

Penguin Books

Penguin Random House SEA

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Price	<b>USD 12.30</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954600</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction/ Political Biography</b>
Binding	<b>A</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>192 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

## Man of Contradictions

### Joko Widodo and the struggle to remake Indonesia

**Ben Bland**

#### Keyline

This is the book that people will want to pick up again and again to inspire them to find their creative voice, or even just to take that first brave step.

#### Description

Although he has dominated Indonesian politics for years, President Joko Widodo remains an enigmatic figure. He has consistently defied both his sternest critics and his strongest supporters. A brilliant instinctive politician, Jokowi was resoundingly re-elected in 2019. However, he has struggled to turn success at the ballot box into the transformational change that Indonesia desperately needs. Jokowi has vowed to turn Indonesia into an Asian powerhouse with a strong economy and the heft to defend its international interests at a time of renewed US-China rivalry. But progress has been slow, and the scale of the challenge is increasing, at home and abroad. As he gets to work in his second and final term, will Jokowi deliver on his grand ambitions? Or will Indonesia once more fall short

of expectations?

*Man of Contradictions*, the first English-language political biography of Jokowi, will examine how he became so popular, what makes him tick, and why he will struggle to remake Indonesia. The key to understanding Jokowi lies not in uncovering some core inner convictions but in embracing his contradictions. He rose from obscurity thanks to Indonesia's free and fair elections, but he has been a poor guardian of democracy. As an outsider he promised to shake up the

corrupt and nepotistic elite, but he has become a consummate transactional politician. As a former factory owner, he pledged to open up the economy to foreign investors, but he has pursued a campaign of nationalisation and prioritised state-owned companies.

Ultimately, the conflicts within Jokowi reflect the profound tensions in a young democracy that is still trying to escape a legacy of colonial oppression and domestic dictatorship, and make its own way in the world.

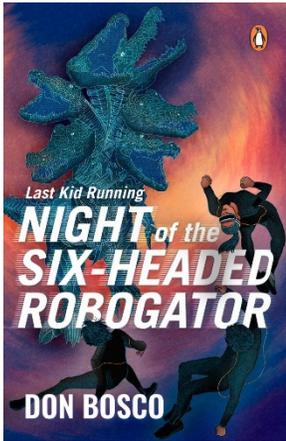
#### Sales Points

- v This is the first English-language political biography of Jokowi, the current president of Indonesia.
- v The book comes at a time when the stakes of national and world leadership are perhaps at an all-time high.
- v The book provides an insight into the man who recently reshuffled his parliament, leaving many of his countrymen wondering what his real intentions are with the appointment of many controversial names as ministers.

#### Author Bio

Ben Bland is director of the Southeast Asia project at the Lowy Institute. Before joining the Lowy Institute, Ben was an award-winning foreign correspondent for the Financial Times, with postings in Hanoi, Hong Kong and Jakarta and experience reporting across China and Southeast Asia over the previous decade.

His first book, *Generation HK: Seeking Identity in China's Shadow*, was published in 2017, examining the growing tensions between Hong Kong and Beijing. It was described as a 'David versus Goliath tale' by the Sydney Morning Herald and commended by the Times Literary Supplement for its 'lively prose' and 'illuminating' comparisons.



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Price **USD 14.30**  
ISBN-13 **9789814882668**

Category/Subject **Children's Fiction/Young Adult**

Binding **B**  
Format **Paperback**  
Extent **248 pages**

Territorial Rights **World**

Author based in **Singapore**

## Last Kid Running: Night of the Six Headed Robogator

**Don Bosco**

### Keyline

*Last Kid Running: Night of the Six Headed Robogator* is a thrilling gamebook where YOU decide how the story unfolds.

### Description

Welcome to Book 2 of the thrilling LAST KID RUNNING gamebook series, where YOU decide how the story unfolds. You are Runner X, one of six eager contestants on the biggest reality show streaming on the mobile web.

This time, you're taken to a secret venue in Indonesia. The enigmatic Dr Yamato has created a massive Run Dome filled with crazy technological inventions to challenge you and amuse his viewers.

You're prepared to face anything, even the intimidating Six Headed Robogator. But the night gets creepy. And you can't help feeling that the Run Dome hides a nasty surprise in its shadows.

Will you be too overwhelmed to outrun the others? Or do you have what it takes to be the LAST KID RUNNING? Quick, open the book and find out!

