

Recent Books from Singapore – Jan 2023

Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd
Blk 231, Bain Street
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex
Singapore 180231
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

Architecture

Everyday Modernism: Architecture and Society in Singapore / Jiat-Hwee Chang & Justin Zhuang
Singapore: NUS Press, 2023

352p.

9789813251878

\$ 65.00 / PB

802gm.

A richly illustrated account of the development of Singapore's modern built environment.

Everyday Modernism is the first comprehensive documentation of Singapore's modern built environment. Through a lens of social, cultural, and architectural histories, the book uncovers the many untold stories of the Southeast Asian city-state's modernization, from the rise of heroic skyscrapers, such as the Pearl Bank Apartments, to the spread of typical utilitarian buildings like the multistory parking garage. It investigates how modernism, through both form and function, radically transformed Singapore and made its inhabitants into modern citizens. The most intensive period of such change, the author shows, happened in the 1960s and 1970s under the rise of a developmental state that sought to safeguard its new-found independence. The book also looks both earlier and later, however, ranging from the 1930s to the 1980s to cover a wider range of histories, building types, and architectural styles, expanding from the International Style and Brutalism into Art Deco and even a touch of Postmodernism. The book's essays are richly illustrated with hundreds of archival images and illustrations, as well as contemporary photos by architectural photographer Darren Soh. By examining the evolution of the once exceptional into the typical and by learning how abstract spaces become lived places, the book traces how modernism has become part of everyday life in Singapore.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841300>

Art

Nothing Is Forever: Rethinking Sculpture in Singapore / (Ed) Cheng Jia Yun (et al.)

Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2022

276p.

9789811821523

1. Sculpture – Singapore.

2. Sculpture – Singaporean.

\$ 50.00 / PB

958gm.

Tracing its history since the 19th century, the exhibition presents over 70 surprising works spanning religious, participative, installative, and even performative forms. The exhibition reveals the ever-changing nature of sculpture and how ideas around making and thinking about this

medium have shifted. Nothing is Forever entrenches sculpture as an essential practice as it highlights how sculpture drove new ways of thinking about art in Singapore, and the lasting impacts it has made on our artistic landscape.

An exhibition organised by National Gallery of Singapore (29 July 2022 to February 2023).

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816883>

Shui水 / Yvonne Xu

Singapore: Anonymous LLP, 2022

128p.

9789811857379

\$ 45.00

288gm.

水 (shuǐ) is an illustrated book on water. It offers a collection of fresh ideas and perspectives through which to experience and imagine this common and commonly overlooked substance. The book is produced by Anonymous with text contributed by [Yvonne Xu](#), and art and typography design by Germaine Chong. It launched at the Bangkok Art Book Fair 2022 and is part of the first Anonymous Bangkok project that investigates water used as a material and medium in art, design, food, and culture.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=838030>

Living Pictures: Photography in Southeast Asia / (Ed) Charmaine Toh

Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2022

382p.

9789811840449

1. Photography – Southeast Asia – Exhibitions.
2. Photography – Southeast Asia – History – Exhibitions.
3. Art and photography – Southeast Asia – Exhibitions.
4. Photography in archaeology – Southeast Asia – Exhibitions.

\$ 80.00 / PB

2026gm.

This richly illustrated catalogue examines the power of photography and its mobilisation within systems of knowledge and representation across Southeast Asian societies. Rather than just thinking about what photographs show, *Living Pictures* explores what photographs do, acknowledging that photographs have lives—they move and they act—and in the process, they affect the world around them. This groundbreaking catalogue accompanies the world's first-ever survey of the medium's histories across Southeast Asia, from its earliest beginnings in the 19th century until its diverse contemporary manifestations. It traces the creation, circulation and consumption of photography and how these processes have shaped the visual regimes of the region, through essays by the *Living Pictures* curators, interviews with artists and photographers featured in the exhibition, comprehensive plates including never-before published images, and new research by leading international scholars focusing on the interdisciplinary intersections between photography and art history, archaeology and cultural theory.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=840747>

I Am An Artist (He Said) / Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook (Translator) Kong Rithdee (Eds) Roger Nelson & Chanon Kenji Praepipatmongkol

Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2022

496p.

Includes Index

9789811823961

1. Art.
2. Art criticism.
3. Art, Southeast Asian.
4. Artist – Southeast Asia.
5. Feminist theory.

\$ 56.00 / PB

740gm.

“To be an artist is ... just like shit in a clogged toilet, stubborn shit that can’t decide whether it wants to be flushed or to stick around” writes acclaimed artist Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook. Composed as an irreverent dialogue between masculine and feminine narrators, this book of essays is an uncategorisable fusion of art criticism, feminist theory, art pedagogy, gossip and autofiction. It is also an invaluable insider account of Southeast Asia’s contemporary artists being catapulted into international circuits since the 1990s. Araya’s provocative prose is lyrically translated from Thai for the first time by Kong Rithdee, one of Thailand’s most influential cultural critics.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=840746>

Singapore Biennale 2019: Every Step in the Right Direction / (Eds) Patrick Flores & Joyce Toh
Singapore: Singapore Art Museum, 2019

1v.

9789811432781

\$ 75.00 / PB

122gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=833705>

A Blossoming City Garden: 10 Years of Gardens by The Bay / Audrey Tan
Singapore: Straits Times Press, 2022

1v.

9789815081053

\$ 50.00 / PB

830gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841301>

The Artist Speaks: Kim Lin / (Ed) Joleen Loh
Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2022

1v.

9789811451782

\$ 25.00 / PB

232gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841303>

Biography/Memoirs

Kopi Dulu : Caffeine-Fuelled Travels Through Indonesia / Mark Eveleigh
Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022

X, 391p.

9789815017748

\$ 32.90 / PB

538gm.

A journey of 15,000 kilometres – by rail, road, on foot and under sail – through about 50 Indonesian islands, shining a light on what has been described as the world's most invisible country.

