

Recent Books from Singapore – Dec 2023

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Art

Fragments from Afar / Julienne Tan & Alessandro Hsueh-Bruni
Singapore: Knuckles & Notch, 2023
32p. ; 28cm. ; 3 colour Risograph zine
9789811879005
\$ 55.00 / PB
134gm.

Fragments from Afar is an exploration into an unknown landscape revealed only by snap shots and journal entries by an unnamed individual, documenting the intrigue of a place that defies all logic and reason, yet feels so similar to scenes from back home.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858572>

Glass Heart / Genie Ink
Singapore: Knuckles & Notch, 2023
28p. ; 18.9x 27.6cm ; 6 colour Risograph art book
9789811870910
\$ 75.00 / PB
104gm.

A new series by Genie Ink explores the themes of metamorphosis and reincarnation in mahou shoujo anime.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858573>

Trapped in Amber: Scenes from a False Museum / Shian (Ng Yin Shian)
Singapore: Knuckles & Notch, 2023
20p. ; 19.5x26.5cm. ; 5 colour Risograph zine
9789811880193
\$ 65.00 / PB
80gm.

Trapped in Amber: Scenes from a False Museum plays on the specific staged temporality of sentience and being that seems to exist only within natural history museums. So, it follows, that the zine features vignettes from a fictional unnatural museum, with its bizarre beasts trapped within the amber of a moment.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858575>

Fifty Years Too Late / Djohan Hanapi
Singapore: Knuckles & Notch, 2023
24p. ; 15.8x22.2cm. ; 4 colour Risograph zine
9789811844898
\$ 65.00 / PB

64gm.

Fifty Years too Late is a collection of crayon-drawings of film-stills illustrating a series of deadpan poetic romances and heartbreaks through the unexpected playfulness of dialogue.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858576>

Manila Galleon: From Asia to the Americas / Clement Ong
Singapore: Asian Civilisations Museum, 2024
85p.
9789811883910
\$ 35.00/ PB
252gm.

Manila Galleon: From Asia to the Americas explores a centurieslong trade that connected Asia to Europe and the Americas. From 1565 to 1815, enormous ships laden with porcelain, silk, ivory, spices, and other goods sailed annually across the Pacific from Manila to Acapulco, returning with millions of pieces of silver to purchase more goods. This publication accompanies the exhibition of the same name at the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore, which runs from 16 November 2023 to 17 March 2024. Introductory essays and 30 highlight objects reveal how people, goods, and ideas circulating through Mexico and the Philippines created a distinctive cultural and artistic heritage that was shared across oceans.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860985>

Picturing the Pandemic: A Visual Record of COVID-19 in Singapore / Chung May Khuen (et al.) (Ed) Stephanie Yeo
Singapore: National Museum of Singapore, 2021
162p.
9789811829079
\$ 45.00 / HB
660gm.

At the onset of the circuit breaker in Singapore in April 2020, the National Museum of Singapore (NMS) commissioned five local photographers and two filmmakers to document the pandemic as it was experienced. The submitted photo stories and film were curated and presented in an exhibition titled Picturing the Pandemic: A Visual Record of COVID-19 in Singapore, which was held at the museum from 27 February to 17 October 2021. Picturing the Pandemic presented a rich and multi-layered account of the pandemic in Singapore, from new ways of living to the experiences of essential workers and vulnerable communities. Through the exhibition, NMS sought to encourage the sharing of collective memory and to provoke a response through the stories made visible. This publication offers behind-the-scenes insight into the perspectives of NMS's curatorial team as they embarked on a rapid response to document, collect and present a range of experiences of this pivotal period in Singapore's contemporary history, as and when it happened.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860986>

Biography/Memoirs

Wais Na Misis: The Wise Homemaker / Neri Miranda
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023
x, 162p.
9789815127980

\$ 18.90 / HB
396gm.

If you have enjoyed and learned from the snippets of my life as a 'Wais Na Misis', through my Instagram and Facebook posts, you'll most certainly get a kick out of the untold stories you'll find in the pages of this book.

It wasn't always easy for me, but when life threw me lemons I didn't dodge or flinch. Instinctively, I caught every piece and turned the bunch into lemonade, lemon meringue pie, lemon-scented hand soap, and home deodorizer, and sold them all! Sometimes, I'd wonder when another lemon would come my way just so I can use it to my advantage again.

You get the picture.

As a mompreneur, I was never given any manual on how to effectively navigate through life. But it somehow knew what it needed to teach me, through experiences and the people around me, at the right moment.

So, here I am paying it forward to you, my fellow wais na misis.

Being wise takes time. It takes a lot of experience and a load of crushing and pruning in order to reach the stage of becoming fine wine that everyone can enjoy.

May this book serve as your bestie; the handy dandy survival guide you're looking for as you journey into the intimidating yet marvelous world of motherhood and entrepreneurship. Each page is brimming with meaty tips and tricks that I have learned from the best mentor I've ever had-LIFE.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860987>

There are No Falling Stars in China and Other Life Lessons from a Recovering Journalist / Marga Ortigas

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

xx, 212p.

9789815127898

\$ 20.90 / PB

258gm.

In this collection of poignant and uplifting essays, seasoned international journalist Marga Ortigas shares what she's learned from over two decades of covering conflict, humanitarian crises, and political turmoil. Each chapter explores a different assignment location, taking you up-close as the author reflects on what endures after life's triumphs and tragedies. Ortigas' engaging writing style and wealth of experience will transport you from the war-torn Iraqi desert to the snow-covered steppes of Mongolia, bustling Brazilian beaches, rugged Irish cliffs, and even a pop concert in South Korea, leaving you with a newfound understanding of the human condition.

Heartfelt and humorous, There Are No Falling Stars in China is a must-read for anyone interested in storytelling, global affairs, or simply gaining a richer appreciation of the world we live in. It's a true gem you won't want to put down, filled with insight and inspiration that will stay with you long after you've turned the final page.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860988>

Routes 2: A Singaporean Memoir 1976-2000 / Robert Yeo

Singapore: World Image Pte Ltd, 2023

216p.

9789811866234

1. Yeo, Robert.
2. Authors, Singapore – Biography.
3. Singapore – Biography.

\$ 25.00 / PB
328gm.

Routes 2 continues the story of Routes: A Singaporean Memoir 1945-75. This book occasionally disrupts the narrative to take in dramatic digressions into the events that the author considers people he knows or events that are politically important. In this stage of life of his family, cultural and literary activities take on an important focus as well.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860989>

Art of Joy: The Journey of Yip Yew Chong / Woon Tai Ho
Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., 2024
248p.
9789811278716
\$ 28.00 / PB
426gm.

How does a certified accountant become an artist? How did the world of finance instruct his art to make him the unlikely artist that he is today? How has his art been able to bring so much joy to Singaporeans and foreigners alike? Art of Joy unravels the fascinating story of Yip Yew Chong, from the moment his ability to draw was spotted in kindergarten, his early humble years in Chinatown, the strong bond with his mother, grandmother and aunt, to his marriage, children and corporate success.

This book tells the story of planning for one's second act, and how that can be more successful and more fulfilling than the first. Few know that Yip only started painting murals in 2015, or that he only devoted himself to his craft full-time in 2018. Yip's success in painting came only after his success in the world of finance, but painting was his first love. He cradled this love through his corporate life, never letting go, and switched to paint full time only when he was ready. The art of joy is also the art of knowing what makes us and keeps us happy, and how that happiness is shown and shared.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860990>

Building History: An Architectural Legacy / Gan Eng Oon
Singapore: Gan Eng Oon (Self-Published), 2023
128p.
9789811866111
\$ 25.00 / PB
264gm.

Singapore is no stranger to iconic buildings, with a landmark growth of audacious, inspired, and innovative structures. While her inhabitants are familiar with prominent and acclaimed developments such as the Esplanade, Golden Mile Complex, People's Park Complex, Wisma Atria, Suntec City, and Nanyang Polytechnic, most are unfamiliar with the architects who designed and created them. Gan Eng Oon is one of Singapore's most prolific architects and one of four longterm partners of Design Partnership since 1975 before DP Architects succeeded it.

This memoir chronicles Gan's younger days, and his personal and professional experiences while leading Design Partnership and subsequently, DP Architects. DPA is one of the world's top 10 most innovative building designers with offices in Singapore, China, India and Indonesia, clients all over the world and global respect for their projects. Having managed a multitude of projects, Gan recollects and surveys his most memorable projects that have included the island state's most iconic structures and analyses the craft and thought process behind these distinctive buildings. Building History is an expansive view of how architecture

has shaped Singapore's physical, living, and social environment, and how both culture and architecture are interdependent and inseparable.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860991>

Writer's Postcards / Dipika Mukherjee

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

x, 198p.

