



SPRING 2026

Monsoon Books



ABOUT US

Monsoon Books is an independent publisher of award-winning trade books on Asia. Established in 2002 in Singapore, and registered in the UK in 2016, Monsoon Books publishes fiction and narrative nonfiction with Asian themes by writers from around the world under the 'monsoon' imprint.



The Monsoon Books office is housed in the converted stables of Burrough Court Estate in High Leicestershire. Once a hunting lodge for the British royal family and gentry, Burrough Court belonged to Lord Furness, who kept a zebra and a giraffe on the grounds – the zebra was ridden regularly in the paddock by Lady Furness. A mistress of the then Prince of Wales, Lady Furness introduced her royal lover to her friend Wallis Simpson during a party at Burrough Court and was soon supplanted in the prince's affection by the American socialite, for whom the future King Edward VIII would later abdicate the throne.

Lord Furness housed his private aeroplane on the estate and it was this aeroplane that was commissioned by Prime Minister Chamberlain, a regular visitor to the house, to transport him to Germany in his efforts to prevent World War Two. The main house survived the war but was destroyed in a fire shortly afterwards when, as the tale goes, a band of enthusiastic Canadian soldiers accidentally burned the house down while attempting to blow up the sealed entrance to the estate's wine cellar.

We love a good story at Monsoon Books.

All photographs courtesy of Burrough Court Estate.

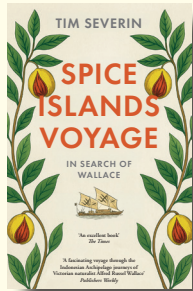


New & Forthcoming

<i>Spice Islands Voyage</i>	2
<i>The Book of Mating</i>	2
<i>Saman</i>	2
<i>The Dog Meows, The Cat Barks</i>	3
<i>Run, My Daughters, Run</i>	3
<i>Little Species, Big Mystery</i>	3
<i>Legacy</i>	4
<i>Joseph Conrad's Eastern Voyages</i>	4
<i>Jakarta</i>	4
<i>Majapahit</i>	5
<i>Dirty Old Media Men</i>	5
<i>Blitar Magic Garage</i>	5

Fiction Highlights	6
---------------------------	---

Nonfiction Highlights	18
------------------------------	----



Spice Islands Voyage Tim Severin

9781915310521 • NONFICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

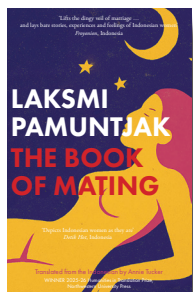
In this remarkable blend of travelogue and historical investigation, Tim Severin sails a traditional Indonesian *prahu* to follow in the wake of Alfred Russel Wallace, the naturalist who co-developed the theory of evolution with Darwin. Drawing on Wallace's *The Malay Archipelago* as his guide, Severin journeys from the Aru Islands in eastern Indonesia, close to western Papua and northern Australia, to Sulawesi, visiting the Banda and Kei Islands in Indonesia's Moluccas or Spice Islands and other remote shores still home to rare birds of paradise and bird-winged butterflies. Along the way, he documents rainforest destruction, thriving traditional com-

munities, and hopeful conservation efforts. Rich in adventure and insight, *Spice Islands Voyage* celebrates scientific curiosity, cultural encounters, and the fragile beauty of Indonesia's biodiversity.

'An excellent book.' *The Times*

'Splendid ... this engaging book takes a fascinating voyage through the Indonesian Archipelago journeys of Victorian naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace.' *Publishers Weekly*

'Absorbing and exciting.' *Kirkus Reviews*

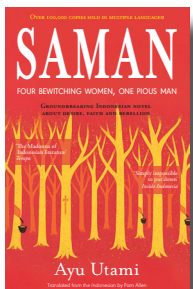


The Book of Mating Laksmi Pamuntjak

9781915310620 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

This collection of twelve short stories offers a rich, multi-layered portrait of women's lives in contemporary Indonesia. Moving between the gleaming towers of urban Jakarta and the remote landscapes of Buru Island, Laksmi Pamuntjak explores love, desire, identity and resilience with striking intimacy and depth.

'Lifts the dingy veil of marriage ... and lays bare stories, experiences and feelings of Indonesian women' *Froyonion, Indonesia*



Saman Ayu Utami

9781915310545 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

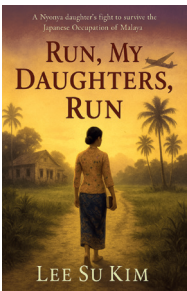
Four bewitching women, one pious man. *Saman* weaves together multiple voices and narratives, following Laila, who, with her married lover Sahir, challenges the social and political injustices she witnesses. Their struggle intersects with Saman, an activist priest whose fight for oppressed farmers leads him into resistance and love. A landmark work, *Saman* stands out for its political urgency, exploration of interfaith and interethnic relationships, and candid portrayal of women's sexuality in Indonesia. Over 100k copies sold in multiple languages.



The Dog Meows, The Cat Barks Eka Kurniawan

9781915310606 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

Growing up pious in Indonesia ... and breaking every rule, Sato Reang's childhood is full of laughter, mischief and freedom – until the day his father declares it is time to become pious. But he is no meek disciple. He dreams of wickedness, rebels in secret, and delights in the chaos of small sins. He eats with the wrong hand, skips prayers, and finds joy in mocking the rules meant to shape him. Yet rebellion is never without consequence, and when he dares to pull others into his orbit, innocence collides with vengeance in ways he could never have foreseen.



Run, My Daughters, Run Lee Su Kim

9781915310583 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

In Japanese-occupied Malaya, seventeen-year-old Pei Lin's world collapses overnight. Once destined for university, she now hides from soldiers, battles hunger, and clings to hope amid chaos. Beside her, her mother Kim Neo guards a devastating secret from her past – one that could unravel their family just as they need each other most. A gripping tale of resistance, resilience, and the unbreakable bonds of women in wartime. Vivid, heart-wrenching and darkly funny, it brings to life a forgotten chapter of Malaysian history through voices you won't forget.



Little Species, Big Mystery Debbie Argue

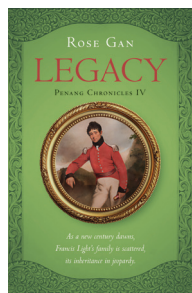
9781915310644 • NONFICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

Only one kind of human lives on Earth today: us. But not so long ago, we shared the planet with others. In 2004, the world was stunned by the discovery of *Homo floresiensis* on the Indonesian island of Flores. Small in size but big in mystery, this unique human species lived in Indonesia as recently as 52,500 years ago, alongside our own ancestors. A very short, thickset being, with long arms and big feet and an appetite for pygmy elephants – and hunted itself by giant storks – it was soon nicknamed 'the hobbit'.

In *Little Species, Big Mystery*, archaeologist Debbie Argue takes readers deep into the story of Flores Man: the dramatic discovery, the excavations that followed, and the debates that continue to challenge what we thought we knew about human history. She also connects Flores with other recent finds in Southeast Asia, revealing a region rich in clues to humanity's forgotten past. Exciting, accessible, and full of scientific intrigue, this is the definitive guide to one of Indonesia's greatest discoveries.