From tracking tigers (and the mythical 'short man') in the Sumatra jungle to the mystical Dayak tribe that lives near the geographical centre of Borneo, this book touches on some of Indonesia's most intriguing secrets. The author meets Tana Toraja's 'living dead', the Bugis people (once known as the Bogeymen) who build and sail the spectacular Sulawesi schooners and the villagers who are literally besieged by dragons in the Komodo archipelago. He surfs the legendary reefs of G-Land, Nias and Occy's Left (and pioneers a previously un-surfed wave in the remote Alor Archipelago). He road-trips across Sulawesi and Flores and sails in the wake of Alfred Russel Wallace around Spice Islands, which have remained largely unchanged for centuries.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=836087>

Wild Wisdom: Life Lessons from Leading Teams to Some of the Most Inhospitable Places in the World / Christine Amour-Levar (Foreword) Robert Swan

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022

258p.

9789815017076

\$ 24.90 / PB

200gm.

Wild Wisdom recounts the story of social entrepreneur and philanthropist Christine Amour-Levar and the all-female expeditions she has led across the globe via her two non-profit organisations, Women on a Mission and HER Planet Earth. Over a decade, she has taken hundreds of women, of all nationalities, ages and backgrounds, to off the beaten track locations around the world on challenging, often pioneering, expeditions that really push them outside of their comfort zone. She has run expeditions to some incredible places, from regions of the Arctic circle to the coldest, windiest and most remote continent on earth, Antarctica. Her teams have crossed the largest caves in the world in Vietnam, sailed across remote islands in Asia, were the first all-female team to bike across the frozen Arctic Circle Trail of Greenland and the Danakil Depression of Ethiopia – the hottest place on earth. And all these expeditions have had as mission to raise awareness and funds for vulnerable women, transforming the lives of thousands of women and girls in the process. By sharing her personal story and highlighting her life lessons, from growing up on multiple continents to leading teams on expeditions, she sets the stage for a new approach to caring for the human condition and the planet, at a deeper, more intrinsic, heart level. Ultimately, this is a story about roots and values, sisterhood and adventure, pushing limits and the power of our common humanity and compassion to drive change and impact the world for the better.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841304>

Business/Management

The Millennial Leader: Leading Across Generations in the New Normal / Vivek Iyyani

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022

236p.

9789814914130

\$ 24.90 / PB

314gm.

Millennials will be our next great generation of leaders. They are quickly filling executive and management roles at all levels. If you're one of them, you're probably leading not just your peers, but also Baby Boomers, Gen Xers (who have been around much longer than you) and of course,

the new kids on the block, the Gen Zs. The younger generation of leaders are rejecting old school leadership practices outright, forcing organizations to rethink and reshape the way leaders lead. Leadership no longer demands a corner office, an official title or even a physical workplace. The terms 'boss' and 'supervisor' sound foreign to today's employees. Effective leaders are described as inspiring influencers, mentors and advocates today. Millennial leaders face the ultimate challenge of overcoming generational differences, reverse ageism, motivating an isolated, remote, gig and burnt-out workforce, while juggling all the responsibilities and expectations as a leader.

This book aims to answer the question:

How can you become an effective leader while working across generations in the new normal?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841305>

Economics

Pro-Poor Development Policies: Lessons from the Philippines and East Asia / (Eds) Hal Hill, Majah-Leah V Ravago & James A. Roumasset

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2022

756p.

Includes Index

9789815011050

\$ 32.00 / PB

1024gm.

"This collection of essays provides a wealth of information and analysis about the Philippine economy and the role of agriculture and economic policy in it. The Philippine experience has been quite different from the highly successful Asian economies, with a long period of low growth until the turn of the century and only then greater success. The authors cover not only the Philippine experience but also place it in its Asian context and that of developing countries more generally. They report on the lessons learned, both positive and negative, from the various economic policies that have been adopted, with regard to both agriculture and to economic inequality. Those interested in Philippine economic development, and Asian development more broadly, will find this an important reference work." - Anne O. Krueger, Senior Research Professor, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies; 1st Deputy Managing Director, IMF (2001-6); Vice-President of Economics and Research, World Bank (1982-86)

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=839815>

Extracting Development: Contested Resource Frontiers in Mainland Southeast Asia / Oliver Tappe & Simon Rowedder

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2022

Ix, 271p.

9789815011197

\$ 38.00 / PB

3268gm.

Resource extraction is currently shaping Southeast Asian landscapes and people's lives to an unprecedented degree. This volume explores old and new resource frontiers, their effect on local economies and social relations, and questions of (contested) resource control and governance. Case studies from Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, and Cambodia, illustrate the predicament of globalized extractivism processes in the region, particularly (but not only) with regard to China's rising geopolitical and -economic influence, most prominently expressed by the Belt and Road Initiative.

Discussing transboundary investments in land and water reserves, and localized commodification processes of agrarian resources, this volume not only investigates the competing actors and

discourses of resource extraction in Southeast Asia. What is more, the different case studies shed light on the contingent outcomes on the ground of transregional economic dynamics and related socio-ecological transformations. Combining macro perspectives with fine-grained micro-scale studies, this volume offers a multi-faceted picture of extractivism in contemporary Southeast Asia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=839812>

Agricultural Trade Between China and the Greater Mekong Subregion Countries: A Value Chain Analysis / (Eds) Jayant Menon & Vathana Roth

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2022

303p.

9789815011128

\$ 38.00 / PB

424gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841306>

Thailand's Economic Dilemmas in Post-Pandemic Asia / Richard Yarrow

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2022

51p.

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issues No. 14, 2022

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815011784

\$ 12.00 / PB

110gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=839813>

General Books

Methods to Greatness: Lessons of the Mind, Body and Soul from Asia's Top Entrepreneurs, Athletes, and Icons / John Aguilar

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022

Xviii, 218p.

