



## EPIGRAM BOOKS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SINGAPORE'S RICHEST LITERARY PRIZE LAUNCHED**

**SINGAPORE, 10 March 2015**—Epigram Books is pleased to announce the launch of a new literary prize, the **Epigram Books Fiction Prize**.

The annual prize of S\$20,000 is the richest literary award in Singapore. It is to be awarded to a Singaporean, Singaporean permanent resident or Singapore-born author for the best manuscript of a full-length, original and unpublished novel written in the English language. The first winner will be announced at this year's Singapore Writers Festival in November 2015 and have his/her novel published by Epigram Books.

"We want to reward excellence in contemporary Singapore creative writing and to encourage the readership of high-quality Singapore literature by publishing the winning and shortlisted entries," explains Edmund Wee, Publisher and CEO of Epigram Books.

The competition is now open for entries. The manuscript must be unpublished and uncontracted to a publisher. Four hard copies of the manuscript and a completed official entry form should be submitted by post or delivered by hand to Epigram Books at Block 1008 Toa Payoh North #03-08 Singapore 318996. The closing date for submissions is August 31, 2015, 6pm.

The judging panel will be chaired by Edmund Wee. The names of the other judges will be announced at a later date. For more information about the inaugural edition of the Epigram Books Fiction Prize, or for any queries, please visit [www.epigrambooks.sg](http://www.epigrambooks.sg).

For interview opportunities or further media enquiries, please contact Ilangoh Thanabalan at [ilangoh@epigrambooks.sg](mailto:ilangoh@epigrambooks.sg) or +65 6292 4456.

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#### **About Epigram Books**

An independent publisher based in Singapore, Epigram Books is known for putting together well-designed and thought-provoking titles. It began as a division of the multiple award-winning communications design firm Epigram but registered as a separate entity in July 2011 to champion Singaporean literature.

It is best known for the middle grade series, *The Diary of Amos Lee*, which has sold over 240,000 copies worldwide. Other landmark publications include translations of Cultural Medallion winners and new editions of out-of-print classic Singaporean novels.

In 2014, a debut short story collection Epigram Books published, *Ministry of Moral Panic* by Amanda Lee Koe, unanimously won the Singapore Literature Prize for English Fiction.

#### **Epigram Books Fiction Prize**

The Epigram Books Fiction Prize promotes contemporary Singapore creative writing and rewards excellence in Singapore literature. The annual prize is Singapore's richest literary award. S\$20,000 is awarded to the Singaporean, permanent resident or Singapore-born author for the best manuscript of a full-length, original and unpublished novel written in the English language. The competition is now open for entries. The first winner will be announced at the Singapore Writers Festival in November 2015 and have his/her novel published by Epigram Books.

#### **Key Dates**

**Open for entries:**  
Monday, 9 March 2015

**Deadline for submissions:**  
Monday, 31 August 2015

**Announcement of winner:**  
November 2015



## EPIGRAM BOOKS

### Rules & Regulations

#### 1. Eligibility

The Epigram Books Fiction Prize 2015 (EBFP 2015) is open to all Singapore citizens, Permanent Residents of Singapore and Singapore-born authors, regardless of age.

#### 2. Subject and Theme

Entries may be on any subject or theme.

#### 3. Language

Works submitted must be written in English.

#### 4. Originality

- Each entry must be an original work written wholly by the entrant(s).
- The entrant(s) must be the author(s) of the work.
- Submitted work may be by more than one (1) author. There is no limit on the number of authors. Each work should be accompanied by one (1) entry form, regardless of the number of authors.
- Only unpublished work will be accepted. The work must not be contracted to any publisher.

#### 5. Number of Entries

Entrant(s) may submit more than one work for this competition provided that the works are different and not variations of the same work. Each work should be accompanied by one (1) entry form.

#### 6. Criteria

- The work must be a full-length and original novel.
- There is no word limit. Novels are generally considered to have over 40,000 words.
- The work can have been written at any time, as long as it is unpublished.

#### 7. Selection

- There will be a panel of judges for this competition.
- The judging panel is chaired by Edmund Wee, Publisher and CEO of Epigram Books.
- The decision of the judges is final and binding. No correspondence in relation to the judges' decision will be entertained.
- The judges reserve the right to not award the prize if no submission is found to be deserving.

#### 8. Closing Date

The closing date for this competition is Monday, 31 August 2015, 6pm.

#### 9. Submission

- The organisers and judges shall not be held responsible for any manuscripts or collaterals that have been lost or damaged in transit.
- Manuscripts and collaterals submitted for this competition will be retained by Epigram Books. Please keep the original for your own reference.
- An official and completed entry form must be attached to each submitted work. Please attach a photocopy of your NRIC/passport and a photograph of the author(s).
- The entrant must provide four (4) hard copies for each work with each submission. Please ensure the entry form is completed legibly. Submit the entry form and hard copies of the manuscript by registered post or in person to:  
Epigram Books  
Block 1008 Toa Payoh North #03-08  
Singapore 318996
- No online or other forms of submission will be entertained.
- All entries should be contained in a parcel marked "The Epigram Books Fiction Prize 2015".
- Works can be submitted either by the author(s) or a chosen representative.
- Works should adhere to the style and formatting guidelines provided below.
- Epigram Books shall acknowledge each entry by email and/or phone.

