

Recent Literature - October 2018

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'Others' is not a race / Silva, Melissa de  
Math Paper Press (BooksActually), Singapore 2017  
xii, 106p.  
9789811147111  
\$ 12.00 / null  
180 gm.

What is a Eurasian? Are Eurasians Singaporean? What does it mean to be a Eurasian living in Singapore? This book is a tapestry that weaves together the multiple genres of narrative fiction, creative nonfiction, literary food writing and family memoir, to offer insight into the micro-minority Eurasian community through the intensely personal lens of the writer's own experience living and growing up as a Eurasian in Singapore. Throughout are interwoven the themes of memory, loss, language, identity and cultural reclamation. Similarly, it is a reflective and provocative journey of self-discovery; a journey the reader may also take to explore what it means to exist at the confluence of being Singaporean

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=248355>

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Latitudes of Longing: A Novel / Shubhangi Swarup  
HarperCollins Publishers, Uttar Pradesh 2018  
331p. ; 22 cm.  
9789353020262  
\$ 15.00 / HB  
480 gm.

An astounding exploration of intense longings, Shubhangi Swarup's novel begins in the depths of the Andaman Sea and follows geological and emotional faultlines through the Irrawaddy delta and the tourist-trap of Thamel, to end amidst the highest glaciers and passes of the Karakorams.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=410000>

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After the Storm: They must face the floods... and each other / Lakshmy Ramanathan  
HarperCollins Publishers, Uttar Pradesh 2018  
226p. ; 21 cm.  
9789353020286  
\$ 6.25 / null  
240 gm.

Young and ambitious Meenakshi Iyer has better things to do than tie the knot, a decision her family had better get used to. Living in Mumbai, the trainee journalist is determined to find the perfect beat and, maybe, the perfect man – but on her own terms. The charismatic Arjun Rathore, head of the sports desk with the newspaper she works at, is the obvious candidate until she runs into Rakesh Ramakrishnan – a former suitor and a brilliant chef at his own restaurant, where business is booming.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=410002>

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Bastar Dispatches: A Passage Through the Wilds / Narendra

HarperCollins Publishers, Uttar Pradesh 2018

xvi, 262p. ; ill. 22 cm.

Includes Index.

9789353020323

\$ 12.75 / null

340 gm.

Abujhmad in the deep interiors of Bastar is inhabited by the Abujhmadias, a primitive hunter-gatherer tribe whom Verrier Elwin has called the Hill Murias. Abujhmad stands today as one of the few mirrors left the world over wherein modernity can view itself – its calamities and collapses. Abujhmad asks no questions of itself nor provides answers; neither are there searches, quests or creation of utopias, ideas and ideologies, elaborate languages, agricultures, technologies and endeavours.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=410001>

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The Betrayed : A Novel / Reine Arcachae Melvin

Ateneo de Manila University Press, Quezon City 2018

viii, 396p. ; 20.32cm.

9789715508742

\$ 30.00 / null

400 gm.

Set in a time of dictatorship and political upheaval, The Betrayed tells the story of two sisters who love the same man. Their passion threatens to lead them to betray not only each other, but all that their father stood for. Shy, idealistic Pilar initially resolves to carry on her father's fight against the dictator, while her flamboyant older sister Lali reacts by marrying the enemy—Arturo, the dictator's godson. Each tries to find their place in this violent world, but can they withstand the corruption of politics and the relentless pull of their own desires? What price must one pay for passion?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=416197>

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Manila Was A Long Time Ago / AA Patawaran ,Love Marie Ongpauco-Escudero

Anvil Publishing Inc, Philippines. 2018

x, 248p.

9789712734281

\$ 25.00 / null

260 gm.

Short fiction. Patawaran takes readers on a dizzying romp across the globe, to the most luxurious dream destinations—but with protagonists always dogged by the shadow of home, and the pasts they're running away from.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=416199>

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Vorvong and Saurivong : A Cambodian Tale / Auguste Pavie ,) Marie-Helene Arnauld

Jasmine Image Machine, Cambodia 2018

viii, 136p.

Includes all of the Original 31 Monochrome and 20 Color Illustration

9789996381935

\$ 30.00 / null

340 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421794>

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A River and A Valley Far Away : A Year in the Cambodian Wilderness / Wayne McCallum

Kampot City Books, Phnom Penh, Cambodia 2016

xii, 290p.

9789924911005

\$ 29.95 / null

400 gm.

With the humour of Bill Bryson, the soul of George Orwell and the spirit of Indiana Jones, *A River and A Valley Far Away* is the tale of what befalls a volunteer, from small-town New Zealand, when he is assigned to a remote rainforest corner of Cambodia. Humorous, detailed and insightful, the story provides a captivating account of a time and place that is now fast disappearing. "An intimate portrayal of a conservationist's adventures in one of the last great wild places of Southeast Asia, McCallum's evocative account sees the rainforest jump off the page." - Nick Ray, author of *Lonely Planet Cambodia*.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421791>

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Mekong Shadows : Tales From Cambodia / John Daysh

Saraswati Publishing, Phnom Penh, Cambodia 2017

246p.

9789924914044

\$ 25.00 / null

300 gm.

A collection of short stories set in, or with connections to, Cambodia. There are tales of hope, of love, of despair, and even a sprinkling of black magic. Featuring stories from John Daysh, James Newman, Mark Bibby Jackson, Steven W. Palmer, Tom Vater, John Burdett, and many more.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421789>

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Swordfish + Concubine / Kee Thuan Chye

Gerakbudaya Enterprise, Malaysia 2018

xii, 140p.

9789832344988

\$ 9.00 / null

200 gm.

*Swordfish + Concubine* is a play inspired by the old Malay classic *Sejarah Melayu*. Playwright Kee Thuan Chye takes the popular story of the swordfish attack on Singapura and that of the Sultan's favourite concubine who is sentenced to death by impalement, and weaves them together to produce an epic that resonates with the present. He infuses it with drama, comedy, action, satire, gamelan music and rap. Yes, rap!

It is sweeping, lavish and filled with fun, and it appeals to the senses, the mind and the heart. In 2006, it was judged one of the top five plays entered for the International Playwriting Festival organised by Warehouse Theatre in the UK.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=408388>

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Angkor Away - Second Edition / Steven W. Palmer

Saraswati Publishing, Phnom Penh, Cambodia 2016

138p.

9781514300367

\$ 24.00 / null

260 gm.

