# Publishing Catalogue 2022

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#### **BESTSELLERS & HIGHLIGHTS**

#### Alfian Sa'at, Faris Joraimi & Sai Siew Min **Editors:**



Alfian Sa'at is a Resident Playwright with W!LD RICE. His published works include three poetry collections, a collection of short stories, Corridor, a collection of flash fiction, Malay Sketches, three collections of plays, and the published play Cooling-Off Day.

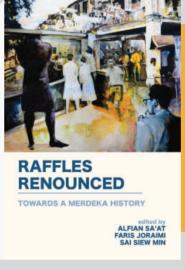
Faris Joraimi is pursuing his BA (Hons) in History at the Yale-NUS College. His research interests lie in the narrative traditions, cultural politics and intellectual history of the Malay world. He hopes to pursue graduate studies and explore ways in which texts and their materiality reflect broader processes of exchange, circulation and consumption in the early modern Nusantara. He has written for a number of platforms, including s/pores, Mynah Magazine, New Naratif, and Budi Kritik.





Photo: Yogesh Tulsi





#### Title: Raffles Renounced: Towards a Merdeka **History**

ISBN: 978-981-14-2038-2 (paperback)

978-981-14-9023-1 (e-book)

Dimension: 150mm x 220mm

Extent: 280pp Published: 2021

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Non-Fiction, Essays

World Rights Available

Why did independent Singapore celebrate 200 years of its founding as a British colony in 2019? What does Merdeka mean for Singaporeans? And what are the possibilities of doing decolonial history in Singapore? Raffles Renounced: Towards a Merdeka History presents essays by historians, literary scholars and artists which grapple with these questions. The volume also reproduces some of the source material used in the play Merdeka / 獨立 / 毌தந்திரம் (Wild Rice, 2019). Taken together, the book shows how the contradictions of independent nationhood haunt Singaporeans' collective and personal stories about Merdeka. It points to the need for a Merdeka history: an open and fearless culture of historical reckoning that not only untangles us from colonial narratives, but proposes emancipatory possibilities.

# Title: Air-Conditioned Nation Revisited: Essays on Singapore Politics

ISBN: 9978-981-14-4820-1 (paperback)

978-981-14-4984-0 (e-book)

Dimension: 150mm x 220mm

Extent: 320pp Published: 2021

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Non-Fiction, Essays

World Rights Available

Air-Conditioned Nation Revisited is an anthology of essays on Singapore politics by Cherian George. It draws upon his influential collection Singapore: The Air-Conditioned Nation (2000), on the country's politics of comfort and control, and from Singapore, Incomplete (2017), on its underdeveloped democracy. Updated for the impending transition to a new generation of leaders, this 20th anniversary edition of Air-Conditioned Nation offers critical reflections on continuity and change in Singapore's unique political culture.

CHERIAN GEORGE

AIR
-COO
NDI
TIO
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NAT
ION
REV
ISI
MATION REVISITED
ESSAYS ON
SINGAPORE POLITICS

CHERIAN
AIR
REV
ISI
TED

"It is a testament to the enduring relevance of Cherian's scholarship that we still see the politics of comfort and control play out in Singapore and can turn to these essays to make sense and meaning of it. What Cherian has done, far more than any other scholar, is to provide a language of power that is at once accessible and unique to local sensibilities."

—Simon Vincent, author of The Naysayer's Book Club

Author: Cherian George

Cherian George, born in Singapore in 1965, is a journalist-turned-academic who has written on Singapore politics for thirty years. After studying Social and Political Sciences at Cambridge and Journalism at Columbia, he spent the 1990s working at *The Straits Times*. He received his PhD in Communication at Stanford in 2003 and is currently a Professor of Media Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University. He researches media freedom, censorship, and hate propaganda in Asia and around the world. His six previous books include *Hate Spin: The Manufacture of Religious Offense and its Threat to Democracy* (MIT Press), which was selected by *Publishers Weekly* as one of the 100 Best Books of 2016.

#### Feature:

# Mok Zining



Shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize 2022 (Poetry)

"I imagine this book less as a representation of a subjectivity, and more as an attempt to map a small part of a sprawling rhizomatic network."

-Zining, for Singapore Unbound

#### Mok Zining is a writer obsessed with random things: orchids, arabesques, sand.

Her interest in Singapore's hybrid orchids began in early 2016, when she was in a poetry workshop at university. She shelved the project in the spring of 2016 and returned to it only in early 2019, when she was taking a course on docupoetics in her MFA program at the University of Minnesota. She had initially wanted to write a collection of speculative poetry, but changed her approach in March 2019, which is when the current form of *The Orchid Folios* began to emerge.

The Orchid Folios is her first book, but her essays, reviews and fiction have appeared in The Cincinnati Review, Witness Magazine, The Rumpus and The Los Angeles Review of Books, among others.

She taught Creative Writing during her MFA and has received a number of awards, including the College of Liberal Arts Fellowship from the University of Minnesota, the Helen G. Scott Prize for Best Critical Essay on American Literature, and an honorable mention from the Academy of American Poets' James Wright Prize. Zining lives in Singapore, where she is working on a book about sand. She spends most of her free time dancing.

"With a voice both cutting and considered in its articulation, Mok intertwines technical floristry with lyric sentiment, then wields it to pry at questions of language, society and the body. Mapping personal disparagements and devastations onto a painstakingly researched, multitextual geography, she reveals a Singapore narrative as engineered as a commercial orchid. Like the origin of the Vanda Miss Joaquim, *The Orchid Folios* wrestles with uneasy histories, only to pivot into unexpected beauty."

-Marylyn Tan, Winner of the Singapore Literature Prize 2020 (Poetry)

#### Title: The Orchid Folios

ISBN: 978-981-14-4294-0 (paperback)

978-981-14-7165-0 (e-book)

Dimension: 150mm x 200mm

Extent: 144pp Published: 2020

Finish: Paperback Genre: Poetry

World Rights Available

A pot shatters. An arrangement falls apart. A florist finds herself amidst the scattered leaves of history. At once a poetry collection and a documentary novella, *The Orchid Folios* reimagines the orchid as a living, breathing document of history: a history that enmeshes the personal, colonial, linguistic, and biotechnological with the Vanda Miss Joaquim, the symbol of Singapore's postcolonial hybridity. While the Orchid has shaped the fantastical narratives that govern our multiracial City in a Garden, it continues to shape-shift and bloom on its own terms, challenging us to imagine a decolonised Singapore. This is the organism at the heart of *The Orchid Folios*—by turns stark and unruly, documenting and challenging the narratives that are the roots of our national consciousness.

#### Title:

#### Eating Chilli Crab in the Anthropocene: Environmental Perspectives from Singapore

ISBN: 978-981-14-4136-3 (paperback)

978-981-14-5963-4 (e-book)

Dimension: 150mm x 220mm

Extent: 276pp
Published: 2019
Finish: Paperback

Genre: Non-Fiction, Essays

World Rights Available

In this era of climate crisis, with our very futures at stake, sustainability is a global imperative. We tend to associate sustainability and the environment with distant places, science, and policy; yet, everything is environmental, from transportation to taxes, work to love, cities to cuisine.

This book is the first to examine contemporary Singapore from an ecocultural lens, looking at how Singaporean life is deeply entangled with the nonhuman lives all around us. The authors represent a new generation of cultural critics and environmental thinkers, who will inherit the future we are creating today. From chilli crab to Tiger Beer, Changi Airport to Pulau Semakau, O-levels to orang minyak films, these essays offer fresh perspectives on familiar subjects, prompting us to recognise the urgency of climate change and the need to transform our ways of thinking, acting, learning, living, and governing so as to maintain a stable planet and a decent future.



"...these writers are our leaders for a sustainable future."

—Geh Min, Immediate Past President, Nature Society Singapore and former Nominated Member of Parliament

Editor: Matthew Schneider-Mayerson

Matthew Schneider-Mayerson is Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Yale-NUS College, where he writes and teaches about climate change, environmental politics, and environmental literature. He received his PhD from the University of Minnesota and served as the Cultures of Energy Postdoctoral Fellow at Rice University. He is the co-editor of An Ecotopian Lexicon and author of Peak Oil: Apocalyptic Environmentalism and Libertarian Political Culture. He has lived in Singapore since 2015.

#### Title: parsetreeforestfire

ISBN: 978-981-14-1408-4 (paperback)

978-981-14-3247-7 (e-book)

Dimension: 120mm x 200mm

Extent: 100pp Published: 2019

Finish: Paperback Genre: Poetry

World Rights Available

parsetreeforestfire is a bilingual book of poetry in which poems in Singlish occupy one side of the book, and poems in English on the other. Conventionally such a book functions as a way for a person to learn a new language, but it remains to be seen if translation has successfully occurred, or if the book even intends to teach any reader how to speak either language. Instead, if poetry is intense attention to language, then this book can be considered to be the product of such scrutiny on the languages the book is written in.



Author: Hamid Roslan

Hamid Roslan's work may be found in Asian American Writers Workshop, The Volta, Asymptote, and Quarterly Literary Review Singapore, among others. His debut poetry collection, parsetreeforestfire, was published in 2019. He might be a writer who performs his work, but he won't call himself a spoken word poet. His work is instead interested in language(s), translation and performance.

#### Feature:

## Teo You Yenn



Teo You Yenn received her PhD in Sociology from the University of California at Berkeley. She is currently Associate Professor and Head of Sociology at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

You Yenn has published book chapters, op-eds, and is also the author of *Neoliberal Morality in Singapore: How family policies make state and society* (Routledge, 2011). Her academic work has been published in *Economy and Society*, *Signs, Social Politics, and Development and Change*, among others. She recently co-published a report on basic needs and minimum income standards, and has contributed regularly to public debate in *The Straits Times, Today, Channel NewsAsia, Lianhe Zaobao*, and *New Naratif.* She is also an editor of Academia.sg, which aims to promote Singapore studies and to encourage critical debate about the state of intellectual life in Singapore.

Besides research, teaching is a crucial part of her work as a sociologist. She has been teaching undergraduates since 1998, including courses in Classical Sociological Theory; Qualitative Methodology in Social Research; Sociology of Gender; Power, Politics, and the State; Social Movements; Social Class and Inequality. She has received awards for her teaching and for bringing her research into the public domain. She won the Nanyang Education Award in 2013, and the American Sociological Association Sex and Gender Section's Feminist Scholar Activist Award in 2016.