'Debbie Argue takes us on a journey of thrilling scientific discovery.' Australian National University

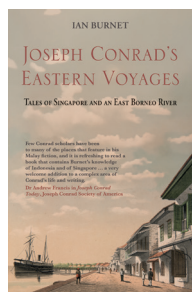




Legacy Rose Gan (Penang Chronicles, Vol. IV, see also p.7)

9781915310200 • HISTORICAL FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

Volume IV in the Penang Chronicles series of historical fiction. As Penang heads inexorably towards colonial rule, Francis Light's wife Martinha encounters corruption, prejudice and heartbreak in equal measure. Scattered across the world, her children are forced to negotiate the British establishment alone as best they can with little but their father's name and reputation to sustain them. From Britain to Bengal, from Java in the company of Raffles to the new city of Adelaide, the next generation makes its way, its roots firmly planted in the beautiful island of its home.



Joseph Conrad's Eastern Voyages Ian Burnet

9781915310309 • NONFICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

Half of Joseph Conrad's body of work is set in late 19th-century Southeast Asia and his favourite destinations were the bustling port of Singapore and the remote ports of the Dutch East Indies. His early works – *Almayer's Folly*, *An Outcast of the Islands*, *Lord Jim* and *The Rescue* – are based on the people and places he encountered in his own voyages on the *Vidar*, a trading vessel that plied the waters of the Indonesian archipelago from its base in Singapore. Burnet connects the fictional and real worlds in this fascinating introduction to Conrad's life in the Malay archipelago.



Jakarta: Biography of a City Herald van der Linde

9781915310446 • NONFICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

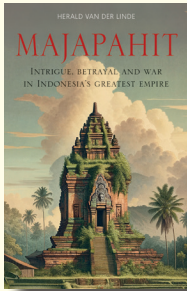
Indonesia's capital city of Jakarta – home to over 10 million people with more than 30 million in its greater metropolitan area – stands as a testament to resilience, reinvention and the enduring spirit of its inhabitants.

Inspired by the vibrant mix of people who have settled here over the centuries and by the labyrinthine kampung that crisscross the megacity, Herald van der Linde, bestselling author of *Majapahit*, explores the history of Jakarta through the eyes of individuals who have walked its streets through the ages, including his own ancestors. *Jakarta* traces the city's

evolution from pre-colonial times to the bustling metropolis it is today, revealing how it has taken shape over five hundred years.

Compelling reading for Jakartans and visitors alike, this is a celebration of the history and people of Jakarta – a heartfelt tribute from a long-time resident to his adopted home.





Majapahit Herald van der Linde

9781915310286 • NONFICTION / NARRATIVE HISTORY • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

Discover Majapahit, Indonesia's greatest empire. In the 14th and 15th centuries, the Majapahit kingdom reigned supreme in eastern Java, and its influence extended throughout Asia.

Walk the bustling streets of Majapahit, a melting pot of aristocratic Javanese, matted-haired Brahmins, hermits in bark cloth, widows dressed in white, and Chinese, Persian and Arab traders. Discover beautiful temples and imposing palaces, and markets brimming with goods from all over Asia.

At the heart of Majapahit's story are eccentric kings and queens embroiled in bloody family feuds, and a tipsy court scribe who has the good sense to write down everything he sees. Witness the drama of royal intrigues, murders, revenge and war. This is not just the story of an empire's rise and fall, it is an exploration of a society rich in religious diversity, social tolerance and artistic achievement, and a society – much like Indonesia today – which must navigate its way in the challenging tapestry of Chinese and Southeast Asian geopolitics.

- Indonesian rights to Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia
- Simplified Chinese rights to Orient, Shanghai



Dirty Old Media Men Millie Lee

9781915310248 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

Millie Lee is 22, smart and ready to start the Singaporean media job of her dreams. She just has to avoid the sexual advances of dirty old men in a newsroom both digitally and emotionally stunted. This is the fictional memoir of a young woman in Singapore trying to make it in a man's media world.

'I absolutely love it! Beautifully crafted ... I laughed out loud so many times, my husband wants to read it now.' Neo Swee Lin, actor (Singapore)



Blitar Magic Garage John Donnelly

9781915310460 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

Munin, a former political prisoner, runs Blitar Magic Garage in Setiabudi, an impoverished Jakarta settlement. When whispers of redevelopment threaten Setiabudi's fragile balance, Munin and his neighbours are forced to confront a dark web of corruption, greed and political power.

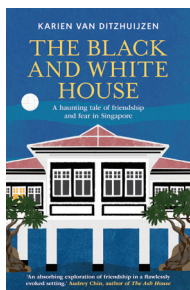
'Magic Garage will shine among this year's novels like a beacon.' Alison Broinowski, *Australian Book Review*



Radikal Olivier Ahmad Castaignede

9781915310101 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

Hendra is 'Radikal', a techno DJ in Jakarta. In his relentless pursuit of new highs, he likes to lose himself in music and drugs. But when a childhood trauma resurfaces, even his love for Jasmine cannot prevent him from falling into a self-destructive downward spiral. As he grapples with his inner demons and an Indonesia caught between tradition and modernity, Hendra is vulnerable to the extremist ideology that begins to infiltrate his world. No longer able to find solace in techno and ecstasy, he is presented with a new purpose in life and a focus for his pent-up rage: jihad.



The Black and White House Karien van Ditzhuijzen

9781915310187 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) [SEE ALSO PAGE 12]

Anna moves into a 'black and white' house in Adam Park, Singapore. But echoes of footsteps in the hallways make her wonder if rumours of the house being haunted are true. Overwhelmed and lonely in a new country, Anna slowly unravels. Salimah, single mother to a rebellious teenager, revisits the house where her childhood was uprooted. A place with a dark history. Anna bumps into Salimah, and their lives intertwine in unexpected ways. Tensions rise as the house's haunting presence grips both women and threatens to upset an already fragile friendship.



Charlot Ian Masters

9781915310125 • FICTION / HISTORICAL • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

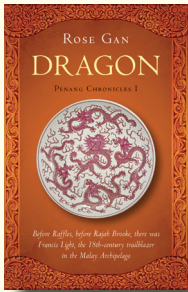
The world's greatest silent comedian finds his voice in French Indochina



CHAPLIN AND
GODDARD IN
CAMBODIA, 1937.

Charlie Chaplin and his co-star and lover, Paulette Goddard, are on vacation in Asia following the release of the global superstar's silent masterpiece, *Modern Times*. Evading the press in Phnom Penh, he is inspired to work on a new film idea – imagining his iconic alter ego, the Tramp, in the colonial rubber plantations. But Charlie Chaplin's presence in the French protectorate has encouraged Cambodians to speak out for real against colonial exploitation and the authorities are nervous about his visit. As the middle-aged filmmaker grapples with his creativity and his conscience, a deepening friendship with a Cambodian comic actor and anti-colonial communist eventually forces him to choose between lending his celebrity status to their cause or keeping silent. Fictionalised around real events, *Charlot* is a story about how an embittered Charlie Chaplin abandons his silent Tramp in order to find his own voice in the politically turbulent 1930s.

