

# PRAISE FOR THE DANGER DAN AND GADGET GIRL SERIES

"I love the dialogue in the books. They always make me laugh out loud when I'm reading. I just can't stop reading each time I start!"

—Joel, 9, Rulang Primary School

"This series is SO COOL! I love how the plots make us imagine how cool Singapore will be in the future. Danger Dan, Gadget Girl and Power Paws are the BEST! I can't wait for the next book."

-Umair, 11, Changkat Primary School

"Danger Dan and Gadget Girl books are very fun and interesting to read. The cartoon drawings make the stories come alive!

I really enjoy reading them all."

—Caleb, 8, St. Anthony's Primary School

"I think Danger Dan and Gadget Girl are a perfect team and I couldn't stop reading. It is a very good series that all children should read!"

-Emma Joy, 10, Rosyth School

"Young readers will find great appeal in navigating the adventures and misadventures of Danger Dan and Gadget Girl. The series is also excellent at showing children the art of using flashbacks, metaphors, foreshadowing, show-not-tell and personification in writing action-packed stories. It is both a great pleasure and excitement to unwrap each new installment of *Danger Dan and Gadget Girl* and find myself immersed in their futuristic world, going on a roller coaster ride, hanging on to every word of the book and wistfully wishing that the ride will never end."

-Monica Phua, teacher, Temasek Primary School

"Danger Dan boldly goes with Gadget Girl where no Mickey Mouse-eared boy has gone before—the twenty-second century!

I'm frothing with superpowered glee to join this duo, and their new ally Power Paws, on their most madcap adventure yet."

—Gwee Li Sui, poet and graphic novelist



# WRITTEN BY LESLEY-ANNE & MONICA LIM ILLUSTRATED BY ELVIN CHING



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
Secrets of Singapore: National Museum

Other books in the Danger Dan and Gadget Girl series

The Animal Abduction The Watery Wipeout The Gruesome Garden

Also by Monica Lim

The Good, the Bad and the PSLE

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To the real secret superheroes—Lydia, Wai Mun, and the Unevil Genius, Elvin.





# DRIP!

A single bead of glistening golden syrup plopped into a glass mixing bowl. It melded with the creamy mixture, like a slowly growing sunburst.

Bob was deep in concentration. He proceeded to pour in a test tube of fizzy violet liquid which looked just like grape soda. He then swung over to



a chest of silver drawers, knocking a few test tubes off their holders. Bob had been at it all morning and his experiment table was now a mess. There were bright orange, green and yellow splatters all over it.

Bob was trying to create a rainbow. But not just any rainbow.

### -CLICKIE

Bob pressed his thumb against a fingerprint scanner. The drawers unlocked and slid open, revealing a tantalising array of test tubes holding all sorts of colourful liquids. They were arranged exactly according to colour and shade, from deep ruby red to light baby blue. They had labels, such as Blueberry Pie, Tropical Smoothie and Chocolate Fudge. Bob excitedly grabbed one filled with a shimmery pink syrup, labelled Bubblegum Party. He went back to his table and placed it in the grasp of a slender robotic arm.



The robotic arm shook and swirled the test tube in circles, like a mini-tornado. When it stopped, the syrup in the test tube had become a delectable pink foam, resembling cotton candy. Bob poured the foam into the mixing bowl and gave the concoction a quick stir. The aroma of fresh fruit, honey and vanilla filled the air. The room smelt just like a cake shop.

Now for the moment of truth! Bob poured the sweet mixture into a rectangular steel contraption. It was Bob's prized Pastillo Perfector 276<sup>™</sup>, which he had invented himself. He pressed the red start button.

## WHIRRRRRR!

The machine quivered, releasing a wisp of orange smoke and a couple of bright blue bubbles. Finally, the noise died down and an ordinary-looking gummy rolled out of the machine.

Bob put on his special pastille-inspection goggles to take a closer look at the little round pastille. On closer inspection, it had multi-coloured stripes that gleamed in the light. "It's the-the-the perfect little rainbow!" exclaimed Bob, his head bobbing up and down in enthusiasm.

There was a knock on the door. It was Melody, Bob's 14-year-old sister. She entered Bob's room, which was a special mini lab in their home where Bob conducted his science experiments. Creating new food pastilles was one of his passions. He could do the task in the office, but he was so interested in it, he often continued working at home.

"Hey, Bob," said Melody. "May I borrow your..."