This Is What Inequality Looks Like was a landmark publication, which spurred significant national discourse on inequality in Singapore, spent thirty-eight weeks on the Straits Times Bestsellers List, and earned You Yenn a nomination for the Straits Times Singaporean of the Year.

"This Is What Inequality Looks Like is a masterfully crafted text. Consciously avoiding academic frames, Teo You Yenn's ethically and politically grounded narrative unfolds through vignettes of lived experiences that stand in sharp, stark contrast to the dominant imaginings of Singaporeans as mobile, cosmopolitan, free, agentic, affluent global citizens."

-Vineeta Sinha, Professor of Sociology, National University of Singapore

## Title: This Is What Inequality Looks Like

ISBN: 978-981-14-3749-6 (paperback)

978-981-14-0678-2 (e-book)

Dimension: 150mm x 220mm

Extent: 312pp
Published: 2019
Finish: Paperback

- aporbaok

Genre: Non-Fiction, Essays

Rights have been sold for: Complex Chinese (World, excluding Mainland China, including Hong Kong & Macau);

Simplified Chinese (Mainland China, excluding Taiwan, Hong Kong & Macau);

Polish (World)

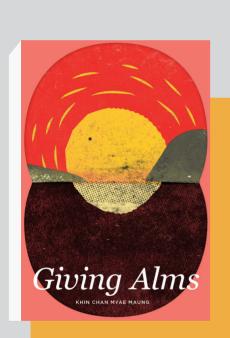
What is poverty? What is inequality? How are they connected? How are they reproduced? How might they be overcome? Why should we try?

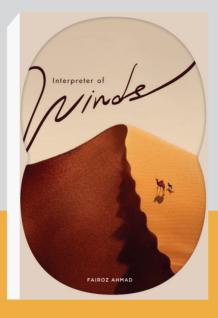
The way we frame our questions shapes the way we see solutions. This book does what appears to be a no-brainer task, but one that is missing and important: it asks readers to pose questions in different ways, to shift the vantage point from which they view 'common sense', and in so doing, to see themselves as part of problems and potential solutions. This is a book about how seeing poverty entails confronting inequality. It is about how acknowledging poverty and inequality leads to uncomfortable revelations about our society and ourselves. And it is about how once we see, we cannot, must not, unsee.



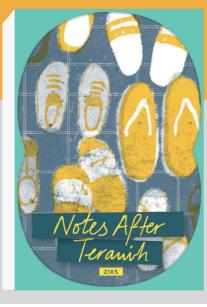
# the orbit collection

orbit launches fresh alternative works that might not meet the conventions of a full-length work in breadth, but whose concerns orbit the heart of being human. Affordable and compact, orbit reads seem small in size but will knock your socks off in the span of a train ride; they are tiny portals to meaning—for yourself, and to all around us.











#### **Interpreter of Winds**

ISBN: 978-981-11-9444-3 (paperback)

978-981-14-7162-9 (e-book)

Dimension: 115mm x 170mm

Extent: 104pp Published: 2019

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Fiction, Short Stories

World Rights Available

Often an unnoticed caress on our faces, winds are voiceless and formless. How do we interpret them? What mysteries can we find in the whispers of winds? From Dutch-occupied Java where a witch was murdered, a dog who desires to be a Muslim, to a day in which all sense of music is lost, the mundane is aflame with the uncanny.

These stories invite you to take a closer look at ordinary objects, as they take on a life of their own and spin gossamer threads. They are a celebration of the little charms and enchantments of our universes amidst struggles and eventual helplessness.



#### Author: Fairoz Ahmad

Fairoz Ahmad is the co-founder of the award-winning social enterprise in Jogjakarta, Chapter W, which works at the intersection of women, technology and social impact. He is an alumni of the US State Department's International Visitor Leadership Programme and a recipient of the National University of Singapore's Outstanding Young Alumni award. He holds a Master of Public Policy (Distinction) from Oxford University under the Chevening-Oxford scholarship. He currently lectures in Temasek Polytechnic on research methods, community development and sociology.

#### **Giving Alms**

ISBN: 978-981-11-7702-6 (paperback)

978-981-14-7164-3 (e-book)

Dimension: 115mm x 170mm

Extent: 80pp Published: 2018

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Fiction, Short Stories

Giving Alms gifts us three short stories based on the narratives of the people of Myanmar. Carefully revealing the hidden intricacies of human vulnerability and pain in society, these stories reflect on how a society heals and resolves resentment after years of social and political oppression. Each story takes on different dualities—desire and duty, denial and acceptance, indifference and sympathy—against the harsh landscape of Burmese society.

World Rights Available



#### Author: Khin Chan Myae Maung

Khin Chan Myae Maung is a writer from Myanmar whose work consists of short fiction, poetry and non-fiction essays. She was recognised as Judges Choice Writer in the Ithaca College Writing Contest 2016, after placing first in both fiction and poetry. Her work can be found in Still Water Magazine, Rough Cut Zine, Frontier Magazine, and Yangon Literary Magazine. Giving Alms is her first published work of short stories. She is also a contributor to Picking off new shoots will not stop the spring (Ethos Books, 2021).

#### **Notes After Terawih**

ISBN: 978-981-11-8109-2 (paperback)

978-981-14-7163-6 (e-book)

Dimension: 115mm x 170mm

Extent: 80pp Published: 2018

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Creative Non-Fiction

World Rights Available

'Tarawih' (Arabic) comes from the root word that means to take a rest, and take rest I did. *Notes After Terawih* is a series of word sketches I drew based on my distracted observation during night prayers, or terawih prayers, done in a single mosque during Ramadhan. Thousands of us here in Singapore engage in terawih for thirty nights in a row—that's a huge multitude of experiences. Yet, all these experiences are tucked within the walls of the mosque and ultimately remain in Ramadhan... As a new kid in this terawih thing, I decided to take some notes. None of these were written on the spot. Instead, they were recalled and typed on my phone as I headed home for the night.



Author: Ziks

Ziks has a reputation for being slow so it is no surprise that this book is made up of words from years ago. She is currently interning at the National Archives and trying to figure out how to use her hands more than her head. She enjoys having conversation with nice strangers and hopes to have a dedicated and accommodative studio cum workspace one day.

#### a tiny space

Authors: fifi coo & family

ISBN: 978-981-11-8857-2 (paperback)

978-981-14-7161-2 (e-book)

Dimension: 115mmx170mm

Extent: 188pp Published: 2018

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Creative Non-Fiction

Rights have been sold for: Japanese (specific to Japan) When he was 8 years old, fifi coo, a non-verbal boy on the autistic spectrum, found his voice through the collective love of a family, the patience and resourcefulness of a mother, and a simple alphabet board. The board became the interface between fifi's thoughts and the public world beyond him. With it, he speaks poetry.

#### Title: Potong: To Cut/Care

ISBN: 978-981-18-3069-3 (paperback)

978-981-18-4244-3 (ebook)

Dimension: 115mm x 170mm

Extent: 175pp Published: 2022

Finish: Paperback Genre: Fiction, Plays

World Rights Available

Seemingly ordinary events are turned into hauntingly profound exchanges when the individual's sense of self comes under scrutiny. In *Hawa*, a new Muslim convert finds herself tasked with overseeing the funeral arrangements of her partner. In *Potong*, a son is sent away by a mother to return to Singapore to undergo the coming-of-age rites of passage that await him: circumcision and conscription.

Deftly alternating between beats of humour and tension, Jon Jon reveals how these characters contend with the paradigms, manifest or otherwise, that shape their existence.

#### Author: Johnny Jon Jon

Since his first full-length play in 2006, Johnny Jon Jon's works have evolved from thought pieces on socio-political constructs to ruminative explorations of the human condition set within the characteristics of a minor literature. Besides the critically acclaimed *Hawa* (2015) and *Potong* (2018), his works include *National Memory Project* (2012), *Family Dinner* (2017) and *Punggah* (2020). When not writing plays, he writes short stories and facilitates design thinking workshops. He currently lives with his better half as they try to get their startups (children) to become unicorns.



Photo: Johnny Jon Jon



#### Feature:

## Linda Collins



Linda Collins is a memoirist, poet, fiction writer, journalist and editor. She is also a mental-health advocate, and co-founder of the PleaseStay movement for youth suicide prevention in Singapore.

A former newspaper copyeditor and transnational writer who moved from New Zealand to Singapore in 1993, Linda started writing creatively in 2017, three years after the death by suicide of her 17-year-old daughter Victoria. The resulting memoir Loss Adjustment became New York-based Singapore Unbound's Book of the Year 2019 and was shortlisted for the Singapore Book of the Year 2020. She has also written a poetry collection, Sign Language for the Death of Reason (Math Paper Press) and is currently

undertaking an MA in Creative Writing (Poetry) at the University of East Anglia on an international excellence scholarship. She has continued to write about teenage suicide, contributed a chapter to an upcoming non-fiction book, *Katie's Diaries Updated*, edited by pre-eminent psychologist David Lester. Both she and Victoria had poems come out earlier this year in Canadian anthology *Voicing Suicide*.

Linda's personal essays and other non-fiction and commentaries have appeared in, among others, tss.co.uk, Literary Mama, The Straits Times, The Spinoff (NZ), Turbine, and Newsroom (NZ). Her poetry is in publications including Cordite, The Blue Nib, prometheus dreaming, and Oyster River Pages. "... Collins navigates the different stages of grief. Adjustment is a tricky concept, and a trickier condition; the more one tries to normalize life, the tougher it is to hold on to fragments of the past."

-Pooja Shah, Singapore Unbound

"Her carefully crafted sentences convey pain and invite us to look right at it, but they also provide moments of respite, gratitude, even humour. Yes, she seemed to be saying... this is hard, it's terrible, but we can face it together."

-Holly Walker, Stuff

#### Title: Loss Adjustment

ISBN: 978-981-14-1477-0 (paperback)

978-981-14-2327-7 (e-book)

Dimension: 150mm x 200mm

Extent: 316pp Published: 2019

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Non-Fiction, Memoirs

Rights have been sold for: Simplified Chinese (World excluding Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan); English (Australia and New Zealand) Loss Adjustment is a mother's recount of her 17-year-old daughter's suicide.

