

SINGAPORE

GRAPHIC NOVELS

SMALL ISLAND,
BIG READS

2023



SMALL ISLAND, BIG READS

About Singapore Publishing

Singapore's literary treasures stand out through their remarkable ability to connect with both local and global audiences. Beyond the written word, Singapore becomes a crossroad for ideas, cultures, and inspiration to converge. Explore, connect, and find yourself captivated by the cultural mosaic that is Singapore's literature.

Discover some of the most exciting voices and powerful stories our authors, illustrators, and publishers have to offer. From genre-mashing reinventions of Southeast Asian mythologies, to deep dives into our diverse foodways, to award-winning kidlit titles that have been made into musicals... step in and you'll see: we're a small island, with big reads to share.

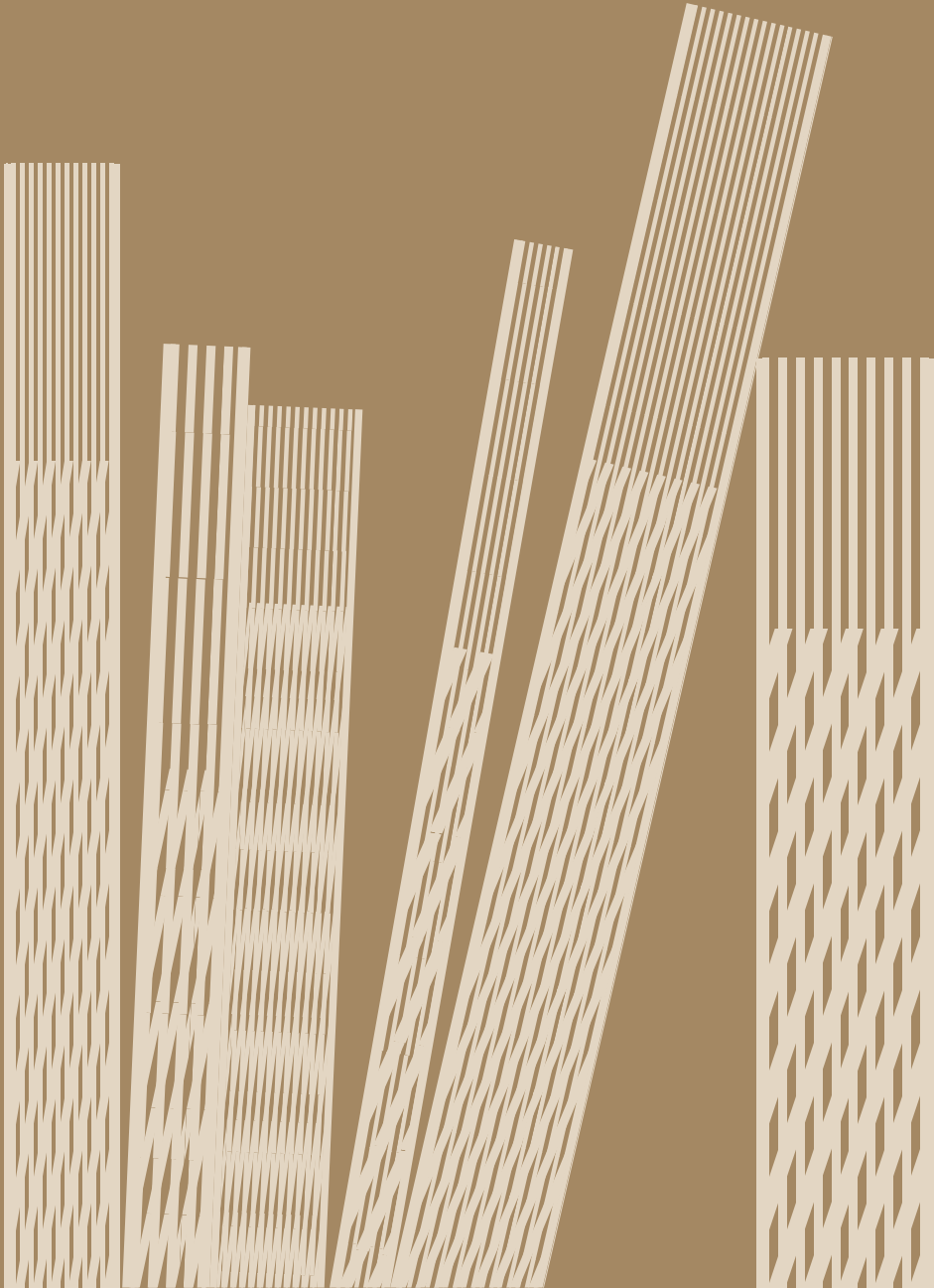
This catalogue has been produced as part of the Singapore Pavilion at the 2023 Frankfurt Book Fair, where you can find even more titles on display. It is only a small selection of what we have to offer, but represents the wide, exciting range of titles published every year across fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, and children's literature. Grants are available from Singapore's National Arts Council to support translations of Singapore Literature. Details can be found at <https://www.nac.gov.sg>.

About The Singapore Book Publishers Association

Established in 1968, the Singapore Book Publishers Association represents the interests of Singapore publishers engaged in a wide range of publishing, marketing, and distribution activities in both print and digital formats. It focuses on developing and strengthening the book ecosystem in Singapore. The Singapore publishing industry contributes some S\$2.08 billion each year to the Singapore economy.

Contact the Association at info@singaporebookpublishers.sg.

GRAPHIC NOVELS



A Drip. A Drop. A Deluge: A Period Tragicomedy

Creator
Publisher

Andeasyand (Nurulhuda Izyan)
Difference Engine

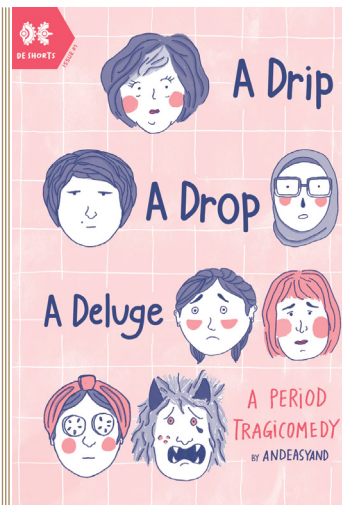
Published
ISBN
Format
Page Count
Size

2021
9789811822599
Paperback
40pp
148 x 210mm

For publication rights,
contact readcomics@differenceengine.sg

A Drip. A Drop. A Deluge: A Period Tragicomedy takes us on a journey through the eyes (and wombs) of six different women, from the girl who is experiencing her very first period, to the lady going through menopause, and how they—and the people around them—experience their monthly cycles.

