

“A curious collection of comics, for these curious times.”

—Sonny Liew

Author of the Eisner-winning *The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye*

CHRONICLES
OF A
CIRCUIT
BREAKER



JOSEPH CHIANG

“*Chronicles of a Circuit Breaker* feels like an old-fashioned response to a very contemporary event. Visually there are the old paper texture, flat perspectives, characters jumping into the air when surprised, sweat emanata popping out of heads—all of which evoke the look and feel of early newspaper comic strips. The punchlines have an old-school feel too, sometimes seemingly edging into *Jim’s Journal*-style anti-humour, resulting in a curious collection of comics, for these curious times.”

—**Sonny Liew**, Author of the Eisner-winning *The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye*

“Having followed Joseph Chiang’s comics since the nineties, I continue to be amazed by his virtuosity. I gladly agreed when he asked me to edit this book. Drawn in the style of old comic strips, these small doses of cartoon antidotes remind us that life goes on, no matter how big the problem is.”

—**CT Lim**, Country Editor (Singapore) of the *International Journal of Comic Art*

“A witty and affectionate recollection of our lives during the circuit breaker in Singapore. We will probably look back at these crazy times with laughter and tears after this whole episode is over.”

—**Jackson Tan**, Creative Director of BLACK

“Capturing the ups and downs of Singapore’s circuit breaker, Joseph chronicles the daily nuances as he and his family navigate through our collective Covid-19 era. From queueing for bubble tea and getting used to wearing a mask when outdoors to the infamous toilet paper run, it is a story that all of us would have lived through in the past months. Joseph’s book is perhaps our ‘Portrait of the Graphic Novelist as a Middle-Aged Man’.

P.S. I was one of the jokers featured in the prologue.”

—**Kenny Leck**, Owner of BooksActually

CHRONICLES OF A CIRCUIT BREAKER

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Edited by CT Lim

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JOSEPH CHIANG



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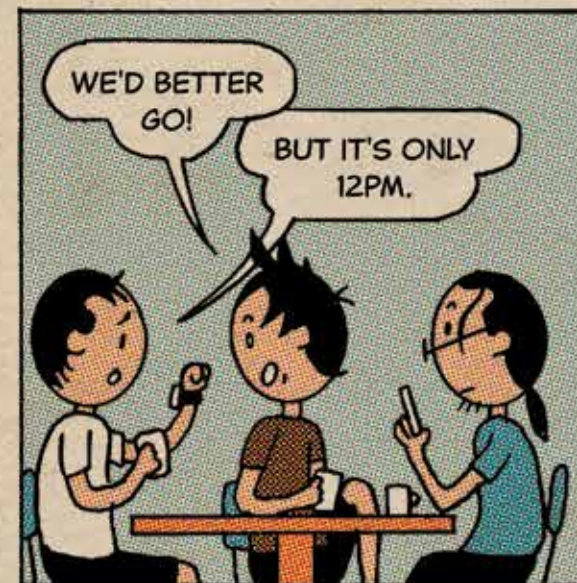
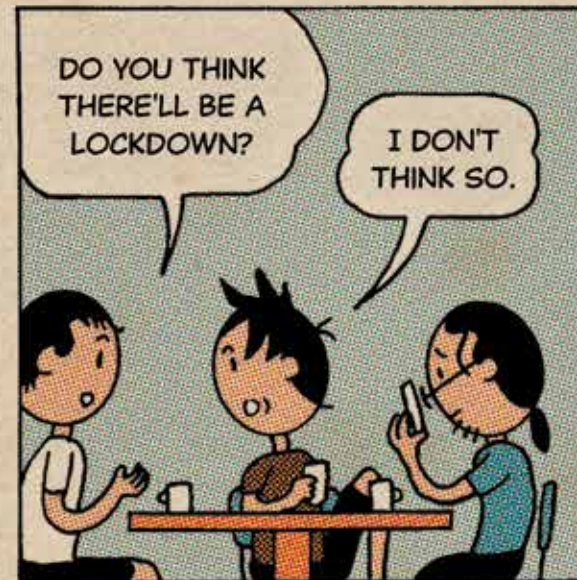
**Dedicated to all the essential workers
who went to work so that the rest of us
could stay safe at home.**

