



Slow Boat to China and Other Stories (Modern Chinese Literature From Taiwan)

Kim Chew Ng

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"Dream and Swine and Aurora," "Deep in the Rubber Forest," "Fish Bones," "Allah's Will," "Monkey Butts, Fire, and Dangerous Things"?Ng Kim Chew's stories are raw, rural, and rich with the traditions of his native Malaysia. They are also full of humor and spirit, demonstrating a deep appreciation for human ingenuity in the face of poverty, oppression, and exile.

Known for writing in a Chinese that incorporates English, Japanese, Malay, and the Chinese dialect of Hokkien, Ng Kim Chew creatively captures the riot of cultures that roughly coexist on the Malay Peninsula and its surrounding archipelago. Their creative interplay is heightened by the encroaching forces of globalization, which bring new opportunities for cultural experimentation, but also an added dimension of alienation. In prose that is intimate and atmospheric, these stories, selected from several Ng Kim Chew collections, depict the struggles of individuals torn between their ancestral and adoptive homes, communities pressured by violence, and minority Malaysian Chinese in dynamic tension with an Islamic Malay majority. Told through relatable characters, Ng Kim Chew's tales show why he has become a leading Malaysian writer of Chinese fiction, representing in mood, voice, and rhythm the dislocation of a people and country in transition.

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