

SINGAPORE

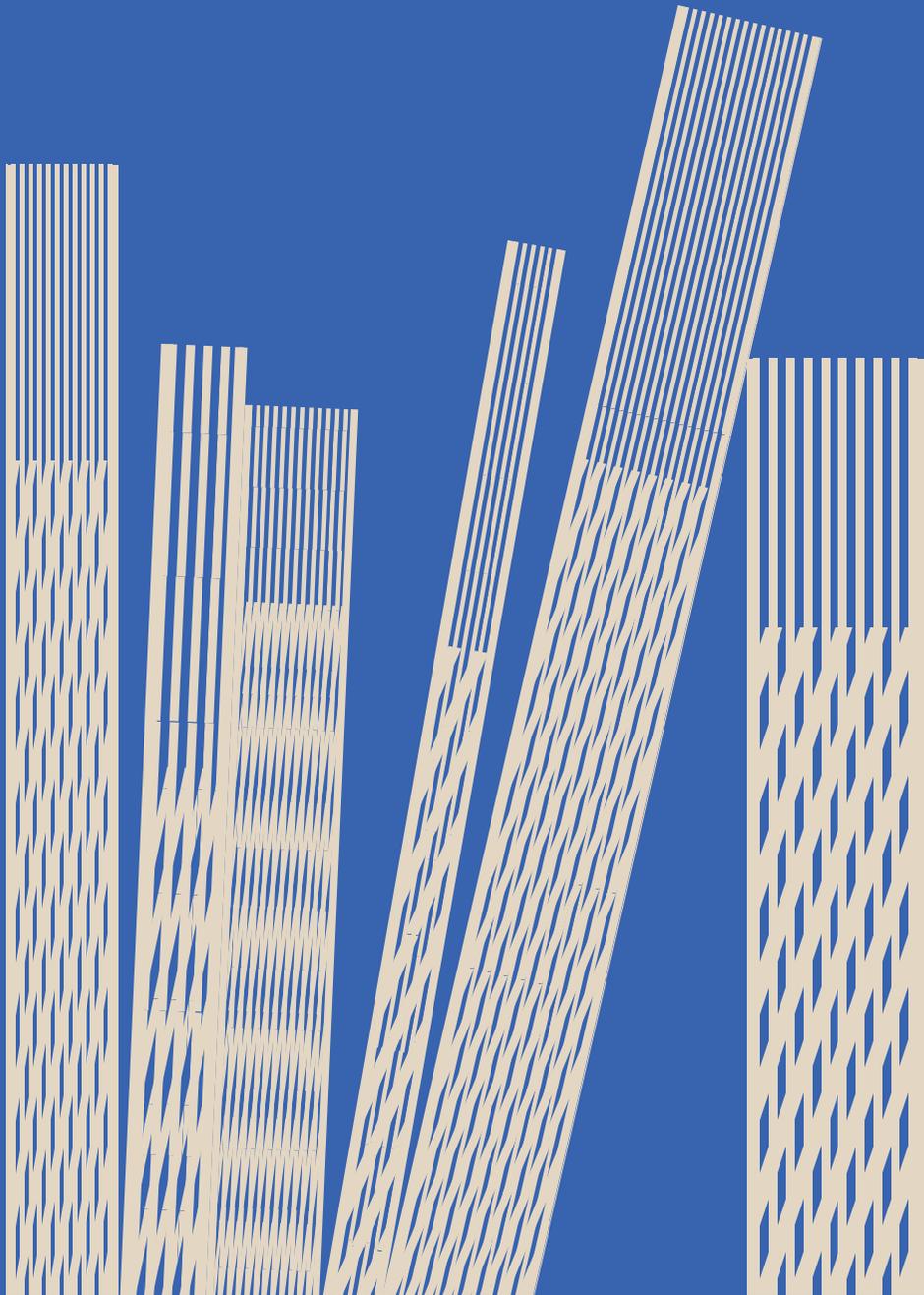
FICTION

SMALL ISLAND,
BIG READS

2023



SMALL ISLAND, BIG READS



| About Singapore Publishing

Singapore's literary treasures stand out through their remarkable ability to connect with both local and global audiences. Beyond the written word, Singapore becomes a crossroad for ideas, cultures, and inspiration to converge. Explore, connect, and find yourself captivated by the cultural mosaic that is Singapore's literature.

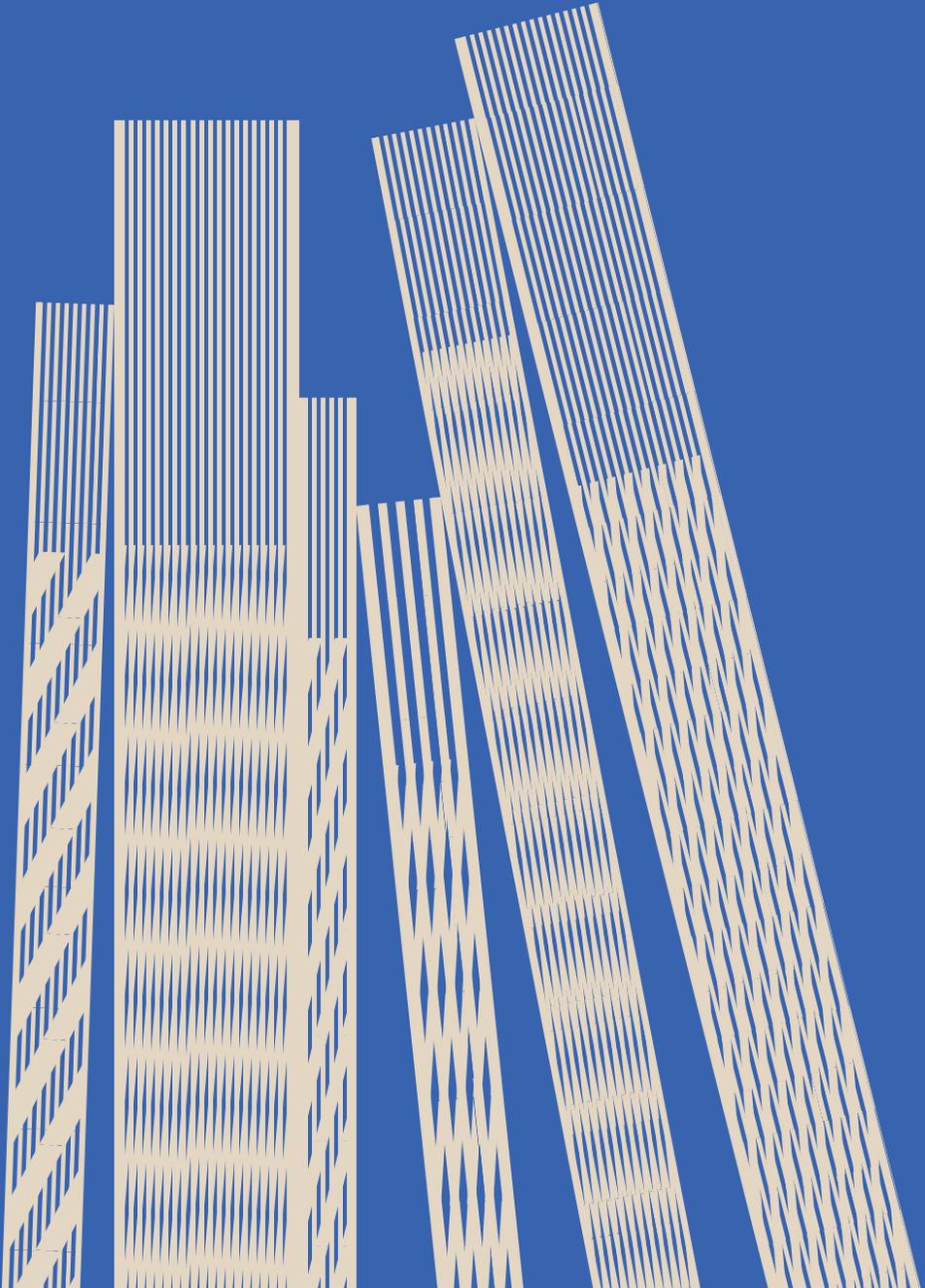
Discover some of the most exciting voices and powerful stories our authors, illustrators, and publishers have to offer. From genre-mashing reinventions of Southeast Asian mythologies, to deep dives into our diverse foodways, to award-winning kidlit titles that have been made into musicals... step in and you'll see: we're a small island, with big reads to share.

This catalogue has been produced as part of the Singapore Pavilion at the 2023 Frankfurt Book Fair, where you can find even more titles on display. It is only a small selection of what we have to offer, but represents the wide, exciting range of titles published every year across fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, and children's literature. Grants are available from Singapore's National Arts Council to support translations of Singapore Literature. Details can be found at <https://www.nac.gov.sg>.

| About The Singapore Book Publishers Association

Established in 1968, the Singapore Book Publishers Association represents the interests of Singapore publishers engaged in a wide range of publishing, marketing, and distribution activities in both print and digital formats. It focuses on developing and strengthening the book ecosystem in Singapore. The Singapore publishing industry contributes some S\$2.08 billion each year to the Singapore economy.