'A brilliant feat of imagination – reconstructing an episode from Charlie Chaplin's life and exploring its ramifications in a wholly fascinating and convincing way. Incredibly impressive.' William Boyd, author



Penang Chronicles Rose Gan

Volume I: Dragon • 9781912049882 • 416pp

Volume II: Pearl • 9781915310002 • 496pp

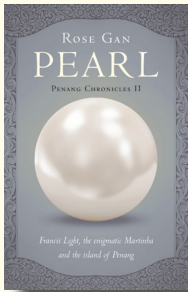
Volume III: Emporium • 9781915310088 • 496pp

Volume IV: Legacy • 9781915310200 • 528pp

FICTION / HISTORICAL • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

Before Raffles, before Rajah Brooke, there was Francis Light, the 18th-century trailblazer in the Malay Archipelago

Francis Light's adventures as a naval officer and country ship captain take him from England to India, the Straits of Malacca to Siam, through shipwreck, sea battles, pirate raids and tropical disease. But Light's most difficult challenge is his ultimate dream: to establish a British port on the island of Penang on behalf of the East India Company. Later, as the 18th century draws to a close, Penang must fortify and prepare for war; and Light's partner, Martinha Rozells, must negotiate the murky waters of colonial prejudice and corruption for the sake of her family.



Praise for the series

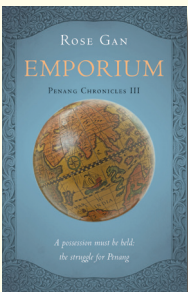
'Enthralling ... brings a forgotten hero back to rumbustious life.' John Keay, author of *The Honourable Company*

'Rose Gan has skilfully woven a delectable concoction of fact and fiction for this fourth and final instalment in her Penang Chronicles series. Transporting the reader regionally and across the globe and back, from sweating the tropics to covert escapades in the bitter cold, Gan has yet again produced a book that is impossible to put down.' Marcus Langdon, author of *Penang: The Fourth Presidency of India 1805–1830*

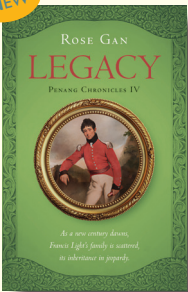
'Rose Gan has that unique gift for fusing meticulous research with vivid storytelling and beautiful prose to bring the past to life. It is an absolute pleasure to read.' Herald van der Linde, author of *Majapahit and Jakarta*

'Swashbuckler or swindler, trader or statesman, the mere mention of the name Captain Francis Light in the state of Penang is bound to draw an array of clashing reactions. Gan explores the twists and turns of what Light's life could have been in this historical fiction narrative.' Andrea Filmer, *The Star*, Malaysia

'Rich in detail, *Legacy* stylishly immerses us in the time and space of the colonial era in Penang, Malaysia, its sister city Adelaide, South Australia, and a wider imperial world beyond. I have thoroughly enjoyed Rose Gan's weaving of the fascinating Light family story into a vast tapestry of empire, faithfully portraying the depth of colonial hegemony and the complexities of identity and intercultural tension.' Elizabeth Ho OAM, Chair, History Trust of South Australia



NEW





Someone is Coming T.A. Morton

Optioned for film/TV

9781915310040 • FICTION / THRILLER • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 176PP

An interview, a childhood revisited, a shocking past revealed. Philip Goundry, 93, is forced to revisit long-repressed memories from his childhood growing up on a plantation in Malaya.

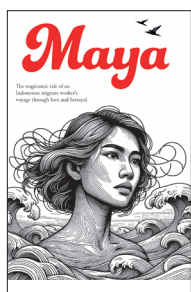
'A beautifully written, gripping thriller about history and memory and how they intersect.' Sophie Hannah, *Sunday Times* and *New York Times* bestselling author



Not A Virgin Nuril Basri

9781912049462 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 304PP

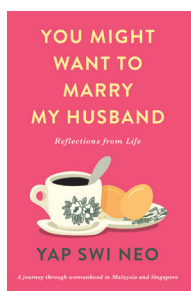
In this coming-of-age novel, four Indonesian students seek to discover what their future will bring and look for answers to their questions about sexuality, religion and drugs. With characters ranging from cross-dressing hairdressers, drag queens and rent boys to fanatic Muslims and low-life security personnel, the action of this tragicomedy moves between an Islamic boarding school and a gay bar in Jakarta, and in so doing illuminates the mindset and yearnings of a new generation of Indonesians.



Maya Nuril Basri

9781915310323 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

Maya, a thirty-something Indonesian caught in the undercurrent of life's uncertainty, takes a leap of faith from the chaos of Jakarta to a job as a waitress aboard a European cruise ship. But her voyage of discovery soon takes a darker turn in the backstreets of London. Set in cruise ship cabins, East London pubs and West End brothels, this tragicomedy is a tale of survival, a search for identity, and the hope of finding a harbour in life's stormy sea. By the bestselling author of *Not a Virgin* (see page 13).

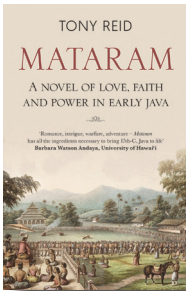


You Might Want To Marry My Husband Yap Swi Neo

9781912049981 • MEMOIR / SHORT STORIES • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 224PP

In this intimate collection of autobiographical stories that every woman should read, Swi offers tales of deep reflection that relate to the tears and laughter, and the love and pain felt by girls and women in Malaysia and Singapore over the last 75 years. These are stories from the heart.

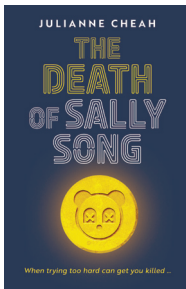
'Yap Swi Neo enthralls with her nostalgic reflections.' *New Straits Times*



Mataram Tony Reid

9781912049127 • FICTION / HISTORICAL • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 336pp

Seventeenth-century Java is in turmoil between its Hindu-Buddhist past and its Muslim future, while pepper draws Europe's quarrelling spice-hungry traders to its shores. Thomas Hodges of the East India Company seizes a chance at glory by being the first to venture ashore at the pepper port of Banten in 1608. Will he unlock the mysterious riches of Java for the English, or die forgotten with a Javanese kris or Portuguese poignard between his ribs?



The Death of Sally Song Julianne Cheah



9781915310026 • FICTION / CRIME • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 288pp

Juggling her job, her family, her friends and worries about her future is keeping Singapore bookstore assistant Mei busy but when a customer is murdered, Mei needs to know why. Taking lessons from her favourite detectives, the always inquisitive — some would say *kaypoh* — Mei navigates the darker side of Singapore to find out what really led to the death of Sally Song.



