

ISSUE #3

DANGER DAN



SPOOKS THE PECULIAR PERANAKAN PIRATE



LESLEY-ANNE & MONICA LIM

Praise for *Danger Dan*

“I find Danny so funny! I like the exciting parts where Danny and Melody have to escape from the bad guys. I like the gadgets they use too. I can’t wait for the next book!”

—Fang Jun, 9, Temasek Primary School

“Danger Dan is funny and courageous. I really enjoyed reading his exciting adventures through time. I also learned bits of Singapore history.”

—Michael, 10, St Gabriel’s Primary School

“Danger Dan’s so funny! It has story facts about Singapore. You must buy the books!”

—Kristin Bay, 9, Methodist Girls’ School

“I like how the Danger Dan series brought me to old Singapore. The adventures never fail to excite me. I had fun reading the stories and will continue!”

—Nerissa, 12, St Margaret’s Primary School

“Expect the unexpected with Danger Dan
as you join him on his adventures.”

—Susan Liang, History and Social Studies teacher,
Pioneer Secondary School

“A fun story that also educates! Readers can
learn good vocabulary and understand more
about Singapore history as they join
Danger Dan on his adventures.”

—Dr Tay Hui Yong, Vice-Principal,
Nanyang Girls’ High School

“An entertaining and engaging
combination of fantasy and history!”

—Edmund Lim, author of *Where’s Grandma?*,
winner of the Hedwig Anuar Children’s Book Award 2013

“A relaxing read. The history and culture of
Singapore are cleverly weaved into
an adventurous story.”

—Louise Law, Festival Manager,
Hong Kong International Literary Festival





DANGER **DANE**

SPOOKS THE PECULIAR PERANAKAN PIRATE

written by
Lesley-Anne & Monica Lim
illustrated by
James Tan

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EPIGRAM BOOKS / SINGAPORE

Also in the series
Danger Dan Confronts the Merlion Mastermind
Danger Dan Tackles the Majulah Mayhem

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

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*For English teachers who inspire the love of words,
especially Ms Yao*





CHAPTER



Danger Dan has been captured by the evil Peg Leg Pirate and his crew! He is bound and locked up in the brig. His prison is cold, wet and dark except for a small barred window. Danger Dan needs to escape before the pirates make him walk the plank! Taking a deep breath, he musters all his strength and pulls.

SNAP!



The ropes binding his hands and feet fly apart. The pirates are fools. No rope or chain is any match for Danger Dan's super strength. Now to escape! He scans the cell for a weak spot. The cage bars are made of solid steel and are unbreakable. But the bars on the window are thin and rusted from the sea water.

Danger Dan leaps up and grabs hold of one of the wooden beams on the ceiling. Like a trapeze artist, he skilfully swings forward, does a double somersault and gives a mighty kick.

KRANG!

The metal bars break and tumble out the open window, disappearing into the deep blue sea.

SPLASH!

Danger Dan dives into the ocean. He rises to the surface for air and whistles an unusual, high-pitched tune. A friendly dolphin answers the

call and playfully circles him. He climbs onto the dolphin's back and it takes off! Standing on the dolphin, Danger Dan surfs past the pirate ship and towards the shore. The island is in sight! He can already see the familiar coconut trees and white sandy beach. Just a little closer...

“Danny, lend me your e-dictionary!” Danny’s eldest sister, Amy, suddenly barged into his room unannounced, jolting Danny out of his daydream. As she swung open the door, it slammed into Danny’s skateboard and threw him off.

Amy wasn’t really asking for permission. She usually just took whatever she wanted. Amy was 18 years old and had a Big Mouth. She often talked only because she liked the sound of her own voice. She needed the e-dictionary to find new words because she had grown tired of using the same ones.

Amy spotted Danny’s e-dictionary on his

desk and grabbed it. “I didn’t say you could have it!” protested Danny.

Just as he lunged at Amy’s legs to stop her, his second sister, Betty, marched into his room. “I’m borrowing your calculator, Danny!” she demanded. Betty was 16 years old and had a Big Brain. She was working out how fast a submarine functioning at three-eighths of its capacity would be travelling if it left the base at 0415 hours and almost collided with a whale moving in the opposite direction in search of its calf 73 kilometres away. Betty didn’t need a calculator for that, though. She needed it for the bonus question: what was the length of the submarine’s periscope?