### Sales Points

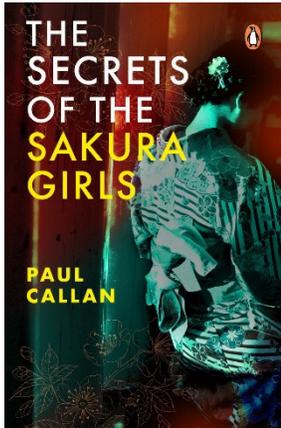
- "A brilliant, perfectly paced novel that will have readers reaching for their running shoes and racing to the last page to be the last kid running. You feel like you're physically and emotionally in the story." - Dave Seow, author of 45 books and counting
- "In a word - just wow! While it usually takes a digital mobile device in my line of

work to show Augmented Reality, Welcome to the Scramble by Don Bosco literally had me seeing imaginative augmentation, right before my eyes!" - Lionel Chok, Creative Technologist, [www.IMMERSIVELY.co](http://www.IMMERSIVELY.co)

- Reality TV scenario involving augmented reality and current mobile media trends
- Enthusiastic celebration of mobile and internet culture
- For both girls and boys. We won't identify Runner X as male or female.
- Asian /Cosmopolitan storyworlds
- Fun and humorous narrative style

### Author Bio

Don Bosco is an award-winning writer and publisher of thrilling fiction for teens and children. His stories are inspired by Asian legends and pop culture. He started the publishing studio Super Cool Books in 2011. In 2015, his Sherlock Hong series was released internationally. At the Popular Readers' Choice Awards 2015, his Lion City Adventures series was awarded Best Book in the English (Children) Category and also Best Book Cover, English (Children) Category. He maintains an influential blog, and also runs 100 WRITERS, a publishing incubator. He has also been a featured speaker at writing festivals and media content conferences.



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Price	<b>USD 19.20</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814914024</b>

Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction/Mystery</b>
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Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>232 pages</b>

Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>
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Author based in	<b>UK</b>
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## The Secrets of the Sakura Girls

**Paul Callan**

### Keyline

Love and death in a Japanese brothel in nineteenth-century Singapore.

### Description

It is Singapore in 1870 and Aoki is a karayuki-san. Aged fifteen, Aoki was sold by her father and shipped to Singapore from Japan, where she was bought into the world of prostitution. In a chance encounter with Reverend Harry Gilmore and his nine-year-old son Rupert from England, she finds herself drawn to their domicile life. Indomitable, empathetic and resolute, she is determined to break free of her life of prostitution and live the life she has always dreamt of. Against the backdrop of the savage decapitation of one of Aoki's Chinese customers, Aoki and Harry's feelings forge themselves into an unexpected bond. Meanwhile, detective superintendent Karupan, of the island's police, strives desperately to solve the crime and fend off possible religious riots. In a race against time, will the dreadful crime be solved and will Aoki and Harry's budding emotions grow into something permanent?

### Sales Points

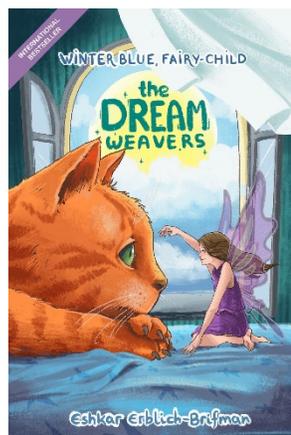
- A sense of place and a window into history  
Secrets of the Sakura Girls gives a wonderful insight into life in Singapore in the late nineteenth century, especially for British missionaries and Japanese prostitutes. Written with access to primary sources by an author who knows the island well, it will appeal to readers who are interested in finding out what

Singapore was like in a very different age.

- A moving portrait of female friendship  
Readers will be charmed and moved by the friendship between Aoki and Setsu, who have worked in Madam Usa's brothel since they were teenagers. In a life full of uncertainty and peril where no one can be trusted, they must rely on each other if they are to survive.
- A dark crime at the heart of the novel  
When a man is found brutally killed in a dingy alley, long-felt tension between Chinese secret societies and Christian converts threatens to erupt. A sub-plot to the main narrative follows the police as they hunt the murderer in the island's seamy criminal underbelly, and our heroine Aoki gets caught up in the investigation.

### Author Bio

Paul Callan is the author of three previous historical novels. The Dulang Washer was published by MPH of Malaysia in 2012, and was long-listed for the IMPAC award (Malaysia Tatler wrote: "[It] kept me engrossed for seven hours straight."). Shadows beneath the Fronds was published by MPH in 2013 (Book Review: "A very good book that tells the reality of the lives of the Tamils in [Malaysia]"). Epigram Books published his third novel, The Brigadier's Daughter, in July 2017. (Malaysia Tatler described it as "The Book of Love.")