Contact the Association at info@singaporebookpublishers.sg.

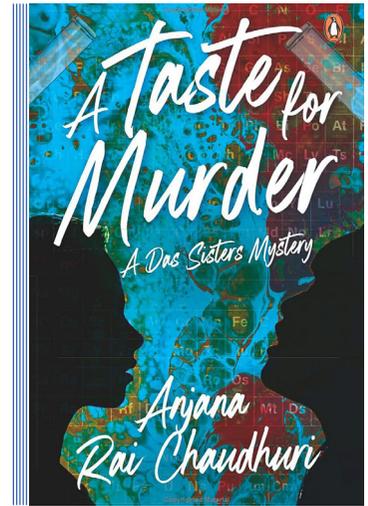


A Taste for Murder

Author **Anjana Rai Chaudhuri**
Publisher **Penguin Random House (SEA)**

Published **2022**
ISBN **9789815017045**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **332pp**
Size **276 × 246mm**

For publication rights,
contact generalqueries@penguinrandomhouse.sg



The second of the Das Sisters Mystery Series finds Inspector Dolly Das and her sister, Lily, embroiled in a university murder case.

It is 2011. When a Korean postdoctoral fellow from the chemistry department dies suddenly, apparently from a heart attack brought on by food poisoning, canteen stall owner, Lily Das, is in danger of losing her business license. Intent on clearing her name, Lily, with the help of her sister, Dolly, discovers the victim had been deliberately poisoned.

When more poisonings occur, endangering the lives of people they know, Lily and Dolly suspect a serial killer is on the loose on campus. The Das sisters must race against time to catch the murderer and stop the killing spree. But can Lily think clearly when she is estranged from her husband? Can Dolly keep her job when her jealous boss is intent on retiring her? Both Lily and Dolly must overcome these challenges to nail an elusive, cruel, and highly dangerous killer.

About the Author

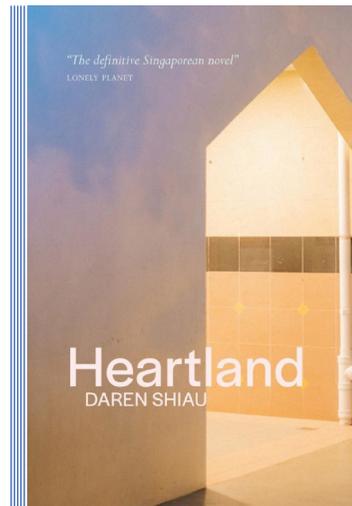
Anjana Rai Chaudhuri was born in Kolkata, India, and lived in America for six years before finally settling in Singapore. Anjana worked for many years as a research scientist in premier universities and is the author of a science book chapter, fourteen research papers and review articles. She is a double gold medal winner, for her master's in chemistry and BA in Literature, and her work with cancer patients led to two publications, one in the prestigious British Medical Journal. Anjana is the author of three works of fiction. Her first novel, a historical romance, *The Scent of Frangipani*, was published in 2019.

Heartland

Author **Daren Shiau**
Publisher **Ethos Books**

Published **2021**
ISBN **9789811811203**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **276pp**
Size **130 x 200mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@pagesetters.com.sg



Hailed as “the definitive Singaporean novel”, Heartland explores the paradox of rootedness and rootlessness in fast-changing Singapore.

Set in the early 1990s, the novel follows the years of Wing Seng as he leaves school and is conscripted into full-time National Service. As Wing tries to reconcile his past with his future amid transitions through different phases of life, he finds meaning in his intense attachment to his surrounding landscape. Yet, as relationships and the years slip by, Wing is forced to question his own certainties and the wisdom of the people he values.

Set in Singapore’s heartland at the turn of the century, Heartland’s capturing of the texture of everyday life provides the backdrop essential to the bildungsroman’s exploration of identity, belonging and connection in an increasingly urbanised Singapore.

About the Author

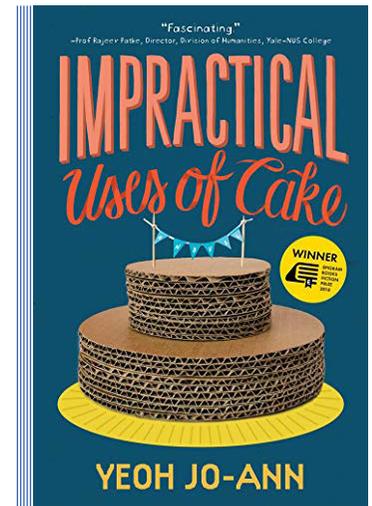
Daren Shiau was born in 1971, and is a Singaporean writer and editor. *Heartland* received the Singapore Literature Prize Commendation Award in 1998, and in 2007 was adapted into an English literature school text on the Singapore-Cambridge GCE ‘O’-Level syllabus. The novel was also made into a telemovie in 2015. A recipient of the Young Artist Award (Literature), Shiau’s other works include acclaimed poetry collection, *Peninsular: Archipelagos and Other Islands* (2000) and a microfiction collection, *Velouria* (2007). He currently serves as Co-Chair of the Singapore Writers Festival’s advisory panel.

Impractical Uses of Cake

Author **Yeow Jo-Ann**
Publisher **Epigram Books**

Published **2019**
ISBN **9789814845120**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **234pp**
Size **152 x 225mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@epigram.sg



Sukhin is a thirty-five-year-old teacher who lives alone. His life consists of reading, working and visiting his parents’ to rearrange his piles of “collectibles”.

Sukhin is a thirty-five-year-old teacher who lives alone. His life consists of reading, working and visiting his parents’ to rearrange his piles of “collectibles”. He has only one friend, another teacher who has managed to force Sukhin into a friendship by sheer doggedness.

While on an errand one afternoon in Chinatown, he encounters a homeless person who recognises him. This chance reunion turns Sukhin’s well-planned life upside down, and the pair learns about love and sacrifice over their shared fondness for cake.

About the Author

Yeoh Jo-Ann is the winner of the 2018 Epigram Books Fiction Prize. Formerly a features editor at SPH Magazines, she is currently a client operations director with a digital marketing agency. Her fiction has been anthologised in *We R Family, In Transit and Best New Singaporean Short Stories: Volume Three*. Her short story “*Dog Tiger Horse*” was selected as the winner of the 2020 Aura Estrada Short Story Contest. She is currently working on her second novel and a collection of short stories exploring the themes of modernity, food, and family in Southeast Asia. *Impractical Uses of Cake* is her first novel.

Notable

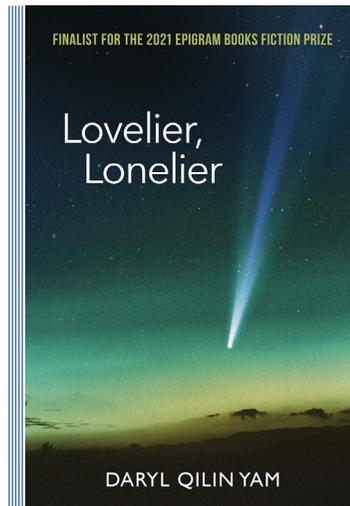
**Winner of the 2018 Epigram Books Fiction Prize
Shortlisted for the 2020 Singapore Book Awards (Best Literary Work, Best Book Cover Design)
Sold German language rights for Austria**

Lovelier, Lonelier

Author **Daryl Qilin Yam**
Publisher **Epigram Books**

Published **2021**
ISBN **9789814901369**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **496pp**
Size **225 x 152mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@epigram.sg



It wasn't love, really. They were just trying to make something out of their lives.

Kyoto, 1996, during the passing of Comet Hyakutake: A runaway from Singapore discovers a woman crying in front of a train station at 5.46am. A Straits Times journalist later arrives with her gallerist friend from Madrid, dreading the reenactment of her mother's performance art. The lives of these four friends—Isaac, Tori, Jing and Mateo—become entangled as a result of one madcap weekend, when fireworks are inexplicably shot over the Kamo River and people become swept to alternate worlds via public transport.

Daryl Qilin Yam's genre-defying second novel ranges across countries and decades, charting the tributaries of pain we thread with our friends and the arcs of the many stories we tell in order to live.

Notable **Finalist for the 2021 Epigram Books Fiction Prize**
Longlist for the 2023 Dublin Literary Award
Sold rights to Gaudy Boy
Sold North American language rights

About the Author

Daryl Qilin Yam is a writer and arts organiser from Singapore. He is the author of the novella *Shantih Shantih Shantih* (2021), shortlisted for the 2022 Singapore Literature Prize, and the novels *Kappa Quartet* (2016) and *Lovelier, Lonelier* (2021), a finalist of the 2021 Epigram Books Fiction Prize. He is a co-founder of the literary non-profit Sing Lit Station.

