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About the Book

Siri’s family is complicated. There’s the family she was born into: a difficult mother and two dead fathers—a birth father who died in prison, a stepfather who raised her. And there’s the family she creates: two ex-lovers and a grown-up stepdaughter, Amalia, who has run away to live with Siri’s ex-best friend, Dara, and is in the midst of a romantic affair that’s doomed to end in failure. Siri escapes this web of personal relationships by moving to Berlin, where she pursues her career as an artist amidst a rarefied world of curators and almost-friends. But as the dual worlds of Siri’s art and relationships collide, she is forced to confront all the things she has tried to leave behind: a home, a family, and a way of looking at the world.

In Fall Baby, both family and art are profoundly marked by violence—absence, death, politics, censorship—but as Siri reconciles the weight of the past with her choices in the present, the possibility of a more hopeful future emerges. Moving quietly between the landscapes of Europe and Indonesia, past and present, memory and action, Fall Baby is a novel of circles within circles, and a reminder that stories about families are not just linear, but also cyclical.

About the Author

Laksmi Pamuntjak (1971-) is a bilingual Indonesian novelist, poet, journalist, essayist, and food critic. She writes opinion and features articles for numerous Indonesian publications as Tempo and the Jakarta Post, as well as international publications such as South China Morning Post, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, and Die Welt. She also writes op-eds on culture and politics for the Guardian.
Pamuntjak’s first bestselling novel, *Amba/The Question of Red*, won Germany’s LiBeraturpreis 2016 and was named #1 on Germany’s Weltempfaenger list of the best works of fiction from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Arab World translated into German. The novel has been translated into several languages.

Pamuntjak’s second novel, *Aruna dan Lidahnya*, was a bestseller in Indonesia and published in the US under the title *The Birdwoman’s Palate*. The critically-acclaimed movie adaptation of the novel won two *Piala Citra* (Festival Film Indonesia) awards for Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor.


Her prose, essays and poetry have also been published in numerous literary and cultural international journals.

In 2012, Pamuntjak was selected by an international panel headed by Sir Simon Armitage as the Indonesian representative for Poetry Parnassus at the Cultural Olympiad (in conjunction with the London Olympics). Between 2009 and 2011, she was a member of the international jury of the Prince Claus Award, an Amsterdam-based international art philanthropy organization.

In 2017, Pamuntjak was asked to deliver the keynote address at the University of Oxford for the opening of the 9th Conference of the European Southeast Asian Association (EuroSEAS). The keynote was entitled *Between Hope and Despair: On Living with Difference in Today’s Indonesia*.

Pamuntjak’s third novel, *Herbstkind*, was published in Germany in August 2018. The original English version of the novel, *Fall Baby*, was published by Penguin Random House SEA in October 2019. This makes Pamuntjak the first contemporary Indonesian author whose work in English has been published by Penguin Random House SEA.

In 2019, Pamuntjak once again delivered the keynote address at the Australian National University, Canberra, for the opening of the Indonesian Council Open Conference. The keynote was entitled “*Claiming One’s Own Freed Selves*: Art, Freedom and Morality in Indonesia.

The Indonesian version of the novel, *Kekasih Musim Gugur*, was published in August 2020 by Gramedia Pustaka Utama.


**Praise for the book**

“This is a beautiful, wise, deeply moving book on a hugely complex but fascinating country, written in sparkling, precise prose and with luminous insights into the intricate web of art, politics and history.” – Ahmed Rashid, author of *Descent into Chaos: The United States and the Failure of Nation Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia*, contributor to *New York Review of Books*
“*Fall Baby* is a beautiful, big-hearted and absorbing novel about personal change that has the power to change anyone reading it.” – Alés Steger, poet, author of *The Book of Things, Above the Sky Beneath the Earth, Protuberance and Berlin*

“More than a novel… *Fall Baby* is a sensual song of longing, loss and hope.” – David van Reybrouck, historian, author of *Congo* and *Against Elections: The Case for Democracy*

“There is melody and lyricism in the way Laksmi Pamuntjak writes, sentences that by turns sing and jolt. Entering the interior lives of the novel’s characters is akin to a stroll through an art museum. At times poised, at times wild, but almost always elegant.” – Dee Lestari, author of *Supernova, Perahu Kertas* and *Aroma Karsa*, singer and songwriter

“Since the opening page, when Srikandi declares that she has two fathers, you won’t be able to put *Fall Baby* down until the last page … even though the novel centres on Srikandi, it tells the engrossing story of three generations of women who constantly seek and find themselves, through conflict, loss and undying love.” – Leila S. Chudori, author of *Laut Berterita* and *Pulang*, senior editor, *Tempo*

“This novel not only perfectly captures the complexities of relationships between individuals—of longing and the desire for revenge, of love and hate—caught in a family history deeply wounded by politics, but also how art can be a liberating instrument against forgetting. With the storytelling deftness that is her trademark, Laksmi Pamuntjak pulls us deep into the story and makes us see the wound as our own.” – Nezar Patria, Editor-in-Chief, *The Jakarta Post*

