

# Malay Sketches Alfian Saat

A layered and nuanced novel that tells the story of one man through a complex lens that exposes the tragedies and blessings that is Singapore. Winner of the Singapore Literature Prize.

Desmond Kon's most confessional writing, relating the story of his death, and his transformed life after his return. In 2007, Desmond Kon died, and came back to life. This is better understood as a near-death experience (NDE). Fresh from studying world religions at Harvard, Desmond's NDE shared remarkable consistency with other documented NDE accounts, such as encountering otherworldly beings, altered time-space realms, and the classic tunnel of light. Post-NDE symptoms included paranormal sightings. How did Desmond make meaning of his NDE given his academic background in world religions? He even took a class on angelology -- how then did he perceive the angelic beings he encountered? Framed as a quasi-memoir, *The Good Day I Died* is constructed as a self-administered interview, allowing the account its moments of deep intimacy. Moving beyond the current literature's attempts at legitimizing the NDE, *The Good Day I Died* weaves in excerpts of Desmond's literary oeuvre, which help shed light on the indelible impact of his NDE. This book represents Desmond's most confessional writing yet, relating the story of his death, and his transformed life after his return.

The first ever comprehensive collection of plays in English from Southeast Asia. Features work by eight playwrights from seven countries in Southeast Asia, a region which is experiencing profound change: Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Cambodia. *Southeast Asian Plays* explores the rich variety of dramatic work that is only

beginning to be translated into English. Theatre scripts are merely blueprints for productions, especially in this region. As elsewhere, second productions and revivals are rare, so publication is key to allowing play texts to find a wider international readership. Topics include the global financial crisis, sex workers, traditional v modern values, the role of faith in society, corruption in high places and journalistic ethics. The plays have been selected for performance. Plays: The Plunge by Jean Tay (Singapore) about the effects of a financial crisis An Evening At the Opera by Floy Quintos (Philippines) about a dictator and his wife Night of the Minotaur by Tew Bunnag (Thailand) about a man misused as a monster Tarap Man by Ann Lee (Malaysia) about a man wrongly imprisoned under the justice system Dark Race by Dang Chuong (Vietnam) about corruption in high places Frangipani by Chhon Sina (Cambodia) about the sex trade in Cambodia Piknic by Joned Suryatmoko (Indonesia) about the need to get rich quick in Bali Nadirah by Alfian Saat (Singapore) about the conflict between faith and morality "The editors have done an excellent job of opening up our chances of reading and learning about plays from all over Southeast Asia. ...editorial choices are significant for opening up spaces to voices which are otherwise heard less often. All in all the plays are interesting for the ways in which they grapple with key concerns in their respective societies." --The Asiatic

Middle Classes in Kupang Town, 1930s-1980s

Middle Classes in Provincial Towns

Postmodernisms 1950-Present

The Epigram Books Collection of Best New Singaporean Short Stories

Poems

12 Short Stories

A Financial Times Best Book of 2017 "A shrewd and knowing book."  
–Robert D. Kaplan, The Wall Street Journal "A compelling and impressive read." –The Economist "Skillfully crafted and well-argued."  
–Jeffrey Wasserstrom, Financial Times "An excellent modern history. . . . provides the context needed to make sense of the region's present and future." –Joyce Lau, South China Morning Post A history of the combative military, diplomatic, and economic relations among China, Japan, and the United States since the 1970s—and the potential crisis that awaits them Richard McGregor's Asia's Reckoning is a compelling account of the widening geopolitical cracks in a region that has flourished under an American security umbrella for more than half a century. The toxic rivalry between China and Japan, two Asian giants consumed with endless history wars and ruled by entrenched political dynasties, is threatening to upend the peace underwritten by Pax Americana since World War II. Combined with Donald Trump's disdain for America's old alliances and China's own regional ambitions, east Asia is entering a new era of instability and conflict. If the United States laid the postwar foundations for modern Asia, now the anchor of the global economy, Asia's Reckoning reveals how that structure is falling apart. With unrivaled access to archives in the United States and Asia, as well as to many of the major players in all three countries, Richard McGregor has written a tale that blends the