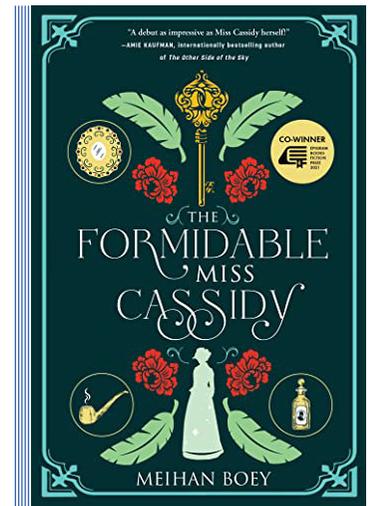
Miss Cassidy

(SERIES)

Author **Meihan Boey**
Publisher **Epigram Books**

Published **2021**
ISBN **9789814901888**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **288pp**
Size **225 x 152mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@epigram.sg



In *The Formidable Miss Cassidy*, the formidable Miss Leda Cassidy arrives in 1890s Singapore as paid companion to Sarah Jane Bendemeer, whose family suffers under the thrall of Southeast Asia's most terrifying hantu.

But there's more to Miss Cassidy than meets the eye, and she's faced down worse in her life than a pontianak.

However, she may have met her match in the indefatigable businessman, Mr Kay Wing Tong, whose large and constantly-growing family clearly requires female supervision—especially of the particular kind Miss Cassidy can provide. Ill omens and strange happenings surround Mr Kay and his colourful family, and Miss Cassidy must find a way to defend the ones she has learned to love.

Miss Cassidy is followed by the forthcoming *The Enigmatic Madam Ingram*.

About the Author

Meihan Boey is the author of *The Formidable Miss Cassidy* (co-winner of the 2021 Epigram Books Fiction Prize and winner of the 2022 Singapore Book Award for Best Literary Work), and science-fiction novella *The Messiah Virus*. She is also the vice president of the Association of Comic Artists of Singapore and has scripted several comics, including *Supacross* and *The Once and Marvellous DKD*. She is a dedicated comic book and manga fan, an enthusiastic gamer, a persistent triathlete, and not yet a Super Saiyan, though she keeps trying.

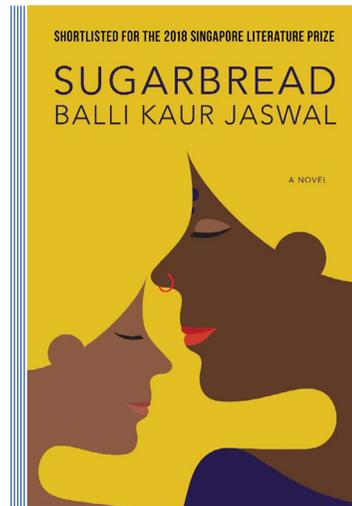
Notable **Co-Winner of the 2021 Epigram Books Fiction Prize**
Winner of Singapore Book Awards 2022 (Best Literary Work)
Sold rights to Pushkin Press

Sugarbread

Author **Balli Kaur Jaswal**
Publisher **Epigram Books**

Published **2016**
ISBN **9789814757300**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **280pp**
Size **225 x 153mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@epigram.sg



Pin must not become like her mother, but nobody will tell her why.

She seeks clues in Ma's cooking when she's not fighting other battles—being a bursary girl at an elite school and facing racial taunts from the bus uncle. Then her meddlesome grandmother moves in, installing a portrait of a watchful Sikh guru and a new set of house rules. Old secrets begin to surface but can Pin handle learning the truth?

About the Author

Balli Kaur Jaswal is the author of five novels, including *Erotic Stories for Punjabi Widows*, which was a Reese Witherspoon's Book Club pick in 2018. Born in Singapore and raised in Japan, Russia and the Philippines, Jaswal studied creative writing at Hollins University in Virginia and worked as an English teacher in Australia and Turkey. She has held fellowships at the University of East Anglia and Nanyang Technological University, where she also completed her PhD in South Asian diaspora writing. Jaswal's non-fiction has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Harper's Bazaar India*, *Refinery29* and *Salon.com*, among other publications.

Notable

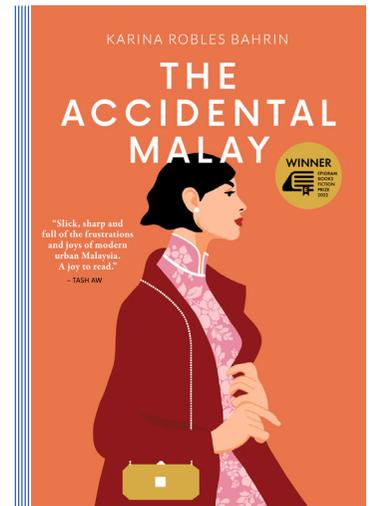
Sold Spanish language rights and English language rights for India
Finalist for the 2015 Epigram Books Fiction Prize
Shortlisted for the Singapore Book Awards 2017 (Best Fiction Title)
Shortlisted for the Popular Readers' Choice Awards 2016 English (Adult) Books category
The Straits Times Book Of The Month (August 2016)
Shortlisted for Singapore Literature Prize 2018

The Accidental Malay

Author **Karina Nobles Bahrain**
Publisher **Epigram Books**

Published **2022**
ISBN **9789814984676**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **232pp**
Size **225 x 152mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@epigram.sg



Jasmine Leong wants to be the next CEO of Phoenix, her family's billion-ringgit company known especially for its bak kwa.

But when Jasmine discovers she is actually a Malay Muslim, her newfound identity threatens to upend her life and ambitions. Set in Kuala Lumpur and other areas of Malaysia, *The Accidental Malay* examines the human cost of a country's racial policies, and paints a portrait of a woman unwilling to accept the fate history has designated for her.

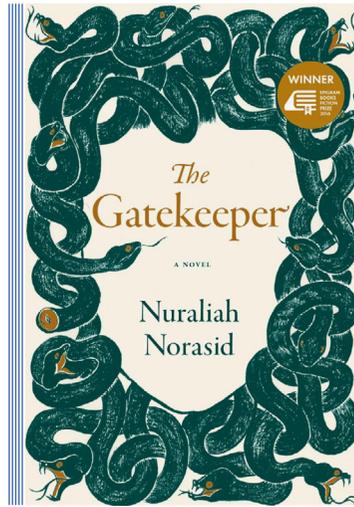
About the Author

Karina Nobles Bahrain got her first break as a writer when she guest edited a weekly teen column in *The New Straits Times* a very long time ago. Her short fiction has been published in venues such as *Urban Odysseys: KL Stories*, *KL Nair: Blue*, *A Subtle Degree of Restraint* & *Other Stories* and *Malaysian Tales: Retold & Remixed*. She is a former columnist with *The Heat*, a weekly by Focus Malaysia. She currently lives and works on the island of Langkawi, Malaysia. *The Accidental Malay* is her first novel.

Notable

Finalist at the 2023 Singapore Book Awards
Winner of the 2022 Epigram Books Fiction Prize

The Gatekeeper



Author **Nuraliah Norasid**
Publisher **Epigram Books**

Published **2017**
ISBN **9789811700903**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **312pp**
Size **225 x 152mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@epigram.sg

When young medusa Ria inadvertently turns an entire village to stone, she and her older sister flee to Nelroote, an underground settlement populated by other non-humans also marginalised by society.

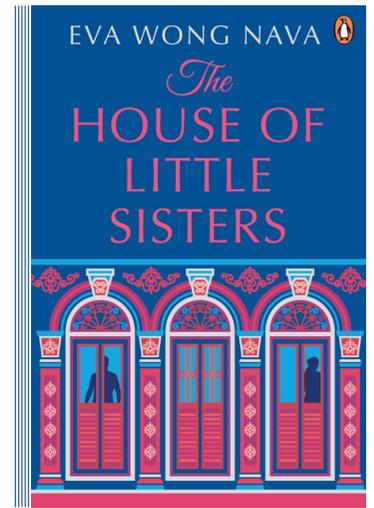
There she becomes their gatekeeper, hoping to seek redemption and love... until her friendship with a man from above threatens to dismantle the city she swore to protect.

About the Author

Nuraliah Norasid holds a PhD in English Literature and Creative Writing from Nanyang Technological University. She works as a research associate at the Centre for Research on Islamic and Malay Affairs (RIMA), where she studies marginalities and the confluence of religious ideas and secular society. Her writing has been published in *QLRS*, *Karyawan Magazine*, *AMPlied* and *Perempuan: Muslim Women Speak Out*. In 2018, she was conferred The Most Promising Asian Woman Writer of the Year 2018 award at the Asian Women Writers Festival. *The Gatekeeper* is her first novel.