Menstruation is an intimately personal yet shared experience that can sometimes be hard to talk about candidly, but it's time to put menstruating bodies at the heart of the conversation. Inspired by true stories from Asian women, this beautifully illustrated short comic by Andeasyand shows the lived experiences of unique, individual bodies, and brings to light the commonly undiscussed symptoms and trepidations of periods—heavy, regular, or nonexistent.

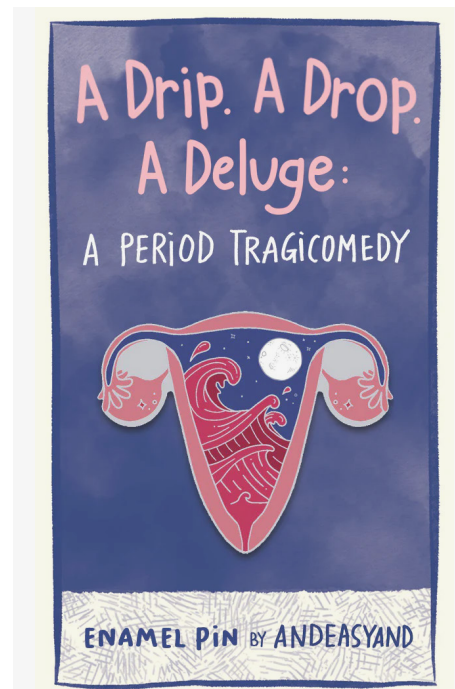
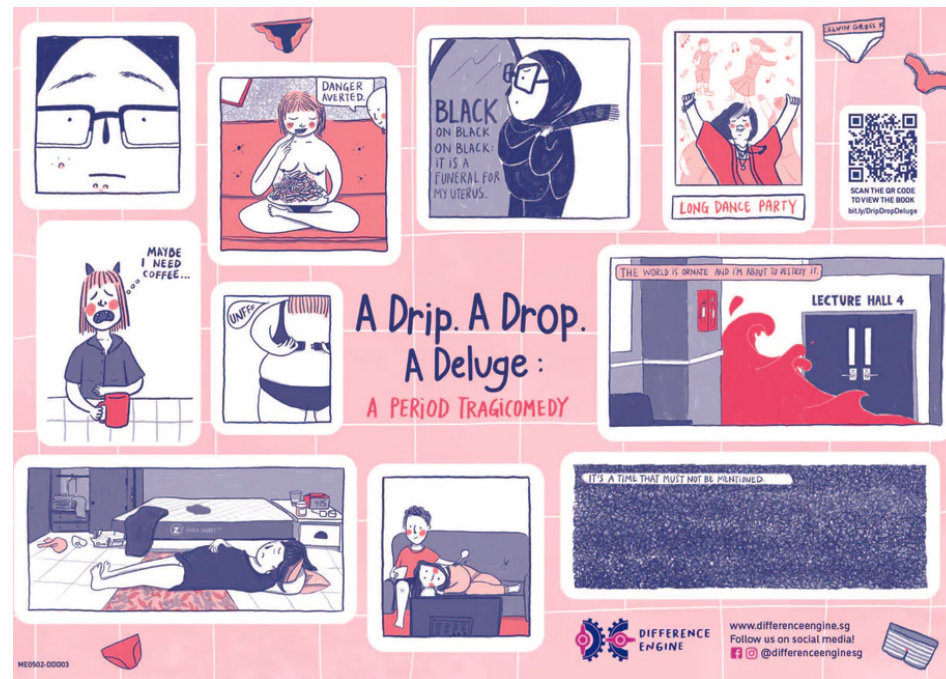


About the Creator

Andeasyand is a Nurulhuda Izyan born and raised in Singapore. In an effort to use up old name cards after her first marketing job, she discovered the world of illustration, and found ways to describe the beauty of the ordinary with doodles and scribbles. With that new power, she navigates difficult topics like menstruation, anxiety, marriage, weight, as well as silly daily musings. An acquaintance described it as risque tendencies—she calls it an olive branch to a like-minded stranger.

Notable

Finalist at the Singapore Book Awards 2022

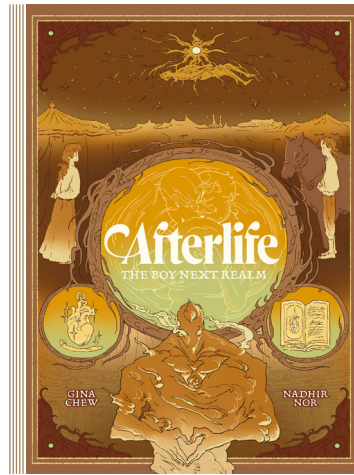


Afterlife: The Boy Next Realm

Author **Gina Chew**
 Illustrator **Nadhir Nor**
 Publisher **Difference Engine**

Published **2023**
 ISBN **9789811804120**
 Format **Paperback**
 Page Count **204pp**
 Size **168 x 257mm**

