

ISSUE #2

DANGER DAN AND GADGET GIRL

THE WATERY WIPEOUT



LESLEY-ANNE & MONICA LIM

PRAISE FOR *DANGER DAN AND GADGET GIRL: THE WATERY WIPEOUT*

“This book is very interesting. It made me think about what Singapore could be like in the future. My favourite character is Dog. Dog is really funny and I always laugh when I read his speeches.

I can't wait for the next book!”

—Jones, 10, Anderson Primary School

“The adventures in *Danger Dan and Gadget Girl* are always captivating and humorous. I couldn't put the book down once I started reading!”

—Dana Joy, 8, Methodist Girls' School

“The book is thrilling because of how the writers make the readers feel like they are all part of the adventure. I also get to see what future Singapore may be like. This story is funny too!”

—Mikael, 9, Opera Estate Primary School

“An exciting adventure that kept me reading and wondering what would happen next. I really adore Power Paws and Danger Dan but my favourite character is Gadget Girl. All her gadgets are so interesting!”

—Zara, 9, St Hilda's Primary School

“My students just love the energy and fun of Danger Dan and Gadget Girl, with all her cool tools. We cannot keep the books on the shelves as our students voraciously read through the series!”

—Nadine Bailey, Teacher Librarian,
Canadian International School

“A brilliantly written book about adventure and creativity, set in futuristic Singapore. My students were enthralled as they travelled to Gadget Girl’s world with Danger Dan. They rolled on the floor laughing, enjoying every moment with Power Paws.”

—Gracie Abadesco, Year 3 teacher,
Chatsworth International School

“Reading *Danger Dan* is like reading about my ten-year-old son. Danny is so real that I expect him to step out of the pages. Yet, amidst all the rollicking fun that’s typical of a schoolboy’s life, I am warmed by his courageous heart and his friendship with Gadget Girl. The story of Danger Dan is more than science fiction—it is a call to wake the superhero in all of us.”

—Pauline Loh, author of *Not in the Stars*,
runner-up for the Scholastic Asian Book Award 2012



WRITTEN BY
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

Other books in the *Danger Dan and Gadget Girl* series
The Animal Abduction

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

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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

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To the prata bunch—spicy, saucy and sweet



CHAPTER 1

Melody was standing in front of her flat. She glanced around carefully and made sure there was no one along the common corridor, before looking through the eye scanner on the door.

CLICK!



The device recognised Melody as an occupant of the home and the door opened. Melody could hear voices from the living room. It was her parents. She tiptoed her way past the living room, down the hallway and sneaked into her room. Once in the safety of her room, she heaved a sigh of relief and unzipped her air-con jacket. A spotted dog with hazelnut brown fur jumped out. He circled the room and sniffed about. Finally, he let out a contented sigh, romped over to Melody and rolled over. His floppy ears splayed gracelessly on the floor as he gave her a beseeching look.

Melody rubbed Dog's tummy obligingly, which caused him to yelp with delight.

"YIP!"

Boss is patting Dog. Dog feels goooooood. Dog loves Boss!

"Shhhh!" warned Melody. "Do you want them to hear you? Remember, you're a fugitive dog!" As an added precaution, she pressed a little yellow button on her desk and music started emitting from the walls. It was a familiar tune by Melody's favourite artiste, Saylor Twiff. It was very old-fashioned but Melody liked retro music. She turned up the volume, hoping the song would drown out Dog's barks if he got restless.

Melody wondered how she was going to keep Dog hidden forever. She had smuggled him out of a laboratory when he was found to have failed the quality test and was about to be put down.

For harbouring an unauthorised breed, she could get into loads of trouble.

Melody pulled out a small purple drawstring bag from her jacket pocket. It was a handy little contraption with space-saving technology. From it, she pulled out a container of meat and a banana. Feeding Dog was an even bigger challenge than hiding him. The problem was that Dog didn't like to eat the readily available food other genetically modified dogs ate. He liked real food, which was hard to find in 2135.

“YIP!”

**Dog loves food. Banana! Dog loves bananas!
Dog is happy!**

Dog wagged his tail as he tucked into his meal. He chomped down on the meat like a hungry wolf. He then gobbled up the banana greedily, getting the sweet, sticky mush all over his big

round snout. Bananas were Dog's favourite treats. When he had finished, he licked his chops, drooling a little onto the floor. Dog had grown over the past month and he would only get bigger and hungrier. Melody wasn't sure how to continue caring for him secretly, but she had to. She thought about what would happen to Dog if the authorities found him, and shuddered.

Just then, Melody heard a panicked squeal coming from the living room. She locked Dog in her room and went out to take a look. She found her parents in various states of distress in the living room. Her father went “hmmmmm” and paced the floor like a toy train on a circular track. He put his forefinger to his chin, something he always did when he was deep in thought. In fact, he did this so often that there was a permanent indent on his chin.

Melody's mother was sitting on the edge of the Cushy Tushy sofa, staring intently at the

hologram wall. The hologram wall was a high-tech communication device that also delivered the latest news. A colour scheme conveniently indicated how good each piece of news was. Green was used for happy updates like sunny weather reports (which was every day, thanks to the weather dome shielding Singapore). Red was used to indicate emergencies.

Today, the hologram wall was as red as chilli crab. Each time a news update flashed onto the screen, Melody's mother would jump instinctively to her feet, upsetting the cushions on the couch.

