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LOST IN TAIPEI!

THE TRAVEL DIARY OF AMOS LEE

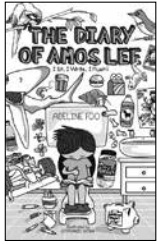


ADELINE FOO

Illustrated by STEPHANIE WONG



THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE SERIES



1
I SIT,
I WRITE,
I FLUSH!



2
GIRLS,
GUTS
AND
GLORY!



3
I'M
TWELVE,
I'M TOUGH,
I TWEET!



4
YOUR
D.I.Y.
TOILET
DIARY
TO FAME!



5
LIGHTS,
CAMERA,
SUPERSTAR!

THE TRAVEL DIARY OF AMOS LEE SERIES



6
LOST IN
TAIPEI!

THE WHOOPIE LEE SERIES



1
ALMOST
FAMOUS



2
THE BIG
SPELL OFF

LOST IN TAIPEI!

The Travel Diary of Amos Lee

Written by
ADELINE FOO

Illustrated by
STEPHANIE WONG

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This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents
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living or dead, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

First Edition
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The school holidays were coming up! After months and months of studying and round after round of tuition and endless mugging for our year-end exams, FINALLY we were FREE! I knew we were in for a treat when I heard some of the boys in class talking about a school trip, ABROAD! Wow. I was like TOTALLY OVER THE MOON!

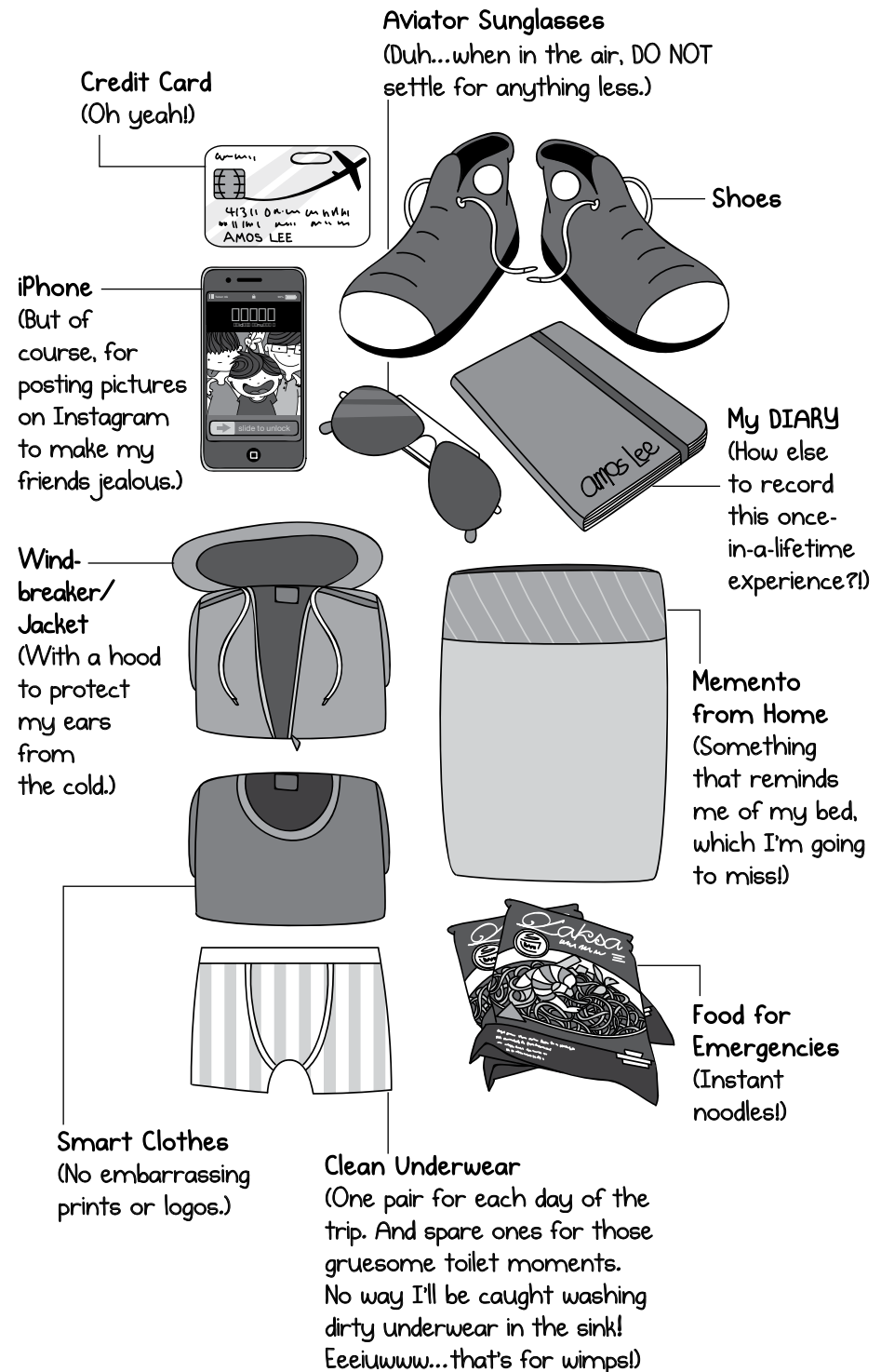
So what would it be, a Geography trip to Egypt to see the Aswan Dam and the River Nile? Or maybe a Literature trip to Australia for an introduction to Theatre Studies? I couldn't believe my luck! The best thing about being in

