



FROM THE  
PUBLISHER OF  
*THE ART  
OF CHARLIE CHAN  
HOCK CHYE*

# MR TINGO

VOLUME  
**1**

RUSSELL MOLINA

IAN STA. MARIA

"Imagine Superman coming to Earth as an old man instead of a baby and you have Mr Tino, the newest and oldest superhero on the block. The story by Russell Molina (*12:01*) and art by Ian Sta. Maria (Skyworld) will keep you hooked and waiting eagerly for the next volume. A much-needed pushback against ageism."

### **CT Lim**

country editor (Singapore) of *International Journal of Comic Art*

"This story and its characters are a masterclass in how to make the Superhero genre relevant to Pinoy Society. An exquisite understanding of true Pinoy character."

### **Whilce Portacio**

comic book writer, artist and co-founder of Image Comics

"Russell Molina and Ian Sta. Maria have given us a fragile, unidealised world at whose centre survives an elderly metahuman. This has the combined cinematic vision of *Unbreakable* and *Akira*—it will devastate you in slow motion."

### **Gwee Li Sui**

poet and graphic novelist, creator of *Myth of the Stone*

"An assiduous effort on a 'supernatural' scale."

### **Koh Hong Teng**

co-creator of *Ten Sticks and One Rice* and *Last Train from Tanjong Pagar*

"*Mr Tino* takes unexpected turns. You can't help but root for its unusual protagonist in this graphic novel that blends superheroes with social realism."

### **Dave Chua**

author of *Gone Case*,  
winner of the 1996 Singapore Literature Prize Commendation Award



# MR TINO

RUSSELL MOLINA

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IAN STA. MARIA



EPIGRAM  
SINGAPORE · LONDON

For Lou, Tala and Ibarra. Thank you for your super powers.  
—Russell

For my family—Annika, Adrienne, Mom and Dad, and to Jarvis.  
Most of all...for all the comic book creators.  
You rock.  
—Ian