tectonic shifts in diplomacy with bitter domestic politics and the personalities driving them. It is a story not only of an overstretched America, but also of the rise and fall and rise of the great powers of Asia. The about-turn of Japan—from a colossus seemingly poised for world domination to a nation in inexorable decline in the space of two decades—has few parallels in modern history, as does the rapid rise of China—a country whose military is now larger than those of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and southeast Asia's combined. The confrontational course on which China and Japan are set is no simple spat between neighbors: the United States would be involved on the side of Japan in any military conflict between the two countries. The fallout would be an economic tsunami, affecting manufacturing centers, trade routes, and political capitals on every continent. Richard McGregor's book takes us behind the headlines of his years reporting as the Financial Times's Beijing and Washington bureau chief to show how American power will stand or fall on its ability to hold its ground in Asia. Assessments of Singapore's history invariably revolve around Sir Stamford Raffles' arrival in 1819. Before this date - we've been told - "nothing very much appears to have happened in Singapore". Pre-1819 Singapore was a sleepy, historically insignificant fishing village, little more than the "occasional resort of pirates". This ambitious book, co-written by four of Singapore's foremost historians, offers an

assertive re-evaluation of that view, firmly situating Singapore's starting point seven hundred years ago. Drawing on a multi-disciplinary range of archival, textual and cartographical records, as well as the latest archaeological discoveries, the authors cast a singular historical trajectory for Singapore over the past seven centuries, animating its history like never before. Written in a compelling and accessible manner, and richly illustrated with more than 200 artefacts, photographs, maps, art works and ephemera, this volume builds upon the foundations of an earlier book, *Singapore: A 700-Year History*. Extensively rewritten to incorporate ground-breaking research findings, *Seven Hundred Years: A History of Singapore* widens the historical lens and offers a vital new perspective on the story of Singapore.

Hunters are a new breed of criminal. An aberration. Not human, not animal, but a terrifying combination. After a long absence, forensic psychologist Walter Kirino is back with the Hunter Intelligence Division, on the trail of a new Hunter. Following the bodies that the Highway Snatcher leaves behind, Walter is forced to interrogate the question: where is the line between Hunter and human? To find out, he will revisit his traumatic past and throw open the rooms in his mind where his nightmares lay slumbering.

Gone Case

The Archivist

Towards a Merdeka History

Cooling-off Day

Not at Home in Singaporean and Malaysian Literature

Asia's Reckoning

One Fierce Hour is Alfian Sa'at's first and breakout work. It was hailed as 'truly a landmark' for Singaporean poetry when it was published in 1998 when the poet was just 21 years old. Since, then it has been kept in print and has entered the list of canonical anthologies of Singapore literature. The collection contains the anti-anthem "Singapore You Are Not My Country" written well before social media gave voice to dissent and different views of Singapore. Alfian remains an intelligent writer with an unabashedly social and political voice. He has written 37 plays, 3 works of prose and 2 poetry anthologies.

Anthropology is a flourishing discipline in Southeast Asia. This book makes visible the development of national traditions and transnational practices of anthropology across the region. The authors are practising anthropologists with decades of experience in the intellectual traditions and institutions that have taken root in the region. Three overlapping issues are addressed in these pages. First, the historical development of traditions of research, scholarship, and social engagement across diverse anthropological communities of the region, which have adopted and adapted global anthropological trends to their local circumstances. Second, the opportunities and challenges faced by Southeast Asian anthropologists as they practise their craft in different political contexts. Third, the emergence of locally-grounded, intra-regional, transnational linkages and practices. The book contributes to a 21st-century, world anthropologies paradigm from a Southeast Asian perspective.

An urgent collection of short stories from one of Singapore's most celebrated voices, now published in America for the first time.

