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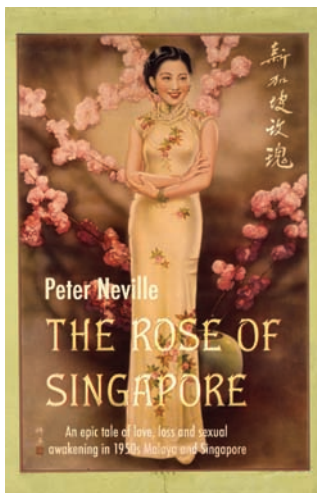
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Singapore and Malaya of old are brought vividly to life in this
Tanamera-style blockbuster

THE ROSE OF SINGAPORE

An epic tale of love, loss and sexual awakening in 1950s Malaya and Singapore



SINGAPORE, 10 NOVEMBER 2005—With the release of “The Rose of Singapore”, we have a wonderful historical work of fiction—based almost entirely on the true experiences of the author, Peter Neville—that chronicles life in Singapore for British and Australian servicemen in the early 1950s, at the height of the Emergency Period and the beginning of Singapore nationalism.

The book’s protagonist is Peter Saunders (obviously self-modelled on the author himself) and he is typical of thousands of British men who were called up for National Service at that time. Peter is only eighteen when he leaves the UK for Hong Kong with the RAF (Royal Air Force). In Hong Kong he re-trains as an RAF cook and is posted to KL and then on to Singapore. It is Singapore, specifically RAF Changi, that he calls home for the next couple of years.

Peter is young, impressionable and somewhat naïve. It is not long before he befriends a Chinese Singaporean girl on Changi Beach and quickly falls for her. Peter is well aware that many of the girls approaching foreign servicemen are prostitutes so he is happy and relieved to have met Rose, a seemingly innocent and respectable young lady. Rose and Peter’s friendship blossoms into romance and Peter is schooled in the ways of love by Rose, who appears to be more worldly wise than he. What Peter doesn’t realise is that Rose is none other than the Rose of Singapore, the most well-known prostitute in town. Romance turns to bitter disappointment, anguish and fury as Peter rudely stumbles onto the truth one night. Peter must come to terms with the reality that his girlfriend, through no fault of her own, is forced to rely on selling her body to survive.

Intertwined with the tragic romance of Rose and Peter (all of which happened in real life) are hilarious episodes of drunken debauchery in Singapore’s red-light districts of old, and fascinating glimpses into life in the 1950s—Chinese New Year and Hari Raya celebrations, Christmas, the Queen’s coronation, NAAFI clubs, Malay kampungs, rickety trams and buses, adventures to Pulau Ubin, episodes with crocodiles. Also featured is a nail-biting episode of jungle combat in Malaya (Malaysia), which finds Peter fearing for his life in a fierce gun battle with Communist terrorists.

With so few books written about Singapore in the 50s, “The Rose of Singapore” is of immense historical value. The book was first written in 1955 and the author was able to recall minute details of daily life that ensure Singapore and Malaya of old is brought to life in this *Tanamera*-style blockbuster.

THE ROSE OF SINGAPORE is available from all leading bookstores in Singapore from 10 Nov 2005.

About the Author

Peter Neville was born in Devon, England, in 1933. He came of age in the RAF, while serving in Singapore and Malaya during the Emergency Period in the early 1950s. When not tracking down Communist terrorists in the jungles of Malaya or avoiding capture by his own military police in the red-light districts of Singapore, Neville took the time to fully appreciate his new surroundings and fell in love with the East. And when his five-year tour of duty in the RAF ended, he returned to Singapore and went on to enjoy other lively adventures there and around the world. Peter now enjoys a more relaxed lifestyle in Florida with June, his wife of forty years. This is his first novel.

About the Publisher

Monsoon Books is a Singapore-based independent publisher dedicated to publishing classic and contemporary crime, literary and pulp fiction, humour, and creative nonfiction, with distribution throughout Asia, the United States, Canada, the UK, Australia and New Zealand. We publish quality books from outstanding writers such as Gerrie Lim, Stephen Leather, Stu Lloyd, Warren Olson, Erich R. Sysak, D. Devika Bai, Ee Lin See, Andrew Hicks, Peter Neville, Janet Lim and Moammar Emka.

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Under the direction of publisher Philip Tatham, Monsoon Books' mission is to be unique—an exciting, innovative and distinctive alternative to commercial publishing; to find new talent and put Asian publishing at the heart of the literary world.

THE ROSE OF SINGAPORE

By Peter Neville

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