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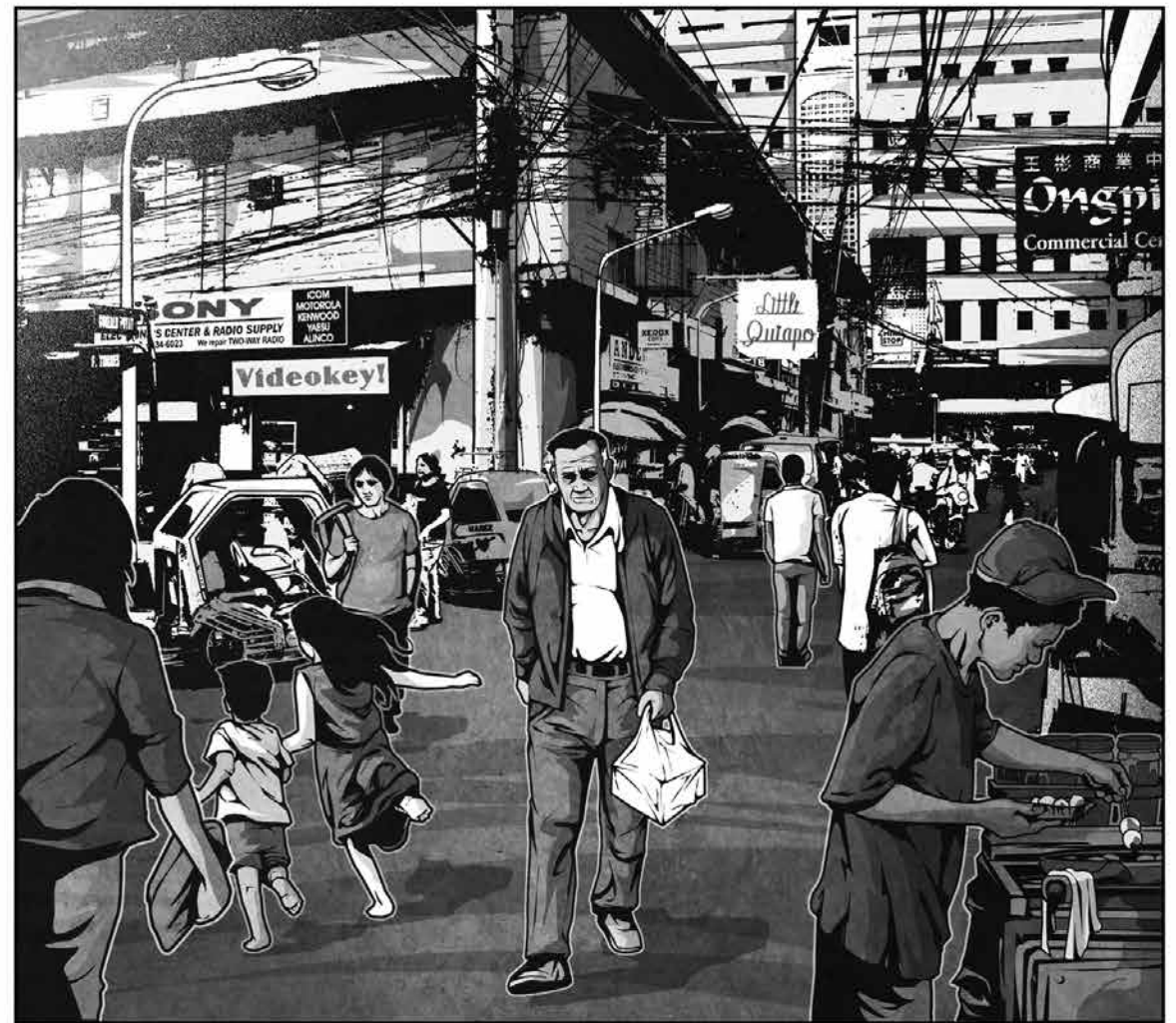
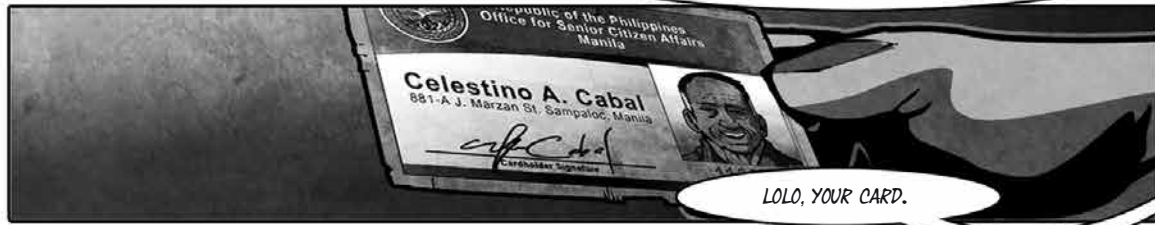
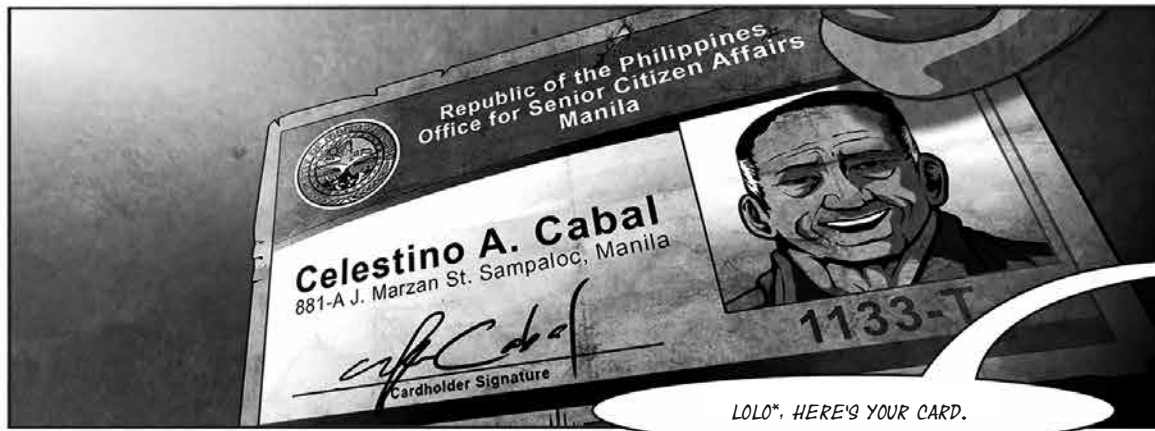
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This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

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# CHAPTER 1







ARE YOU GOING TO TALK TO YOUR MOTHER?



MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST LET HER REST. HOW IS SHE?

SHE'S OKAY. IT'S GOOD FOR HER TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.

WHEN WAS HER LAST CHECK-UP?