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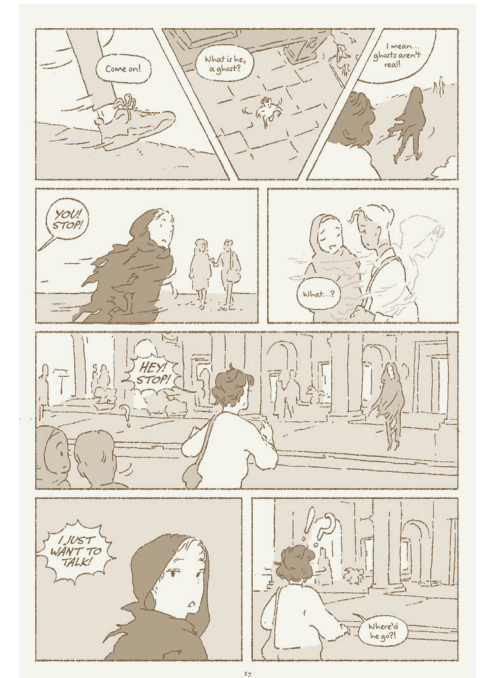
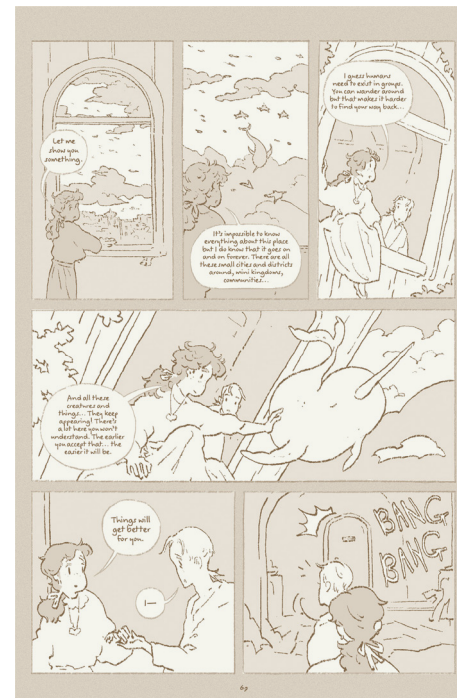
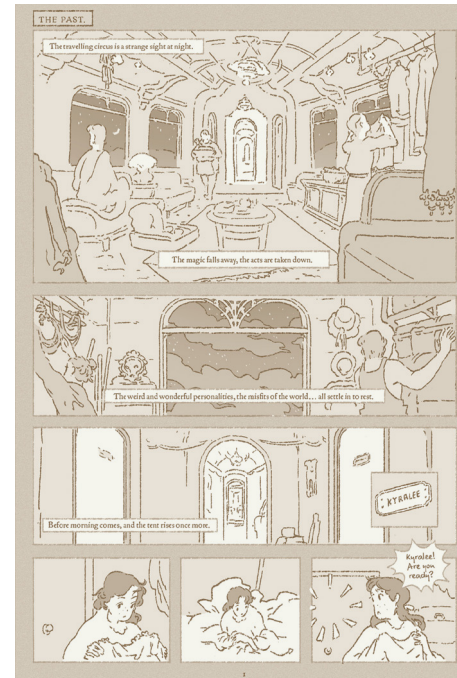
Kyra's younger brother is stricken with an ailment that has no cure. The last thing she needs is to find a mysterious boy lurking in the hospital. But where did he go, and why does she feel this inexplicable connection to him?

Spirit Keeper Eric isn't prepared for this. He was just there to do his job and bring a soul into the Afterlife. Little did he expect to run into a too-familiar face from his past in the land of the living...

In this great expanse where what's lost is found, fate, memories, and love intertwine as Kyra and Eric embark on a daring rescue mission to save a little boy from Death's clutches. *Afterlife: The Boy Next Realm* is an epic Southeast Asian-inspired young adult fantasy graphic novel about one girl's sacrifice as she fights to save what she loves.

About the Author

Gina Chew is a storyteller based in Singapore. Her day job involves writing for the screen, and *Afterlife: The Boy Next Realm* marks her first foray into the world of graphic novels. Her interests include exploring the ways we are tied to memory and tradition, needlessly complicated board games, and sleeping in.



About the Illustrator

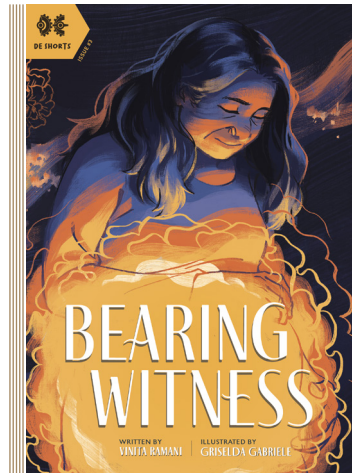
Nadhir Nor is an illustrator from Selangor, Malaysia who's into all things otherworldly. Mythology, lost traditions and their relationship with modern society are some of the subjects he holds dear too.

Bearing Witness

Author **Vinita Ramani**
 Illustrator **Griselda Gabriele**
 Publisher **Difference Engine**

Published **2022**
 ISBN **9789811852107**
 Format **Paperback**
 Page Count **52pp**
 Size **148 x 210mm**

For publication rights,
 contact readcomics@differenceengine.sg



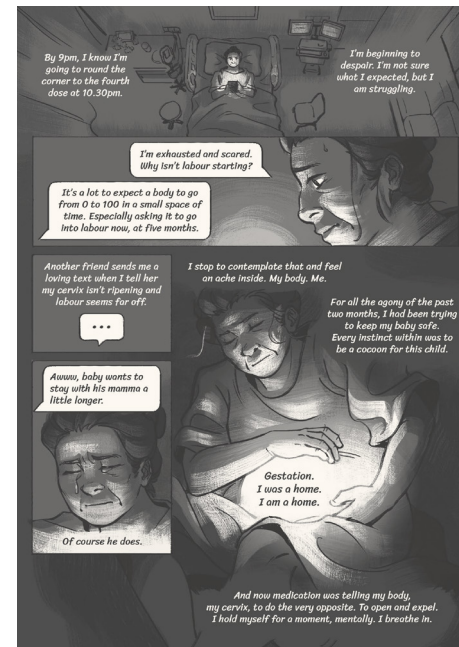
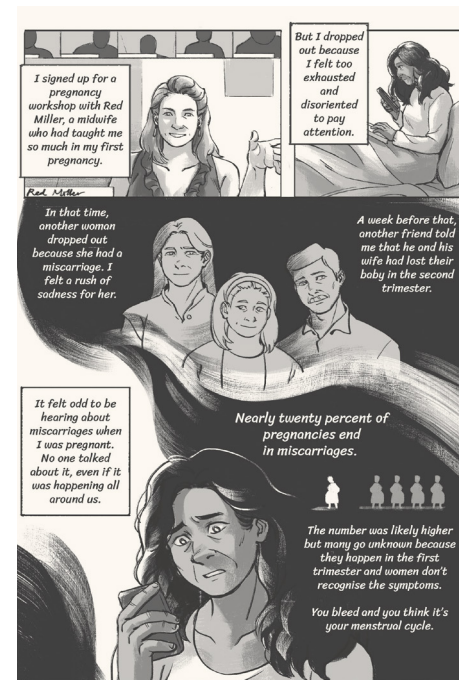
Suffering from postpartum depression after the birth of her first child, a 42-year-old musters up the courage to try for another baby.

Struggling through two trimesters of nausea, exhaustion, and recurrent, intense dreams, she hopes to hit the 20-week milestone and see the light at the end of the tunnel, only to discover during a routine ultrasound scan that her baby has passed away in the womb.

And so begins a surreal life on the other side of loss, where grief and ecstasy are often bedfellows, tears come from nowhere, other people's babies become the objects of intense affection, and where the baby that never came to be shows up in stars, stones, seeds, and her toddler's imagination.

