

Island of LEGENDS

ISLAND OF LEGENDS features eight of the greatest legends and folk tales from the Lion City. Read about: the ancient Chinese stories of Pu Luo Chung, island of mystery and danger; Badang the Great, the warrior who had the strength of a giant and the heart of a hero; Radin Mas Ayu, the beautiful and brave princess; the magical turtle of Kusu Island; and more.

Each chapter also contains part of a lovely picture puzzle, which readers can help to solve in order to find out the truth about a lost treasure from over 100 years ago. A most entertaining book not only for young readers, but the entire family.



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Editions



DON BOSCO

Island of LEGENDS

Marshall Cavendish Editions

LION CITY ADVENTURES

Island of LEGENDS



DON BOSCO

ILLUSTRATED
BY SHARON LEI

For Review only



Island of LEGENDS

DON BOSCO

Illustrated by Sharon Lei

For Review only **Contents**

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NOTE TO READERS



This book features eight amazing legends from the old days of Singapore.

Legends are interesting stories from long ago. In the beginning, people sat around and shared these tales. Storytellers would add their own bits to amuse their listeners. Later on, the legends were written down or printed in books. Recently, some have even been turned into movies and comic books.

These legends are so old that we can't know if the events actually happened. In some cases, we've made up new characters and scenes to help

you imagine the stories better. We encourage you to look up the original tales in your library, or ask your teachers about them. It's a great way to learn more about the wonders of the Lion City.

Dear reader, we are honoured to introduce these legends to you. When you're done, please share them with your friends too. This is how stories stay alive.

As the old saying goes, "The future belongs to the young and brave!" Keep this in mind as you turn the pages. May you enjoy a rich and adventurous life.

INTRODUCTION

A BOX, 8 CARDS AND A RIDDLE

The Lion City Adventuring Club (LCAC) was started in 1894, by some friends who lived along River Valley Road. Since then, the LCAC has grown into a world-famous organisation. Children come from all over the world to join their delightful excursions around the island.



It was a Friday afternoon. Right before the mid-year school break.

The headquarters of the LCAC was bustling with activity. Members were running around. Some were playing catch. Some were in a hurry to get to the pantry, where there was a birthday celebration with chocolate cake and jackfruit ice cream. And some were preparing for an adventuring trip to Fort Canning.

Everyone was thrilled, except Claire. She sat in one of the study rooms looking glum.

Claire had been absent from school for three weeks. She had chicken pox. When she returned, that very morning, it was already the last day of the term.



Mrs Khoo, her English teacher, was keen to help her catch up with her homework. "Hand in this essay on Monday morning," Mrs Khoo said. "You can submit the other assignments after the holidays."

Claire knew her weekend would be busy. She had to visit both pairs of grandparents. They were eager to feed her yummy food and inspect her chicken pox scars. She wouldn't have much time for the assignment.

The title of her essay was: "The Greatest Thing I Ever Did". Claire could remember many fun things that she had done. And silly things. Even one or two naughty things. But never anything great.

What could she write about?



Claire talking to Justin.

Claire was scribbling down ideas when she heard a familiar voice behind her.

"Hey, could I share this room for a while? All the other rooms are taken."

It was Justin. He was one of the three Assistant Chief Adventurers, and also vice captain of the LCAC soccer team.

"Only if you promise to help me with my homework," Claire groaned. She quickly clutched her head like she was in pain.

"Ha ha," Justin said. "You could start a new group. The Lion City Acting Club."

Justin was carrying a brown box. It was wrapped in plastic and covered in postage labels. He put this down carefully on the table.

"Is this a present for me?" Claire joked. She raised her eyebrows and looked hopeful.

Justin smiled. "I just picked up this package at the post office. It's from the US!"

Justin went to get a pair of scissors from the crafting room. Claire watched as he opened the package. Inside, there was a letter sitting on top of a thick layer of bubble wrap. Claire took the letter and read it out loud.

