

**Shouting from China**, by Helene Chung (Penguin, 267pp, \$14.99). From 1983 to 1986, Helene Chung was stationed in Beijing as the ABC's foreign correspondent, the first woman to receive such an appointment.

This book surveys the achievements and frustrations of those years from the viewpoint of a fourth-generation Australian of Chinese descent. The frustrations dominate the early part of the book: antiquated equipment that required her to shout and exacerbated her laryngitis; cockroaches everywhere; extremes of temperature; surveillance and rebukes for journalistic persistence.

The relations between overseas Chinese and mainland China, the rise of consumerism in China and consequent reforms, the repression of religious observance and the concept of "spiritual pollution" are among topics covered later in the book, where Chung proves an able reporter, adept at sidestepping the interpretations pressed upon her by party representatives.