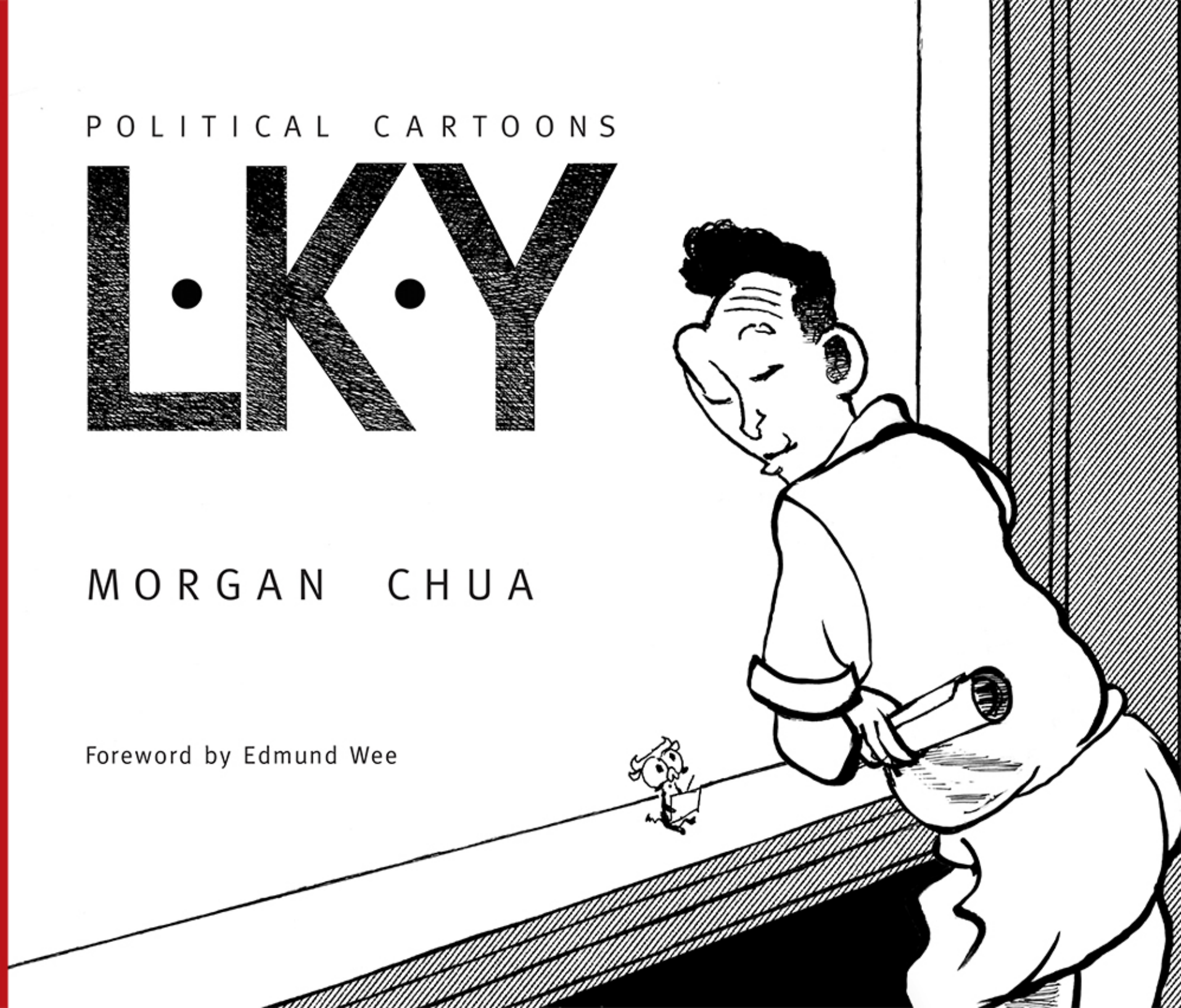


POLITICAL CARTOONS

# LKY

MORGAN CHUA

Foreword by Edmund Wee



LKY: POLITICAL CARTOONS

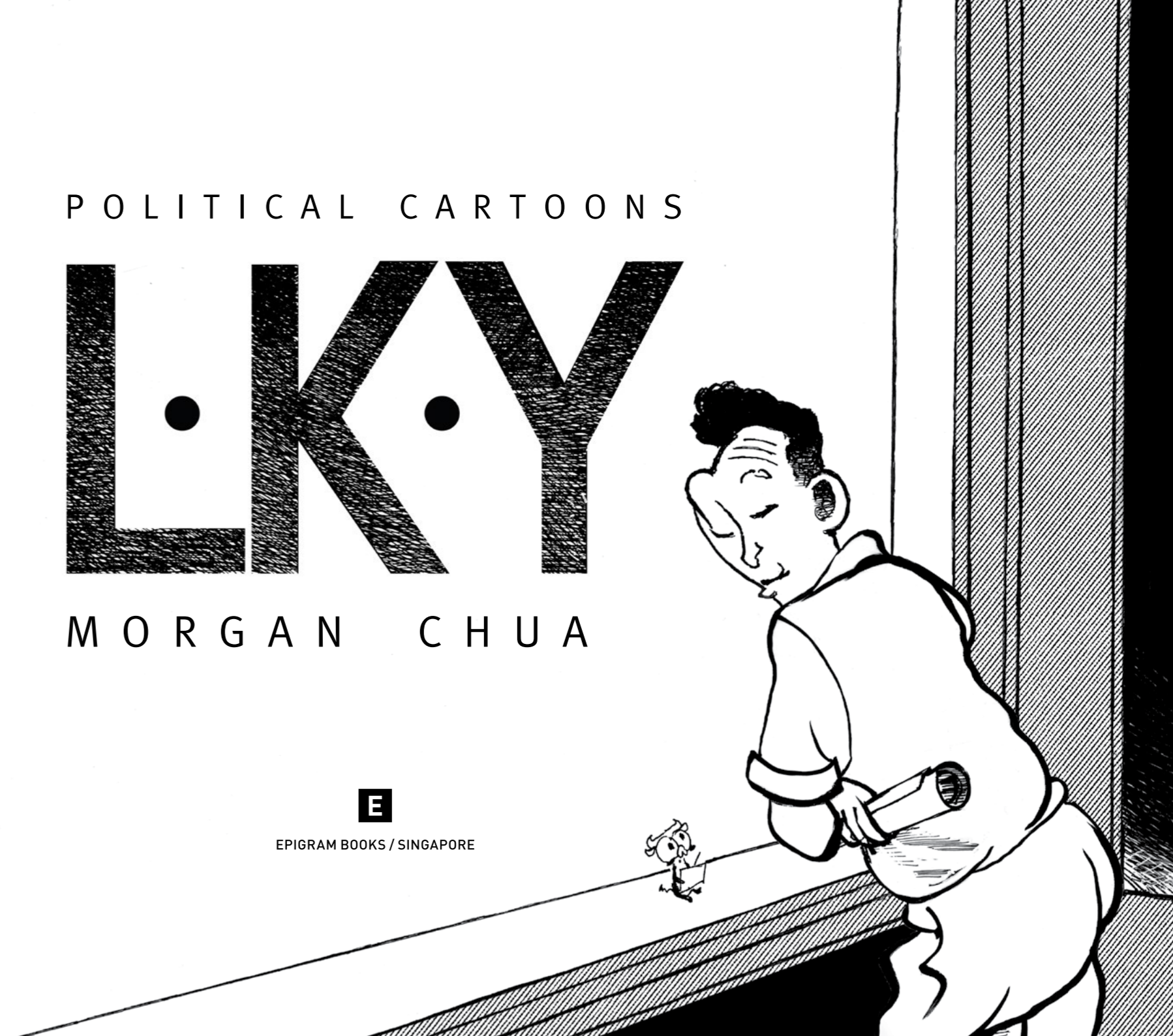
POLITICAL CARTOONS

# LKY

MORGAN CHUA

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EPIGRAM BOOKS / SINGAPORE



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*To the children of Singapore*