Betty boldly rummaged through Danny’s school bag. “Stop taking my stuff!” cried Danny. He let go of Amy and threw himself at Betty, who dodged.

Just then, Danny’s third sister, Candy, clumped into his room. Candy was 12 years old.

She didn't have a Big Mouth or a Big Brain. She was just...BIG. Her idea of a balanced meal was three burgers, three bowls of chips and three milkshakes. Candy spotted an unopened bag of peanut butter crisps on Danny's bed and snatched it.

"HEY!" Danny was furious. Peanut butter crisps were his absolute favourite and he had been saving the pack. "GIVE THAT BACK!" He grabbed Candy's arm but she brushed him aside like he was a fly.

The three sisters hurried out of the room with their finds, leaving Danny screaming in frustration. Oh! Why did he have to be a small and scrawny 11-year-old? It wasn't fair!

Danny had had enough. He slammed the door, placed two chairs against it and started stacking random items onto them. Thick textbooks. Brimming school files. Schoolbag. Beanbag. Lava lamp. Pillows. Wastepaper basket. Badminton racket. Skateboard. A whole

army of toy soldiers for good measure.

Danny pushed his immensely heavy toy chest against the chairs to secure the barricade. Finally, he climbed up the pile and gently positioned his basketball at the top. If any of his pesky sisters did break through, they would get a nasty thump on the head! Danny stood back to admire his massive masterpiece.

Danger Dan's barricade is impenetrable! Nothing can get past this sturdy barrier. Not Arguing Amy, Brainy Betty or the Colossal Candy-saurus.

"Kids!" Danny heard his father's voice coming from the living room. "Remember we're leaving for the Family Day carnival in 15 minutes!"

The barricade is immovable. No one can get in...wait a minute! No one can get OUT! Not even Danger Dan! Danger Dan has accidentally trapped HIMSELF!

Danny stared helplessly at the barricade. The door was completely blocked. His father rapped on the door. “Danny! Did you hear me? Get ready to leave soon!”

Danger Dan starts to panic. He claws maniacally at the barricade. He tries kicking and punching it. He runs around the room in distress. But the barricade stubbornly refuses to budge. Danger Dan sinks to his knees in bitter defeat.

Danny reluctantly decided to call for help. “D-AA-AA-D? I’m stuck! Help me! HELP!”

“Danny?” His father tried opening the door but succeeded only in opening it a crack. He heaved against it hard and the barricade slowly started to move. As the mountainous pile gradually gave way, the basketball dropped to the ground and rebounded. It bounced once, twice...and landed smack on Danny’s head.

BOING...BOING...WHUMP!

“OWW!” Danny fell to the floor and saw stars. His father stood over him, surveyed the mess in the room and sighed, “Danny, Danny. How on earth do you get yourself into these situations?”



Danny’s three sisters stood outside the door, laughing like hyenas.

“Hahahahaha!” guffawed Amy.

“Heeheeheehee!” giggled Betty.

“Hurhurhurhur!” gurgled Candy.

The three of them chanted together, “Girls are cool, boys are fools!”

Danny’s Big Ears turned red with rage. “Th-th-that’s not true!” he spluttered. “Boys are fine! Girls are...are...NOT! You’re just mean, mean, MEAN!” Danny could never think of anything clever to say when he was upset.

He stomped off to get his red sling bag. The company his father worked at had organised a Family Day carnival and the whole family was taking the MRT there. The promise of food, games and prizes outweighed the unpleasantness of having to spend an entire day with his sisters. With any luck, he would lose them in the crowd.

Danny suddenly had a thought. Maybe this trip on the MRT would turn into another time-travelling adventure. That was how his

previous time-travelling adventures had started. When he had gone back in time to 1947, there hadn’t been much food. Going hungry was one of the most disagreeable experiences he had ever had. It was even worse than studying for exams. What if he ended up travelling back to the past again?