JUST THE OTHER DAY. THE DOCTOR SAID IT'S GOOD FOR HER TO HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO.



WHAT ABOUT YOU, DAD? ARE YOU TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF?

JESUS, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I'M FINE.



MR TINO!



WHERE YOU COMING FROM?

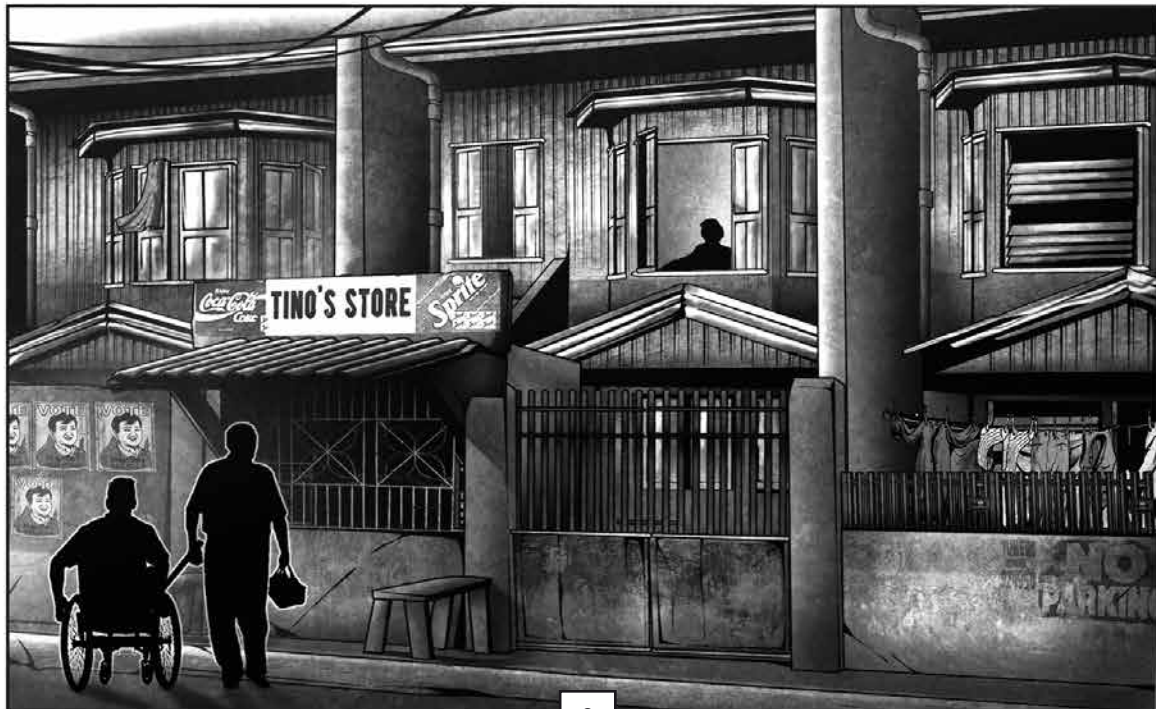
IT'S NOON AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T OPENED THE STORE.



DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THAT ROBBERY AT AGDAMAG'S?

JUST DOWN THE STREET. THEY WERE TIED UP AND THE ROBBERS TOOK EVERYTHING.







ELLA CALLED THIS MORNING.



ELLA?



YES ELLA...



THIS IS ELLA... OUR DAUGHTER...

SHE CALLED ME TO...

WOW!

IS THAT A CAKE!

WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS IT?



MINE.

GO ON AND SERVE IT.



YOU STILL CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY?

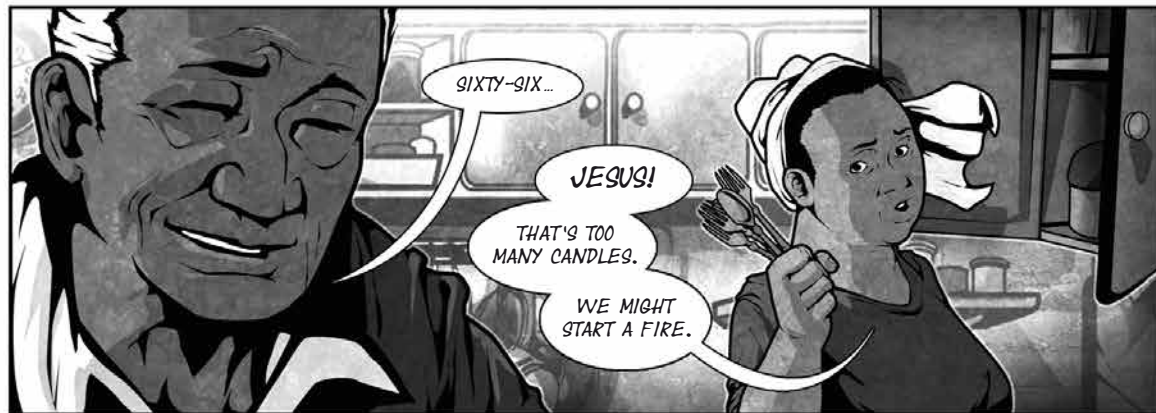
NO CANDLES?