“This novel is yet another milestone in Laksmi Pamuntjak’s achievement as an important figure in the development of the Indonesian novel … Literature is how an author presents an idea, not the idea itself, which has remained the same since literature was conceived. What immediately bewitches me in Pamuntjak’s style is her use of the long and short paragraph as a literary device. These leaps, and the resulting music, is something our literature will do well in adopting.” – Sapardi Djoko Damono, Indonesian poet laureate

“In this novel, Pamuntjak cracks open the global contemporary art world with extraordinary force and vividness—market intrigue, sex and love, the relentless drive for fame. You’ll also find artists who define their times, from the modernism of Vermeer, Munch and Matisse to the political art of Sudjojono and Djoko Pekik. The novel also frames the trajectory of art history within a fiercely women artist-driven narrative, something you rarely see in the canon: here, you will find the powerful works of Käthe Kollwitz and Louise Bourgeois, the abstract expressionism of Umi Dahlan and the daringly subversive sexuality of I GAK Murniasih.” – Alia Swastika, art curator

“Laksmi Pamuntjak grew up in between cultures, languages and arts. Here she mobilises the urban Asian woman’s precarious cosmopolitanism to explore a painful part of Indonesian history which continues to mark, and some might say, mar, the nation’s experiment with democracy.” – Professor Emeritus Krishna Sen, University of Western Australia; Fellow, Australian Academy of the Humanities

“Siri, agile and mesmerising in Pamuntjak’s hands … is a bright and beautiful star in the rich and intricate web of human relationships we call Life.” – Associate Professor Dwi Noverini Djenar, Dean of Indonesian Studies, the Department of Culture and Languages, University of Sydney
“*Fall Baby* is a gift from one of Indonesia’s most treasured contemporary writers … Savour it for its incandescent prose, its rich layering of the past within the present, and the way in which it reminds us that history is never black and white.” – Dr Natali Pearson, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, University of Sydney

“A rich and layered novel: on the one hand the story of an individual’s quest for identity, on the other the history of art and a nation’s struggle.” – Amir Sidharta, art curator, founder of Sidharta Auctioneer.
The Havoc of Choice
by Wanjiru Koinange

Published in the UK by Jacaranda Books and published in East Africa by Bunk Books. All other rights available

About the Book

Based on events that took place following Kenya's historic election of 2007, 'The Havoc of Choice' is a story about family, politics and journeying through a fractured country during a sensitive period in its history. The book follows the lives of Kavata, a politician's daughter, her husband Ngugi who decides to run for office and their children at a time when their country is enduring one hundred days of violence, shortly after the announcement of the poll results. 'The Havoc of Choice' is a delicate and deeply personal attempt to understand the root of this spontaneous yet organised conflict and arrive at some form of healing.

A Brief Note from the Author

"The violence of 2008 has grown into something that Kenyans have collectively become afraid to speak about. We were so steeped in denial about it that we couldn’t bring ourselves to even refer to it as the thing that it actually was: A full-blown war.

I come from a political family. My grandfather served as Prime Minister in Kenya’s first independent government. As such, my father – his eldest son – was being groomed for take over from him. This never happened for many reasons, key among which were that he never felt that he was cut out for politics and that my mother, a fierce wonderful woman, wouldn’t let him. Despite his decision to stay away from politics, my siblings and I still had access to the messy
backend of politics. So in a sense, this story is modelled around what I imagine our lives might have been like had my father followed the political legacy that was set out for him.

I wrote this novel because I believe that we must never forget what happened in 2008. We can’t move on while there are still families who are still living as refugees in their own country. We can’t accept it as a series of spontaneous and unfortunate events. We must remain uncomfortable and keep asking these questions until we get the answers we need to begin to heal."

About the Author

Wanjiru Koinange was born in Kenya and grew up on a coffee farm on the outskirts of Nairobi where she spent her days playing in the bushes and reading under the generous shade of oak trees. She obtained her undergraduate degree (with distinction) in journalism and literature from the United States International University, after which she worked as a Talent Manager for some of East Africa’s most renowned artists and musicians. During this time she was part of several teams that created a series of events and festivals that continue to shape Kenya’s cultural landscape to this day. In 2012 she moved to South Africa to pursue a Masters in Creative Writing from the University in Cape Town; the product of which is this, her debut novel based on the 2007-2008 post-election violence in Kenya. She is now back in Nairobi setting up a project that aims to re-install libraries in primary schools and public spaces in Kenya. She also works as an administrator and researcher for the Cape Town based NGO, the Africa Centre.
The Alchemy of Secrets
by Priya Balasubramanian