About the Author

Vinita Ramani is a writer and editor. She has previously worked as a journalist for various local and regional publications, and as a publicist for film festivals, both in Singapore and abroad.



About the Illustrator

Griselda Gabriele is a Singapore-based Indonesian artist with experience in editorial illustration and visual development for games and animation. She is passionate about storytelling, and interested in exploring the diverse history, (pop) culture, and faiths of Indonesia and Southeast Asia.

How to Date a Dozen Men

Author Samara Gan
Publisher Epigram Books

Published 2023
ISBN 9789815105087
Format Paperback
Page Count 200pp
Size 170 x 255mm

For publication rights,
contact rights@epigram.sg



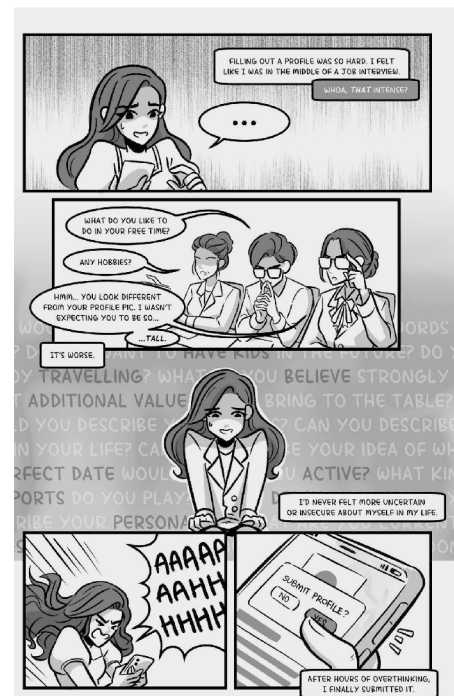
Samara is in her mid-twenties, and all her friends are getting married. Should she find herself a boyfriend as well?

It would certainly get her relatives off her back and give them something else to talk about over Chinese New Year.

She enters the dating scene, but soon realises that she knows nothing about dating or relationships. Join Samara in this semi-autobiographical graphic novel on her quest for true love.

About the Author

Better known as samarasketch, Samara Gan is a self-taught writer and artist from Singapore. She is an unapologetic fangirl who loves creating fanart of her OTPs (one-true pairings) for her followers. She buries her inadequacy and insecurities under layers of humour and false bravado, and tries not to think too much about her more-than-likely future of dying alone. Her debut graphic novel, *How to Date a Dozen Men*, began as a four-page draft for a contest, and is based largely on her personal experiences in the dating scene.

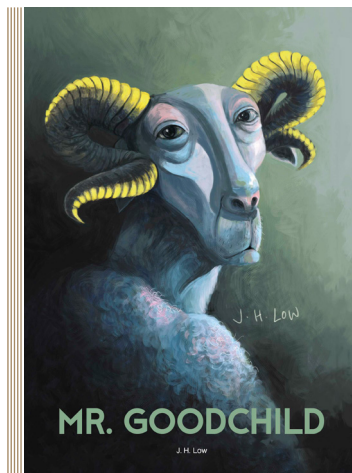


Mr Goodchild

Author **J.H. Low**
 Publisher **Marshall Cavendish International (Asia)**

Published **2021**
 ISBN **9789814928892**
 Format **Hardcover**
 Page Count **92pp**
 Size **178 x 250mm**

For publication rights,
 contact genrefsales@sg.marshallcavendish.com



Surreal yet magical, this evocative graphic novel examines the human experience and questions if we are truly who or what we think we are.

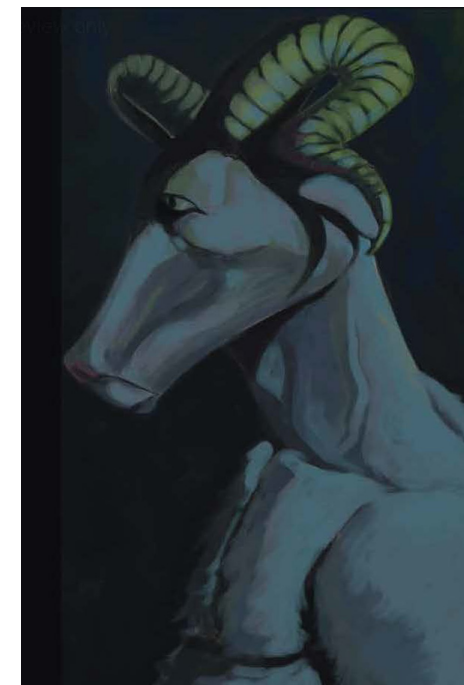
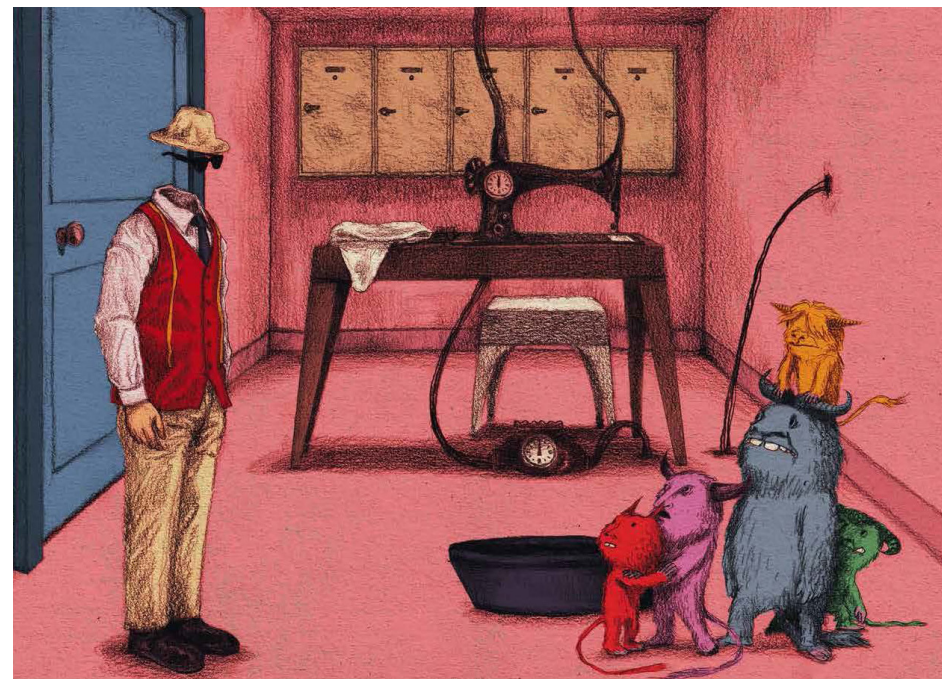
On the surface, Mr. Goodchild is a typical working class individual who leads a mundane, humdrum existence—just like everyone else. But under this banal calmness, a muffled, indistinct voice besets him.