YOU WANT ME TO BUY SOME?

SO YOU CAN WISH THAT WE'LL WIN THE LOTTO...



HOW OLD ARE YOU?



SIXTY-SIX...

JESUS!

THAT'S TOO MANY CANDLES.

WE MIGHT START A FIRE.



WHAT ABOUT ME?

HOW OLD AM I?



YOU'RE ALMOST SIXTY-SIX TOO. JUST A FEW MONTHS AWAY.



TA-DAAAAAAA!



IS IT MY BIRTHDAY?

GO ON, AURA. BLOW OUT THE CANDLES.





DO YOU REMEMBER THE PANCITERIA ON RONGUILLO?



DO YOU WANT TO HAVE DINNER THERE LATER?

WE USED TO ALWAYS EAT PANCIT CANTON\* THERE...



REMEMBER WHEN THEY KICKED US OUT OF THE NEW FRONTIER THEATRE?

BECAUSE WE WERE EATING MANGOES AND BAGOONG\*\*?

YOU REMEMBER THAT?

IT WAS A MOVIE WITH ROBERT AREVALO AND DARIA RAMIREZ...



OUR ANNIVERSARY IS ON 17 AUGUST.

REMEMBER HOW MUCH YOUR MOTHER CRIED AT THE CHURCH?

I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE OF OUR WEDDING.

BUT IT WAS REALLY BECAUSE ELVIS DIED.