Heartland

The New Anthology of American Poetry

Shaping Minds, Saving Souls

China, Japan, and the Fate of U.S. Power in the Pacific Century

The Graphic Novel Complete Edition

Singapore Siu Dai

Hailed as “ the definitive Singaporean novel ” , this new edition of Heartland is accompanied by a new preface by author Daren Shiau and a publisher ’ s foreword that contextualises the novel ’ s imprint on the Singapore literary landscape since its first publication in 1999. An iconic work, Heartland explores the paradox of rootedness and rootlessness in fast-changing Singapore. Set in the early 1990s, the novel follows the years of Wing Seng as he leaves school and is conscripted into full-time National Service. As Wing tries to reconcile his past with his future amid transitions through different phases of life, he finds meaning in his intense attachment to his surrounding landscape. Yet, as relationships and the years slip by, Wing is forced to question his own certainties and the wisdom of the people he values. Set in Singapore ’ s heartland at the turn of the century, Heartland ’ s capturing of the texture of everyday life provides the backdrop essential to the bildungsroman ’ s exploration of identity, belonging and connection in an increasingly urbanised Singapore. The novel is set in 1969 Kuala Lumpur, against a backdrop of political turmoil and social changes. Married to wealthy, conservative Henry, English literature graduate Li An is torn between the

comforting lull of a secure world and the seductive eroticism of the unknown, foreign spaces. When tragedy strikes on the personal and societal levels, Li An and her young friends find their lives turned upside down, and each must make decisions that will have far-reaching repercussions. Masterfully evoking the passions and struggles across three nations and decades, this book weaves a poignant fabric from the complex threads of human identity, friendships, and gender relations, all of which are utterly inextricable from the others.

"Life in Singapore is good, sometimes even - dare we say it? - absurd. In Singapore Siu Dai, Felix Cheong, with a little help from illustrator PMan, finds humour in the everyday. From our kiasu behaviour to weird geographical boundaries called GRCs and OB markers, no quirk is left unturned. These 50 short stories, praised by Singapore's top humorists for their brew of wit and snappy storytelling, will raise the so-called SG Conversation to a new, satirical pitch."--Back cover.

Stories from the Margins

The optic trilogy, fugitives, homesick, sex.violence.blood.gore

Southeast Asian Anthropologies

My Double Life : Memoirs of a Singaporean Escort

A History of Amnesia

Corridor

An aging librarian's memories are stirred by a young woman. The woman is researching her Jewishness after learning that her parents converted to Christianity. The librarian's wife, too, was a Jewess and she committed suicide, despairing of the Holocaust.

“A welcome read in American contemporary literature. Though *I Get Home* is an intimate and complex look into Malaysian culture and politics, and a reminder of the importance of art in the struggle for social justice.” —Ana Castillo, author of *So Far from God* and prize judge In these stories, characters navigate fate via deft sleights of hand: A grandfather gambles on the monsoon rains; a consort finds herself a new assignment; a religious man struggles to keep his demons at bay. Central to the book is Isabella Sin, a small-town girl—and frustrated writer—transformed into a prisoner of conscience in Malaysia’s most notorious detention camp. Winner of the Louise Meriwether First Book Prize, YZ Chin’s debut reexamines the relationship between the global and the intimate. Against a backdrop of globalization, individuals buck at what seems inevitable—seeking to stake out space for the inner motivations that shift, but still persist, in the face of changing and challenging circumstances. YZ Chin was born and raised in Taiping, Malaysia. She now lives in New York, working as a software engineer by day and a writer by night.