Cigarette Girl Ratih Kumala

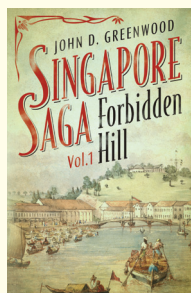
9789814625470 • FICTION / HISTORICAL • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 256pp

Savour the familiar scent of clove and tobacco ... for this is the aroma of Indonesia's history. Soeraja is dying. On his deathbed he calls for Jeng Yah, a woman who is not his wife. His three sons, Lebas, Karim and Tegar — heirs to Kretek Djagad Raja, Indonesia's largest clove cigarette empire — are shocked, and their mother is consumed by jealousy. So begins the brothers' search into the deepest recesses of Java for Jeng Yah, to fulfil their father's dying wish and to learn the truth about the family business and its secrets.

Cigarette Girl is more than just a love story and the soul-searching journey of three brothers. Set on the island of Java the story follows the evolution of a family's *kretek*, or clove cigarette, business from its birth in the Dutch East Indies of the early 1940s, and it takes readers through three generations of Indonesian history, from the Dutch colonial era to the Japanese occupation, the struggle for independence and the bloody coup of 1965 in which half a million Indonesians were hunted down and killed.

Now a Netflix Original Series!





Singapore Saga John D. Greenwood

Forbidden Hill • 9781912049189 • 432pp

Chasing the Dragon • 9781912049202 • 496pp

Hungry Ghosts • 9781912049226 • 496pp

FICTION / HISTORICAL • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

Spanning the first 100 years of Singapore's history, Singapore Saga is a meticulously researched and vividly imagined historical narrative that brings to life the stories of the early European, Malay, Chinese and Indian pioneers – the administrators, merchants, policemen, boatmen, coolies, concubines, slaves and secret society soldiers – whose vision and intrigues drive the

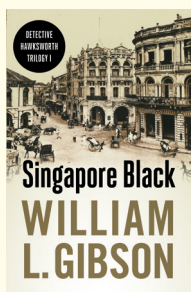
rapid expansion of the port city in the early decades of the nineteenth century.

'Brimming with memorable characters, this colourful reimagining of the early history of Singapore brings the intrigues, personality clashes and violence of the era vividly to life.' Tim Hannigan, author

'Historically accurate narrative.' *South China Morning Post*, HK

'Historically faithful account of Singapore's transition from sleepy fishing village to major trading center in the years.' *Asian Review of Books*, HK

'100 years of early Singapore in new fiction series.' *Straits Times*, Singapore



Detective Hawthorne Trilogy William L. Gibson

Singapore Black • 9789814423403 • 256pp

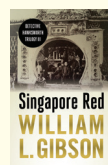
Singapore Yellow • 9789814423656 • 272pp

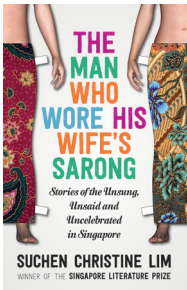
Singapore Red • 9789814423670 • 272pp

FICTION / HISTORICAL • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

Singapore/Malaya, 1892: When a dead American is found floating in Rochor Canal, Chief Detective Inspector David Hawthorne begins an investigation that quickly leads into a labyrinth of deceit and violence in the polyglot steam-cooker of turn-of-the-century Singapore. As Chinese gangs verge on open turf war and powerful commercial enterprises vie for control of the economy, a stolen statue that houses an ancient Hindu goddess becomes the object of a pursuit with a mounting body count, and it seems that everyone is suffering from maniacal erotic nightmares. Will Hawthorne be able to restore order before the colony is tipped into a bloodbath?

Explore the dark underbelly of nineteenth-century Singapore's Chinatown and colonial district in this hard-boiled historical thriller trilogy, comprising *Singapore Black*, *Singapore Yellow* and *Singapore Red*.

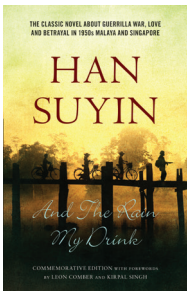




The Man Who Wore His Wife's Sarong Suchen Christine Lim

9781912049080 • FICTION / SHORT STORIES • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 288PP

A mother finds out her son is gay; a daughter finds out her two mothers are lesbians; a niece stumbles upon the body of her dead uncle dressed in his wife's sarong kebaya; and an old man's nascent feelings for a Filipino maid lead him back to his suppressed art. Singapore Literature Prize-winning author Suchen Christine Lim's short stories of the unsung, unsaid and uncelebrated in Singapore, delve beneath the sunlit island's prosperity and coded decorum. Her characters chip away prejudice and sculpt it into acceptance of the other.



And The Rain My Drink Han Suyin

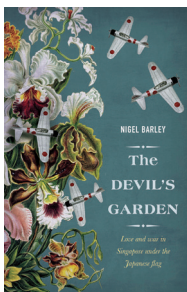
9789814423106 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 272PP

Han Suyin's celebrated novel evokes all the colour and conflict of the 1940s and early 50s Emergency Period in Malaya and Singapore.

'Moving and beautifully described' *Times Literary Supplement*, UK

'Considerable sensibility and penetration' *The Sunday Times*, UK

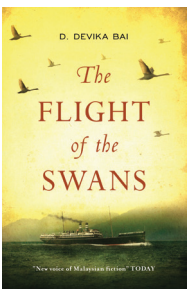
'An important book ... profoundly moving.' *The Daily Telegraph*, UK



The Devil's Garden Nigel Barley

9789814358422 • FICTION / HISTORICAL • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 256PP

It is 1942 and Singapore is Syonanto, part of the Japanese Empire, where violence and starvation stalk the streets but in the Singapore Botanic Gardens a bizarre tranquillity reigns between warring nations and even love awakes as old identities melt away in the heady atmosphere of the Orchid House. From its unique perspective and with a mixture of humour and romance, *The Devil's Garden* pictures a formative moment in the emergence of Singapore, where loyalties are less secure than those of the official histories and truth is anything but simple.



The Flight of the Swans D. Devika Bai

9789814423113 • FICTION / HISTORICAL (B-FORMAT) • 320PP

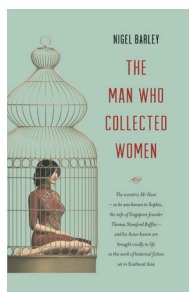
'New voice of Malaysian fiction' *TODAY*, Malaysia

'Devika Bai has firmly marked for herself a place in the Malaysian literary scene' *New Straits Times*, Malaysia

'Devika Bai has a wonderful eye for detail' Rani Manicka, author

'A sweeping saga.' *The Star*, Malaysia

Shortlisted for the Popular Readers' Choice Awards (Malaysia)



The Man Who Collected Women Nigel Barley

9781912049745 • FICTION / HISTORICAL • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 224pp

Eccentric real-life 19th-century Englishman Alexander Hare was a trader and slave-owner in the East and a friend of Thomas Stamford Raffles, the founder of Singapore, but Hare's chief claim to fame is as the creator of a harem of women from throughout Asia.