Dear members of the Lion City Adventuring Club,

My name is Spencer Reynolds White. I'm a student in the US. I came across this strange box at a junk yard near my home in Springfield, Missouri. There were eight lovely cards tied to it, and also a sheet of paper with the LCAC letterhead. This had a strange riddle scribbled on it. I recognised your logo because my mother is from Singapore, and when we visited last year she took me to a Peranakan food fair organised by the LCAC. I've tried to open the box, but I can't figure out the right combination. I'll bet there's some sort of code in the cards. What's inside the box? And what's the answer to the riddle? I'm dying to find out. I hope you'll figure it out fast and let me know! Some nights I lie awake for hours just thinking about this. Take care, and happy adventuring!

Your friend,
SRW

PS. I tried to use my telekinetic powers to unlock the box, but this didn't work. Drats. I will practise harder.

Claire laughed when she read the last line. Telekinesis is the ability to control objects just by thinking about it.

"He's funny!" Claire said.

When she looked up, Justin had already laid out the contents on the table. Just as the letter said: a metal box, eight illustrated cards, and an old sheet of paper.

Claire forgot all about her essay. This was so much more exciting.

For Review only

A STRANGE LAND



"Two years back, my father found a strange object at a building site," Justin told Claire. "It brought him a lot of trouble. His workers thought it was cursed. There were many accidents at the site. And then a crazy historian accused my father of stealing the item from his family."

Justin pointed to the box. "We don't know what it contains. We should be careful."

Claire frowned. Justin was right. She remembered that his father was the Senior Adventuring Mentor of the LCAC.

"Why not ask your dad?" Claire suggested. "He can advise us."

"He's in Vietnam working on a big project," Justin said. "He might not pick up the phone."

But Justin called his father anyway. He explained the situation.

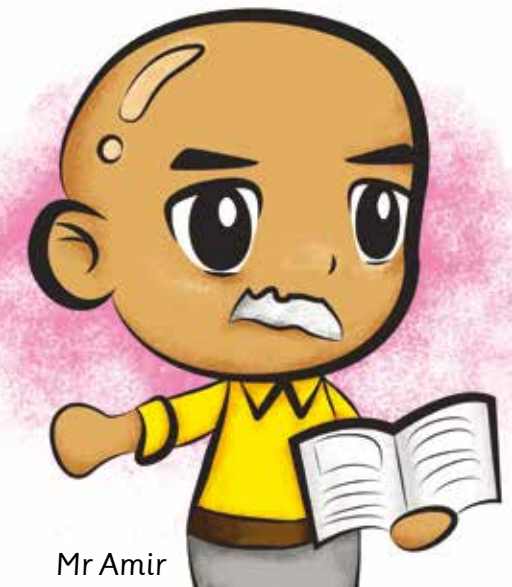
"I need to get back to my meeting," his father said. "Go see Mr Amir. He'll know what to do."

It was a beautiful shophouse two bus stops away from the LCAC's headquarters. Mr Amir sold stationery on the ground floor, and adventure and mystery books on the second.

Mr Amir came from a long line of booksellers. In fact, his great-grandfather, also named Amir, had allowed the founding members of the LCAC to use the back room of his small bookstore for meetings.

Mr Amir was mesmerised by the cards. He picked up one of them.

"I suspect this is the End," Mr Amir said softly.



Mr Amir

Twenty minutes later, Claire and Justin were seated inside Mr Amir's bookstore.

THE LEGEND OF PU LUO CHUNG

Justin and Claire were baffled.

They examined the card. It had an interesting picture on it. A young boy, dressed in the kind of clothes that Chinese villagers wore in the very old days. There were also some Chinese houses behind him.

Mr Amir went to the shelves to get a book about Singapore's history. He

showed them a chapter about the strange legend of Pulau Ujong, which was Malay for "the Island at the End".

"This was the ancient name for Singapore," Mr Amir explained. "The Chinese adventurers called it Pu Luo Chung."

Claire could almost see Pu Luo Chung in her imagination.



After sailing for many weeks, the ship was finally close to Pu Luo Chung.

Guo was the youngest person on board. He was twelve, and just tall enough to reach the ropes and help with the sails.