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## FOREWORD

Morgan Chua's first political cartoon of Lee Kuan Yew in the *Singapore Herald* was said to have led to the closure of the newspaper in 1971. No doubt, it is a bit of an urban legend. But Singapore's first prime minister does loom large in the lives of all Singaporeans. For Morgan though, Lee's near mythic status became fodder for his creative imagination and incisive pen. Undeterred by the closure of the *Herald*, Morgan continued his satirical sketches of the prime minister in the pages of the *Far Eastern Economic Review* from the shores of Hong Kong over the next 24 years. Now for the first time, he has gathered his cartoons on LKY—and added new ones—covering Lee's pioneering years up to the present day into a book.

Edmund Wee  
Publisher, Epigram Books

A SCHOLAR IN LOVE

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## LOVE STORY

### KWA GEOK CHOO (1920-2010)

Born in December 1920 to banker Kwa Siew Tee, Geok Choo was one of eight children. She was the only female student in Raffles Institution. Three years LKY's senior, Geok Choo—or "Choo" to LKY—was his pillar of strength. She raised their three children, ran the household, practised law, edited his speeches and books and, at the most challenging of times, was there for him.



**1940, Smart Off:** Having entered Raffles College on the John Anderson Scholarship, LKY was shocked to discover that one Kwa Geok Choo had bested him in English and Economics.