In the wake of Victoria McLeod's passing, she left behind a remarkable journal in her laptop of the final four months of her life. Linda Collins, her mother, has woven these into her memoir, which is at once cohesive, yet fragmented, reflecting a survivor's state of mind after devastating loss.

Loss Adjustment involves the endless whys, the journey of Linda Collins and her husband in honouring Victoria, and the impossible question of what drove their daughter to this irretrievable act. It is a stunningly intimate portrait of loss and grief, a breaking of silence—a book whose face society cannot turn away from.

#### The Impermanence of Title: Lilies

ISBN: 978-981-14-1478-7 (paperback)

978-981-14-3622-2 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

Extent: 264pp Published: 2019

Finish: Paperback Genre: Fiction, Novels

World Rights Available

The captain of the Titanic went down with his ship on 15 April, 1912. But thoughts have power, and those who endure in the stories of the living are said to continue to roam the world after their deaths. And so the captain wanders in search of the things he tried to find in life, and discovers his destiny intimately entwined with a painter who shares the same fate, not knowing that their paths had crossed a long time ago.

The Impermanence of Lilies is a melancholic tribute to the nature of life and a yearning for love, in a story that reaches across lifetimes, borders, and the space between two hearts.



"Reading *The Impermanence of Lilies* is like getting lost in a dream. Haunting and lonely, the story rises to a crescendo of ghostly loves in its second half. A thoughtful, often beautiful, elegiac meditation on love and loss."

—Jon Gresham, author of We Rose Up Slowly, and editor of In This Desert, There Were Seeds



Author: **Daniel Yeo**  Daniel Yeo has always been obsessed about the deeper meaning of things, and finding the threads that run through them. He expresses those discoveries through words. In the daytime, he writes for a living. In the nighttime, he writes to live. He writes fiction so there may be some truth to his words. He studied Mass Communications at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. The Impermanence of Lilies is his first novel.

# Title: The Gods Will Hear Us Eventually

ISBN: 978-981-11-7703-3 (paperback)

978-981-14-1494-7 (e-book)

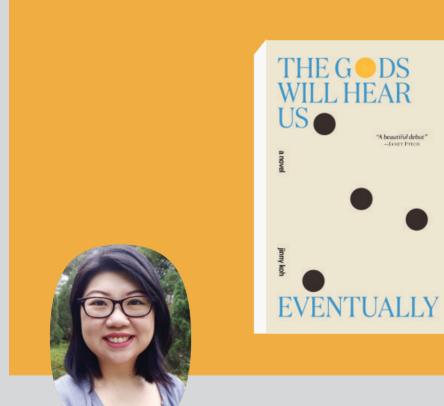
Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

Extent: 292pp
Published: 2018
Finish: Paperback
Genre: Fiction, Novels

World Rights Available

When 7-year-old Anna told a lie to get out of trouble, she didn't expect her older sister to go missing. Faced with her mother's wrath and riddled with guilt, Anna tries to make amends as she grapples with the aftermath of her actions.

Until her daughter's body is found, Su Lai refuses to believe that she has simply disappeared. Turning to a medium as her obsession to find her daughter escalates, the family is sucked into a web of pain and deceit that forces them to confront their own measures of loss. A masterful debut by Jinny Koh, *The Gods Will Hear Us Eventually* boldly interrogates the extent of familial love and expectation while unravelling the complexities of hope and redemption.



"From this life-fissure Jinny Koh conjures a majestic and beautiful novel of perseverance and redemption.

Above all it's the story of a family—observed with love, humour, compassion. And wisdom."

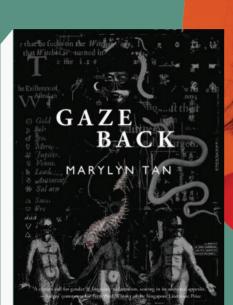
—Richard Rayner, author of Los Angeles Without A Map and A Bright and Guilty Place, and the co-creator of the recent TV series Knightfall.

Author: **Jinny Koh** 

Jinny Koh's stories and essays have appeared or are forthcoming in *The Iowa Review, Pembroke Magazine, The Carolina Quarterly* and *Kyoto Journal*, among others. She graduated Phi Kappa Phi with a Master of Professional Writing from the University of Southern California, where she served as the fiction editor for *The Southern California Review*. She teaches Creative Writing at the National University of Singapore and is the editor and co-founder of editorial firm Deep Narrative.

#### Feature:

# Marylyn Tan





Winner of the Singapore Literature Prize 2020 (Poetry)

A linguistics graduate, poet, and artist interested in conditions of alienation and marginalisation, Marylyn Tan first emerged onto the Singaporean spoken word scene in the early 2010s with work that was unapologetically queer and feminist, and playfully taboo-breaking.

GAZE BACK, her first collection of poems, drew inspiration from occult principles, her Catholic heritage, computer programming, critical theory and kink. Incorporating photography and iconography as multimedia artwork, the collection is self-described as "the lesbo trans-genre grimoire you never knew you needed." The collection was a finalist in the Lambda Literary Awards 2019, and the winner of the Singapore Literature Prize 2020 in English Poetry.

She has performed at the Singapore Biennale, the Singapore Writers Festival, SPEAK., and she has also been featured in various print anthologies, such as *Rollercoasters* and *Bedsheets*, *A Luxury We Must Afford* and *Inheritance | The Anthology*. Her work aims to subvert, revert and pervert, and works to disrespect respectability and reclaim power.

She is also the founder of DIS/CONTENT (@ hellodiscontent) a collective that aims to foster multidisciplinary art-making informed by a spirit of collaboration and play, pleasure, risk-taking and inclusivity in all senses, including means of access, culture/ethnicity, class, gender and sexuality.

"GAZE BACK is eloquent confrontation—it challenges the ways in which society polices gender, and the boundaries by which many define poetry. Tan's gaze is not just a reciprocal look. It is a forceful glare, an unapologetic gape, an accusing stare. It is a refusal to break eye contact."

-Tania de Rozario, author of And The Walls Come Crumbling Down and **Tender Delirium** 

#### Title: **GAZE BACK**

ISBN: 978-981-11-9080-3 (paperback)

978-981-14-3251-4 (e-book)

Dimension: 150mm x 200mm

Extent: 88pp Published: 2018 Finish: **Paperback** 

Genre: Poetry

Rights have been sold for: English (North

America)

What do we expect of an author who is unapologetically female? What do we expect of consuming art in general? Should a work be easy, should a work be safe?

GAZE BACK complicates ideas of femininity, queerness, and the occult. The feminine grotesque subverts the restrictions placed upon the feminine body to be attractive and its subjection to notions of the ideal. The occultic counterpoint to organised religion, then, becomes a way toward techniques of empowering the marginalised. Ultimately, GAZE BACK is an instruction book, a grimoire, a call to insurrection-to wrest power back from the social structures that serve to restrict, control and distribute it amongst those few privileged above the disenfranchised.

#### Title: Vital Possessions

ISBN: 978-981-11-7700-2 (paperback)

978-981-14-2622-3 (e-book)

Dimension: 150mm x 200mm

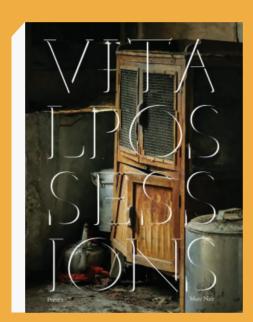
Extent: 84pp Published: 2018

Finish: Paperback Genre: Poetry

World Rights Available

Vital Possessions contemplates how citydwellers negotiate their uneasy relationship with nature in a world where growth is both man-made and natural. The jungle is always one trim away from over-running us and we are often oblivious to it. The poems question what we hold as vital amid ceaseless consumption and our urban existence.

- "...poignant and introspective..."
- —Mitali Chakravarty, Kitaab
- "... remarkable and relevant in Singapore's fast-paced society."
- —Natelie Kwan, campus.sg





Author: Marc Nair

Marc Nair is a poet and photographer, and a recipient of the 2016 Young Artist Award. He has performed spoken word for fifteen years in over ten countries, published six poetry volumes and released another three collections in collaboration with visual artists, photographers and graphic artists. Other recent releases include Auguries of Modern Innocence (2018), Intersection (2017), Spomenik (2016), and The Poet of Unlove (2015). Marc was the 2016-17 NTU-NAC National Writer in Residence and co-founded culture magazine Mackerel. He has released two spoken word albums with his band, Neon and Wonder, and has also worked on the mrbrown show for over a decade.

#### Title: 17A Keong Saik Road

ISBN: 978-981-11-3066-3 (paperback)

978-981-14-1493-0 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

Extent: 272pp
Published: 2017

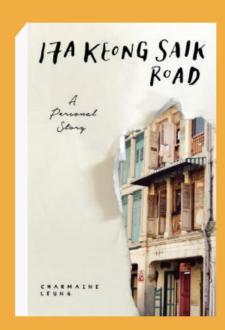
Finish: Paperback

Genre: Creative Non-Fiction, Memoirs

World Rights Available

17A Keong Saik Road recounts Charmaine
Leung's growing-up years in 1970s Singapore,
in a prominent red-light precinct in Chinatown.
An interweaving of past and present narratives,
it tells of her mother's journey as a young child
put up for sale to becoming the madame of a
brothel. Unfolding her story as the daughter of a
brothel operator and witnessing these changes to
her family, Charmaine traces the transformation
of the Keong Saik area from the 1930s to the
present, and through writing, finds reconciliation.

A beautiful dedication to the past, to memory, and to the people who have gone before us, 17A Keong Saik Road tells the rich stories of the Ma Je, the Pei Pa Zai, and the Dai Gu Liong—marginalised, forgotten women of the past, who despite their difficulties, persevered in working towards the hope of a better future.



