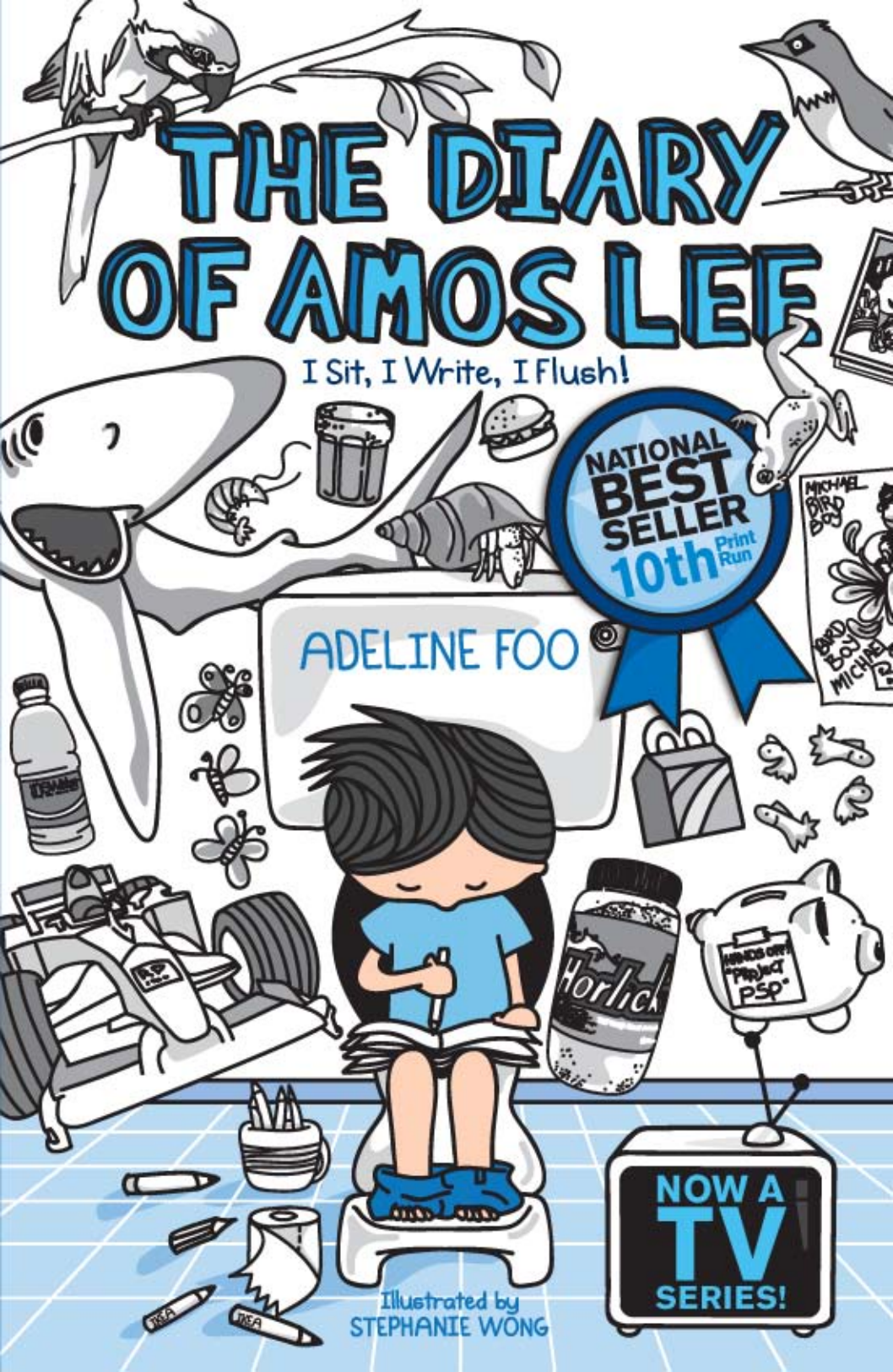


THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE

I Sit, I Write, I Flush!