9789815058772

\$ 18.90 / PB

228gm.

Part travelogue, part memoir, and part commentary, *Writer's Postcards* is a collection of essays that examine imagination and culture through the lens of geography. A flâneuse and person of the world, Dipika Mukherjee takes readers through various encounters from her highly mobile life: the lugubrious literature of Brazil; the linguistic diversity in China and Tibet; and meeting the Dalai Lama while travelling as a lone woman through New Delhi. She examines the political unrest in Myanmar after the brief international reach of Burmese books; weighs in on Chicago's literary landmarks and famous writers; reminisces on the languid feasting of Diwali celebrations at Port Dickson by the Malaysian-Bengali community; and finds new notions of home, identity, and belonging in the Netherlands-among many others.

Thought-provoking and unabashed in its entirety, this is a collection of essays that goes beyond the personal and communal to examine issues of international concern.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860992>

Six Saturdays of Beyblade and Other Essays / Ferdinand Pisigan Jarin (Translator) John Leihmar C. Toledo

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

x, 134p.

9789815058994

\$ 20.90 / PB

160gm.

Quinabuan and the glorious marching band.

Cembo, Makati and the burning Ship.

Baclaran, Manila at night, for the lost and homeless.

In these ten personal essays, a father confesses in gripping narratives his coming of age without a father, of working at an early age, of finding love in hopeless places, of losing a son to leukemia, and of accepting the language of pain. In *Six Saturdays of Beyblade and Other Essays*, bestselling author Ferdinand Pisigan Jarin brings us back to memories of being a tennis ball picker in a lavish country club, of achieving his dreams as the smallest member of a countryside marching band, and of drinking Michael Jordan and Olajuwon as breakfast juice inside a walk-in freezer with fellow service crew members. He also introduces us to his exes and lost first loves. He lends us a list of his fist fights, those he knocked down during drinking sessions or brawls, his antics in the field of love, and the truth behind escaping the convent. Sometimes he is a son, sometimes a father, and sometimes a friend who vividly shares without beating around the bush. Written with a cinematic eye, Jarin bares it all, fair and square, no more or less. Most of all, no entrance fee.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860993>

Eggs for Dinner: A restaurateur who sees the world differently / Guy Wachs

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

196p.
9789815058925
\$ 24.90 / PB
214gm.

Eggs for Dinner encompasses business innovation through a touching personal journey. This book is timely addressing the impact of COVID-19 and the essentials on how to survive in this precarious environment. Guy's journey via Israel, Europe, the USA, Thailand, and finally the opening of the highly successful restaurant, Wild Honey in Singapore, has given him a wealth of experience in the restaurant business.

Wachs gives a vivid and touching account of growing up in Israel the son of a restaurateur, failed ventures, the rigours of hotel school in the Black Forest in Germany, and his time working in New York. Accounts of meeting movie stars to driving Russian presidents to secret locations are some of the colourful experiences he shares. His journey took him to Thailand where a successful stint in Bangkok and a move to Singapore culminated in his lifelong dream of opening his own restaurant. Surviving the worst of the pandemic focuses Wachs on the future of both his business and his personal life.

A must-read for anyone who wants to go into the restaurant business, this is also ultimately a story about navigating difficulties coping with failure and how a humble dishwasher managed to achieve his dream. While so many restaurants have become casualties of COVID-19, Wild Honey continues to be a popular destination, and the reasons for its continued success can be found in the pages of this memoir.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860994>

Comics/Graphic Novel

The Showgirl and the Minister / Felix Cheong (Illustrator) Arif Rafhan
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

1v.
9789815144314
\$ 17.90 / PB
286gm.

Sydney, 1966. Flower power is in full swing. The Cold War is at its height. Somewhere in Kings Cross, Singapore's former Chief Minister Lim Yew Hock is missing. Now the Malaysian High Commissioner to Australia, he had left his home in Canberra without a word of where he had gone.

Is he dead? During his reign as Chief Minister, he had cracked down hard on the Communists, and they will want to settle scores with him.

Is he in hiding from mounting debts? Lim is known for his punts on the horses on weekends. Or is he mixed up in Cold War espionage? One of his ministers, Chew Swee Kee, was alleged to have received money from the CIA – and there're rumours Lim had his share of it.

And how is a 19-year-old stripper, Sandra Nelson, Russian by birth, involved in this shady business? Is she Lim's honey trap?

Private detective Dave Chen has to unravel these tangled knots of political intrigue and personal trauma – and confront his own demons.

Written in poetic form by Felix Cheong and wonderfully illustrated by Arif Rafhan, The Showgirl and the Minister is inspired by the real-life disappearance of Lim over ten days in 1966.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860995>

Cookbook

Heritage Food of the Peranakan Indians in a Chitty Melaka Kitchen / Peranakan Indian (Chitty Melaka) Association Singapore (PIA)

Singapore: Peranakan Indian (Chitty Melaka) Association Singapore (PIA), 2023
200p.

Includes Index

9789811876387

\$ 75.00 / HB

1396gm.

This book is a treasured collection of close to 100 Peranakan Indian recipes, ranging from everyday dishes to festive fare. Each recipe is inspired by the skills and stories of different members of the community. Using the collective voice of Nenek (an affectionate term for grandmother) to capture the warmth of a typical Chitty Melaka kitchen, we invite everyone to savour the flavours of a small and distinctive community.

The Peranakan Indians are the descendants of the intermarriages between early South Indian settlers and the Malay, Chinese and other local communities. Beginning from the 15th century in the cosmopolitan port city of Melaka, our hybrid culture has evolved over time, with our cuisine and spoken language bearing close resemblance to the well-known Baba-Nonya community. What makes us unique would be our roots in the Chitty Village in Melaka; indeed, tracing this long lineage is a source of pride, even as many have settled far and wide across the globe.

Compiling the recipes and associated traditions has been a labour of love, undertaken by the Peranakan Indian (Chitty Melaka) Association and its supporters.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=859194>

Tales from the Yeast Indies: NerdBaker 2 / Christopher Tan

Singapore: Epigram Books, 2024

256p. ; 250x190mm.

Includes Index

9789815105407

Nerdbaker Series

\$ 39.90 / PB

696gm.

The NerdBaker returns with more unique bakes for all.

Best-selling food writer and cooking instructor Christopher Tan is back with a bang following the triumph of NerdBaker. From familiar favourites such as butterfly fritters and youtiao to special-occasion bakes like Pandan Kaya Butterkuchen and Durian Tropezienne, Tales from the Yeast Indies blends fun and sophistication in baking. Featuring over 60 recipes written in a quirky yet detailed manner, this is perfect for bakers of all backgrounds.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860996>

Singapore Hawker Centres: People, Places, Food / Lily Kong

Second Edition

Singapore: National Environment Agency & National Heritage Board, 2023

240p.

9789811883279

\$ 35.00 / HB

1194gm.

Immerse yourself in the vibrant tapestry of Singapore's culinary heritage as you journey through the pages of this book.

From the sizzle of char kway teow to the fragrant aroma of chicken rice, this second edition (2023) of *Singapore Hawker Centres: People, Places, Food* is an updated version of the first volume, published in 2007. It updates readers on developments over the last decade and a half, bringing the reader through the highs and lows of hawker culture, from the remarkable inscription of hawker culture on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, to the challenges wrought by the Covid-19 pandemic.

As you savour the tantalising images, dive into stories of myriad individuals, share in the spirit of community, while working your way through new business models and revised government policies, you'll come to understand why hawker culture is an invaluable part of Singapore's society and cultural heritage.

This book is a passport to a world of flavours, a culture of community and a living heritage. Embark on this remarkable journey and discover the heart and soul of Singapore's Hawker Culture.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860997>

Economics

Public Financial Management: Cambodian Experiences / General Secretariat of Public Financial Management Reform Steering / (Eds) Vinel Yeth, Youthy Um & Penghuy Ngov
Singapore/Cambodia: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute) & Ministry of Economy and Finance, 2023

xxiv, 192p.

Includes Index; Bibliographical References

9789815104073

1. Finance, Public – Cambodia.
2. Cambodia – Economic policy.
3. Cambodia – Politics and government.

\$ 28.90 / PB

278gm.

Public Financial Management: Cambodian Experiences is prepared by the General Secretariat of Public Financial Management Reform Steering Committee (GSC) to promote general understanding and knowledge of Public Financial Management (PFM) among government officials and the general public. The book starts with an overview of PFM in Cambodia, with a brief introduction to the discipline of public financial management. It then discusses Cambodia's experience in implementing PFM reform and its impact on public finance in general. After that, it also shows how PFM has reformed the government budgeting process and the challenges in its implementation. Finally, case studies of Cambodian reform efforts and selected ASEAN and OECD countries' experiences with PFM reform are presented. We, GSC hope that this book can be a good resource for those who are interested in PFM reform in Cambodia and lessons learnt for other developing countries.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860998>

Chinese Investments in Southeast Asia: Patterns and Significance / Evelyn Goh & Liu Nan
Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute), 2023

xiv, 142p.