INTRODUCTION

On 3 April 2020, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced a partial lockdown, known as a “circuit breaker”, to contain the spread of Covid-19 in Singapore. These measures came after an increase of unlinked cases over the preceding month, as well as the risk of a huge cluster of infections. All non-essential places closed from 7 April. All schools transitioned to home-based learning from 8 April. All food establishments were only allowed to offer take-away, drive-thru and the delivery of food. In addition, the wearing of masks was made mandatory outside the home, with fines and prosecution for offenders who refused to do so from 14 April. The circuit breaker period was meant to end on 4 May 2020, but was extended to 1 June 2020.



PROLOGUE



PRELUDE

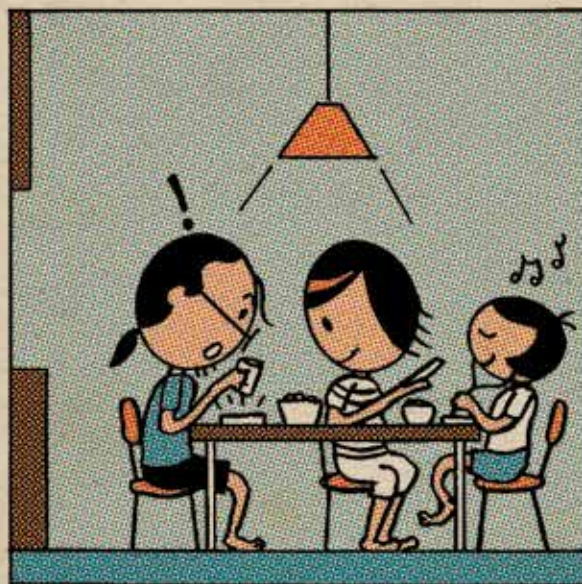
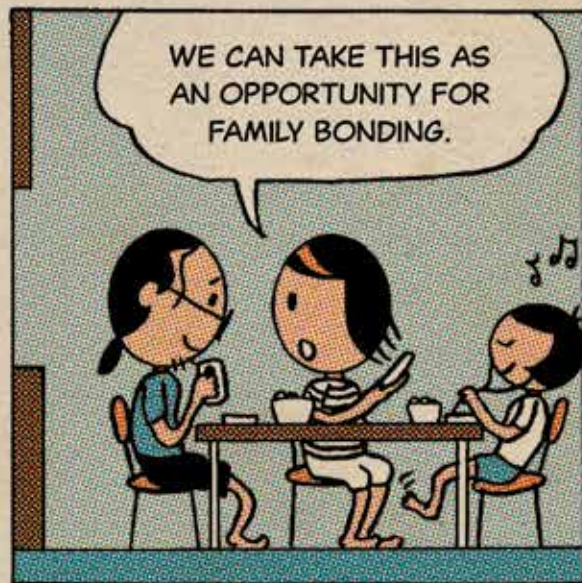


