

“Let your child read and sniff out the clues to help Percy and Pam solve the mystery.”

Adeline Foo, author of *The Diary of Amos Lee*

PERCY & PAM

Trouble at the Prata Shop



PERCY & PAM

Trouble
at the
Prata Shop

*For my sweet-as-mango children –
Dan, Ben and Esther.
R. W.*

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Illustrations by Eliz Ong

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PERCY & PAM

**Trouble
at the
Prata Shop**

BY RUTH WAN-LAU

ILLUSTRATED BY ELIZ ONG



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Chapter 1

“Look! We’re the first ones here!”
Percy exclaimed.

The young polar bear could not contain his excitement and ran towards the prata shop.

It was 7.30am on a Saturday morning and Pam and her parents, Mr and Mrs Tan, were slowly dragging their feet behind Percy.

“Wait for us! Stop running!”



Pam said sleepily, while yawning.

Usually, it was

Pam who got up bright

and early, and had

to force her best friend,

Percy, out of bed.



But today, Percy

had woken up earlier than

anybody else.



He had washed

his face, brushed his teeth,

combed his fur and then, while hitting

a steel pot with a wooden spoon,



announced, “It’s Saturday morning!

It’s time for family prata breakfast!”

The rest of the Tan family buried their heads under their pillows.

A few weekends ago, Pam's family had discovered a place nearby that made delicious prata. Percy had become obsessed with this local dish.

Who wouldn't love crispy fried bread? Especially when it was prepared with yummy fillings – from egg and cheese to banana slices and chocolate sauce.

“Isn't it great that Ramasamy Prata opens at 7am?” Percy said, licking his lips.



Pam and Mr and Mrs Tan sat down next to him at the table. Pam stared into space, Mrs Tan patted her hair which looked like a bird's nest,

and Mr Tan kept dropping his menu to rub his tired eyes.

“What kind of prata should I order today?” Percy asked, completely unaware of the sleepyheads around him.

Pam rested her head on Percy’s fluffy shoulder. She recalled the first time she had bumped into this unique best friend of hers.

They had first met in the middle of Ang Mo Kio. Percy had been wandering around looking for some fresh fish to eat. Pam thought he looked lost and so she invited him

to join her for lunch at the nearby hawker centre.

After sharing a bowl of fishballs, Percy told Pam how he had swum all the way from the North Pole to



Singapore in search of a new home. He had found the North Pole too cold and enjoyed the warmth of the sun in Singapore.

Pam offered Percy a room to stay in her house as he didn't have anywhere else to go and they'd been inseparable ever since.

It wasn't long before Pam discovered that Percy had a bottomless pit for a stomach and was very adventurous in his food choices: Hokkien Mee, Chicken Rice, Braised Duck Noodles, Nasi Lemak – Percy loved them all. And

his latest favourite Singaporean dish was prata.

Pam patted Percy on the head with affection. Who could stay annoyed with a furry white polar bear who simply loved to eat? Even if he did wake you up horribly early on a Saturday morning. In any case, Ramasamy Prata really did make scrumptious prata with tasty toppings and interesting twists.

Last week, Pam had tried prata with ham and poached egg, served with hollandaise sauce. Percy had chosen a murtabak,

which is prata with ingredients stuffed inside it. It was filled with portobello mushrooms and a cheese sauce.

Just thinking about last week's prata made Pam rub her tummy in anticipation. She was just about to open her mouth to order when...

BRRRRRAAANG!

A shrill clanging noise came from the kitchen.

"I can't believe it! They're gone! Again!" A large Indian man stormed in from the kitchen holding a metal bowl.

"Disappeared! Stolen! What am I to do now?" he cried.





Ruth Wan-Lau



Ruth grew up in Toa Payoh, one of the oldest neighbourhoods in Singapore. She was fortunate to live 30 steps away from a huge library and practically grew up among its shelves. These days, Ruth writes because her three book-loving children keep feeding her story ideas. She still visits the library in Toa Payoh, and always gets a kick out of finding her own books there now. She is the best-selling author of the *Timmy & Tammy* series.

Eliz Ong

Eliz's favourite subject at school was Art. Even when she wasn't in Art class she would be doodling pictures of animals and plants all over her exercise books. She went on to study Fine Art at Nanyang Academy and now has a job where she gets paid to doodle all day long. Eliz lives with her husband and son at home in Singapore where she also likes to grow her own vegetables.



Look out for Percy and Pam's next adventure:
The Mysterious Chicken Rice Recipe



It's not every day in Singapore that you'd find a polar bear at the hairdresser's getting a 'fur-cut'. But Percy's fur is an unruly mess!

When Percy and Pam stumble upon a recipe for chicken rice that's been dropped outside the hairdresser's, they set out to find its owner. After all, any serious food-lover knows that a recipe for perfectly tender chicken and deliciously fragrant rice is simply too good to lose...

“A sure favourite for Singaporean readers and beyond!”
Emily Lim, award-winning author of *Prince Bear & Pauper Bear*

Percy enjoys nothing more than a prata breakfast—just thinking about crispy fried bread will make a polar bear’s tummy rumble.



When a mysterious thief keeps stealing from Ramasamy Prata, best friends Percy and Pam are on the case to catch the robber. But will Percy be able to resist the temptation to eat everything in sight?



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