Includes Index; Bibliographical References

9789815104578

1. Investments, Chinese – Southeast Asia.

2. China – Foreign relations – Southeast Asia.

3. Southeast Asia – Foreign relations – China.

\$ 36.00 / PB

500gm.

Southeast Asia's growing economic linkages with China have generated political opportunities and strategic concerns in equal measure. This study provides a fuller picture of Chinese investments in Southeast Asia for those seeking to understand its significance and impacts. From their carefully constructed dataset, Goh and Liu provide a regionwide, multi-sectoral analysis quantitative survey and analysis of key changes in Chinese investments in Southeast Asian economies over fifteen years, from 2005 to 2019.

Additionally, they provide a qualitative assessment of the geopolitical significance of these trends and patterns. Thus, this study creates a baseline understanding of more recent Chinese investments in the region. In the near future, when a feasible data series can be collated for the years from 2020, it will also allow a sharper analysis of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Chinese investments in the region.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860999>

History

Remembering Singapore River: Heritage and Memory of Lives and Leisures / Wong Chee Meng & Mohamed Imran Mohamed

Singapore: Centre for Interfaith Understanding (CIFU) & National Heritage Board, 2023
188p.

Includes Index; Select Bibliography

9789811882531

1. Singapore River (Singapore) – History – 20th century.

2. Rivers – Singapore – History – 20th century.

3. Singapore – History – 20th century.

4. Singapore – Social life and customs – 20th century.

\$ 50.00 / PB

636gm.

Singapore has stood at the crossroads of cultures for centuries. The riverbanks of the long and winding Singapore River are witness to many generations of people who eked out a living, plied their trades and sought refuge from the hustle and bustle through spirituality and leisure.

British colonial rule defined the beginning of Singapore's modern history two centuries ago. Gradual transformation was setting in by the time Singapore achieved self-rule. The rapid industrialising era of the 1980s saw the Singapore River reshaped into a node of commerce with sights and sounds that offered a combination of tourist sites and local entertainment. It was, and continues to be, an exciting proposition with a cosmopolitan outlook.

As various buildings, enclaves and institutions along the Singapore River are consigned to history over time, its landscape reminds us of the sights and sounds of the past. Who were our forefathers? What shaped the cultures that flourished here through the decades? What made us a unique multicultural society?

This is the story of the Singapore River. and our multicultural heritage.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861000>

Sport in Singapore: The Rocky Road to Kallang Park / Nick Aplin (Ed) Dr William L Gibson (et al.)
Singapore: Sport Singapore, 2023
340p.
9789811870859
\$ 40.00 / PB
1402gm.

This book chronicles the country's sporting transformation from the late 1940s to 1973. The book highlights a number of landmarks in the evolution of sport in Singapore. The colonial influence persisted for a while, but gradually the exclusive atmosphere receded, and a more community-based approach took over. The inclusive perspective remains a key element to this day. Achievements in the sporting scene demonstrated that there were periods of both ascendancy and decline in the sporting arena. Medals were won with the sports of competitive swimming and water polo leading the way. Weightlifting provided the first Olympic medal and football caught the imagination of a large proportion of the spectating population. Heroes and heroines graced the stage and acted as role models for the new generations.

The Rocky Road represents a glimpse of the ups and downs that confronted the sporting community and if there is an invisible, yet potent theme, that helps to define the identity of the culture of sport in Singapore, it is the role of the value system that has developed. The shared experiences of Singaporeans and the prevailing values serve to create and elevate the identity of a sporting nation. The National Stadium and the Singapore Sports Council represented the key catalysts for developing desirable values linked to sport.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861001>

Sport in Singapore: Visions for Change / Nick Aplin (Ed) Dr William L Gibson (et al.)
Singapore: Sport Singapore, 2023
456p.
9789811883774
\$ 40.00 / PB
1834gm.

The book is a 50-year Commemorative book about the Singapore Sports Council (1973 – 2023).

The second book in the trilogy (Sport in Singapore. The Rocky Road to Kallang Park) explored the construction of the National Stadium and the establishment of the Singapore Sports Council, both events happening in 1973. Fifty years later, examining and mapping the progress and successes associated with the Singapore Sports Council (now Sport Singapore) is possible. The task defined by CEO Lim Teck Yin in 2020 was to commemorate half a century of a vibrant statutory board and identify those operational characteristics that will ensure a healthy, successful and resilient future.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861002>

Raffles Revisited: Essays in Collecting and Colonialism in Java, Singapore, and Sumatra / Leonard Y. Andaya: Stephen A. Murphy (et al.)
Singapore: Asian Civilisations Museum. 2021
340p.
9789811816680
\$ 75.00 / PB
872gm.

This book of essays arose out of the Revisiting Raffles symposium and evening lectures at the Asian Civilisations Museum held in conjunction with the exhibition Raffles in Southeast Asia: Revisiting the Scholar and Statesman (1 February to 28 April 2019). Contributions from scholars, writers, and an artist – based in Singapore and internationally – explore issues surrounding collecting, colonialism, and writing about the culture and past of Southeast Asia.

Part One revisits Raffles, the man and the myth, questioning and correcting much previous scholarship. Part Two provides fresh perspectives on aspects of the art, architecture, and historiography of Java, Singapore, and the Malay world. Part Three explores the role natural history, past civilisations, and landscapes played in the colonial project.

Overall, the volume offers new approaches and perspectives to Singapore and Southeast Asia's colonial past.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861003>

Reflections at Bukit Chandu: Stories and Legacies of the Malay Regiment, Opium Hill and Pasir Panjang / Rachel Eng, Syafiqah Jaafar & Iskandar Mydin (Ed) Stephanie Yeo
Singapore: National Museum of Singapore, 2022

72p.

9789811819827

1. Great Britain. Army. Malay Regiment.
2. Singapore – History – Japanese occupation, 1942-1945.
3. Singapore – History – 20th century.
4. Visitors' centers – Singapore.

\$ 25.00 / PB

200gm.

Reflections at Bukit Chandu is a World War Two interpretative centre that commemorates the Battle of Pasir Panjang and the men of the Malay Regiment who fought in it, as well as the history of Bukit Chandu itself. Written by the curators of Reflections at Bukit Chandu, this catalogue and compendium offers a closer look at the history and stories of Pasir Panjang. From the history of the Malay Regiment and the Battle of Pasir Panjang in February 1942 to how Bukit Chandu (Malay for "Opium Hill") got its name, discover the rich past of the area from the early 14th century till today.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861004>

Strangers in the Family: Gender, Patriline, and the Chinese in Colonial Indonesia / Guo-Quan Seng

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2023

xvi, 256p.

Includes Index; Bibliography

9789815104677

1. Chinese overseas – Indonesia – History – 20th century,
2. Chinese overseas – Indonesia – History – 19th century.
3. Women – Indonesia – Social conditions – History – 20th century.
4. Women – Indonesia – Social conditions – History – 19th century.
5. Interethnic marriage – Social aspects – Indonesia.
6. Indonesia – Ethnic relations.

\$ 29.90 / PB

346gm,

In Strangers in the Family, Guo-Quan Seng provides a gendered history of settler Chinese community formation in Indonesia during the Dutch colonial period (1816–1942). At the

heart of this story lies the creolization of patrilineal Confucian marital and familial norms to the colonial legal, moral, and sexual conditions of urban Java.

Departing from male-centered narratives of overseas Chinese communities, *Strangers in the Family* tells the history of community formation from the perspective of women who were subordinate to, and alienated from, full Chinese selfhood. From native concubines and mothers, creole Chinese daughters, and wives and matriarchs to the first generation of colonial-educated feminists, Seng showcases women's moral agency as they negotiated, manipulated, and debated men in positions of authority over their rights in marriage formation and dissolution. In dialogue with critical studies of colonial Eurasian intimacies, this book explores Asian-centered interethnic patterns of intimate encounters. It shows how contestations over women's place in marriage and in society were formative of a Chinese racial identity in colonial Indonesia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=859198>

Colonial Law Making: Cambodia Under the French / Sally Frances Low

ASAA Southeast Asia Publications Series

Singapore: NUS Press, 2024

xxvi, 250p.

