pats and Japanese alike, all out for the wildest time they can possibly find. Many different nationalities, many different 'drivers', many different moral, social and cultural codes all collide in a melting-pot of hedonistic madness which stretches itself out to daylight and beyond.

In fact daylight is where the 'night' often starts for those 'industry-folk' working Roppongi's bars and clubs. After-hours clubs, more or less dedicated to serving Roppongi's hard core industry people, blossom at dawn. And after working for twelve hours or more, then venturing into these twilight zones, (zones usually hidden from everyday people), reality starts to bend, and you may quickly find yourself on the other side of the looking-glass, somewhere decidedly odd. There is simply no telling where you might end up, who you might get hooked up with, or how it might turn out. The Roppongi life is a cosmic game of craps, and the dice land where they may.

Anyway, that's probably enough about the setting!



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Roppongi

Nick Vasey

a novel by Nick Vasey

Roppongi - the Novel

Roppongi is an 'adventure-travel-fiction' story, exploring the crazy and often dangerous world which is living and working as a foreigner in the Roppongi nightlife industry of Tokyo, Japan. The novel follows the (mis)adventures of its travel-addicted protagonist Zack, and in that respect is similar thematically to Alex Garland's 'The Beach' or Gregory David Roberts's 'Shantaram'. Accordingly, the reader is viscerally transported into the surreal realms of Roppongi, as Zack attempts to come to terms with a series of life-changing events unfolding at rapid pace. In the process, the novel punches through the impossibly glamorous surface of Roppongi and plunges the reader deep into its seedy underbelly ... showing a disturbing side of Japan not often written about in the English language.

Author's Note

Since the 80's, tens of thousands of people who've experienced the inspired madness of living and working in Roppongi's incomparable nightlife scene have shaken their heads with disbelief and said, "Someone should write a book about this place." Well, someone finally has!

In short, Roppongi had an undeniably profound effect on my life, and it was this which drove me to write the novel. It is a story which needed telling. To my knowledge it is the first English-language novel which deals in any depth with the cultural melting pot of opportunistic foreigners chasing a fast buck in Roppongi's 'mizu-shobai' (water-trade). Cinematically speaking, the specific themes and environmental context of the characters and events which take place in *Roppongi* have not been explored before in any film I'm aware of.

The Roppongi experience holds an incredibly special place in my heart. And I know the thousands of other people who have run Roppongi's gauntlet over the years feel the same way. Roppongi scars people. In good ways and bad. It gets under your skin, and stays there. And as with all the best drugs, life inevitably seems dull after Roppongi. But make no mistake - it makes you grow. You are different at the end of it. I had two of the most incredibly fun and intensely mad years of my life there. I met many extraordinary people from all walks of life. The closest I can come to describing it succinctly is that it was like living in a movie. A very fast-moving, unpredictably surreal blur of a movie. There was no off-switch. During this hyperactively hedonistic time I made lifelong friends under the most outrageous circumstances.

The Roppongi diaspora now spreads all over the world; members enjoy a special bond of understanding, of shared experience. Doing Roppongi justice in print was always going to be a daunting task. For there are uncountable 'Roppongis' - everyone's Roppongi was 'their Roppongi'. So for those who took the trip like I did, I hope my *Roppongi* takes you back there. And for those who didn't, I hope you enjoy the ride!

Film Rights

In the right hands, I think Roppongi will make a marvellous film. I would love to see it happen.

To my knowledge it is the first English-language novel which deals in any depth with Roppongi's subject matter: a cultural melting pot of opportunistic foreigners chasing a fast buck in the often dangerous 'mizu-shobai' (water-trade).

Cinematically speaking, the specific themes and environmental context of the characters and events which take place in Roppongi have not been explored before in any film I am aware of.

Accordingly, I welcome correspondence with anyone who might be able to assist with getting this process underway, or from movers and shakers in the film industry who can make it happen.

Please [click here](#) to email me about acquiring the film rights to Roppongi.

Book Specifics

Release Date
11th February 2012

57 Chapters

134,000 words

Key Themes

International Travel
Love & Loss
Drugs / Drug-dealing
Extreme Nightlife
Drug/Party Culture
Roppongi / Tokyo / Japan
Yakuza / Gangsters
Bartending
Ex-pats in Japan
Life Philosophy
Japanese Culture
Hostess Clubs / Hostesses
Fast Money / Gambling
Strip Clubs / Strippers
Sex-Slavery / Human Traffic

Contact

All enquiries may be directed to Nick Vasey via the Roppongi website:

www.roppongithenovel.com