9789814954570

\$ 22.90 / PB

318gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841307>

The Spotted Zebra: What Makes You Stick Out Will Make You Stand Out / Uma Rudd Chia

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2023

Xiv, 170p.

9789815058284

\$ 22.90 / PB

206gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841308>

Table for One / Caro Saracho; (Translator) Sharmila Bhushan

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2018

Xxii, 136p.

9789814882156

\$ 12.50 / PB

158gm.

For many years we've been told that women need to get married and have kids to be happy. Society requires us to have a partner to be considered 'normal'. But some of us want mature relationships, where what is normal is saying what you think and acting accordingly. Learn how to fully enjoy work, parties and friends regardless of luck and loss in love. Find out how to live with high self-esteem and a disappointment proof attitude. Table for One explains all this and more. It reads like a confessional with all sorts of fun situations where misunderstandings and tragedy intertwine to really get you laughing. With this book you'll realise that happiness is in your hands.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841309>

History

Reviving Qixi : Singapore's Forgotten Seven Sisters Festival = 七夕节 : 新加坡曾经拥有的神话/ 与现实 /
Lynn Wong Yuqing黄钰清 & Lee Kok Leong李国樑
Singapore: Renforest Publishing, 2022
236p.

English & Chinese Languages
9789811853036

1. Festivals – Singapore.
2. Chinese – Singapore – Social life and customs.
3. Festivals – China.
4. Folklore – China.

\$ 90.00 / HB

This is the first comprehensive bilingual book about the Qixi Festival in Singapore. Besides looking into ancient Chinese texts to trace the origins and developments of the festival, it examines the customs brought over by early Chinese women migrants to Singapore since the mid-19th century. This book honours our foremothers, such as the *Majies*, *Samsui* women, female factory workers, as well as women in clan associations and individual households, for whom the festival was an important part of their social lives. It also investigates how the festival went from heyday to mayday in Singapore, juxtaposed with the festival's trajectories in other countries. Drawing from ethnographic research and oral history interviews with diverse stakeholders, it further synthesises views from the community on how the Qixi Festival, once a significant part of our collective heritage, can be revived.

《七夕节：新加坡曾经拥有的神话与现实》是第一本关于新加坡七夕节的综合性双语书籍。本书通过中国古代文献追溯七夕节的起源和发展，进一步研究自19世纪中叶以来，早期中国妇女移民带入新加坡的习俗，以及直到21世纪的本地节日与其他国家节日的发展轨迹。本书向我们的女性先民致敬，包括妈祖、三水女工、工厂女工，以及会馆女会员和家庭妇女，对她们来说，节日是社交活动，也是不可或缺的生活日常。本书综合与不同社区利益相关者的第一手口述历史访谈内容，探讨如何保留我们丰富的文化遗产与集体记忆，以及重塑七夕节的渠道。

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841310>

A Reverent Journey: Masjid Omar Kampong Melaka 1820-2020 and Beyond / (Eds) Sharifah Zahara & Dr. Syed Abdullah

Singapore: Masjid Omar Kampong Melaka & OPUS Editorial Pte Ltd, 2022
267p.

9789811483660

\$ 90.00 / HB

1264gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=839364>

River Cities in Asia: Waterways in Urban Development and History / (Ed) Rita Padawangi (et al.)
Asian Cities Series
Amsterdam, Netherlands: Amsterdam University Press, 2022
294p.
9789463721851
\$ 150.00 / HB
792gm.

River Cities in Asia uncovers the intimate relationship between rivers and cities in Asia from a multi-disciplinary perspective in the humanities and the social sciences. As rivers have shaped human settlement patterns, economies, culture and rituals, so too have humans impacted the flow and health of rivers. In Asia, the sheer scale of urbanization increases the urgency of addressing challenges facing urban rivers, leading to the importance of historically, socially, and culturally relevant solutions. However, cities are also uneven landscapes of power, affecting chances to achieve holistic ecological approaches. The central premise of River Cities in Asia is that a “river city” is one where proximity between a river and a city exists across time and space, natural and social dimensions. Recognition of these deep connections can help to better contextualize policy solutions aimed at rivers and their ecologies, including human life.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841311>

Linguistics

Signs of Deference, Signs of Demeanour: Interlocutor Reference and Self- Other Relations Across Southeast Asian Speech Communities / (Ed) Dwi Noverini Djenar & Jack Sidnell
Singapore: NUS Press, 2023
260p.; 23cm.
9789813251847
\$ 45.00 / HB
520gm.

In selecting terms to refer to themselves and their addressees, speakers express, define and create a field for working out social relations. Because, up until now, sociolinguistic research in this domain has focused primarily on Indo-European languages, it has tended to dwell on pronominal reference to the addressee, for example the choice between tu and vous in addressing someone in French. This book theorises interlocutor reference more broadly, based on the study of Southeast Asian languages, thereby deepening our understanding of the ways in which self-other relations are linguistically mediated in social interaction. There are two basic ways in which the Southeast Asian systems exceed in complexity and nuance the well-described cases of Europe. First, in many languages of Southeast Asia, a speaker must select an appropriate reference form not only for the addressee but also for the speaker. Second, in these languages, speakers draw upon, in addition to pronouns, a wide range of common and proper nouns including names, kin terms, and titles, in referring to themselves and the addressee.

The contributors to this volume show that acts of interlocutor reference inevitably do more than merely identify the speaker and addressee. In addition to reference, they also convey information about the proposed relation between interlocutors as well as connecting to broader orders of contextual relevance. At the same time, they are treated as representations of the speaker's status, sophistication, elegance and so on. Bringing together studies from both small-scale and large, urbanised communities across Mainland and Insular Southeast Asia, this book is an important contribution to the sociolinguistics and anthropology of Southeast Asia. In addition, the

editors' introduction lays out a framework for investigating and analysing interlocutor reference in any language, in any part of the world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841312>

Literature

The Preying Birds = Mga Ibong Mandaragit: A Socio-Political Novel / Amado V. Hernandez
(Translator) Danton Remoto
Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022
468p.
9789815017847
Southeast Asian Classics
\$ 30.90 / PB
598gm.