- "... a beautiful dedication to the past, memory and to the people who have gone before us."
- —Nilofar Iyer, American Moments



Author: Charmaine Leung

Charmaine Leung is a Singaporean writer who has lived in Hong Kong for fifteen years. She became passionate about the literary arts while working as a theatre manager in the 1990s. Her literary work focuses on human relationships, and the dynamics in these relationships brought about by change in societies. When not writing or working, Charmaine enjoys roaming the globe to capture landscapes and communities through photography in off-the-beaten tracks like Tibet, Taklamakan Desert, and Madagascar.

#### Title: The Magic Circle

ISBN: 978-981-11-3996-3 (paperback)

978-981-14-1503-6 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

Extent: 304pp
Published: 2017
Finish: Paperback

Genre: Creative Non-Fiction, Memoirs

World Rights Available

The Magic Circle tells the story of what happens when Charmaine Chan's sister Elaine is diagnosed with a rare and aggressive cancer. As the illness progresses, family members living on different continents gather together during Elaine's last days. Striving to distract Elaine from the worst effects of the cancer, Charmaine takes to the pen: conjuring up the vanished world of their childhood in Singapore, and discovering a way to keep her promise to Elaine's six-year-old daughter.

A contemplation on grief and loss, nostalgia and yearning, *The Magic Circle* is for anyone who's been torn apart and put back again by the inexplicable power of memory.



Photo: Wong Khing Chong

"Charmaine Chan's lyrical memoir speaks to the soul of anyone who knows the desperate pain of watching a loved one dying, little by little [...] She confronts the dread of no more being able to form new memories with the only other inhabitants of a shared local universe as us."

—Natelie Kwan, campus.sq

Author: Charmaine Chan

Charmaine Chan is a writer, journalist, editor, poet and former lawyer from Singapore. An inveterate globetrotter, she has lived, studied and worked around the world, from London to Hong Kong, Guam to Shanghai. Her work has appeared in Her World, The Peak and Prestige. Her poetry was featured in the bestselling anthology, No Other City: the Ethos Anthology of Urban Poetry. The Magic Circle is her first full-length work.

#### Title: **Dream Storeys**

ISBN: 978-981-11-0907-2 (paperback)

978-981-14-0893-9 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

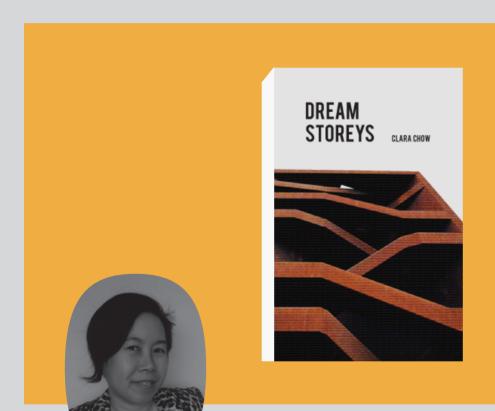
Extent: 224pp
Published: 2016
Finish: Paperback

Genre: Fiction, Short Stories

Rights have been sold for: Thai (Thailand)

What if you could dream up any building you like? What would it be? How would constructing it change our lives?

A shopping mall self-destructs, and a single mother vanishes. A tree house for orphans and old folks is torn apart by an act of mercy. The Singapore Flyer is reinvented as a political prison. In this collection of nine tales, Clara Chow examines an alternative Singaporean landscape—one that exists only on paper—and the people we might be in it. A former newspaper correspondent, she interviews nine architects about chimeric structures and sets short stories in them. A hybrid of journalism and fiction, Dream Storeys documents the voices of urban visionaries, while taking their ideas into inventive, evocative new territories.



"...propelled by an urge to find a heart in the architecture of our lives, as characters navigate these dream structures, trying to find a human connection."

—Yeow Kai Chai, co-editor at Quarterly Literary Review Singapore and author of Pretend I'm Not Here

"...a landscape of many dreams, in which architects' fantasy projects provide a pretext for the revisions, reconstructions, and demolitions of counternarratives."

—Professor Philip Holden, English Language and Literature, NUS, and author of *Heaven Has Eyes* 

Author: Clara Chow

Clara Chow lives and writes in Singapore. A former Straits Times arts correspondent, she was also My Paper's 'Manic Mummy' columnist from 2007 to 2013. Her short stories have appeared in the Asia Literary Review, CHA: An Asian Literary Journal, Quarterly Literary Review Singapore (QLRS) and The Stockholm Review of Literature. In 2015, she cofounded the literary and art journal WeAreAWebsite. com. Find her online at clarachow.weebly.com.

#### Feature:

# Alfian Sa'at



Alfian Sa'at is an acclaimed playwright, poet, short story writer and translator, whose works often tackle provocative topics such as race, sexuality, and politics.

Alfian's debut and early poetry and short story collections, One Fierce Hour (1998)—published at the age of 21—Corridor (1999) and A History of Amnesia (2001), garnered acclaim as "a landmark for poetry," "one of the most powerful collections by a Singaporean" and for Alfian himself by Malaysia's New Straits Times as "one of the most acclaimed poets in his country... a prankish provocateur". Works during this period also won the Golden Point Award for Poetry and the National Arts Council Young Artist Award for Literature, shortlisted for a Kiriyama Asia-Pacific Book Prize, and won the Singapore Literature Prize Commendation Award. Seven stories from Corridor (republished by Ethos Books in 2015) have since been adapted for television. His follow-up collection of flash fiction,

Malay Sketches, was once described by former opposition Singapore Democratic politician Vincent Wijeysingha as "the narrative of displaced native people all over the world."

His plays, written in both English and Malay, have been translated into German and Swedish and performed in London, Zurich, Stockholm, Berlin, Hamburg and Munich. He is the recipient of three Life! Theatre Awards for Best Original Script, and in 2015, his play *Nadirah* was selected by *The Business Times* as one of the "finest plays in 50 years". He has had a long association with theatre group The Necessary Stage as well as with Teater Ekamatra, a Malay theatre group known for articulating minority concerns in Singapore. He is currently the resident playwright of theatre group W!LD RICE. His *Collected Plays One, Two* and *Three* were also published by Ethos Books (2010, 2010, 2019).

#### Title: Malay Sketches

ISBN: 978-981-07-1801-5 (paperback)

978-981-11-7599-2 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 220mm

Extent: 232pp Published: 2012

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Fiction, Short Stories

Rights have been sold for: English (North America), Japanese (World), Polish (World)

Malay Sketches is a collection of stories that borrows its name from a book of anecdotes by colonial governor Frank Swettenham, describing Malay life on the Peninsula. In Alfian Sa'at's hands, these sketches are reimagined as flash fictions that record the lives of members of the Malay community in Singapore. With precise and incisive prose, Malay Sketches offers the reader profound insights into the realities of life as an ethnic minority.

Longlisted for the 2013 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award

"Subtle, delicate, elliptical, these elegiac sketches are shot through with yearning and brightness. Alongside modern parables of hantu kumkum, hantu tetek, pontianak and toyol, there are stories of separation and reunion, of love and conversion, of nation, class, childhood, gods, angels, death and prayer. There is humour and pathos but above all a longing for something forgotten, something lost."

-Jo Kukathas, Artistic Director of The Instant Café Theatre, on *Malay Sketches* 

## Title: Corridor: 12 Short Stories

ISBN: 978-981-07-7993-1 (paperback)

978-981-14-0473-3 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 220mm

Extent: 172pp

Published: 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) Finish: Paperback

Genre: Fiction, Short Stories

Rights have been sold for: Simplified

Chinese (World)

A video camera transforms the way a resentful daughter sees her widowed mother. A girl encounters a transvestite on a train who tells her she looks like a famous singer. And a man enters a discotheque after a bitter divorce and re-learns the terror of falling in love.

Rich in detail, with a sensitive ear for the vernacular, Corridor paints an elegiac portrait of contemporary Singaporeans along the city's corridors—haunted by lost loves, irrevocable childhoods and a deep longing to be free, and discovering that happiness is a fragile thing in a country obsessed with progress and success.

Winner of the Singapore Literature Prize

Commendation Award in 1998.

#### Title: Blood Collected Stories

ISBN: 978-981-09-6488-7 (paperback)

978-981-11-7602-9 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

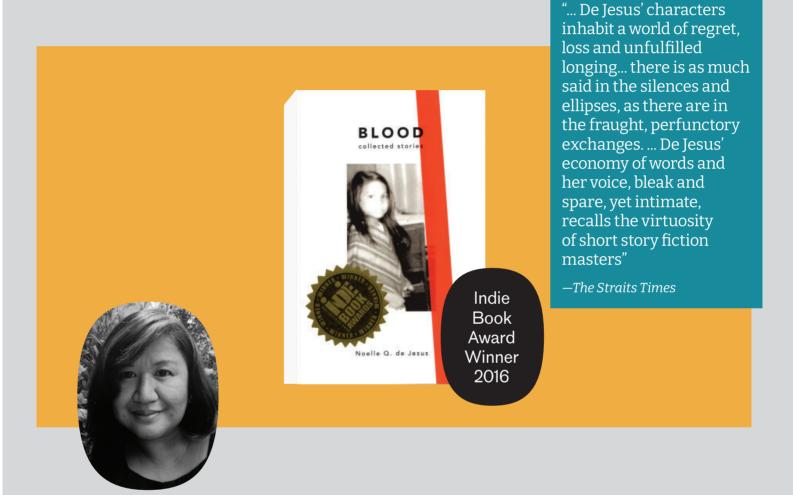
Extent: 240pp Published: 2015

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Fiction, Short Stories

Rights have been sold for: French (World)

Noelle Q. de Jesus' collection of short stories is a striking debut of cultural exchanges and foreign tongues: stories that trace and sustain the conflict between man and woman, parent and child, country and identity, self and sexuality, love and loss.



Author: Noelle Q. de Jesus

Noelle Q. de Jesus was born in the US, grew up in Manila, and spent most of her adult life as a writer, wife and mother in Singapore. She has published short stories in the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and the US. She is the author of *Mrs MisMarriage* (Marshall Cavendish International, 2008) and conceptualised the anthology series *Fast Food Fiction Short Stories To Go*. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies from Ateneo de Manila University. *Blood Collected Stories* is her first book of short fiction.

