

Girl Overboard!

A ROSE
GROWS IN THE
JUNGLE



WRITTEN BY

SHERI TAN

ILLUSTRATED BY FERNANDO HIERRO

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Written by
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For Jari, Andrew, Adam and Laurie



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1

Ready for Adventure

Dear Diary,

Well, it's been three and a half months since we moved to Singapore. I feel...okay. No, actually, I still feel lost. I still feel like I have to ask so many questions just to get one simple thing done. Back home in New York, I didn't have to ask any questions. I knew where to go, who to ask, what I needed to do to get things done.

Not here. But it's like I am slowly learning how things work and I do feel like...a new person! Yeah, the new and improved Rosie C. Smith! Hahaha! Now if I can just get Will from school to notice me. He's so cute! Even Pink thinks he's dreamy (her word, not mine!). LOL!



Anyway, our class is going on an overnight trip to Pulau Ubin today. Why??! Ugh! I really don't want to go, but I couldn't come up with a good excuse not to. And participation counts towards our Science grade. That's what Mrs Irons said anyway. Whatever!

At least Pink is coming along. It's really cool that my school let me bring my BFF with me on this weekend trip. Everyone could invite friends from other schools to join us on this trip. So of course I had to choose Pink. Yeah, my BFF has got my back! I bet she knows everything about the outdoors, so it's going to be fun. I hope. What spoils the whole trip is that Sharon, aka "the witch", will be there. Well, unless she's sick and has to stay home. But that's probably not going to happen. She even signed up to be the teacher's

assistant! LOL!! Can you believe it? Yeah, I can't believe it either... Psycho!!!

Alex had been bugging me to take him on this trip, but a day without my darling little brother is a day without terror. I'm glad I don't have to take him with me. It's bad enough Sharon will be there. It's going to be some weekend!

"Rosie..."

Hearing her brother's voice, Rosie quickly closes the diary that Grandma gave her and puts it into her backpack. She slings her bag over her shoulder and heads towards the kitchen.

"**Wahhh!**" Rosie screams as Alex suddenly jumps out from the kitchen doorway. Her brother is dressed up in camouflage gear and has drawn two thick dark streaks on each side of his face.

"What are you doing, Alex? Why are you dressed like that?" Rosie snaps, annoyed.

"I'm ready, Rosie, let's go," Alex says.

"Uh...go where?"

With a big grin on his face, Alex says, "You know, to the jungle island. Mom said you're taking me with you on your field trip."



Rosie stares at Alex for a second before yelling, "Mom! Will you please tell Alex that he is not going on the field trip with me?"

"Oh come on, Rosie, you need me to protect you from all the wild animals," Alex says, "and it'll be fun."

Rosie runs to her parents' bedroom. "Mom!" she calls, knocking on their door.

"Okay, okay, Rose," Mom answers sleepily as she opens the door. "No need for all this yelling."

"Pink is coming with me on the trip, remember?" Rosie says.

"I know, honey," Mom replies, patting Rosie's shoulder. "Calm down, okay?"

"Thank goodness it's Saturday," Dad says with a groan as he rolls out of bed. "I'll get the coffee brewing."

"Rose, Pink's mom just sent me a text," Mom says. "Pink will be up here in a few minutes, so go wait for her in the living room."

Rosie turns and happily skips down the hallway, just as Dad calls out, "Uh... Tracey dear, I think you need to come see Alex..."



Mom looks up and takes a deep breath. "What now?" she mutters before running to the kitchen. With a gasp she cries out, "Alex, what have you done to your face? Is that...is that shoe polish all over your face?"

"Yeah, Mom, I'm a commando and I'm going to protect Rosie," Alex says with a serious expression.

Rosie rolls her eyes. "Right, Alex. Protect me from who? You?"

Dad shoots a look at Rosie, then turns to Alex. "Alex, Rosie will be fine. Now go wash your face before you scare the neighbours. And when you're done, you can help me make my world-famous pancakes."

"All right! Pancakes!" Alex yells as he runs off.

"Okay, Dad."

Just then, there is a knock at the front door.



Rosie gives her mom and dad a hug before heading out. “Be sure to put on the mosquito patch,” Mom reminds her.

“Hi, Ro—” Pink starts to say when the door opens.

“Not now, Pink,” Rosie replies. “Let’s get out of here before Alex the commando catches up to us.”



2

Face-off

“You know, Pink, this is my first-ever camping trip,” Rosie says as the girls go downstairs to wait for the bus.

“Really? I thought all New Yorkers camp out in Central Park,” Pink says.

“What? Oh no, no one camps out there,” Rosie says. “At least I don’t think anyone is that crazy... Hey, look, the bus is here.”

Rosie and Pink hop on to the big green coach—

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Edmund and Ruth, for believing in this project and giving Rosie the chance to bloom;

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Coming Soon!



Girl Overboard!
**EVERYTHING'S
COMING UP
ROSIE**

There's only six weeks left in the school year and Rosie is excited for summer vacation! But there's so much to be done before the last day of school—projects, tests...and Rosie is even thinking of signing up for water polo (yes, seriously, water polo!). But then Ben accidentally signs Rosie up for student council, and she finds herself running for president—against Sharon! Can middle school get any worse?



Quick! Turn the page for a sneak peek!

Here's the Sneak Peek!

Pink calls her cousin on her mobile phone and after five minutes of discussion, they settle on a mix of music.

“What’s techno music?” Pink asks Rosie after they hang up.

“I’m not sure,” Rosie says, “but it sounds robotic, so I think we just have to dance like robots.”

