



# THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE

Girls, Guts and Glory!

NATIONAL  
BEST  
SELLER  
SECOND  
EDITION

NOW A  
TV  
SERIES!

ADELINE FOO

Illustrated by  
STEPHANIE WONG



## BOOKS IN THIS SERIES

---

1. **THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE**  
I Sit, I Write, I Flush!
  2. **THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE**  
Girls, Guts and Glory!
  3. **THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE**  
I'm Twelve, I'm Tough, I Tweet!
  - 3.5. **THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE**  
Your D.I.Y. Toilet Diary to Fame!
- 

**WHOOPIE LEE**  
Almost Famous



# THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE

Girls, Guts and Glory!

Written by  
**ADELINE FOO**

Illustrated by  
**STEPHANIE WONG**

**E**

EPIGRAM BOOKS / SINGAPORE

Copyright © 2004 by Adeline Foo  
All rights reserved.

Published in Singapore by Epigram Books  
[www.epigrambooks.sg](http://www.epigrambooks.sg)

Cover design by Stephanie Wong  
Illustrations © 2004 by Stephanie Wong

NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD SINGAPORE  
CATALOGUING IN PUBLICATION DATA

Foo, Adeline, 1971-

The diary of Amos Lee: I sit, I write, I flush! / written by Adeline Foo,  
illustrated by Stephanie Wong. - 2nd ed. - Singapore: Epigram, 2012.  
p. cm.

ISBN: 978-981-07-2678-2 (pbk.)

1. Boys - Singapore - Diaries - Juvenile fiction.  
2. Children - Singapore - Diaries - Juvenile fiction.  
3. Singapore - Juvenile fiction. I. Wong, Stephanie, 1971- II. Title.

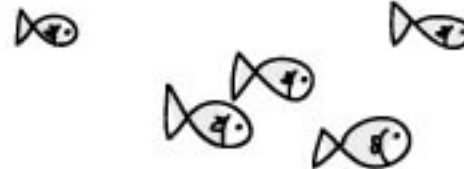
PZ7

S823 -- dc23 OCN19996501

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.

Second Edition

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1





Last year I became famous for the wrong reason. I was known as the first boy in the whole world to write his diary in the toilet!

I still write from the toilet this year. It's the only place I can go to get away from my troubles - like Michael, the ex-prefect bully, who is in the school swimming team with me. I think he's secretly training to be a dolphin! There's also our crazy Coach, a former army man who drives us nuts in training. Plus I fell out with my best friend, Alvin, over a girl, of all things! And to top it all off,

my sister got possessed by a weird curse, and started building monster dolls to fight my baby brother's arrival

I take my diary wherever I go as I know there are those who want to get their hands on it. For I know secrets, like breaking my sister's curse and how babies are made. This diary really beats what you can find on the internet, about re-pro-dark-sion and stuff.

*Reproduction! Really, I didn't know that interested you, Amos. And please use the dictionary!*

Mum, the Toilet English Teacher.  
Some things never change.



Amos Lee



### MY MUM

Women are really strange when they are pregnant. They eat lots of weird stuff in the middle of the night, put on weight, then whine about being fat. I caught Mum doing weight lifts in the kitchen, with a watermelon! She said she needed to work off extra calories from eating too much.

### MY SISTER

She's suffering from anxiety. I caught her disfiguring potatoes in the kitchen. She was making ugly faces on them with a fork, muttering under her breath, "I hate you, I hate you!" Still as Whiny, Pesky and Irritating as ever. That's WPI, for short.

### MY DAD

He's so proud that Mum is pregnant. A baby bonus, he keeps saying. Something about the government giving us money for having a third child. I caught him putting his cheek to Mum's stomach, crooning, "Yooohoo... can you hear Papa? My babeee boh-nussss..."

Sometimes I wonder if I am the only normal person in this family. Something tells me that this diary is no longer safe in the toilet. I must not leave it where crazy people can read it and vent their flush-tra-tion in it.

*Frustration! And really, you should use the dictionary!*

A frustrated and neurotic mum. I must find a secret hiding place where she cannot find my diary.