Includes Index; Bibliography

9789813252448

1. Law – Cambodia – History – 19th century.

2. Law – Cambodia – History – 20th century.

3. Cambodia – Colonization.

4. Cambodia – History – 1863-1953.

5. France – Colonial – Asia.

\$ 38.50 / PB

402gm.

An important case study in the history of law under colonialism.

Covering a previously neglected area of Cambodian history, *Colonial Law Making* explores the structural forces and contingent exchanges that shaped colonial law in Cambodia and examines its post-independence colonial legacy.

The court of King Norodom and the temples of Angkor Wat became orientalist icons in the French colonial imagination, perpetuating an image of the Protectorate (1863–1953) as special and worthy of preservation. This contributed to exceptionalism in the way the Kingdom was colonized, including through law. Drawing on previously unexamined archival material, Sally Low presents a comparative case study of French approaches to colonial law, jurisdiction, and protection. Although the voices of non-elite Cambodians are largely absent from the archives, their influence on colonial law is evident as they resisted efforts to regulate their lives and their land. Low argues that the result was a set of state legal institutions and an indigenous jurisdiction that blended Cambodian and French notions of patronage and royal power as the source and authority for law.

This work is a case study of colonial law as an instrument of control and administration in an indirectly ruled colony. It adds depth to our understanding of the impact of European colonial law and the significance of different forms of colonial rule—direct, indirect, and unofficial. It is easily accessible for non-lawyers and is a must-read for those interested in the recent past of Southeast Asia and the countries that were previously colonized as French Indochina.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858577>

Now Boarding: Experiencing Singapore Through Travel 1800s – 2000s / Priscilla Chua, Kan

Shuyi & Miriam Yeo (Ed) Stephanie Yeo

Singapore: National Museum of Singapore, 2023

200p.

9789811870071

1. Singapore – History – 19th century.
2. Singapore – History – 20th century.
3. Singapore – Social life and customs – 19th century.
4. Singapore – Social life and customs – 20th century.
5. Singapore – Description and travel.

\$ 35.00 / PB

298gm.

How does Singapore see itself? How do we present ourselves to the world, and how do others see us? *Now Boarding: Experiencing Singapore through Travel, 1800s–2000s* traces Singapore's identity through the medium of travel, examining the ways in which Singapore has been depicted and perceived by travellers who have arrived at our shores from past to present. The exhibition draws on the National Museum of Singapore's rich collection to explore the visual language that has both shaped and depicted our unique identity. Inspired by a travel guidebook, artefacts ranging from postcards and posters from the 19th and 20th centuries to paraphernalia from the iconic Raffles Hotel and Singapore Airlines are presented through four key chapters: Getting Around, Places to Stay, Eating Out, and Sights and Shopping. We invite you to delve into these "chapters" to probe and reflect upon how Singapore is imagined, portrayed, and experienced by both locals and foreigners alike.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861005>

One Upon a Times House / Abdullah Tarmugi (et al.) (Eds) Clement Mesenas & Sonny Yap
Singapore: TRCL, 2023

176p.

9789811871658

\$ 35.00 / PB

188gm.

For more than 40 years, Times House was the home of Singapore's English- and Malay-language press, including *The Straits Times*, *The Business Times*, *Berita Harian* and the now-defunct *New Nation*.

Once Upon a Times House offers a glimpse of the people who worked there, what they did and how they did it.

The collection of stories from veteran editors and journalists span the last few decades. The team behind the book hopes the stories will inspire young journalists and showcase Singapore's history of journalism and leading newspapers' transformative years to the wider community. The book also includes archival photographs of Singapore's history.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861006>

Law

Modern Law of Copyright in Singapore / David Llewelyn (et al.)

Monograph Series

Singapore: SAL-Academy Publishing, 2023

lxxx, 474p.

Includes Index

9789811883682

\$ 175.00 / PB

836gm.

Copyright law today covers far more than its original subject matter of books, drama, music and art. For example, it can now be used to protect computer programs or online games, and those who invest in the making of films, sound recordings, broadcasts and cable programmes.

Singapore's new and updated Copyright Act 2021, which comes more than 30 years after the passage of the Copyright Act 1987, protects a wide range of stakeholders. These include owners of copyright, authors (even after their work has been sold) and performers (to stop unauthorised streaming of live performances). To ensure a balanced system, it provides for users an extensive list of permitted uses of others' copyright works and performances.

Modern Law of Copyright in Singapore is a detailed and comprehensive guide to this complex and nuanced area of the law. It takes readers through the new structure of the Act and sheds light on the courts' approach to interpretation and application by reviewing earlier case law and highlighting underlying objectives of copyright law.

Copyright law is of central importance to the healthy development of a vibrant and creative society – this book is highly recommended to practitioners, students and to anyone who is interested in learning about how copyright law protects the legitimate interests of rights owners while benefitting society as a whole.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860769>

Strata Title in Singapore and Malaysia, 7th Edition

Singapore: Lexis Nexis, 2024

1v.

9789815019575

\$ 495.00 / HB

The only authoritative book focusing exclusively on Strata Titles in Singapore and Malaysia.

- Contains substantial update to the law in Singapore and Malaysia as well as case law update since the 2020 edition
- Includes amendments made to the Singapore Building Maintenance and Strata Management Act, Land Titles (Strata) Act and the Sarawak legislation
- More than 30 new cases have been identified to reflect current positions based on judicial decisions made in Singapore and Malaysia
- Discusses also significant decisions of the Singapore Strata Titles Boards

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=850141>

THE ANNOTATED SINGAPORE COMPANIES ACT, SECOND EDITION / Tan Lay Hong

Singapore: Sweet & Maxwell, 2023

1v.

9789811886997

\$ 320.00 / HB

The Annotated Singapore Companies Act provides invaluable section-by-section annotations to the Singapore Companies Act, Cap 50 throwing light on the application and interpretation of the provisions of the Act.

The high-quality annotations are insightful, practical and authoritative, enabling a confident understanding of the workings of the Act. The key terms and phrases in each section are explained by reference to local and foreign case law as well as academic writing.

This publication facilitates quick and easy research with the inclusion of cross-references from the provision being annotated to related provisions which work together with it.

The impact of the wide-ranging amendments brought in by the Companies (Amendment) Act 2014 as well as the Companies (Amendment) Act 2017, and the consolidation of the

relevant sections on corporate rescue and insolvency with the Bankruptcy Act, Cap 20 into the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act, 2018 is covered to make this publication fully up-to-date.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861007>

SINGAPORE CIVIL PROCEDURE 2024 / (Ed) Cavinder Bull

Singapore: Sweet & Maxwell, 2023

1v. DUO (Volume 1 in print, Volume 1 & 2 in ProView eBook format)

9789811876714

\$ 1200.00 / HB

Helmed by General Editor, Cavinder Bull S.C., this publication is annotated by some of the pre-eminent practitioners in the field.

It is the leading title of its kind, presenting the most comprehensive coverage of Singapore Civil Procedure in both print and electronic format. This title provides the new Rules of Court in an annotated format and supplies supporting legislation and other material of significance.

Developments Since Last Edition

- Every Order reviewed and updated since 2022
- Updates on recent cases including:
 - Janesh s/o Rajkumar v Unknown Person ("CHEFPIERRE") [2023] 3 SLR 1191 re Singapore High Court's jurisdiction against an unknown person.
 - DMX Technologies Group Ltd (in liquidation) v Deloitte & Touche LLP [2023] 3 SLR 1167, the Singapore High Court considered the novel issue of the applicable test for non-party out of jurisdiction service under O 11 r 8 of the Rules of Court 2014.
 - The High Court in Leong Quee Ching Karen v Lim Soon Huat [2022] SGHC 309 clarified the appropriate test to be applied in a striking out application under O 9 r 16 of the Rules of Court 2021.
 - In HQH Capital Ltd v Chen Liping [2022] SGHC 215, the High Court had the opportunity to consider the nature and effect of Tomlin Orders.
 - Newspaper Seng Logistics Pte Ltd v Chiap Seng Productions Pte Ltd [2023] SGHC(A) 5, the Court identified the factors guiding its discretion to allow an extension of time for the Applicant to file and serve its notice of appeal out of time.
 - CSO v CSP and another [2023] SGHC 24, the High Court affirmed the "broad approach" to without prejudice privilege.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861008>

Literature

Kingdom of Blood and Gold / Joyce Chua

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

268p.

9789815058789

\$ 22.90 / PB

360gm.

Five Elementals. A fallen kingdom. One survivor to restore it.