Notable **Winner of Singapore Book Awards 2018, Best Fiction Title & Best Book Cover Design**
Shortlisted for Singapore Literature Prize 2018, Fiction
Winner of the Epigram Books Fiction Prize 2016

The House of Little Sisters



Author **Eva Wong Nava**
Publisher **Penguin Random House (SEA)**

Published **2022**
ISBN **9789814882279**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **240pp**
Size **127 x 197mm**

For publication rights,
contact generalqueries@penguinrandomhouse.sg

Singapore, August 1931: sixteen-year-old Ah Mei arrives at the home of Eminent Mister Lee on the eve of the Hungry Ghost Month, sold to the family as an indentured servant girl.

There she encounters the spirit of Ah Lian, another mui tsai, who paid the ultimate price for her mistake. Through Ah Lian, Ah Mei discovers the plight of mui tsai, who are both helpless and powerful, and uncovers a shameful secret lurking in the shadows in the Lee house. Ah Mei also meets and falls in love with Hassan Mohamed, an Indian-Muslim and an aspiring poet, breaking every clause in the rule book of love in 1930s British Malaya. She becomes Hassan's Polar Star, and the young lovers must find a way to stay together. Through a twist of fate, Ah Mei finds a solution that will keep her and Hassan together, at the same time gaining agency that will secure her own future as an uneducated servant girl in British Malaya.

About the Author

Eva Wong Nava is an award-winning children's book author. She writes picture books to entertain, engage, and enthrall young readers. She is also an art historian. When not writing for children, she meanders art museums and galleries waiting for the next piece of art work to speak to her and inspire another story. She weaves stories from art at *Carpe Arte Journal*. When not writing, Eva teaches the art of picture book creation through her workshops under the brand, *Picture Book Matters*. Eva can be found on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook engaging people in conversations about art and stories.

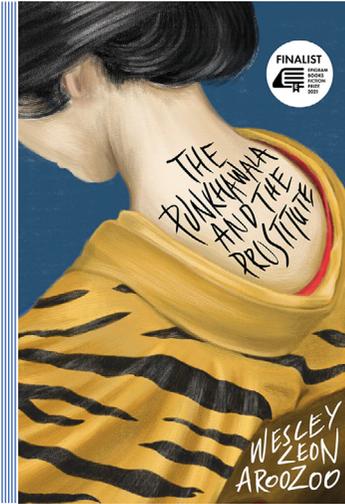
Notable **Finalist at the 2023 Singapore Book Awards**

The Punkhawala and the Prostitute

Author **Wesley Leon Aroozoo**
Publisher **Epigram Books**

Published **2021**
ISBN **9789814901802**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **352pp**
Size **225 x 152mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@epigram.sg



Behind the golden façade of a land filled with opportunities dwell two destitute souls, shipped to Singapore in the late 1800s.

Oseki, an ingenue forced into prostitution as a karayuki, grapples with being betrayed by her own father and transforms into a monster she can't recognise. Gobind, a deaf convict from India, serves his sentence as a punkhawala to a British hunter obsessed with killing Rimau Satan, a man-eating tiger of mythic proportions. Whenever Gobind hunts with his master, his butchered memories lurk in the darkness, aching to pounce. When Oseki's and Gobind's paths intertwine, they begin to face their inner demons to find their humanity—and their way back home.

About the Author

Wesley Leon Aroozoo is a filmmaker from 13 Little Pictures and a lecturer at LASALLE College of the Arts. He is the author of the novella *Bedok Reservoir* (2012), which was also adapted for the stage and performed at Goodman Arts Centre. A feature documentary companion to his second non-fiction novella, *I Want to Go Home* (2017), had its world premiere at the Busan International Film Festival.

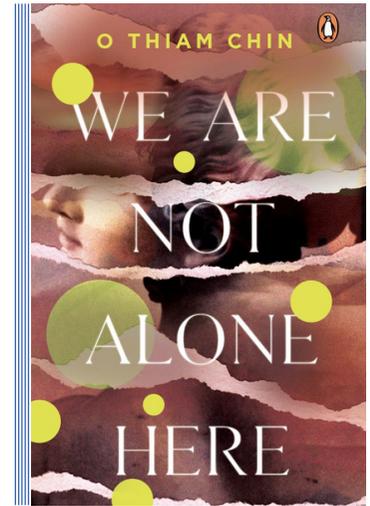
Notable **Finalist for the 2021 Epigram Books Fiction Prize**
Winner of Singapore Book Awards 2022 (Best Book Cover Design)

We Are Not Alone Here

Author **O Thiam Chin**
Publisher **Penguin Random House (SEA)**

Published **2022**
ISBN **9789815058062**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **158pp**
Size **215 x 136mm**

For publication rights,
contact generalqueries@penguinrandomhouse.sg



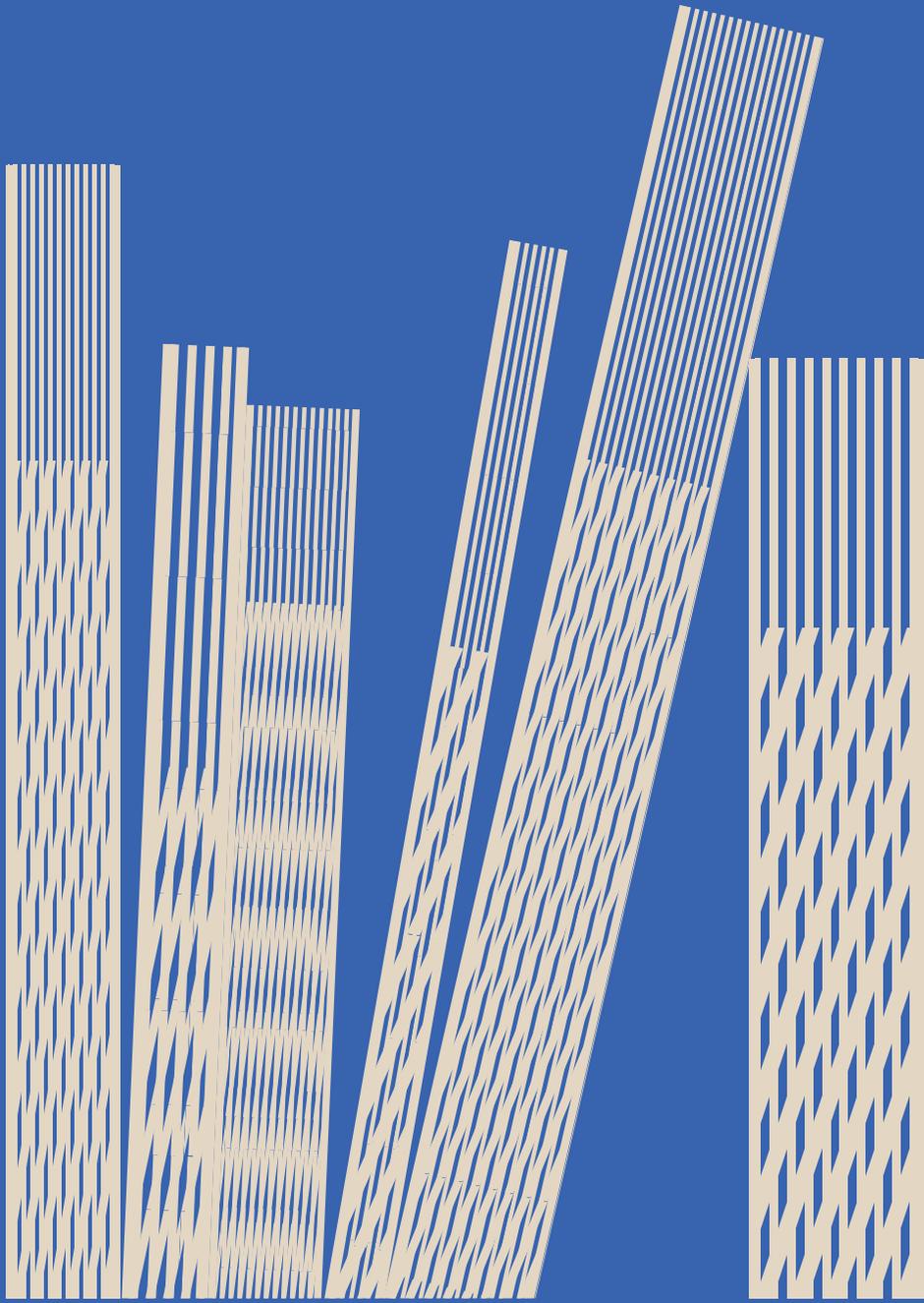
An unnamed young woman and her companion strike up a conversation in the dark in a quiet room, in the middle of nowhere.

As they talk, the young woman starts to open up her life, growing up in a single-parent household under poor impoverished conditions, living under the cold, steely eye of an estranged and manipulative mother who physically and emotionally abused her. She gradually divulges the lies and secrets that have plagued her life from a very young age, and how all of it has led her to make hard choices along the way: to be a mistress to her boss at her first job, to have a child out of wedlock, to rear a child all on her own and then to tragically lose him in a drowning.

