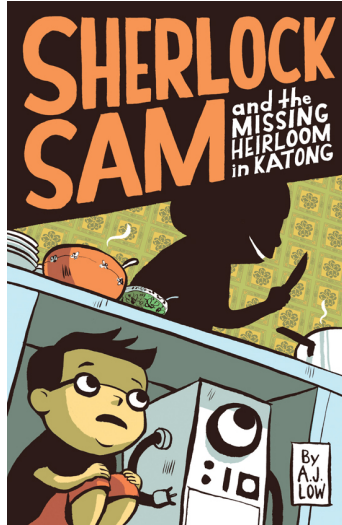




EPIGRAM BOOKS

15 January 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
All-New Children's Adventure Series  
***Sherlock Sam Wins Over Young and Old***



"A thrilling kid's detective romp in the grand tradition of Famous Five, with a lovable robot and delicious Peranakan food!"

— Otto Fong, author of *Sir Fong's Adventures In Science*

"Watson is a delightful creation. He follows a rich line of great robot companions from Star War's R2D2 to Star Trek's Data; no detective should leave home without one!"

— Sonny Liew, Eisner-nominated author of *Malinky Robot*

**Kid Detective Sherlock Sam and Robot Sidekick Watson  
Solve Mysteries Around Singapore**

Award-winning children's book authors Adeline Foo of *The Diary of Amos Lee* and Emily Lim of *Prince Bear and Pauper Bear* are among the adults who have been won over by the first book of this new series, calling the boy-and-robot team "one of Singapore's favourite detective duos". Nine-year-old Tessa Foo attests to wanting to eat the Peranakan dish *ayam buah keluak* featured in the first title ***Sherlock Sam and the Missing Heirloom in Katong*** after reading the book, calling Sherlock Sam and

Watson “really cool” while nine-year-old Matthew Goh says, “You simply won’t be able to bring yourself to put the book down!”

How did this food-loving Singaporean boy-and-robot detective duo get created? Written by husband-and-wife team A. J. Low, the idea was conceptualised by Epigram Books.

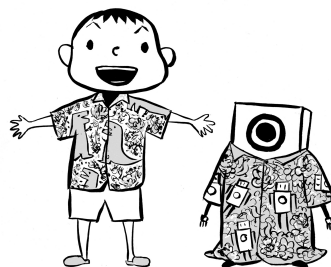
“For the character of Sherlock, we put a little bit of ourselves into him—he’s a comic book fan, he loves science and mysteries and most of all he loves his family and friends.

... in the first draft of the book, Watson the robot didn’t exist! But Felicia had always wanted to write a book with a robot in it and we developed the idea of this cranky robot together!”

—A. J. Low

Apart from intense debates between husband and wife, which strengthened the story and characters’ development, the pair spent much time doing valuable research by eating lots of Peranakan food. The duo share an ethos of quality writing for children, and the characters of Sherlock Sam and Watson often banter with a grown-up wit and razor-sharp humour that will make children and adults laugh.

Jimmy grinned widely. “We should get a *batik* shirt for Watson too! His can have cool robots on it!”



“Sherlock-did-not-give-me-clothing,” Watson said.

“Why would you need clothing? You’re a robot!” I said

“Clothing on robots is cool. Robots on clothing is cooler,” Watson replied.

Illustrated by freelance illustrator and artist drewscape (Andrew Tan) who brings the story and its characters to life with a suitably quirky, bold and winsome style, the series is set to win the hearts of many more readers both young and old. *Sherlock Sam and the Missing Heirloom in Katong* will be available at all good bookstores in end-January. Look out for the next title in the series ***Sherlock Sam and the Ghostly Moans in Fort Canning***, to be published in March.

Apart from a series of bookstore appearances, the authors will also be leading a writing workshop for children on ‘Creating a Convincing Villain’ at The Arts House on Saturday 23 March at 11am as part of The Arts House 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

In reaching out to young readers, Epigram Books has collaborated with design company Brick by Brick to create the first-ever LEGO® model of a character from a Singaporean publication. Specialising in creations of all kinds using LEGO® bricks, Brick By Brick is all about taking the humble LEGO® brick and turning it into a work of art and a creative thinking tool. With this collaboration, a limited edition model of Watson in *Sherlock Sam* will be produced. More details will be revealed during the official launch of the first two *Sherlock Sam* titles at Books Kinokuniya Singapore Main Store on Saturday 16 March.