Paul is a graphic designer with a history that has included organising events on the London rave scene and supplying recreational drugs across the capital. Disillusioned by the way the scene has been taken over by organised crime, he turns his back on it and, after a few years working for a prestigious design company, he leaves the UK to travel the world, picking up the odd bit of legal and illegal work on the way. After meeting some gifted Thai chemists, Paul sets up a lab in Northern Thailand producing high-quality LSD. When his new business comes to the attention of the local crime lord/army general he has to leave Thailand quickly and relocates to Cambodia where his friend has a bar. There he meets Aya and falls in love. But through Aye he meets her brother Chamreun, a former air force colonel who is now involved in the Cambodian drugs trade and who knows far more about Paul's life than he should. It's not long till Paul is pulled back into the world of drug trafficking against his wishes and is involved with the biggest drugs cartel in the region. But when things turn sour, Paul finds himself in a frantic hunt across South East Asia as they look for answers. But when they find them in a bloody climax, the answers are not at all what Paul had expected.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421796>

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Second Chinese Daughter / Shirley Fung  
MPH Group Publishing Sdn Bhd, Malaysia 2018

348p.

9789674154530

\$ 18.00 / null

400 gm.

- 1.Malaysian fiction (English)
- 2.English fiction
- 3.Autobiographical fiction, English

Second Chinese Daughter delves into the evolving status and roles of women in society as depicted through the experiences of three generations of women in a Chinese family in Penang. Feng, the second daughter in a family of seven siblings, grapples with her lowly hierarchical position in her family and society. Set between the 1930s and '60s, against a backdrop of significant historical events and everyday life in Malaya during that period, this novel follows young Feng's struggle to gain her mother's love and an equitable position among her older siblings and in her community. The narrative traces some of the Chinese customs and practices at the time that reflect society's base view of women, and the lack of acceptance of their identities. Through the eyes of her grandmother and her mother, Feng sees the all-too-slow change in women's place in society, and endeavours to break away from the constricting world of her female ancestors to find a better place for herself.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421974>

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The Age of Smiling Secrets / Aneeta Sundararaj

Aneeta Sundararaj, Malaysia 2018

viii, 428p.

9789671616703

\$ 18.00 / HB

500 gm.

- 1.Malaysian literature (English)
- 2.English literature

A riveting tale of tragic destinies that dares to expose the flaws in our concurrent Civil-Syariah Laws. Lives unravel in a worst-case scenario when loopholes in the law, exacerbated by corruption and unscrupulous characters, combine to destroy the very fabric of lives of simple and honest folks. - Datuk Ramli Ibrahim  
This saga of much breadth and density is vibrantly poignant with richness of character. As the drama unfolds, one cannot help but notice the subtle launching of the realities of contemporary issues in political Malaysia, albeit beautifully couched in theatrical fashion. A must-read for all those looking for good Asian fiction, but nevertheless grounded in tangible life-events. - Professor Bala Shanmugam

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421973>

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Sidelines / Roslina Abdul Latif  
The Argent Press, Malaysia 2018  
168p.  
9789833221820  
\$ 18.00 / null  
250 gm.

In her debut novel, Dr. Lina Latif brings together her many years of experience as a broadcaster, academic, researcher and most importantly, as a writer. It isn't just that the plot is played out amidst the uncertainty that defines our world today but that the characters are in themselves an accurate depiction of the complexities of human nature.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421972>

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Flying Lizards and Other Orang Asli Legends and Tales / Colin Nicholas (Mng Ed)  
Center for Orang Asli Concerns, Malaysia 2018  
xx, 248p.  
9789672051138  
\$ 15.00 / null  
400 gm.

Flying Lizards invites you to get to know, and have access to, the rich oral tradition of the Orang Asli.

Orang Asli oral tradition includes myths about their view of the world and its genesis; heroic accounts of revered personalities (whether real or fictitious); a catalogue of do's and don'ts to ensure the desired social behaviour; an encyclopaedia of knowledge and information necessary for successful utilization of the natural resources; yarns and tales to amuse, entertain and educate; and accounts of personal experiences of the elders and of those who came earlier.

Amassed by past generations and passed down to its present heirs, Orang Asli oral tradition has been used to amuse, to teach, to record, to remind and to explain. The Orang Asli create stories and narratives not only to make sense of the world but to impart important social and ethical mores to ensure community living and continuity.

In Flying Lizards you have a sample of Orang Asli legends and tales as recorded by various writers over the past two centuries. Through these stories we can get a glimpse into the spiritual, social and ecological world of the many Orang Asli groups.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421971>

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My Best Kept Secret / Adilin Arifin  
The Argent Press (Silverfish Books Sdn Bhd), Malaysia 2018  
184p.  
Includes Index  
9789833221844  
\$ 22.00 / null  
250 gm.

1. English Poetry  
2. English Literature

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421977>

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Borneo Tales /  
Pertubuhan Alam Masa Depan Borneo Sabah & Future Alam Borneo, Malaysia  
2018  
iv, 156p.  
9789671581605  
\$ 18.00 / null  
350 gm.

- 1.Short stories, English – Malaysia – Sabah
- 2.Tales – Borneo

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421976>

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Journal of Regalia : Escape the Darkness / Fatin Najwa

I Far Dreamz Enterprise, Malaysia 2017

ix, 218p.

9789671497807

\$ 12.50 / null

400 gm.

- 1.Malaysian fiction (English)
- 2.English fiction

This novel is about 8 members of the royal family who gets banished by then now crowned king. After being thrown into a random forest that they never even heard off, the 8 face a new adventure and learn new things about themselves- learning about hidden mysteries that had only stayed as legends until then.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421975>

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Le Monsieur du troisieme / Roland Rossero

Environmental Defence Society Incorporated 2018

148p.

9791021903296

\$ 50.00 / null

220 gm.

Traumatisé par la mort brutale de sa femme, un écrivain célèbre vit cloîtré dans son appartement, tandis que ses rêves l'obligent à revisiter les chemins de son passé. De Kyoto à Nouméa, en passant par Rome, Paris et Buenos Aires, il traque un mystérieux assassin, amateur d'armes blanches.

Nuit après nuit, alors que les morts se succèdent, son imaginaire prend le pas sur la réalité. Avance-t-il vers la guérison ou vers la folie ?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=416165>

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Life Sentence and The Blue Cross = Condamne A Perpetuite Suvie De La Croix Bleue : Nouvelles, Short stories / Claudine Jacques , Patricia Worth

Environmental Defence Society Incorporated 2018

1v.

Bilingual Books (2 stories)

9789829815323

\$ 30.00 / null

140 gm.