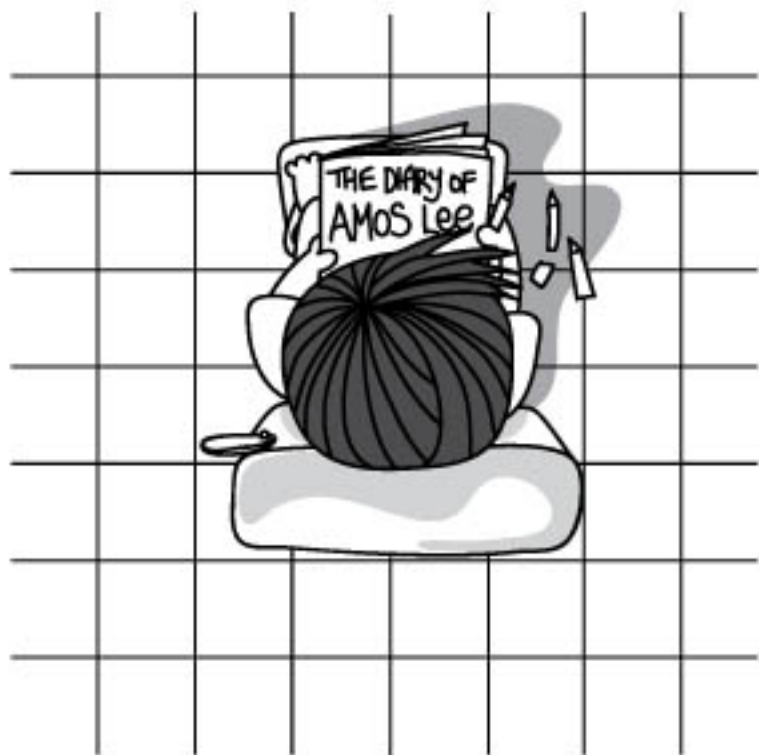
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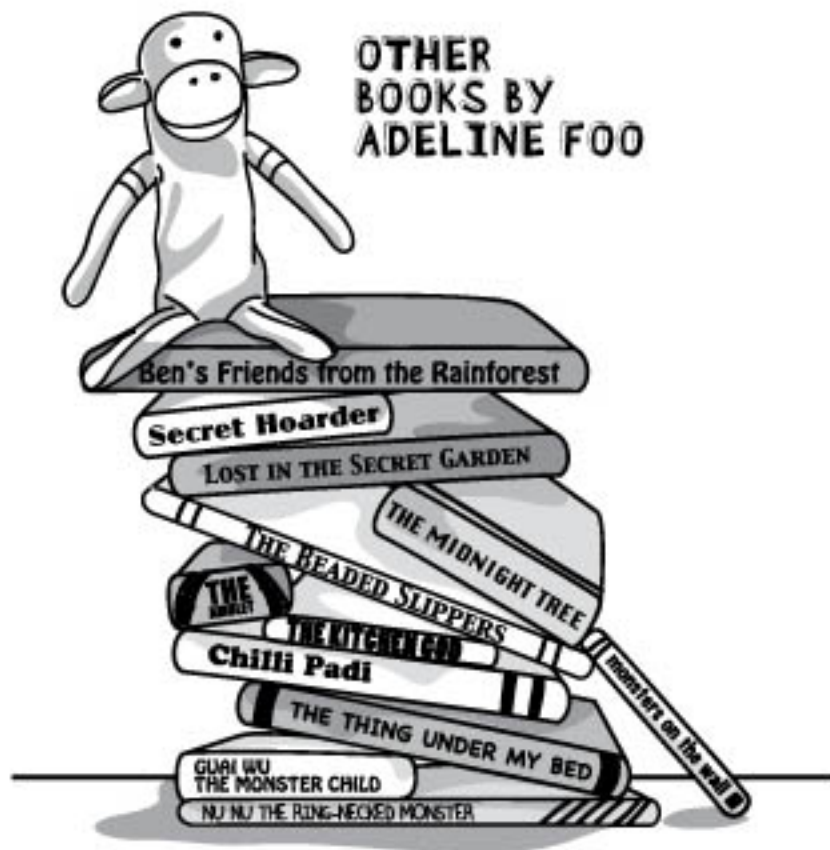
ADELINE FOO



Illustrated by
STEPHANIE WONG

NOW A
TV
SERIES!





OTHER
BOOKS BY
ADELINE FOO

THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE

I Sit, I Write, I Flush!

Written by
ADELINE FOO

Illustrated by
STEPHANIE WONG

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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

20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11





This diary began as Mum's New Year resolution to get me to write.

She came up with this weird idea that we should make good use of our time in the bathroom. On a wall above the toilet seat, she put in a wire rack to hold an old jotter book, some pens and coloured pencils. She said that when I am doing my big business, I can write. "Five to eight minutes max!" she said. "I don't want you to develop piles!"

I think that means something that blocks my poop from coming out.

