

Recent Comics Graphic Novels - December 2023

Southeast Asia Head Office
Blk 231, Bain Street
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex
Singapore 180231
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204
Fax : +65-6883-2144
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

South Asia Head Office
8/123, Third Street,
Tatabad, Coimbatore 641012
India
Tel : +91-422-2499030/2495780
Fax : +91-422-2495781
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

La Ultima Corrida: The Last Bullfight / Guillermo Gomez Rivera
Vibal Foundation, Inc, Quezon City, Philippines 2023

viii, 64p.
9789719708315
\$ 22.00 / null
200 gm.

Man against beast. Dancing ladies with castanets. A dangerous dance that captivates and terrifies everyone in the bull ring. Celipe and Relojerin came to Iloilo to slay and pierce the bulls through their hearts but are now also determined to sway Manolita and Lilia off their feet.

Two formidable bullfighters from Manila shake the whole ring only to find themselves in an unusual predicament as they are caught in a whirl of passion, romance, and jealousy. When fate is no longer in their hands but in the warm sea breeze, clicking of castanets, and sharp horns of a hefty bull, will love be their saving grace or the cause of their demise?

Colorized and restored from the personal collection of award-winning author Guillermo Gomez Rivera, illustrated by Ramon Fernandez Pasion, Vibal Foundation, Inc. proudly presents a tale of an almost-forgotten time in the Philippines – a time when bullfighters are as fatal to a man as a woman's fury.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861222>

The Showgirl and the Minister / Felix Cheong (Illustrator) Arif Rafhan
Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), Singapore 2023

1v.
9789815144314
\$ 17.90 / null
300 gm.

Sydney, 1966. Flower power is in full swing. The Cold War is at its height. Somewhere in Kings Cross, Singapore's former Chief Minister Lim Yew Hock is missing. Now the Malaysian High Commissioner to Australia, he had left his home in Canberra without a word of where he had gone.

Is he dead? During his reign as Chief Minister, he had cracked down hard on the Communists, and they will want to settle scores with him.

Is he in hiding from mounting debts? Lim is known for his punts on the horses on weekends.

Or is he mixed up in Cold War espionage? One of his ministers, Chew Swee Kee, was alleged to have received money from the CIA – and there're rumours Lim had his share of it.

And how is a 19-year-old stripper, Sandra Nelson, Russian by birth, involved in this shady business? Is she Lim's honey trap?

Private detective Dave Chen has to unravel these tangled knots of political intrigue and personal trauma – and confront his own demons.

Written in poetic form by Felix Cheong and wonderfully illustrated by Arif Rafhan, The Showgirl and the Minister is inspired by the real-life disappearance of Lim over ten days in 1966.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860995>

The Mountain that Grew / Alfred A. Yuson

San Anselmo Publications, Philippines 2022

32p.

9786218230187

\$ 20.00 / null

200 gm.

Celebrated author Alfred "Krip" Yuson writes about a mountain that keeps growing, prompting people to climb it and discover what is behind the mystery. A timeless tale for both children and adults. The wonderful story is accompanied by a stunning cover made by visual artist Marcel Antonio, and visually-rich illustrations by artist/book designer Ilana Antonio. Award-winning broadcast journalist Howie Severino describes Mr. Yuson's new opus as "an ecological parable lavishly disguised as a children's book."

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=859374>

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