“No way I’ll starve this time,” he told himself. “I’ll pack food in my bag!” Feeling rather pleased with his brainwave, Danny hurried to the kitchen and searched through the stock of tinned food. What should he bring? Button mushrooms? Yuck. Sardines? Meh. Baked beans? Hmm...too messy. Oh! Luncheon meat! Perfect! Danny smacked his lips. He loved luncheon meat with almost anything. Bread, rice, noodles, even on its own. It was the universal food. There were five tins in the cabinet—he decided to take them all.

He stuffed the tins of luncheon meat into his red sling bag along with his water bottle.

Then, he spotted a family-sized jar of peanut butter (extra crunchy). He'd better take that too! One can never have too much peanut butter. The only problem was that his bag had run out of space. Without hesitation, Danny replaced his water bottle with the peanut butter. Peanut butter was more important.

Wallet. Check. *Fantasy Squad* comic book. Check. Peanut butter. Check. And five tins of luncheon meat. Check-check-check-check-check. All set!

"Ugh!" grunted Danny as he struggled to lift his bag. Gosh! It was unexpectedly heavy. But he would just have to manage.

Danger Dan is prepared for all occasions! He is ready for floods and famines! Well, maybe not floods. Famines! But not too long. Just five days! Okay, maybe four!

The family left their flat and boarded the train at Toa Payoh MRT station. They were headed

towards Raffles Place MRT station which was just a short ride away. Danny's sling bag was so heavy that his shoulder started to ache. As the train drew near their destination, Danny grew increasingly excited. Would this train ride be an ordinary one? Or would he get to time-travel again? He was longing to reunite with Gadget Girl for another extraordinary adventure. She was the only girl he found tolerable. He had already gone back to 1964 to save the Merlion and 1947 to restore the national anthem. What new mission was in store? Whatever it was, he couldn't wait!

The automated train voice announced: "Raffles Place". Danny stepped out of the train expectantly and to his delight, saw a familiar flash of wavy blue streaks.



Danny saw that he was standing on muddy ground, surrounded by trees. “Yes!” he hooted. “Oh boy! I hit the jackpot!” He looked around for Melody aka Gadget Girl, who was usually waiting for him when he materialised through the time portal.

And then he saw her. Except she wasn’t her usual cool and collected 14-year-old self. She had a terrified look on her face and she grabbed Danny’s arm.

“Quick, Danny! RUN!”



“Where? What? Huh?” Danny yelled, befuddled as he starting running beside Melody. “Why are we running?” He glanced back and saw two tanned, middle-aged women hot on their heels. They looked outraged and were waving large sticks menacingly.

“No time for questions!” screeched Melody, her silvery voice tinged with panic. “Just RUN!”

They ran through the mangrove swamp, weaving in and out of the trees and scampering

About the Characters



Name	Danny aka Danger Dan
Age	11 (but often behaves like he's eight)
Distinctive feature	Big ears
Signature items	<i>Fantasy Squad</i> comic book. Red sling bag.
Likes	Anything cold and sweet. All of Melody's gadgets. Comic books and superheroes.
Dislikes	His three older sisters. Vegetables in any form. Cockroaches, especially big, flying ones.
Strengths	Imaginative. Brave. Acts quickly in any situation.
Weaknesses	Doesn't think before he acts. A magnet for trouble (and danger).



Name Melody aka Gadget Girl

Age 14 (in the year 2135)

Distinctive feature Silvery voice

Signature items Silver hair clip (actually a mega computer which also conveniently keeps her hair in place). Grappling hook watch.

Likes Goey Gooberberry Gummies in all flavours except Coconut Explosion. Virtual jetpack tennis.

Dislikes Danny being annoying. Birds.

Strengths Smart. Usually calm (unless with Danny). Able to think under pressure.

Weaknesses Terrible aim. Sometimes a little bossy.

Name John/Johnny/Jong aka the Sinister Spyder

Age Who knows?