Steven Gould Axelrod, Camille Roman, and Thomas Travisano continue the standard of excellence set in Volumes I and II of this extraordinary anthology. Volume III provides the most compelling and wide-ranging selection available of American poetry from 1950 to the present. Its contents are just as diverse and multifaceted as America itself and invite readers to explore the world of poetry in the larger historical context of American culture. Nearly three hundred poems allow readers to explore canonical works by such poets as Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Lowell, and Sylvia Plath, as well as song lyrics from such popular musicians as Bob Dylan and Queen Latifah. Because contemporary American culture transcends the borders of the continental United States, the anthology also includes numerous transnational poets, from Julia de Burgos to Derek Walcott. Whether they are the works of oblique avant-gardists like John Ashbery or direct, populist poets like Allen Ginsberg, all of the selections are

accompanied by extensive introductions and footnotes, making the great poetry of the period fully accessible to readers for the first time.

Islamic Education in Indonesia and Malaysia

One Fierce Hour

Economic Development in China's Northwest

City of Small Blessings

Insurrecto

Alfian Sa'at Collected Plays Three

The middle classes of Indonesia's provincial towns are not particularly rich yet nationally influential. This book examines them ethnographically. Rather than a market-friendly, liberal middle class, it finds a conservative petty bourgeoisie just out of poverty and skilled at politics. Please note that Sylvia Tidey's article (pp. 89-110) will only be available in the print edition of this book (9789004263000).

Winner of Best Fiction Title for Singapore Book Awards 2016 Winner of the Singapore Literature Prize for Fiction 2014 Longlisted for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award 2014 Selected by The Business Times as one of the Top 10 English Singapore books from 1965–2015 Meet an over-the-hill Pop Yé-yé singer with a faulty heart, two conservative middle-aged women holding hands in the Galápagos, and the proprietor of a Laundromat with a penchant for Cantonese songs of heartbreak. Rehash national icons: the truth about racial riot fodder-girl Maria Hertogh living out her days as

a chambermaid in Lake Tahoe, a mirage of the Merlion as a ladyboy working Orchard Towers, and a high-stakes fantasy starring the still-suave lead of the 1990s TV hit serial *The Unbeatables*. Heartfelt and sexy, the stories of Amanda Lee Koe encompass a skewed world fraught with prestige anxiety, moral relativism, sexual frankness, and the improbable necessity of human connection. Told in strikingly original prose, these are fictions that plough, relentlessly, the possibilities of understanding Singapore and her denizens discursively, off-centre. *Ministry of Moral Panic* is an extraordinary debut collection and the introduction of a revelatory new voice.

The best short fiction published by Singaporean writers in 2017 and 2018. The Epigram Books Collection of Best New Singaporean Short Stories: Volume Four gathers the finest Singaporean stories published in 2017 and 2018, selected by guest editor Pooja Nansi from hundreds published in journals, magazines, anthologies and single-author collections. Accompanying the stories are the editor's preface and an extensive list of honourable mentions for further reading. Reader Reviews "The stories range from intimate family portraits to speculative science fiction, but every piece speaks to universal experiences of love, loss, desire, and disappointment ... If you've either never read Singaporean literature, this would be a good place to start. If *Crazy Rich Asians* was the last thing you read by a local author, even better." — Wonderwall.sg

The Invisible Manuscript

Telltale: 11 Stories

Southeast Asian Plays

Colony, Nation, and Globalisation

The Flesh Hunters

Though I Get Home

Marina's "Musings" columns for The Star newspaper -- compassionate, outspoken, liberated, and unabashedly liberal -- are a talking point in Malaysia's capital and throughout the country. They began as a regular personal commentary on Marina's everyday life as a mother, but as time went on the range expanded. Her writing came to touch on, and often debate, vital issues of national and global importance and are eagerly read by a huge public. This book collects the best of the columns since 1991, and Marina herself introduces the pieces, putting them into perspective -- a perspective quite different than what is typically reported in the Western media. - See more at: [http://www.betterworldbooks.com/in-liberal-doses-id-9839950770.aspx&utm\\_source=Affiliate&utm\\_campaign=Text&utm\\_medium=booklink&utm\\_term=3630151&utm\\_content=Homepage#sthash.gVCQETuk.dpuf](http://www.betterworldbooks.com/in-liberal-doses-id-9839950770.aspx&utm_source=Affiliate&utm_campaign=Text&utm_medium=booklink&utm_term=3630151&utm_content=Homepage#sthash.gVCQETuk.dpuf).