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About the Book
Mira’s beloved grandmother is on her deathbed in Bangalore, a city she fled from seven years ago. She has no choice but to return. But it also means having to face what she has tried to forget all these years. Memories of a lazy summer come flooding back, where she and her best friend Anisa wandered the tree-lined streets of Bangalore. All was not as idyllic as it seemed to them, however: a mosque had recently come down in another part of the country, and its aftershock rippled all around them. As unscrupulous small-time politicians used the rise in religious fervor to grow their own careers, those ripples were soon to engulf these young girls, with tragic consequences. Back now in Bangalore, in a city even more polarized by religion, Mira untangles the threads—of love, jealousy, political ambition, friendship and family—and finds that they go far back. Not just to when she was a child, but further, to the mystery of her mother’s death during the emergency, and beyond. A vivid, unforgettable story, as relevant today as the time in which it is set, The Alchemy of Secrets explores how the simplest of acts can have the most far-reaching consequences.

About the Author
Priya Balasubramanian is a physician and novelist. She grew up in Bangalore, India, where the novel is set. She obtained her medical degree from the Christian Medical College, Vellore, before moving to the US, where she completed a residency in Internal Medicine, a Fellowship in Gastroenterology and Hepatology, along with a Masters in Public Health, from the University of California, Davis. The Alchemy of Secrets is Priya’s first work of fiction. Her non-fiction has appeared on NPR ROAR in the US, and Hindustan Times in India. Her short fiction has appeared in Litro in the UK. She lives in Sacramento, California with her husband and two children.
Published by Penguin SEA, rights other than SEA and Indian subcontinent available

About the Book

In Cursed & Other Stories, readers will encounter the pain, the love, and the hope that resides in every Filipino...all these people all over the globe who are making lives easier for strangers in other countries, for all the people who wear their country with simultaneous pride and shame. Because while they might wish to leave their home to seek greener pastures for those they love, they will never be able to quit it completely. Such desperation may be recognizable to many readers, however if it isn’t, they will come away with a better understanding of it, at least vis-a-vis this archipelago that has more in common with the West than is evident on the surface.

About the Author

Noelle Q. de Jesus is a Filipino American writer whose first book, BLOOD Collected Stories (Ethos Books) won the US-based 2016 Next Generation Indie Book Award for the Short Story.

A Palanca Award winner and a University of the Philippines’ Writers Workshop fellow, she has published short stories in Southeast Asia and the United States, including Puerto del Sol and Mud Season Review. She is currently working on her first novel, Dome of Another Sky. She lives with her husband in Singapore and they have two children.
About the Book

On the one hand is Instagram sensation and multi-beauty pageant winner Candy Kang. On the other is Tara Chopra, corporate lawyer whose coach is none other than Michelle Obama look-alike Alison Brown, she of the Hillary Clinton campaign fame. Who is going to win this year’s Grand Slam Singapore, the ultimate beauty pageant?

When April Chua, beauty consultant to Singapore’s darling Candy Kang, opens D’Asthetique (Beauty is Skin Deep!) a state of the art parlour in Bishan, she rattles the owners of the thirteen already existing parlours in the area. With her uber groomed ways and her ‘no towel drying on the roadside’ diktats, she plans to lord over the others through Nailso, the Neighbourhood Alliance of Lifestyle Service Operators. No one is more miffed than the bordering on obese Gurpreet Kaur, who runs the popular Monty Beauty Spa (Beauty from Within, Fourth Wax Free!) With the other members of Nailso caught in the cross-fire, things come to a head when April and Gurpreet’s respective clients – Candy and Tara – also face off at Grand Slam Singapore.

Candy, erstwhile television sensation and beauty queen and now a yummy mummy and wife of a Thai pharmaceuticals Mogul, is desperate to win the crown for more reasons than one. What’s more, she is keen that the news she has been keeping under wraps remains a secret till the contest ends. There’s a lot at stake for Tara too. Her twin teenagers worship Candy and their grandmother, herself a former beauty queen, but refuse to take Tara seriously. For them she is the dull and not so attractive mom, not a yummy mummy. Can Tara win the contest and earn the respect of her Punjabi mother-in-law and her Candy-crazed daughters? Will Candy weave her
magic once more to topple Ashlee Lim, her rival, from the numero uno spot to show everyone that the crown still sits easy on her head?

After the success of *Nimita’s Place* comes *Beauty Queens of Bishan*, a hilarious, quintessentially Singaporean novel, which will prove that Akshita Nanda is a champion observer of human nature. Set in Singapore, the book takes an insightful yet entertaining look at the multi-million dollar beauty industry, its hidden secrets and its pitfalls, compelling readers to wonder: is beauty really skin deep? As the Grand Slam Singapore contest comes to a nail biting finish, readers will be enthralled not only by the unexpected twists and turns in the tale, but also by Nanda’s ability to make even a beauty contest read like a thriller. *Beauty Queens of Bishan* is a women-centric novel and through it Nanda helps its central characters explore the deeper meaning of their beauty and their success. The reader will eventually realize that even though they appear stereotypical, each of Nanda’s characters has a strong definitive personality that boldly upholds the idea that beauty really does go deeper than the skin.