It's mid-twentieth century when two New Caledonian men contract leprosy and reflect on what they call their 'life sentence', but when a cure is discovered they realise it wasn't the end of life after all.

And in today's New Caledonia, an indigenous woman tolerates her alcoholic husband until his behaviour affects their child. She considers leaving but a charity, the Blue Cross, offers to help him.

Condamné à perpétuité raconte l'histoire d'un homme atteint de la lèpre. Et dans La Croix bleue, l'auteure aborde le thème de l'alcoolisme. Deux textes forts, pleins de sensibilité qui se terminent par une note d'espoir.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=416168>

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Les Brumes de l'Oyapock : Roman / Firmin Mussard

Les éditions Noir au Blanc, Marseille, France 2018

168p.

9791090635586

\$ 35.00 / null

280 gm.

Saut Wayamaka, haut Oyapock, Guyane française : le docteur Denis débarque en pays amérindien avec ses cartons de vivres, ses névroses, sa canne à pêche et son fusil à pompe. Dans cet exercice en situation d'isolement, au cœur de la forêt amazonienne, le médecin tente de reconstruire sa vie qu'une faute a brisée. Environnement hostile, contraintes logistiques, orpailleurs clandestins semant impunément la violence et la mort : difficultés et épreuves abondent, et son supérieur l'a bien mis en garde, « en Amazonie, seul survit celui qui s'adapte ; les autres, la forêt les bouffe ». Mais son pire ennemi sommeille en lui-même... Afin d'échapper aux démons qui l'ont suivi jusqu'au fin fond des Grands Bois, jusqu'où devra-t-il pousser son engagement auprès de la communauté menacée dont il a la charge ? Trouvera-t-il, dans un combat désespéré, matière à une improbable rédemption ?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=416166>

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The Other Queen / Sheeba Shah

Sangri-La Pustak P. Ltd., Kathmandu, Nepal 2018

384p.

9789937708357

\$ 22.00 / null

340 gm.

The Other Queen provides an imaginative account of life as it was in the royal court of Nepal in the pre-Rana era. This story candidly unveils the intimate life of Queen Rajendra Laxmi and how her reckless actions snowballed towards 14th September, 1846 AD, a ruinous night of delirious carnage, thus ending the era of the ruling dynasty and heralding the emergence of a rival faction. Sheeba Shah writes about intrigue, betrayal and passion with great verve in this book offering readers a rare change to reimagine the past from a woman's perspective. The narrator, Rajendra Lakshmi is the neglected wife of King Rajendra Bikram Shah of Nepal. She is also the sister of the better-loved wife, Queen Samrajya Laxmi Devi. While focusing on the narrator's inner life, the author also shows how her fate is entwined with that of the nation.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421753>

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The Raid at Entebbe : A Collection of Exotic Short Stories / Chris Defonseka

Neptune Publications (Pvt.) Ltd., Battaramulla, Sri Lanka 2018

vii, 76p.

9789557496665

\$ 12.00 / null

150 gm.

This book on short stories titled, The Raid on Entebbe includes carefully crafted and written stories, both fiction and non-fiction which readers will find both a pleasure to read and educational.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=416178>

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Little Basket : New Malaysian Writing 2018 / Lee Ee Leen & Ted Mahsun (ed)

Fixi Novo (Buku Fixi Sdn Bhd), Malaysia 2018

172p.

9789672128731

\$ 12.50 / null

250 gm.

Little Basket 2018: New Malaysian Writing is the third and (alas and alamak!) final volume. It has a print run of 1,000 and won't be reprinted. Warning: the stories contain active ingredients such as death, destruction, dessert and dogs. Readers are advised to proceed with extreme enjoyment.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421970>

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Diasporic Consciousness of Malaysian Indian Writings in English / Shangeetha

R.K. & Shanthini Pillai Joseph Sandra

University of Malaya Press, Kuala Lumpur 2018

x, 130p.  
Includes Index  
9789674880491  
\$ 21.00 / null  
250 gm.

- 1.English literature – Indian influences
- 2.Indians – Social life and customs
- 3.Government publications – Malaysia

Most investigations of diasporic consciousness in literary texts presume it is homogeneous. It is essential to acknowledge that heterogeneity exists in the literature of diaspora as there are various elements that influence one's diasporic experience. There is a need to address this issue as class, gender, ethnic groups and culture lead to different encounters, resulting in a diversity of consciousness and discovery. This book focuses on the key features of diasporic consciousness in selected works of Malaysian Indians writing in English. Through exploring the ways these texts reflect the setting of a multi-cultural nation, it hopes to provide a more nuanced understanding of generational experiences of the Malaysian Indian community.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421967>

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Kin Bondage / Jade Willow  
Ispiration Hub, Malaysia 2017  
256p.  
9789670730288  
\$ 20.00 / null  
350 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421969>

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Bidasari and the Djinn : A Malaysian Legend Retold : The Epic of Bidasari / Ninot Aziz (Illustrated) Dani Warguide, Walid Muhammad & Shimo Manaf

Silverfish Books Sdn Bhd, Malaysia 2018  
64p.  
9789833221868  
\$ 30.00 / HB  
500 gm.

- 1.Legends – Malaysia
- 2.Tales – Malaysia

Many versions of The Sleeping Beauty

Most of us only know of the Disney version of The Sleeping Beauty with its ubiquitous singing teapots. The original tale called Sun, Moon, and Talia by Giambattista Basile from his book, The Tale of Tales (1634), based on earlier folk tales, was decidedly quite inappropriate by today's standards of sexual political correctness.

Frenchman Charles Perrault based his Mother Goose Stories on Basiles' work, which influenced later oral versions that were recorded by the Brothers Grimm. Chinese versions of sleeping beauty stories (there are two), found in the Tai Ping Guang Ji, which was compiled in the 10th century, are very similar to the European ones, except that the beauty is not sleeping but is dead from a Daoist magic pill (without her soul ever leaving her body). After 100 years a youth jumps over a hedge and awakens her with a kiss and they live happily ever after. Epic of Bidasari, or Syair Bidasari, is a charming poem, set in a country called Inderapura (probably before the European adventures in Asia), that has all the ingredients of an enchanting fairy tale: a beautiful princess, an evil queen, sorcery, magic, a handsome king and with the ultimate happy ending. Like all such tales, its origins were probably oral, and has existed in different versions throughout Southeast Asia.

Who influenced whom is not important, but the various cultural references are. This pictorial version by Ninot Aziz is told in the Nusantara tradition.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421968>

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From the Belly of the Cat - 3rd ed / (Ed.) Stephanie Ye

Math Paper Press (BooksActually), Singapore 2017

vi, 286p.