"Melody!" Bob interrupted excitedly. "Just the

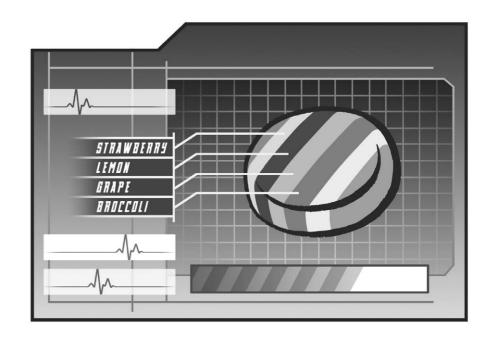
person I'm looking for." He carefully lifted the pastille with a tweezer and placed it in Melody's palm. "Taste this!"

Melody popped the pastille into her mouth. "Hmm..." she looked thoughtful as she chewed. "It's a little strange but I can't put my finger on it. It seems to have several layers of flavours. What is it supposed to be?"

"A rainbow kueh. It's a dessert with many coloured layers. It was popular in olden Singapore but the tradition of making it died out in the last century. I've been trying to recreate it but I'm having some trouble getting the flavours right. Can you taste the rainbow?"

Melody shrugged. "How would I know? I have no idea what a rainbow kueh tastes like!"

Bob slumped into his chair. "How can I create food that tastes like the real thing when nobody knows what it actually tastes like?" he grumbled.



"I wish I could have someone from the past taste my creations."

Melody gazed at her brother. She wondered what Bob would say if he knew that she could actually grant him his wish. For a long time now, she had thought about letting Bob know about her time-travelling abilities. She was tired of keeping the secret from her brother. The only other person who knew about her special power was Danny, the

11-year-old boy from the past, who had gone on many adventures with her.

On the other hand, she wasn't sure how Bob would react to this mind-blowing news. As a scientist, he didn't believe in things like magical powers. And Bob wasn't just an ordinary scientist. He was a brilliant science prodigy and head of the Federal Agency for Science and Technology (FAST) that operated all the technology and gadgets in Singapore.

Perhaps now was the time to find out.

"Er...Bob?" started Melody gently. "What if I told you I could bring someone back from the past?" "What do you mean?"

"Do you remember my friend Danny that you met previously? Well, he's actually from the year 2014. I used my time travelling powers to bring him here to our time in 2135."

"Oh, Melody!" Bob looked at Melody sadly.

"Aren't you too old-old-old to be harbouring these fairy tale fantasies?"

"It's not a fantasy! I really do have time-travelling powers."

"Time-travel is not a scientific possibility. To be able to go back in time, you'll need to travel faster than light, and scientists have long proven that nothing can-can-can travel faster than the speed of light-light-light. It's the traffic law of the universe. Unless you're talking about wormholes which connect different points in spacetime but even then..."

"Qwigglepuff!" said Melody exasperated. "I don't understand what you just said. Why don't I show you?" Despite Bob's protests, she dragged him out of their flat and into the high-speed lift of their block. The lift sped down a glass tunnel that overlooked a nearby park. They went from the 21st storey to the ground floor in no time.

Melody led Bob to the park's soft, grassy field. Back in the last century, an MRT station used to be located at that very spot. She outlined an archway with her finger.

Bob looked astonished as the archway gave off a flickering blue glow. "Wha-a-at? How did you do—"



Before Bob could finish his sentence, a boy suddenly emerged through the portal like magic. "Hi, Melody!" he said chirpily. It was Danny. He scratched his head and waggled his big ears. He then saw Bob gaping at him like a goldfish. "Bob? You're here too? Hello, Bob! Wow, you're so tall!"

"You-you...how-how-how..." Bob could

barely get the words out. His brain was at war with itself. A million thoughts exploded at the same time, all of them clashing with his great vat of scientific knowledge. He imagined Albert Einstein disappearing in a time machine. Was everything that he had learned a great big lie?

"I brought him back from the past," said Melody.

"Through a time portal that I created."

"But that's not-not possible..." Bob stammered. His brain decided to shut down before it overheated and he fainted.

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"Bob!" Melody frantically whipped out a bottle of NewerWater from her jacket.



She poured the water onto Bob's face to wake him up. "Are you okay, Bob? Wake up!"

Danny was no help at all. He simply stood and stared at Bob's limp figure sprawled on the ground. "He doesn't look so tall now," he said.

To Melody's relief, Bob spluttered and revived. He sat up on the ground for a few minutes, trying to get his wits together.