(not the final image)

## **THE STORY**

### ***Sherlock Sam and the Missing Heirloom in Katong***

Meet Sherlock Sam, Singapore’s greatest kid detective. With his trusty robot Watson, Sherlock Sam will stop at nothing to solve the case, no matter how big or small!

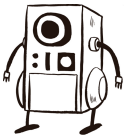
In *Sherlock Sam and the Missing Heirloom in Katong*, Auntie Kim Lian’s precious Peranakan cookbook disappears, and Sherlock Sam cannot eat her delicious ayam buah keluak anymore! Will Sherlock Sam be able to use his super detective powers to find this lost treasure?

## THE CHARACTERS



**SAMUEL TAN CHER LOCK a.k.a. SHERLOCK SAM**

A ten-year-old boy with eyes bigger than his tummy, Sherlock's heroes are Sherlock Holmes, Batman and his dad. Extremely smart and observant, Sherlock often takes it upon himself to solve any and all mysteries—big or small. He loves comics and superheroes!



**WATSON**

Built by Sherlock to be his trusty, cheery sidekick, Watson is, instead, a grumpy “old man” who is reluctantly drawn into Sherlock's adventures; or as Watson perceives them, his misadventures. Watson is environmentally friendly.



**WENDY**

Sherlock's older sister. A year older than him, Wendy is a very talented artist but she is terrible at Chinese. Sherlock would like to be taller than her one day soon. She doesn't like wearing dresses or skirts.



**JIMMY**

Sherlock's classmate, Jimmy is the only boy in a Peranakan family with four sisters. Seemingly much younger than his actual age, everything is exciting and magical to Jimmy. He has terrible handwriting.



An engineer, Sherlock's dad is a scientific genius, but is rather forgetful and bumbling in real life. He has never stopped reading superhero comics—a love he's passed on to his son.



A homemaker, Sherlock's mom is half-Peranakan and is constantly experimenting in the kitchen. Sherlock often wonders why she tempts him with food, then does not allow him to eat his fill.



A Peranakan matriarch, Auntie Kim Lian is renowned for her cooking skills. Fiercely protective of her grandchildren and her family recipes, she loves cooking for Sherlock Sam because he loves her food!

## **EXCLUSIVE**

Review copies will be made available on request. Interviews with A. J. Low can also be arranged. Please write to Michelle Chua at [michelle@epigrambooks.sg](mailto:michelle@epigrambooks.sg).

## **PRAISE FOR THE BOOK**

"A promising adventure series with Super Sleuth Sherlock Sam! His insatiable appetite to sample Singapore's popular foods and never-give-up attitude to solving mysteries will keep readers glued till the last page." Adeline Foo, author of the bestselling series *The Diary of Amos Lee*

"A thrilling kid's detective romp in the grand tradition of Famous Five, with a lovable robot and delicious Peranakan food!" Otto Fong, author of *Sir Fong's Adventures In Science*

"Sherlock Sam and Watson are set to become one of Singapore's favourite detective duos! Sam's preoccupation with food struck a familiar chord with the Singaporean in me and Watson's deadpan one-liners had me laughing out loud. What a fun-filled, food-filled adventure story! This is a delicious read that will certainly warm your heart like a good serving of *ayam buah keluak!*" Emily Lim, award-winning author of *Prince Bear & Pauper Bear*

"Watson is a delightful creation. He follows a rich line of great robot companions from Star War's R2D2 to Star Trek's Data; no detective should leave home without one!" Sonny Liew, Eisner-nominated author of *Malinky Robot*

"If a genius kid and his robot sidekick solving mysteries presses any of your buttons, Sherlock Sam will be the find of the year for you. (This is) one of the sharpest, funniest books you'll read all year." Hal Johnson, author of *Immortal Lycanthropes*