'A clever and highly entertaining novel, which handles a problematic real-life historical figure deftly.' Tim Hannigan, *Asian Review of Books*

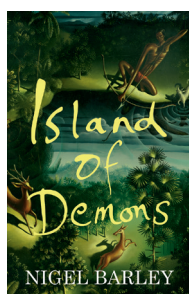


Snow over Surabaya Nigel Barley

 **Optioned for film/TV**

9781912049004 • FICTION / HISTORICAL • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 224pp

Few British schoolgirls have grown up to become revolutionary heroes of distant, eastern nations but Muriel Stewart Walker did just that. Under a multitude of different names – 'K'tut Tantri' and 'Surabaya Sue' being the best know – she joined in the struggle for Indonesian independence after World War II and broadcast its revolutionary message to the world on Rebel Radio. But she did more and smuggled arms, and probably drugs, to help finance the new Republic and experienced bloody battle in the British attack on Surabaya.

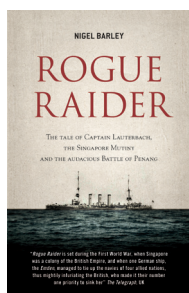


Island of Demons Nigel Barley

 **Optioned for film/TV**

9789810823818 • FICTION / HISTORICAL • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 392pp

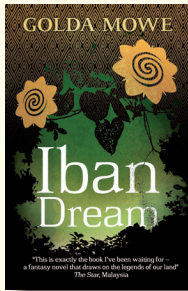
In the 1920s and 30s, Walter Spies – ethnographer; choreographer; film maker; natural historian and painter – transformed the perception of Bali from that of a remote island to become the site for western fantasies about paradise. The rich and famous flocked to Spies' house in Ubud and his life and work forged a link between serious academics and the visionaries from the Golden Age of Hollywood. Charlie Chaplin, Noel Coward and many others sought to experience the vision Spies offered.



Rogue Raider Nigel Barley

9789814423137 • FICTION / HISTORICAL • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 296pp

It is the First World War and German naval captain, Julius Lauterbach, is a prisoner of war in Singapore. He is also a braggart, a womaniser and a heavy drinker and through his bored fantasies he unwittingly triggers the 1915 Singapore Mutiny. *Rogue Raider* is the adventure story of how one ship, the *Emden*, ties up the navies of four nations and audaciously starts the Battle of Penang in Malaysia, and how one man eludes Allied Forces in a desperate chase across Indonesia and the rest of Asia to America as he attempts to regain his native land.



Iban series Golda Mowe

Iban Dream • 9789814423120 • 288pp

Iban Journey • 9789814625210 • 272pp

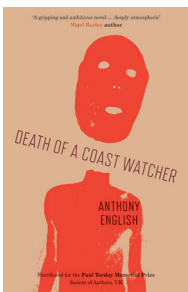
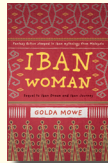
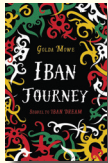
Iban Woman • 9781912049363 • 288pp

FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

In the Iban series of novels by Golda Mowe, the most prolific Iban novelist in English of her generation and a descendant of the erstwhile headhunters of Borneo, the author weaves stories of heroic warriors, headhunting war parties, dream worlds and of real folklore from Borneo.

'This is exactly the book I've been waiting for – a fantasy novel that draws on the legends of our land. The author, who is of Iban and Melanau descent, was inspired by the tales she heard as a child in Sarawak and this exciting story draws on Iban mythology as well as the old ways of life that have all but disappeared.' Daphne Lee, *The Star*, Malaysia

'Mowe, of pure Borneo ancestry, is a great talent, a mistress of the English language, who has accomplished what no one else has done. *Iban Dream* is an ensera, or epic, written in English. Mowe has succeeded in recreating the Iban feeling – and even hinting at Iban literary glories – by English means. She's a skilled and learned prose stylist.' Dr Otto Steinmayer, *Borneo Research Bulletin*



Death of a Coast Watcher Anthony English

9781912049707 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 464pp

'The best kept secret of Australian writing ... an exceptional novel'
Greg Barron, author

'An amazing read ... I found myself totally immersed in this account of the horrors of war, where innocent indigenous women are caught up in its atrocities.' Dr Jenny Murray-Jones, Deakin University

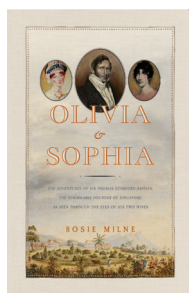
- Shortlisted, Paul Torday Memorial Prize (Society of Authors UK, 2022)
- Shortlisted, Best Australian and NZ Fiction (ANZ Lit Lovers, 2021)



Harvesting the Storm John Waromi

9781912049486 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 224pp

In this contemporary fable, John Waromi, a member of the Ambai tribe of West Papua in eastern Indonesia, sheds light on the struggle of Papuans to preserve their ancestral traditions and language, revealing the necessity for man to understand his place in creation. He takes us into a coastal ecosystem where humans, animals and plants must co-exist to maintain the harmonious balance of nature. We witness the dreadful threat of dynamite bomb-fishing upon the underwater environment, and its effect upon all living creatures who depend upon it for survival.

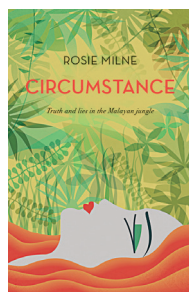


Olivia & Sophia Rosie Milne

Optioned for film/TV

9789814625272 • FICTION / HISTORICAL • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 432PP

When Raffles sets sail from London to make his name and fortune in the tropics, he takes with him his new wife, Olivia, a raffish beauty with a scandalous past. After Olivia's death, Raffles marries Sophia, no beauty, but curious and intelligent, embraces the opportunity of an exciting life abroad. Marriage brings her great joy but also great sadness. And all the while, Raffles, driven and talented, manoeuvres at the centre of global networks of power, trade, politics and diplomacy.



Circumstance Rosie Milne

Optioned for film/TV

9781912049301 • FICTION / HISTORICAL • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 464PP

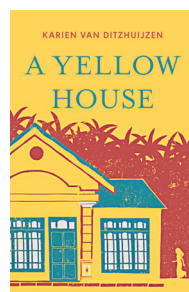
What happens when an adoring young bride is met on the doorstep of her new home by her husband's former mistress? When Rose arrives in 1924 Malaya, she knows nothing of her new husband Frank's past. But how long can she remain ignorant? Frank, Rose and mistress Nony soon become entangled in vines of secrecy and lying, they are snagged by thorns of bribery and blackmail, and caught in sticky webs of bluff and counter-bluff.