"Yes-yes-yes, I'm fine...I think," said Bob finally.

"Why did you faint, Bob?" asked Danny. "Do
you have a weak heart? Or weak knees?" He noticed
Bob's head nodding vigorously. "Or a weak head?
Is that why it shakes so much?"

"Shush, Danny!" said Melody. "He's just shocked. He's never seen anyone time-travel before."

Bob looked at Melody like he was seeing her for the first time. "I really don't understand how you did-did-did that. It's against every scientific law I know."

"There are many things beyond our understanding, Bob," said Melody gently.

Bob turned to Danny, intrigued. "And you're from the past! No wonder you're always dressed so-so-so strangely. You're so little. And those ears..."

"WHAT ABOUT THE EARS?" Danny flared up. He was rather sensitive about his big ears. "At least I don't have a bobblehead!"

"Boys! Boys!" said Melody sharply. "Don't start a fight, please!"

"Okay, okay, I'm sorry," Bob apologised to Danny. "It's just that I've never seen anyone like you-you-you before."

Danny grinned. "What can I say, I'm one of a kind!"

Melody helped Bob up on his feet. "Come, let's get you back home," she said.

"We're going to your home?" Danny asked excitedly. He hopped up and down with glee. Finally, he would get to see what future Singapore

homes were like! He imagined them to be full of gadgets and fancy inventions.

Danny could barely contain his excitement as he followed Melody and Bob back to their block of flats and rode the high-speed lift that shot up towards the 21st storey. It took his breath away. They exited the lift and Danny watched in amazement as Melody stepped up to the door of her flat and looked directly into a black rectangular contraption just at the door.



The door opened. Danny's jaw dropped. "Is that an eye scanner?" he asked. He thought that such things only existed in his favourite spy movies and comic books. They were, in fact, a thing of reality in 2135!

"Why, yes," replied Bob. "It's an ordinary door-

door-door lock. How do you unlock your door then?" "We use a key," said Danny.

Bob looked surprised. "How interesting!" he said.

The three of them entered the home. A spacious living room with white walls greeted Danny. There was a large, comfortable couch and a coffee table in the middle of the room. Instead of a flat screen television, a huge hologram screen filled an entire wall. It flashed green news updates and weather reports every few seconds. Danny felt a little jealous. If only he had a large hologram screen in his living room! He wouldn't need to go to the cinema to watch superhero movies any more.

"I need-need a drink," said Bob. "I'm starting to feel a little shaky again." Melody hurriedly led him to the kitchen and Danny followed. The kitchen was puzzling to Danny. It didn't look like the kitchens he was used to. There was no stove, oven or any other cooking utensils.

There was a small refrigerator, a single shelf that held cups, and a high table in the middle of the room. Instead of cabinets, the kitchen had a wide purple hologram screen.

Bob sat on a chair at the table while Melody walked over to a device that looked to Danny like a fancy coffee machine. She placed a cup under it and said, "Give me a Shock Absorber with the works."



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To Danny's astonishment, the machine replied, "One Shock Absorber coming up!"



The machine began to hum and buzz. A golden orange liquid poured out of the spout and into the cup. This was followed by a quick drizzle of thick caramel-coloured cream. A mini whisk emerged from the machine to mix the drink together. Finally, the machine squirted out a spiral of white milky foam to top off the drink.

Melody picked up the cup which had steam coming out of it. It smelt both delicious and strangely calming at the same time. She handed the beverage to Bob who sipped it gratefully.

Danny took a closer look at the hologram screen. It displayed revolving images of all sorts of sweet treats. There were vivid purple gummies, coated in glistening pink and blue sugar crystals. One pastille had a rich butterscotch shade and dark chocolate swirls. Danny spotted the picture of a delectable orange sweet with brilliant honeycoloured centres. It looked like a menu one would find in a top-notch candy store.

"Wow! Do you have all that candy? You're so lucky! My mother always says eating sweets will make my teeth rot."

"Those aren't candy," corrected Bob. "They're food pastilles."

"Food what?"

"Food pastilles. Using technology, we're able to produce pastilles which contain all the vitamins and nutrients a person needs for each meal. Just chew one pastille and you're good to go. No need to cook, look for food or sit down for meals. It's the perfect example of efficiency."

"Wow!" Danny was impressed. He looked at

the hologram menu in awe. "So they all come in different flavours? Can I try one?"

"Sure," said Melody. "What would you like? Nasi lemak? Prawn noodles? Chicken rice?"