Mando Plaridel is the lead character in this novel of social consciousness. His character combines the qualities found in Simoun and Ibarra, the two lead characters in national hero Jose Rizal's novels: *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*. Ibarra is the passive character in Rizal's novels, while Simoun is the active propagandist who wakes up the people from their centuries-old sleep under Spanish colonialism.

After the war, society begins to know him as the brave editor of the *Kampilan* newspaper. He later becomes involved in the problems of the farmers with the abusive Monteros. Told from an omniscient point of view, Hernandez is able to enter the consciousness of the wealthy characters. He shows how the ruling classes—the politicians, landowners, judges, deputies and bishops—only protect their own interests, that is why they do not want to change the status quo.

Dr Sabio is the progressive president of a university founded by Mando, who used the treasure thrown into the sea at the end of Rizal's second novel to help improve society. The money is used to fund Freedom University and set up *Kampilan*, the brave newspaper. The novel points to the cooperative system of land ownership as the way out for the landless poor. It implies that change can only begin when the eyes of society have been finally opened.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841313>

A Market for Murder: A Das Sisters Mystery / Anjana Rai Chaudhuri
Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022
326p.
9789814954303
\$ 27.90 / PB
428gm.

The Das sisters investigate a counterfeit computer chip syndicate operating out of Asia, to whom murder is a means of protecting business interests. A private plane crashes. A heart pacemaker malfunctions. Only one man in Singapore realizes counterfeit computer chips sold on the black market may be to blame.

He sets on a mission to expose the crime syndicate. When he is murdered, the Das sisters must hunt down his killers.

The third of the Das Sisters Mystery Series finds ASP Dolly Das and her sister, Lily, confronted by two murder cases at once.

The sisters' holiday in Bali is cut short by the murder of a Singaporean guest at their hotel. A simple case of a robbery gone wrong takes on sinister overtones when they realize the guest may have been the target of a hit by an organised crime syndicate dealing in counterfeit computer chips. Back in Singapore, a member of the murdered man's family is found strangled. Are the two murders connected? As suspects mysteriously disappear or are killed, and the possibility of police corruption rears its ugly head, the Das sisters are challenged as never before. The sisters, with the help of their mother, Uma, Dolly's husband, Joey, assistants, Angie and Vernon and the domestic helper, Girlie take risks to bring down the syndicate and find the killers. Jealousy festers when one sister upstages the other. Is this the end of the road for the Das sisters working as a team?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841318>

Destination: SEA 2050 A.D. / (Ed) Tilde Acuna (et al.)
Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022
220p.
9789815017779
SGD 25.90 / PB
292gm.

Destination: SEA 2050 A.D. the first Southeast Asian fiction anthology that imagines-based on scientific projections-the world of the year 2050, the same year when 90 percent of the planet's coral reefs are expected to decline, when plastic is found inside 99 percent of all the world's seabirds, when there is severe water shortage in Asia, when growth in the world's populations stops, and when the elderly outnumber children in most places on Earth.

Short stories and graphic narratives from a veritable literary supergroup from all over Southeast Asia and with each story painstakingly annotated, will paint a vivid, often disquieting but at times hopeful, vision of an environmental futurist spread. Destination: SEA 2050 A.D. is a travel through time and into the heartland of the global conversation on the final stages of the sixth extinction.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841319>

The End of All Skies / Vincent C. Sales
Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022
256p.
9789815017823
\$ 22.90 / PB
344gm.

The final days of Sun Girna Ginar have arrived. The old witch in the marketplace knows it, but no one believes her. How could the Sultanate fall when the God-Sultan rules over the earth and Skyworld? How could anyone ever defeat General Marandang, the giant slayer, and the city's champion, Lam-Ang?

Entering into a wager with the gods, the old witch promises to destroy the city. And by granting the most insignificant the ability to make their dreams come true, it all comes to pass. We witness the fall of the Sultan's great city through their stories: the hunter who seeks revenge, the one-handed thief who wants justice, and the exiled datu searching for redemption.

Together, they bring about the destruction of the city of Sun Girna Ginar. Its walls are breached by the six-headed giant of Gawi-Gawen as fire consumes the Palace and the never-ending rain swallows the city in flood.

The End of All Skies is a story of reclaimed myths, but it is also a mirror of recent history, of today. It revisits our lost past and entreats us to never forget the sins committed against us, while reminding us of the power and humanity each of us possesses.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841321>

The Best Asian Short Stories 2022 / (Ed) Darryl Whetter (Series Ed) Zafar Anjum
Singapore: Kitaab, 2022
312p.
9789811829437
\$ 25.00 / PB
348gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841323>

My Lovely Skull and Other Skeletons / Tunku Halim
Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022
228p.
9789815058161
\$ 20.90 / PB
254gm.

Each the darkest of tales. Skeletons in the cupboards of the mind. Shackled in a dungeon. Rattling the cages. Bones jangling as they grinningly emerge. Meet a hungry old woman who roasts her victims. A grieving father intent on rape and murder. A sex-slave nurse who uses lizards to kill. A blood-sucking creature avenging a battered wife. A teenager in love with a beach-discovered skull. A diva-wannabe who will poison to sing. An exorcism going terribly wrong. These and other skeletons await. Nightmarish, spine-chilling tales ready to embrace and draw you into their blood-dripping dungeons. Are you ready for the shackles? Do you have a lovely skull?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841324>

The Light of Stars / Leslie W
Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022
232p.
9789815058192
\$ 22.90 / PB
314gm.