Following the events of last winter, Desert Rose flees the Oasis Kingdom with the rogue prince Wei, his mother, and a newfound magical power in tow. When she learns that her father's soul is trapped in the Darklands and can only be freed if the prophesied Elemental

finds the spring, Desert Rose sets out to eliminate the other Elementals-starting with the one found in Oasis Kingdom's biggest enemy, Lettoria. Meanwhile, in the Oasis Kingdom, newly crowned emperor Meng finds his position jeopardised by the return of his older brother, the exiled Prince Han. To secure the throne (and his life), he travels to Lettoria with his secret assassin Windshadow and proposes an alliance.

As their fates cross again, Desert Rose and Windshadow must join hands to defeat the Metal Elemental while Wei and Meng collude to restore the kingdom-and home-they left behind. But when Lettoria and Oasis Kingdom finally clash in a long-brewing war, Han reveals his dark ambition and a secret weapon that will unmake the kingdom and threaten the fates of all involved . . . a weapon that only an Elemental can destroy.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861009>

Crocodile's Tears / Amado V. Hernandez; (Translator) Danton Remoto
Singapore: Penguin Classics (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023
328p.
9789815017854
Southeast Asian Classics Series
\$ 29.90 / PB
434gm.

The novel is set in the town of Sampilong which is under the conjugal dictatorship of Donya Leona and Don Severo Grande. They control the wealth and power in the town and use the institutions of politics, Church and law for their own ends. The townsfolk are composed of farmers and people living in depressed areas. Bandong, a teacher, serves as their leader and adviser. He educates the people and tries to bind them together to fight the wealthy and greedy couple.

The novel has wonderful set-pieces that vividly show the gap between the rich and the poor-the feast in the house of the rich as opposed to the imprisonment of Andres, the slum-dweller; the wake and the setting up of the cooperative; the wicked ways of the people under the control of the Grande family and the corrupt politicians. The novel ends when the townsfolk discover that the Grande family does not own the land they are claiming as theirs. The townsfolk have awakened from their slumber and decide to change the unjust system. They now have a newfound faith in themselves and their capacity to change their lives and the destiny of their country.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861010>

The Fabulist: A Novel / Uthis Haemamool; (Translators) Palin Ansusinha & Ploy Kingchatchaval
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023
380p.
9789815017052
\$ 34.90 / PB
502gm.

An immortal spirit cycles through multiple lives as a tree, a naga, a deer, a rock, and a human. A doctor suffers a stroke and embarks upon a quest for justice in the afterlife. A wife and mother lives out the soap opera of her dreams. A ghostwriter deals with the violent tragedy that befalls his family by turning it into fiction. A woman from the future struggles to break free from a life shaped by her lineage.

The Fabulist is an epic novel by Uthis Haemamool. Spooling out of the district of Kaeng Khoi in Saraburi, Thailand, this book follows four generations of narrative threads as they bluff, conceal, confess, and rewrite themselves into the history of a nation that has long relegated them to the margins of its story.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861011>

Sweet Braised Duck / Chew Ngee Tan
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023
xiv, 298
9789815058864
\$ 24.90 / PB
418gm.

Kuang was five years old when he first arrived in Singapore from Shantou, China. Reunited with his abusive good-for-nothing grandfather and a new step-grandmother, Kuang and his parents struggled to live with dignity while battling poverty. When he became the eldest brother to seven siblings, greater responsibilities weighed on his shoulders. He gave up his education and worked as a fish porridge hawker assistant to help the family make ends meet. Twists and turns in his life eventually brought him back to his hometown cuisine. How did he derive a unique recipe of his own? How did he realise his dream of becoming a successful Teochew braised duck rice seller?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861012>

The Disappearance of Patrick Zhou (Epigram Books Fiction Prize 2023) / Ally Chua
Epigram Books Fiction Prize Series
Singapore: Epigram Books, 2023
264p.
9789815105308
1. Missing person – Fiction.
2. Family-owned business enterprises – Fiction.
\$ 24.90 / PB
346gm.

Finalist for the 2023 Epigram Books Fiction Prize
A young woman must solve the fifteen-year-old disappearance of her uncle.
The Zhou-Guthrie company is a powerful one, with a palm oil fortune built on the suffering of others. One night, Patrick Zhou, the charismatic heir to the business, disappears en route to a conference, never to be seen again.
Fifteen years later, Zhou-Guthrie is a failing dynasty. The matriarch, Doris Zhou, is on her deathbed. In her last lucid moments, Doris tasks her granddaughter, Layla, with finding out what happened to Patrick. To solve this mystery, Layla must uncover corporate espionage, environmental crimes and family secrets—perhaps intimately connected to the ghost stories Uncle Patrick told her years ago.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861013>

A Mother's Burden / H Y Poon
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023
viii, 264p.
9789815127164
\$ 24.90 / PB
300gm.

A mentally-disabled boy is found dead in a small town. All signs point to his mother, a poor and ailing widow, as the one who caused his death.
But as Liu Yong, the lowly attendant of the magistrate, delves deeper, he finds that things may not be what they seem. The young man's investigations take him to the unfamiliar territory of the Capital, where he must contend with naked prejudice, bent officials and

powerful foes. For help, Yong turns to the enigmatic Beggars' Sect, a network comprising street people of variable character: good and bad, righteous and criminal. There is little room for error. One wrong step could bring failure, or worse.

In a strict, hierarchical society, Yong needs to dig deep to find the truth against the odds and, in the process, discover his own worth.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861014>

The Koro Riots / Faisal Tehrani (Translator) Brigitte Bresson
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023
272p.

9789815127843

\$ 23.90 / PB

300gm.

The Koro Riots is a satire regarding the political struggle in an imaginary country called Hujung Manani, a former French colony in South East Asia. Its leader, Priapus, is a dictator. His wife Datin Lotis uses black magic, namely the power of a weretiger. The narrative revolves around the Koro epidemic which occurs in this republic. It is a mental illness which affects men who believe that their penis shrinks into their body and disappears. The koro epidemic causes several small incidents, which later turn into riots. Eventually, the rebellion becomes a revolution, and the population of Hujung Manani overthrows the Dictator and his wife. These incidents are told from a variety of perspectives while adding background stories about politics in Hujung Manani. For this, the novel introduces several 'disposable' characters such as Kadir Mohamed, the former Editor in Chief of the Hujung Manani Tribune; Ashraf Wahidi, a celebrity preacher; and Psychiatrist Dr Cakravantin. The Dictator also has to face his political enemy who is the protagonist, named Pertiwi. She is a feminist, and in her nineties still succeeds in overthrowing Priapus, assisted by a Scientist (Badang) and Shulamit, his Jewish wife. At the end Pertiwi is killed by a suicide bomber named Zikir Baik while delivering a speech in the style of Martin Luther King. The struggle for democracy is carried on by Badang. However, Hujung Manani still faces threats posed by traitors like the Tycoon who is involved in a deep state.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861015>

If Only They Knew / Anita Othman
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023
224p.

9789815058086

\$ 22.90 / PB

246gm.

This novel asks the questions about the role of women in marriage, the burden of cultural inheritance, the oppression inherent in being a minority and ultimately, the costs of not being true to oneself. Set in the 2010s of Singapore, the story begins with protagonist, Saloma Salem, an entrepreneur who believes that her ethnicity has impeded her success in life. As a result, she steadfastly rejects her race and culture. This strains her relationship with her mother who still lives alone in their small family flat. Determined to be independent, she leads a simple life despite Saloma's generous allowance. Their fractious relationship breaks down when she forces her antiquated beliefs about a wife's role on Saloma. The story tells how far Saloma would go to deny her culture, the efforts she takes to save her marriage and to maintain the image of a perfect life. But her plans go awry, forcing her to confront her own demons.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861016>

4 Pax to Emptiness / Stella Kon

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

vi, 174p.

9789815058949

\$ 20.90 / PB

198gm.

Four people from the tiny, wealthy, hypermodern nation of Singapore visit a remote village in the heart of China. It's almost forty years since the end of a great famine, hardly known to the world outside China, but psychic echoes of that agony still reverberate through the cosmos. It is the Singaporeans' task to try to heal that spiritual trauma. When the dead have been universally recognised and mourned for, the 'hungry ghosts' will be at peace. The four are Peter, Katrina, Lumy and Alex: a cripple, a yuppie, a tai-tai and a businessman. On their quest they grow in self-understanding and wisdom, through the guidance of a good spirit named Bezalia.

The story is an amusing closeup of Singaporeans as you've never seen them before: four insular people confronting cosmic issues, pragmatists on a spiritual quest. It is also a declaration that transcendence is within everyone's reach.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861017>

Love on the Second Read / Mica De Leon

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

xii, 210p.

9789815144031

\$ 17.90 / PB

242gm.

Emma Morales, tenacious romance book editor and proud cat lady, knows romance, but love? Nope. Thank you very much. Enter nerdy sci-fi and fantasy editor Kip Alegre, who quotes JRR Tolkien for breakfast and knows heartbreak all too well.