Full meals in a sweet? Danny was intrigued. "Chicken rice, please!"

Melody walked over to the hologram screen. With a quick swipe, she scrolled down the food pastille catalogue and tapped her selection. "I'll have one too," she said. "I haven't had breakfast."

### DING!

There was a beep at the dining table. A small hole emerged in the middle of the table. A little plate rose upwards from the hole before the hole closed up again. On the plate were two pastilles that were split down the middle. One half of each pastille was the colour of pearls, while the other half was a golden brown.

"Wow, that's quick!" Danny was astounded.

"Where do the pastilles come from?"

"It's an instant delivery system invented by FAST," said Bob, beaming. "It's called BURP."

"Burp?" Danny wrinkled his nose. "That sounds terrible!"

"It's short for <u>Bring Up Round Pastilles</u>," explained Bob. "It delivers your order from-from-from the pastille factory right to your dining table. Isn't it great? It's all handled by BRO, the mega computer system that-that I created to control all the technology in Singapore. That's how we can be so efficient! From transport to buildings to crime prevention to..."

"Here you go," interrupted Melody. She knew Bob could gush on forever when talking about his beloved BRO. She handed Danny the plate. "Chicken Rice Supreme!"

Chicken rice? Danny was intrigued. Danny

popped the pastille into his mouth. Almost immediately, he could taste the tender chicken with its crispy roasted skin. As he chewed, the pastille seemed to morph and he tasted the savoury, flavourful rice with lingering hints of succulent chicken. Danny was impressed. The pastille really did taste like chicken rice.



"It's delicious but it's over too soon!" he complained. "Where's the fun in eating?"

Melody nodded as she chewed her pastille. "Some people think so too, that's why there are restaurants that serve real food for those who want to eat the real thing. But real food is very expensive as it's considered a waste of resources, so people only eat in restaurants on special occasions."

Danny's head whirled. He couldn't imagine a world where people didn't eat real food. "But don't you feel hungry? Does that mean there are no more hawker centres? What about recess in school? You still have recess, right? Who comes up with the flavours?"

"Whoa, slow down!" Bob laughed at Danny's unending stream of questions. "All food pastilles are delivered directly to our dinner tables. Each food pastille is a meal-meal in itself so you'll feel full after eating one."

"As for flavours, that's Bob's speciality," said Melody proudly. "Part of his job is coming up with different food flavours as close to the real thing as possible. He's a genius!"

"That reminds me, that's why you're here—
to test my newest concoction! Come, come!"
The Shock Absorber had clearly done its job and
Bob looked like he was feeling much better. He
leapt up from his chair and led Danny to his lab.
They went over to his experiment table. Danny
gawked at all the colourful test tubes, bubbling
liquids and gleaming gadgets. It was like a Mad
Scientist lab, but much cooler.



Bob repeated the entire process. Glistening orange crystals, oozing golden syrup, purple soda, bubblegum foam, a dash of ruby sugars, a drizzle of

caramel were all mixed into a rainbow concoction. Danny thought Bob looked like a wizard making a magic potion. Bob poured the solution into the Pastillo Perfector  $276^{\text{TM}}$ , which churned out a few more rainbow kueh pastilles.

Triumphantly, Bob held one up with a tweezer. "I call it 'Over the Rainbow'!"

As Danny reached out for the pastille, he knocked Bob's arm, causing Bob to drop the pastille. "Oops!" said Bob. "Where did it go?"

"Somewhere," replied Danny dismissively. He stretched out his hand to take another pastille from the tray of the Pastillo Perfector 276™. He popped it into his mouth and chewed. Instantly, he regretted it. "Eww!" said Danny, making a face. "This isn't rainbow kueh at all! What flavours did you use?"

"Let's see. Strawberry, lemon, grape, broccoli..." replied Bob.

#### "BROCCOLI??"

"Is that wrong?" asked Bob anxiously. "I thought since-since-since there was a green layer... Maybe I should have used spinach."

"I don't know what flavours are in rainbow kueh but it definitely doesn't have broccoli. Or spinach!" said Danny. "I don't think the layers taste any different. They're just different colours."

Bob sighed. "Guess I'll have to start again."

Danny looked thoughtful. "What about Dog?" he asked, referring to Melody's furry companion that she had previously smuggled out from Bob's office building to prevent him from being put down. "Does he eat food pastilles too?