What truths lie behind the voice?
 Will Mr. Goodchild ever be free?

About the Author

J.H. Low has a degree in fine art, a MA in Children's Illustration, and a PhD in Art. A 2016 finalist for Best Children's Title at the Singapore Book Awards and the first runner-up for the 2019 Scholastic Picture Book Award, J.H. Low is known for his masterful illustrations and delightful children's picture books. *Mr. Goodchild* is his first graphic novel for adult readers, demonstrating his passion for diverse types of graphic narrative for readers of all ages, and his interest in exploring complex existential issues.

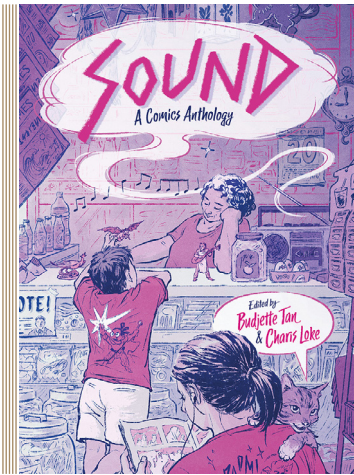
Notable **Finalist at the Singapore Book Awards 2022**



SOUND: A Comics Anthology

Editor(s)	Budjette Tan (Co-editor) Charis Loke (Co-editor)
Publisher	Difference Engine
Published	2020
ISBN	9789811451607
Format	Paperback
Page Count	288pp
Size	168 x 257mm

For publication rights,
contact readcomics@differenceengine.sg

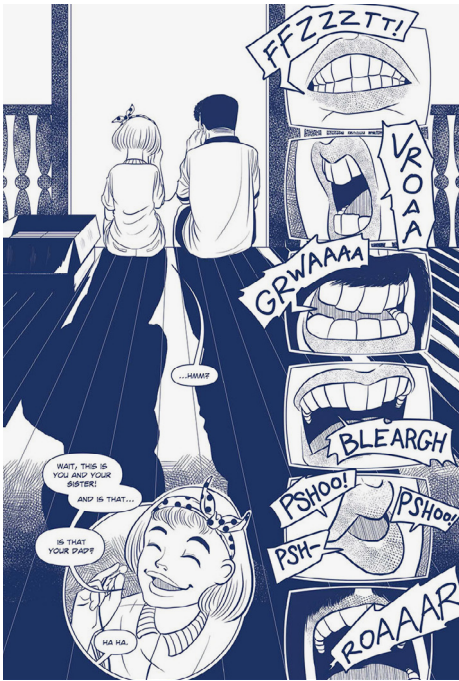


Traffic. A crunchy snack. An argument. What does sound look like to you?

Difference Engine is proud to present our first comics anthology, *SOUND: A Comics Anthology*. Writers and illustrators from all around Southeast Asia were challenged to push the boundaries of depicting the unseen through the medium of visuals and words, while telling stories important to them.

Guest editors Budjette Tan and Charis Loke have put together an intriguing list of stories that showcase the creativity of creators across Southeast Asia—both familiar and new names. In a broad range of genres and topics, this collection of stories is an exciting exploration of what the comics medium is capable of.

About the Editor
Budjette grew up in a haunted house and was told to sleep early because there were aswang flying outside his bedroom window. These stories inspired him to write the comic book *TRESE*, which he co-created with artist Kajo Baldesimo. *TRESE* has been adapted into a Netflix anime series.



About the Editor
Charis Loke is an illustrator and educator telling stories with images. Her work takes root in both fictional and real-world cultures, whether she's making fantasy maps or board games about Malaysian markets and kaki lima. She has an MA in *Visual Sociology* from Goldsmiths with an interest in drawing and mapping as arts research. She also edits and curates non-fiction comics and visuals for Southeast Asian nonprofits and publishers, including co-editing *SOUND: A Comics Anthology*.

The Art of Being a Grandmother: An Incomplete Diary of Becoming

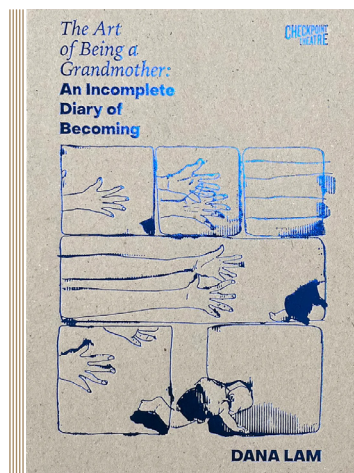
Author **Dana Lam**
Publisher **Checkpoint Theatre**

Published **2022**
ISBN **9789811858819**
Format **Hardcover**
Page Count **200pp**
Size **170 x 240mm**

For publication rights,
contact publications@checkpoint-theatre.org

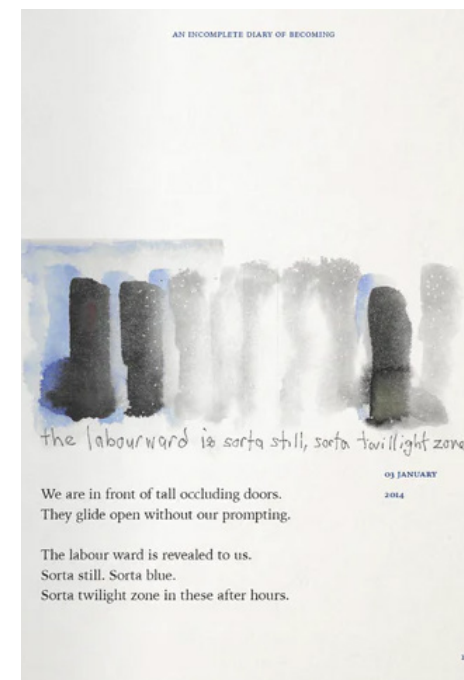
What does it truly mean to be a grandparent—to care for and nurture young life as you look back on your own, and experience the world afresh through their eyes?

The Art of Being a Grandmother: An Incomplete Diary of Becoming is an honest and heartfelt exploration of self—as a mother, grandmother, visual artist and writer. Following her acclaimed autobiographical play, *Still Life*, Dana Lam invites you into her world as she chronicles the process of becoming a grandparent through her art and writings. The careful interweaving of candid, meditative journal entries with stunning watercolour and ink renderings of scenes of her daily life deftly captures the unique pleasures and challenges of grandparenthood. Poignant, tender, and funny all at once, this 200-page visual journal will delight readers of all ages with its warmth and wonder.