By the time Guo was done with his chores, the sun was starting to set. Guo stared at the horizon. He could see a stretch of land!

Suddenly a shadow fell over him. Guo looked up in surprise. It was Tong, the ship's second-in-command.

"Your job is to clean up and be helpful," Tong snapped. "Not waste your time dreaming!"

Guo ignored Tong. He remembered all the fantastic stories his Uncle Yu used to tell, when he was still alive.



"Pu Luo Chung has a great city on a hill," Uncle Yu had said. "A sweet breeze blows every evening. There's a magical river that runs all the way inland, where you'll find a tribe of people with tails!"

Uncle Yu had also given Guo a map of Pu Luo Chung. It was a copy of the famous map created by Kang Tai, the Chinese explorer.

Guo hoped to explore the island and perhaps find some treasures.

Tong saw the faraway look in Guo's eyes.

"You're in for a rude shock," Tong said with a smirk.



The next morning, they got so close to the island that Guo could see the huts along the coast.

Guo was thrilled. He rushed over to his sleeping corner, on the lower level.

He rolled up his mattress, and then removed a small wooden panel on the floor under it. There was a brown sack hidden there. Guo wanted to keep it safe from the other men on the ship. He didn't trust them.

Guo took out the sack. Right away he sensed that something was wrong. His hands trembled as he opened it.

His precious map of Pu Luo Chung.

It was gone.

Guo recalled Tong's last words. He ran around the ship looking for Tong. Finally Guo found him.

Guo rushed forward and grabbed the front of Tong's shirt. "Where's my map?"

At first Tong was too surprised to react. Guo reached inside Tong's shirt and sure enough, his fingers found a scroll there. He fished it out.

"Tong is a thief!" Guo shouted.

But Tong gave Guo a hard smack. Then he snatched the scroll back from Guo.

Tong sneered. "Is this a treasure map? Is that why you're so obsessed with Pu Luo Chung?"

The other sailors laughed.



Guo went back to his mattress and cried so hard that he grew tired and fell asleep.

Guo had a peculiar dream. Uncle Yu appeared to him.

"I'm sorry," Guo cried bitterly. "I've lost your precious map. I'll never get to explore the island."

"Dear child," Uncle Yu replied, "you've looked at it so many times that it's now engraved inside your head. You'll never lose it. Just trust your heart, and follow your dreams."



Guo woke up. A vision flashed before him. Indeed, Guo could remember the map very clearly. Every line, every word, every detail. He had memorised all of it.

"This is a miracle!" Guo whispered in amazement.



When Tong reached Pu Luo Chung, he went straight to the market on the hill.

He spotted a prince from a nearby kingdom, and offered to sell the map for ten gold pieces. The prince haggled and bought the map for two gold pieces instead.

Tong bought some food and gambled the rest of the money away. That evening he went back to the ship, no better off.



Guo, on the other hand, spent his day exploring the island. He would often close his eyes and call up an image of the map. He found his way around easily. He had many amazing encounters. He never met the tribe of men with tails, though.

When evening came, Guo decided not to return to the ship. He found a fisherman who agreed to hire Guo as his helper.

