

"A riveting world!"

—Ning Cai, author of the bestselling *Misdirection*

LION  
BOYS

The sequel to  
*LION BOY  
AND  
DRUMMER  
GIRL*

AND

FAN  
GIRLS

PAULINE LOH

**ADVANCE PRAISE FOR *LION BOYS AND FAN GIRLS***

“With delightful characters set in a riveting world, Pauline Loh’s *Lion Boys and Fan Girls* is a fun and engaging page-turner!”

— **NING CAI, AUTHOR OF *MISDIRECTION***

**PRAISE FOR *LION BOY AND DRUMMER GIRL***

“With deft pen strokes, Pauline has made lion dance as enticing and trendy as K-pop. The novel is a page-turner packed with all the right elements: the handsome lion dance boys with their screaming hordes of teenage fans, the budding romance of a lion boy and a drummer girl, and the pulsating action of lion dances and old feuds. I cannot wait to see all the eye candy in the movie version!”

— **EMILY LIM,**

**AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR AND MEDIACORP’S  
SINGAPORE WOMAN AWARD HONOREE 2013**

“*Lion Boy and Drummer Girl* truly captures the essence of being young and in love. With the backdrop of the rich culture of Singapore and fascinating history of lion dance, the author spins a compelling story of two teens in the glitzy world of the idol industry. The book will have readers hooked from the first sentence to the last.”

— **EVANGELIQUE POH, 20,  
AVID READER AND FICTION LOVER**

**ALSO IN THE LEOPOP SERIES**  
*Lion Boy and Drummer Girl*  
(Longlisted for the 2016 Epigram Books Fiction Prize)



**E**  
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To my very own Hercules—  
Lukas Ong, 1.76m and 80kg  
at 13 years old and still growing

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# CHAPTER 1

## RICK WA WA'S SOLO

“Break it like this, yeah... Then, move it like that...” Rick Wa Wa’s breathy tenor emanated through the speakers.

But the suggestive lyrics were drowned out by the deafening screams and moans of the teen audience who had gone online as early as six months ago to buy tickets to Wa Wa’s Big Head Doll Concert.

The stadium was standing-room-only. It was unthinkable, but Ricky had made it: a big head doll had managed to take centre stage in the distinguished BH Sheares Hall that boasted a 4,000-crowd capacity.

The audience—mostly ladies, and some well-crafted gym gods among them—gyrated and jived with Ricky in his big head doll costume. Aquarius, a lion dancer who was also a talented costume designer, had pulled out all the stops when he designed Rick Wa Wa’s costumes for this ground-breaking performance. This was Ricky’s fifth costume change. For this song,


Aquarius had opted for peacock feathers. Any other dancer would have been over-the-top, but somehow, the opulent feathers on Ricky made him look majestic.

Ricky high-stepped across the stage and thrust his rhinestone-studded tap shoes into the lens of a camera that was bringing the show live to an estimated million fans online across Asia.

The giant LED screen flashed:

# Wa Wa

## Ricky the Big Head Doll



<b>Name</b>	Ricky Kang Min Wu
<b>Birthday</b>	8 July
<b>Age</b>	18
<b>Height</b>	175cm
<b>Weight</b>	62kg
<b>Education</b>	Private education
<b>Talent</b>	Comedy, breakdancing and spreading happiness
<b>Self-Portrait</b>	Most fashionable man in the world
<b>Position</b>	Second Lion Head

Onstage Ricky wriggled his foot and then slid out of the heel, allowing his shoe to dangle centimetres in front of the cameraman's nose. Viewers just managed to catch a glimpse of a luridly-printed sock before Ricky slipped back into his shoe and twinkled away across the stage.

"Is that the cha-cha? Is our Ricky doing a sissy angmo number?" growled a scandalised voice at the back of the stadium. It belonged to the chairman of the Lion and Dragon Dance Federation. Pressed flat against the north wall was a number of bewildered, pot-bellied and grizzled old men. Among them were Ricky's father, who had flown in from Hong Kong; Ricky's martial arts teacher Koh Sinseh; several lion dance veterans; and Ricky's hall master, Lung San of the Lion Legends.