"And why must I do this?" I asked.

"It's either this or you spend one hour every day writing one composition!" she said.

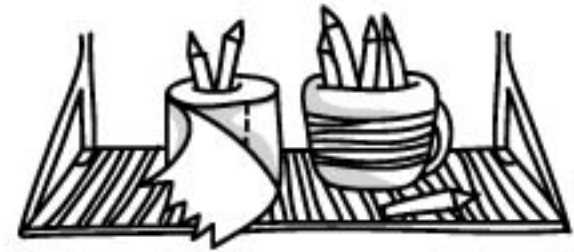
"Who wouldn't pick writing in the bathroom?" I thought to myself.

And so my writing in the bathroom began.

Dad said it would teach me to multi-task, a very important skill to have when I go out to work next time.

My entries started with the boring old stuff - describing my family, my day at school, things I would love to do to my pesky little sister, and so on... then Mum got this new job as a writer for a magazine.

She received the weirdest of assignments and would drag my sister and I along to check out new places. And that's how I got more things to write about. Some of these places Mum brought us were quite fun. I started collecting entry tickets to these places, so that I could enter my name in the Guinness World Records one day. That way, I will become famous, and one day, my diary will be worth a lot of money!



Amos Lee

MY FAMILY



ABOUT ME - HOW I GOT MY NAME!

Mum had weird food cravings when she was pregnant with me. At one time, it was for char siew bao. Another time, it was for cookies - double chocolate macadamia nut. She ate so many cookies in the nine months carrying me that when the doctor asked what she was naming her baby boy as I was being pushed out of her womb, she shouted, "He will be famous one day. I will call him Amos!"

And that's how I got my name - Amos Lee. Well, it could have been worse. Imagine being called Lee Char Siew!



MY DAD

Dad works at the airport. He says it's an important job. He has to make sure that the airport is running 24 hours a day and that nothing breaks down, so that he doesn't get complaints.



MY MUM

I was happier when Mum had a job. But she quit to spend more time with my sister and I. She drives us to school, cooks, cleans the house, irons our clothes, sends us for tuition, swimming and ballet classes. She is very busy but she knows when I am going to the bathroom. "Write in the bathroom!" she yells all the time. I wish she had a real job.

MY SISTER

Just turned five. I call her WPI. Whiny. Pesky. Irritating.

AH KONG AND PO-PO

Ah Kong and Po-Po have taken care of us since we were babies. Since Mum is home now, they only come over a few times a week. Po-Po cooks dinner and Ah Kong watches us when Mum has to leave the house for errands or to meet her friends. Most nights when Ah Kong and Po-Po are late in getting home, they just stay over at our house.



Thursday, 3 January

MUM FOUND A JOB!

Mum was very excited today. She was asked by an old boss to work as a writer. She can write from home (not very good news for me) but some days, she won't be home as she has to go for meetings. That's the good part.

4pm

I heard Mum telling Dad that maybe she could bring WPI and I along for her ~~ass-in-ments~~ assignments! Oh man...

See, now I know Mum reads my diary. She cannot stand it when I do not spell correctly.

Saturday, 5 January

MUM'S 1ST ASSIGNMENT - BREAKFAST WATCH

Mum said she needed to observe what locals eat for breakfast. I was excited as, well, I love eating! Mum's editor said that the article must cover "traditional breakfast favourites". Sounds interesting enough.

I only know of McDonald's hot cakes, fried carrot cake - must be black, and kaya toast. We usually eat these. But Mum said her article has to be more balanced, including choices of food eaten by all races.

"Right, what about McDonald's Big Breakfast, fried carrot cake - can be white, and kaya bun?" I asked.

It's 'criteria', Amos!

Nope, fried carrot cake didn't meet her crysteeria Mum said she would bring me along for 'food tasting' at coffee shops and hawker centres. Yippeel! This is one assignment I don't mind helping out with!

Sunday, 6 January



BREAKFAST AT CHIN MEE CHIN

Our first stop - a coffee shop along East Coast Road. Been around since 1925, Mum said. Mosaic tiles for flooring, ceiling fans that go click, click and click, and marble table tops. Almost everyone was eating half-boiled eggs with dark soya sauce and pepper. Toasted buns with kaya and butter seemed to be a second favourite. (See, I was right!) There were also cupcakes, cream cones, swiss rolls and custard buns. I had the kaya bun. Mum had the half-boiled egg and kopi.

TAKE-AWAY AT KIM CHOO KUEH CHANG (JUST DOWN THE ROAD) - YUMMY!