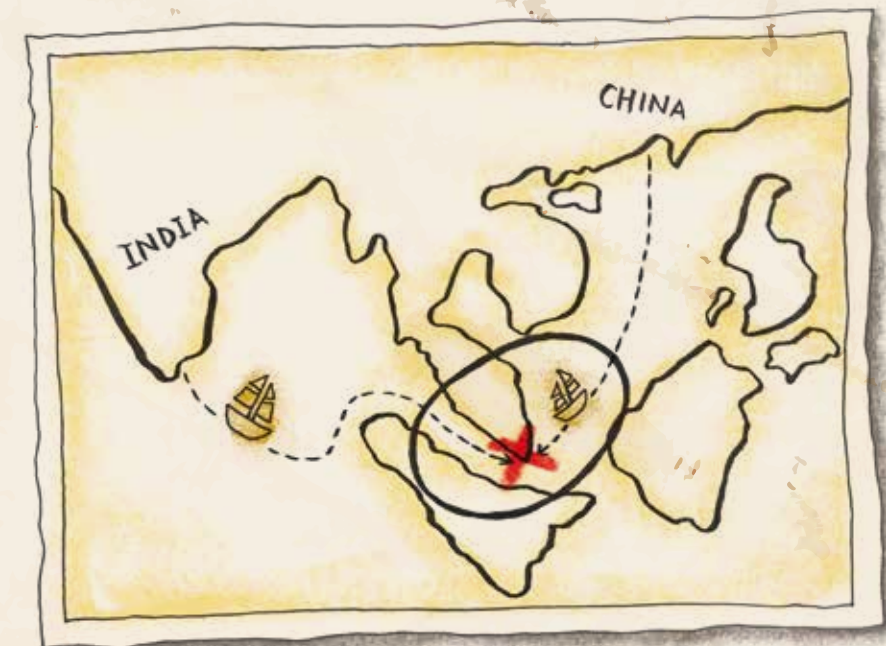
Guo never stopped exploring Pu Luo Chung, and the islands around it.





HISTORY NOTES

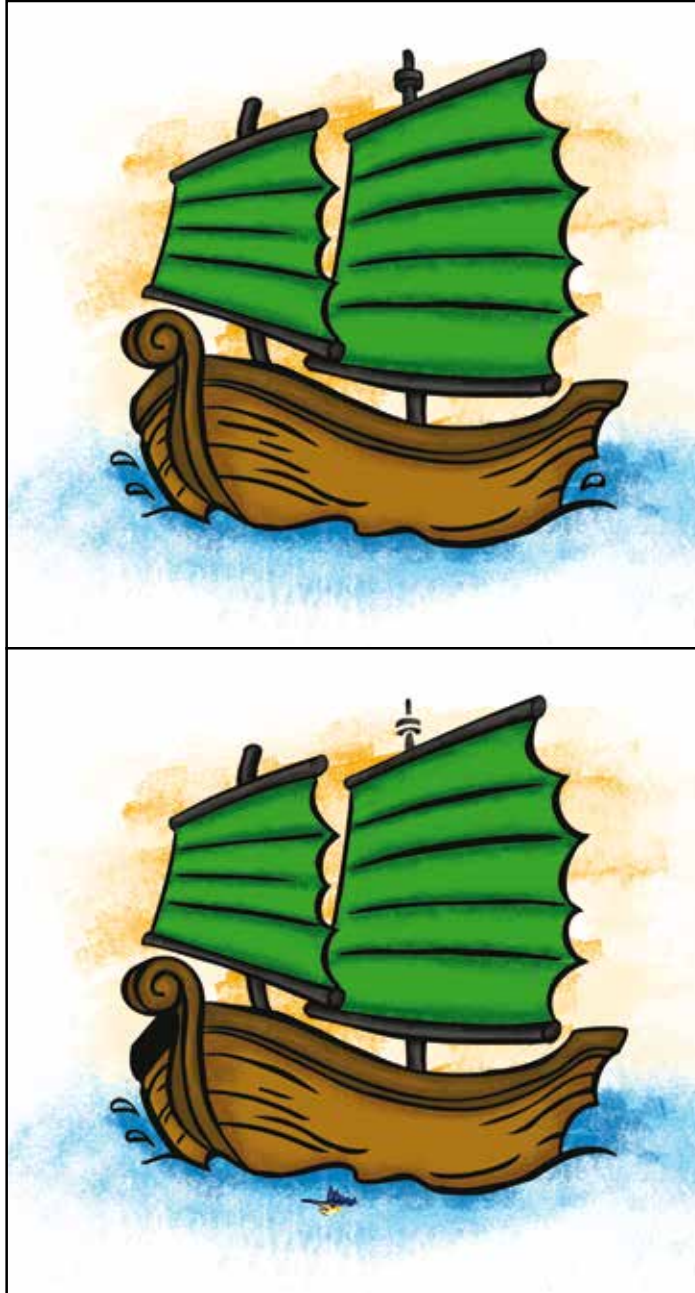
- * Two thousand years ago, Singapore was called Pulau Ujong.
- * In Malay, this means "The Island at the End". Singapore was at the end of the Malay Peninsula.
- * A peninsula is a strip of land with water on three sides.
- * Pulau Ujong was a busy island. Travellers from China and India came here.
- * A Chinese explorer named Kang Tai lived 1,700 years ago. He wrote that men with tails lived on Pulau Ujong. People believed him.