#### Title:

#### The Sound of SCH: A Mental Breakdown, A Life Journey

ISBN: 978-981-09-1853-8 (paperback)

978-981-11-7604-3 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

Extent: 224pp Published: 2014

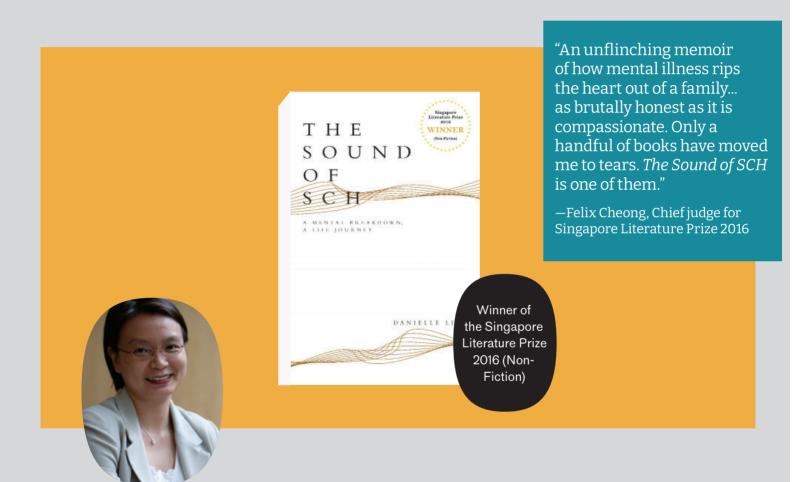
Finish: Paperback

Genre: Non-Fiction, Memoirs

Rights have been sold for: Tamil (World)

Can a life weave along through the same notes and yet come to play forth different sounds?

The Sound of SCH (pronounced S-C-H) is the true story of a journey with mental illness, beautifully told by Danielle Lim from a time when she grew up witnessing her uncle's untold struggle with a crippling mental and social disease, and her mother's difficult role as caregiver. The story takes place between 1961 and 1994, backdropped by a fast-globalising Singapore where stigmatisation of persons afflicted with mental illness nevertheless remains deep-seated. Unflinchingly raw and honest in its portrayal of living with schizophrenia, *The Sound of SCH* is a moving account of human resiliency and sacrifice in the face of brokenness.



Author: Danielle Lim

Danielle Lim is the award-winning author of And Softly Go the Crossings (PRH SEA, 2020), Trafalgar Sunrise (2018), and The Sound of SCH (Ethos Books, 2014), which has been translated and published in Taiwan and India. She was listed by Publishers Weekly as one of Singapore's top writers in 2016, and has been invited to speak at various local and international events. Danielle is an alumna of the University of Oxford and is currently based in Singapore, where she is a lecturer.

#### OTHER RECENT RELEASES

# Title: Where I Was: A memoir about forgetting and remembering

ISBN: 978-981-18-3013-6 (paperback)

978-981-18-3739-5 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

Extent: 308pp Published: 2022

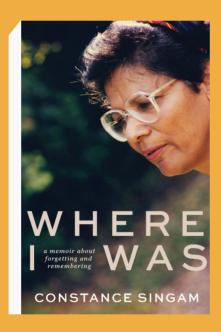
Finish: Paperback

Genre: Non-Fiction, Memoirs

World Rights Available

A rich, entertaining and compelling account of the life of an extraordinary woman. In a land of many cultures, many races, many religions; in a state where politics and public policies impinge, sometimes callously, on the lives of its denizens, Constance Singam is an individual marginalised many times over by her status as a woman, an Indian, a widow and a civil society activist.

Through humorous and moving accounts, Constance captures the images of the people, places and events from her most powerful memories, set against or within the context of important historical events. In this reissue of her 2013 memoir, Constance reflects on current advocacy movements and on the events that led to the AWARE Saga that would shape the rest of her life.



"Constance Singam is the mother of civil society. She has inspired many generations of civil society activists and has provided invaluable historical perspectives and relevance to work we do on the ground."

—Alvin Tan, Founder and Artistic Director, The Necessary Stage



Photo: Ore Huiying

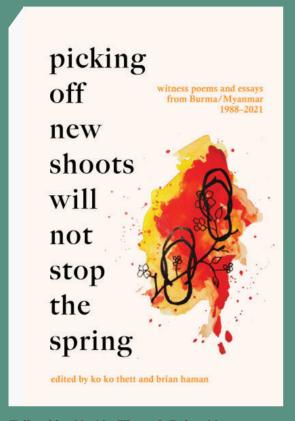
Author: Constance Singam

Constance Singam is a writer and civil society activist who has co-founded civil society groups, been a columnist in national publications, and co-edited several books. Her nonfiction works include Re-Presenting Singapore Women (2004) and The Art of Advocacy in Singapore (2017). She has written two memoirs including Never Leave Home Without Your Chilli Sauce (2016), and three children's books including Porter the Adventurous Otter (2021). She was inducted into the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame in 2015.

Feature:

# Picking off new shoots will not stop the spring

Witness poems & essays from Burma/Myanmar 1988-2021



Edited by Ko Ko Thett & Brian Haman

ISBN: 978-981-18-2584-2 (paperback)

978-981-18-2585-9 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 220mm

Extent: 264pp Published: 2021

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Non-Fiction, Poetry, Essays

Rights have been granted to distribute for: English (North America), English (UK)

Picking off new shoots is a multi-publisher, notfor-profit collaboration co-published by Gaudy Boy (US) and Balestier Press (UK) that aims to amplify the voices of the Burmese people alongside the ongoing Civil Disobedience Movement. Enquire for permissions to publish in your territory. "There will, no doubt, be numerous books written about the 2021 coup in Myanmar and its aftermath, but there will be few that are as inclusive, immersive and visceral as this one."

-Emma Larkin, Mekong Review (February-April 2022)

Fallen innocents on blood-stained streets. The defiant banging of pots and pans echoing in the darkness. The birth of a springtime revolution. On 1 February 2021, a coup d'état by Myanmar's military overthrew the democratically elected members of the ruling party and cast Myanmar into chaos.

This volume features writers, cultural figures, and everyday people on the ground, as they document, memorialise, or merely try to come to grips with the traumas unfolding before their eyes. Written in English or translated from Burmese, the collection includes some of Myanmar's most important contemporary authors and dissidents, such as Ma Thida, Nyipulay and K Za Win, as well as up-and-coming writers from all over Myanmar. In addition, poetry and essays that reflect the so-called transitional Myanmar (2010-2020), as well as prominent protest poems and essays by dissidents who lived through the hopes and horrors of the 1988 uprising of Myanmar, are featured in this volume.

A feast for the literary imagination, an elegy to those who have fallen, and a courageous act of defiance by those that continue to fight, these firsthand accounts provide an important window into a crucial moment in Myanmar's history.

#### Editors: Esther Vincent and Angelia Poon





Esther Vincent Xueming is the editor-in-chief and founder of *The Tiger Moth Review*, an eco journal of art and literature, and author of *Red Earth*, an ecofeminist collection of poetry (Blue Cactus Press, 2021). She is also co-editor of two poetry anthologies, *Poetry Moves* (Ethos Books, 2020) and *Little Things* (Ethos Books, 2013). A Literature educator by profession, she is passionate about the entanglements in art, literature, nature and the environment.

Angelia Poon teaches Literature at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University. Her research interests include postcolonial theory and contemporary Anglophone Literature with a focus on issues pertaining to globalization as well as gender, class, and racial subjectivities. She co-edited Singapore Literature and Culture: Current Directions in Local and Global Contexts (Routledge, 2017) and Writing Singapore: An Historical Anthology of Singapore Literature (NUS Press, 2009). A firm supporter of Literature in schools, she has also co-edited two poetry collections for students, Little Things (Ethos Books, 2013) and Poetry Moves (Ethos Books, 2020).

"These women's lives, choices, and challenges shape how they experience Singapore and life, with 'nature' as never having been separate... [and] form a resistance to dominant, steamrolling narratives of 'development'."

—Dr. Khairani Barokka (Okka), University of the Arts London



#### Title:

#### Making Kin: Ecofeminist Essays from Singapore

ISBN: 978-981-18-0927-9 (paperback)

978-981-18-1847-9 (e-book)

Dimension: 150mm x 220mm

Extent: 272pp Published: 2021

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Non-Fiction, Essays

World Rights Available

Making Kin contemplates and re-centres Singapore women in the overlapping discourses of family, home, ecology and nation. For the first time, this collection of ecofeminist essays focuses on the crafts, minds, bodies and subjectivities of a diverse group of women making kin with the human and non-human world as they navigate their lives.

From ruminations on caregiving, to surreal interspecies encounters, to indigenous ways of knowing, these women writers chart a new path on the map of Singapore's literary scene, writing urgently about gender, nature, climate change, reciprocity and other critical environmental issues. In a climate-changed world where vital connections are lost, *Making Kin* is an essential collection that blurs boundaries between the personal and the political. It is a revolutionary approach towards intersectional environmentalism.

#### Heartland Title:

ISBN: 978-981-18-1120-3 (paperback)

978-981-18-1145-6 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

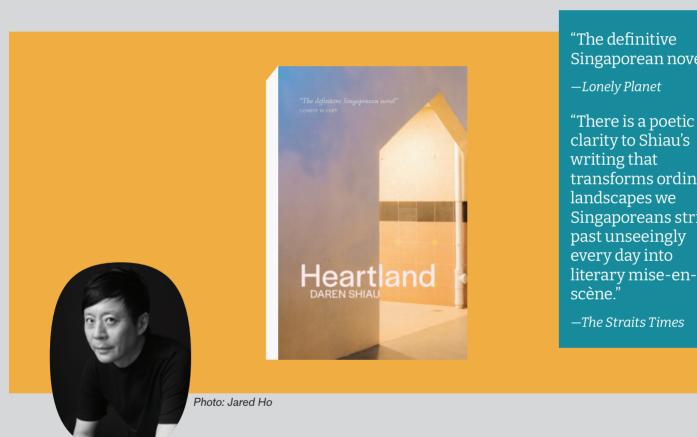
Extent: 276pp Published: 2021

Finish: **Paperback** Genre: Fiction, Novels

World Rights Available

Heartland explores rootedness and rootlessness in fast-changing Singapore, following Wing Seng as he leaves school and is conscripted into National Service. As Wing tries to reconcile his past with his future amid transitions through different phases of life, he finds meaning in his surrounding landscape. Yet, as relationships and the years slip by, Wing is forced to question his own certainties and the wisdom of the people he values. Set in Singapore's heartland at the turn of the century, Heartland's capturing of the texture of everyday life provides the backdrop essential to the bildungsroman's exploration of identity. belonging and connection in an increasingly urbanised Singapore.