At Sea with a Song Catherine Monnet

9781912049806 • FICTION / ROMANCE • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 272PP

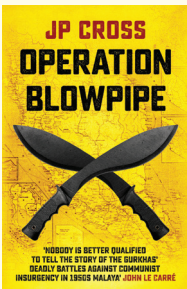
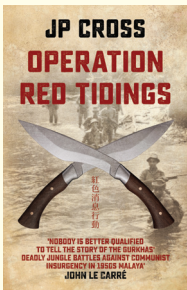
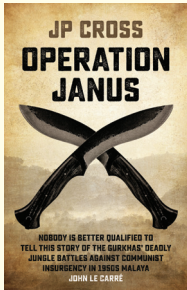
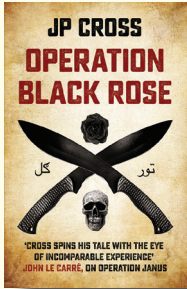
Thai island girl Thanikarn's chances of meeting a good Thai man were limited ... and foreigners couldn't be trusted. On the Thai island of Koh Samui, Thanikarn has never fallen in love – until she meets Lucas, a dashing French American musician, ten years her junior. After a brief and passionate affair, Lucas returns home and Thanikarn doubts she'll ever see him again. But Lucas leaves Thanikarn with more than just memories, including a song that he composes and records for her. Will their lives ever cross again? Only unforeseen events and the gift of a song will decide.



A Yellow House Karien van Ditzhuijzen

9781912049349 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 368PP

Ten-year-old Singaporean Maya is lonely: her grandmother is dead, her mother is focused on her career and her best friend has become a bully. When Aunt M, a domestic worker from Indonesia, joins the family to take care of Maya and her baby sister, Maya is ready to hate her. Aunt M smiles a lot, but says little. However, after Aunt M rescues a fellow maid living in the same building and beaten by her employer, Maya discovers a side of Singapore hitherto unknown to her. She and Aunt M grow closer as they reveal the plight of migrant domestic workers in Singapore.



Operation series JP Cross

Based on historical fact and the author's personal experience, this series of military fiction features Gurkha military units in Southeast Asia.

Operation Black Rose • 9781912049585 • 288pp

Operation Janus • 9781912049141 • 272pp

Operation Red Tidings • 9781912049943 • 288pp

Operation Blind Spot • 9781912049325 • 400pp

Operation Stealth • 9781912049783 • 372pp

Operation Four Rings • 9781912049509 • 386pp

Operation Blowpipe • 9781915310064 • 288pp

Operation Tipping Point • 9781915310149 • 288pp

Operation Hunter • 9781915310262 • 288pp

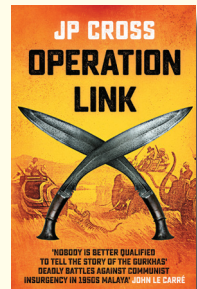
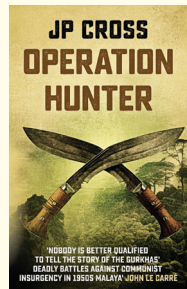
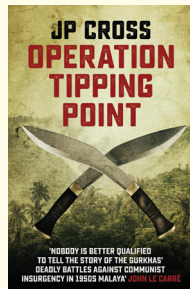
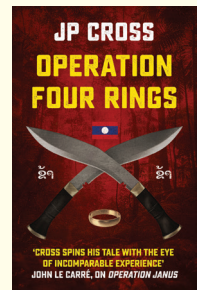
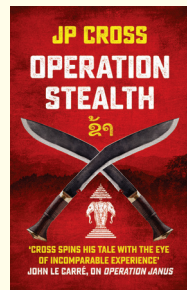
Operation Link • 9781915310422 • 296pp

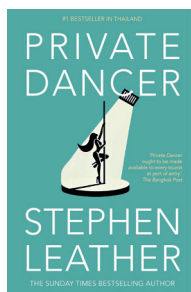
Operation Toba • 9781915310569 • 288pp (2026 RELEASE)

FICTION / MILITARY • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

Lt. Col. JP Cross is a retired British officer who served with Gurkha units for nearly forty years in Burma, Indo-China, Malaya and Borneo, India, Pakistan, Hong Kong, Laos and in Nepal where he now lives. JP Cross is a frequent guest on BBC TV and radio.

'Nobody in the world is better qualified to tell the story of the Gurkhas' deadly jungle battles against Communist insurgency in Malaya in the 1950s.' John le Carré, author



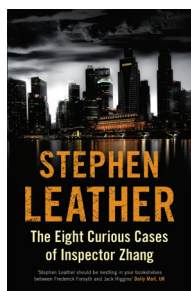


Private Dancer Stephen Leather

9781915310415 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 288PP

Pete, a travel writer, wanders into a Bangkok bar and meets the love of his life. Pete believes Joy is the girl of his dreams: young, pretty, and one of the top-earning go-go dancers in Nana Plaza. What follows is a roller-coaster ride of drugs, lies and murder, as Pete discovers that his very own private dancer is not all that she claims to be. #1 Bestseller in Thailand.

'A gripping, highly readable thriller that cleverly intertwines the stories of the main two protagonists.' *The Asian Review of Books*, HK



The Eight Curious Cases of Inspector Zhang Stephen Leather

9789814625005 • FICTION / SHORT STORIES • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 272PP

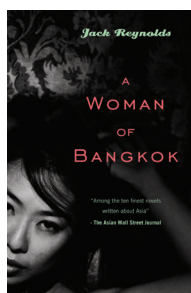
Crimes are few and far between in the city-state of Singapore and the crimes that do occur are usually solved quickly and efficiently. But when there's a crime that has the police baffled, it's Inspector Zhang that they turn to. In this anthology of locked-room mysteries set in Singapore, Inspector Zhang solves brain-teasing mysteries in the style of Sherlock Holmes and Poirot but with a modern twist.



The Best of Singapore Erotica Richard Lord & LQ Pan (eds)

9789814423922 • FICTION / SHORT STORIES • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 256PP

In this first-ever compendium of literary light erotica from leading authors in Singapore, we are presented with a selection of short stories, poetry and narrative nonfiction that is as hot and steamy as the city-state itself. From the Indonesian maid to the Singaporean prostitute, the local school-teacher to the American expatriate, the twenty-seven contributions in this book embrace a wide range of erotic beliefs and practices. Absolutely nothing is out of bounds, offering readers a glimpse into the erotic lives of Singapore's inhabitants.

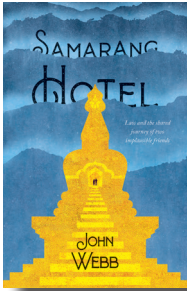


A Woman of Bangkok Jack Reynolds

9789810854300 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 288PP

Set against a beautifully observed Thailand of the 1950s, this is the story of a young Englishman's infatuation with a dance-hall hostess named Vilai, who all Bangkok knows as The White Leopard. No ordinary prostitute, Vilai is one of the most memorable in literature's long line of brazen working girls. An unmitigated liar and brutally transparent about her desire for money, she unscrupulously milks young Reggie Joyce.