HOME, SWEET HOME



FAMILY BONDING

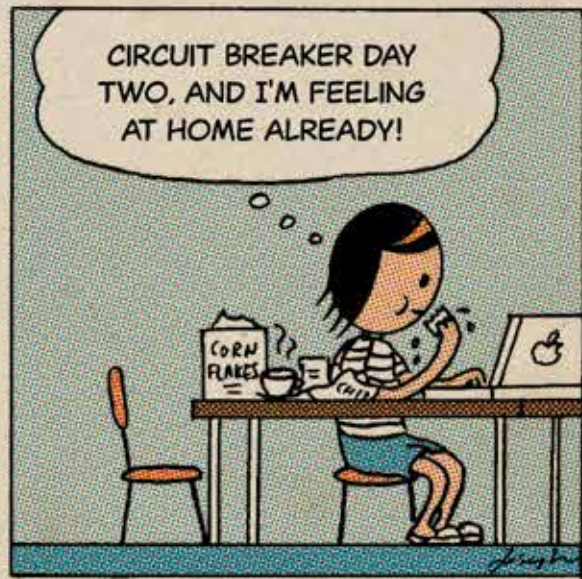
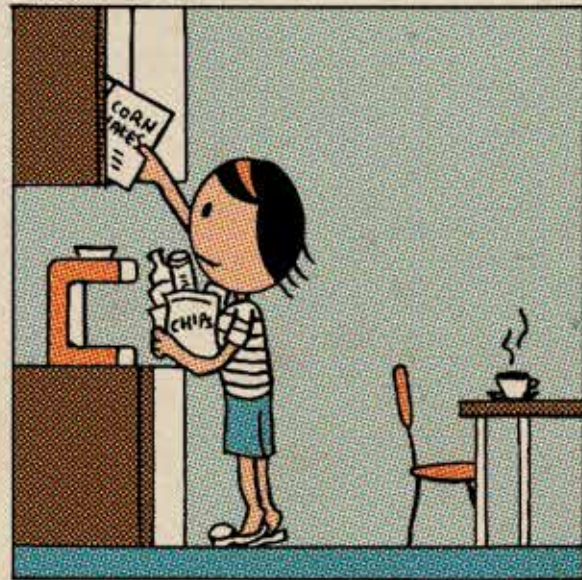
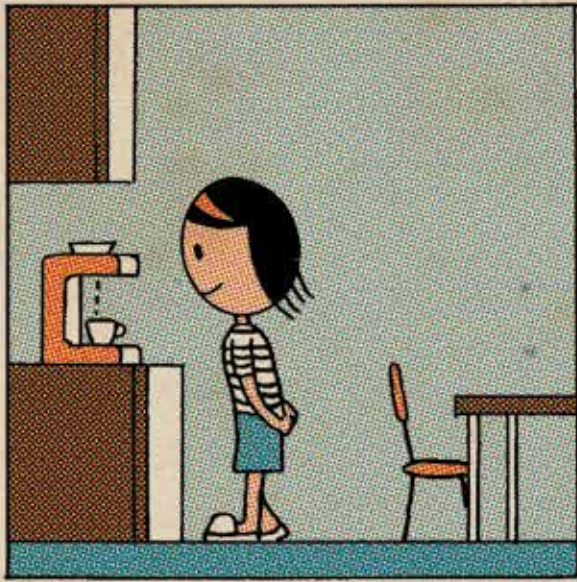
WORKING FROM HOME



DAY 1



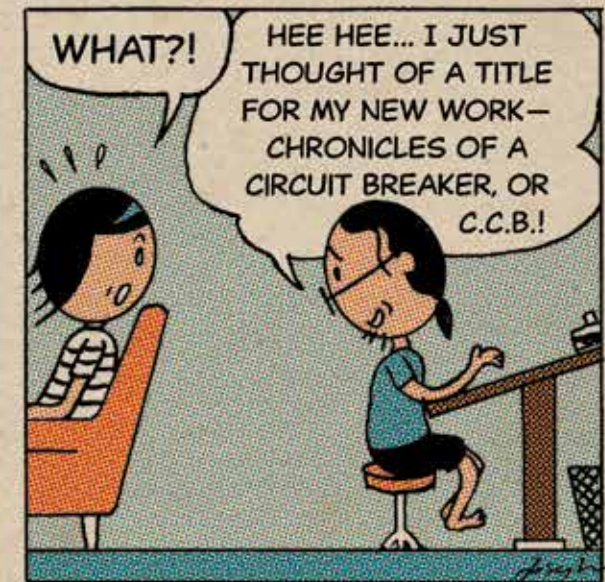
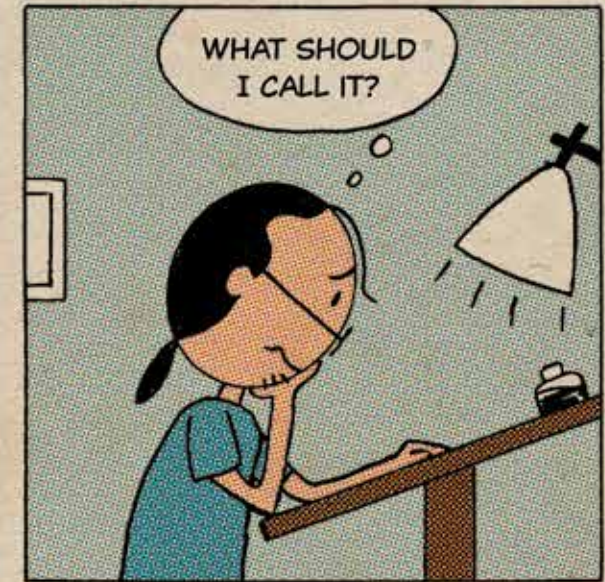
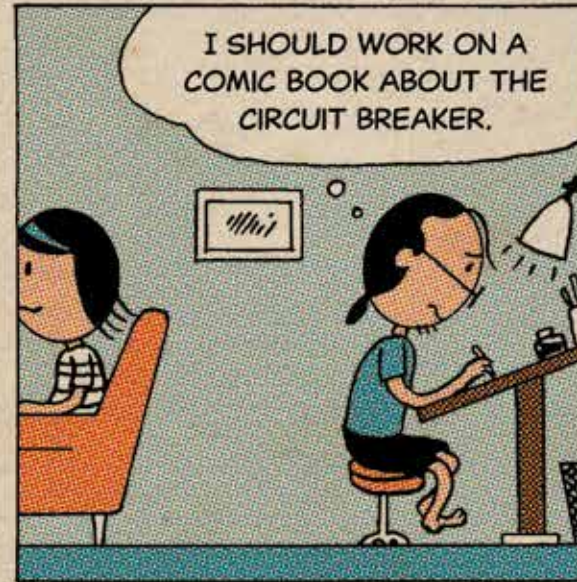
DAY 2: FEELING AT HOME