This new edition features a new preface by the author and a publisher's foreword contextualising the novel's imprint on the Singapore literary landscape since its first publication in 1999.



"The definitive Singaporean novel."

clarity to Shiau's transforms ordinary Singaporeans stride past unseeingly literary mise-en-

Author: **Daren Shiau**  Daren Shiau is a fiction writer, poet and lawyer. He has been described by The Arts Magazine as "among the most exciting of the post-1965 generation of writers" and by the Lonely Planet travel guide as the author of the "definitive Singapore novel". An author of four books, his short stories and poems have been translated into several languages and anthologised in Italy and Australia. The National Arts Council's Young Artist of the Year in 2002, Daren has been invited to read in New York, Boston, London and Sydney. He enjoys black coffee and listening to '70s punk rock.

#### Title: **After The Inquiry**

ISBN: 978-981-14-6687-8 (paperback)

978-981-14-9126-9 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

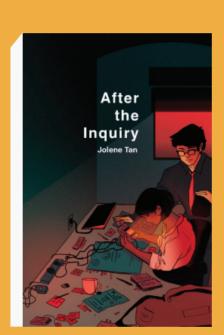
Extent: 220pp Published: 2021

Finish: Paperback Genre: Fiction, Novels

World Rights Available

Police sergeant Hafiz lies in a coma after a gunshot to the head. The investigation by Internal Affairs uncovered a game of Russian roulette gone wrong, and the case is now closed. But there are rumbles of concern in the Ministry, and middle-aged civil servant Boon Teck—assisted by young colleague Nithya—is dispatched to take another look.

Suffused with mystery and intrigue, After the Inquiry steps into the mirror maze of Singapore's bureaucracy, where silvered surfaces hide troubling secrets, and those who search for the truth risk getting lost...



"After the Inquiry lays bare the human cost of Singapore's muchvaunted stability, and asks who must be thrown overboard in order for the boat not to be rocked."

—Jeremy Tiang, Winner of the Singapore Literature Prize 2018 (Fiction) for *State* of *Emergency* 



Author: Jolene Tan

Jolene Tan is a writer from Singapore, whose other fiction includes the novel A Certain Exposure (Epigram Books, 2014), short fiction published in The Manchester Review, and a children's picture book, Saturday's Surprisingly Super-Duper Lesson (Epigram Books, 2020). She has also written numerous non-fiction articles, principally on equality and human rights, for publications such as New Naratif, The Online Citizen, The F Word, The Birthday Book, CNA and The Straits Times. She can be found at www.jolenetan.org.

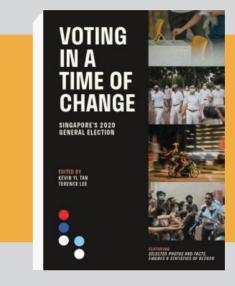
#### Editors: Kevin YL Tan & Terence Lee





Kevin YL Tan is one of Singapore's leading scholars of constitutional law and legal history. He is currently Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore and Visiting Professor at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University. Kevin has written and edited over fifty books on the law, history and politics of Singapore, and has co-edited, with Terence Lee, Voting in Change: Politics of Singapore's 2011 General Election and Change in Voting: Singapore's 2015 General Election (both with Ethos Books). He is also Editor-in-Chief of the Asian Journal of Comparative Law.

Terence Lee is Associate Professor in Communication at Murdoch University in Perth, Australia. He is the co-author of Global Internet Governance: Influences from Malaysia and Singapore (Palgrave, 2021) and The Media, Cultural Control and Government in Singapore (Routledge, 2010). He has also co-edited, with Kevin YL Tan, Voting in Change: Politics of Singapore's 2011 General Election and Change in Voting: Singapore's 2015 General Election (both with Ethos Books).



# Title: Voting in a Time of Change: Singapore's 2020 General Election

ISBN: 978-981-18-0076-4 (paperback)

978-981-18-0711-4 (e-book)

Dimension: 150mm x 215mm

Extent: 406pp Published: 2021

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Non-Fiction, Essays

World Rights Available

GE2020: an election that should not be forgotten for yielding startling outcomes, including the appointment of the first Leader of the Opposition.

Voting in a Time of Change is part of a longitudinal study by editors Kevin YL Tan and Terence Lee, who have been assembling trenchant analyses of each General Election since GE2011. Their long game makes possible specific and unique insights: "The major political shift in Singapore that started in 2011 is marching on, even amidst a Covid-19 pandemic... Whether we call this a 'New Normal'—as many did back in 2011—or otherwise is not as important as the momentum for change that has built up since then. Covid-19 thus became a political backdrop to a social and political shift that was merely searching for a catalyst."

What insights and lessons can we carry forward to the next General Elections? This is an indispensable milestone publication for citizens who wish to commit to even more informed choices, and for political observers who are keeping close tabs on the evolution of our political landscape.

# Feature: Singa-Pura-Pura



"A fascinatingly psychedelic blend of Singaporean/Southeast Asian visions: mythic, horrific, utopian, dystopian, technocratic, transcendental. These are stories of marginality, struggle and survival in a citystate obsessed with a future that may not include us all."

-Ng Yi-Sheng, author of *Lion City* (Co-winner of the Singapore Literature Prize 2020)

ISBN: 978-981-14-4295-7 (paperback)

978-981-18-1500-3 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 220mm

Extent: 200pp Published: 2021

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Fiction, Short Stories

World Rights Available

From a future of electronic doas and AI psychotherapists, sense-activated communion with forests and a portal to realms undersea, to a reimagined origin and afterlife—editor and translator Nazry Bahrawi brings together an exciting selection of never-before translated and new Malay spec-fic stories by established and emerging writers from Singapore.

Especially in an anglophone-dominated genre, very little of Malay speculative fiction from Singapore is known to readers here and beyond. Yet contemporary Bahasa literature here is steeped in spec-fic writing that can account as a literary movement (aliran)—and unmistakably draws from the minority Malay experience in a city obsessed with progress.



#### Editor: Nazry Bahrawi

Nazry Bahrawi is a literary translator, critic and academic. He translates to introduce Anglophone readers to the rich tradition of Bahasa literature. Trained in comparative literature, Nazry specialises in the study of non-material cultures through literary texts and films of the Malay Archipelago as part of the Indian Ocean cultural sphere. He is an editor-at-large at Wasafiri magazine and the essay & research editor for Journal of Practice, Research and Tangential Activities (PR&TA).

#### Title:

#### Memorandum: A Sinophone Singaporean **Short Story Reader**

ISBN: 978-981-14-1861-7 (paperback)

978-981-14-4918-5 (e-book)

Dimension: 148mm x 210mm

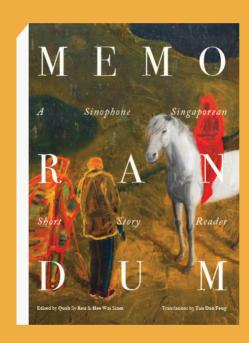
Extent: 476pp Published: 2021

Finish: **Paperback** 

Genre: Fiction, Short Stories

World Rights Available

Featuring new translations of previously untranslated Chinese short stories, Memorandum maps out seven decades of Sinophone Singaporean Literature. From bargirls to student activists, from trishaw men to tea merchants, this collection provides a glimpse into a world that has been previously invisible to Anglophone readers. Paired with critical essays, these stories showcase the richness and diversity of Singapore's Chinese community, but also its inherent interconnectedness with other cultures within Singapore.



"...a pathbreaking anthology that refracts over half a century of Singapore's history through its lens... more than simply bridge Sinophone and Anglophone worlds: they actively cross geographical, cultural, linguistic and class boundaries, causing us to think more deeply about the nature of social power, and the transformative interventions literary texts can make.."

-Philip Holden, scholar of Singapore & Southeast Asian literatures

#### **Editors**: Quah Sy Ren & Hee Wai Siam

Quah Sy Ren is Associate Professor of Chinese at the School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University. His research interests include literary and cultural studies, theatre and performance studies, and Singapore studies. He is the author of Scenes: A History of Singapore Chinese Language Theatre 1913-2013, Keywords: Literary Terms for Chinese Literary Study, and Gao Xingjian and Transcultural Chinese Theatre. He is also general editor of The Complete Works of Kuo Pao Kun.

Hee Wai Siam is Associate Professor of Chinese at the School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University. His main research areas are on cultural studies, sinophone studies and Chinese literature. He is the author of Remapping the Sinophone: The Cultural Production of Chinese-language Cinema in Singapore and Malaya Before and During the Cold War, Post-Malaysian Chinese-language Film: Accented Style, Sinophone and Auteur Theory, and From Amorous Histories to Sexual Histories: Tongzhi Writings and the Construction of Masculinities in Late Qing and Modern China.

## Title: Shezlez the Self-Proclaimed

ISBN: 978-981-14-4119-6 (paperback)

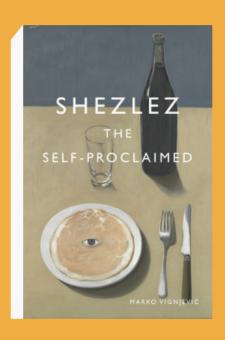
978-981-14-5964-1 (e-book)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

Extent: 124pp
Published: 2020
Finish: Paperback
Genre: Fiction, Novels

World Rights Available

An absurdist story about a poor man's ambition to organise his own political party in an unnamed country characterised by moral apathy, poverty and heartless bureaucracy. Upon his first speech, so rousing as to attract the attention of the Progressive Party, Shezlez finds himself embroiled in a corrupt scheme of deceit and backstabbing in the leadup to the upcoming mayoral elections. A Machiavellian tale of political ambition, Shezlez the Self-Proclaimed examines the fickleness of loyalty, and interrogates the perennial question of whether the pursuit of power, no matter how idealistic its genesis, can ever remain a noble quest.