About the Author

Dana Lam is a visual artist and writer, and an Associate Artist with Checkpoint Theatre. She most recently wrote and performed the erotic monologue *Why Not Sex in Not Grey: Intimacy, Ageing and Being* as part of the Festival of Women: N.O.W. 2021, and has performed for Theatreworks and the Singapore Arts Festival. Her writing credits include the book *Days of Being Wild: GE2006 Walking the Line with the Opposition* (Ethos Books, 2006). Her visual art has been shown in the Singapore Art Museum and the Substation Gallery, among others. Outside of performance, Dana has worked as a newspaper reporter and volunteered with AWARE (Association of Women for Action and Research), serving as its President from 2000-2002 and again, from 2009-2011.

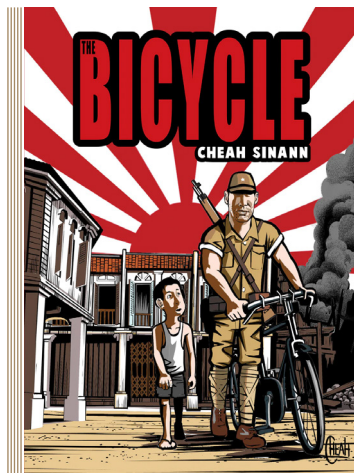


The Bicycle

Author **Cheah Sinann**
Publisher **Epigram Books**

Published **2014**
ISBN **9789814615501**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **112pp**
Size **152 x 214mm**

For publication rights,
contact rights@epigram.sg



In one of the last remaining jungles in Singapore, an old bicycle is unearthed in an archaeological dig.

Its discovery brings the elderly Lim Ah Cheng back to a time when he rode with his life on the line...

Meticulously researched by the creator of Singapore's first daily comic strip *The House of Lim*, cartoonist Cheah Sinann, *The Bicycle* tells the tale of Toshiro Iwakura, an aristocratic, battle-hardened private haunted by his desire to cycle in the Olympics, and five-year-old street urchin Ah Cheng, who dreams of nothing more than learning how to ride a bike. Their paths cross during the Japanese Occupation, when a unique bond formed over two wheels is quickly put to a life-or-death test.

About the Author

Cheah Sinann is a former editorial cartoonist with The Straits Times, where he also produced the popular comic strip The House of Lim for eight years. His cartoon strip *Billy & Saltie*, which highlights environmental issues in a humorous manner, appears in The Borneo Bulletin in Brunei, and in *The Daily Frontier* in Bangladesh. His collection *Billy & Saltie: Cool Croc* was published in 2010. Visit his website at houseofcheah.com.

Notable

Sold French language rights

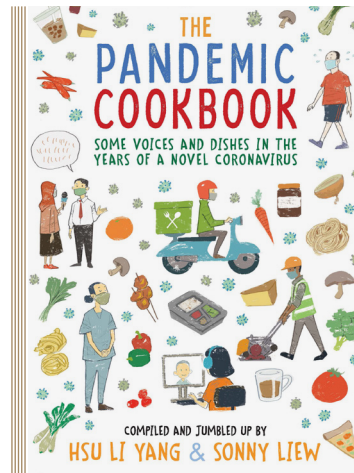


The Pandemic Cookbook

Author **Hsu Li Yang**
Illustrator **Sonny Liew**
Publisher **Epigram Books**

Published **2022**
ISBN **9789814984874**
Format **Paperback**
Page Count **176pp**
Size **170 x 255mm**

For publication rights,
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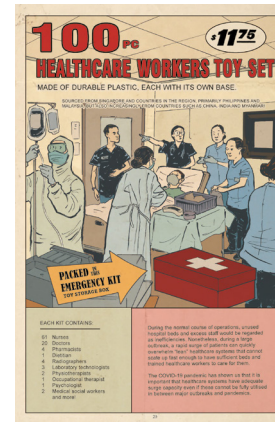
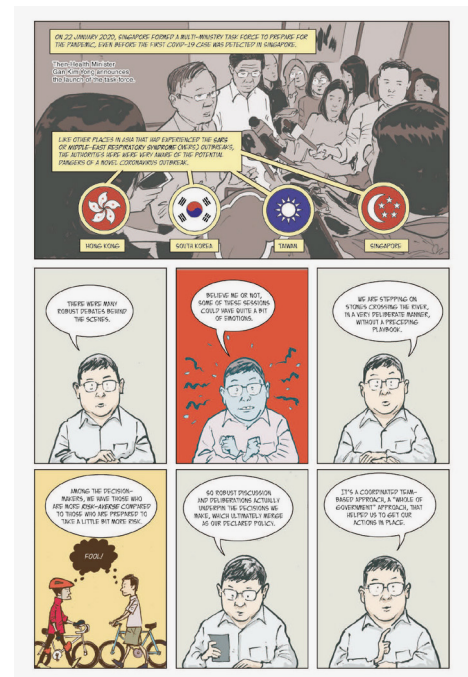
When COVID-19 started to spread around the world in early 2020, Singapore's readiness to deal with a global pandemic was put to the test.

There were both wise decisions and missteps along the way, while questions about scientific consensus, trade-offs and vaccines swirled about in our hyperconnected age of social media. *The Pandemic Cookbook* revisits those early days of unprecedented global disruption, including social distancing rules, Circuit Breakers, migrant worker dormitory lockdowns, elections and TraceTogether controversies.

Based on interviews with front-line workers, journalists, policymakers, academics, migrant workers and more, infectious diseases expert Dr Hsu Li Yang and Eisner-winning graphic novelist Sonny Liew present a unique recollection of Singapore's pandemic experience.

About the Author

Dr Hsu Li Yang is the Vice Dean of Global Health at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore. Over the past two years, he has been heavily involved in COVID-19 research and education, although his primary academic focus remains in the area of drug-resistant infections.



About the Illustrator

Sonny Liew is the creator of *The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye*, a New York Times and Amazon bestseller. It is the first graphic novel to win the Singapore Literature Prize, and has been translated into eight languages.