The truth becomes stranger and more complicated as the woman continues to tell her story, soon revealing a long unvoiced history of pain and violence and deception, that ultimately culminates in her committing a series of horrific and terrible acts. What has seemed clear and straightforward at the start of the woman's story soon becomes a strange febrile dream that holds the woman and her companion in a complicit, unbreakable spell.

About the Author

O Thiam Chin is the author of three novels and six collections of short fiction. His debut novel, *Now That It's Over*, won the inaugural Epigram Books Fiction Prize in 2015. His work has appeared in *Granta*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *Manoa*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *QLRS*, *World Literature Today* and elsewhere.



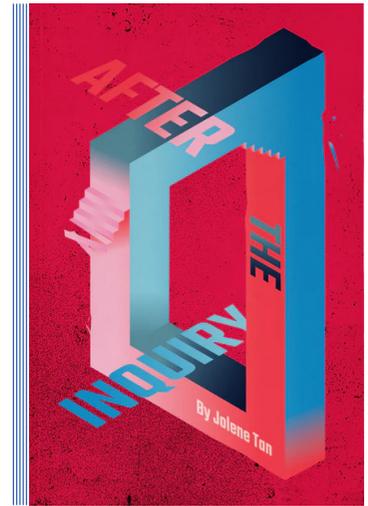
After the Inquiry

(2ND EDITION)

Author **Jolene Tan**
Publisher **Ethos Books**

Published **2023**
ISBN **9789811867996**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **220pp**
Size **130 x 200mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@pagesetters.com.sg



Police sergeant Hafiz lies in a coma after a gunshot to the head. The investigation by Internal Affairs uncovered a game of Russian roulette gone wrong, and the case is now closed.

But there are rumbles of concern in the Ministry, and middle-aged civil servant Boon Teck—assisted by young colleague Nithya—is dispatched to take another look.

Suffused with mystery and intrigue, *After the Inquiry* steps into the mirror maze of Singapore's bureaucracy, where silvered surfaces hide troubling secrets, and those who search for the truth risk getting lost...

About the Author

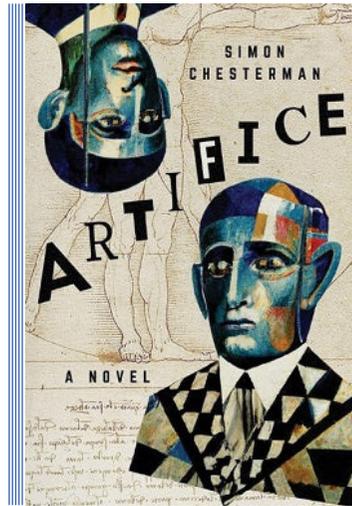
Jolene Tan is a writer from Singapore, whose fiction includes the novels *After the Inquiry* (Ethos Books, 2021), *A Certain Exposure* (Epigram Books, 2014), short fiction published in *The Manchester Review*, and a children's picture book, *Saturday's Surprisingly Super-Duper Lesson* (Epigram Books, 2020). She has also written numerous non-fiction articles, principally on equality and human rights, for publications such as *New Naratif*, *The Online Citizen*, *The F Word*, *The Birthday Book*, *CNA* and *The Straits Times*. She can be found at www.jolenetan.org

Artifice: A Novel

Author **Simon Chesterman**
Publisher **Marshall Cavendish International (Asia)**

Published **2023**
ISBN **9789815084924**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **192pp**
Size **198 x 130mm**

For publication rights,
contact genrefsales@sg.marshallcavendish.com



***Artifice* is set in a near-future Singapore and takes on the challenge of what truly sentient AI might mean for humanity.**

Speculative fiction in the mould of Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun* or Le Tellier's *The Anomaly*, this novel would strike a chord given ongoing uncertainty and anxiety about the role of AI.

Humanity's greatest invention could be our last. Archie's involvement in the artificial intelligence project known as Janus was limited to routine diagnostics. But when she discovers that she and everyone else has been deceived by their creation, it launches her on a journey that will change her life—and humanity's future.

About the Author

Educated in Melbourne, Beijing, and Oxford, Simon Chesterman lived briefly in Tanzania and Serbia before moving to New York for six years and finally settling in Singapore. He has written or edited twenty-one non-fiction books on topics ranging from the United Nations to the regulation of artificial intelligence. His fiction includes the young adult trilogy *Raising Arcadia*, *Finding Arcadia*, and *Being Arcadia*, as well as the standalone novel *I, Huckleberry*.

Notable

Bestseller

catskull

Author **Myle Yan Tay**
Publisher **Ethos Books**

Published **2023**
ISBN **9789811860331**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **472pp**
Size **130 x 200mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@pagesetters.com.sg



Ram has been ignored and dismissed his entire life. His parents patronise him, his older brother belittles him, his class pretends he doesn't exist, and he is certain he will fail his impending A-Levels.

The only good part of his life is Kass, a fellow outsider he has known since childhood. But when the bruises on Kass from her abusive father get worse and worse, Ram decides to don a mask and frighten him into changing his ways. After his scare tactic goes fatally wrong, the mask he wore calls out to him again to clean the city's filth.

Neo-noir thriller meets coming-of-age mystery, *catskull* explores the violence inherent in an unforgiving city and what it does to the people who inhabit it. It complicates questions of what is right, what is lawful, and who pays the price in the quest for justice.

About the Author

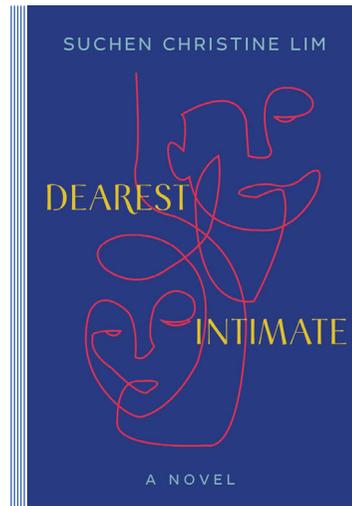
Myle Yan Tay is a writer of plays, fiction, comic books, essays, and reviews. He is the co-editor of *Brown is Redacted: Reflecting on Race in Singapore*. He is an Associate Artist at Checkpoint Theatre, and the playwright of *Brown Boys Don't Tell Jokes* (2023). Yan's first stand-alone comic, *Putu Piring*, and first comic book series, *Through the Longkang*, are published by Checkpoint Theatre. He is a recent recipient of the New Artist Fellowship from The School of the Art Institute Chicago, where he is currently pursuing a Masters in Creative Writing. This is his debut novel. You can find more of his work at myleyantay.com.

Dearest Intimate: A Novel

Author **Suchen Christine Lim**
Publisher **Marshall Cavendish International (Asia)**

Published **2022**
ISBN **9789815044348**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **392pp**
Size **227 x 152mm**

For publication rights,
contact genrefsales@sg.marshallcavendish.com



The famous cross-dressing Cantonese opera singer, Chan Kam Foong, passes away, leaving her secret journal to her granddaughter, Xiu Yin, an archival officer at the Singapore National Archives.

Xiu Yin reads through the journal that chronicles her grandmother's relationship with *Dearest Intimate* in their village in China to their respective escapes to the Nanyang before WWII and her desperate search for *Dearest Intimate* in Singapore. Her grandmother's reflections and letters to *Dearest Intimate* forces Xiu Yin to examine her marriage to an abusive husband and she plucks up the courage to leave him.

A surprise encounter with her first love, a rising Cantonese opera singer, brings a period of calm and joy. But when Meng proposes marriage, Xiu Yin backs off and he leaves for Hong Kong. It takes three years of loneliness and letter writing before they reunite again.

About the Author

Suchen Christine Lim was born in the Malaysian state of Perak and came to Singapore at the age of 14. She was awarded the inaugural Singapore Literature Prize for *Fistful of Colours* in 1992. Among other acclaimed works are her debut novel *Rice Bowl, A Bit of Earth* and *The River's Song*. In 2012, she was awarded the Southeast Asia Write Award for her body of work. Awarded a Fulbright grant, Suchen was a Fellow in the University of Iowa's International Writing Program and later became its Writer in Residence. She was also a Fellow in Creative Writing at the Nanyang Technological University.

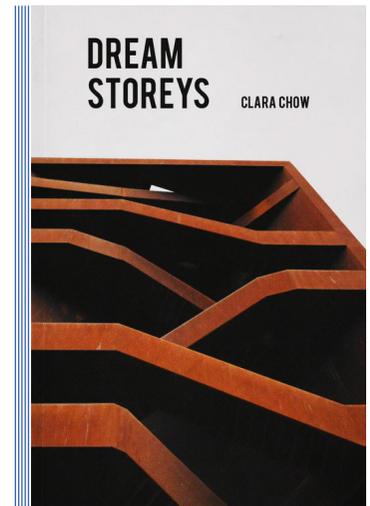
Notable **Bestseller**
Finalist at the 2023 Singapore Book Awards

Dream Storeys

Author **Clara Chow**
Publisher **Ethos Books**

Published **2016**
ISBN **9789811109072**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **224pp**
Size **130 x 200mm**

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What if you could dream up any building you like? What would it be? How would constructing it change our lives?