When Emma gets a career-changing sci-fi romance manuscript which may just save their publishing house from folding, she knows she must work with Kip if she wants to succeed. Sounds simple enough, right? But when well-meaning meddling best friends, an obsessive ex-boyfriend, and a beautiful ex-fiancée come into the picture, the job doesn't seem so simple anymore. What starts out as a friendly—flirty—literary smackdown between Emma and Kip grows into something deeper than either of them had signed up for.

The deal was to edit the book, not their lives.

Emma and Kip may be willing to read the manuscript over and over again, but will they be willing to give love a second read?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861018>

Unquiet Heart Soliloquy / Dano Chow

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

x, 200p.

9789815127058

\$ 22.90 / PB

232gm.

In modern-day China, a man has travelled to Shanghai on impulse to meet his online lover Luna, but she refuses to see him and soon disappears without a trace. He tries to forget her by immersing himself in dating apps, and also learns to appreciate the nuances within everyday Chinese life while he adjusts himself to mainland China as a member of the greater overseas Chinese diaspora. As the seasons change, he falls in love with a budding

photographer named Sofia, but with traces of Luna constantly reappearing in his life, will he ever find a way out of his unquiet predicament?

Unquiet Heart Soliloquy is Dano Chow's debut novel, a confessional account of one's turning to dating apps for comfort in times of loneliness, in the hope that one casual outing after another will somehow be enough to fulfil a generational desire for intimacy.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861019>

The Termite Queen / Ta Duy Anh; (Translators) Quan Manh Ha & Charles Waugh

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

xx, 236p.

9789815127157

\$ 22.90 / PB

278gm.

Burrowing deep inside the tension-filled relationship between contemporary Vietnam's hyper-capitalist society and its communist government, Ta Duy Anh's The Termite Queen tells the Kafkaesque story of a young man who must expose the corruption of a vast network of murky figures profiting from their connections to power. Banned in Vietnam, this allegorical story is told by Viet, a native-born Vietnamese who takes over his deceased father's powerful land development corporation. The funeral hasn't even concluded before Viet suspects foul play, as one clue after another leads him to question everything he thought he knew about his father, their family business, and its incredible ability to get approval for projects with dubious societal and environmental returns. With the Termite Queen, Ta Duy Anh cements his reputation as one of contemporary Vietnam's greatest fabulists, having filled this tale with criticisms that can only come from a deep and abiding love for his country.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861020>

The Maps of Camarines: A Novel / Maryanne Moll

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

224p.

9789815058901

\$ 22.90 / PB

250gm.

Set in a fictional province in the Philippines, the novel tells the story of the Arguelleses, the Visbales, and the Monsantillos-and their eventual downfall.

The three families are members of powerful, wealthy haciendero clans that have long stood uncontested by those in their midst. But beneath the gleam and glitter of their lives lie age-old secrets that speak of deceit, greed, and corruption. Sins amassed over generations will come to a head, calamities and death will wreak havoc on the land, transgressors will face vengeance-and so the cycle goes on.

The Maps of Camarines is a chronicle of the forces that have and continue to assail Philippine society today, as well as the consequences if they are left to fester in the time to come.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861021>

Mami Suzuki: Private Eye / Simon Rowe

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

212p.

9789815058895

\$ 22.90 / PB

208gm.

Beneath the sheen of its orderly streets and obedient populace, all is not well in the port city of Kobe. Business is as brisk as the Haru-ichiban spring breeze for Mami Suzuki, hotel clerk by day, private investigator by night.

Who's stealing from Japan's biggest pearl trader? Where's the master sushi chef and why are his knives missing? How did the tea ceremony teacher's brother really die? And what does an island of cats have to do with a pregnant Shinto shrine maiden?

From the Kobe wharfs to the rugged Japan Sea coast, the subtropics of Okinawa, and a remote island community in the Seto Inland Sea, each new adventure ends with a universal truth – that there are two sides to every story of misfortune.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861022>

Sudden Superstar / Claire Betita de Guzman

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

xiv, 266p.

9789815127997

\$ 20.90 / PB

268gm.

What happens when one goes from obscurity to celebrity, overnight?

Thirty-year-old Arya Alvarez is a travel manager at Isle Z, a luxury travel company in Singapore where she creates bespoke trips for celebrities and influencers. Discretion is her specialty at work and personal life: few people know that she's fled her home city, Manila, to get away from the scene of a devastating break-up.

When she travels to Svaneti, in the Republic of Georgia, Arya briefly encounters the mysterious Dave in a remote village high up the Caucasus mountains. Intrigued, she posts his photos on Instagram-which goes viral the very next day. Turns out, Dave is Davit Nadibaidze, a famous yet reclusive artist who'd retreated from the public five years ago and Arya is the first person to see him since he disappeared.

In less than 24 hours, Arya gains hundreds of thousands of followers. She's deluged with invitations to talk shows, influencer parties, and celebrity junkets, all as her social media apps overflow with DMs, tags, and comments, both nice and nasty. Men are suddenly vying for her attention, including her ex, Jake.

Arya tries her best to step up, but she also struggles. What she really wants is to finally get over her painful break-up, find herself and a fresh start. But can she really, when she's caught in this complex whirl of viral fame?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861023>

The Epigram Books Collection of Best of New Singaporean Short Stories, Volume Six / (Ed)

Gwee Li Sui (Series Ed) Jason Erik Lundberg

Singapore: Epigram Books, 2023

352p.

9789815105384

1. Short stories, Singapore (English).

\$ 24.90 / PB

450gm.

Book Details:

The Epigram Books Collection of Best New Singaporean Short Stories: Volume Six gathers the finest Singaporean stories published in 2021 and 2022, selected by guest editor Gwee Li Sui from hundreds published in journals, magazines, anthologies and single-author collections.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858578>

The Heart of Summer: Stories and Tales / Danton Remoto
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023
200p.
9789815058178
\$ 18.90 / PB
222gm.

A collection of short fiction on love, longing and loss written in the realist and fantastic modes. A young boy and his sisters gather beautiful shells on the beach as mementos of a country they will leave behind. A girl who loves the Beatles sees dwarfs that are drawn charcoal-black on a white plate. A rich matron in Singapore discovers a primeval thing in her ritzy penthouse. A poor woman in the boondocks gives birth to a mudfish. Dead lovers buried beneath a hotel ruined by an earthquake reach out to each other. And a woman poisoned in Scotland centuries ago still haunts a hilltop castle, looking for her dead lover. These and other memorable characters inhabit Danton Remoto's book of stories and tales. Some of the stories are written in the realistic mode. They poke fun at a colourful but violent dictatorship or track the same-sex love in a young man's heart. The others are written in the fantastic mode-fables, parables, origin tales, cheeky rewriting of rural lore and urban legends. The length of the stories also varies. Some are flash fiction, while the others have the sweep of a novella.

The stories are meant to entertain but also to instruct: why the present is just a re-looping of the past, why love remains constant and true even beyond death. Written with daring and with dash, this book comes from the pen of 'one of Asia's best writers'.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861024>

The Muse and Other Stories / Chua Kok Yee
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023
vi, 198p.
9789815058963
\$ 22.90 / PB
226gm.

The Muse and Other Stories is a collection of dark stories from the author of Not A Monster and Without Anchovies.

An elderly editor discovers the secret of an author and his muse, and tries to save him from the curse of a vengeful spirit.

The Afterlife is in great trouble, and a young man is enlisted by a high-ranking demon to save it.

A deceased murderer is offered the salvation of his soul, but only if he is willing to commit another murder.

After an encounter with a long-lost childhood friend, a young woman discovers the horrific truth about her father.

A young man is tormented by his unborn child.

These unsettling stories confronts not only the supernatural elements that surround us, but the darkness of our hearts.

The scariest part is often the consequences of the choices made by ordinary persons like us.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861025>

My Mother Pattu / Saras Manickam
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023
176p.

9789815058918
\$ 22.90 / PB
200gm.

Deeply humane, in turn wry and humorous, the stories in this collection haunt readers with their searing honesty.

Lalitha, abused by her own mother, learns that bullies carry emotional traumas that scar everyone's lives.

Shiva Das confronts the truth of his own culpability when his adult special child dies in tragic circumstances.

A woman, deeply in love with her husband, discovers to her anguish that the love of a good man is not enough.

A little boy tries hard to hold his family together as his parents' marriage disintegrates before his eyes.

A mother has a poignant yet brutal conversation with God about her severely disabled son.

Three young people idealistically reject racial prejudice and stereotyping, only to find that in Malaysia, their future paths are largely determined by ethnicity and privilege.

The extent to which a woman will go in her hatred for her daughter's childhood friend, ends in a violent aftermath.