"There are special pet pastilles for dogs," said Melody. "Unfortunately, Dog is very fussy and refuses to eat pastilles. He only likes real food, which can be expensive and hard to get. I usually try to get scraps for him from restaurants." "Speaking of Dog, where is he?" asked Danny. He looked at Melody concerned. "I haven't seen him. Is he safe?"

"Oh yes, he's safe!" replied Melody, to Danny's relief. "He's in Bob's room. It's so much easier to hide him now that Bob knows about Dog." Melody had previously hidden Dog from Bob, afraid that Bob would have Dog put down as he was an unauthorised breed. However, after an incident at the Botanic Gardens, Bob found out about Dog. Since Dog ended up saving the day, Bob had agreed to keep Melody's secret.

Melody led Danny to Bob's bedroom and opened the door. Upon entering, Danny immediately spotted a familiar hazelnut-brown canine snoozing in the corner.

"Dog!" cried Danny excitedly.

# GRAB THE OTHER BOOKS IN THE DANGER DAN AND GADGET GIRL SERIES!



#### ISSUE #1 — THE ANIMAL ABDUCTION

In *The Animal Abduction*, a new secret friend brings trouble to the Zoo, and Danger Dan and Gadget Girl have to clean up the mess before it grows to elephant proportions. And Danger Dan has to face his greatest archenemy once more—the Cockroach!



#### ISSUE #2 — THE WATERY WIPEOUT

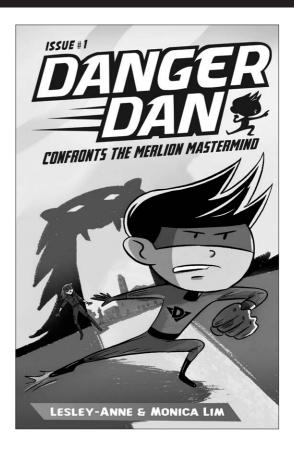
In *The Watery Wipeout*, Danger Dan, Gadget Girl and Power Paws navigate underground tunnels, break mind-boggling codes and even get to ride on a Hover Cab! They discover that future Singapore is an island of never-ending thrills and spills. Follow the superhero trio as they go on a heart-stopping quest to prevent Singapore from breaking out in little red spots!



#### ISSUE #3 — THE GRUESOME GARDEN

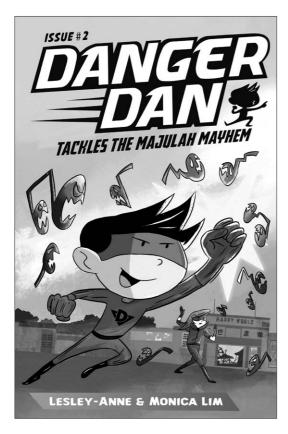
In *The Gruesome Garden*, Danger Dan, Gadget Girl and Power Paws are in a leafy mess! A secret evil has taken root among the plants in 2135, causing them to have a life of their own. Join the superheroes as they untangle themselves from this overgrown problem!

### HOW DID DANGER DAN AND GADGET GIRL FIRST MEET? READ THE FIRST DANGER DAN SERIES TO FIND OUT!



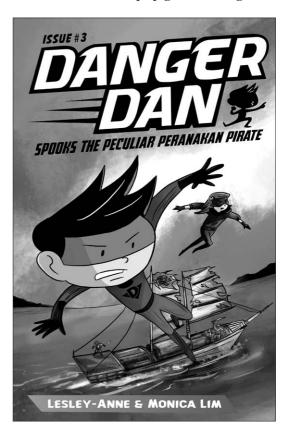
Psst! Pay attention: eleven-year-old Danny is about to start his secret life. And you are not allowed to tell anyone, or who knows what will happen? A mysterious time warp is already messing Singapore up. Big time. But don't worry. Danny is about to transform into Danger Dan—the only boy superhero who can save us all!

In *Danger Dan Confronts the Merlion Mastermind*, Danger Dan has to race against time to ensure the Merlion doesn't end up with orchids around its head! Sounds easy? Not when you see the odds he's facing...



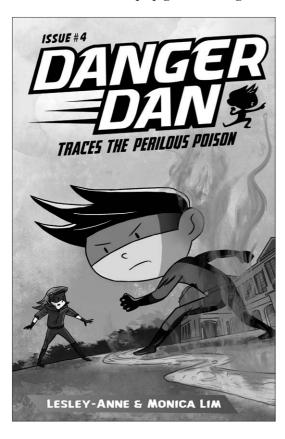
Danger Dan and Gadget Girl are back together for another timetravelling adventure, involving riots, a musician, spicy noodles and a flood! Say what?