A shopping mall self-destructs, and a single mother vanishes. A tree house for orphans and old folks is torn apart by an act of mercy. The Singapore Flyer is reinvented as a political prison. In this collection of nine tales, Clara Chow examines an alternative Singaporean landscape—one that exists only on paper—and the people we might be in it. A former newspaper correspondent, she interviews nine architects about chimeric structures and sets short stories in them. A hybrid of journalism and fiction, *Dream Storeys* documents the voices of urban visionaries, while taking their ideas into inventive, evocative new territories.

About the Author

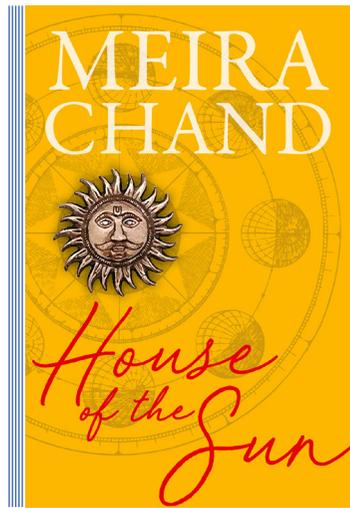
Clara Chow lives and writes in Singapore. A former *The Straits Times* arts correspondent, she was also *My Paper's* 'Manic Mummy' columnist from 2007 to 2013. Her short stories have appeared in the *Asia Literary Review*, *CHA: An Asian Literary Journal*, *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore (QLRS)* and *The Stockholm Review of Literature*. In 2015, she co-founded the literary and art journal *WeAreAWebsite.com*. Find her online at clarachow.weebly.com

House of the Sun

Author **Meira Chand**
Publisher **Marshall Cavendish International (Asia)**

Published **2020**
ISBN **9789814868600**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **320pp**
Size **198 x 130mm**

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In March Saturn is coming into the House of the Sun. Saturn is strong and will bring trouble.

[...] Wear a sapphire, then nothing can harm you, Bhai Sahib, the priest, warns Mrs Hathiramani, reading her horoscope in his temple on the second floor of Sadhbela, a Bombay apartment block.

Forty years before, at the time of Partition, the residents of Sadhbela were Hindu refugees from the rival towns of Rohri and Sukkur. In Sadhbela now these Sindhi exiles live as one family, fortunes drastically changed. Before blown out of the House of the Sun in a monsoon squall, the planet has influenced some lives irreversibly. Sham Pumnani, the embezzler, finds a new, unexpected future. His sister, Lakshmi, experiences the worst cruelties of womanhood in a traditional society. Rani Murjani learns to stand up for herself and reach out to a new age. Through it all Mr Hathiramani writes furiously against time, to complete a translation of Shah Abdul Latif, immortal poet of medieval Sind, so that in Sadhbela a proud past and a dying identity will not be entirely forgotten.

About the Author

Living between East and West, between a multiplicity of cultural identities, Meira Chand's novels reflect her search for self and belonging. From England to Japan, India to Singapore, her life straddles the world. Her many novels, set against the backdrop of the diverse cultures she has lived in, mirror her journey to pin down the experience of these different cultures upon her, and her relationship to them. The search for home and the search for self are inexplicably entwined in her work.

In This Desert, There Were Seeds

Author(s) **Jon Gresham and Elizabeth Tan (editors)**
Publisher **Ethos Books**

Published **2019**
ISBN **9789811421785**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **232pp**
Size **130 x 200mm**

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Endangered tigers connecting telepathically through time-travel; a guard's ethical dilemma at a history museum; a slaughterhouse worker's memories of his dead wife; a monochrome town upended by a wild watermelon...

In This Desert, There Were Seeds is an intimate collection of past and future dreams, featuring exciting new and established literary voices from Western Australia and Singapore. From our shifting sense of community and identity, to our frustrations with existing political, social and economic structures—this anthology transcends boundaries and captures the persistence of ordinary lives in deserts literal and metaphorical.

About the Author

Jon Gresham was born in England, grew up in Australia and has lived in Singapore and Thailand for the last 19 years. Jon's debut collection of short stories, *We Rose Up Slowly*, was published in 2015. Jon is also a co-founder of the Singaporean literary community, Sing Lit Station. He leads the Writing the City Creative Writing Workshops at Toa Payoh Library each month. His writing has appeared in various anthologies and literary journals including *Best New Singaporean Short Stories Vol. 3* and *In Transit: An Anthology from Singapore on Airports and Air Travel*. He is currently working on a novel about an adopted, transnational, Eurasian in Southeast Asia.

Elizabeth Tan was born in Perth to Singaporean parents. She completed her PhD in Creative Writing at Curtin University, where she now works as a sessional tutor. Her debut novel, *Rubik*, has been published in Australia, North America, and the United Kingdom. More recently, her work has appeared in *Overland*, *Stories of Perth*, *Catapult*, *Lenny Letter*, and *Best Summer Stories*.

Notable

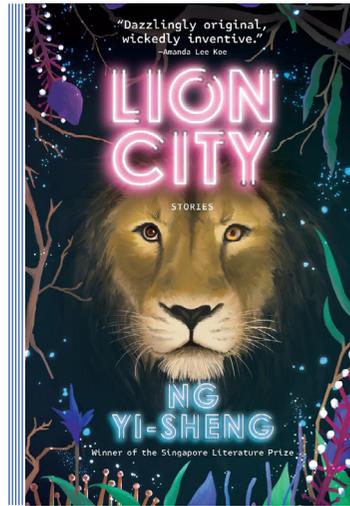
Co-published with Margaret River Press (world rights available)

Lion City

Author **Ng Yi-Sheng**
Publisher **Epigram Books**

Published **2018**
ISBN **9789811700743**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **230pp**
Size **198 x 129mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@epigram.sg



A man learns that all the animals at the Zoo are robots. A secret terminal in Changi Airport caters to the gods. A prince falls in love with a crocodile. A concubine is lost in time. The island of Singapore disappears.

These are the exquisitely strange tales of *Lion City*, the first collection of short fiction by award-winning poet and playwright Ng Yi-Sheng. Infused with myth, magical realism and contemporary sci-fi, each of these tales invites the reader to see this city-state in a new and darkly fabulous light.

About the Author

Ng Yi-Sheng is a poet, fictionist, playwright, journalist and activist. Some of my best-known books include the speculative fiction collection *Lion City* and the poetry collection *last boy* (both winners of the Singapore Literature Prize), and the best-selling *SQ21: Singapore Queers in the 21st Century*. He received his MA from the University of East Anglia.

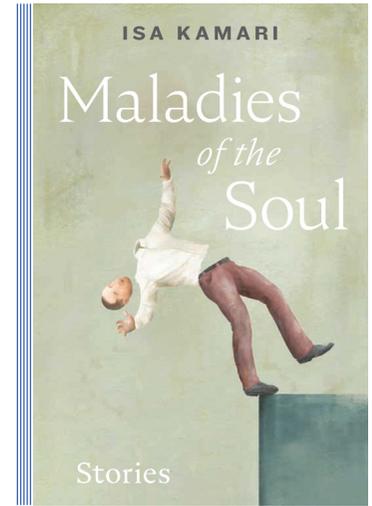
Notable **Co-Winner of the Singapore Literature Prize 2020 (English, Fiction)**
Winner of the 2019 Singapore Book Awards for Best Literary Work

Maladies Of The Soul

Author **Isa Kamari**
Publisher **Marshall Cavendish International (Asia)**

Published **2022**
ISBN **9789815044355**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **112pp**
Size **198 x 130mm**

For publication rights,
contact genrefsales@sg.marshallcavendish.com



We live in a fragmented world that has caused alienation of our lives in many spheres and at multiple levels.

The fifteen stories in this collection delve into the cracks and crevices of such lives in the social, political, economic, technological, cultural, artistic, sexual, psychological and religious spheres. The book depicts levels of madness which ring in the lives of the characters caused by estrangement, isolation, desolation and loss of meaning in our contemporary world. The disheartening fact is that such alienated experiences are perceived to be normal and acceptable to many. There is still hope if we open doors of introspection and mindfulness to begin healing of our hearts and minds.

About the Author

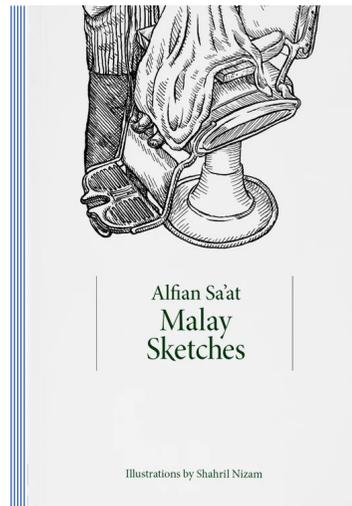
Isa Kamari is an award-winning writer and his works included novels, poetry, short stories, theatre scripts and song lyrics. His novels in Malay have been translated into English, Turkish, Urdu, Arabic, Indonesia, Jawi, Russian, Spanish, French and Mandarin. Isa was conferred the Southeast Asia Write Award from Thailand in 2006, the Singapore Cultural Medallion in 2007, the Anugerah Tun Seri Lanang from the Singapore Malay Language Council in 2009 and the Mastera Literary Award from Brunei Darussalam in 2018.

