

ISSUE #1

DANGER DAN AND GADGET GIRL THE ANIMAL ABDUCTION



LESLEY-ANNE & MONICA LIM

PRAISE FOR *DANGER DAN AND GADGET GIRL: THE ANIMAL ABDUCTION*

“This new Danger Dan book helps me imagine what future Singapore might be like. I especially like Power Paws, as he makes the story funny and exciting with his silly actions!”

—Jonathan, 10, Tao Nan School

“I really admire Danger Dan’s and Gadget Girl’s super powers, but my favourite character is Dog. He is cute and adorable, although he often doesn’t know what is going on.”

—Darius, 11, Ang Mo Kio Primary School

“This exciting time travel adventure makes me want to find out what is going to happen next. I really enjoyed all the funny pictures and conversations too.”

—Chloe, 8, CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh)

“This book is very interesting because instead of going back to the past, we predict Singapore’s future. It also tells us how the zoo and technology could be in the future.

I can’t wait for the next book!”

—Julian, 10, St Andrew’s Junior School

“This fast paced, time-travel adventure engages readers with its futuristic inventions and ideas. There is a thought-provoking message about the possible future of planet Earth, including the plight of endangered animals.”

—Susan Grant, teacher librarian, ISS International School

“What is Singapore like in the year 2135? Certainly an intriguing premise, with an action-packed storyline that had my boys finish the book in one sitting!”

—Kelvin Ang, author and daddy blogger at *Cheekimonkies*

“Danger Dan boldly goes with Gadget Girl where no Mickey Mouse-eared boy has gone before—the Singapore Zoo of the twenty-second century! I’m frothing with superpowered glee to join this duo, and their new ally Power Paws, on their most madcap adventure yet.”

—Gwee Li Sui, poet and graphic novelist



DANGER DAN AND GADGET GIRL THE ANIMAL ABDUCTION



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LESLEY-ANNE & MONICA LIM
ILLUSTRATED BY
ELVIN CHING



EPIGRAM BOOKS / SINGAPORE

Other books in the *Danger Dan* series
Danger Dan Confronts the Merlion Mastermind
Danger Dan Tackles the Majulah Mayhem
Danger Dan Spooks the Peculiar Peranakan Pirate
Danger Dan Traces the Perilous Poison
Danger Dan Creates the Ultimate Utama Uproar
Secrets of Singapore

Also by Monica Lim
The Good, the Bad and the PSLE

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Published in Singapore by Epigram Books.
www.epigrambooks.sg
Illustrations by Elvin Ching
Edited by Wai Mun Chang
Cover design and book layout by Lydia Wong

National Library Board, Singapore
Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Names: Tan, Lesley-Anne. Lim, Monica, author.
Zerointfive, illustrator.

Title: *Danger Dan and Gadget Girl: The Animal Abduction*
written by Lesley-Anne & Monica Lim; illustrated by Elvin Ching

Description: First edition

Singapore: Epigram Books, 2016

Identifiers: OCN 941873096

ISBN 978-981-4757-02-7

ISBN 978-981-4757-03-4 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Time travel—Juvenile fiction

Zoo animals—Juvenile fiction

Singapore—Juvenile fiction

Classification: LCC PZ7 DDC S823—dc23

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places,
and incidents either are the product of the author's imagination
or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons,
living or dead, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

First Edition

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

*For teachers who give us hope for the future,
especially Ivy Lee and Chew Soo Poh*



CHAPTER 1

Danger Dan surveys his magnificent Jungle Kingdom. It has taken him months of toil but his hard work has finally paid off! What was once an empty green field is now teeming with wildlife of all kinds and Danger Dan rules over them all. On his right is his brilliant Reptile Range, the very first of Danger Dan's great work. Chameleons flaunt their coats of exotic colours. Secretive snakes hide in tree branches.

At the heart of Reptile Range is Crocodile Rock, home to the largest crocodile ever. Danger Dan has built a special enclosure from carefully crafted granite blocks just to contain that tough creature. Danger Dan is tougher than any animal.

Majestic eagles and flamboyant parrots jet through the Palace of Wings. His Deep Blue Aquarium houses gleaming tropical fish, graceful flying fish and terrifying great white sharks. The wise Danger Dan has chosen only the best polished glass and glistening steel to build his animal enclosures.