secondary school is that we get to go on overseas trips in the name of a *learning journey*. I read in a newspaper article that up to 90,000 kids in Singapore get to travel on overseas school trips yearly. Brilliant! It's the perfect excuse to leave Singapore during the holidays! Just imagine: no tuition, no remedial classes and no sports training! But the best part? Getting AWAY FROM FAMILY! No naggy Mum, no annoying siblings either. What more could I ask for?

I hope we can apply to have our own credit cards when we travel. I must ask Mum to get me one. I should also get one of those cool trolley cases that have 360-degree spinner wheels! Those cases are compact enough to store everything, plus they provide bum rest. AWESOME! I should start making a list. Oh boy, I can't wait to pack! And I know exactly what I'll bring with me on my trip.

It's going to be one FANTASTIC trip! I'm really looking forward to my first overseas expedition. I wonder where we'll be taken.

Amos Lee





IT ALL STARTED WITH MUM

At breakfast this morning, Mum said she'd been in touch with my best friends' mothers. She was excited to learn that Alvin and Anthony, my former classmates from primary school, would be going on the same trip as me.

Whoa! That was cool! I looked up from my food briefly and gave her a thumbs up. That's Mum. She always knows what's happening, before I do. It's amazing how she has eyes growing out of the back of her head.

I wasn't surprised that my friends would be going on the same trip, as from our conversations I knew that we use the same textbooks for Geography and Literature though we go to different schools. Mum went on and on about how important it was for us to stick together since we'd be travelling for the first time without our parents. I didn't pay her much attention, as I was intent on fishing alphabets out of my cereal. But I briefly looked up when I heard the words "cultural experience".

Yeah, for sure. Anything outside of Singapore is a cultural experience. I hope they'll allow us to go digging for treasure in the Pharaohs' tombs. But if I remember correctly from the movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, which I've watched once on DVD, there were thousands of snakes in the tombs! Yikes! That's like my all-time phobia —REPTILES! But it's probably a silly fear; tomb raiders

must have cleaned everything out, nothing to be afraid of. I'd also heard boys in my class talking about the National Institute of Dramatic Art in Sydney, Australia. If we were heading there for Theatre Studies, I know we'd wing it. After all, Alvin and Anthony have acted in a TV show before, and I was the alpha male on the set. I wrote the script. Bet my acting would be better than my writing!