'Among the ten finest novels written about Asia' *Asian Wall Street Journal*

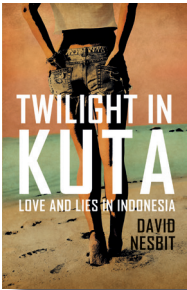


Samarang Hotel John Webb

 **Optioned for film/TV**

9781912049868 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 224PP

Julian Lockhardt, the heavy-drinking manager of the Samarang Hotel in Vientiane, Laos, a gathering place for diplomats and spies, is short on self-awareness and long on self-pity. Society, so he believes, has failed him. Julian's least favourite guest, Nancy Bacon, seems to take hawkish delight in pointing out his many shortcomings. But when he discovers that Nancy is facing an ordeal he himself can scarcely contemplate, the two of them take a journey into the hills of northern Laos and Julian gains new insight into the ways of the world and his place in it.



Twilight in Kuta David Nesbit

9781912049288 • FICTION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 272PP

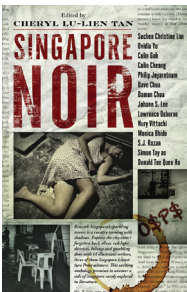
Twilight in Kuta explores love, loss and infidelity in present-day Indonesia from a number of perspectives: the *bule* (Caucasian) English teacher; the duplicitous Indonesian wife, the mixed-race schoolgirl, the Javanese ex-soldier and the naive village girl desperate for love. Their stories intertwine throughout the book, and the various narrators offer different interpretations of the events that unfold. Love and lies in Indonesia ...



Singapore Love Stories Verena Tay (Editor)

9789814625494 • FICTION / SHORT STORIES • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 224PP

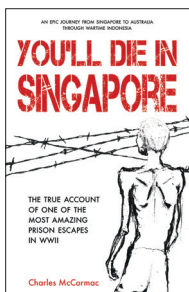
A vibrant collection of seventeen stories that delves into the diverse love lives of Singapore's eclectic mix of inhabitants. Leading Singaporean and Singapore-based writers explore the best and worst of the human condition called love, including grief, duplicity and revenge, self-love, filial love, homesickness and tragic past relationships. Collectively, the stories in this anthology reveal the many ways in which love can be both a salve and a wound in life.



Singapore Noir Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan (Editor)

9789814423694 • FICTION / SHORT STORIES • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 256PP

Beneath Singapore's sparkling veneer is a country teeming with shadows. Explore the city-state's forgotten back alleys, red-light districts, delongs and gambling dens with fourteen illustrious writers, three of them Singapore Literature Prize winners. This exciting anthology uncovers a side of Singapore rarely explored in literature.

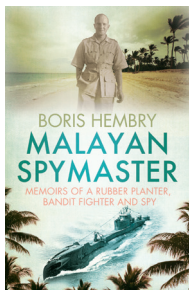


You'll Die in Singapore Charles McCormac

978914625562 • MEMOIR • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 240PP

With no compass and no map, seventeen World War Two prisoners of war make a five-month, 2,000-mile escape from Singapore, through Sumatra and Java in Indonesia to Australia. This is an extraordinary, true story of courage, endurance and compassion set in WWII Indonesia. It is one of the most horrifying and amazing escapes in World War Two.

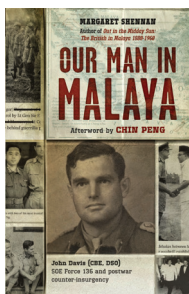
'An amazing story.' *Library Journal*



Malayan Spymaster Boris Hembry

9789810854423 • MEMOIR • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 432PP

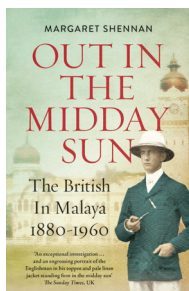
A true story of 1930s Malaysia and Singapore, of jungle operations, submarines and spies in WWII, and of the postwar Malayan Emergency, as experienced by an extraordinary man. A rubber planter when the Japanese invaded Malaya, Hembry remained behind enemy lines before escaping by sampan to Sumatra then India, where he joined the British Secret Intelligence Service and returned to Sumatra and Malaya several times by submarine on intelligence-gathering missions.



Our Man in Malaya Margaret Shennan

9789814423861 • BIOGRAPHY • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 432PP

When the Japanese invaded Malaya during WWII, John Davis escaped to Ceylon, sailing 1,700 miles in a Malay fishing boat, before planning the infiltration of Chinese intelligence agents and British officers back into Malaya. Following the war, Davis was heavily involved in Malayan Emergency affairs: squatter control, the establishment of New Villages and, vitally, of tracking down and confronting his old adversary Chin Peng and the communist terrorists. This book features an Afterword by Chin Peng.



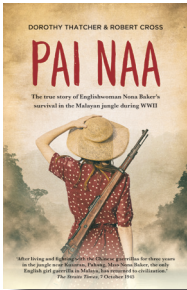
Out in the Midday Sun Margaret Shennan

9789814625319 • HISTORY • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 496PP

A fascinating history of the British in Malaya and Singapore from 1880 to 1960, told through memoirs, letters and interviews.

'An exceptional investigation' *The Sunday Times*, UK

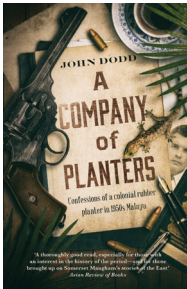
'In her fine book, Margaret Shennan does belated justice to the brave and industrious men and women who gave their best to Malaya' *Literary Review*, UK



Pai Naa Dorothy Thatcher & Robert Cross

9781912049066 • MEMOIR • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 224pp

By the time the British surrendered to the Japanese in February 1942 at the fall Singapore, nearly all white civilians had left Malaya. One remarkable exception to the white flight was Nona Baker, a parson's youngest daughter from Bedfordshire. This is the true story of Englishwoman Nona Baker's survival in the Malayan jungle during WWII. For three years she avoided capture by the Japanese, living with Chinese guerrillas and suffering from malaria, dysentery, beriberi, hunger and, above all, fear.

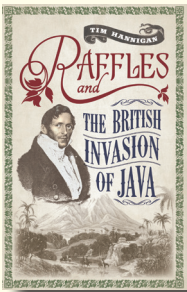


A Company of Planters John Dodd

9781912049103 • MEMOIR • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 336pp

Through a collection of letters written to his best friend and to his father in England, and from his own personal diary entries, John Dodd's unique memoir offers a fascinating and amusing glimpse of life as a colonial rubber planter in 1950s Malaya.

'A thoroughly good read' *Asian Review of Books*, HK



Raffles and the British Invasion of Java Tim Hannigan

9789814358859 • HISTORY / NARRATIVE • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 384pp

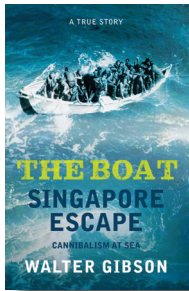
On a hot August afternoon in 1811, an army of 10,000 British redcoats splashed ashore through the muddy shallows off Batavia (the former name of Jakarta, Indonesia's capital) to conquer the Dutch colony of Java. They would remain there for five turbulent years.