Author: Marko Vignjević

Marko Vignjević was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, 1978 and lives and works in Belgrade, Serbia. He began writing poetry while in high school and graduated to fiction in 2005. In 2011, he began to write in English and translated two of his books into English which went on to be published. His first Serbian-language novel, *Father's Milk (Očevo mleko)*, is the winner of the 2017 Arete's Book Contest of the Year and was praised as a modern classic of Serbian literature.

# Title: Khairat Kita: A History of Malay/Muslim Mutual Aid in Singapore

ISBN: 978-981-18-1121-0 (paperback)

978-981-18-5177-3 (ebook)

Dimension: 1150mm x 200mm

Extent: 108pp
Published: 2022
Finish: Paperback

Genre: Nonfiction, Essays & Interviews

World Rights Available

Khairat Kita documents the last few remaining Malay/Muslim Mutual Benefit Organisations (MMBOs) providing aid and charity to members in times of distress or need. Known as badan khairat kematian (death social welfare organisation), these MMBOs were initially set up to provide financial support to families in instances of a member's passing—a fundamental life event, especially to the Malay/Muslim community.

Being volunteer, community-led initiatives based on a centuries-old tradition of mutual aid, these MMBOs were seen as social anchors in the community and custodians of intangible cultural heritage of Singapore's Malay/Muslim community.

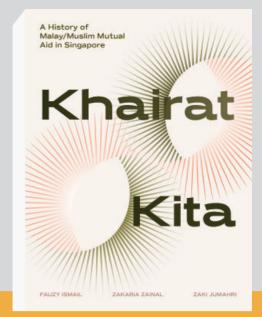
Today, with around twenty such organisations left, declining membership and ageing committee members, the future looks uncertain for these Malay/Muslim Mutual Benefit Organisations. A collection of interviews, photographs, essays and personal reflections, Khairat Kita is a concerted effort at archiving and documenting the history and people of the MMBOs.

# Authors: Fauzy Ismail, Zakaria Zainal, Zaki Jumahri

Fauzy Ismail researches Singapore's architecture and urban heritage. He completed his masters in architecture at the National University of Singapore, investigating heritage and thirdspaces in architecture, and dealt with gazetted buildings as a government conservation architect. He was an artist-in-residence at The Substation from 2018 to 2019, and was also a fashion designer in Paris.

Zakaria Zainal is an author and photographer based in Singapore. He published Riot Recollections and The Invisible Force: Singapore Gurkhas with Ethos Books.

Zaki Jumahri is an independent researcher and writer with a decade's experience across the arts, cultural heritage, non-profit and legal sectors. His writings have been featured in Today and arts publications including Art & Market and Art Republik. His research interests include Jawi and Arabic manuscripts, Singapore history, and art and cultural heritage law.









### Title:

## Brown Is Redacted: Reflecting on Race in Singapore

ISBN: 978-981-18-5272-5 (paperback)

978-981-18-5273-2 (ebook)

Dimensions: 150mm x 200mm

Extent: 220pp Published: 2022

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Non-Fiction, Essays, Poems,

World Rights Available

Brown Is Redacted responds to, expands on and questions what we think we know about the lived experiences of minority-raced people in Singapore. Inspired by Brown Is Haram, a performance-lecture on minorityrace narratives staged at The Substation in 2021, this anthology seeks to reflect on how brownness is constructed, sidelined, but also celebrated in this nation-state. Through a combination of essays, academic works, poems, and stories by brown individuals, Brown Is Redacted both attempts to and fails to create a singular brown experience. What this anthology does produce instead, is a moving and expressive work of solidarity and vulnerability.





# Editors: Kristian-Marc James Paul, Mysara Aljaru, Myle Yan Tay

Kristian-Marc James Paul (he/him/his) is an activist and writer. He is a member of climate justice collective SG Climate Rally. Apart from his work in climate activism, Kristian also facilitates intergroup dialogues, partnering with organisations like AWARE to run community discussions on masculinity and male allyship. He was also a contributing author for white: behind mental health stigma (2020), an anthology on mental health in Singapore.

Mysara Aljaru (she/her) is a lens-based practitioner, writer and researcher. Mysara was previously a journalist and documentary producer and has also worked with various research institutions. An artist and writer herself, Mysara has showcased and performed at Objectifs, The Substation, ArtScience Museum and Singapore Art Week 2022.

Myle Yan Tay (he/him) is a writer, director, and actor. His works have appeared in PanelxPanel, New Naratif, and The Bangalore Review. He is an Associate Artist with Checkpoint Theatre.





## **FORTHCOMING**

Title: Not Without Us:
Perspectives on
disability and inclusion
in Singapore

ISBN: 978-981-18-3070-9 (paperback)

Published: 2022 Finish: Paperback

Genre: Non-Fiction, Essays

Disability is all around us. In a citystate grappling with an ageing population and slowly moving towards inclusion, encounters with disability are increasingly visible. These encounters come in different forms: many of us perceive disabled persons as objects of charity; some of us might live with disability or have family members who do; some will remember our Paralympians competing in the Olympics. But, undeniably, all of us have or will one day come to experience disability in our everyday lives.

Not Without Us is a groundbreaking collection of essays that takes a creative and critical disability studies approach to centre disability, and rethink the ways in which we research, analyse, think and know about disability in our lives. Across multiple domains and perspectives, the writings in this volume consider what it means to live with disability in a purportedly inclusive and accessible Singapore.



Editors: Kuansong Victor Zhuang, Meng Ee Wong & Dan Goodley

Kuansong Victor Zhuang recently completed his PhD in Disability Studies and Cultural Studies at the University of Illinois and Macquarie University. He is currently a research fellow at NTU, exploring the intersections of disability and emerging technologies. He is also working on a book project tentatively titled *The Biopolitics of Inclusion: Disability and Capacity in the Singapore Nation*.

Meng Ee Wong is Associate Professor of Psychology and Child & Human Development at NIE, focusing on inclusive education, assistive technology and disability studies. He has published book chapters and in journals, including Asia Pacific Journal of Education, British Journal of Visual Impairment and International Journal of Inclusive Education. His most recent co-edited book, Special Needs in Singapore: Trends and Issues, was published by World Scientific. He serves on several non-profits and is Chairman of the Goh Chok Tong Enable Fund.

Dan Goodley is Professor of Disability Studies and Education at the University of Sheffield and a prominent scholar in the field of disability studies. He has published extensively on disability, as well as participated in research spanning diverse fields over the past thirty years.





## The Singapore I Remember Title:

ISBN:

Published:

Genre:

inconsistencies and idiosyncrasies. Although often held up as a model nation, it is also described as a 978-981-18-3012-9 (paperback) "flawed democracy" or authoritarian. 2022 While there aren't the signs of brutal Finish: Paperback repression as seen sometimes in the region, Singapore is a different Non-Fiction, Essays country to different people.

> With a decade of activism and investigative journalism experience, Kirsten Han interrogates the aspects of Singapore that deviate from the hegemonic 'Singapore Story'. The Singapore I Recognise is Han's personal reckoning with civil society's experiences of Singapore, perspectives that often fall through the cracks.

Singapore is a small country, but a

complex one, full of contradictions,



Author: Kirsten Han

Kirsten Han is a Singaporean freelance journalist and activist whose work often revolves around the themes of social justice, human rights, politics, and democracy. Her bylines have appeared in international publications such as The Guardian, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Al Jazeera English. In 2018, she received an Honourable Mention for the World Justice Project's Anthony Lewis Prize for Exceptional Rule of Law Journalism, and won a Human Rights Press Award for her commentaries on "fake news" and freedom of expression the next year. She has been an antideath penalty activist since 2010 and is currently a member of the Transformative Justice Collective.

## **BESTSELLERS FOR SCHOOLS**

# Title: How We Live Now: stories of daily living

Editor: Yu-Mei Balasingamchow

ISBN: 978-981-18-3679-4 (paperback)

978-981-18-3680-0 (ebook)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

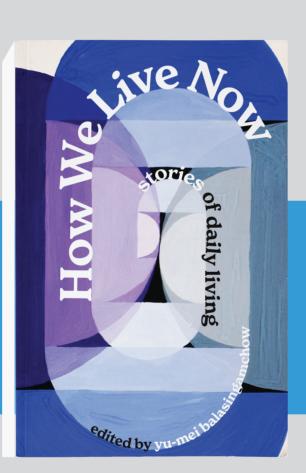
Extent: 188pp Published: 2022

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Fiction, Short Stories

How We Live Now offers a multi-faceted, multi-voiced view of contemporary life in Singapore: its comforts and conflicts, personal tragedies and social tensions, and also opportunities for joy, hope and empathy. Featuring an exciting ensemble of both established and new writers, the stories invite readers to think seriously about the world around them, with urgent contemporary challenges such as social inequality and mental health, as well as age-old frictions in personal relationships and friendships.

As this slate of characters grapples with crisis, loss, and what it means to hold each other close in a rapidly changing Singapore, we are invited to ponder: if this is indeed how we live now, should we continue in this vein?



Prescribed
Text for GCE
O Level and N
Level for Year
of Examination
2024-2027

#### Contributors:

Philip Jeyaretnam, Jinny Koh, Dave Chua, Anittha Thanabalan, Jessica Tan, Yeoh Jo-Ann, Patrick Sagaram, Yolanda Yu Miao Miao, Jeremy Tiang, Rachel Heng and Karen Kwek

## Title:

# Poetry Moves: An Anthology of Poetry

### Editors: Esther Vincent, Ann Ang, Angelia Poon & Loh Chin Ee

ISBN: 978-981-14-2282-9 (paperback)

Dimension: 120mm x 200mm

Extent: 208pp Published: 2020

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Poetry, Anthologies

This anthology collects over 100 poems from Singapore, Asia and around the world, and is aimed at the adolescent reader. It seeks to cultivate a love of poetry and an exploration of real-world issues through verse among teenage readers.

Featuring well-known Singaporean poets like Edwin Thumboo, Arthur Yap, Pooja Nansi, Boey Kim Cheng and Alfian Sa'at, renowned international voices such as Seamus Heaney, Ocean Vuong, Gwendolyn Brooks and Carol Ann Duffy, alongside newer voices, as well as a handful of translated works.