And finally, Danger Dan's newest addition: Treehouse Tower. Home to the Golden Baboon. Only the greatest of kingdoms can house this rare and prized primate with magical abilities. Danger Dan has constructed a special habitat made from an enchanting concoction of diamonds, gold dust and unicorn elixir. People will come from all over the land just to see this legendary animal. Danger Dan

will be famous! He is the Guardian of the Animals. The true King of the Jungle!

RUSTLE!

What's that? Danger Dan's supersonic hearing picks up some suspicious noises. His heart starts to pound. Something isn't right. The Jungle Kingdom has gone mysteriously quiet. The familiar squawks, hisses and calls have disappeared. Everything is still.

Suddenly, Danger Dan hears cries and shrieks coming from the Palace of Wings. His feathered friends are in danger! Danger Dan races to the Palace of Wings. Along the way, he passes Reptile Range and notices that all the chameleons have turned a bright fire-engine red. That can only mean one thing... they're under attack!

Danger Dan arrives at the Palace of Wings and comes face to face with his attacker. It is the infamous Beastly Bob! An evil thief and collector, he goes



from kingdom to kingdom, robbing people of their finest animals.

ZING!

Beastly Bob is accompanied by his powerful porcupine platoon! The spiny army fires painful, stinging quills at Danger Dan's feathered friends. The birds dart in and out of the trees to dodge the bullets but the porcupine army will soon overpower them. "Well, well, well...if it isn't Danger Dan," sneers Beastly Bob. "You do have a fine kingdom. Too bad it'll be reduced to dust and ruin in a few minutes!"

No! Danger Dan cannot let that happen! He will need all his wits and quick reflexes to stop Beastly Bob. It is time for a SHOWDOWN!

Eleven-year-old Danny clutched his phone agitatedly. He was in the MRT train on his way to his friend's house. To pass the time, he had been

playing his favourite game, *Animal Abduction*, against his online enemy, BeastlyBob276. Now that BeastlyBob276 had bypassed his defenses, they had to play a Quiz-Off. If Danny did not get at least one question right, he could lose all his precious animals to BeastlyBob276.

With his quick reflexes and gaming skills, Danny could easily capture rare animals and build a fantastic zoo but Quiz-Offs were his weakness. He could never remember the details of animals apart from their names and he hadn't been paying much attention to his science lessons in school. He hoped the questions wouldn't be too difficult.

QUESTION ONE

Describe the three stages of a cockroach's life cycle.

“Ooh, that's easy!” Danny murmured. Cockroaches were the most horrible creatures ever.

He wished they could be wiped off the face of the earth. “Three stages...hmm...” Danny typed out the answers: ‘Yucky’, ‘gross’ and ‘disgusting’. There! Three stages of a cockroach's life cycle.

INCORRECT!

“What! How can that be wrong!” Danny was enraged. He didn't see how you could describe a cockroach's life cycle any other way. Maybe he should have typed ‘ugly’.

BeastlyBob276's porcupine army stormed into Danny's Jungle Kingdom. The sea of little spiny black creatures stole fish, munched on the grass patches and shot sharp darts everywhere. “Never mind, I'll get the next question,” Danny said to himself.

QUESTION TWO

How are guppies different from other fish?

“Let’s see...” Danny was deep in thought. “Guppies, guppies... They swim and they’re small, I think...” He vaguely remembered his science teacher saying something about guppies. Oh yes, they gave birth to live young! Eww. “If they give birth to live young, then they must be mammals. Aha! I’m a genius!” He quickly typed: ‘Guppies are MAMMALS!’

INCORRECT!

“What???” NO!” He stabbed at his phone angrily. Perhaps he shouldn’t have used capital letters.

The porcupines invaded Danny’s virtual aquarium. They used their sharp quills to crack the glass and water started spilling out of the holes. The tropical fish swam around frantically, gasping for air. Time was running out for Danny.

QUESTION THREE

What animal group does a platypus belong to?

Danny scrunched up his eyes, trying to think. He knew that a platypus laid eggs. He looked at the picture of a platypus on the screen. Hmm...its mouth looked like the bill of a duck. It had webbed feet like a duck. And it swam. So it must be like a duck! What animal group does a duck belong to? Birds. “Yes, a platypus is a bird!” mumbled Danny, smiling to himself. “Take that, Beastly Bob!” Danny keyed in the answer confidently: ‘Bird’.