Keix sets off on her journey to find her father and meets a mysterious Kulcan who offers to take her to her destination. Back at Atros, Zej and the rest of the gang, thinking that the organization had kidnapped Keix, hatch a plan for a rescue mission. But they soon gain knowledge of a vicious group whose aim is to bring the world to its knees. Racing against time, Zej has to find Keix and convince her to help the people who had previously betrayed her. With innocent lives at stake, will Keix agree to the uneasy alliance, and put her own goals on the line again to go in blind against an enemy that's even more ruthless than Atros?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841325>

Changi: A Mystery / Scott Anthony

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022
134p.
9789815017816
\$ 22.90 / PB
154gm.

Violet has organised her life in Singapore with a zeal that keeps her family close by her side, and any intimacy safely at bay. While she chases the attention of a German doctor, her daughter and her friends spend their days lost in a hollow world of make believe, memories, and old Agatha Christie novels.

But a death shatters Violet's grip on the world around her. Was this murder, accident, or suicide? With the authorities drawing closer the family have just hours to try and piece together what really happened. Is this a puzzle, a tragedy, or a crime? Is Violet's role to bring the truth to light, or bury it alongside the rest of Changi camp's grizzly history?

Over the next 48 hours, Violet will find out once and for all whether her efforts to control her family's lives have protected them, or simply left them at the mercy of someone else's stories.

Changi is a story of obsession, revenge and jealousy that mixes stark emotional power with elements of a classic whodunit.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841327>

The Waters of Manila Bay Are Never Silent / I.S.A. Crisostomo-Lopez
Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022
194p.
9789815017991
\$ 17.90 / PB
218gm.

When an article about a boy who was killed after being tagged by police as a drug runner lands on his desk, journalist Zechariah 'Zeke' Dipasupil feels the story deserves to be on the front page. He empathizes with the dead boy whose cries were unjustly silenced since he also lost his voice as a child.

He grew up without knowing his father and had to look after his mother who suffered from depression and other ailments. His fight to defend the weak and the voiceless caught in the middle of the government's war against illegal drugs is reminiscent of the activist movement during the Martial Law years in the Philippines. Later, he meets his long lost grandmother who reveals the truth about his father.

As he struggles to rise above societal oppression, he finally finds the courage to respond to the many unsettling silences in his personal life.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841328>

Salvaged from the Fall / Dawn Farnham
Singapore: Penguin Books, 2023
274p.
9789815058765
\$ 22.90 / PB
300gm.

EVERY DAY of the years of a murderous occupation, Simone has kept her head down, living and working in the peaceful surroundings of the Botanical Gardens ignoring the horrors that lie outside, waiting for it all to end.

UNTIL TODAY, when a blue feather reminds her of lost friends and sends her on a quest which can lead them all into disaster.

Against the clock and with a Japanese officer on their trail, seven young women are called on to rekindle their bonds of loyalty and trust to save the child of one of their own.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841329>

We Are Not Alone Here / O Thiam Chin

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022

158p.

9789815058062

\$ 20.90 / PB

202gm.

An unnamed young woman and her companion strike up a conversation in the dark in a quiet room, in the middle of nowhere. As they talk, the young woman starts to open up her life, to talk about her past and childhood, growing up in a single-parent household under poor impoverished conditions, living under the cold, steely eye of an estranged and manipulative mother who physically and emotionally abused her. The woman gradually divulges the lies and secrets that have plagued her life from a very young age, and how all of it has led her to make hard choices along the way: to be a mistress to her boss at her first job, to have a child out of wedlock, to rear a child all on her own and then to tragically lose him in a drowning.

The truth becomes stranger and more complicated as the woman continues to tell her story, braiding and twisting the facts and sequence of events as she narrates, that soon reveals a long unvoiced history of pain and violence and deception, that ultimately culminates in her committing a series of horrific and terrible acts. What has seemed clear and straightforward at the start of the woman's story soon becomes a strange febrile dream that holds the woman and her companion in a complicit, unbreakable spell.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841330>

No Wonder, Women / Carissa Foo

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2023

167p.

9789815058833

\$ 20.90 / PB

202gm.

Two women bond over a balloon cactus. A mother steals glances at her teenage daughter in the rear-view mirror. A bride misses her best friend on the eve of her wedding. An open support group for women who think too much. What is woman's love? *No Wonder, Women* is an ode to women-to hearts that love fiercely and feel deeply. A glimpse into the lives of women who are trying to love without unloving themselves.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841331>

The Stormy Sea / Lawrence Wong

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022

215p.

9789815058154

\$ 24.90 / PB

225gm.

The Stormy Sea is a true story about ordinary men coming together to protect the vulnerable fleeing Vietnam on the *Southern Cross* ship. The band of brothers dealt with everything from pirates, birth, fire and flooding on board to organising their own rescue from the Indonesian island where the *Southern Cross* eventually ran aground.

To this day, the author still remembers in detail the calm water and the smell of diesel on the fishing trawler he was cramped in all night with his family. Lawrence was appointed leader on the ship backed by the European Captain and his crew to lead the 1,200 refugees on the deck of the *Southern Cross*. This was prompted by a gang of young men confiscating food and extorting money for instant noodles. Lawrence realised his five young children wouldn't stand a chance of surviving had he not taken charge.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841332>

Unsaid: An Asian Anthology / (Ed) Anitha Devi Pillai
Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022
217p.
9789815017090
\$ 22.90 / PB
224gm.