9789810776565

\$ 18.00 / null

340 gm.

Writers and cats have long enjoyed a special affinity, unsurprisingly since both spend much time sitting around and judging people. Discover the Lion City through the eyes of its cats and their humans in *From the Belly of the Cat*, an anthology of fifteen feline tales by some of the city-state's most exciting writers and notorious cat sympathisers.

For best results, read this book at home on the sofa on a rainy afternoon, with a cup of warm tea within reach, and a cat by your side.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=161296>

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Red Gerberas : Short Stories / Sitor Situmorang

Silkworm Books, Thailand 2018

xiv, 138p.

9786162151507

\$ 22.50 / null

240 gm.

Sitor Situmorang (1924–2014) is one of the most celebrated Indonesian literary voices of the twentieth century. Throughout his long life, he traveled extensively, both inside Indonesia and abroad. He claimed that all his work dealt with a single theme—"love and wanderlust," which are "two aspects of the one and the same experience." His remarkable short stories are celebrations of modern life, dealing with subjects such as seeking, belonging, identity, masculinity, and sensual interaction with the world at large. The characters are both introspective and physical, the settings sparse but evocative, the circumstances ordinary yet unexpected.

*Red Gerberas* contains fourteen of these stories, translated by Harry Aveling in response to a request Sitor made of him to render his stories in English. (The rest of Sitor's stories are now available in a collection titled *Oceans of Longing*, also published by Silkworm Books.) The translation of his complete short stories into English shares the exceptional creative work of Sitor Situmorang with audiences around the world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421916>

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Thutiyawiset "Boonlua" : A Novel / MomLuang Boonlua Debyasuvarn

MomLuang Boonlua Debyasuvarn Cultural Fund, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand 2017

xxxii, 520p.

9789746416030

\$ 35.00 / null

820 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421915>

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Oceans of Longing : Nine Stories / Sitor Situmorang

Silkworm Books, Thailand 2018

xvi, 142p.

9786162151491

\$ 22.50 / null

250 gm.

Sitor Situmorang (1924–2014) was one of the most prominent Indonesian writers of the mid-twentieth century. Born into a high-status family of the Batak ethnic group indigenous to North Sumatra, he was a Dutch-educated Indonesian nationalist who experienced firsthand the transition from the Dutch East Indies of his youth to the modern Indonesia of his adulthood.

The nine stories in this collection are a window into the world of a postcolonial Indonesian writer dedicated to exploration and change but resolutely attached to the land, the people, and the stories of his Batak homeland. Set variously in northern Europe, the maelstrom of post-independence Jakarta, and modernizing traditional communities in his native North Sumatra, the stories live in—as the translators put it—the “perpetual tension between the urge to wander and a longing for origins.” Indeed, Sitor’s short stories speak not only to readers interested in Indonesian literature and literary modernism but also to all who ponder what it means to find one’s place in the world

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421917>

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Ummath: A novel of community and conflict / Sharmila Seyyid

HarperCollins Publishers, Uttar Pradesh 2018

vii, 352p. ; 22 cm.

9789352779017

\$ 12.75 / null

370 gm.

Spanning the three decades of the deadly Sri Lankan civil war, Ummath highlights the plight of women across communal and ethnic divides. Through the lives of three women, Thawakkul, Yoga and Theivanai one a social activist, the other a Tamil Tiger forced into joining the movement as a child, and the third a disillusioned fighter for the Eelam the novel lays bare the complex equations that ruled life in Sri Lankan society during and in the aftermath of the civil war.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=380919>

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Vital Possession / Marc Nair

Ethos Books, Singapore 2018

84p.

9789811177002

\$ 14.00 / null

200 gm.

1.Nature – Poetry

2.City dwellers - Poetry

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

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=408486>

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Common Life : Drawings and Poems / Ho Chee Lick & Anne Le Tzu Pheng

Ethos Books, Singapore 2018

192p.

9789811178405

\$ 24.00 / null

350 gm.

1.Singapore – Social conditions – Poetry

2.Crayon drawing – Singapore

3.Singapore – In art

“Most things in the world around us have poems hidden in them waiting to be revealed if we have the will to pay attention and see them with the heart.” – Anne Lee Tzu Pheng

With crayons and stained paper, artist Ho Chee Lick wanders around neighbourhoods in Singapore observing, perceiving, looking for that “something”: quiet and unremarkable objects and scenes of basic everyday life. One day some of his drawings came into the hands of poet Anne Lee Tzu Pheng who rediscovers the quiet beauty of these captured moments and explores their story with her words.

Common Life is a visual and poetic journey into territories the mind often finds too familiar to excite feelings or thoughts.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=408487>

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Footnotes on Falling / Ip, Joshua

Math Paper Press (BooksActually), Singapore 2018

113p.

9789811152832

\$ 14.00 / null

150 gm.

Footnotes on falling is a collection of 44 poems about sub-optimal life choices. The poems constantly laugh at themselves because they are polite, and Asian. They shuffle their feet sideways while declining eye contact. They indulge in wordplay because it gives them something to do with their fingers. They prefer to read out but also prefer this be done in private. They secretly would like you to bring them home.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=374165>

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Leituras do Mundo e da Natureza : Poemas / Vicente Paulino

Casa Apoema, Belo Horizonte, Brazil 2018

128p.

9789898915054

\$ 25.00 / null

240 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421895>

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Tradicoes Oraís De Timor-Leste / Agueda M. Magno

Universidade National Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL) , Dili, East Timor 2016

304p.

9788569957102

\$ 40.00 / null

420 gm.

1.Cultura – Timor-Leste

2.Generos literarios

3.Literatura oral – Timor-Leste

4.Tradicao oral – Timor-Leste

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421894>

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Hatete Obrigada ba Dezafius / Agueda M. Magno

Timor Aid, East Timor 2017

56p.

9789898726339

\$ 25.00 / null

100 gm.

Manan Na'in Premiu 1º 2016 Kompetisaun Istoria Timor 2016

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421893>

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Loron 7 / Jorgino Dos Santos

Timor Aid, East Timor 2017

56p.

9789898726315

\$ 25.00 / null

100 gm.

Manan Na'in Premiu 1º 2014 Kompetisaun Istoría Timor 2014

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421892>

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Matan Been Sai Osan Mean / Liberty Santa Meliana

Timor Aid, East Timor 2017

44p.

9789898726322

\$ 25.00 / null

80 gm.

Vensedor ba Kompetisaun Istoría Timor 2015

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421891>

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Laiha Rohan / Jorgino Dos Santos

Timor Aid, East Timor 2017

60p.