**About the Author**
Akshita Nanda was an art correspondent for *The Straits Times* in Singapore. Erudite and urbane, she has also been a book reviewer for *The Straits Times*, and is well known in Singapore’s journalistic and literary circles. Currently a student researcher at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, her first book, she won the Singapore Literature Prize for 2020 for her first novel *Nimita’s Place*. 
Snoop: A Texas Mystery Series

by Jen Waldo

World rights available

About the Book

Taking sly advantage of her tiny size and harmless demeanor, Fran Furlow often gets away with intrusive and controlling behaviour. Dedicated to truth in all matters, she is relentless in her efforts to see that light finds every secret, and that every questionable situation is met with closure. Having been brutally raped several years before, Fran guards her privacy as she routinely invades the privacy of others. She avoids dealing with her ongoing personal trauma by immersing herself in other people’s business.

She attends various ineffectual support groups, passionately encouraging her friends to improve themselves. She also works as a receptionist in a dermatologist’s office. In her efforts to know all there is to know about what’s going on in Caprock, she has, over the years, slipped far outside the bounds of appropriate behaviour. She spies on her friends, bullies her fellow support group members, and intimidates the town’s leaders. When her efforts are greeted with resistance or criticism she takes to her bed for days, eating soup from the can and streaming movies.

Running alongside the plot is Fran’s humorous narrative concerning her friends and enemies. The people surrounding her form a charming community of characters with continuing stories. Their lives move forward as Fran evolves at a glacial pace.

Socially awkward and unwaveringly dedicated to following the rules, the character, Fran Furlow, is insensitive, meddlesome, and surprisingly endearing. Her ability to rationalize her behaviour is both entertaining and captivating.
Hers is an appealing and unique voice in the mystery genre.

**SNOOP – Book 1, Advancing Women**

Genre: Mystery series

(71,500 words)

When a dead body turns up in the wolf enclosure of Caprock Zoo, amateur sleuth Fran Furlow is on the case. Taking sly advantage of her tiny size and harmless demeanour, Fran often manages to get away with her intrusive and controlling behaviour. Dedicated in her pursuit of the truth, Fran is relentless in her efforts to shine a light into every nook and cranny and unearth every secret.

In her efforts to know all there is to know about what’s going on in Caprock, Fran has, over the years, slipped far outside the bounds of appropriate behaviour. She spies on her friends, bullies her fellow support group members, and intimidates the town’s leaders.

When Fran discovers a link between the dead body and Caprock’s Vehicle Maintenance Facility she is one step ahead of the hapless detective Joe Epps. But when she starts peering into the office’s windows and tailing the women who work there, she finds herself a target. Her house is broken into, her tires are slashed, and her car is egged and the vandalism soon escalates into violence.

Whilst tireless in her determination to hunt down the truth, the dermatologist’s receptionist has her own secrets. Having been brutally raped several years before, Fran guards her own privacy as she routinely invades the privacy of others. She avoids dealing with her own personal trauma by immersing herself in other people’s business. She attends ineffectual support groups, passionately encouraging her friends to improve themselves. When her efforts are greeted with resistance or criticism she takes to her bed for days, eating soup from the can and streaming movies.

Running alongside the plot is Fran’s humorous narrative concerning her friends and enemies. The people surrounding her form a charming community of characters. All with their own unfolding stories, their lives move forward as Fran evolves at a glacial pace.

As the investigation nears its conclusion Fran finds her own life in danger. It is at this point that help arrives in a very unlikely guise.....

Socially awkward and unwaveringly dedicated to following the rules, Fran Furlow, is insensitive, meddlesome, and surprisingly endearing. Her ability to rationalize her behaviour is both entertaining and captivating.

Like Jen’s Waldo’s first two books (Old Buildings in North Texas and Why Stuff Matters, Arcadia) the ‘Snoop’ series is set firmly in the Texas panhandle – the place she knows best. Hers is an authentic and unique new voice in the mystery genre.

**SNOOP - Book 2, Elderlies**

Genre: Mystery Series
During an icy Winter the frozen bodies of some of Caprock’s elderly residents turn up in odd places – the back seat of someone’s car, the gazebo in Dumas Park, the women’s locker room at the Caprock sports facility. Not thinking highly of the Caprock police, Fran inveigles herself into the investigation.

Fran’s ‘snooping’ leads her to two groups who routinely go into the homes of the elderly population of Caprock – caregivers and an organisation that delivers meals. Soon she’s following suspects and peering through windows, which ends up with her getting a backside full of buckshot and, later, carjacked at gunpoint. Once again the police department she routinely criticizes comes to the rescue.