Malay Sketches

Author **Alfian Sa'at**
Publisher **Ethos Books**

Published **2012**
ISBN **9789810718015**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **232pp**
Size **130 x 200mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@pagesetters.com.sg



Malay Sketches is a collection of stories that borrows its name from a book of anecdotes by colonial governor Frank Swettenham, describing Malay life on the Peninsula.

In Alfian Sa'at's hands, these sketches are reimagined as flash fictions that record the lives of members of the Malay community in Singapore. With precise and incisive prose, *Malay Sketches* offers the reader profound insights into the realities of life as an ethnic minority.

About the Author

Alfian Sa'at is a Resident Playwright with WILD RICE. His published works include three collections of poetry, *One Fierce Hour*, *A History of Amnesia* and *The Invisible Manuscript*, a collection of short stories, *Corridor*, a collection of flash fiction, *Malay Sketches*, and three collections of plays – *Collected Plays One*, *Collected Plays Two*, and *Collected Plays Three*, and the published play *Cooling-Off Day*.

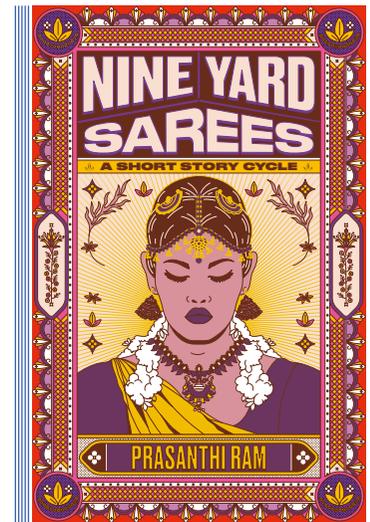
Notable **Longlisted for the 2013 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award**
English language rights (North America) sold to Gaudy Boy
Japanese language rights (World) sold to Kankanbou
Polish language rights (World) sold to Tajfuny

Nine Yard Sarees

Author **Prasanthi Ram**
Publisher **Ethos Books**

Published **2023**
ISBN **9789811860355**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **272pp**
Size **130 x 200mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@pagesetters.com.sg



Nine Yard Sarees is a multigenerational portrait of a fictional Tamil Brahmin family.

Comprising eleven interlinked stories, this short story cycle traces the lives of nine women from 1950 all the way to 2019, shedding light on the community and its evolution through the decades. As the stories take us from India to Singapore, Australia and even America, we follow the experiences of the women in the family: Raji the matriarch who lives in seclusion at an ashram; her daughter Padma who struggles to raise her family the traditional way; Padma's daughter Keerthana who is about to be married and don the nine yard saree, a symbol of womanhood. Tender, dynamic and full of heart, this cycle is a resonant portrayal of female solidarity and the complexities of the diasporic experience in contemporary Singapore.

About the Author

Dr Prasanthi Ram is a full-time writing lecturer at Nanyang Technological University, where she completed her PhD in creative writing. Her short stories can be found in a variety of publications including *Best New Singaporean Short Stories: Volume Five*, and her personal essays can be found in *What We Inherit: Growing Up Indian* as well as *Making Kin: Ecofeminist Essays* from Singapore. She is also the co-founder and fiction editor of Mahogany Journal. *Nine Yard Sarees* is her debut short story cycle.

Singa-Pura-Pura: Malay Speculative Fiction from Singapore



Author **Nazry Bahrawi (editor)**
Publisher **Ethos Books**

Published **2021**
ISBN **9789811442957**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **200pp**
Size **130 x 200mm**

For publication rights,
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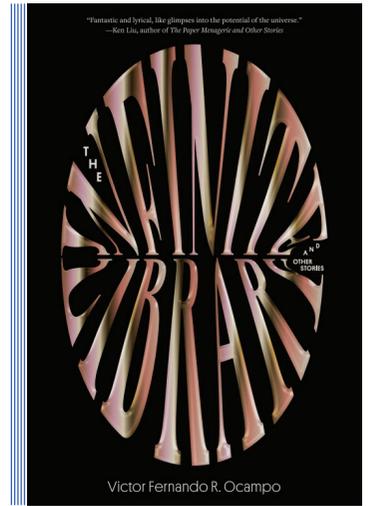
From a future of electronic doas and AI psychotherapists, sense-activated communion with forests and a portal to realms undersea, to a reimagined origin and afterlife—editor and translator Nazry Bahrawi brings together an exciting selection of never-before translated and new Malay spec-fic stories by established and emerging writers from Singapore.

Especially in an anglophone-dominated genre, very little of Malay speculative fiction from Singapore is known to readers here and beyond. Yet contemporary Bahasa literature here is steeped in spec-fic writing that can account as a literary movement (aliran)—and unmistakably draws from the minority Malay experience in a city obsessed with progress.

About the Author

Nazry Bahrawi is a literary translator, critic and academic. He translates to introduce Anglophone readers to the rich tradition of Bahasa literature. Trained in comparative literature, Nazry specialises in the study of non-material cultures through literary texts and films of the Malay Archipelago as part of the Indian Ocean cultural sphere. He is an editor-at-large at *Wasafiri* magazine and the essay & research editor for *Journal of Practice, Research and Tangential Activities* (PR&TA).

The Infinite Library and Other Stories



Author **Victor Fernando R. Ocampo**
Publisher **Gaudy Boy**

Published **2021**
ISBN **9780999451458**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **306pp**
Size **130 x 200mm**

For publication rights,
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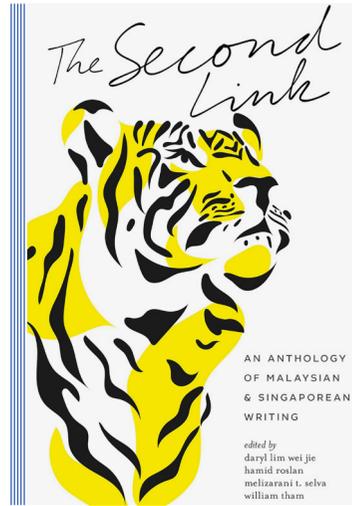
From a mysteriously timeless interior of a map shop to a space elevator thousands of miles away from the metropole, these 18 stories masterfully straddle manifold layers of Filipino history, identity, and mythology, reconstructing the past and conjuring new futures for the nation and region at large.

Ocampo's transnational consciousness brilliantly navigates class, colonialism, and gender in formal experimentations of winning ingenuity. Threaded by the motif of libraries and books, this deliciously enigmatic and labyrinthine collection showcases the infinite power of imagination to mend and make anew.

About the Author

Victor Fernando R. Ocampo is the author of the International Rubery Book Award—shortlisted *The Infinite Library and Other Stories*. Ocampo is a fellow at the Milford Science Fiction Writers' Conference in the UK and the Cinemalaya Ricky Lee Film Scriptwriting Workshop in the Philippines, as well as a Jalan Besar writer-in-residence at Sing Lit Station in Singapore. Originally from the Philippines, Victor currently resides in Singapore.

The Second Link: An Anthology of Malaysian and Singaporean Writing



Author(s) **Daryl Lim Weijie, Melizarani T. Selva, Abdul Hamid Bin Roslan and William Wai Liang Tham (editors)**