9789898726315

\$ 25.00 / null

100 gm.

Manan Na'in Premiu 1º 2017 Kompetisaun Istoría Timor 2017

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421890>

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The Unsafe Asylum: Stories of Partition and Madness / Anirudh Kala

Speaking Tiger Publishing Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi 2018

244p. ; 20 cm.

9789387693258

\$ 8.75 / null

250 gm.

After Partition, India exchanged the Muslim patients in its Mental Hospitals for their Hindu and Sikh counterparts in Pakistan. These interlinked short stories explore the impact of this decision, together with the ongoing consequences of Partition. Rulda Singh and Fattu (Fateh Khan), patients at Lahore's Mental Hospital, are separated, possibly for ever. Years later, Prakash Kohli, an Indian psychiatry student, hears Rulda's account of his journey to India, with its casual official cruelty and expected tenderness. When he visits Lahore, Prakash discovers the story of his own birth in 1947.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=409998>

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The Escapists of J. Mullick Road / Usha Ananda Krishna

Speaking Tiger Publishing Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi 2018

385p. ; 20 cm.

9789386702036

\$ 12.75 / null

340 gm.

In the aftermath of a bizarre confrontation with Kalol Mondal—a small-time hustler and Party goon—Pinaki Bose, a timid Bengali babu, bumbles into the ambit of the savagely brilliant architect, Biren Roy. Dazzled by Biren's breadth of vision and utter contempt for the conventional, he commissions him to design a country house—committing the whole family's savings to it. But Biren, paralyzed by his grand ideals and his passion for perfection, is slowly sinking into a drunken torpor. And Pinaki, ignorant of the Party's involvement in all land deals, must endure not just Kalol Mondal's ominous presence while buying his plot, but more worryingly, his infatuation with Pinaki's young daughter.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=409997>

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The Other Stories of Difference / Paro Anand

Speaking Tiger Publishing Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi 2018

164p. ; 20 cm.

9789388070119

\$ 7.75 / null

180 gm.

Who is the Other? Is it you? Is it me? Is it all of us? Childhood and teenage years—adults insist they are the best time. They cotton wool adolescence in soft lights, ignoring the heartaches and shadows. In this collection of stories, award-winning writer Paro Anand exposes the secrets and sorrows—and courage—that are part of today's life. A girl dealing with grief; another who is witness to a horrible assault on a woman in broad daylight; a boy who pushes himself to the brink of extinction; teenagers coming to terms with their otherness.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=409996>

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The Revenge of the Non-Vegetarian / Upamanyu Chatterjee

Speaking Tiger Publishing Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi 2018

124p. ; 20 cm.

9789387693562

\$ 8.75 / HB

280 gm.

On a September night in 1949, a house goes up in flames in Batia town, burning, to soot and cinders, everything in it, including a family of six and their dog. The head of the family, Nadeem Dalvi, had been the subordinate mamlatdar of Madhusudan Sen, ICS, the Magistrate of Batia, and his trusted supplier of fresh eggs, fish and red meat. When it is discovered that the deaths had not been accidental or caused by fire, Sen vows to turn vegetarian until justice has been done.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=409995>

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A Handbook of Rhetoric and Prosody / Jaydip Sarkar, Anindya Bhattacharya

Orient Blackswan Pvt Ltd., Hyderabad 2018

219p. ; 22 cm.

9789352872770

\$ 5.25 / null

300 gm.

How can language be used to entertain, to persuade, to emotionally affect us? What is it about a piece of writing that makes it stylish or appealing or well-written? Orient BlackSwan's A Handbook of Rhetoric and Prosody aims to provide a clear understanding of the techniques used by writers, from the classical age to the present day, to make their words resonate with their audience. Written primarily for students and teachers of English literature—both at the undergraduate and the postgraduate level—this handy reference book examines every important rhetorical and prosodic device in a thorough and engaging manner. The tropes and figures of speech in the 'Rhetoric' section of the book are categorised by type.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=409999>

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An Acre of Green Grass and Other English Writings of Buddhadeva Bose / Rosnika Chaudhuri (ed)

Oxford University Press, New Delhi. 2018

xxxii, 330p. ; ill. 22 cm.

9780199483600

\$ 25.00 / HB

540 gm.

This volume brings together, for the first time, a selection of English writings of Buddhadeva Bose. Bose's subjects range from world literature, Bengali writers, and Tagore, to Bengali gastronomy, Picasso, and the films of Charlie Chaplin. These wide-ranging and diverse essays are not only a delight to read, they are also some of the best literary criticisms written by an Indian critic since Independence.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=409994>

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Trafalgar Sunrise: A Novel / Danielle Lim

Marshall Cavendish Editions, Singapore 2018

184p.

9789814794923

\$ 16.00 / null

200 gm.

1.SARS (Disease) – Singapore – Fiction

2.Leprosy – Singapore – Fiction

From Singapore Literature Prize-winner Danielle Lim comes a powerful meditation on love, grief, redemption and awe at the resilience of the human spirit. Ward sister Grace Hwang battles alongside fellow healthcare workers in Singapore when the SARS virus—invisible, relentless and deadly—strikes in 2003. In the thick of it, she looks back at her teenage years in Trafalgar Home, a leper colony where Alice, her best friend, was forced to give her newborn up for adoption. With Alice now in the last stages of cancer, Grace attempts to reunite mother with long-lost daughter before time runs out. Along the way, she seeks to discover the person who found the cure to leprosy. Elegant, thoughtful and richly portrayed, Trafalgar Sunrise is a double helix of a novel that intertwines the gripping drama of the present with the haunting anguish of the past, pitting human against microbial, choice against consequence, and deed against redemption

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=391272>

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18 Walls: A Novel / Teo Xue Shen

Epigram Books, Singapore 2018

282p.

9789814655439

\$ 16.00 / null

280 gm.

1.Imaginary wars and battles – Fiction

2.Genetic engineering – Fiction

This action-packed thriller follows a squad of 18-year-olds who must fight an army of Savages in a war they did not choose. Ren is an elite fighter who feels no emotions. That makes him the perfect soldier to battle the Savages, a feral army of half-animal, half-human species prowling outside the 18 walls protecting the city...at least that's what the propaganda machine will have him believe. He and his motley squad are armed with genetic enhancements before venturing beyond the walls. They come to learn more about themselves and their enemies than they could have ever imagined.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=418884>

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Angkor Tears / Steven W Palmer

Saraswati Publishing, Phnom Penh, Cambodia 2016

204p.