INCORRECT!

“NOOOOOOOO!!” Danny howled with rage. He stomped his feet. He shook his phone. Luckily there wasn’t anyone in the MRT carriage to see him. By then, the porcupine platoon had wreaked

havoc on Danny's Jungle Kingdom. Fish were flopping on the ground. Birds were flapping around madly. Even the huge, intimidating crocodile looked frightened.

One last chance! Danny gulped worriedly. He hadn't been doing well at all. He had to get this question right or his entire kingdom would be lost.

QUESTION FOUR

The fennec fox has unusually large ears. True or false?

Yippee! A wave of relief washed over Danny. He was absolutely, positively sure he knew this answer as his three older sisters had previously teased him about his big ears, calling him a fennec fox. For once, their meanness came in useful! Danny punched in: 'True'. Come on, come on...

CORRECT!

Danger Dan has saved his Jungle Kingdom from the clutches of Beastly Bob. Danger Dan is as swift as a hawk, strong as a rhino and cunning as a fennec fox. That was a close call but Danger Dan will always triumph! He restores order to his kingdom and his animal friends are safe again...wait a minute!

Danger Dan races back to Treehouse Tower. No! It cannot be! The porcupine quills have not damaged the impenetrable diamond, gold and unicorn elixir walls. But his Golden Baboon is nowhere to be seen! NOOOO!! "Curse you, Beastly Boboon, stealing my baboon!"

Danger Dan must have his revenge. He suits up and prepares for battle. He summons his petrifying penguin patrol which waddles aggressively towards Beastly Bob's kingdom.

Attack!

The penguin patrol shoots snowballs and sleek icicle

spears at Beastly Bob's porcupine platoon. Soon, the entire evil kingdom is completely covered in snow and the porcupines' spines have frozen over. Beastly Bob will pay for his crimes! Danger Dan orders his penguin patrol to seize Beastly Bob's favourite animals. It is time to march on to victory!

Danny's online penguin patrol was about to waddle out with BeastlyBob276's treasured blobfish, when Danny spotted something out of the corner of his eye. It was a small black creature with slender feelers...and it was not an animal in his game.

YIKES!

Danny leapt up in horror. A cockroach! Yucky! Gross! Disgusting! (And ugly!) Danny shuddered at the sight of its six scurrying legs, beady eyes and twitching feelers. The cockroach raised its head

as if checking out its surroundings, and looked straight in Danny's direction.



“Don’t. Come. Near. Me.” Danny hissed under his breath as he grabbed his red sling bag. He didn’t dare take his eyes off the cockroach so he walked sideways like a crab towards the MRT door. The cockroach scuttled a few centimetres towards Danny. Danny stopped and eyed the cockroach in fear. The cockroach stopped and eyed Danny curiously. A very intense staring match ensued.

This was one contest Danny didn’t care to win.

Thankfully, the train arrived at his stop and the moment the train doors opened, Danny jumped out, away from the creepy cockroach.

FWWNOOP



In an instant, Danny realised that he had time-travelled. Five times before, he had been yanked back into the past by Melody, the girl from the future with time-travelling powers. They had faced the challenge of saving Singapore from the evil plans of the Sinister Spyder. Since they had finally succeeded in capturing the Sinister Spyder the last time, Danny sadly thought his time-travelling days

FASCINATING FACTS

1

How many Quiz-Off questions did you get right? Check your answers here! First, the three stages of a cockroach's life cycle are egg, nymph and adult cockroach. Not yucky, gross and disgusting! Second, guppies are different from other fish because they give birth to live young instead of laying eggs. Danny got that part right but wrongly assumed they were mammals! Finally, a platypus is a mammal. Unlike other mammals, it lays eggs instead of giving birth to live young so it's quite an odd mammal indeed.

2

An animal becomes extinct when every single one of its kind dies off. Sadly, quite a few magnificent creatures have become extinct, such as the Pyrenean ibex (a type of wild goat). Others are 'endangered', meaning they are in danger of becoming extinct. When we cut down trees, many animals lose their forest homes. Cars and factories release greenhouse gases, causing global warming which affects animals living in colder environments, such as polar bears. It doesn't help that humans often hunt endangered animals, reducing their numbers even further.