An illustrated edition of the author's first novel—the hilarious, viral hit Harris bin Potter and the Stoned Philosopher, in which a bespectacled boy finds out that magic is disappearing in Singapore... and has to stop it. Harris bin Potter is an orphan who loves to

play void deck football like any other Singaporean boy. But when he discovers he is a parselongue (i.e., he can talk to boxes...er, parcels), his world changes. Harris learns about his magical lineage and enrolls at the MOE-approved Hog-Tak-Halal-What School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. There, he is sorted into the House of Fandi and gets caught up in an insane adventure to save Singapore's magical folk from being turned into kosongs.

"A bravura performance."—The New York Times Histories and personalities collide in this literary tour-de-force about the Philippines' present and America's past by the PEN Open Book Award–winning author of *Gun Dealers' Daughter*. Two women, a Filipino translator and an American filmmaker, go on a road trip in Duterte's Philippines, collaborating and clashing in the writing of a film script about a massacre during the Philippine-American War. Chiara is working on a film about an incident in Balangiga, Samar, in 1901, when Filipino revolutionaries attacked an American garrison, and in retaliation American soldiers created "a howling wilderness" of the surrounding countryside. Magsalin reads Chiara's film script and writes her own version. *Insurrecto* contains within its dramatic action two rival scripts from the filmmaker and the translator—one about a white photographer, the other about a Filipino schoolteacher. Within the spiraling voices and narrative layers of *Insurrecto* are stories of women—artists, lovers, revolutionaries, daughters—finding their way to their own truths

and histories. Using interlocking voices and a kaleidoscopic structure, the novel is startlingly innovative, meditative, and playful. Insurrecto masterfully questions and twists narrative in the manner of Italo Calvino's *If on a Winter's Night a Traveler*, Julio Cortázar's *Hopscotch*, and Nabokov's *Pale Fire*. Apostol pushes up against the limits of fiction in order to recover the atrocity in Balangiga, and in so doing, she shows us the dark heart of an untold and forgotten war that would shape the next century of Philippine and American history.

Raffles Renounced

Hook and Eye

A World in Transit

Seven Hundred Years: A History of Singapore

The Good Day I Died

Harris bin Potter and the Stoned Philosopher

A landmark anthology of short fiction from Singapore.

Why did independent Singapore celebrate two hundred years of its founding as a British colony in 2019? Why did it do so with a history dating from 1299? And what are the possibilities of doing decolonial history in Singapore? *Raffles Renounced: Towards a Merdeka History* presents essays by historians, literary scholars and artists which grapple with these questions. The volume also reproduces some of the source material used in the

play Merdeka (Wild Rice, 2019). Taken together, the book shows how the contradictions of independent nationhood haunt Singaporeans' collective and personal stories about Merdeka. It points to the need for a Merdeka history: an open and fearless culture of historical reckoning that not only untangles us from colonial narratives, but proposes emancipatory possibilities.

What holds Indonesia together? 'A strong leader' is the answer most often given. This book looks instead at a middle level of society. Middle classes in provincial towns around the vast archipelago mediate between the state and society and help to constitute state power. 'Middle Indonesia' is a social zone connecting extremes. This book examines the rise of an indigenous middle class in one provincial town far removed from the capital city. Spanning the late colonial to early New Order periods, it develops an unusual, associational notion of political power. 'Soft' modalities of power included non-elite provincial people in the emerging Indonesian state. At the same time, growing inequalities produced class tensions that exploded in violence in 1965-1966.