His wife's voice was unmistakable. She was moaning and sighing, and he could hear his divan creaking. How he wished he had not come home that night. He was a mere mortal. His heart had betrayed him. *What can he do?* Somewhere else in the world a child watches her father bullied into submission, while another is teased for his queer choices by those he trusts. *Will the soft voices of the weak ever be heard?* Nothing – not even death – was going to stop her from joining her family during the annual lantern festival celebrations. The dead do walk amongst us, don't they? When the sun sets in the forest, a woman pays the price for ignoring the village elders' beliefs. Is there any truth to these old wives' tales? Fifteen stories, all set in Asia. Fifteen storytellers, who have mastered the art of laying bare the human psyche. Stories of pain, and power, and good fighting the bad. Stories that take you to the mystical dark side. Stories that knot family ties in darkness. This is *UNSAID: An Asian Anthology*.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841333>

Showers of Luck / Nadia Ayesha
Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022
280p.
9789815017977
\$ 22.90/ PB
276gm.

Inspired by a true story, *Showers of Luck* follows the life of two characters, Lily and Khalid. Lily is a hard-working young nyonya who stays with a distant aunt's family, following the advice of a fortune-teller that she should be given away after birth. She develops a crush on her handsome Muslim neighbour, Khalid, who is trying to fulfil his filial duties to his estranged parents and to do his best for the upcoming Senior Cambridge Examinations. Spanning a period of two years in pre-war Singapore, against the backdrop of a world preparing to go to war, Lily and Khalid's paths intersect time and again. Consumed by their desires, the couple navigate societal judgment and challenge familial expectations in a brave attempt to start a new life together.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841334>

An Angel in Pyjamas / Tabish Khair
Singapore: Kitaab, 2022
422p.
9789811854675
\$ 25.00 / PB

460gm.

Written in the early 1990s and published in 1996, Tabish Khair's first novel strangely evokes the India and the world of the 2010s: rape in a public bus in Delhi, hyperventilating media, war against terror, an aggressive 'Hindu' right, intolerant Islamism, growing social differences, etc. But along with all that, it remains a novel teeming with life, angels, dead poets, humour, history, memorable characters, and the joyous sadness of our world that Khair always captures so well and ironically in his fiction.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841335>

Twelve From a Taluk Town: Selected Short Stories / Kalam Haidri (Translated from Urdu) Syed Sarwar Hussain

Singapore: Kitaab, 2022

174p.

9789811480461

\$ 20.00 / PB.

200gm.

These stories have been selected in consultation with Dr Abdus Samad and the Late Mrs Shahda Haidri. 'The Paper Pond', the English translation of Mr. Haidri's Urdu short story 'Kaghzi Talab,' was published in the Summer 2017 issue of The Massachusetts Review (USA), Volume 58, No, 02 (pages 237-248). 'Unnabi Kaanch ka Tukda' was published in English translation as 'The Deep Red Shard of Glass' in the anthology, The Eastern Brew, in 2013 (Partridge India, ISBN 9781482812558). Another story 'Benaam Galiyan' with the English title 'Nameless Lanes' appeared in the anthology, Nameless Lanes, in 2016, published by Kitaab International (Singapore, ISBN 9789810989552). The translation of 'Babu,' with the same title in English, will be appearing in an anthology of the best of fiction from Bihar, Best Writings from Bihar, currently being edited by the reputed Indian English poet and editor, Abhay K.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841336>

Politics/Current Affairs

China Phobia : A Wasted Opportunity / Karim Alwadi & Mohammad Kheir Alwadi

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022

xiv, 266p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789815017717

\$ 29.90 / PB

380gm.

ChinaPhobia – A Wasted Opportunity is an informative book, unbiased towards either China or America. It has been written in the form of a conversation between a father-a former journalist and senior diplomat-and his businessman son. Both academics present the facts combined with insights gained from years of observations of China.

Part one describes the factors that have led to ChinaPhobia: pace of China's economy, gravitational shifts towards Asia, territorial disputes, lack of soft powers, Belt and Road Initiative, resignation as the 'world's factory', Covid-19, and tries to explain China's cultural and political thinking.

The second part of the book concerns changes within the economic partnership which led to the increasing distrust of the US government and corporations towards China, reflected not only in their trade war, but also in growing US and Western support for China's red-lines including Taiwan,

Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet. It is mirrored in an ongoing behind-the-scenes arms race, which has a paramount impact on the relationship between the two regimes-and on the rest of the world. Thirdly, China's increasingly sensitive ambition towards global leadership is explained, and the roles of various think tanks and experts on both sides is analyzed objectively. Urgent questions are addressed in the final part of the book. Without a timely response, inflating ChinaPhobia could become the biggest threat to global peace, economic growth and stability, poisoning international relations in the coming years. The authors discuss the means of mitigation at home and abroad.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=836077>

Muslim Sectarianism Versus the De-Escalation of Sectarianism in Malaysia / Mohd Faizal Musa
Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2022

64p.

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815011562

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issues No. 10, 2022

\$ 12.00 / PB

128gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841337>

Justifying Digital Repression Via "Fighting Fake News" : A Study of Four Southeast Asian Autocracies / Janjira Sombatponsiri & Dien Nguyen An Luong
Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2022

38p.

ISSN: 0219-3213 ; 9789815011746

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issues No.11, 2022

\$ 12.00 / PB

92gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841338>

Concepts and Patterns of Chinese Migration, with Reference to Southeast Asia / Leo Suryadinata & Dorcas Gan

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2022

21p.

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815011906

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issues No.15, 2022

\$ 12.00 / PB

68gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841339>

"Stanning" Najib : Fanning a Personality Cult in Malaysian Politics / Clarissa Lee Ai Ling & Amirul Adli Rosli

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2022

32p.

ISSN: 0219-3213 ; 9789815011975

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issues No.18, 2022

\$ 12.00 / PB

90gm.

The concept of fandom, which contributes to the construction of fan fiction, provides fresh insights into the seemingly inexplicable and irrational popularity of disgraced political celebrities. Political

fandom provides the critical framework for contextualizing the continuing popularity of political social media influencers such as Najib Razak within an environment of populist politics. Political fandom comprises fans and anti-fans, each of whom is capable of critical reasoning regardless of conclusions drawn. The presence of anti-fans of an influential figure speaks not to the waning of popularity, but rather, the continuing relevance of that figure within socio-political spaces.