"No, I believe it's the tango," Lung San shouted, trying to be heard above the cheering girls in front of them. "He choreographed this dance all by himself and took Latin dance classes, but, yes, it is a bit heretical. I think we are done here. Should we adjourn to the dressing room? I've chilled a few bottles and ordered dim sum." He grimaced at Ricky's father, Kang Yong Gu, who understood his meaning. Ricky was simply too radical for traditionalists. To avoid offending the lion dance seniors further, Lung San and Yong Gu ushered the group out of the auditorium to a room in another part of the building.

As his frenetic number came to an end, Ricky paused to catch his breath. The audience admired his

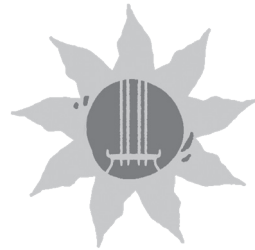


heaving, dewy chest magnified on the LED screens. Ong Ying Ying had seen that perfect chest up close before, and she was wary about others monitoring her reactions. Ying Ying was Lung San's daughter and the Administrator of the Lion Legends. She was also Ricky's secret girlfriend.

"I know you guys didn't come for me alone," Ricky spoke into his mic. "Who's here for Apple?"

## Apollo

The Sun God



<b>Name</b>	Lim An Dee (aka Apple)
<b>Birthday</b>	21 January
<b>Age</b>	16
<b>Height</b>	181cm
<b>Weight</b>	71kg
<b>Education</b>	International Baccalaureate
<b>Talent</b>	Basketball, dancing and accepting challenges
<b>Self-Portrait</b>	Better than all my brothers
<b>Position</b>	Second Lion Body

A large section of the audience cheered and raised red balloons. Ricky acknowledged Apple's fans with a broad grin. Apple was his closest friend in the Lion Legends. He looked out into a sea of fans, many of them holding signs that said, "MARRY ME, RICKY." A few read, "LION LEGENDS 4EVER."

"And are there any Speed Addicts here?" Ricky was talking about Mercury's fans.

## Mercury

God of Speed and Flight



<b>Name</b>	Tan Chung Jae
<b>Birthday</b>	19 August
<b>Age</b>	18
<b>Height</b>	183cm
<b>Weight</b>	73kg
<b>Education</b>	5 Distinctions in 'A' Levels
<b>Talent</b>	Dancing, martial arts and height
<b>Self-Portrait</b>	Loyal and reliable friend. Sexiest Man of the Year award
<b>Position</b>	Principal Lion Body

“What about Zeus’ fans?” Ricky asked. Another phalanx in the audience erupted into cheers. Zeus was the leader of the Lion Legends and by far the most handsome.

## Zeus

King of the Gods



<b>Name</b>	Lim Jung Hyuk
<b>Birthday</b>	16 February
<b>Age</b>	19
<b>Height</b>	180cm
<b>Weight</b>	68kg
<b>Education</b>	President’s Service Scholar
<b>Talent</b>	Martial arts, leadership and studying
<b>Self-Portrait</b>	I’ll always be Big Brother
<b>Position</b>	Lion Head (hiatus), troupe manager

Ricky scanned the crowd. “Anybody here for Prome?”

A small section of the audience waved.

## Promeheus



He Who Defied the Gods  
and Brought Fire to Man

<b>Name</b>	Lau Dong Wan (aka Prome)
<b>Birthday</b>	21 November
<b>Age</b>	19
<b>Height</b>	175cm
<b>Weight</b>	66kg
<b>Education</b>	6 Distinctions in ‘A’ Levels
<b>Talent</b>	Leadership, lion dance, bodybuilding and deejaying
<b>Self-Portrait</b>	Hardworking, self-driven and capable. Handsome too
<b>Position</b>	Principal Lion Head

“I wonder what’s next on the menu?” Ricky put a finger to his lips and cocked his head to the side. Strobe lights lit up the stadium. Simultaneously, the screens flared. Images of impossibly attractive demigods flashed onscreen. Fireworks sounded as two red and orange lions exploded onto the stage.