9781535575188

\$ 25.00 / null

360 gm.

Someone is killing Cambodian children and leaving no clues behind. It's enough to draw English journalist Dave Bell back to Cambodia after an impassioned plea from an old friend, despite the country holding so many dark memories for him. Bell puts together an unlikely team of allies, including a social worker, a Cambodian General, and a young computer wizard from Bangkok. Together they begin to unravel the mystery that is striking fear across the Kingdom. But as they get closer to the truth they realise that they're in a race against time to save a child's life. Can they find the truth lurking in the shadows and stop a monster killing again?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421804>

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My Driver Tulong : And Other Tall Tales from a Post Pol Pot Contemporary  
Cambodia / M P Joseph

Partridge India, Gurgaon 2017

332p.

9781482886696

\$ 36.00 / null

480 gm.

The author, M P Joseph, a Civil Servant from the distant Indian state of Kerala spent many delightful years in Cambodia working for the UN when the country had just morphed from a war-torn Communist moth into a fascinating free market butterfly.

Through mesmerizing characters who personify the ancient soul of Cambodia and epitomize its modernizing mind, the author conjures up a vision of contemporary Cambodia and its people. Their lives and loves, their joys and tribulations, their hopes and their anguish, and most of all their innocence is captured in these delightfully inter-connected stories. The characters come alive to etch a never-before known Cambodia.

Written with a Maughamian touch, the book delves deep into the soul of Cambodia, a soul moulded by the ancient culture of Angkor and shaped by the more recent excesses of Pol Pot.

The fortitude of its people, their pluck and their courage in the face of adversities, their survival skills, as well as Cambodia's Indian past - both Hindu and Buddhist - and its present Indo-Chinese zest are woven seamlessly into the stories.

The book is an amusing essay into the modern soul of this ancient land. Now populated by a GenNext, who cannot yet forget their chilling past, the book is a journey into the heart of its people. A heart of innocence.

The author's Valentinian love for Cambodia, his honed observation and delightful humour makes this fictional stretched-travelogue a genre apart.

A must read for everyone - whether a traveller or not - interested in South East Asia, Indo-China or Cambodia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421807>

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The Woman who turned into a Vending Machine / Natalie Wang

Math Paper Press (BooksActually), Singapore 2018

60p.

9789811162169

\$ 16.00 / null

102 gm.

A housewife turns into a vending machine. Zombies are coming for tea. An unnamed narrator dreams of a cat. "The Woman Who Turned Into A Vending Machine" is a book on metamorphosis - metaphorical and physical, calculated and involuntary. Here is an invitation to explore how myth fits with the mundane, and how we shapeshift alongside our endlessly changing environments, muddying along life as best as we can.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=417959>

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The World According to Ms Erasure : Exercises in Zen Lyric / Desmond Koh and Zhicheng-Mingde

Squircle Line Press, Singapore 2018

104p.

9789811181580

\$ 14.00 / null

220 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422047>

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When The Lights Went Off / Paul Tan

Landmark Books Pte Ltd., Singapore 2018

80p.

9789814189866

\$ 18.00 / null

150 gm.

As the poet navigates through middle age, beset by questions on aging, love and loss, and the incipient awareness of mortality, these poems give shape and meaning to those attendant, oft-unspoken anxieties. Through coy irony, imagined personas and leaps of creative faith, Tan's fifth collection of poetry interrogates the redemptive possibilities of art, promising a journey through the familiar and the off-kilter.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422042>

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Pulp, Volume 1 of V : A Short Biography of the Banished Book / Shubigi Rao

Rock Paper Fire, Singapore 2016

1v.

9789810983819

\$ 50.00 / null

740 gm.

Ten Year Project by Shubigi Rao

Since 2013 Shubigi Rao has been working on 'Pulp: A Short Biography of the Banished Book', a decade -long film, book and visual art project about the history of book destruction, censorship and other forms of repression, as well as the book as a symbol of resistance. This involves visiting public and private collections, libraries and archives globally that served as flashpoints in history, collecting fragments, ephemera, anecdotes, buried secrets and piecing together (through the film, book and artworks) a composite chronology of the conjoined literary and violent trajectories of our species. This is the first volume of five, released in January 2016. The remaining four volumes will be published every two years.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422043>

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Oneiros : Poems / Cyril Wong , Ruth Wong

Math Paper Press (BooksActually), Singapore 2018

54p.

9789811173202

\$ 14.00 / null

140 gm.

Cyril Wong's eighth collection hurls the reader into a private dream world; these dreams explore the finitude of the self, recasting the poet's past and shaping the future or daring to mine its dangerous potential.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422050>

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It Happened On A Scrabble Sunday / Mahita Vas

Marshall Cavendish Editions, Singapore 2018

232p.  
9789814794763  
\$ 16.00 / null  
250 gm.

A late-night call leads Uday Aurora to find his beloved daughter barely alive after a gruesome attack. Uday wants justice, while his son demands vengeance. While the comatose Lavinia's condition deteriorates, Uday learns the identity of the real culprit. Distraught, Uday must choose carefully to determine his next steps, for the die is cast, and he now needs to come to terms with the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune that life has thrown at him. What will it take for a supremely decent man to abandon his characteristic morality, to protect his family while avenging brutality against his daughter? Especially when money buys nearly everything. Even absolution. A dark, crafty and thrilling stew blending social satire, murder and revenge, *It Happened on Scrabble Sunday* is inspired by Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*, liberally flavoured with curry.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422055>

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*Nimita's Place: A Novel* / Akshita Nanda

Epigram Books, Singapore 2018

464p. ; 152x225mm.

9789814785761

\$ 22.00 / null

600 gm.

1. Arranged marriage – India – Fiction
2. Immigrants – Singapore – Fiction
3. Women – India – Fiction.

It is 1944 in India and Nimita Khosla yearns to attend university to become an engineer, but her parents want a different life for her. As she accepts her fate and marries, religious upheaval is splitting the country and forcing her family to find a new home. In 2014, her granddaughter, molecular biologist Nimita Sachdev, escapes India to run away from the prospect of an arranged marriage. Staking out a future in Singapore, she faces rising anger against immigrants and uncertainty about her new home. Two generations apart, these two women walk divergent paths but face the same quandaries: who are we, and what is home?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422056>

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*The Minorities: A Ghostly Novel* / Suffian Hakim

Epigram Books, Singapore 2018

256p. ; 152x225mm.

9789814655279

\$ 22.00 / null

400 gm.