Saturday, 3 January

## POOR ME, A SLAVE TO HOUSEWORK

I don't like Mum's gai-ni-colon-gist very much. He ordered complete bed rest for Mum, to "preserve the state of baby." No cooking or housework allowed! Dad said with gadgets like the washing machine and vacuum cleaner, any child can help around the house, so I have just been made the Official Laundry Boy and Vacuum Cleaner Operator of the Lee Family! And Dad said he would NOT be paying me for my labour. This is a serious act of child abuse!

*Amos, you're expected to help for free. And I believe the correct term is obstetrician, not gynaecologist!*

How did she find my diary? I hid it under my bed!



Sunday, 4 January

I put up an ad at our flat's lift landing. "Help Wanted For Housework!" WPI saw it and I hired her on the spot. I told her it would be easy - all she has to do is vacuum the house when Mum is out and do the laundry when Mum is taking her

nap. I will pay her five potato chips for every job done.

Dad was right - any child can do housework!

Monday, 5 January

## BACK TO SCHOOL!

There is a new kid in school. Her name is Somaly. She's a foreign student from Cambodia. Humph! Alvin was soooooo keen to find out more about her and kept asking me what I thought of her. Not much, really. Why should I care about some girl?



4pm

It's great to be back at school! I miss hanging out with my best friends, Alvin and Anthony. Alvin said he got a new pet over the holidays. Hmm... wonder what it is this time? Last year his dad bought him frogs!

Anthony said he spent his entire holidays mugging. His mum made him go for tuition four times a week, and attend five study camps for English, Mandarin, Mathematics and Science. I asked him what the fifth camp was for and he said sheepishly, "How to Score in Exams." That's his punishment for being last in class last year. Poor Anthony.

Thursday, 8 January

## ALVIN'S NEW PET

Alvin brought his pet to school today. It's a spider! And for some unknown reason, he was dying to show it





to Somaly. I was so irritated with him. Instead of paying attention in class, he kept turning back to look at her. What is wrong with him?

Friday, 9 January

## SOMETHING FISHY IS GOING ON

Alvin disappeared during recess. I couldn't find him anywhere! Anthony said he saw Alvin with Somaly, in the school garden shed. What were they doing together?



Monday, 12 January

## A CRISIS!

Alvin lost his spider in school today! He was really upset. I can't believe how careless he was. I got everyone in class to help look for it, but it seemed ridiculous. How were we supposed to recognise it? Anthony even offered to put up posters of the missing spider in all the toilets. I thought that was a silly idea but didn't say anything. How could anyone possibly find it?

Tuesday, 13 January

## SPIDER FOUND!

We spent the entire afternoon after school looking for Alvin's silly spider! In the classroom and the garden shed.

We even combed the ceilings with torchlights. Imagine how irritated I felt when it was Somaly who found the spider. She saw something moving on Anthony's head and true enough, it was the spider. It must have fallen on his head, scared by a bright torchlight. Alvin was so happy that he hugged Somaly! Hugged her! Yeeks, he was trying to get close to her. Worse still, he didn't even thank Anthony or I.



I asked Alvin how sure he was that the spider Somaly found was his spider. He said, "I recognise the way it strokes its legs." Great, my best friend thinks he is some kind of spider scientist.

*The word is arachnologist, Amos. Alvin is just being kind to Somaly, since she's so far from home. And you are supposed to help around the house, not pay your sister potato chips to do it for you!*

My goodness! I had been hiding this behind the cupboard. How did Murn find it? Nothing escapes her.

Friday, 16 January

## SOMALY THE SPIDER QUEEN

Yup, the new kid in school has sucked my best friend into her web of deceit. Alvin will do anything for his Spider

Queen. Today, I saw them in the library! Alvin, of all people! Since when did he get so studious? But I saw what he was reading. It was The Adventures of Peter Parker. What a joke. He's just pretending to be a good boy, to get close to Somaly.



3pm

Anthony called me. He said he saw Alvin and Somaly with TWO spiders today. Where did the second one come from? Oh man!

8pm

I called Alvin to ask about the second spider. He explained that it was a present for Somaly. He found out that she used to catch spiders back in Cambodia to play with. He even told me that they are trying to mate their spiders and make spider babies. I'm going to puke after this.