In her efforts to know all there is to know about what’s going on in Caprock, Fran has, over the years, slipped far outside the bounds of appropriate behaviour. She spies on her friends, bullies her fellow support group members, and intimidates the town’s leaders.

Whilst tireless in her determination to hunt down the truth, the dermatologist’s receptionist has her own secrets. Having been brutally raped several years before, Fran guards her own privacy as she routinely invades the privacy of others. She avoids dealing with her own personal trauma by immersing herself in other people’s business. She attends ineffectual support groups, passionately encouraging her friends to improve themselves. When her efforts are greeted with resistance or criticism she takes to her bed for days, eating soup from the can and streaming movies.

Running alongside the plot is Fran’s humorous narrative concerning her friends and enemies. The people surrounding her form a charming community of characters. All with their own unfolding stories, whilst their lives move forward Fran evolves at a glacial pace.

Socially awkward and unwaveringly dedicated to following the rules, Fran Furlow, is insensitive, meddlesome, and surprisingly endearing. Her ability to rationalize her behaviour at once both entertaining and captivating.

In this second book in the ‘Snoop’ series, Fran continues to endear as she battles her personal demons. As in Jen’s Waldo’s first two books, (Old Buildings in North Texas and Why Stuff Matters, Arcadia Books) the ‘Snoop’ series is set firmly in the Texas Panhandle – the place she knows best. Hers is an authentic and unique new voice in the mystery genre.

About the Author

Jen Waldo first started writing over 25 years ago when, living in Cairo, she had difficulty finding books she wanted to read. She figured if she wanted something interesting to read, she was going to have to write it herself. Finding pleasure and power in the process of creating, she’s been hooked ever since. She has earned an MFA, has had two novels published, and has established a blog on her website, jenwaldo.com

Jen’s debut novel Old Buildings in North Texas (Arcadia Books) was published in 2016 and her second book Why Stuff Matters (Arcadia Books) has just been published. Both books are set firmly in the Texas Panhandle, the place Jen knows best.
Having lived in seven countries over a thirty-year period, Jen is often asked why, with her knowledge of international cultures and locations, she places her novels in a stark dry town in North Texas. It’s because it’s the place she knows best—the dusty gusts, the flat earth, the square squat houses, the late-sum thunderstorms. The people are stocky, stubborn, religious, big-hearted, abhorrent toward change, and suspicious of success. She’s grateful to Amarillo for providing colorful characters and a background of relentless whistling wind.
The Woman Who Forgot to Invent Facebook
And Other Stories

by Nisha Susan

Published by Westland in India. All other rights available.

About the Book

The Women Who Forgot to Invent Facebook.

A first person plural narrator tells a gossipy account of young people in 2001 in a Bangalore dive who spend all their time giving each other side-eye and sexual tension. They forget to invent, you guessed it, a proto social network that reflects their incestuous, voyeuristic offline lives. But they do invent something else.

The Trinity

In the late 1990s in the old and wealthy town of Kochi, three young teenagers fancied themselves goddesses of the Fusion Dance category. And when they took the college circuit by storm, they were sure they would be worshipped forever. Alas.

Teresa

An homage to Daphne du Maurier’s Rebecca, this story traces the obsession a young woman in Mumbai develops after finding the online relics of her husband’s dead first wife. Was Teresa a cipher or an all too real poseur?

The Gentle Reader
Sabbah was in Bangalore playing at being writer. Then she got published. And someone suggested she gets on Twitter. Someone else suggested she go to her first literary festival. Will getting high in the Himalayas help her with the low, lows of being an online writer person?

**No Filter**
They were natural born killers. They were natural born lovers. They were meant to be together but he had been holding his peace, married to someone else in Delhi until he found her again on Instagram. Now he would do anything to make sure they had the best vacation selfies.

**The Singer and the Prince**
Where do you find a prince? If you were a classical musician in the 1990s you could have found one in a chatroom. The trouble was now that she had found him, the singer didn’t know where quite to put him.

**Missed Call**
A cook living in a slum in Delhi is stuck at home after an accident with her three recalcitrant children. But not even her broken leg or her younger son’s ever-expanding fish tank is more worrying than her greedy daughter. Who could decode the secrets inside her daughter’s empty head or her too-noisy phone?

**Workout of the Day**
He lifted, bro. And he took on more than his share of the responsibility of being a senior political editor in Delhi. But the world was so skewed nowadays. Fat bitches and skinny girls were out to get him. Could he win the war on masculinity?

**How Andrew Wylie Broke My Heart**
Dakshayini was a great friend. And at the ad agency she wrote great copy. But was she so good that she could become a legendary American voice’s songwriter? Dakshayini’s great new friends online seemed to think so. And they were international. Not stuck in India like her.

**The Triangle**
When you are on the dating apps, you forget. You forget that a dream lover is not a perfect lover. A dream lover is a secret lover in your dreams. And too much of a hallucinatory thing is fantastic.