#### 10. Rights of Refusal

- Epigram Books retains a right of first and last refusal to all entries, regardless of whether the entrant wins the prize.
- Epigram Books shall have six (6) months from the date of the winning announcement to inform all entrants if it wishes to publish their work(s).
- If within thirty (30) days thereafter, the parties are unable to agree on such terms, Epigram Books will return all rights back to the entrant.

#### 11. The Award

- The Epigram Books Fiction Prize carries an award of S\$20,000 for the winner.
- The prize award of S\$20,000 constitutes the author's advance against royalties.

#### 12. Announcement of Winner(s)

The prize will be awarded in November 2015 at the Singapore Writers Festival. Winner(s) will be notified closer to the date of the announcement and will be invited to attend. If the winner(s) cannot attend this event for any reason, they must nominate a representative to accept the prize on their behalf.

#### 13. Responsibilities

- Prize winner(s) will be invited to conduct public talks, workshops and/or other events.
- Prize winner(s) will be required to speak to the media and attend media engagements, and support Epigram Books in all EBFP 2015-related marketing and publicity.

### Guidelines for Preparing Manuscripts for Submission to the Epigram Books Fiction Prize 2015

Submit your manuscript as a Microsoft Word document.

All manuscripts should be prepared with 1-inch margins on all sides, double lined-spacing, 12-point Times New Roman font and page numbers. Set the page size to A4. Do not justify text, instead align text to the left using the 'align left' button in Microsoft Word.

Spelling should follow Collins Dictionary (accessible online at no cost via <http://collinsdictionary.com>). Please use British spelling.

Do not use the serial comma.

Other matters of style are generally determined according to the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Any specific questions of style should be posed to Epigram Books at [enquiry@epigrambooks.sg](mailto:enquiry@epigrambooks.sg).

### Notes on Formatting and Punctuation

- In general, all formatting should appear in the document as it is meant to appear in the final book. Italics are to be indicated with italics, not with underlining; spaces and spacing should be maintained in exactly the form meant to be seen in print.
- Do not insert extra lines between paragraphs, except when intended as a section break or matter of style. Paragraph breaks are to be indicated using a simple 'return' and then indent (by typing the 'tab' key once).
- Single spaces (not double) after full stops and other punctuation.
- Most punctuation, and all full stops and commas, are to be placed outside quotation marks, as in British usage. The exception is in dialogue.
- Ellipses are to be indicated using the automatically formatted, single-character ellipsis provided by Microsoft Word ('...'), with no spaces on either side. On a Mac, this can be formatted by pressing the 'option' button followed by a semicolon, or formatted automatically in Word by typing three full stops without spaces. Do not use four-point ellipses.
- Dashes are to be formatted as em dashes ('—') only, not en dashes ('-'), with no spaces on either side. The proper em dash character is available either through the 'Insert/Symbol' feature in Microsoft Word, or via auto-formatting (i.e., two hyphens '--' placed without spaces between two letters or words should automatically be replaced by an em dash, if your settings are correct).
- En dashes, not hyphens, are to be used to indicate a date range, as in '1914–1918', with no spaces on either side (i.e., two hyphens '--' placed with spaces between two letters or words should automatically be replaced by an en dash, if your settings are correct).



## EPIGRAM BOOKS

### ENTRY FORM FOR THE EPIGRAM BOOKS FICTION PRIZE 2015

All details to be filled in by the author(s). If you have multiple submissions, please fill in a separate entry form for each submission and attach each entry form with its manuscript. If there are multiple authors, please fill in only one entry form per manuscript. Please attach a photocopy of your NRIC/passport and a photograph of the author(s). Please ensure that your entry form is completed legibly.

Enclosed are four hard copies of my entry for the Epigram Books Fiction Prize 2015. By signing this entry form, I agree to abide by the rules and regulations as set by the organiser.

### MANUSCRIPT INFORMATION

**Book Title:**

**Synopsis:**

**Author's Name (real or pen name):**

**Author's Biography:**

### CONTACT INFORMATION

We will contact you at the following email address and/or phone number to acknowledge receipt of your entry and if we have any questions about your manuscript.

<b>Name:</b> Please underline surname	<b>NRIC/Passport No.:</b>	<b>Date of Birth:</b>	<b>Gender:</b>
<b>Postal Address:</b>	<b>Email Address:</b>	<b>Phone No.:</b>	
<b>Citizenship:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Singaporean Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Singaporean PR <input type="checkbox"/> Singapore-born <b>Please state your current citizenship:</b> _____	<b>Signature:</b>  <b>Date:</b>		