Thursday, 22 January

## ALVIN'S NEW INTEREST

Alvin just called. He said he had borrowed the book Charlotte's Web from the library today. It was Somaly

who had told him it was a good book. At first, I couldn't believe Alvin was being so obedient, reading what Somaly likes. But, while we were talking, he confessed that he had borrowed the DVD of the movie Charlotte's Web, not the book. He said it was faster to watch the movie than read the book. So, Alvin has not changed after all!

Wednesday, 28 January

## SHOW & TELL

Alvin talked about Charlotte's Web during Show & Tell. He did such a good job of dissecting the story and talking about the characters that Teacher ordered all of us to read the book! Oh man... I could see Somaly gazing at him with stars in her eyes. Only I know how he knew so much. I'm going to borrow the DVD from him, and if he doesn't want to lend it to me, I will tell his "girlfriend" the truth.



Saturday, 31 January

## ABOUT SPIDERS AND PIGS

I watched Charlotte's Web with WPI this afternoon. During dinner, she refused to eat the sausages Mum cooked. She even accused Mum of murdering Wilbur, the pig in the story. Really, so dramatic! The silly girl ate plain rice for dinner, as Mum had only cooked fried sausages, eggs and



vegetables. WPI said she did not want to be guilty of eating unborn chicks as well.



3pm



After finishing my homework, I googled to find out more about spiders. They are really amazing creatures. I called Anthony to tell him what I found out, but he didn't want to hear any of it. He said he had been having nightmares about the spider that was found on his head. He even asked me if he should shave himself bald!

I called Alvin next but I didn't get to say very much. He went on and on about how Somaly was like Charlotte, the spider. He called her a misunderstood creature. Really, who cares about Somaly? I think Alvin is Somaly's only friend in class. The other kids in school are not really mixing with her.

Sunday, 1 February

## WPI AND HER SPIDERS

I shouldn't have asked WPI to watch the movie with me. Last night, she had a bad dream. She screamed so loudly

that Dad and Mum rushed into our bedroom. She said she saw black spider monsters on the wall. My sister has such an incredible imagination. Mum broke down crying, saying it was a bad omen to see black spiders in the house. What is it with these women?



2pm

I can't believe I got grounded for educating my sister! No computer for a week. Mum said it was all my fault, for corrupting her mind with a spider movie. Hey, strong words here, Mum! I know you are suffering from ho-moan-nal imbalance - that's what Dad said - but don't blame me if your daughter can see visions on the wall! I think this is all Alvin's fault. He's the one who got all of us started on spiders in the first place!

*It's hormonal!  
I am perfectly normal!*

No mad person will admit that they are crazy. My mum must be suffering from a nervous breakdown and my sister is loony. I should not have left my diary in my school bag. I must be more careful next time.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adeline Foo is an MFA graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Asia. She has 18 published children's books, with five national bestsellers. *The Diary of Amos Lee: I Sit, I Write*, *I Flush!* won the inaugural Red Dot award for 'Best

Junior Fiction' presented by the International Schools Libraries Network of Singapore in 2009. *The Diary of Amos Lee* is also published by Hachette India and Lentera Hari in Indonesia. The books were adapted for a 10-part TV series for Singapore MediaCorp children' channel, okto, from 25 January to 28 March 2012.

---

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Stephanie is a senior designer at Epigram, a local publishing house dedicated to producing exquisitely-designed and thought-provoking books ([www.epigrambooks.sg](http://www.epigrambooks.sg)). Illustrations for this book came about from observing scenes and people at work, cafes, libraries, East Coast park, and while cat-sitting Sev and Tig. For other adorkable (dorky and adorable) stuff that Stephanie has done, head to [www.steffatplay.blogspot.com](http://www.steffatplay.blogspot.com).





# THE BEST-SELLING THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE

I Sit, I Write, I Flush!



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

## GIRLS, GUTS AND GLORY!

I write my diary in the toilet to get away from my troubles, like having to compete with Michael, the bully who's in the swim team with me, and falling out with my best friend, Alvin, over a girl!

My diary goes wherever I go as there are those who want to read it. For I know secrets, like how to break my sister's curse and how babies are made...



E

EPIGRAM BOOKS

ISBN 978-981-07-2678-2



9 789810 726782