This anthology encourages the comparative reading of poetry from Singapore and around the globe, for it is only in understanding others that one begins to understand self and the world.



For teachers, the aim of this anthology is three-fold:

- We wish to curate a collection of poems from Singapore, Asia and the rest of the world that would be relatable to adolescent readers while also challenging them to think critically and explore new ideas in poetry;
- The collection is curated in such a way as to allow readers to draw connections between poems dealing with related themes (e.g., love, travel, human relations, urban living) while also promoting independent exploration and original connections;
- The poetry anthology is also created with secondary school Literature teachers in mind—to serve them well as a relevant and valuable resource in the teaching of poetry.

# Title: Hook and Eye: Stories from the Margins

#### **Editor: Philip Holden**

ISBN: 978-981-11-4173-7 (paperback)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

Extent: 216pp Published: 2018

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Fiction, Short Stories

"Each story invites readers to enter into the world of marginal yet strangely familiar figures, to explore the possibilities of empathy, and thus to see familiar landscapes in a new light."—Philip Holden, editor

These stories are set in disparate locations in Singapore, ranging from landed properties to migrant worker dormitories, and speak of struggles and persistence. And love.

Featuring stories by Alfian Sa'at, Clara Chow, Balli Kaur Jaswal, Jeremy Tiang, Yu-Mei Balasingamchow, Felix Cheong and others.

# Title: Hook and Eye: The Study Companion

#### **Editor: Philip Holden**

ISBN: 978-981-11-8365-2 (paperback)

Dimension: 175mm x 250mm

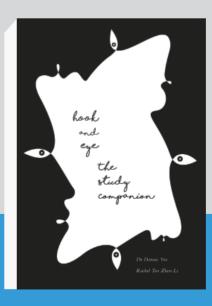
Extent: 148pp Published: 2018 Finish: Paperk

Finish: Paperback Genre: Study guide Hook and Eye: The Study Companion walks the reader through the short story anthology edited by Dr Philip Holden, Hook and Eye: Stories from the Margins, a recommended O-level Literature text in Secondary Schools in Singapore.

The anthology is a curation of poignant and enduring stories that give insight into the lives of marginalised individuals in Singapore.

This Study Companion is meant for any reader who wants to delve into these narratives and gain a deeper understanding of the unspoken chasms within the Singapore society. Besides provoking literary criticism and reader response, the Companion aims to help students gain broader perspectives and empathy for those who stand in the margins.





#### Title:

## Sense and Sensitivity: A Guide to Unseen Poetry for the GCE 'O' and 'N' Level Exam

ISBN: 978-981-11-8491-8 (paperback)

Dimension: 210mm x 280mm

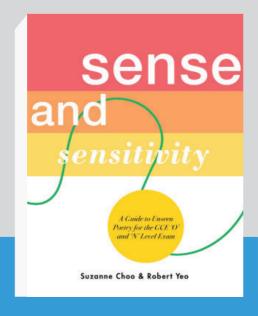
Extent: 156pp
Published: 2018
Finish: Paperback

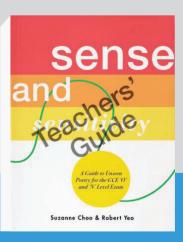
Genre: Study guide, Poetry

A digital teacher's guide, providing pointers and suggested answers for the questions in that appear in *Sense and Sensitivity*, is also available.

Sense and Sensitivity provides a systematic and comprehensive approach to developing skills for critical close reading of poetry. Students will be taught how to gain a 'big-picture' sense of the poem before acquiring sensitivity to form and literary techniques including word choice, figurative language, symbolism, word order, and sound among others. The fifteen chapters in this book include classic and contemporary poems, poems from Singapore and around the world as well as a variety of visual and comparative exercises that will develop students' appreciation of poetry. In this book you will find:

- Poems by well-known authors from around the world, including up to 50% of poems by Singaporean poets.
- Definitions of literary techniques with examples provided
- Key strategies of analysis that teach students how to unpack literary techniques
- Vocabulary terms that teach students how to explain and write about literary techniques
- Strategies for writing essays including how to move from annotations to a structured essay
- Practice exercises modelled after the Unseen section of the GCE 'O' and 'N' Level exam
- An overview of key themes in Singapore Literature
- · A glossary of key Literature terms





# Title: Here and Beyond: 12 Stories

#### **Editor: Cyril Wong**

ISBN: 978-981-07-7991-7 (paperback)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

Extent: 260pp Published: 2014

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Fiction, Short Stories

Here and Beyond: 12 Stories is a prescribed Cambridge GCE O-Level Literature text. This is an anthology of twelve stories from twelve unique Singaporean voices: S. Rajaratnam, Yeo Wei Wei, Goh Sin Tub, Simon Tay, Stephanie Ye, Alfian Sa'at, Suchen Christine Lim, Wena Poon, O Thiam Chin, Claire Tham, Philip Jeyaretnam and Felix Cheong.

These stories chart the emotional ups and downs of protagonists who strive to find meaning against the backdrop of negotiations between the local and the global, between the past and an ever-changing, urbanised present. Rediscovering the self and the value of relationships form the focus of these tales, which range from the realistic to the surreal, with the occasional epiphany about one's mortality and the meaning of existence within the bustling city.

# Title: Here and Beyond: 12 Stories | A Study Companion

#### **Author: Ian Tan**

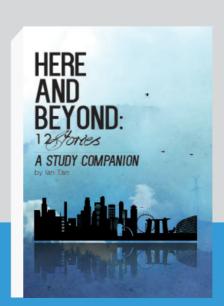
ISBN: 978-981-09-1778-4 (paperback)

Dimension: 175mm x 250mm

Extent: 80pp Published: 2014

Finish: Paperback Genre: Study guide Here and Beyond: 12 Stories | A Study Companion serves as a readable and illuminating guide to the anthology, Here and Beyond: 12 Stories. The author presents detailed analyses of the themes, characters and stylistic features of each story, allowing readers to access the nuances of these stories and the issues that they collectively raise. Accompanying each chapter of the study companion are discussion questions and activities which will enable users to develop their own interpretations and critical insights, thereby enriching their enjoyment and appreciation of the stories as well as the study of literature. This study companion is an invaluable resource for students and teachers who are reading and studying the anthology.





## Title: Fear No Poetry

ISBN: 978-981-09-0414-2 (paperback)

Dimension: 130mm x 200mm

Extent: 224pp Published: 2016

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Study guide, Poetry

Afraid of poetry? Unable to make sense of a poem, let alone enjoy it? Having trouble discussing the web of meanings within a poem or, worse, writing about it? Confused by the kooky critical terms readers and teachers keep throwing around?

Literary powerhouse Gwee Li Sui takes you from the baby steps of close reading to its finer, more moving moments. He discusses with rare energising generosity two kinds of poems: the "unseen poem"—the bane of many a student—and the scariest of verse for Singaporean readers, a poem by another Singaporean. This book assumes nothing, starting with the basics. It aims to help you find your inner posture, grasp what a poem is and does, learn the critical language, and write competently. It comes jam-packed with exercises for you to take on the challenge of FEAR NO POETRY!

Get ready to toughen your skills in close analysis as a new world of poetry and life explodes!



Author: Gwee Li Sui

Gwee Li Sui is a literary critic, a poet, and a graphic artist. His first book Myth of the Stone was Singapore's first full-length graphic novel in English. He also wrote the poetry collections Who Wants to Buy a Book of Poems? and One Thousand and One Nights, and is the editor of Sharing Borders: Studies in Contemporary Singaporean-Malaysian Literature II, Telltale: Eleven Stories, and Man/Born/Free: Writings on the Human Spirit from Singapore. A familiar name in Singapore's literary scene, Gwee has written essays on a broad range of cultural subjects and is well-loved for his instruction in Singaporean literature and poetry.

# Title: Little Things: An Anthology of Poetry

Editors: Loh Chin Ee, Angelia Poon & Esther Vincent

ISBN: 978-981-07-7140-9 (paperback)

Dimension: 120mm x 200mm

Extent: 163pp Published: 2013

Finish: Paperback

Genre: Poetry, Anthologies

In this selection of over 80 poems from Singapore and around the world, poets look afresh at things mundane and universal, from birth to growing up and first love to old age and death. Established Singapore poets such as Boey Kim Cheng, Arthur Yap and Cyril Wong and well-known international poets such as e. e. cummings, Billy Collins, and Raymond Carver are set alongside poems by younger published poets such as Joshua Ip, Theophilus Kwek and previously unpublished poets in this refreshing anthology.

Arranged in six broad sections—Little Things, Growing Up, People Around Us, Going Places, Love and Loss, and On Words—this anthology will appeal to readers both young and old with poems that are quirky, delightful, sad and reflective.

### Title:

# Teaching Poetry To Adolescents: a Teachers' Guide to Little Things

Editors: Loh Chin Ee, Angelia Poon & Esther Vincent

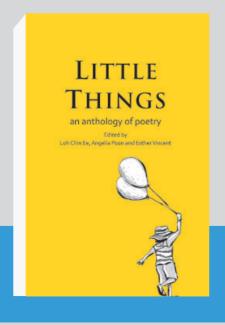
ISBN: 978-981-07-7990-0 (paperback)

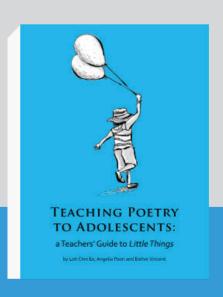
Dimension: 210mm x 280mm

Extent: 126pp Published: 2013

Finish: Paperback Genre: Study guide This Teachers' Guide introduces effective and inspirational ideas and strategies for teaching poetry in the secondary Literature classroom that both beginning and veteran teachers of Literature will find useful and invigorating. Besides providing a comprehensive guide to what beginner students need to understand about reading poetry, this guide promises to challenge intermediate and advanced students with chapters on reading poetry, imagery, sound and performance, irony, popular culture and poetry, intertextuality, creative writing and essay writing.

Designed as an accompaniment to *Little Things*, the Guide may be used independently as a resource for Literature teaching. Lesson ideas, reproducible handouts as well as rubrics for creative and essay writing are included.





Ethos Books is an independent publisher of literary fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

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