An Indonesian maid realizes that the money she sends home has become more important than her own welfare or safety to her family.

A racial slur triggers reflections on friendship, identity, the loss of belonging and trust in a multi-racial community.

Meet the extraordinary in ordinary people when they confront the truth of their past and present – and refuse to look away. Authentic and unsentimental, each story celebrates the resilience of the human spirit even as it challenges comfortable conventions about identity, love, family, community and race relations.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861026>

A Surplus of Sadness: But Wait There's More... / Jov Ortua Almero

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

viii, 196p.

9789815127829

\$ 20.90 / PB

230gm.

There's no shortage of sadness. There's no blaming those who succumb to omnipresent gloom. It's today's pervasive emotional climate.

However, there's also enough laughter to go around. At least laughter that comes with a knowing wink, in camaraderie with the many prone to sadnesses.

This collection of 19 short stories hopes to make you laugh. That is: Despite the planet heating up. Despite the constant threat of fascism and disinformation. Despite empires disguised as good guys. Despite neoliberalism's false promises and the ruthless competition, it demands. Despite the persistent clout of capitalism, unrelenting in its dominion over life, over happiness.

Despite, perhaps, a lack of exercise . . .

By the end of the book, laughter finds a purpose, a place in the collective, aware of its rightful target. From sadness to laughter to indignation.

But wait there's more.

Cheers.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861027>

Nine Yard Sarees: A Short Story Cycle / Prasanthi Ram

Singapore: Ethos Books, 2023

272p.; 130x200mm.

9789811860355

1. Tamil diaspora – Fiction.
2. East Indians – Social life and customs – Fiction.

\$ 22.00 / PB

276gm.

Nine Yard Sarees is a multigenerational portrait of a fictional Tamil Brahmin family. Comprising eleven interlinked stories, this short story cycle traces the lives of nine women from 1950 all the way to 2019, shedding light on the community and its evolution through the decades. As the stories take us from India to Singapore, Australia and even America, we follow the experiences of the women in the family: Raji the matriarch who lives in seclusion at an ashram; her daughter Padma who struggles to raise her family the traditional way; Padma's daughter Keerthana who is about to be married and don the nine yard saree, a symbol of womanhood. Tender, dynamic and full of heart, this cycle is a resonant portrayal of female solidarity and the complexities of the diasporic experience in contemporary Singapore.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861028>

A Walk With My Pig / Mervin Mirapuri

Singapore: Pagesetters Services Pte Ltd., 2023

144p.

9789811879357

1. Emigration and immigration – Poetry.
2. Australian poetry.

\$ 25.00 / PB

212gm.

A Walk with My Pig is Mervin Mirapuri's unfinished magnum opus, seen for the first time. He composed this poem in the period following his and his family's migration to Australia from Singapore in the late 1980s.

The immigrant psyche – fraying thoughts, fluctuating emotions, and ranging personas – shows up the inadequacy of frameworks intended to help us find meaning amid the complexities of change. In this epic poem, the immigrant journeys between existence and obligations, mobilising the meanings of family and religion for bearing.

Through everyday snapshots and a cacophony of voices, A Walk with My Pig navigates a marketplace of relationships and transactions, bigotry, our obsession with greed, excess, status, and control. What is a life worth living? How are we shaped by opportunities presented, taken or lost? What is relevant in the overall pattern of things? A Walk with My Pig disrupts our perceptions, biases, and perspectives, what we have come to assume as norms.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858332>

A Bad Girl's Book of Animals / Wong May

Singapore: Ethos Books, 2023

128p.

9789811860317

1. Singapore poetry (English).

\$ 18.60 / PB

140gm.

Wong May's poems are concerned with the ultimate loneliness, the inarticulateness and the inability to communicate fully that are the marks of human life. "My poems," says Wong May, "are about wordlessness rather than words. I feel that we must recognize our ultimate wordlessness."

What is most impressive about Wong May's poems is her mastery of the implicit, her marvelously effective elliptical style that nevertheless strikes sharp blows of beauty and clarity. —Harcourt, Brace & World

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=855637>

Until Morning / Joyce Chua

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

252p.

9789815127775

\$ 20.90 / PB

280gm.

Lexi Lee thinks she's found her soulmate. The problem is, she has never met Night, the elusive street artist who leaves his paintings in the nooks and crannies of the city. Still, that doesn't stop her from penning letters to him and dreaming about living in his paintings. After a car accident lands her in a coma, she finds herself wandering through Night's paintings and her childhood memories. Her only companion in dreamland is a boy who doesn't understand why he is trapped there with her and wants to leave.

Christopher Fang is trying to make sense of the recent dreams he has been having, dreams in which he meets the irreverent, free-spirited Lexi, a girl unlike anyone else he has met in his world of mercenary businessmen. Soon, he finds himself seeking escape from his life in those dreams. But when he finds out that his father's latest property development project involves taking over the inn that Lexi's father owns, Chris must choose between his loyalties to his father and helping Lexi return to the life she left behind.

But as Lexi and Chris grow closer, the truth about Lexi's accident comes to light, threatening to tear them apart and making them question the people they believe in, their love for each other, and what it is they are really awake for.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861029>

Healers: A Novel / Jonel Abellanos

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

vi, 250p.

9789815058970

\$ 22.90 / PB

280gm.

Set in the Philippine island of Cebu and spanning a wide expanse of the country's history, Healers is the first book in a three-novel series that follows the lives of Luis, Armand and Victoria, three immortal children with supernatural skills who are trained in the healing arts.

After centuries of practicing healing, they grow weary of life eternal and become envious of what adults can do that children can't. Deciding to shed their immortality and grow into adulthood, the three carve their own identities and paths in life, clinging on to the remnants of the immortal powers they once had to fulfil their dreams, aspirations, and innermost desires.

It is only generations later, in the second decade of the 21st century, that misfortune and modern-day societal maladies truly begin to complicate the lives of Luis, Armand, and Victoria, thrusting them into conflicts and existential struggles. And the three,

bound together by their shared past, present, and future, will have to choose once more if they are willing to do what it takes to live forever again.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861030>

Width of a Circle / David J Hirst

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

270p.

9789815127966

\$ 22.90 / PB

298gm.

Zola Tapp, a curious and impulsive teen, has been sent to stay with her oddball relatives in rural Malaysia while her parents try to sort out their deteriorating relationship in the UK. On a pre-dinner exploration of her aunt and uncle's oil-palm plantation, Zola stumbles upon an injured boy. In a panic, she rushes to get help, but on return the body has vanished and the incident is blamed on her famed over-imagination. Zola then battles self-doubt and those out to deceive her as she sets out to discover what had happened to him. This starts a chain of events which results in her being drawn deeper into the Malaysian underworld and a sinister plot that tests her character and emotions to the extreme. Her healthy snarkiness towards vampires, zombies and the para-normal is also challenged when she meets Maya, an enchanting elfin demon with a secret past and mysterious abilities she must keep hidden from the rest of the world.

Zola forges a special bond with Maya and her aunt and uncle, whom she affectionately calls the Hamsters, to discover more about her own identity and the choices that define her.

Together, they become enmeshed in a bitter fight to save the family estate from ruthless property developers, the heartless son of a triad leader and vicious thugs.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861031>

Katie Goes to KL / Su-May Tan

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

240p.

9789815127812

\$ 22.90 / PB

264gm.

KATIE CHEN, 16, lives in the unremarkable suburb of Narre Warren in Australia with her somewhat reclusive Malaysian father. Coming to Australia when she was 5 and losing her mother at 7, she has always struggled with issues of identity.

One day, she goes back to Malaysia for her grandmother's funeral and discovers that her mother – long-thought-dead – is alive. Set in a fictionalised Kuala Lumpur (KL), Katie struggles to reconnect with her mother whom she discovers is Malay.

Navigating KL's underground music scene and the underlying tensions of a country she doesn't understand, how far is Katie willing to go to find a place to belong?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861032>

No Room in Neverland / Joyce Chua

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

x, 258p.

9789815127782

\$ 20.90 / PB

296gm.

All Gemma Young remembers of her childhood are her regular visits to the idyllic, imaginary Neverland before her mother fell sick.

When Gemma meets Cole, a disenchanted boy who stirs up more than just memories of her adventures in Neverland, she begins to piece together her half-forgotten childhood: her mother sick with longing for Neverland, the accident that ripped her family apart, and her father who abandoned her when she was a child.

But now, Gemma's near-obsessive quest to find her father sends her spiralling deeper into Neverland just like her mother had. As the boundaries blur between the real world and Neverland, Gemma must sift through fact and fiction, discern between truth and make-belief, to find out what happened to her mother and rebuild a new life with her father.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861033>

Politics/Current Affairs

Managing China-Singapore Relations Amid US-China Rivalry / Ma Bo
Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute), 2023

36p.