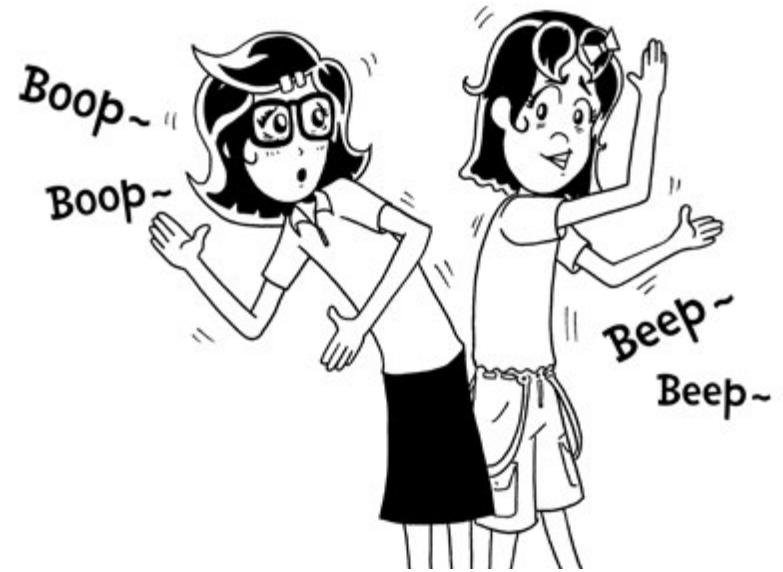
“Cool!” Pink says excitedly. “Now I feel a lot better. I knew you were the right person to ask.”

Rosie playfully shoots her a look.

“Okay, okay, the only person to ask,” Pink says, laughing.

The two of them start moving like robots. “I-am-so-techno,” Rosie says, then stops moving,

remembering something. “Did I tell you about the student council elections at my school? Student council gets elected at the end of the school year so the new team is ready to go next school year.”



“Hmm, maybe you should run for student council,” Pink suggests. “Maybe Will likes girls with power, you know.”

“Ha ha, funny, Pink,” Rosie says, giggling. “I was thinking about the student council thing, about running for it, but that’s where Sharon is. She’s been the president for two years and I’ve definitely

had my fill of her. The more time I spend away from her, the better. Whoever dares to run against her should have their head seriously examined. Or plan on being at a different school next year.”

Pink laughs. “Yeah, who needs drama? What are you going to do then?”

Rosie picks up a flyer to show Pink. “Um, I was thinking about water polo,” she says.

About the Creators



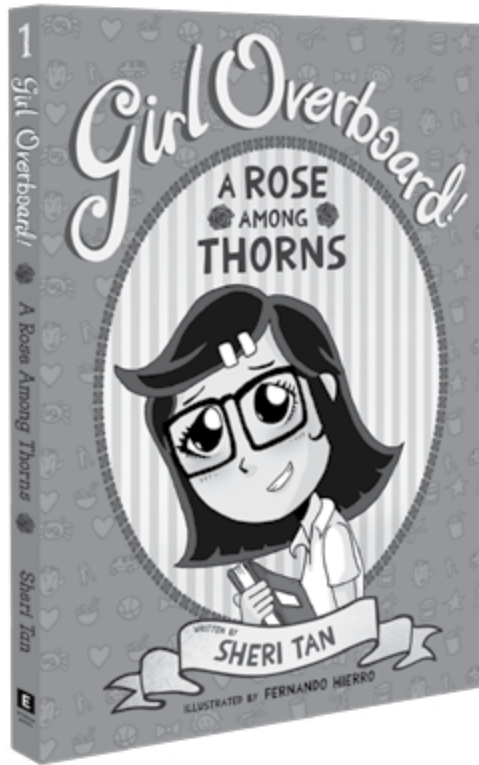
Sheri Tan, author

Sheri Tan has always loved reading. Growing up in Singapore, her favourite author was Enid Blyton and she often wished she had adventures like the Famous Five or that she attended Malory Towers. After college, Sheri became a writer and editor of children's books and worked in New York City for many years before returning to Singapore.

Fernando Hierro, illustrator

Fernando Hierro is an illustrator and graphic designer who grew up reading books illustrated by Jack Kirby, a comic book artist from his neighbourhood, the Lower East Side in New York City. Fernando started drawing at an early age, following in the footsteps of his father. He was also inspired by the art of John Byrne and loves telling stories through pictures and words.





Don't forget to pick up
this book...before it's gone!



**"Fun, fast-paced,
full-of-laughs!"**
—Catherine Carvell, author
of *Darcy Moon and the Deep-
fried Frogs*

"Hooray! At last a book for ever-increasing
third culture kids. What a joy."

—Fran Lebowitz, author of *Tales From A Broad*.



Dear Diary,
I never thought I'd say this:
I'm going camping, **OUTDOORS**,
on Pulau Ubin! It's not like I
have a choice, because it counts
towards our grades. Luckily, Pink,
my BFF, will be there with me.

All I have to do is survive one night,
right? After all, what could go wrong
in the **JUNGLE**?

The best thing about going to Pulau Ubin is the chance to get away from little brother Alex and his spider. But Rosie soon comes face to face with monitor lizards, bats and a haunted house. *Ahhh!* Not only that, she gets lost! Thank goodness best friends Pink and Ben are with her, and together they try to find their way to the camp site. One thing's for sure—life in Singapore is exciting!

Look for Rosie's next adventure,
Everything's Coming Up Rosie



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