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Price	<b>USD 17.70</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882309</b>

Category/Subject	<b>Children's Fiction/Fairyland</b>
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Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>200 pages</b>

Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>
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Author based in	<b>Israel</b>
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## Winter Blue Fairy-Child: The Dream Weavers

**Eshkar Erlich-Brifman**

### Keyline

One fairy-child, in between two worlds.

### Description

Winter Blue is a fairy-child who leads parallel lives in two worlds—the world of humans, and another, secret, wondrous world—Magic-Land.

Winter and her fairy-children friends embark on a series of thrilling and dangerous adventures. They study with Ismergada how to start using the magic-dust they had received last summer. They meet Bogus, a magical and mysterious creature long-forgotten in the world of humans. And they discover, during their time in Magic-Land, that the dream-weavers have vanished! This threatens to undermine the delicate balance between the worlds. Winter and her friends embark on a mission to investigate this mystery and to help the anxious dwellers of Magic-Land restore order.

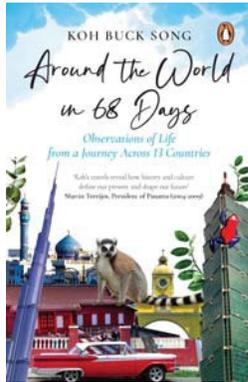
This is the second book in the beloved *Winter Blue, Fairy-Child* series. It has become an essential part of Israeli literature for children and young adults.

### Sales Points

- "The fairies' queen of ratings." Maya Sella, Haaretz Literary Supplement.
- "Enthusiastic girls (and there is no shortage of boy readers), are drawn to the wonderful world Eshkar has created, as if by a mass magnet." Elit Karp, LaIsha Magazine.
- "An enchanting author." Maya Benita, Maariv LaNoar Magazine.
- "Eshkar Erlich-Brifman has claimed the hearts of all Israeli girls with her fantasy series 'Winter Blue, Fairy-Child.'" Tal Marmelstein, Israel Today daily newspaper.
- "If anyone is deserving of the title 'The Israeli J.K Rowling', it is undoubtedly Eshkar Erlich-Brifman, the author behind the successful book series, 'Winter Blue, Fairy-Child' and other renowned children's books." — Zohar Aliya, Ynet.
- The *Winter Blue, Fairy-Child* series oscillates between imagination and reality, between the life of a teenage girl with all its day to day complexities and a rich adventure story which takes place primarily in MagicLand.
- The plots are threaded between the two parallel worlds and sweep the reader onto enchanting adventures.
- Eshkar is a renowned Israeli writer that published 34 books (thus far) with some of Israel's biggest publishing houses, Yedioth Books and Kinneret Zmora-Bitan. Around 250,000 copies of her books were sold in Israel. Several of her books made it to the bestsellers lists and won gold book awards.

### Author Bio

Israeli author, Eshkar Erlich-Brifman, has published thirty-four books. She resides with her family on the outskirts of the Carmel Forest, surrounded by the nature that inspires the fantastic worlds of her books which contain spectacular views and fascinating magical creatures. Her two flagship series, 'Winter Blue, Fairy-Child', and 'Anis, Beginner Witch', have won the hearts and imaginations of hundreds of thousands of readers, and have become an essential part of Israeli children's and young adult literature.



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Price	<b>USD 19.20</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882231</b>

Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction/Travel Writing</b>
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Binding	<b>Demy</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>240 pages</b>

Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>
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Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## Around the World in 68 days

**Observations of Life from a journey across 13 countries**

**KOH BUCK SONG**

### Keyline

Insights into thirteen countries' ancient and modern cultures, their national identities and nation brands, and their place in the world today

### Description

*Around The World In 68 Days* is a travelogue with a big difference - not about how to get there, what to see or where to dine, but instead, seeking to glean insights into the meaning of life and the true nature of human societies, using the lens of the brand attributes of each territory to look more clearly into the kaleidoscope of humanity. In a time of a global pandemic, this is also a type of memoir, a tribute to travel, of a pre-Covid-19 world. This is like a 68-day extravaganza of *ichigo ichie*, the Japanese concept of cherishing every worthwhile moment.

Singaporean writer Koh Buck Song - author and editor of more than 30 books - distils the quintessential brand essence of very different cultures in 13 countries across four continents. He draws from his experience and perspectives as a

country brand adviser, advocate of liveable and sustainable cities, and commentator on society and public policy. Koh, also a poet and artist, opens each chapter with his own haiga artwork of a haiku poem with an ink sketch. These artworks complement this book's effort to capture and interpret shared humanity across the globe - what makes each of us unique, what we share, and how, in the end, perhaps we're all really chasing ultimately similar dreams.