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815203066

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 19, 2023

1. China – Relations – Singapore.

2. Singapore – Relations – China.

3. Geopolitics – Pacific Area.

\$ 12.90 / PB

74gm.

Amid China-US geopolitical competition in the Asia-Pacific, it is imperative for both China and Singapore to adapt and respond to evolving circumstances for mutual benefit.

The enduring trust and solid foundation between China and Singapore in economic and trade cooperation are validated through their active involvement in each other's initiatives. This proved true even when the recent COVID-19 pandemic strained political interactions.

The political-security dimensions of the relationship between China and Singapore are complex and constantly evolving, influenced as they are by factors such as Singapore's military training in Taiwan, the contentious South China Sea disputes, and US foreign policy in the region.

However, Singapore's longstanding hedging strategy between the two superpowers may face increasingly severe tests as China-US rivalry escalates.

If carefully managed, Singapore's successful track record of facilitating dialogue between conflicting parties can continue to make it a valuable player in easing tensions between China and the US.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861034>

Sri Lanka's Easter Sunday Massacre: Lessons for the International Community / Rohan Gunaratna

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2023

lxxvi, 242p.

9789814954631

\$ 26.90 / PB

346gm.

Radical Islam is an enduring global challenge that presents a national and international security threat. Instigation by hate preachers, inadequate government, societal attention, religious and reciprocal radicalization have allowed this threat to manifest into terrorist

violence. Extremist ideologies have infiltrated religious, educational, and digital spaces and thus, terrorism's shadow continues to shroud the safety and stability of countries and communities worldwide today.

On 21 April 2019, the world's most dangerous threat movement, the Islamic State, mounted one of its deadliest attacks in Sri Lanka. The surge of fear, suspicion, and prejudice following what is now known as 'Sri Lanka's Easter Sunday Massacre' fragmented the country, imbuing hatred and anger against the Muslim community. Years later, the radicalization pipeline remains intact, and the threat persists. With the global expansion of the Islamic State and al-Qaeda, will the world witness attacks of a similar or greater scale in the future?

Equal parts treatise and reference material, Sri Lanka's Easter Sunday Massacre: Lessons for the International Community answers this question by tracing the genesis, threat trajectory, and aftermath of the bombings and the personalities behind them. With unprecedented access to accounts from Islamic State detainees, affected families, intelligence specialists, and investigators, the book reflects on lessons learned and provides insight into how such attacks are organized and what measures can be taken to prevent or respond to these threats effectively.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861035>

Religion

CoronAsur: Asian Religions in the Covidian Age / (Ed) Emily Zoe Hertzman (et al.)

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA: University of Hawaii Press, 2023

xiv, 346p. ; 31 b&w illustrations

Includes Index

9780824895785

1. COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020 – Asia – Religious aspects.

2. COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020 – Religious aspects.

\$ 28.00 / PB

486gm.

By the summer of 2020, when the coronavirus had fully entered our everyday vocabulary and our lives, religious communities and places of worship around the world were already undergoing profound changes. In Asian and Asian diaspora communities, diverse cultural tropes, beliefs, and artifacts were mobilized to make sense of Covid, including a repertoire of gods and demons like Coronasur, the virus depicted with the horns and fangs of a traditional Hindu demon. Various kinds of knowledge were invoked: theologies, indigenous medicines, and biomedical narratives, as well as ethical values and nationalist sentiments. CoronAsur: Asian Religions in the Covidian Age follows the documentation and analysis of the abrupt societal shifts triggered by the pandemic to understand current and future pandemic times, while revealing further avenues for research on religion that have opened up in the Covidian age.

Developed in tandem with the research blog CoronAsur: Religion and COVID-19, this volume is a "phygital" publication, a work grounded in empirical roots as well as digitally born communication. It comprises thirty-eight essays that examine Asian religious communities—Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Daoist, and Christian as well as popular/folk and new religious movements, or NRMs—in terms of the changes brought on by and the ritual responses to the Covid pandemic.

Studying religious narratives, practices, and changes in the Covidian age adds to our understanding of not only the specific groups in which they are situated, but also the coronavirus itself, its disputed etiologies and culturally contextualized exegeses. CoronAsur offers a comprehensive and timely discussion of Covidian transformations in religious

communities' engagements with media, spaces, and moral and political economies, documenting how religious practices and discourses have co-produced the meanings of the pandemic.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861036>

Religion – Islam

The Debate on the Ba'Alawi Lineage in Indonesia: Highlighting Weaknesses in the Genealogical Records / Ahmad Muhajir & Afra Alatas

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute), 2023
40p.

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815203080

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 20, 2023

1. Hadramawt (Yemen: Province) – Genealogy.
2. Muhammad, Prophet – 632 – Family.
3. Hadrami (Arab tribe) – Indonesia – Ethnic identity.
4. Muslims – Indonesia.

\$ 12.00 / PB

80gm.

A scholar from Nahdlatul Ulama by the name of Imaduddin Utsman has recently challenged the long-accepted claim that the Ba'Alawi—Muslims of Hadhrami descent also known in Indonesia as habaib—are descendants of Prophet Muhammad. The challenge arose out of his critical examination of available records on the Prophet's lineage from the fifth century to the tenth century of Islam.

His unprecedented challenge courted controversy in Indonesia. It was even more surprising that it came from a religious scholar with a traditionalist background.

The debate that ensued was inevitable as the habaib community had to defend their ancestry, and joining them in their defence were some Javanese Muslim scholars. However, Imaduddin actively rebutted their responses, alongside several other like-minded non-Arab scholars.

This article examines the debate where both sides presented documents and theories about the (dis)connection of the Ba'Alawi lineage to Prophet Muhammad. We argue that while Imaduddin's research does not fully invalidate the Ba'Alawi lineage, the habaib have not been entirely convincing—from Imaduddin's perspective—about their genealogy.

Nevertheless, the authority of the habaib remains intact despite the challenge to their lineage. This is because they can derive their authority from other factors apart from their lineage.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861037>

Sociology

Gender Equality and Diversity in Indonesia: Identifying Progress and Challenges / Angie

Bexley, Sarah Xue Dong & Diahadi Setyonaluri

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute), 2023

xx, 316p.

Includes Index; Bibliographical References

9789815104547

Indonesia Update Series

1. Cultural pluralism – Indonesia.
2. Gender identity – Indonesia.

3. Indonesia – Social conditions.
\$ 32.00 / PB
424gm.

Over the past 20 years, gender relations and the expression of power and authority between men and women in Indonesia have been shaped by the forces of reformasi, decentralisation, a reassertion of central power, and economic transitions. These changes have given rise to policy reform, an increase in women's political representation, and new expressions of diverse gender identities. But to what extent has the 'gender order' of the New Order, where women's role as a mother was the basis of citizenship, been challenged or just found new articulations? What shape do contemporary contestations to gendered power take? The chapters in this volume bring gender to the centre stage and provide reflections on the political, economic, social, and cultural progress and barriers in achieving gender equality and diversity in Indonesia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861038>

Hijab: Everyday Stories of Muslim Women from Singapore and Beyond: Includes Survey of More Than 1000 Respondents / (Ed) Hidayah Amin
Singapore: Helang Books, 2023

152p.

9789811884139

1. Muslim women.
2. Muslim women – Singapore.
3. Hijab (Islamic clothing).
4. Hijab (Islamic clothing) – Singapore.
5. Muslim women – Clothing.
6. Muslim women – Clothing – Singapore.

\$ 24.00 / PB

264gm.

Hijab has got to be the most contested five-letter word for Muslim women in Singapore. The Muslim headscarf or tudung in Malay, is not a mere piece of clothing covering the head. Contrary to the stereotypical notion that veiled Muslim women are oppressed and backward, their stoic wearing of the hijab symbolises their freedom to exercise their religious beliefs and conviction. It is also a valiant display of faith, commitment and steeled determination, expressed in the face of cynicism, criticism and to some extent, discrimination. Why then do hijabis (women who wear the hijab) hold on strongly to their headscarves?

This book tells the stories of Muslim women who navigate the ever-changing geopolitical landscape, while proudly donning the hijab in private and public spaces.

In essence, the book captures the stories of 21 women who chose to wear the hijab and two non-Muslim women who shared about their experiences interacting with hijabis.

Educational for everyone, students, teachers and general public who will be introduced to the religious, governmental, societal and personal perspectives on the hijab as well as the different types of hijab worn by Muslim women around the world.

This book aims to promote an understanding about Muslim women and hijab and start meaningful conversations and dialogues about the topic.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861039>