1. Inventors – Singapore – Fiction
2. Friendship – Fiction
3. Fathers and sons – Fiction
4. Death – Fiction.

Meet the four misfits living in one HDB flat. One is a Malay-Jew who is trying to get his father to come back as a ghost. Cantona is a promising Bangladeshi artist on the run from a construction company. Tights is a Chinese illegal immigrant with a *Forrest Gump* obsession. And Shanti is a gifted Indian lab technician hiding from her abusive husband. When a forlorn pontianak begins haunting them, the four friends find themselves embroiled in a surreal showdown that may just upend the world, or at least Singapore. Written in Suffian Hakim's trademark humour, *The Minorities* is a novel about those living on the edges of society and their soulful bond.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422057>

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*Imaginary Friends: 26 Whimsical Fables For Getting On In A Crazy World* /  
Melanie Lee, Arif Rafhan

Marshall Cavendish International (Asia) Pte Ltd., Singapore 2018

93p.

9789814828475

\$ 22.00 / null

Imaginary Friends is a collection of modern fables for adults based on the letters of the alphabet. These modern morality tales are humorous, witty and great fun to read. Come meet Annie the Ambitious Apple, Greta the Grouchy Grape, Olivia the Overachieving Octopus and their friends. Accompanied by quirky illustrations that capture the peculiarities of these personalities, you will be chuckling along as you see your friends and colleagues in many of these imaginary friends.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422058>

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Kafka in Ayodhya and Other Short Stories - Second Edition / Zafar Anjum

Kitab International Pte. Ltd, Singapore 2018

9789810972769

\$ 12.00 / null

200 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422051>

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B-Sides and Backslides : 1986 – 2018 : Poems / Felix Cheong

Math Paper Press (BooksActually), Singapore 2018

108p.

9789811173042

\$ 14.00 / null

180 gm.

Nine years after his last volume of poetry, Felix Cheong makes a comeback - this time, a collection of poetic outtakes and more recent writings.

B-Sides and Backslides: 1986 - 2018 puts together an unrelenting and honest portrait of the poet as a young man - an undergrad hung up on T.S. Eliot - through the ups and downers of career and marriage, to middle age. It is at once an insightful mapping of his craft over 30 years and a typography of turns and returns of themes and images. Collected here is the full range of Felix's oeuvre, from odes to love to social observations, from religious musings to political satire. Complete with liner (linear) notes documenting the periods between his four books, this anthology will offer you a rare look at a poet's growth and creative process from the inside out.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422052>

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The Best Asian Short Stories 2017 / Monideepa Sahu

Kitab International Pte. Ltd, Singapore 2017

xvi, 456p.

9789811149702

\$ 20.00 / null

420 gm.

The stories in this anthology by Asia's best known and well-respected contemporary writers and promising new voices, offer fresh insights into the experience of being Asian. They transcend borders and social and political divisions within which they arise. While drawing us into the lives of people and the places where they come from, they raise uneasy questions and probe ambiguities.

Explore Asia through these tales of the profound, the absurd, the chilling, and of moments of epiphany or catharsis. Women probe their own identities through gaps between social blinkers and shackles. A young Syrian mother flees from war-ravaged Aleppo into a more fearsome hell. The cataclysmic Partition of India and its aftershocks; life and death in a no-man's land between two countries; ethnic groups forced into exile; are all part of the wider Asian experience.

Life flows on in the pauses between cataclysms, bringing hope. Fragile dreams spread rainbow wings through the struggle to succeed socially, earn a living, produce an heir, and try to grasp at fleeting joys and love. These symphonies of style and emotions sweep across Asia – from Jordan and Syria to Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Japan and Korea. Crafted with love, they continue to resonate after the last page.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422053>

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Organ Gold: A Medical Thriller / Raju Chellam

Straits Times Press Pte. Ltd., Singapore 2018

112p.

9789814827041

\$ 22.00 / null

450 gm.

1. Traffic accidents – Fiction
2. Families – Fiction
3. Organ trafficking – Fiction.

Racy, pacy and packed with near-death experiences, drama, mounting hospital bills, desperate family members, suspicious characters and mysterious human organ traders, Organ Gold is a medical-themed thriller set in Singapore that looks at the darker side of organ donors and the booming black market in human organs. The excitement begins in the very first chapter, when Jack, an American teen in Singapore for a visit, is accidentally shoved through a window and ends up in a coma. His parents, already in agony that he may never wake up again, also have to deal with the worry of medical costs. Soon after, a mysterious man contacts Jack's father and offers him US\$200,000 - for Jack's organs. The book includes a 7,500-word epilogue examining the arguments and issues about organ donation and organ trading.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422054>

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Hermitage of Dreamers : Lyric Essays / Desmond Kon and Zhicheng-Mingde

Squircle Line Press, Singapore 2018

152p.

9789811175879

\$ 14.00 / null

260 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422048>

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Too Too Too Too : Poems / Tammy Ho Lai-Ming

Math Paper Press (BooksActually), Singapore 2018

98p.

9789811186066

\$ 14.00 / null

180 gm.

Tammy Ho Lai-Ming's second poetry collection Too Too Too Too is sensual, imaginative, narrative-driven and political. Her poetic voice is at once unflinching and delicate, and has the power to be both discomfiting and challenging. She combines the ethics and aesthetics of realist fiction with an exploration of the range of possibilities to create a twenty-first-century transnational poetics. These poems will inspire speculation and invite myriad interpretation

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422049>

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Afterimage / Werner Kho

Math Paper Press (BooksActually), Singapore 2018

44p.

9789811173219

\$ 15.00 / null

82 gm.

Afterimage: an image that continues to appear even after the original has ceased. Werner Kho's debut poetry collection is both personal and yet universal, an exploration of the process of loss and how our they come back to us in every different angle.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422060>

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Band Eight / Tham Cheng-E

Epigram Books, Singapore 2018

320p.

9789814615884

\$ 20.00 / null

500 gm.

1. Students – Fiction
2. Fugitives from justice – Fiction.

In the Nation, citizenship is competitively earned, and the sting of failure strikes swift. The smallest professional blemish may spell demotion or even deportation to offshore labour communities called Depositories, while the affluent are insured against all misfortune and can do no wrong. Santhosh is a Transient student hoping to ace the Civil Primaries and make Citizen the following year, when his father is suddenly deported and State agents murder his guardian's entire family. Adopted by a motley band of fugitives who hold wealthy Citizens ransom for a shot at freedom, Santhosh searches for his father and struggles to keep his integrity in a world where the only true choices are luxuries.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422061>

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Kallang Basin Adagio : A Novel / Khor Kuan Liang

Epigram Books, Singapore 2018

240p. ; 152x225mm.