Zeus and Apple, brothers in real life, partnered

as one lion. Prome and Mercury formed the other pair. Together they worked the audience into a frenzy. Prancing boldly into the crowd, they minced and whirled, adroitly evading eager arms that reached out to try to hug them. It was a resounding finale that was the cherry atop a perfect performance.

## CHAPTER 2 CLOSER THAN BROTHERS

The atmosphere was very different the week after Wa Wa's Big Head Doll Concert. It was the day of the Legends' fiftieth anniversary kick-off performance and they were being interviewed in a concert hall right before that. The performance would be the start of a new era for the troupe: Zeus was stepping down as the leader and stepping up was...Prometheus, whom thousands of fans knew as Prome.

Cameras zoomed in on Prome as he leaned over the bank of microphones in front of him, his gorgeous face exuding earnestness and sincerity. He was commenting on Zeus, who he said needed to concentrate on his studies and National Service.

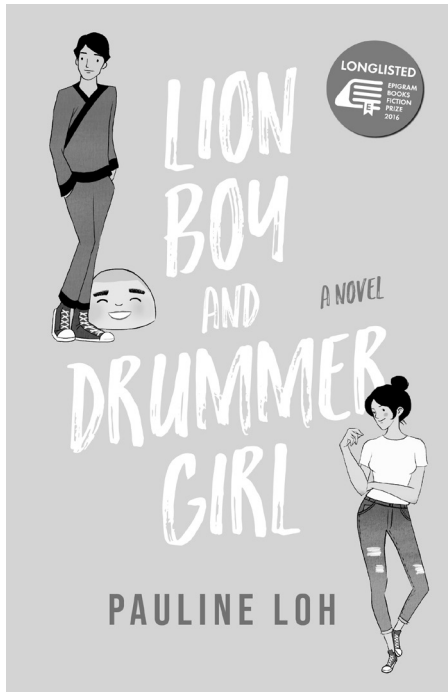
"We're all sorry that the Legends' leader, Zeus, has to go on a hiatus, but it is only temporary," Prome said. "With National Service and a university education, Zeus will come back to us a better man. So we should all



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Pauline Loh** is an award-winning author of several non-fiction and children's titles, including *Lion Boy and Drummer Girl* which was longlisted for the 2016 Epigram Books Fiction Prize. Other titles include *Not in the Stars* and *The Robot in My Playground*. She is a winner of the First Time Writers and Illustrators Publishing Initiative 2009 and first runner-up for the Scholastic Asian Book Award 2012. Her books have been shortlisted for the Hedwig Anuar Book Award 2015, the Samsung KidsTime Author's Award 2015 and the Singapore Book Awards 2016. A former journalist, she is also the director of Women Empowered for Work and Mothering and an ambassador of the Singapore Memory Project. She graduated from Singapore Chinese Girls' School, Raffles Junior College and National University of Singapore. She is a writer and creative writing teacher.

**BOOK 1 OF THE LEOPOP SERIES**



Lion dancers are the new sensations in Asia, and none are as charming or handsome as US import Ricky Ang. But while the rest of the Leopop boys aspire to be the lion head, Ricky would rather goof around as the big head doll. Drummer girl Ong Ying Ying is the biggest cynic of this Leopop wave. “Don’t fall for a lion dancer!” her mother had always warned her. “He will break your heart.”

*Available at [www.epigrambooks.sg](http://www.epigrambooks.sg)*

# CAN A "LOVE BAN" HELP THE LEGENDS SUCCEED?

Prome has taken over the popular Lion Legends as the Principal Lion Head. He makes a pact with his lion partner Mercury to ban dating and focus on lion dancing. But their plans go awry when they meet two unusual girls.



Meanwhile, the Legends are under attack! First it was cyberbullying, then a garbage bomb. Who is this anti-fan and why is he targeting the Legends?

BOOK 1



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