"I enjoyed the story. Sherlock Sam never gave up trying to solve the mystery of the missing recipe book. I was kept guessing to the end. Sherlock Sam and Watson sound really cool. I feel like eating *ayam buah keluak* after reading the story!" Tessa Foo, 9, Pei Chun Public School

"Set in Singapore, with its mouth-watering food, this great book will keep you guessing until the very end. Mystery awaits you around every corner, and you simply won't be able to bring yourself to put the book down!" Matthew Goh, 9, ACS Primary

## **UPCOMING APPEARANCES BY THE AUTHORS**

- Saturday 19 January from 3.30pm- 4pm at Bookaburra United Square
- Official Launch of *Sherlock Sam and the Missing Heirloom in Katong* and *Sherlock Sam and the Ghostly Moans in Fort Canning* on Saturday 16 March from 2pm- 3pm at Books Kinokuniya Singapore Main Store (Ngee Ann City) with appearance by illustrator drewscape.
- Writing workshop for children by authors A. J. Low with appearance by illustrator drewscape on 'Creating a Convincing Villain' at The Arts House on Saturday 23 March at 11am.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

The writers behind the pseudonym A. J. Low comprise the husband-and-wife team, Adan Jimenez and Felicia Low-Jimenez. Born in the San Joaquin Valley in California to Mexican immigrant parents, Adan became an immigrant himself when he moved to Singapore after completing his degree in English Literature at New York University. He has worked in the book industry and the gaming industry, and has co-written a children's book *Twisted Journeys #22: Hero City*, published in the US. Felicia was born and raised in Singapore. She started work in the book industry after completing her degree in Business Administration. She also attained her graduate degree in Literary Theory from the University of New England, New South Wales. The Sherlock Sam series is Felicia's debut writing effort, after accumulating years of experience buying, selling and marketing books. **sherlocksam.wordpress.com**

## **ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR**

drewscape (Andrew Tan) is a freelance illustrator from Singapore. He illustrates and draws storyboards for advertising agencies as well as for magazines. He enjoys creating comics purely for the fun and challenge of it. And because it's a nice way to share stories with friends. When drewscape was little, the first Star Wars movie came out and he loved it. Since that time, he has discovered Star Trek, Transformers and Spiderman comics, manga, anime, European comics, art by Ashley Wood, stories by Haruki Murakami, and the strangeness and wonder of living. Throw all of these together, and you might get something that would describe the comics drewscape comes up with.

## **ABOUT THE PUBLISHER**

An independent publisher based in Singapore, Epigram Books is known for putting together well-designed and thought-provoking titles. Epigram Books began as a division of the award-winning design firm Epigram but registered as a separate entity in July 2011 in order to strengthen its focus on championing local writing.

Epigram Books publishes all manner of fiction—novels, short stories, plays, children's books and some poetry. We have published works by Singapore literary pioneers Lloyd Fernando, Goh Poh Seng, Stella Kon, Edwin Thumboo, Kirpal Singh and Robert Yeo. Other prominent authors include authors playwrights Tan Tarn How, Ovidia Yu, Chong Tze Chien, Jean Tay, Haresh Sharma and Lim Chor Pee, as well as authors Lim Thean Soo, Ming Cher and Tan Kok Seng; and award-winning children's authors Adeline Foo and SherMay Loh, who is an international Moonbeam Children's Award winner. Epigram Books is the publisher of *The Diary of Amos Lee* series and a series of international award-winning children's picture books.

Epigram Books reflects Singapore's obsession with food by publishing both recipe books and food guides. In 2011, Epigram Books started the Wee Editions imprint to support local designers, photographers and artists through a unique series of compact coffee table books. In 2012, Epigram Books began its foray into comics with the commission of graphic novels by Dave Chua and Ng Xiao Yan, drewscape, miel, Ng Hong Teng and Oh Yong Hwee, and Eisner-nominated Sonny Liew.

**For more information, visit our website [www.epigrambooks.sg](http://www.epigrambooks.sg).**