9789814785143

\$ 22.00 / null

400 gm.

- 1.Nomads – Singapore – Fiction
- 2.Androids – Singapore – Fiction

A tribe of nomads journeys through a post-apocalyptic Singapore devastated by environmental collapse, for the promised land of the Kallang Basin. While searching for shelter, they rescue a starving young boy and his musically-inclined android, who upend the tribe's dynamic. When machines become symbols of our aspiration and extensions of our will, what role do they serve when we fight to survive? A testament to the strength and endurance of the human spirit.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422062>

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Marriage And Mutton Curry / M. Shanmughalingam

Epigram Books, Singapore 2018

218p.

9789810756222

\$ 16.00 / null

250 gm.

- 1.Tamil (Indic people) – Malaysia – Fiction
- 2.Tamil (Indic people) – Malaysia – Social life and customs – Fiction
- 3.Marriage – Malaysia – Fiction
- 4.Women, Tamil – Malaysia – Social conditions – Fiction
- 5.Malaysia wit and humor (English).

A kimono-clad Tamil woman greets Japanese soldiers at the door while her Anglophile husband cowers in his Jaguar. Two sisters share a husband when one fails to produce a child for the longest time. An American diplomat's urgent inquires about the Malaysian treasury's facilities are hilariously misunderstood. A daring civil servant proposes to a Ceylonese lady in his hometown mere minutes after meeting her, breaking a thousand years of marriage protocol. M. Shanmughalingam's debut collection paints, with gentle wit and humour, the concerns and intrigues of the Jaffna Tamil community in Malaya. At turns satirical, empathetic and insightful, these fifteen stories explore what happens when we hold on to-and choose to leave behind-our traditions and identities in a changing world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422063>

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If It Were Up To Mrs Dada: A Novel / Carissa Foo

Epigram Books, Singapore 2018

160p. ; 152x225mm.

9789814785983

\$ 22.00 / null

300 gm.

- 1.Older women – Fiction
- 2.National Day (Singapore) – Fiction.

Today is National Day. It is also Cheryl Dada's birthday. As Elderflower Home prepares for the celebration, Cheryl Dada too gets ready for her party. Between the hours of noon and seven p.m., she encounters the cantankerous residents and caregivers, her mother and people of yesteryears. What unfolds is a story about a woman coming to terms with age, loss and love.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422064>

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Aria And Trumpet Flourish / Dela Pena, Rodrigo Jr.

Math Paper Press (BooksActually), Singapore 2018

80p.

9789811146923

\$ 14.00 / null

122 gm.

In a world inundated by all kinds of texts that can be scanned almost as soon as they're produced, and that as quickly shimmer away into oblivion, I am overjoyed to sit and read Rodrigo Dela Peña, Jr.'s much anticipated first full-length collection *Aria and Trumpet Flourish*.

Even while observing the necessary ceremonies that we must accord our living, the poet never forgets "time's swift tumble," the "tar-spackled road" or its "hairline cracks." Unlike the ostentatious noise made by certain kinds of musical and other fanfare, the voice in these poems sings always out of a sense of urgency underwritten by love.

In this collection marked by masterful clarity and dexterous handling of forms (including ghazals, villanelles, abecedarians, and epistolaries), we glimpse monks walking the roads, crowds in the hellish circle of an MRT station at the end of the day, and the ghost of Jose Rizal in the Singapore Botanic Gardens. The poet recalls boyhood breakfasts fortified with bile and innards; and, for all his wandering, turns again and again to little towns and dusty barrios with homely names where a jukebox plays in a noodle shop called *Tres Hermanas*. He promises us: "This is my devotion: to account for the world's bounty, its finite grace.// To exalt the flourishing it contains, to ache for what is taken away" (from "Compline").

These are poems I will want to accompany me through the ordinary and other emergencies of everyday life; through the rest of the year, and beyond. In them, I might hope to learn more about the chrysalis' secret—how, from its gold wreck of discarded laments, a dying self might help to birth a new one.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=422059>

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*Scent of a Story: A Newspaperman's Journey* / Shankar Ghosh

HarperCollins Publishers, Uttar Pradesh 2018

xii, 212p. ; ill. 22 cm.

Includes Index.

9789352779437

\$ 10.00 / null

270 gm.

In this first-person memoir, Shankar Ghosh voices his father, the legendary newsman Dr Surendra Nath Ghosh, to narrate his father's life as a journalist. As the longest-serving and first Indian editor of second-oldest English newspaper in India, the *Pioneer*, Dr S.N. Ghosh's career matched step with the most profound changes in modern history, including India's coming of age as an independent nation. As a cub reporter for the *Pioneer*, he saw the 'whites only' clubs of the British Raj. During the Bengal Famine he helped his wife smuggle grain to Calcutta, then a punishable offence.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=410008>

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*Remnants of A Separation: A History of the Partition through Material Memory* / Aanchal Malhotra

HarperCollins Publishers, Uttar Pradesh 2018

xxvi, 433p. ; ill. 23 cm.

9789353022952

\$ 15.00 / null

580 gm.

*Remnants of a Separation* is a unique attempt to revisit the Partition through objects that refugees carried with them across the border. These belongings absorbed the memory of a time and place, remaining latent and undisturbed for generations. They now speak of their owner's pasts as they emerge as testaments to the struggle, sacrifice, pain and belonging at an unparalleled moment in history. A string of pearls gifted by a maharaja, carried from Dalhousie to Lahore, reveals the grandeur of a life that once was.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=410007>

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*Note by Note: The India Story 1947-2017* / Ankur Bhardwaj, Seema Chishti

HarperCollins Publishers, Uttar Pradesh 2018

xxiv, 327p. ; 22 cm.

9789352770106

\$ 12.75 / null

380 gm.

The Story of Independent India with the Flavour of Film Music The story of India, over the past seven decades, has been one of development and social and political change, which has often been forgotten, pushed to the recesses of our memories. Ankur, Seema and Sushant refresh those memories in Note by Note, linking the events of each year to a significant film song. For in a country that has a song for every season, every emotion, nothing qualifies as much as the film song to be a metaphor for the nation. The Hindi film song has uncannily encapsulated the sentiment of its era, reflecting, as well as forming, the consciousness of the country's identity and mood.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=410009>

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Footprints on Zero Line: Writings on the Partition / Gulzar

HarperCollins Publishers, Uttar Pradesh 2018

206p. ; 21 cm.

9789353022938

\$ 7.75 / null

220 gm.

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