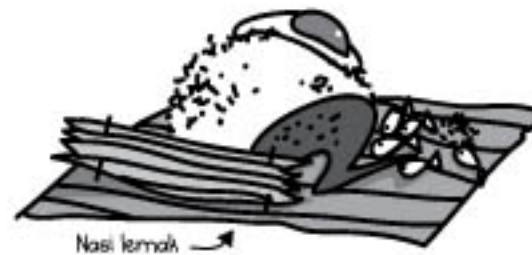
Mum said we had to observe 'buying behaviour' at this shop. It was interesting to see cars driving up to park outside the shop, with the drivers dashing in to grab their orders. They bought mostly mini kueh chang and nonya kueh. Boy, these drivers were really fast! But of course - they didn't want to be fined for illegal parking after all! Why didn't anyone ask me to be a look-out for the parking attendant? I would have done it for free kueh chang.



Mum bought some for me to try. I loved them! Ate six at one go! Mum also bought two boxes home for Ah Kong and Po-Po.

NASI LEMAK AT ADAM ROAD FOOD CENTRE

Mum said we were eating nasi lemak next, a "favourite Malay breakfast food". The food centre was huge. Many stalls with lots of choices for breakfast! Mum checked out the Selera Rasa Nasi Lemak stall. The stall has been rated



Number 1 by many foodies, Mum said. All I know is that there was such a long queue! Everybody was

ordering the nasi lemak with a fried chicken wing, otak-otak, fried egg and ikan bilis. The sambal chilli was very good, Mum tried and told me. I ate only the rice and fried chicken wing. Yummy!

NEXT STOP, PRATA AT JALAN KAYU

Mum said we were having prata next. I told her I couldn't eat anymore. But she insisted that I try the prata at Thasevi Famous Jalan Kayu Prata Restaurant. I told her I believe the stall is famous. No need to try. But she insisted. I ordered it with ice cream. Actually it was quite nice. After eating, I told Mum I had to go home. But she wasn't done yet. She said she wanted to visit a wet market.



While travelling in the car, I thought of wet market smells. Suddenly I felt sick. I told Mum to stop the car. I got out to throw up in the drain. I saw what was left of my undigested kueh chang, nasi lemak and prata ice cream. It was horrible!

Mum felt really sorry after that. We headed home.

Went to bed to rest. Couldn't eat or do anything else the entire day.

Monday, 7 January

Woke up feeling empty in the stomach. Washed up and got dressed for school. Sat down for breakfast. Hmm... I thought maybe kaya toast with hot Milo would be nice. No such luck. Breakfast was re-heated kueh chang, from yesterday.



Tuesday, 8 January

Ah Kong bought prata and kopi for breakfast this morning. Thank goodness no more kueh chang! My stomach feels better just by not having to look at another one of those things!

I wonder what drink goes well with prata? Hmm... a Milo drink, hot or iced with lots of Milo powder on it. The Milo Dinosaur! Let's see, I have seen the Indian uncle at the drinks stall make it with Milo powder, hot water, condensed milk and lots of ice. Then sprinkle Milo powder on top.

Maybe I can try adding ice cream - vanilla or chocolate. And maybe I can add whipped cream, the kind squeezed from a nozzle... sss. I can call my drink a Milo T-Rex! Or Milo Godzilla sounds better... Raahh!



What about yogurt instead of ice cream?

Muuuuuuuuuummm... must you read everything I write? And yogurt with Milo sounds GROSS!

AH KONG'S GUIDE TO COFFEE SHOP KOPI & TEH!



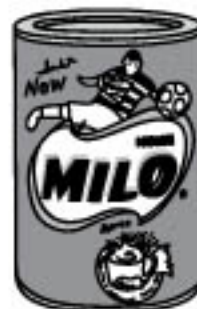
KOPI O/TEH O
Black coffee/tea without milk.



KOPI C/TEH C
Coffee/tea with Carnation evaporated milk. (C stands for Carnation. In Hainanese, "see" also means fresh, as in fresh milk.)



KOPI PENG /TEH PENG
Iced coffee/tea.



This one is really funny!
TAK KEW - MILO!
In Hokkien, tak kew means kicking ball. Ah Kong said that the old Milo commercials on TV used to show someone kicking a ball.

Here's more. These terms are used mostly by Ah Pehs. The same references are used for teh.



KOPI SIEW TAI
With less sugar.



KOPI POH
Light.