COMIC BOOK

PART ONE

DAY 3



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joseph Chiang is a visual artist and printmaker. He is the founder of Monster Gallery, a creative printmaking studio; and the Young Printmakers League, a mentorship programme supported by Noise Singapore. His works have been exhibited in Singapore and internationally.

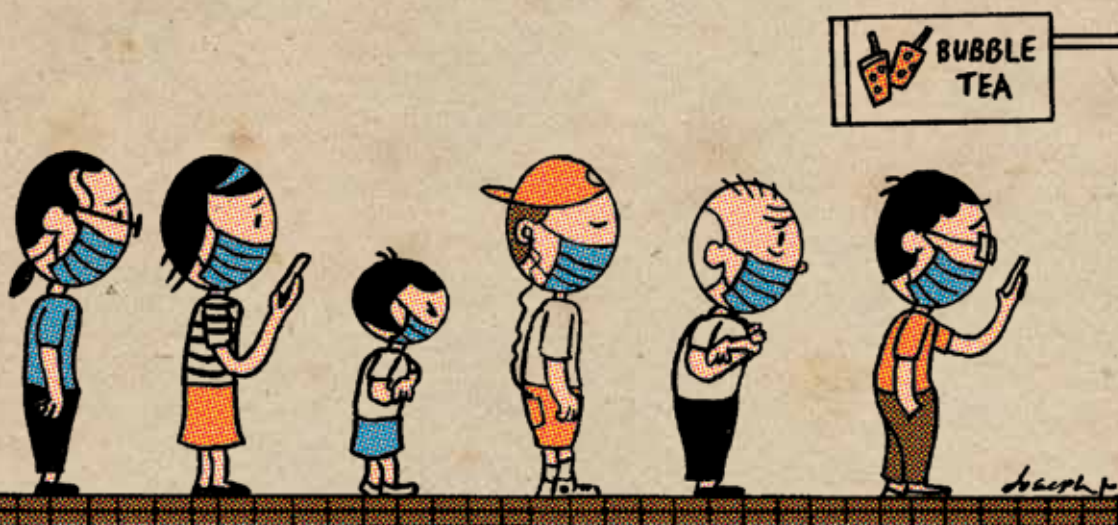


Were you a hoarder?

**Did you forget your mask and had to
pretend you were on a jog?**

What's a sovereign?

**Life in Singapore during the Covid-19 lockdown was
quirky, zany and, at times, downright perplexing.
Funny and stark, this comic strip memoir relives the
surreal days of the circuit breaker.**



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—CT Lim

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