3

You may be thrilled to know that driverless cars like the Hover Cabs already exist in our time! In Singapore, driverless vehicles are being tested out, such as at Gardens by the Bay. Many people are excited about driverless cars because they're guided by technology and are safer on the roads (they automatically stop when they sense someone in front of them, for example).



4

We imagined a Singapore free of cockroaches and like Danny, you might be cheering! However, this is unlikely to happen. Insects are incredibly adaptable and evolve quickly to suit their new homes. Danny also doesn't realise that insects play a very important role in the animal world. They serve as food for other animals like birds and lizards. They also help pollinate our plants. Without insects such as the humble honeybee, we would lose 50% of all the fruits and veggies we eat (as well as the honey!)

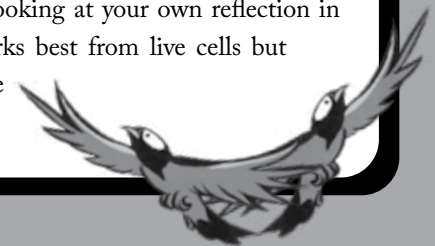


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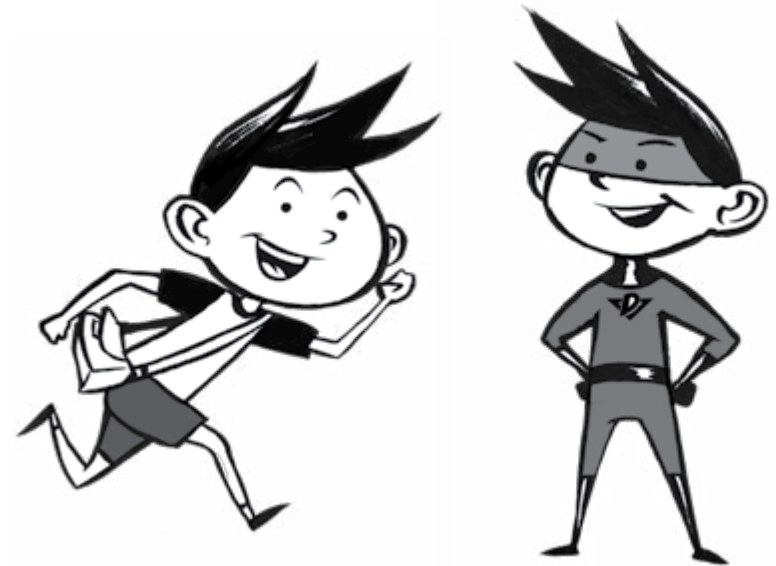
Genetically modifying people may sound like a creepy idea but it actually exists today. Scientists have found a way to tweak the genes of a baby before it's formed by cutting out DNA sequences and replacing them with new ones. These babies are known as "designer babies". Currently, this process is mostly used to eliminate genetic diseases and ensure healthy babies, but we're imagining a future where parents would be able to pay for a smart, pretty, sporty or even "perfect" baby.

6

MAA! Ever heard of Dolly the Sheep? Dolly became famous for being the first mammal to be cloned. Cloning is when scientists make an exact copy of an organism's DNA. It's like creating an identical twin! Looking at your clone would be like looking at your own reflection in a mirror. At the moment, cloning works best from live cells but scientists are working on ways to clone animals from frozen, dead cells.



... ABOUT THE CHARACTERS ...



DANNY

NAME Danny aka Danger Dan

AGE 11 (but often behaves like he's eight)

DISTINCTIVE FEATURE Mickey Mouse ears

LIKES Anything cold and sweet. All of Melody's gadgets. Comic books and superheroes.

DISLIKES Vegetables in any form.
Cockroaches, especially big, flying ones.

STRENGTHS Imaginative. Brave.
Acts quickly in any situation.

WEAKNESSES Doesn't think before he acts.
A magnet for trouble (and danger).



MELODY

NAME Melody aka Gadget Girl

AGE 14

DISTINCTIVE FEATURE Silvery voice

LIKES Goey Gooberberry Gummies in all flavours except coconut. Virtual jetpack tennis.

DISLIKES Danny being annoying. Birds.