Malaysia's political fandom does not subscribe to well-defined morality when it comes to celebrity politicians. The fans appear more tolerant of the amorality of said politicians than they would be of themselves, their circle, and their peers. Among the Malay-speaking and especially the more rural constituents, the way politicians portray their stance on Islam and address the bread-and-butter issues of their constituents appear to be more important than the politicians' personal ethics.

Najib Razak's various sources of social capital, derived from his political lineage, his contributions during his time as Malaysia's Prime Minister, and his ability to brand himself as a social media influencer, made him appear a potent political force despite being the first former Prime Minister to be convicted of corruption.

Najib Razak has been adept at spinning social media trends to his advantage and in connecting with the mundane lives and hardships of ordinary citizens. Through his social media postings, he was able to inspire both fans and anti-fans to produce fan fiction around him in the form of images and texts which he could selectively interact with, and even use as content for his "crusade" on behalf of his supporters as an opposition MP, or as distractions from controversies associated with him.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841340>

Explaining PAS's Dominance in Kelantan / Azmil Tayeb
Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2022
28p.

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815011951

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issues No.17, 2022

\$ 12.00 / PB

68gm.

The Islamic political party Pan-Malaysia Islamic Party (Parti Islam Se-Malaysia, PAS) has governed the state of Kelantan on the northeastern coast of peninsular Malaysia for most of Malaysia's post-independence history.

Until 2020, PAS functioned as an opposition party at the federal level, going against the government led by its long-time nemesis the politically stronger and better resourced United Malays National Organisation (UMNO). The David-versus-Goliath story has made PAS's longevity and durability in Kelantan all the more impressive for having endured decades of marginalization by the federal government. This has to an extent led to the state's laggard developmental growth and poor socio-economic indicators.

PAS has often been portrayed by the mainstream media as an anachronistic and extremist party ill-equipped to cope with, much less solve, the myriad challenges faced by modern society.

Notwithstanding PAS's shortcomings, this article provides an analysis of the factors that have allowed the party to remain in power in Kelantan for so long. It argues that after winning back Kelantan from UMNO in 1990, PAS transformed itself into a modern, well-oiled political machine, particularly when it comes to socializing its agenda to the people of Kelantan and reaching out to many out-of-state Kelantan voters.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841341>

Tragic Nation Burma: Why and How Democracy Failed / Amitav Acharya

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022

Xvii, 311p.

9789815017762

\$ 26.90 / PB
358gm.

A decade ago, Burma was full of light and hope. Today, it has descended into darkness and despair. The once promising political and opening up of the country has been set back, possibly for a long time. How did this happen?

Why? Many outside observers are surprised by the developments, but it was predictable. For those watching Burma the February 2021 coup was in the making for some time. Its seeds were planted in the constitution, which created false expectations on both the military and the civilian parties that both sides are going to emerge as long-term winners. The political leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi, the determination of her supporters to gain absolute control of the country at the expense of the military, and the over-dependence on her by her party without a succession plan, were other contributing factors. The international community, including ASEAN, was blindsided by short-term business considerations.

ASEAN saw Burma's entry into the regional grouping as a major geopolitical gain, without keeping an eye on the gathering political storm inside the country. ASEAN's principle of non-interference led to lack a lack of concern for Burma's domestic developments. This book will provide a timely and insightful account of the political situation in Burma, assessing why the country experienced the coup, what the implications are for the people of Burma and the Southeast Asian region, and what role the international community can play to prevent Burma becoming a failed state.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841342>

Rising China and New Chinese Migrants in Southeast Asia / (Eds) Leo Suryadinata & Benjamin Loh
Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2022
355p.

Includes Index
9789815011586
\$ 38.00 / PB
460gm.

New Chinese migration is a recent development that has just entered an initial phase. An overarching theme and conclusion across the sixteen chapters in this volume is that China's policy towards Chinese migrants has changed from period to period, and it is still too early for us to determine if Beijing will continue to pursue the policy of *luoye guigen* (return to original roots) or will revert to one of *luodi shenggen* (sink into local roots). The various chapters also show that the profile, motivations and outlooks of *xin yimin* (new Chinese migrants) have become more diverse, while local reactions to these new migrants have become less accommodating with increasing nationalism.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=838977>

Beyond the Handshake: Singapore's Foreign Service / (Ed) Lawrence Anderson
Singapore: World Scientific, 2022
Xxix, 167p.

9789811260162
\$ 35.00 / PB
332gm.

From independence in 1965, Singapore has experienced a meteoric rise to a modern developed city-state. What is less known is the part played by its foreign policy or by the men and women who contributed to its implementation and success. Here, several of Singapore's senior diplomats and Ambassadors tell in their own words, how they did their work, their experiences, their achievements and the challenges that they faced in promoting and safeguarding Singapore's strategic security and economic interests.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841343>

Freedom of Religion in Malaysia: The Situation and Attitudes of "Deviant" Muslim Groups / Mohd Faizal Musa

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2022

37p.

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815011616

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issues No.16, 2022

\$ 12.00 / PB

90gm.

Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), published by the United Nations in 1948, states that "everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

Malaysia recently won its bid to sit on the United Nations Human Rights Council from 2022 to 2024. However, while the country's constitution is progressive in underlining the rights of religious minorities, this is severely lacking in practice as it exercises heavy regulation on religion, combined with restrictions on the practices of certain faiths.

Based on interviews and focus group discussions conducted in Malaysia, this paper uncovers the challenges faced by religious minorities in the country, and how treatment of them at the hands of religious authorities is illustrative of encroachments on their right to the freedom of religion. The groups that will be focused on are the Millah Ibrahim (Abrahamic Faith), the Baha'i faith, and the Ahmadiyah faith, all of which have been banned by the religious authorities.