Publisher **Marshall Cavendish International (Asia)**

Published **2023**

ISBN **9789815066692**

Format **Paperback**

Page Count **320pp**

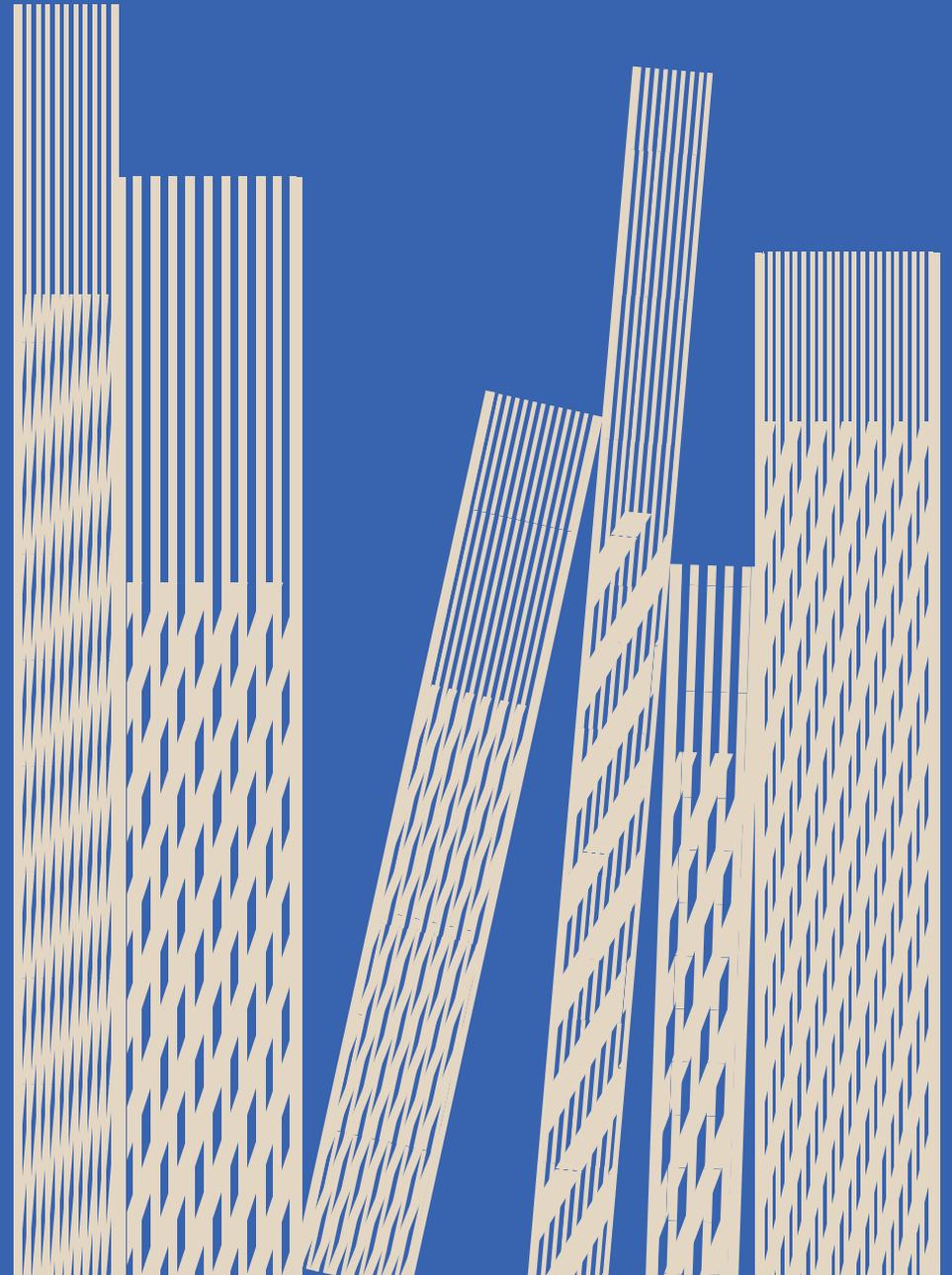
Size **227 x 152mm**

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2023 marks the 60th year since the formation of the Federation of Malaysia, comprising the Federation of Malaya, Sabah, Sarawak — and Singapore.

For Malaysians, 1963 is of profound national significance. For Singaporeans, the more memorable year might be 1965, the year of separation and subsequent independence. Yet for two fateful years, the destinies of the two countries were conjoined. The kinship, affinity, and tensions are still keenly felt today.

The Second Link brings together writers from both countries—in the tradition of volumes such as *The Second Tongue* (edited by Edwin Thumboo, 1976)—to engage creatively and critically with this sense of entwinement, to reflect, to rue, and to celebrate.

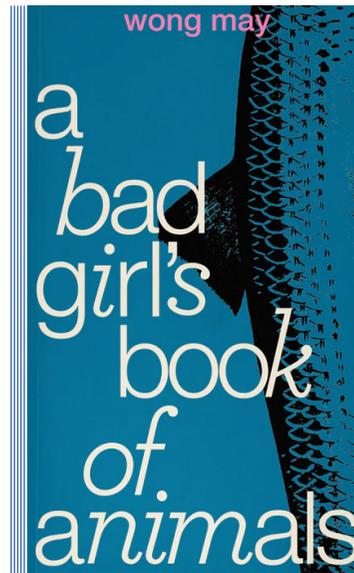


A Bad Girl's Book of Animals

Author **Wong May**
Publisher **Ethos Books**

Published **2023**
ISBN **9789811860317**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **128pp**
Size **120 x 200mm**

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contact rights@pagesetters.com.sg



From the Winner of the Windham-Campbell Prize 2022

Wong May's poems are concerned with the ultimate loneliness, the inarticulateness and the inability to communicate fully that are the marks of human life. "My poems," says Wong May, "are about wordlessness rather than words. I feel that we must recognize our ultimate wordlessness." First published in the US in 1969, and reissued in Singapore 54 years later, *A Bad Girl's Book of Animals* continues to astound, intrigue, and endure.

About the Author

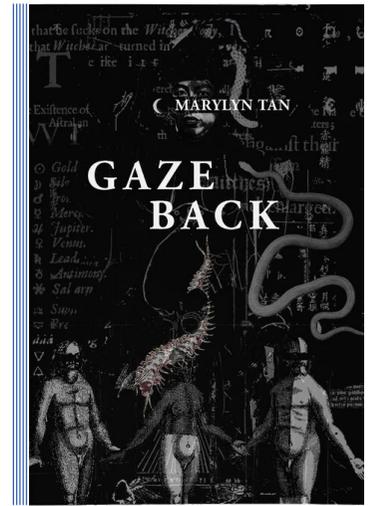
Born in China's wartime capital of Chongqing in 1944, the poet and artist Wong May moved to Singapore in 1950 with her mother. After graduating in 1966 from the University of Singapore, she obtained her MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop in 1968. After three collections of poetry published in the US, Wong May moved to Dublin in 1978 with her husband, where she continues to reside. Her latest work is the collection of translations *In the Same Light: 200 Tang Poems for Our Century*. In March the same year, Wong May received a Windham-Campbell Prize for her body of work in poetry.

GAZE BACK

Author **Marylyn Tan**
Publisher **Ethos Books**

Published **2018**
ISBN **9789811190803**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **88pp**
Size **150 x 200mm**

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**What do we expect of an author who is unapologetically female?
What do we expect of consuming art in general? Should a work be easy,
should a work be safe?**

Marylyn Tan's debut volume, *GAZE BACK*, complicates ideas of femininity, queerness, and the occult. The feminine grotesque subverts the restrictions placed upon the feminine body to be attractive and its subjection to notions of the ideal. The occultic counterpoint to organised religion, then, becomes a way toward techniques of empowering the marginalised.

GAZE BACK, ultimately, is an instruction book, a grimoire, a call to insurrection—to wrest power back from the social structures that serve to restrict, control and distribute it amongst those few privileged above the disenfranchised.

About the Author

Marylyn Tan is a linguistics graduate, poet, and artist interested in conditions of alienation and marginalisation. She has performed at the Singapore Biennale, the Singapore Writers Festival, SPEAK., and she has also been featured in various print anthologies, such as *Rollercoasters and Bedsheets, A Luxury We Must Afford and Inheritance | The Anthology*. *Gaze Back* is her first published book.

Notable **Winner, Singapore Literature Prize (Poetry 2020)**
Finalist, Lambda Literary Awards 2019
English language rights (North America) sold to University of Georgia Press

New Singapore Poetries

Author(s) **Marilyn Tan and Jee Leong Koh
(editors)**
Publisher **Gaudy Boy**

Published **2022**
ISBN **9780999451496**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **320pp**
Size **153 x 229mm**

For publication rights,
contact jkoh@singaporeunbound.org



Wrapping itself, tasting, luxuriating in the recurrent themes of the body, family, sexuality, spirituality, neo-colonialism, geographies, positionalities, identity, and nationalism, *New Singapore Poetries* brims with the ambition and talent of 18 of Singapore's newest poetic voices.

A breathtaking testament to the imagination and nerve of what poetry in Singapore can be—an interrogation of the very nature of what constitutes a poem; a straddling of national identity and personal grief; a processing and yet remembrance of erased history and rewritten trajectories—a way to tell the truth anew.

Mired against the backdrop of Singapore the country, Singapore the city-state republic, and 'Singapore' the concept, bearing witness to the past and crystallizing the present, *New Singapore Poetries* architects futures yet unseen, but yearned for.

About the Author

Marilyn Tan is a linguistics graduate, poet, and artist interested in conditions of alienation and marginalisation. She has performed at the Singapore Biennale, the Singapore Writers Festival, SPEAK., and she has also been featured in various print anthologies, such as *Rollercoasters and Bedsheets*, *A Luxury We Must Afford* and *Inheritance* | *The Anthology*. *Gaze Back* is her first published book.

Jee Leong Koh is the author of *Steep Tea*, named a Best Book of the Year by UK's *Financial Times* and a Finalist by Lambda Literary in the US. His collection of *zuihitsu* *The Pillow Book* was shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize. His second Carcanet book *Inspector Inspector* was published in 2022. Originally from Singapore, he lives in New York City.

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Singapore Book Publishers Association members' directory 2023-24



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