**Mindful**
Why did Rhea’s husband’s hair spring so youthfully? Why was she stuck in the fifteenth floor of this fancy apartment in a small town? And was her new mindfulness app supposed to be reading her mind?

**All Girls Together**
Sheila thought of herself as a girls’ girl. When she came back to her old job in an internet giant in Bangalore she was sure she was going to be a great boss. And that her company was going to save women from revenge porn. The picture was dirtier than she was ready for.

**About the Author**
Nisha Susan grew up in India, Nigeria and Oman and lives in Bangalore. She currently writes Cheap Thrills, a column on millennials, time and obsessions. She is the co-founder of the high-spirited feminist platform, The Ladies Finger. Her award-winning non-fiction is focused on culture, gender and politics. Her fiction explores the intimacy and strangeness the internet has brought to India.
The Memory of Loss
by Rizvina Morseth De Alwis

All rights available

About the Book

Every person has a past. Not every person, however, has a past that they want to keep secret from the man they love. While Sabina’s countenance gives nothing away, she carries within her the scars of a secret that continues to gnaw into her present, eating away at the love and happiness she has found in Shehan.

A beautifully woven tale of love, togetherness and despair, *The Memory of Loss* is set against the background of leafy suburban Colombo and raunchy Bangkok, and walks the reader through nearly three decades beginning in the early 1970s.

It is the story of several women, each different in her own way, each suffering in her own way. But foremost it is the story of Sabi, the younger child of Saira and Rizwan, who live in Colombo with her and their older son Jehan. All is well till Rosy, a stunning looking girl from an economically weak background, is coaxed into the care of Sabi’s family by Rosy’s mother, who believes her to be a ‘gigi gigi’ girl whose good looks would bring ruin upon her. Little does Rosy’s mother know the prophetic nature of her own words. Part helper, part companion, Rosy moves into Sabi’s house and unwittingly alters the balance of a seemingly well-poised family.

Sabi knowing, observing, always eaves-dropping loves Rosy, but as she grows older becomes wary of her charms and eventually horrified by what she learns has been going on behind closed doors in her own house.

As Sabi’s memories weave the intricate tapestry of her life and the people that populate it, like a needle moving in and out of cloth, her story moves between the past and the present. The togetherness, security and love she experiences as Sri Lanka comes to a boil and the LTTE is born, the time she falls for the charms of Omar while Charles marries Diana, when riots tear Colombo apart and close friends and neighbours migrate to foreign lands. Her own marriage
with Shehan and the burden of that one balmy, humid night that slowly but surely continues to pull her further and further away from him. What shameful, painful secret does Sabi carry in her heart? The secret that makes Jehan flee to the safety of London? The night about which she wants to but cannot talk to Shehan, deepening the chasm that has opened up in their relationship. 

_The Memory of Loss_ deals with Sabi’s raw pain and sense of loss that overshadows nearly everything else in her life. It is the story of the immense tragedy that one callous, angry action can set into motion.

It is also the story of the choices people have and those they make. Of regrets in the past and making amends in the future, of giving yourself a real chance at happiness, of giving life purpose.

**About the Author**

Rizvina Morseth de Alwis was born in Sri Lanka, went to graduate school in London and works for the United Nations. She has lived in a number of countries in Asia, among them Thailand, Laos, DPR Korea and Cambodia. As a development professional she loves traveling to places that one wouldn’t normally chose to go to and is passionate about gender equality and women’s rights. She seeks to contribute to women’s empowerment through her work, her writing and storytelling. While she has written and published on gender and development issues, she believes in the power of stories to change lives.

Her debut novel, _It's not in the Stars_ won the Fairway National Literary Award 2015 and the State Literary Award 2015. _The Memory of Loss_ is her second novel.
Ib’s Endless Search for Satisfaction
by Roshan Ali

Published in India by Penguin India. All other rights available.

About the Book

Ib lives with his schizophrenic father and his ‘nice’ mother, negotiating life, not knowing what to do, steered by uncaring winds and pushy people. From his slimy, unmiraculous birth to the tragic death of a loved one, Ib wander the city, from one thing to another, confused, lost and alone, all the while reflecting on his predicament. He is searching for something—what he does not know—and must overcome many obstacles: family, religion, love and finally, death. Will he be defeated by ‘this wreckage of modern life?’ Will a mysterious woman lift him out of the ‘cement’ in his soul?

In this journey of sadness and self-reflection, Ib transforms into an ordinary man from an ordinary boy, and, along the way tries to figure out life and understand himself.

In this audacious debut that is insightful, original and deeply disturbing, Roshan Ali’s play of language is nothing less than masterful.

Praise from Jerry Pinto

“Roshan Ali’s prose is an exhilarating dream ride through a city of memory and desire, mixing Emily Dickinson with tapori English, while remaining true to a central truth: we only know what we know when we know how we know it.”

