



# 江苏苏州

## 独墅湖

### Suzhou Dushuhu



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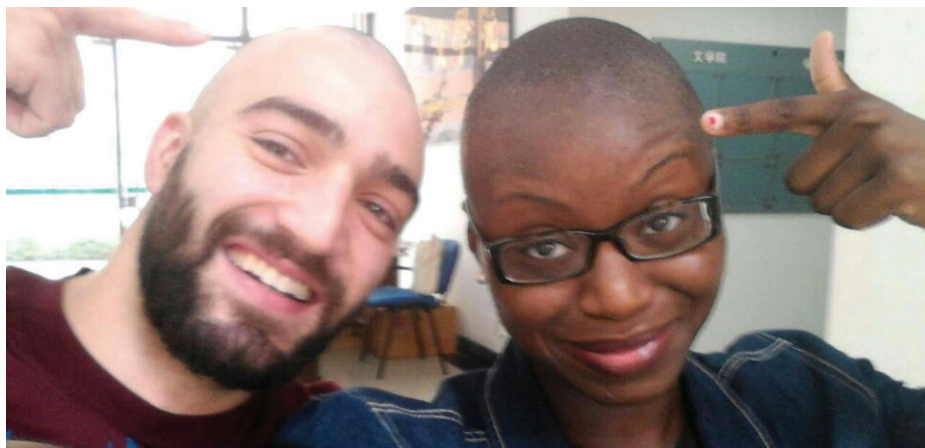
# 我在中国，我是勇敢的光头黑人女孩儿

我刚来苏州的时候常常找一个剪头发的地方。过了几天，我发现找到这样的地方非常难。

我第一次进去一家理发店的时候，理发师不但没给我剪头发，而且大声笑我。哎呀！那家理发店非常糟糕！用一个美国的俗语，“继续奋斗吧”。

我第二次找理发店的时候，碰到了Nick同学。他推荐了一家理发店，所以我决定去那边试一试。那时我有一种又紧张又兴奋的感觉。我在内心想到，“这家店会是怎样的呢？冷静点，尽量说中文，他们肯定会帮我的。”我一进去就很客气地跟理发师说：“您好！我需要剪头发，最短的。跟这张照片一样。我的朋友告诉我在这里剪头发要二十五块钱。您能不能帮我剪头发？”那个理发师回答：“可以”。

不过，因为他从来没见过我这种头发，所以不知道怎么给我剪头发。虽然他不知道怎么办，但是他继续给我剪头发。剪完头发后，我发现跟我给理发师看的照片不一样。完全不一样！接下来，我问他：“这是最短的吗？”他说：“不能再短了”。我那个时候很想说：“真的吗？”，不过我知道应该用比较客气的话。最后我再说话，只把钱递给他，然后就走了。



大家都觉得我的头发非常容易剪，可是这个想法不太对。虽然在美国找到一个合适的理发师不太容易，但是在中国这个事情更难办好。剪完后，我的头发哪里都凹凸不平。哎呀！因为没有办法，所以我回MBA后就自己用从美国带来的剃刀剪我的头发。

过了一个星期，我在我的房间思考怎么解决这个问题。我那个时候知道过了一个星期就要再剪头发，不过去哪里好呢？找谁帮我剪头发呢？

有一天在路上的时候，我碰到了郭力同学。我跟他招呼的时候发现他剪头发了，于是我高兴极了。我高高兴兴地问他：“你在哪里剪头发？”他回答：“我先去一家理发店，可是因为他们也不知道怎么办，所以我最后在房间里给我自己剪头发”。我那个时候彻底绝望了。

大部分人可能觉得住在中国不容易，特别女的黑人，但是我告诉别的人我的经历的时候我觉得住在中国越来越容易。

# Bald, Black and Bold in China

My first day in Suzhou, my expensive hair clippers broke. That's the day the struggle began. One of the first priorities was finding a hair salon, but I soon discovered just how difficult of a feat this is.

The first time I set foot in a hair salon, not only did the hairdressers refuse to cut my hair, but they also laughed me out of the establishment. Oh jeez...what a terrible experience!

During my second expedition to a beauty salon, I ran into a CLS classmate, Nick, who recommended a local barbershop. Later that day, I followed his advice and went there to try it out. As I cautiously entered the barbershop, I thought: "Could this be the one? Alright, Shirley, act cool. Use your best Chinese and they're sure to help you out." As I walked in, I politely said, "Good evening, I am in need of a haircut. Please cut it as short as possible, just like in this picture. My friend said it is 25 RMB a haircut. Is that alright?" The dour Chinese hairdresser quickly replied, "Sure."