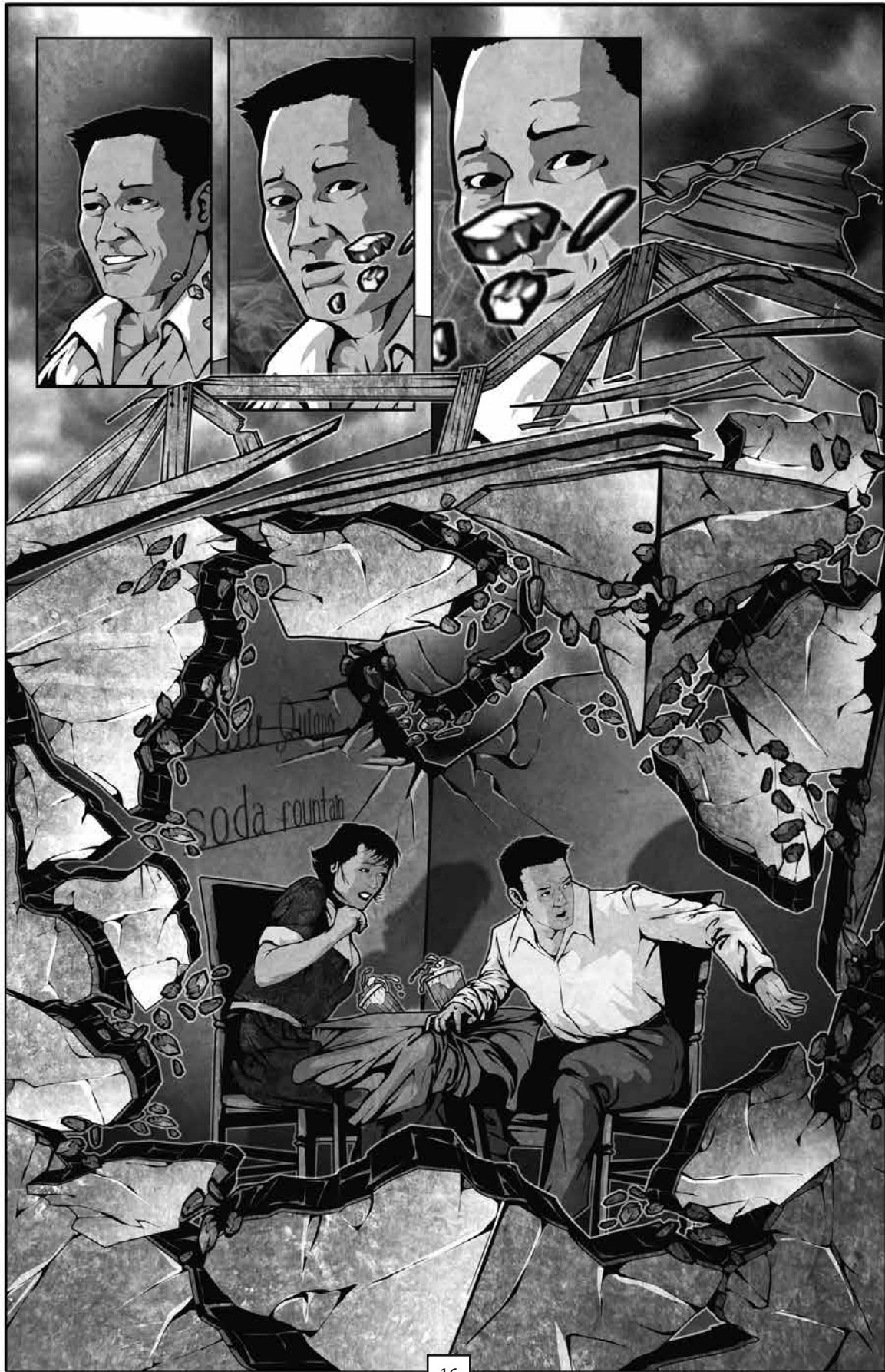


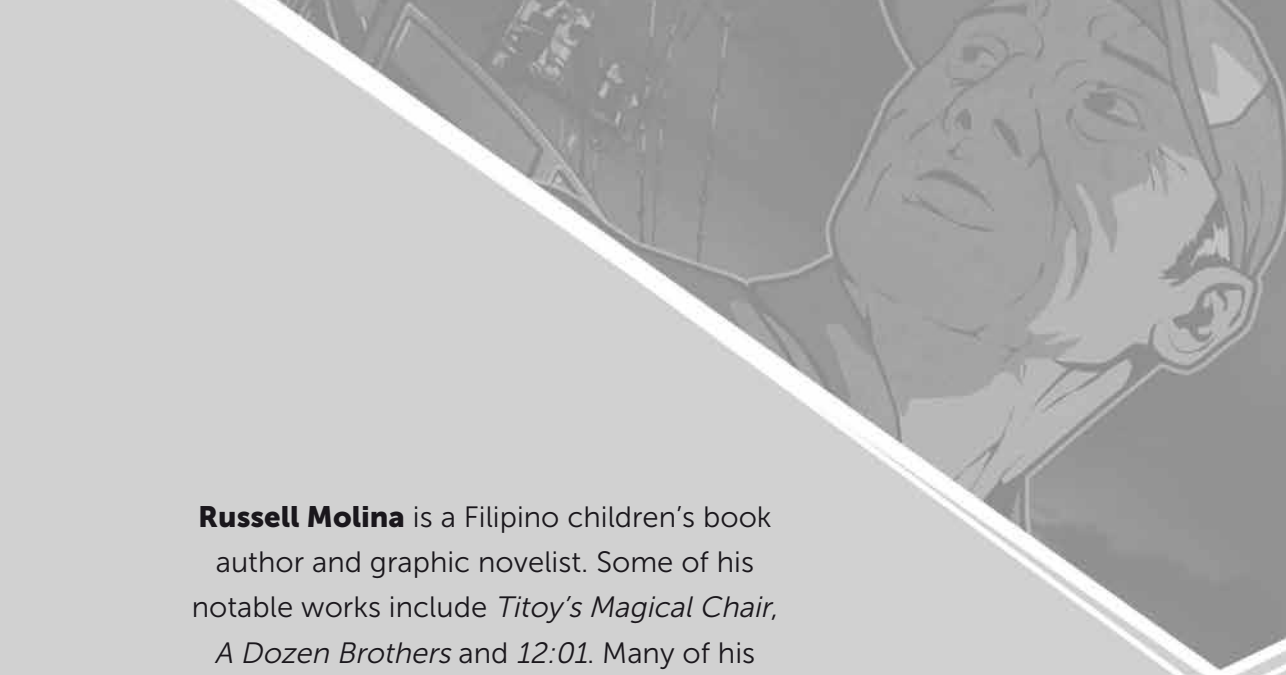
"NAMAMASYAL PA SA LUNETA, NANG WALANG PERA... SOWOWOWO0000!"\*\*\*

YOUR BELLY WAS SO BIG BUT WE WERE STILL WATCHING CONCERTS AT CCP\*\*\*\*.