It was found that the three groups navigate their respective situations differently. For example, Millah Ibrahim adherents are very conscious of the repression that they face, and have resorted to propagating their teachings in secret and migrating to countries that are more lenient towards them. On the other hand, the Baha'i community feel they have relative freedom to practise their rituals despite the *fatwa* which bans their movement, and therefore do not see the need to take legal action against the authorities. This is in contrast to the Ahmadiyah adherents who use legal means (such as court cases) to counteract the repression towards them.

Considering the precarious position of these groups, it is recommended that religious authorities engage with these minority groups so as to deepen their understanding of these groups and to properly assess the perceived threat that they allegedly pose. Such engagement would also allow Malaysia to uphold its commitment to human rights

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841345>

Sociology

The Visible Invisibles: Stories of Migrant Workers in Asia / Shivaji Das & Yolanda Yu

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022

Xvi, 213p.

9789815017786

\$ 25.90 / PB

312gm.

A domestic worker from the Philippines runs away from her husband who's set out to kill her. A mine-blaster looks at his X-ray scan to realize that all he has earned from his sixteen years of work is a catalogue of chronic diseases. An undocumented factory worker in Malaysia takes refuge in the wild to escape from the police.

A construction worker in India is abducted and sold as a bride to a stranger. Migrant sex

workers in Thailand scrimp to stretch their vanishing savings, having lost all their customers due to COVID-19. A cleaner from China struggles to cope with the cultural oddities while working in an Indian restaurant. Domestic workers in Singapore lament the hopelessness of finding love in a foreign land. A landscaper tries to rebuild his life with a reconstructed 'alien' face after he suffers a massive explosion. A project engineer who once hated his native village, now plants trees to preserve its nature.

Told in their own voices, the stories presented in this collection paint an intimate portrait of the lives of low-wage migrant workers in Asia. By exploring themes of employer-employee power imbalance, love, death, religion, racism, friendship, alienation, family dynamics, digital inequality, social liberties, and migration's transformative capacity, the collected stories provide a nuanced understanding of domestic and international migration, one of the defining trends in our world today.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841347>

Brown Is Redacted: Reflecting on Race in Singapore / (Ed) Kristian-Marc James Paul (et al.)
Singapore: Ethos Books, 2022

220p.

9789811852725

\$ 25.00 / PB

328gm.

Brown is Redacted: Reflecting on Race in Singapore 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 minority-race narratives staged at The Substation in 2021, this anthology reflects 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.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841348>

Singapore and Mental Health / Hun Ming Kwang

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022

Xx, 316p.

9789815058277

Threading Worlds: Conversations on Mental Health Series

\$ 22.90 / PB

360gm.

Singapore and Mental Health zooms out to take a bird's eye view of the mental health landscape in Singapore. The author speaks to psychiatrists, psychologists, politicians and community leaders to find out how we are dealing with mental health as a nation, and what we can do to better support each other as a collective.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841349>

Growing Pains / Hun Ming Kwang

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022

Xx, 228p.

9789815058253

Threading Worlds: Conversations on Mental Health Series

\$ 22.90 / PB

270gm.

Growing Pains talks about pains experienced by children and youth that can leave deep emotional wounds on us. In our formative years, we yearn to be accepted and loved by our family and friends, all while trying to find our place and identity in the world. As we show the people around us who we are, an identity that is still in its raw and unchanged form, it can sometimes be met with disappointment and rejection even from those closest to us. These experiences can either make us stronger and more resilient individuals, or tear our inner worlds apart. Trauma is a word that is still very often misunderstood. Just the word alone by itself carries a negative taboo and social stigma. We have an obligation to re-educate ourselves in our understanding of how we become the person we are today, such that we can move our lives forward to the future that we yearn of, and to pay it forward to the next generation and ensure that they become the best version of themselves through their growing years.

Today, young people have to find their way in an increasingly noisy and uncertain world, on top of navigating their relationships with family, friends and loved ones. The stories in this book capture the challenges of youth, and provide insights on what it takes to support the young as they go through the ups and downs of life.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841351>

Stories We Don't Tell / Hun Ming Kwang

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022

Xx, 204p.

9789815058246

Threading Worlds: Conversations on Mental Health Series

\$ 22.90 / PB

250gm.

Stories We Don't Tell consists of a series of heartfelt and moving repositories of conversations with people who have lived experiences of mental health challenges. These candid talks revealed not just the challenges these individuals faced, but the immense amount of courage and strength and self-love they carried throughout their mental health journey.

While the mental health conversation was elevated in 2020, people have always been navigating mental health issues, whether it be through major life changes, relationship difficulties, financial struggles or more. Understanding how life's challenges affect our mental and emotional states is crucial if we want to become a society that is more compassionate towards each other. An unexamined life is not worth living, and an un-lived life is not worth examining. These raw transcribed stories from dialogues that were taken in real time will take you through the personal journeys of those who lived, and are still living, with mental health-and hopefully allow you to better understand what mental health truly is, beyond the hearsay.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841352>

Far From My Hospital Bed: Reflections on the Pandemic and Society / Teresita Cruz Del Rosario

Singapore: Penguin Books, 2022

Xxii, 194p.

9789814954457

\$ 27.90 / PB

292gm.

Far From My Hospital Bed is a collection of non-fiction essays that were assembled over two years, starting from the author's twenty-five day stay in a Singapore hospital recovering from COVID-19. It is a book that is part story-telling, part autobiography, part meditation, part memory, part history, part sociology, and part manifesto.

There are many tones in each of the essays: sorrow, grief, fear, anxiety, enthusiasm, admiration, celebration, remembrance, humour, sarcasm, admonishment. There are chapters on gardens, noodles, toilet paper, God, Twiggy, sex, Zoom, and the Apocalypse. Finally, this book is big on hope for a redemptive future for humanity and a plea to remake our world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=841353>