STRENGTHS Smart. Usually calm (unless with Danny). Able to think under pressure.

WEAKNESSES Terrible aim. Sometimes a little bossy.



DOG

NAME Dog aka Power Paws

AGE 2 months and 1 week

DISTINCTIVE FEATURE Big, floppy ears. Black splotch on left eye.

LIKES Bananas. Being around Boss and Boy.

DISLIKES Red balls.

STRENGTHS Loyal. Loving. Eager to please.

WEAKNESSES Often doesn't understand what's going on. Easily distracted.

... ABOUT THE AUTHORS ...



Monica Lim and Lesley-Anne Tan are a mother-daughter writing team (in that order). They sometimes argue, like all mothers and daughters do, but they are able to work together because they have many things in common—such as their love for writing, eating and sleeping (not necessarily in that order). They have spoken at many schools and festivals because they love meeting Danger Dan fans.

They have already written one Danger Dan series, this is their second. The inspiration for Danger Dan came from Lesley-Anne's younger brother, who loves comic books and superheroes, and wishes he could time-travel into the future.

... ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR ...



Elvin Ching works as an illustrator and storyboard artist in Singapore. He likes to create his own little comics in his free time and some of his short stories have been published in the Eisner-nominated comics anthology *Liquid City*. He has also illustrated Marvel trading cards for Marvel, comics for the Pangu series of books by Martha Keswick and he is currently hard at work drawing *The Drift*, a new comic book series written by comics scribe Kelly Bender. Elvin has too many comic books at home. He has so many comics that there are some he hasn't even found time to read yet!

GO BACK TO THE FUTURE IN



A mysterious water-borne disease is plaguing Singapore in 2135 and the blame has fallen on Melody's brilliant brother, Bob. Danny and Melody have a slippery task at hand—to get to the bottom of the outbreak and prove Bob's innocence...while keeping Dog a secret.

In *The Watery Wipeout*, Danger Dan, Gadget Girl and Power Paws navigate underground tunnels, break mind-boggling codes and even get to ride on a Hover Cab! They discover that future Singapore is an island of never-ending thrills and spills. Follow the superhero trio as they go on a heart-stopping quest to prevent Singapore from breaking out in little red spots!

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF



Dog had started sniffing at all the gleaming yellow and blue buttons on the countertop. Unfortunately, the big red button in the centre of the countertop looked exactly like a red ball to Dog and he was terrified of red balls.

RED. BALL. Dog is very, very afraid! Danger! Boss! Boy! Help!

“A-WOOOOO!”

Dog freaked out and leapt backwards in alarm. He slipped on the polished silver counter and rolled over a row of yellow buttons. His big floppy left ear accidentally snagged on his paw, causing him to lurch to the side. Dog bashed into a lever,

knocking it upwards. He then ran about agitatedly in circles, stepping on more random buttons in the process.

RED ALERT! ⚡ RED ALERT!
⚡ RED ALERT! ⚡

“What’s happening? What’s happening?” asked Bob.

Afraid that Bob would see Dog, Melody thrust the hologram close to her face. “Nothing, Bob! Nothing whatsoever!” she said shrilly. “Everything’s just fine!”

Danny tried frantically to get hold of a panicked Dog. Just as he managed to grab Dog’s collar, the holograms on the wall and ceiling flashed the same message in red:

“Security breach! System shutdown in 30 seconds.”

“Danger Dan boldly goes with Gadget Girl where no Mickey Mouse-eared boy has gone before—the Singapore Zoo of the twenty-second century! I’m frothing with superpowered glee to join this duo, and their new ally Power Paws, on their most madcap adventure yet.”

—Gwee Li Sui, poet and graphic novelist

Danny and Melody are back together again, except this time, they’re in Melody’s world! Welcome to Singapore 2135, where Hover Cabs travel the flyways, the grass is so soft you can sleep on it, and everything runs perfectly. Danny is thrilled with the brilliant gadgets... but some things are not quite what they seem.

In *The Animal Abduction*, a new secret friend brings trouble to the Zoo! Danger Dan and Gadget Girl have to clean up the mess before it grows to elephantine proportions. And Danger Dan has to face his greatest archenemy once more—the Cockroach!



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ISBN-13: 978-981-4757-02-7



9 789814 757027

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