The Near-death Experience of a Harvard Divinity Student

The SG Conversation in a Cup

In Liberal Doses

The Making of Middle Indonesia

In Search of Middle Indonesia

## Joss and Gold

In post-independence Singapore, tradition clashes with modernity in this compelling tale of the importance of defining one's own story. When their father Sujakon comes home late one night, raving about bad people coming to take them away, siblings Zuzu and Hakeem are forced to leave everything behind and live in a tent at Changi Beach, with a secret community called Anak Bumi—the Children of the Earth. Here, they learn to live off the land and fend for themselves, and partake in a communal storytelling ritual under the stars called the Wayang Singa. But just as they've acclimatised to their new lives, their father disappears without a word and a strange man washes ashore warning of mortal danger from just offshore.

Under the ethnic affairs management regime established by the People's Republic of China, every Chinese citizen is classified within one of 56 state-recognised 'nationalities'. Government policy assumes that these nationalities differ from one another primarily in their levels of economic development, and asserts that ethnic divisions and identities fade with the gradual achievement of economic and social equality. As a result, economic development policy in minority nationality areas has often constituted a replica of the model which has already proven successful in China's Han-Chinese dominated east. Research conducted across five locations in China's Northwest paints a far more complex picture, however. This book considers for the first time how identity informs the nature of economic participation among ethnic minority entrepreneurs in China's remote Northwest. Through interviews with entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds, including Tibetan, Han and Muslim Chinese, this book highlights how

ethnic—and other—identities inform the nature of economic participation. Furthermore, it explores the broader implications of this de-facto economic segregation for China's ongoing social harmony and political stability. Ultimately, this book demonstrates how economic participation, even when successful in achieving its economic outcomes, may actually serve to reinforce and strengthen minority national identity—perhaps even at the expense of national Chinese identity. This book will be useful for students and scholars of Chinese Studies, Ethnic Studies and Economics.

The literature of Malaysia and Singapore, the multicultural epicentre of Asia, offers a rich body of source material for appreciating the intellectual heritage of colonial and postcolonial Southeast Asia. Focusing on themes of home and belonging, Eddie Tay illuminates many aspects of identity anxiety experienced in the region, and helps construct a dialogue between postcolonial theory and the Anglophone literatures of Singapore and Malaysia. A chronologically ordered selection of texts is examined including Swettenham, Bird, Maugham, Burgess, and Thumboo. This genealogy of works includes colonial travel writings and sketches as well as contemporary diasporic novels by Malaysian and Singapore-born authors based outside their countries of origin. The premise is that home is a physical space as well as a symbolic terrain invested with social, political and cultural meanings. As discussions of politics and history augment close readings of literary works, the book should appeal not only to scholars of literature, but also to scholars of Southeast Asian politics and history.

Political Power and Communications in Indonesia

Malay Sketches

Scarlet Harlot

Entrepreneurship and Identity Along China's Multi-ethnic Borderlands

Volume Four

National Traditions and Transnational Practices

Despite their close geographic and cultural ties, Indonesia and Malaysia have dramatically different Islamic education, with that in Indonesia being relatively decentralized and discursively diverse, while that in Malaysia is centralized and discursively restricted. The book explores the nature of the Islamic education systems in Indonesia and Malaysia and the different approaches taken by these states in managing these systems. The book argues that the post-colonial state in Malaysia has been more successful in centralising its control over Islamic education, and more concerned with promoting a restrictive orthodoxy, compared to the post-colonial state in Indonesia. This is due to three factors: the ideological makeup of the state institutions that oversee Islamic education; patterns of societal Islamisation that have prompted different responses from the states; and control of resources by the central government that influences centre-periphery relations. Informed by the theoretical works of state-in-society relations and historical institutionalism, this book shows that the three aforementioned factors can help a state to minimize influence from the society and exert its dominance, in this case by centralising control over Islamic education. Specifically, they help us understand the markedly different landscapes of Islamic education in Malaysia and Indonesia. It will be of interest to academics in the field of Southeast Asian Studies, Asian Education and Comparative Education.

Stories

Ministry of Moral Panic  
The Keepers of Stories