In *Danger Dan Tackles the Majulah Mayhem*, it's up to Danny and Melody to save the composer of the national anthem from giving up on music. But the time warp appears to be more sinister than Danger Dan initially thought. What is the real story behind these time glitches?



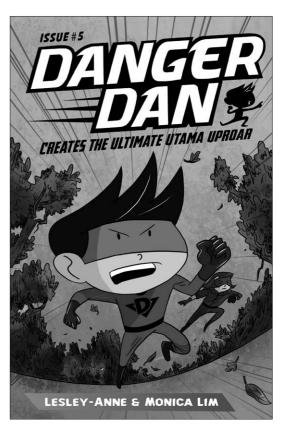
Will the time warp ever stop? This time, Danger Dan faces his gravest challenge ever—he needs to save us from a lifetime of drinking Dutch Lady Milk and saying 'goedemorgen' every day!

In *Danger Dan Spooks the Peculiar Peranakan Pirate*, Danny travels back to 1819 to stop a dastardly pirate from hijacking one of Singapore's most crucial historical events ever. Plus, more secrets about the time warp unravel. Will Danger Dan and Gadget Girl get to the bottom of things?



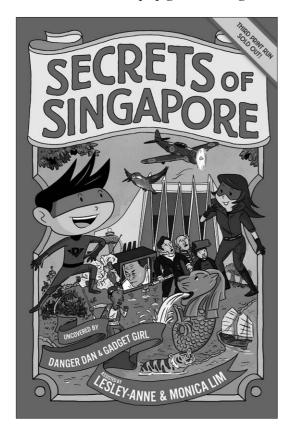
It's 1972 and Queen Elizabeth II is in town! Singaporeans from all over the island have gathered to celebrate the royal visit but once again, the Sinister Spyder threatens to spoil the party.

In *Danger Dan Traces the Perilous Poison*, Danny and Melody travel back in time to prevent the Queen from becoming a casualty in a villainous plot. Find out if Danger Dan and Gadget Girl can save Singapore from an international disaster!



It all started four time travelling adventures ago and now, Danny and Melody have to go back to the very beginning! The year is 1299 and the legendary Sang Nila Utama has just landed on the island of Temasek. Does he really see a lion in the jungle? Or is it something more disturbing?

In *Danger Dan Creates the Ultimate Utama Uproar*, Danger Dan and Gadget Girl prepare for a final showdown with the Sinister Spyder, who is dead set on destroying Singapore. Will it all end in triumph or tragedy?

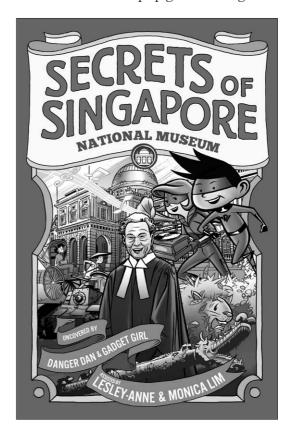


In *Secrets of Singapore*, Danger Dan and Gadget Girl uncover our nation's past, from the time of Sang Nila Utama in 1299 to independence in 1965. But wait, there's more!

They also investigate intriguing areas seldom found in history books (shhhh!), like cinemas, airports, sports and of course, food! Join the superhero duo as they unearth fascinating facts like:

- Which animals have escaped from the Singapore Zoo?
- How long was the very first MRT ride?
- Where can you see a tiger car? (And what on earth is a tiger car??)

The answers to these burning questions and much more are in Danger Dan and Gadget Girl's guide to Singapore's past.



In *Secrets of Singapore: National Museum*, Danger Dan and Gadget Girl take a peek behind the pillars of the National Museum to see what secrets they guard.

And what a treasure trove! From way back to the time of Sang Nila Utama right up to modern day Singapore, the superhero duo unearth curious artefacts such as a headless horseman figurine from the 1300s, and banana money (not made from actual bananas) from the Japanese Occupation.

Join Danger Dan and Gadget Girl on an adventure through the National Museum and watch history come to life right before your eyes! #epicthrowback "It is both a great pleasure and excitement to unwrap each new installment of Danger Dan and Gadget Girl and find myself immersed in their futuristic world, going on a roller-coaster ride, hanging on to every word of the book and wistfully wishing that the ride will never end."

-Monica Phua, teacher, Temasek Primary School



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