

The Singapore Book Club

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Come join Singaporean author, Rajat Das, as we discuss *Paper Boat*.

Friday, 18 September 2009

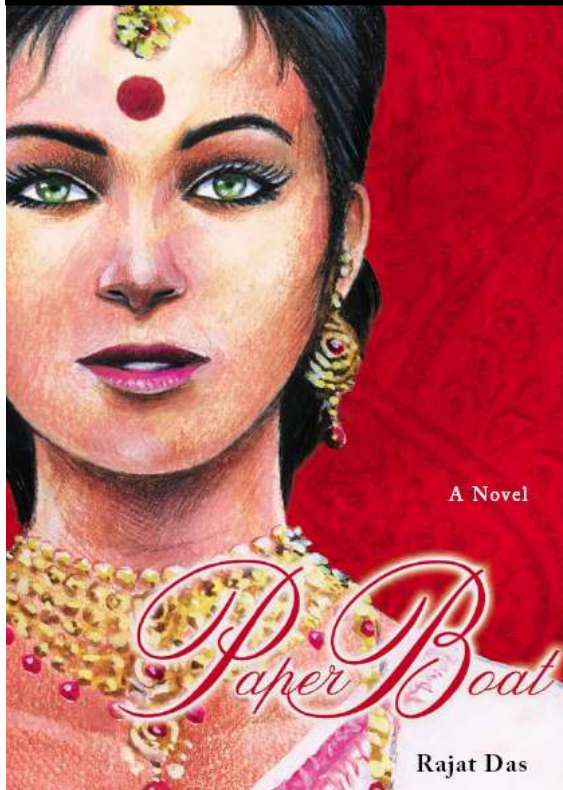
7 p.m.

National Library, Victoria Street (Multipurpose Room)

ADMISSION IS FREE

To register, please email info@bookcouncil.sg

Set in early 20th century, East Bengal, *Paper Boat*, an implausible vessel, is as much a romance recalling courage, heroism, fortitude, as it is a chronicle of an improbable Bengali society struggling with its reformation.



On the banks of Meghna stands Birat Gram, Great Village. In it there lives most beautiful Nalini. Few in the province are as popular or as capable. She is a history-bending future head of the Village Council.

Destiny has other ideas. A welt in her womb has grown to a tumour, and Nalini has taken to her bed, to beg of Death an end to her enduring pain. The healer says, "Bring me some water left by a bathing pigeon. I will cure her. This pigeon must be black. With a lone white spot. In its neck. Not anywhere else."

The province gives up. Not so Rani, Nalini's child. When Moy comes running to say he has seen such a pigeon bathing on an islet in Meghna, the girl takes off for the river with a bowl tied to her waist. She swims through the swirl, collects a bowlful of potion, and only then realises the predicament she is in. Will she swim one handed? The bowl held high in the other? Preparing to do just that, she spies giant waves threatening her with bone-chilling ferocity. Will Rani survive?

Paper Boat, by Rajat Das



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rajat Das, married with three children, invested a lifetime designing and developing heuristic tools of learning before embarking on *Paper Boat*, a book taking shape within him for over three decades; now penned in the Uppanyaas tradition of vernacular India. Rajat, who grew up in India, lives in Singapore with his wife Serene Choo and son Shomir. He's an avid tennis and pool player.

The Singapore Book Club is a joint collaboration between the National Book Development Council of Singapore and The Arts House. **No, you do not have to have read the book before coming, though we certainly hope you'll do so after the session. All are welcome.**

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