About the Author

Roshan Ali is a novelist and a writer. He dropped out of college to write his critically acclaimed debut novel ‘Ib’s Endless Search for Satisfaction’ which was published in 2019 and was shortlisted for the JCB Prize for Literature, The Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize and the
Mathrabumi Book of the Year Award. His work, fiction and non-fiction, have appeared in The Indian Express, The Hindu, Reader’s Digest, Verve Magazine and Huffington Post India. He lives in Bangalore with his wife and their three dogs.
The Ordinary Chaos of Being Human  
*Edited by Marguerite Richards*

Published by Penguin SEA. All other rights available

**About the Book**

*The Ordinary Chaos of Being Human* is an antidote, bringing solace to readers in this increasingly divisive world, heated by wall-building nationalism, race riots, and the global environmental and health issues threatening us all. In 35 true stories, readers revel in our shared humanity on a journey to dozens of Muslim worlds—from Kuwait to Nigeria, the USA, and beyond.

This is not a book about religion, nor is it a book about politics. It’s about the joys and hardships we all experience, through the eyes of very different writers who dared to reveal their meaningful stories, underneath the many layers of their ethnic, financial, social, gender, or religious differences.

In this book, you will discover hundreds of delicate, real human moments that you hardly ever get to see, about people that you might otherwise never get to meet. The result of this collection not only dismantles the notion that Islam is a monolith and the stereotypes associated with that, but it also challenges the idea that these writers are responsible for disbanding them.

**Specifics**

Foreword written by Bina Shah. Contributors include Hanan Al-Shaykh, Abeer Y. Hoque, Leila Aboulela, Ali Bader, Sholeh Wolpé, Youssef Rakha, and new talents such as Threa Almontaser and K. Eltainae. The first edition was published by Penguin Southeast Asia and worldwide rights are available through Jacaranda Agency. For more about the editor and to read early reviews for the book, visit [margueriterichards.com](http://margueriterichards.com).
About the Editor

Marguerite Richards is an American writer and editor with a background in literature, translation, and magazine publishing. Focusing on world cultures, she travels to understand the nuances that separate us, with the resolve to further our understanding of each other through her work. Based in Sri Lanka, she is currently editing two memoirs by Iranian and Kuwaiti authors, and writing short fiction vignettes for an artist book about birth traditions around the globe.
Lionhearts Book 1: The Diaries of Richard the Lionheart

by Chris Manson

World Rights Available

About the Book

One family. Four sons. Twenty-five years of bloodshed….

Henry Plantagenet was a legendary ruler in his day: King Henry II of England, Count of Anjou, Maine and Nantes, Duke of Aquitaine and Normandy and Lord of Ireland. He ruled over the most extensive collection of territory that had ever been amassed by an English monarch, land won on the battlefield and in the bedroom. His marriage in 1152 to Eleanor of Aquitaine – the most powerful woman of her day, a decade his senior, the former wife of his rival the King of France, and reputedly his own father’s lover - scandalised Europe but secured him a greater slice of it. In marriage she gave him the male heirs every ruler sought: five sons, four of whom survived. And yet, here began the Plantagenet problems. Henry, Richard, Geoffrey and John grew into very different men but each was as ambitious and ruthless as their parents - and wanted what wasn’t theirs.

Born as the third son of Henry and Eleanor, Richard became King of England and ruler of the Angevin Empire at the age of thirty-two, following the deaths of his two elder brothers. Already established as Europe’s finest soldier, he undertook the Third Crusade to come to the aid of Jerusalem, which had recently fallen to Saladin.

Richard’s epic military and strategic achievements in confronting Saladin’s vast armies on his home soil were repeatedly punctuated by acts of extraordinary personal courage, which made him a legend.

Having fought each other to a standstill, Richard and Saladin agreed a truce and Richard set out for home to confront his enemies there. However, en route he was captured by a truculent Duke Leopold of Austria and ransomed for the equivalent of a quarter of the wealth of England.
Once released, Richard successfully resumed his rule, only to be killed by a stray arrow whilst campaigning in France.

From the age of fifteen, at his father’s instruction, Richard had kept a series of journals recording all the personal aspects of his daily life. On his death, according to his instructions, the diaries passed to his wife Berengaria. She was buried with the diaries clasped to her chest. For over seven hundred years the diaries lay entombed with her in a crypt in a French abbey. The following the Nazi invasion of France in 1940, Berengaria’s grave was opened and the diaries removed and secretly taken to Germany, where they remained in a private collection.

Whilst studying at Oxford in the 1980’s, Chris Manson had first learned of the possibility of the existence of the diaries in a series of private tutorials.

Recently, after an extensive search, he finally discovered their location. Unfortunately, only parts of the diaries remain legible, the rest destroyed by mildew and other corrosives. Following exhaustive verification carried out by experts across a number of fields, he bought the Latin manuscripts. He has spent the past eighteen months translating the diaries.