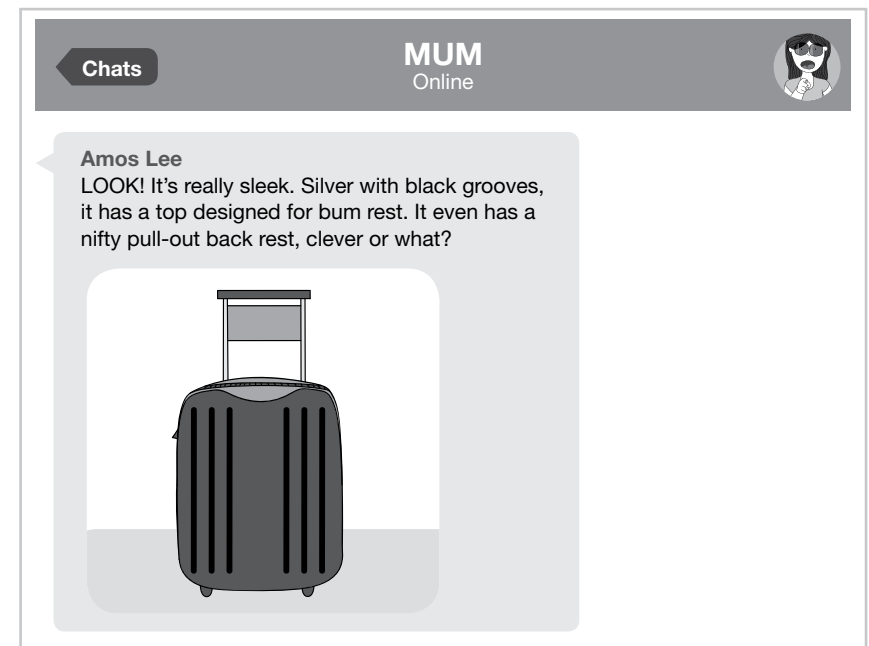
My sister, Whoopie, sulked big time throughout breakfast. She couldn't stop whining, "He always gets all the fun! ALWAYS!" I threw her an evil eye when Mum wasn't looking. Keep on dreaming, kid. What, she's only 10!

Even if she was older, I doubt Mum would let her out of the house on her own! Duh. Travel abroad without parents? No way! She should just stick to dolling herself up in the toilet and practising the *Cup Song*. (I can't understand what it is about Anna Kendrick's song that has ALL GIRLS from America to Singapore stacking cups and slapping hands.)

Just look at my little brother, Everest—he's normal, unlike Whoopie. I'm so proud of him! He's a Mini-Me, always copying what I do. He tried his best to pick out alphabets without drawing Mum's attention. Man...he's so cute I'm surprised Mum hasn't offered him up to act in McDonald's commercials! Just think of all the money he could bring us! But no, Mum said she wouldn't exploit him for money. Oh well, it's her loss.

I got a sharp word from Mum when she saw how soggy my cereal had turned. It looked disgusting. I managed to form a couple of words with the alphabets I'd picked out. I smirked when Mum said she'd be buying me "reliable" luggage for the trip.

I stopped rearranging my alphabets to WhatsApp her an image of the trolley case I'd found on the Internet.



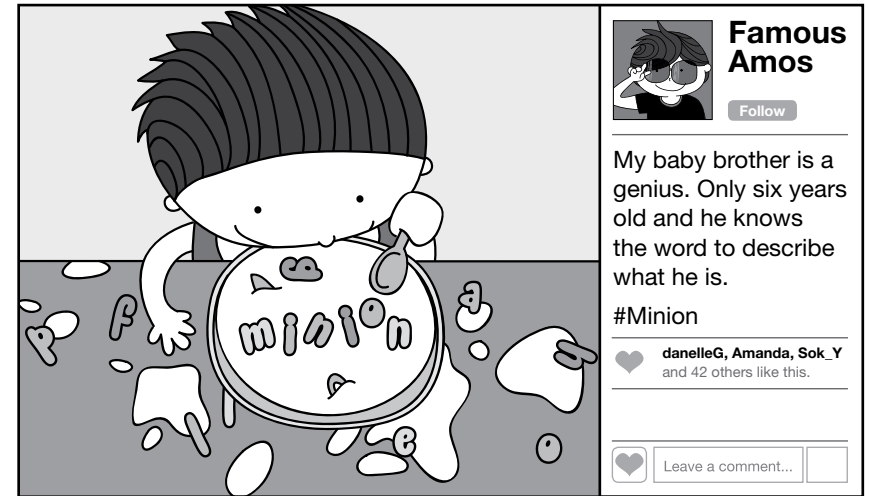
I thought I heard Mum snort when she checked the image I sent. She said, "I'll think about it." Which meant no. I chipped in hastily, "I promise to pay you back by cleaning the house every day. For the rest of my life!" That made her smile. She ruffled my hair and said sweetly, "Just go and enjoy your trip."

I knew it was either now or never so I put on my most electrifying smile and dropped my bomber: "So may I have a credit card of my own?" That question provoked a reaction that I didn't expect.

