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Author based in	<b>Malaysia</b>

## THE MIDNIGHT CHILDREN TRILOGY

### Tunku Halim

#### Keyline

What do you do when strange things happen around you?

#### THE MIDNIGHT CHILDREN: A VANISHING

ISBN-13 9789814914215

#### Description

The *Midnight Children* trilogy is a series of dark fantasy novels for children age 8-13 combining Asian mythology and Gothic elements. The characters, ten-year-old Min and twelve-year-old Zak are the main protagonists.

In *The Midnight Children: A Vanishing*, Zak and Min's father mysteriously disappears at breakfast and curious things then begin to happen to them. Min encounters two small creatures with spider-like legs, a doll that runs, talks and steals and Shaz, the shaman, who gives her a box with a finger bone inside. Zak is chased by a strange man on all fours in the shopping mall, flees from snakes that interrupt his homework and is visited by a ghostly old lady in his bedroom who happens to love matcha ice cream.

Trying to find their father, they are transported to an eerie world called the Moonlight Lands where oily creatures want to kidnap and eat them. The novel concludes with Zak vanishing one night during dinner.

#### THE MIDNIGHT CHILDREN: CEMETERY HOUSE

ISBN-13 9789814914222

#### Description

The *Midnight Children* trilogy is a series of dark fantasy novels for children age 8-13 combining Asian mythology and Gothic elements. The characters, ten-year-old Min and twelve-year-old Zak are the main protagonists.

In *The Midnight Children: Cemetery House*, Min and her mother move into Cemetery House with the distasteful Uncle Obb. Zak has been taken to the Moonlight Lands but flees from the oily creatures on a boat. He finds help at a river-side village but is betrayed by a village shaman and is almost trampled by a man-horse. Min, in the meantime, discovers a book and using its magic brings Zak back. They meet Shaz, the shaman, once again in the cemetery and he gives them a magic bottle. After almost being killed by a vampire, Min and Zak learn that their mother is in hospital but, before they can visit her, Uncle Obb locks them in a dog cage so that the oily creatures can kidnap them that night. Zak kills the two oily creatures using the magic bottle but Uncle Obb kidnaps Min at knifepoint and takes her to the Moonlight Lands.

#### THE MIDNIGHT CHILDREN: THE MOONLIGHT LANDS

ISBN-13 9789814914239

#### Description

The *Midnight Children* trilogy is a series of dark fantasy novels for children age 8-13 combining Asian mythology and Gothic elements. The characters, ten-year-old Min and twelve-year-old Zak are the main protagonists.

In *The Midnight Children: The Moonlight Lands*, Zak by helping a ghostly girl at the hospital brings his mother out of a coma. In the meantime, Min is now Uncle Obb's prisoner in the Moonlight Lands. He has also become king of the oily creatures and wants to eat her, Zak and her father because of their inherent magic. King Obb leads his army across the desert to attack the Rising, an army of mostly children who are rebelling against the oily creatures. The Rising's man-horses raid King Obb's camp

and Min is rescued. Meanwhile, King Obb sends Ragdoo, his Lord Chancellor, to kidnap Zak. Ragdoo betrays King Obb by taking Zak to the Moonlight Lands to defeat King Obb. King Obb's army of oily creatures attack the Rising who are hopelessly outnumbered. Just as Min and her father are about to be beheaded, Zak appears and



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**Sales Points**

- Each of the three books in this series is a collection of dark, gothic and spooky short stories for children.
- The horror genre is a favourite in SEA. The stories in this series toned down for children, yet retains its spook factor.
- The stories are local-based with local characters (and well-loved creatures) hence has a distinctly Asian flavor.

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**Author Bio**

Tunku Halim was born in 1964. He is dubbed as Asia's Stephen King and by delving into Malay myth, legends and folklore, his writing is often regarded as 'World Gothic'. His novel, *Dark Demon Rising* (1997), was nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award whilst his second novel, *Vermillion Eye* (2000), is used as a study text in The National University of Singapore's Language and Literature course. He has also won first prize in a Fellowship of Australian Writers' short story competition and has had three consecutive wins in Malaysia's Popular-Star Readers' Choice Awards between 2015 and 2017.

His short-story collections include—*The Rape of Martha Teoh & Other Chilling Stories* (1997), *BloodHaze: 15 Chilling Tales* (1999), *The Woman Who Grew Horns and Other Works* (2001), *7 Days to Midnight* (2013) and *The Rape of Nancy Ng – 13 Nightmares* (2018). His other novels include *Juriah's Song* (2008), *Last Breath* (2014) and *A Malaysian Restaurant in London* (2015). His non-fiction books include *A Children's History of Malaysia* (2003), *History of Malaysia—A Children's Encyclopedia* (2009) and a biography of his late father, *A Prince Called "Charlie"* (2018).

Tunku Halim's collection of short horror stories, published by Penguin Random House SEA in 2019, *Scream to the Shadows*, was a best seller in Singapore and Malaysia.