### Sales Points

- v Buck Song is a well-known personality in both the literary, academic and political scene. He was the resident book critic of *The Straits Times* and the gap he left upon his departure has yet to be filled by someone of equal calibre.
- v The travelogue is unique; each place is described from the perspective of a country brand consultant, advocate of liveable and sustainable cities, poet and artist, and astute commentator on society, leadership, politics and public policy, under a different theme for each country. So this is not about where to eat and what to see in each country.
- v The writing combines prose with haiga artwork featuring a haiku poem -- not done often, yet haiga and haiku are resonate well with Southeast Asians.

### Author Bio

Koh Buck Song (family name: Koh) is a Singaporean brand adviser and the author and editor of more than 30 books, including one on Singapore's country brand - *Brand Singapore: Nation Branding In A World Disrupted By Covid-19* (third edition, 2021, with a Chinese translation published in China, 2012). He has advised foreign governments on building their nation brands, and has spoken extensively on country branding internationally, including in London, Oxford, Cambridge (Massachusetts), Chicago (Illinois), Phuentsholing (Bhutan), Tahiti, Tokyo, Shanghai and Melbourne.

An avid traveller, he has visited more than 80 countries and territories, from Antarctica to Zimbabwe. An artist of haiga, a modern interpretation of the 16th-century Japanese art form of ink sketches combined with haiku poetry, he has held several exhibitions in Singapore and Laos. This book features a haiga artwork for each of the 13 countries visited. He read English at Cambridge University in the UK and has a master's in public administration from Harvard Kennedy School, USA.

As an adjunct editor at Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities, he has authored and edited reports on the annual World Cities Summit since 2014. Previously, he

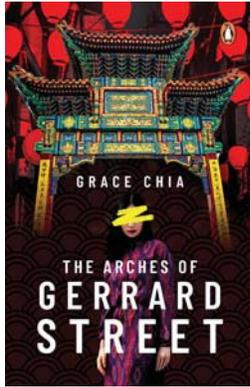
**Orders to:**



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was a columnist and political and arts journalist with Singapore's main English daily The Straits Times, and head of global media relations and strategic planning at the Singapore Economic Development Board. As head of public affairs (Southeast Asia) with the communications consultancy Hill & Knowlton, he advised the Singapore government on many aspects of urban development, including the global launch of Gardens by the Bay and the National Gallery Singapore.

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Price	<b>USD 16.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882910</b>

Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction</b>
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Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>240 pages</b>

Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>
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Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## The Arches of Gerrard Street

**Grace Chia**

### Keyline

Embroiled in a love triangle, a small-town girl from Malaysia goes to London's Chinatown to uncover the truth behind the murder of her childhood sweetheart.

### Description

The shooting of her childhood friend in London's Chinatown has led Molly from Batu Pahat in Malaysia to the British capital to seek answers behind his murder. As she faces money problems, loneliness and the threat of gang violence, she is smitten by Iain at the same time her boyfriend from Singapore comes looking for her. Can she uncover the truth behind the doors of this immigrant enclave shrouded in secrecy? This is a coming-of-age novel about a young girl from a small town thrust into a big city trying to find her way back home to true love.

### Sales Points

- v Readers interested in a coming-of-age love story as well as a whodunit with socio-political-cultural themes that sweeps across different locales in the East and West will find this interesting.
- v Most of the UK setting happens in Chinatown, which is a unique ghetto both

highly orientalist, seedy and colourful (also flavourful) that will appeal to non-Chinese not familiar with Chinese cultures, as well as appealing to Asian readers who are fascinated with how immigration in the UK works, how Asians are being perceived in the West and how this specific group of fictional Asians work and live in the UK.

- v It is an eye-opener, an antithesis to the crazy rich Asians-type in a Western setting but the underclass, particularly the Chinese, which is often neglected

in novels about them when they go West.

### Author Bio

Grace Chia graduated with an English Literature and Theatre Studies major at NUS, with an MA from Goldsmiths College, UOL. Despite being a mother of two kids with a full-time job, she has three published poetry collections under her belt, a couple of prose titles and her earlier commissions for non-fiction books. Grace has lived outside Singapore for 13 years. Her past lives include a features writer (The Peak, Young Parents, Today's Parents, freelance work in Wine & Dine, Nautique, etc) and adjunct lecturer at NTU and DigiPen-SIT. She was the inaugural NAC-NTU Writer-in-Residence, and have since done residencies at Toji Cultural Centre, Seoul Art Space Yeonhui and Uni of Macau. Her most recent collaboration was with a Dutch photographer based in HK on a book titled Hong Kong Garage Dogs where she wrote all the haikus accompanying the book.