KOPI KOSONG
Black coffee without sugar or milk. In Malay, kosong means empty.



KOPI KAR TAI
With more sugar.



KOPI KOW
Thick. Kow in Hokkien means thick.



TEOH HERGH

Chinese Tea. In Hokkien, this means fishing. The dipping of the tea bag resembles fishing!



AH HUAY
Chrysanthemum tea. In Hokkien, huay means flower.



TAI KA HO
Horlicks. In Cantonese, this means good for everybody!

AMOS' GUIDE TO CAFÉ COFFEE & TEA



AMERICANO



LATTE



TALL



ESPRESSO



CAPPUCCINO



MACCHIATO



CAFFE MOCHA



GRANDE

Sunday, 13 January

WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT LIVING IN A FLAT?

Mum asked me what makes living in a flat unique? I suspect it's another assignment. Why is she asking me? I am only a kid! But since she's my mother, I will help her.

Let's see, I like living in a flat because we get to play along the corridor. We can run and play 'catching'. The flat has a void deck too, which is good for cycling and playing football. Sometimes while waiting for my school bus, I like watching old folks play checkers.

Amos, you should not be playing football! HDB has signs that say No Football!

8pm

What everybody said about living in a flat:

Po-Po said she likes to hang her clothes outside the kitchen window. They dry fast.

Ah Kong said he can have a private garden along the corridor with his potted plants.

Dad said the void deck provides a common space to hold weddings or funerals.

WPI said she likes going to the kindergarten at the ground





Adeline Foo lives in Singapore with her husband and three children. She's a children's book author, with 18 published books.

The author's elder son hated reading and writing when he was four years old. Now twelve, he's written a few diaries, which he keeps hidden from Mum. But Mum has read every entry in his diaries (without him knowing of course), though she has to bite her hand each time she wants to correct his English! No, he's not called Amos, and she didn't steal any entries from his diaries. Writing this book took four months, and it has given the author constipation. But some good did come out of it. The family has sworn off eating frogs' legs, and the author has achieved the art of multi-tasking in the bathroom, writing while doing what most other people do in it.

If you wish to get in touch with the author, visit www.amoslee.com.sg where Adeline blogs about the perils of being a mum!



Stephanie Wong lives in Singapore and is a workaholic.

She designs and illustrates at Epigram, an independent design house and publisher of exquisitely-designed books (www.epigrambooks.sg). Like Amos, Stephanie is an ardent purveyor of local cuisine and much prefers swimming to jogging. When she is not working, she can be found with her bicycle, Ralph, down by the beach or hanging out at coffee shops with friends enjoying her prata kosong (plain prata) and Teh O Peng.

To view the scribbles of the illustrator, visit www.steffatplay.blogspot.com



THE DIARIES OF AMOS LEE

Is your Amos Lee series complete?
Check to make sure you have all
these titles!



1

**I Sit, I Write,
I Flush!**

This diary begins
as Mum's New Year
resolution to get
Amos to write
when he is in
the bathroom...



2

Girls, Guts & Glory!
Amos joins the
school's swim team
and discovers the
hunger to excel...



3

**I'm Twelve, I'm
Tough, I Tweet!**
Amos resolves
to be voted as the
most popular boy.

To his dismay, his
arch enemy, Michael,
resorts to cheating...



3.5

**Your D.I.Y Toilet
Diary To Fame!**
Get started on
the road to
fame with fun
stuff, doodles and
personality tests...

AMOS LEE BOOK 4!

He's cute. He's polite. He's teacher's pet and Mummy's darling.
He's everything that Amos Lee isn't. Meet the Loo Boy, the child star
Singapore is grooming as The Next Big Thing on TV!
But will Amos, the original toilet diarist, let him
get ahead? Check www.amoslee.com.sg for updates!



PRAISE FOR THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE

I Sit, I Write, I Flush!

"What started as random rants in a toilet has now become the inspiration for a new children's book."

Malini Nathan, *The Straits Times' Little Red Dot*

"From school to market, everything is familiar but fresher from a precocious child's point of view, and the illustrations are quirky and cute. A clever idea and a pleasurable read."

Tan Shee Lah, *Lifestyle*

"It has delightful local flavour, humour, sketches and even unwanted comments from Mom (who corrects his spelling, of course) and Dad. It introduces uniquely Singaporean sights and sounds like the Kopi lingo used at coffeeshops..."

Wong Siow Yuen, *Young Parents*



Winner of the International School Libraries Network of Singapore's 2009 Red Dot Book Award (Junior Category).



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