Historians and academics have wondered for centuries why Richard did certain things, but only now can we gain a genuine understanding of the events that drove him to act in the way that he did. Now published for the first time, these diaries provide a unique, personal insight into the legend of the man universally known in his own time as the ‘greatest king who ever lived’.

Lionhearts is the first in a projected series of books about this all-powerful family of warring knights: a story of intrigue, of ambition, of realpolitik and religious fervour, of sex and blood, honour and deceit, of ever-shifting alliances and rivalries in an age when chivalry and brutality were never far apart. Their world is a much-loved but little understood era of history, a dark time whose bloody and bitter truths are now too often obscured by mythical stories of Robin Hood and semi-divine portrayals of the absent king and legendary knight they called The Lionheart…

**About the Author**

Chris Manson was educated at St Paul’s School, London and at St John’s College in the University, Oxford where he read history, taking the Crusades as a special subject.

He went on to develop a successful business career, firstly at PricewaterhouseCoopers, then at Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Really Useful Group, where he looked after overseas shows such as The Phantom of the Opera, Cats, Starlight Express, Joseph and Sunset Boulevard. He subsequently moved to Chelsea Football Club, where he ran all commercial activities, including the building of Stamford Bridge.

Chris has also run three businesses for his own account. In 1999, he co-founded Sit-up Television, which was sold to Virgin Media six years later for 194 million. In 2005 he was elected an Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Chris is currently Chief Executive Officer of Newable, the largest network provider of Angel and Start-up finance in the UK.
Throughout his business career Chris’ private passion has been for the study of History, and in particular for the stories of everyday life which help to shed light on the motivation behind why people acted the way they did, rather than purely the facts of what they did. Bringing the Diaries of Richard the Lionheart to a wider public has been an enriching and rewarding experience. Chris has described this process in an interview with the BBC’s Will Gompertz, which is available at Soundcloud (Lionheart Diaries).

Chris and his family live in Woodstock in Oxfordshire, where Richard the Lionheart spent his early formative years some nine centuries ago!
Emma’s Secret
by Melissa De Silva

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About the Book

The time is early 20th century. The place: Colonial Singapore. Emma Campbell is newly married to George Peters, an English police officer. But Emma is no blushing bride, if anything Emma is a very worried bride with a secret she must keep from her husband if she wants to save her marriage. Living in the constant shadow of fear, Emma’s secret is unwittingly discovered by Myrtle Pritchard, an American anti-opium activist and journalist. Myrtle threatens to tell all to Emma’s husband unless she agrees to make George reveal the true figures of the British empire’s opium trade in the region – something George is forbidden from doing. While Emma is still reeling under this new shock, Myrtle visits her at home one afternoon to arm twist her some more; their argument quickly gets out of hand and a scuffle ensues. Emma is hit on her head and passes out. When she comes to, she finds herself lying next to the dead body of Myrtle. Emma does not remember killing Myrtle, so how did she die? The plot thickens and Emma is arrested for murder.

During her trial, Emma’s worst nightmare comes to life - her secret is revealed publicly in the courthouse; through some fortuitous circumstances, however, her lawyer succeeds in getting her acquitted and the real culprit is caught.

Emma, however, no longer cares, interested only in finding her lost love Alphonso whom she had begun to meet once again in Singapore after he moved there from Malacca. But Alphonso vanishes to Bombay, and all she has left is a letter from him, written in Kristang, a creole Emma does not speak. When the contents of the letter are finally revealed to her, Emma learns how deep her feelings for Alphonso really are and journeys to Bombay in a desperate attempt to reclaim what she has let go of twice already.

A beautifully written book Emma’s Secret creates the right atmosphere and sense of place and time. As the book progresses the twists in the plot are slowly unraveled. What is Emma’s secret and why must she keep it from her husband? Who killed Myrtle and why? What happens when Emma disembarks in Bombay – does she find Alphonso or is he lost to her forever? Emma’s Secret is a historical fiction with the sensibilities of a romance novel and the plot twists of a thriller. Given its unique setting it is also provides delightful insight into South Asian culture and society, as well as the snobbery of the ruling class of the time.
About the Author

Melissa De Silva is the award-winning author of ‘Others’ is Not a Race, which won the Singapore Literature Prize 2018 in the Creative Nonfiction category. Her writing explores issues of identity and culture in Eurasian communities in Southeast Asia and interrogates the dynamics and effects of colonialism. Her fiction has been published in Cha: An Asian Literary Journal, Best New Singaporean Short Stories Vol. 3, Singapore Quarterly Literary Review and LONTAR: The Journal of Southeast Asian Speculative Fiction. Professionally, she comes from a background in journalism with Singapore’s major media companies. Melissa read English Literature at the National University of Singapore. When she is not writing, she loves eating chocolate, sitting in parks and watching squirrels chase each other, preferably all at the same time.