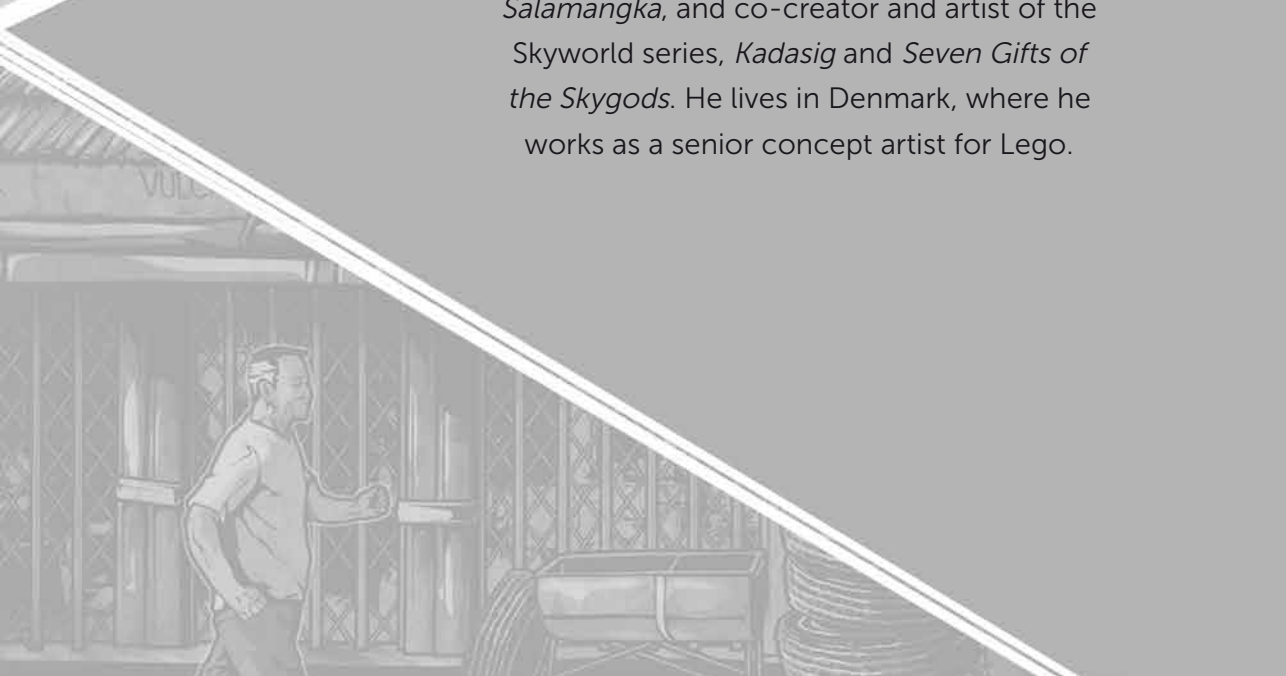
\*Chinese stir-fry noodles  
\*\*fermented condiment made either with fish or shrimp  
\*\*\*lyrics from Rico J. Puno's "The Way We Were" (1975)  
\*\*\*\*Cultural Center of the Philippines







**Russell Molina** is a Filipino children's book author and graphic novelist. Some of his notable works include *Titoy's Magical Chair*, *A Dozen Brothers* and *12:01*. Many of his books have been recognised in award shows such as the National Children's Book Awards and the IBBY Honour List.



**Ian Sta. Maria** is the author and artist of *Salamangka*, and co-creator and artist of the Skyworld series, *Kadasig* and *Seven Gifts of the Skygods*. He lives in Denmark, where he works as a senior concept artist for Lego.

Mr Tino is a 66-year-old sundry store owner, a devoted husband to his dementia-stricken wife and a loving father. One evening, his wife wanders outside and would have been hit by a truck if not for Mr Tino's superhuman strength that he surprisingly discovers he has. As Mr Tino comes to terms with his new power, he learns that more children in his neighbourhood are mysteriously vanishing. Mr Tino becomes the vigilante the community desperately needs...



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