However, the man had never encountered such different hair texture before, and thus had no idea how to proceed. He continued to pretend that he knew what he was doing.

Needless to say, my hair and the picture I originally presented looked nothing alike. I carefully planned out <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2095187301004&se>

Everyone sees my short hair and assumes that it is easy to cut. It takes skill and training to learn how to cut different textures of hair. Although in America it is also difficult to find the right barber, it is damn near impossible to do so in China.

After my haircut, I rushed to the apartment and looked at myself in the mirror. I was appalled at the sight before me, as I examined every angle of my head. I couldn't decide whether to laugh or cry. In a moment of great exhaustion and weakness, I grabbed a razor and some baby oil and did the dirty work myself. For the first time in my life, I had a bald-head. I was bold, bald, and black in China.

Now that I had completed my transformation, the question became: how do I maintain my new form? I spent many weeks critically thinking about how to solve this problem, when one day I ran into Jared who coincidentally also had a shaved head. I thought my problems were solved!

I was on a mission. The first chance that I had, I cornered Jared and began my interrogation. I complimented him on his hairstyle and then quickly got to the point. "So...where did you get your hair cut?" He then lowered his head in shame and confessed the dark truth; "I went to a barber shop where they cut it pretty short. Then, I shaved it myself."

Living in China is tough for everybody, especially a black woman, but it's made easier by sharing difficult experiences with friends.

Shirley Naa-kowaa Ama Martey

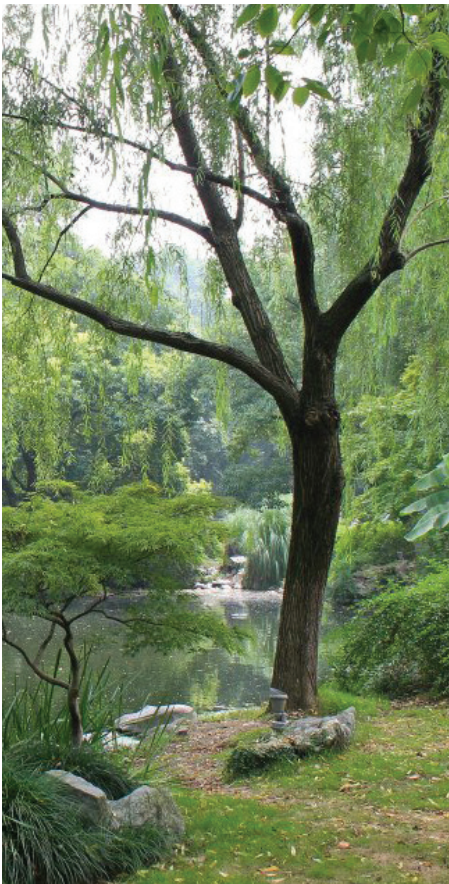
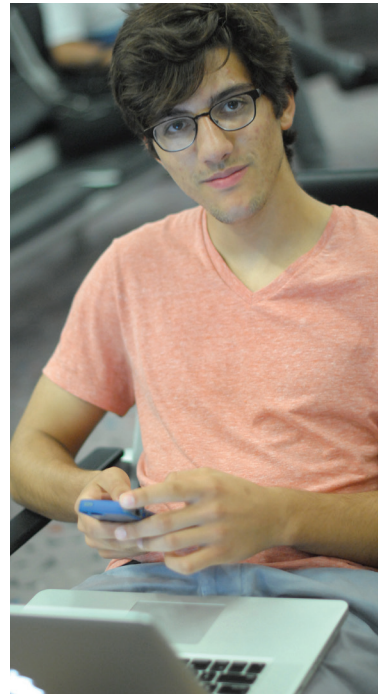
# 时髦人在苏州

# People of Suzhou



# 生活在中国

# Life in China



# 结语

# Final Note

在一个陌生的国度生活两个月，如果离开地时候没有任何的改变，那几乎是不可能。我们的经历是我们对环境和对自己的态度发生了深刻的改变。

但我们开始新的冒险：无论是探索一个新的国家，开始一份新的工作，或者甚至是回家。我和我的同学们挑战我们在课堂上所学到的知识，将它们用于生活中。我们要让世界知道。

我们在路上

WEAREONTHEWAY

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It's nearly impossible to live in a foreign place for 2 months and leave unchanged. Our experiences here ingrain into us new ways to react to our environment and ourselves.

As we undertake new adventures (whether exploring another country, beginning a new job, or even returning home) I challenge myself and my classmates to harness the lessons we have learned from the intricacies of China and let the world know:

WEAREONTHEWAY

菲笔

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