"Qwigglepuff, qwigglepuff, qwigglepuff!" she gasped under her breath. Just as she sat back down to calm herself, a new red flash would send her leaping back up. Soon, there were more cushions on the floor than on the couch.

"What happened?" asked Melody in alarm. "Is everything all right?"

"It's that darn water disease," said her father worriedly. "They're blaming Bob for the problem!"



At the mention of Bob's name, Melody's mother wailed, "No! Bob! Come home!"

Bob was Melody's older brother. He was a brilliant scientist and an even more brilliant technology expert. When he was in university, he

single-handedly invented a computer program that allowed students to study while they were sleeping. All they needed to do was plug in a special device next to their beds and set it for a certain subject. Throughout the night, information would be transmitted to their minds via brain waves. When they awoke, they found that they were suddenly experts in the subject. All the students scored A's in their exams and the university gained the reputation for being world-class. The university was so pleased and impressed it awarded Bob top honours (with double A's in all subjects), letting him graduate even before he had completed the course.

After graduation, Bob was immediately appointed head of the Federal Agency for Science and Technology or FAST for short. FAST was a very important agency as it operated all the technology in Singapore, including every gadget, big or small. Bob was overall in charge of making

sure everything ran smoothly. He fully believed in the Singapore slogan: "100% Efficiency".

Today however, FAST was in trouble. People in Singapore were suddenly falling sick and the illness was spreading quickly. Those who were infected came down with a fever and a rash of tiny red rings all over their body. Investigations showed that the illness was due to a waterborne bacteria. People immediately started pointing fingers at NEWERwater, which had been the source of all drinking and tap water in Singapore since the 2100s.

Normally, this wouldn't have anything to do with Bob, since it was the Ministry of Proper Sanitation (MOPS) that was in charge of the NEWERwater facility. However, MOPS didn't take kindly to being called the culprit in a national epidemic. "It's not fair!" cried the employees in an emergency meeting. "Why should this be all our

fault? We have to find someone else to blame.”

They discussed the problem and remembered that it was FAST who designed the technology behind the water filtration system. “Aha!” said the MOPS employees. “If there’s any bacteria in the water system, it must be because the filtration system is not working properly. It’s FAST’s fault!”

Thus began some very vigorous finger-pointing between MOPS and FAST. They would have used their toes for added impact if they could. Meanwhile, people were growing angrier by the second. They gathered outside the FAST and MOPS office buildings, yelling slogans and demanding answers. News headlines flashed red on every home’s hologram wall:

We Need Answers, FAST!

Mobs Are After MOPS!

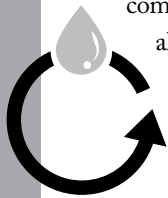
Bob was furious that MOPS was trying to stick the blame on him but there was nothing he could do about it. He was trapped in his office with his colleagues, unable to return home for fear of running into the very angry people outside his building. Indeed, FAST was fast running out of ideas.

FASCINATING FACTS

1

You may know about the water cycle from your school science lessons. Basically, water falls as rain from the sky and later evaporates into water vapour. Water vapour condenses to form tiny water droplets, which come together to form clouds. When the clouds get too heavy with all the water droplets, the water is released as rain. Repeat cycle!

The water cycle is important because rain provides the water that all living things need. In Melody's time, catchment areas outside the dome help collect rainwater. In today's Singapore, we have reservoirs that capture rainwater. But don't open your mouth during a thunderstorm just because you're thirsty! The water must still be filtered and treated before it is safe to drink.



2

Singapore doesn't have natural water sources, such as freshwater lakes. We collect water in our reservoirs and buy water from Malaysia. Even that is not enough for our water needs, so the government created NEWater to supply Singapore with more water. Using fancy technology and disinfection, NEWater converts used water into clean, drinkable water. Definitely no bacteria there! The crystal clear water is used in factories and commercial buildings but in dry seasons, some also gets sent to our taps at home. We imagined NEWERwater to be the future, new improved version of NEWater, where it is used for everything from drinking and



3

Don't worry about getting the nasty rash that Buttercream and Cupcake got—it's made up! However, there are many real diseases that are transmitted through unclean water. For instance, mycobacteria in water can cause skin infections when they come into contact with cuts on the skin. You can also catch diseases like cholera by drinking contaminated water. Such diseases can be fatal. Unfortunately, many people all over the world do not have clean drinking water and risk falling ill. Luckily, the water in Singapore is clean and safe to drink.

4

The Singapore River plays a very important part in our nation's history. It was the centre of trade and business in the 1800s, serving as the main port for Singapore. However, it became very polluted as factories, pig and duck farms, and hawkers along the river bank would throw waste and garbage into the water. Eww! Waste and oil spills from boats made matters worse. The government ordered a clean-up of the Singapore River in 1977. The whole operation took 10 years to complete!



5

In the book, Dog is terrified of red balls. In real life, however, this would be unlikely. While dogs can see colour, they see fewer colours than humans. We can see all the colours of the rainbow but dogs see everything in mostly yellow, blue or grey. In fact, dogs have trouble seeing red. Bright red would probably look like dark grey to them! So before you go out and buy a red ball for your pet puppy, maybe get a blue one instead.



“A brilliantly written book about adventure and creativity, set in futuristic Singapore. My students were enthralled as they travelled to Gadget Girl’s world with Danger Dan. They rolled on the floor laughing, enjoying every moment with Power Paws.”

—Gracie Abadesco, Year 3 teacher, Chatsworth International School

A mysterious waterborne 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!



Read the first book in the series,
The Animal Abduction!

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