Distinctive feature Impressive moustache

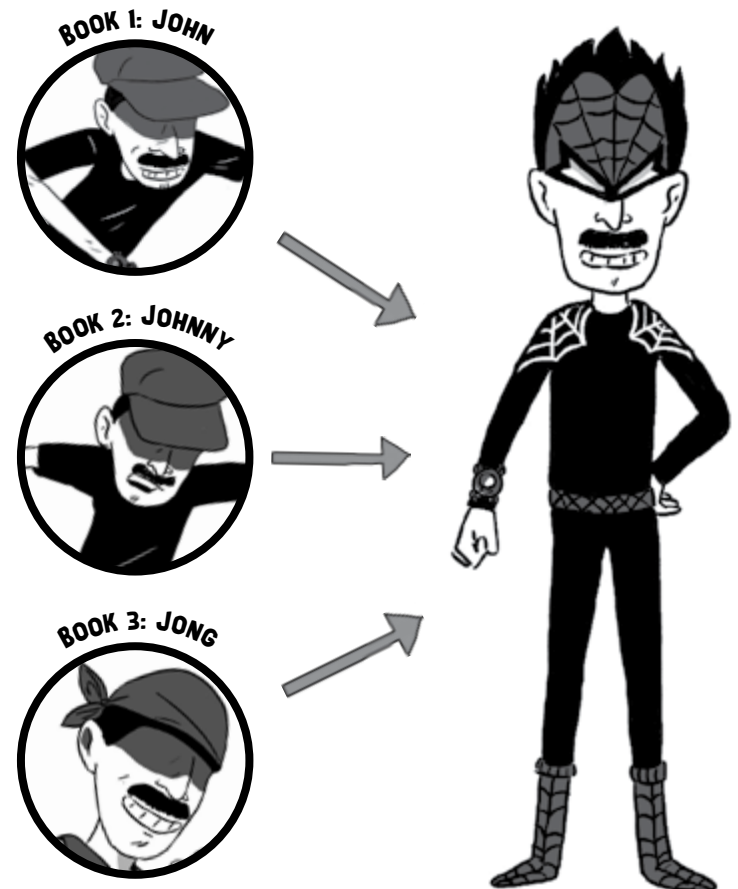
Signature items Spider-like watch.

Likes Messing up Singapore's history.

Dislikes Unknown

Strengths Unknown

Weaknesses A ferocious temper.



About the Authors



Monica Lim and Lesley-Anne Tan are a mother-daughter writing team (in that order). If Lesley-Anne could have a super power, she would choose the ability to stop time, so that she can study and write books in no time at all. Monica's preferred super power is mind control, so that she can make Lesley-Anne stop dreaming about time freezes and get back to work.

About the Illustrator



James Tan is an illustrator living in the western part of Singapore. He likes to draw animals and loves cats. He enjoys reading and drawing, garnering inspiration from daily life and travelling. James' most heroic acts involve saving snails from being crushed by joggers and cyclists when he goes for walks.

Stay tuned for the next exciting episode when



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. Can Danger Dan and Gadget Girl save Singapore from an international disaster?

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF ISSUE #4



“Nooo! Go away! GO AWWAAAAAAAAAYYY!” Melody swung the bamboo pole towards the bird, missing Danny’s head by a whisker. Danny covered his head.

Melody was like a girl possessed. She waved the heavy bamboo pole around wildly. By chance (and extraordinary luck), she avoided smashing any windows. However, her bad aim also meant that she missed the sparrow completely.

Melody’s hysteria reached a new peak. She gave the pole a giant swing and accidentally hit Danny’s school bag.

THWACK!

“Aaarrgghhh!” Danny fell backwards. He spun through the air, the world around him in a blur. The next thing he knew, he was free falling into nothingness.



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EPIGRAM BOOKS

“If Doctor Who were 11 years old and born in Singapore, he’d be a lot like Danger Dan. This time-travelling boy wonder romps through Temasek with a feisty female partner, offering a fun alternative to boring textbook versions of local history.”

- Clara Chow, journalist and parenting columnist



***FEROCIOUS SEA GYPSIES, ANGRY FISHERMEN
AND BLOOD-THIRSTY PIRATES—HAS DANGER
DAN MET HIS MATCH?***

IN DANGER DAN SPOOKS THE PECULIAR PERANAKAN PIRATE,

DANNY TRAVELS BACK TO 1819 TO PREVENT THE HIJACKING OF ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN SINGAPORE’S HISTORY. MEANWHILE, THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM GROWS MORE UNSTABLE! WILL DANGER DAN AND GADGET GIRL RISE TO THE CHALLENGE?



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