Notable

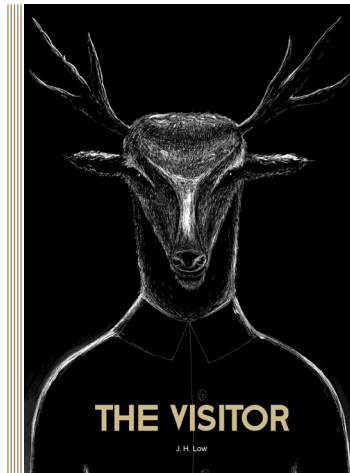
Finalist at the Singapore Book Awards 2023

The Visitor

Author **J.H. Low**
Publisher **Marshall Cavendish International (Asia)**

Published **2022**
ISBN **9789815066722**
Format **Hardcover**
Page Count **88pp**
Size **178 x 250mm**

For publication rights,
contact genrefsales@sg.marshallcavendish.com



A thought-provoking graphic novel that explores the complex relationships between individuals and the intricacies of encountering our own deeper emotions.

He didn't know where the Visitor came from or the reason for his visit, but he welcomed him anyway. He liked the Visitor's quiet, benign manner, and he was glad for the company. But when strange things started happening, doubts arose.

What is the mystery behind the Visitor and the strange encounters? Will the Visitor return?

About the Author

J.H. Low has a degree in fine art, a MA in Children's Illustration, and a PhD in Art. A 2016 finalist for Best Children's Title at the Singapore Book Awards and the first runner-up for the 2019 Scholastic Picture Book Award, J.H. Low is known for his masterful illustrations and delightful children's picture books. *Mr. Goodchild* is his first graphic novel for adult readers, demonstrating his passion for diverse types of graphic narrative for readers of all ages, and his interest in exploring complex existential issues.



The Woodsman

Author **Elvin Ching**
 Publisher **Epigram Books**

Published	2021
ISBN	9789814901765
Format	Paperback
Page Count	112pp
Size	170 x 255mm

For publication rights,
contact rights@epigram.sg



Drawn in stunning detail, Elvin Ching reveals a tale of revenge, where evil creatures lurk deep in the woods.

When a woodsman inadvertently disrupts a bloody ritual, he unleashes an unspeakable terror upon his village. In a desperate bid to protect his family, he races against time to track down and take out the bloodthirsty fiend, and exact his revenge.

About the Author

Elvin Ching works as an illustrator in Singapore while creating comics in his free time. He has illustrated for the *Danger Dan & Gadget Girl* series and the *Ordinary Oliver* books. His comics work include short stories in the anthologies *Liquid City* and *LONTAR*; *Badang*, a 6-page comic for Singapore's 51st National Day Celebration; as well as the graphic novel *Unstable Foundations*, a collaboration with writer Joelyn Alexandra. Elvin and his partner are slaves to very, very bossy cats.

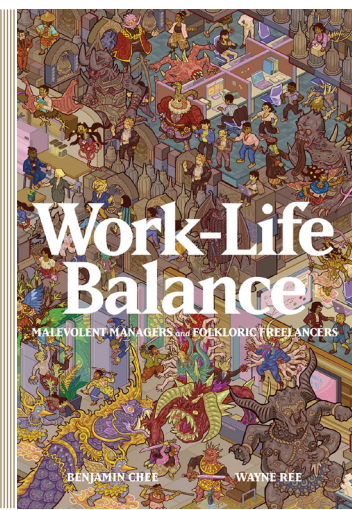


Work-Life Balance: Malevolent Managers and Folkloric Freelancers

Creator(s) Wayne Rée and Benjamin Chee
Publisher Difference Engine

Published 2022
ISBN 9789811845598
Format Paperback
Page Count 192pp
Size 148 x 210mm

For publication rights, contact readcomics@differenceengine.sg



When a menacing multinational arrives on our shores, familiar creatures like pontianaks, manananggals, raksasis, and ba jiao guis are forced out of their jobs.

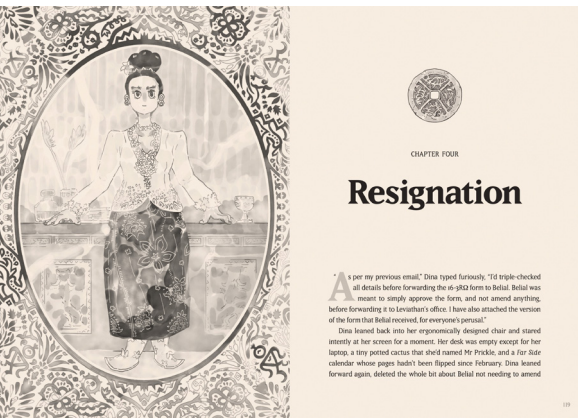
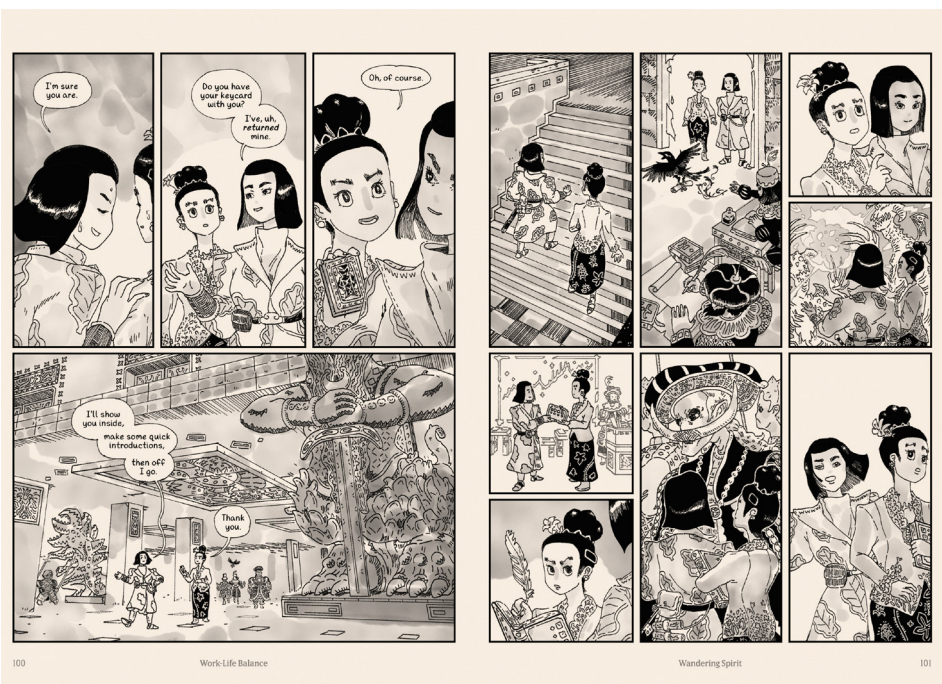
Some give in and sign up for mundane corporate life – but others would rather fight than join the broken-spirited hordes of the (desk)bound.