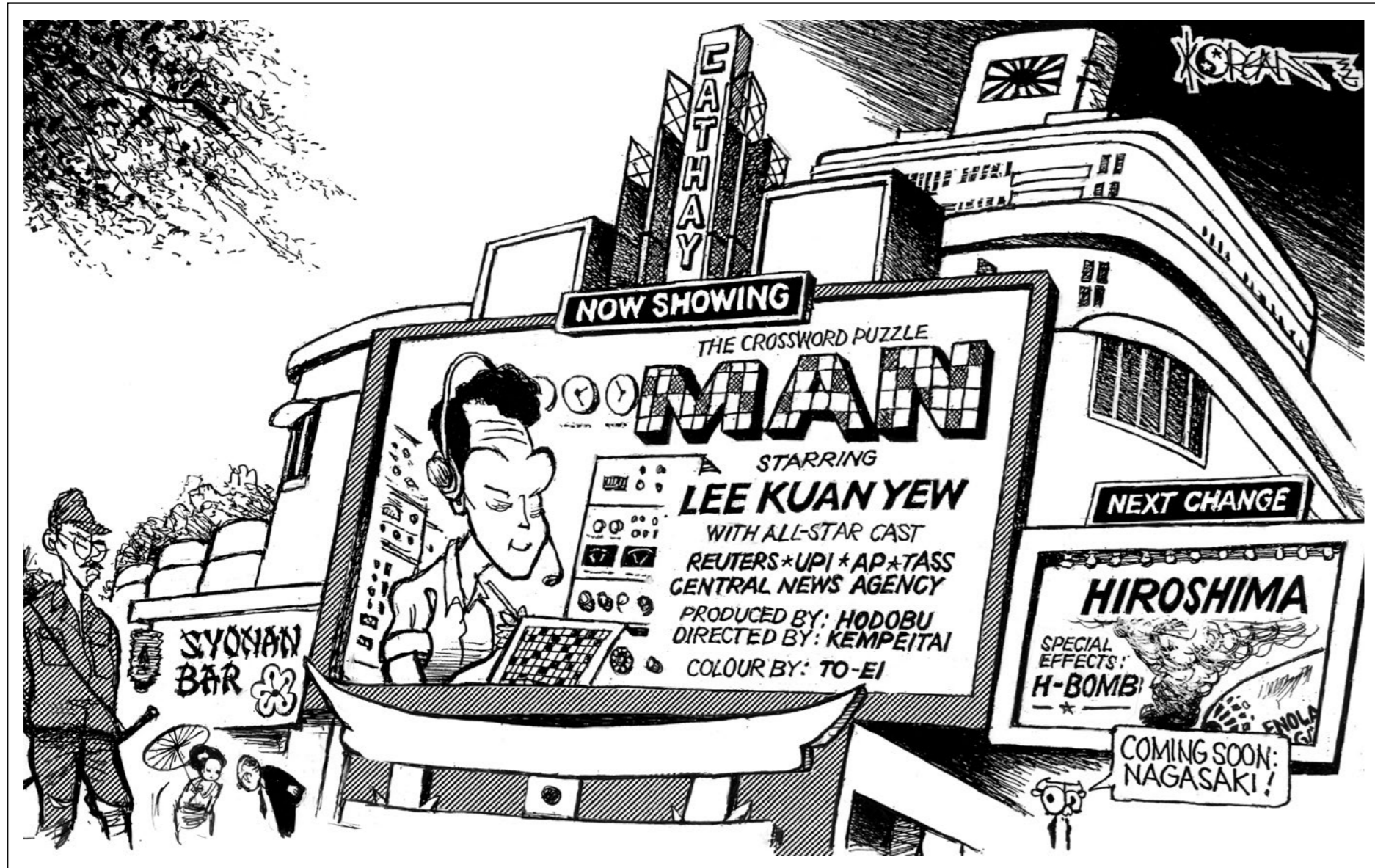




1942, **Education, Interrupted:** The Japanese Occupation of Singapore rudely put LKY's studies on hold. He resumed his education only in 1946.



1942, **The Bare Facts:** LKY escaped the Japanese's Sook Ching massacre by asking to leave Jalan Besar Stadium to collect his belongings.



2014

1943-1944, **The Reluctant Collaborator:** LKY worked as the English-language editor for the Japanese information and propaganda department, the Hodobu.



2014

1944, **Legal & Illegal:** To survive the Japanese Occupation, LKY also made and sold pirated Stikfas glue on the black market.



# ALWAYS: HARRY & CHOO

LKY courted Kwa Geok Choo on dates to attractions like the Great World Amusement Park, MacRitchie Reservoir and Singapore Botanic Gardens, accompanied by her brother-in-law, Yong Nyuk Lin. LKY recounted that those days were "the happiest" of his life.



**1945-1947, Hello & Goodbye:** Kwa Geok Choo accepted LKY's marriage proposal before he left for England. The lovers were reunited when she was admitted to Cambridge University on a scholarship.

# IN BETWEEN TIME

In 1948, the couple was pictured at Cambridge's famed Bridge of Sighs in their student days. They returned in 1974 for the convocation of their elder son, Lee Hsien Loong.



In Memory of Madam Kwa Geok Choo 1920-2010, 2011



1947-1949, **Acing the Bar:** In 1947, after a brief stint at the London School of Economics, LKY began reading law at Cambridge University's Fitzwilliam College. He graduated with a double first class honours, and was later made an honorary fellow.



## DOUBLE HAPPINESS

Once LKY and Geok Choo had made their minds up about each other, they married in private at Shakespeare's birthplace to avoid the disapproval of their parents and the college. Their official wedding reception was held on 30 September, 1950, at the Raffles Hotel, where Geok Choo wore an ankle-length cheongsam with capped sleeves.



Stratford-upon-Avon



Raffles Hotel



**1947-1950, The Wedding's Best Men:** Rather than live in sin, LKY and Geok Choo married secretly in England and held a second wedding ceremony at the Raffles Hotel upon their return.



## THE GRADUATES

In 1949, LKY and Geok Choo were both awarded first-class honours degrees in law, and passed their bar exams in May 1950. LKY also gave a speech entitled "The Returned Student" in London at the Malayan Forum, set up by the future leaders of Singapore and Malaysia.



LKY



**1950, Homecoming:** Upon completing their studies, LKY and Geok Choo returned to Singapore in August on board the passenger liner *Willem Ruys* with Goh Keng Swee.

## LAST WORD

I first met LKY in Geylang on 1 September, 1962, at the Singapore Badminton Hall when he gave his victory cry of “Merdeka!”