Drawing on both British and Javanese archival sources, this entertaining and highly readable narrative history-cum-biography explores the bloody battles and furious controversies that marked British rule in Java, and reveals the future founder of Singapore, Thomas Stamford Raffles – long

celebrated as a hero, a liberal and a visionary – in a shocking new light, showing how he crushed dissent, looted palaces and incited massacres to further his own insatiable ambitions. The book features the dramatic Battle of Batavia, the sinister British expedition to Palembang, the 1812 sacking and looting of Yogyakarta, and various fights between soldiers and civilians, buffaloes and tigers, and Englishmen and Javanese.

'An excellent, authoritative account of the brief period of British rule, and the role of Raffles, in the 19th century.' *Lonely Planet Indonesia*

WINNER, John Brooks Award 2013 (UK) for historical nonfiction

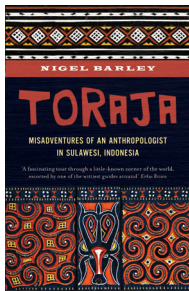


The Boat Walter Gibson

Optioned for film/TV

9789810583019 • MEMOIR • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 160PP

In 1942 a ship carrying 500 escapees from Japanese-occupied Singapore set sail from Padang for Ceylon. Halfway to safety she was torpedoed and sank. Amidst the horror and confusion, only one lifeboat was launched – a lifeboat built to carry 28 but to which 135 souls now looked to for salvation. For 26 days she drifted across the Indian Ocean. For 26 days, cannibalism, murder, heroism and self-sacrifice drifted with her. Only four survived: two Javanese seamen, Chinese girl Doris Lim, and Walter Gibson of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

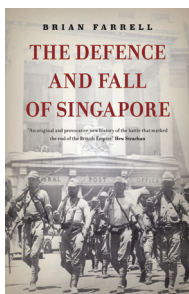


Toraja Nigel Barley

9789814423465 • TRAVELOGUE / MEMOIR • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 240PP

In witty and finely crafted prose, Barley offers fascinating insight into the people of Sulawesi and their lifestyles, and he recounts hilarious tales of the many memorable characters he meets there, not least the four Torajan woodcarvers the author invites back to London to construct a traditional Indonesian rice barn inside The British Museum.

'A fascinating tour through a little-known corner of the world' *Kirkus*



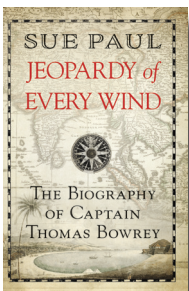
The Defence and Fall of Singapore Brian P. Farrell

9789814423885 • HISTORY • PAPERBACK (C-FORMAT) • 496PP

'An exhaustive account of the clash between Japanese and British Empire forces' *BBC History*

'A complete and authoritative account ... a compelling read' *The British Army Review*

'Excellent ... fills a yawning gap in the historical record' *Times Literary Supplement*

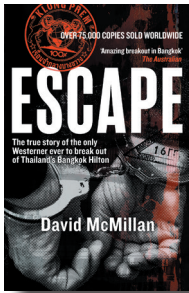


Jeopardy of Every Wind: The Biography of Captain Thomas Bowrey

Sue Paul

9781912049622 • BIOGRAPHY • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 336PP

Operating throughout the East Indies and speaking Malay, Bowrey would publish the first ever Malay-English dictionary, a seminal work used a century later by Thomas Stamford Raffles, the founder of Singapore. He collaborated with Daniel Defoe, author of *Robinson Crusoe*, in the founding of the South Sea Company; and even penned the first account in English of the recreational use of cannabis.



Escape David McMillan

9781912049967 • TRUE CRIME • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 240PP

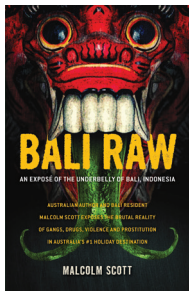
Over 75,000 copies sold. Updated edition, 2021.

'The action rips along like a thriller ... breathtaking stuff' *News of the World*, UK

'Gripping' *Zoo Weekly*, UK

'Amazing breakout in Bangkok' *The Australian*

'The jailbreak was straight out of a movie' *The Age*, Australia



Bali Raw Malcolm Scott

9789814358712 • TRUE CRIME • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 256PP

In this extraordinary exposé, Australian author and Bali resident Malcolm Scott reveals the raw underbelly of Bali. He walks readers down Bali's mean streets with honesty, humour and gritty realism and offers up a Bali choking with violent street fights, cheap sex and aggressive crime. *Bali Raw* is a must-read for anyone who has visited, or is thinking of travelling to, Indonesia's Island of the Gods.

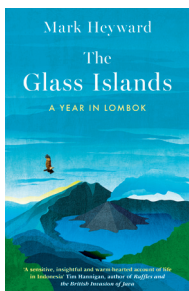


Bandit Saints of Java George Quinn

9781912049448 • TRAVELOGUE / RELIGION • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT) • 432PP

Bandit Saints of Java delves deep under the surface of modern Indonesia, exploring personalities and stories in the weird world of local pilgrimage, where Middle Eastern Islam wrestles with the ancient power of Javanese civilisation. It paints an astonishing portrait of Islam as it is practised today – largely invisible to journalists, scholars and tourists – by many of Java's 130 million people.

Winner, Nonfiction, 2020 ACTW Awards, Australia



The Glass Islands: A Year in Lombok Mark Heyward

9781915310163 • NONFICTION / MEMOIR • PAPERBACK (B-FORMAT)

When Australian Mark Heyward decides to build a home and raise a family on the island of Lombok, east of Bali, he has little idea of what is to come. Riots and battles, mythical princesses, magical voyages, birth and death, love and loss – the story takes us into the heart of Indonesia, a country where Mark has lived on and off for twenty years, but never on an island like this. The heart-warming story of one family's attempt to build a new life in paradise.



Order and contact details

Monsoon Books

No.1 The Lodge

Burrough Court, Burrough on the Hill

Melton Mowbray LE14 2QS, UK

sales@monsoonbooks.co.uk

www.monsoonbooks.co.uk

UK & EUROPE (distribution)

Hachette UK Distribution (HUKD)

Tel: +44 1235 759555

hukdcustomerservices@hachette.co.uk

www.hachette.co.uk

UK (sales)

Pinnacle Booksales

sales@pinnacledistribution.co.uk

EUROPE (sales)

Bookport Associates Ltd

bookport@bookport.it

AUSTRALIA, NZ

Woodslane Pty Ltd

Tel: +612 8445 2300

info@woodslane.com.au

www.woodslane.com.au

USA, CANADA

National Book Network (NBN)

custserv@nbnbooks.com

www.nbnbooks.com

Moving to Simon & Schuster mid-2025

SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, BRUNEI

Pansing Distribution Pte Ltd

leslielimbh@pansing.com

www.pansing.com

ROW

For all other countries

please contact:

sales@monsoonbooks.co.uk