Benjamin Chee's comics and Wayne Rée's prose intertwine in this collection to bring you familiar Asian mythology in an even more familiar setting: the realm of dead-end work, glass ceilings, and truly hellish bosses.

About the Creator

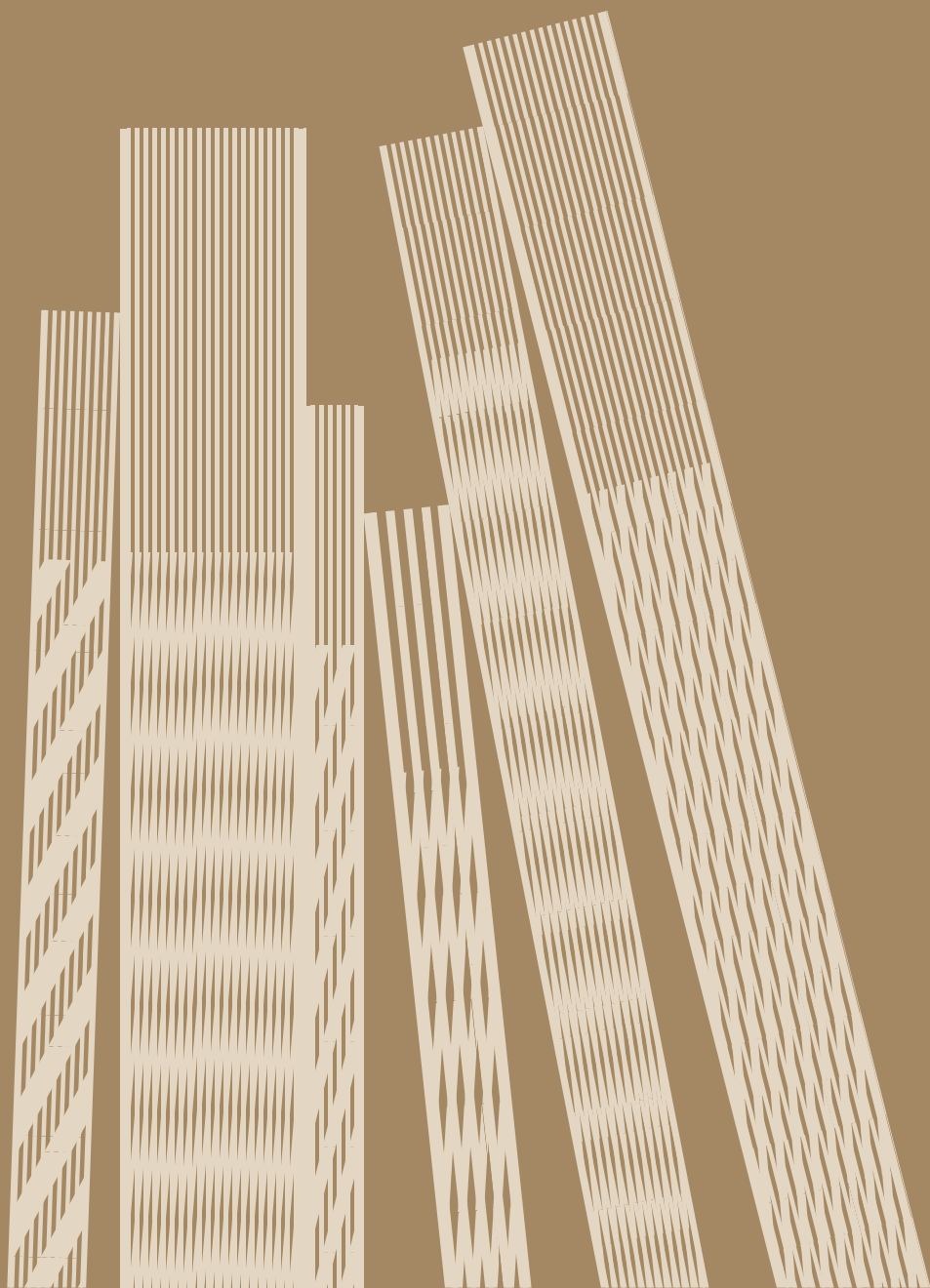
Wayne Rée wrote the prose for *Work-Life Balance*. He's the co-creator of the comic, *Worlds Apart: A Conversation About Mental Health* (with Nurjannah Suhaimi), and the fan favourite audio series, *Ghost Maps* (with Kyle Ong). His short stories have appeared in *LONTAR: The Journal of Southeast Asian Speculative Fiction*, *Infinite Worlds Magazine*, *The Epigram Books Collection of Best New Singaporean Short Stories* and *Fish Eats Lion Redux*. He first collaborated with Benjamin Chee on *Mr Memphis*. His least favourite job ever was when he worked as a social media manager. His favourite job ever was when he worked as a night-shift security guard. Find him online at www.waynereewrites.com

Notable Singapore Book Awards 2023 winner (Best Literary Work & Book of the Year)



About the Creator

Benjamin Chee created the comics and illustrations for *Work-Life Balance*. He enjoys mashing up genres and themes, so after making several books with titles like *Charsiew Space* and *Lychee Queen*, he ended up asking Wayne Rée for permission to adapt the wild west short story, *Mr Memphis*, into a Wuxia comic... leading to them making this book together. His comics are collected in *Liquid City Volume 3*, *Asian Monsters*, and *SOUND: A Comics Anthology*. He is terrified of horror movies and hasn't yet fully comprehended why he is part of this book with its abundance of hantu. Find him online at www.charsiewspace.com



SBPA Member Directory & Website

Singapore Book Publishers Association members' directory 2023-24



Find the online version of this catalogue and more information about the Singapore Pavilion and its publishers at smallislandbigreads.com

SINGAPORE — nestled at the southern point of the Malay archipelago, a small island that is all at once a thriving city, and a garden of cultures, languages, and forms. Discover some of the most exciting voices and powerful stories our writers and publishers have to offer.

From genre-mashing reinventions of Southeast Asian mythologies, to deep dives into our diverse foodways, to award-winning kidlit titles that have been made into musicals... step in and you'll see: we're a small island, with big reads to share.

The Singapore Pavilion at the 75th Frankfurter Buchmesse is organised by the Singapore Book Publishers Association, supported by the National Arts Council Singapore.

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