I was standing opposite him, on the terrace of an unfinished building, shouting “Merdeka!” along with him and the crowd. I was 12 years old then. I did not know what it meant.

The second time I met LKY was at my secondary school, Presbyterian Boys. LKY had chosen our principal, Mr Sia Kah Hui, as the parliamentary secretary to the minister for health. I was leaving the lavatory when LKY was coming in. We stood directly in front of each other, still, and shook hands before he dashed in as quick as lightning for a pee!

Years later, we were set on a collision course with each other. After my National Service, I became an accidental cartoonist for the ill-fated *Singapore Herald* paper, which was closed down in 1971. I still remember May of that fateful year. I was on the escalator towards the *Herald's* office at People's Park when my editorial assistant, Don Lionel, rushed towards me. Lionel said that the then-editor Ambrose Khaw wanted me to draw a cartoon. I replied that he, Lionel, was a better cartoonist than I was—in those days, there was only the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, which had rejected my application at 16 to study there. Lionel said that as chief editorial artist I should take the plunge, so after discussing the concept with Ambrose, I got started on the cartoon...



LKY's letter to Morgan thanking him for his book, *In Memory of Madam Kwa Geok Choo 1920-2010* (2011).



It's said that my cartoon of LKY on a tank partially caused the *Herald* to be shut down. So I was even more overjoyed when in August 2011, I received the following letter from LKY himself, about my book *In Memory of Madam Kwa Geok Choo 1920-2010*.

Looking back at where LKY and I first crossed paths, Geylang, its surroundings and the skyline of Singapore has changed tremendously. This transformation is thanks to the vision of one man, the man you love to hate, LKY.

Morgan Chua

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First and foremost, a heartfelt thank-you to City Developments Limited whose support made this book possible.

To the many authors, photographers and fellow artists, especially Lee Kuan Yew for his memoirs, whose work this book is based on.

My sincere thanks—and apologies.

To Ambrose Khaw and the late Francis Wong, editors of the defunct *Singapore Herald*, who laid the stepping stone for my career in journalism.

To the late Tarzie Vittachi, editor of the defunct *The Asian* newspaper, who widened my interest into the region.

My most profound and esteemed respect to the late editors Derek Davies, Michael O'Neill (who could edit 100 lines to 20) and TJS George, who opened the Pandora's box of political events upon which all my cartoons are focussed on.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my publisher Edmund Wee for his wholehearted support.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Morgan Chua started drawing for the *Singapore Herald* in 1970. When the paper was closed down by the government in 1971, he moved to Hong Kong and joined *The Asian* for nine months.

He then joined the prestigious *Far Eastern Economic Review*, where he started as an editorial artist, and over 24 years rose to creative director. At the *Review*, he was known for his incisive single-panel political cartoons and for arresting and provocative magazine cover choices. He has also drawn cartoons for Hong Kong's *Next Magazine* and *Apple Daily*.

Chua's publications include *Tiananmen* (1989, 2014), *My Singapore* (2000, 2008), *Diversity Singapore: A Cartoon History of Immigration* (2010) and *In Memory of Madam Kwa Geok Choo 1920-2010* (2011). Most recently, Chua illustrated former Singapore President SR Nathan's *50 Stories from My Life* (2013).

## FEARLESS MORGAN MEETS FEARSOME HARRY

“Morgan Chua’s first political cartoon of Lee Kuan Yew in the *Singapore Herald* was said to have led to the closure of the newspaper in 1971. No doubt, it is a bit of an urban legend. But Singapore’s first prime minister does loom large in the lives of all Singaporeans. For Morgan though, Lee’s near mythic status became fodder for his creative imagination and incisive pen. Undeterred by the closure of the *Herald*, Morgan continued his satirical sketches of the prime minister in the pages of the *Far Eastern Economic Review* from the shores of Hong Kong over the next 24 years. Now for the first time, he has gathered his cartoons on LKY—and added new ones—covering Lee’s pioneering years up to the present day into a book.”

—from the Foreword



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