My sister threw up her ENTIRE breakfast. And guess where the shooting cereal was directed? At Mum. Great. My question was forgotten. Mum couldn't stop shrieking as she scrambled to grab the tablecloth to wipe half-ingested cereal off her face. Just before she cleaned everything from the table, I took a picture of the words I'd formed with my cereal:

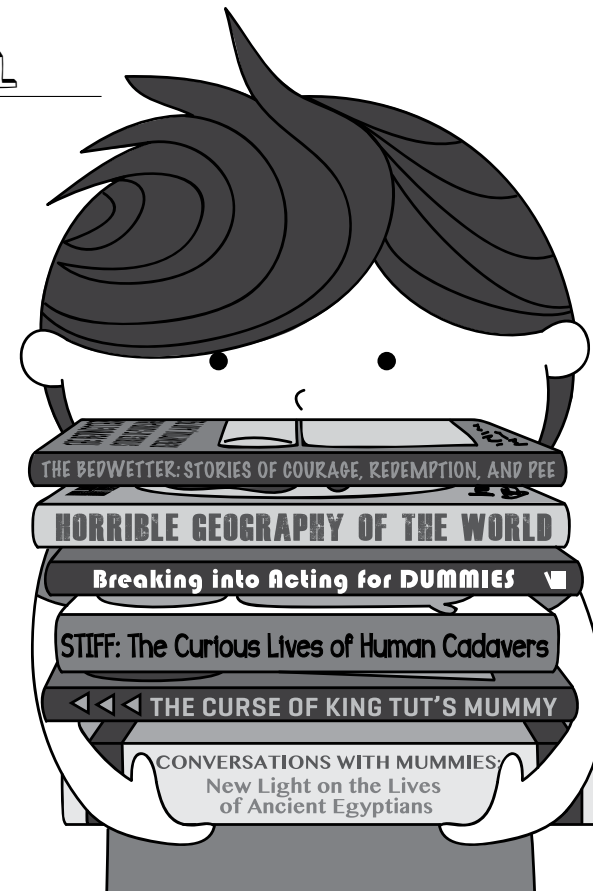


I looked at what Everest had formed with his alphabets:



THE BOMBSHELL

I met up with Alvin and Anthony after school. We'd arranged to meet in Serangoon, in the library inside Nex shopping mall. They were late. By the time they sauntered into the library to find me, I had something like six books to check out:



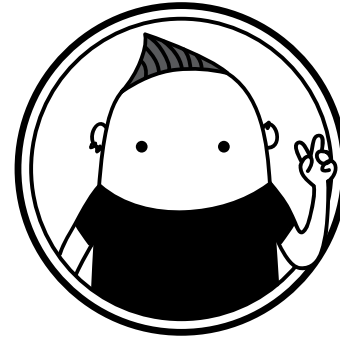


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adeline Foo is an MFA graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Asia.

She has 24 published children's books, including seven 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 School Libraries Network (Singapore) in 2009. It also won the Popular Readers' Choice Award in 2011. *The Diary of Amos Lee* is also published in India, Indonesia, China and the Slovak Republic. It has also been adapted for a 10-part TV series on Singapore's MediaCorp children's channel, okto.

Visit www.amoslee.com.sg for more details.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Stephanie Wong is a designer at Epigram, a local design house. Epigram started Epigram Books, a publishing arm dedicated to producing well designed and thought-provoking books (www.epigrambooks.sg).

She has illustrated nine books, had two exhibitions and conducted workshops in Singapore, Malaysia, Phuket and India. She loves "do nothing" beach holidays and exploring hidden gems in cities.

For other adorkable projects, news and random musings, visit www.steffatplay.blogspot.com or check out her swanky new website www.steffatwork.com.

LOST IN TAIPEI!

THE TRAVEL DIARY OF AMOS LEE

FROM THE BEST-
SELLING SERIES
– THE DIARY
OF AMOS LEE

11 days in TAIPEI, TAIWAN with my best friends. No naggy parents, no pesky siblings. I should be ecstatic, right? But nooo...Mum decided my first trip abroad should be culturally enriching. Which meant boring Chinese lessons. I told myself, stay positive! There'd be lots of bubble tea, all the street snacks I could find, sightseeing...But I crossed paths with this BIG, UGLY BULLY who's a Wing Chun master and ran away from class to avoid him. What I didn't expect was to lose my passport and ALL my money! Oh man...how was I going to survive this trip?



Danshui:
Avoid during a typhoon



● Shilin Night Market:
Eat till you drop



Longshan Temple:
Filled with people and
the smell of joss sticks



● Chiang Kai-shek
Memorial Hall:
History and selfies



● Taipei 101:
A very tall building



Ximending:
Shop till you drop



The Mandarin
Learning Centre:
Mandarin lessons...

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