GREAT SHIPS OF CHINA

In the old days, the shipbuilders in China created gigantic ships to explore distant lands. Some were called "castle ships". The bigger ones could carry hundreds of men, sometimes even over a thousand. These were used by soldiers, explorers and merchants. Some of them came to Singapore and settled down here.

Can you spot five differences between these two Chinese ships?



Answers to Spot the Difference: Top of the right sail is different; missing line at front of boat; missing droplet behind the boat; fish in the water; top bar of the boat is a different colour.

THE YOUNG KING

Claire got home quite late that night.

"There's rice and chicken in the fridge," her mom said. "Would you like me to heat it up?"

Claire nodded happily. She went to take a bath first.

Claire's father was in the balcony with her younger brother, Darin. They were watching a documentary about dinosaurs on YouTube. Darin loved dinosaurs.

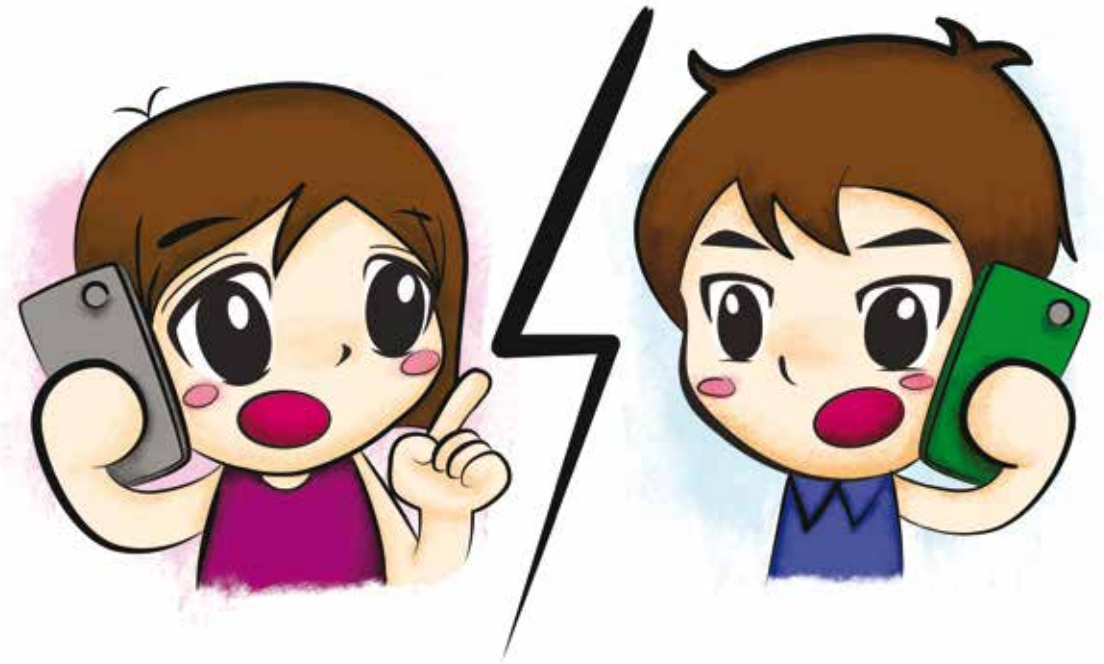
After dinner, Claire told them about the box, and the meeting with Mr Amir. She took out her phone and showed them the photos that she took.

Darin was eager to join in. "Hey, I love old stories about Singapore too," he said. "There used to be a terrible monster that lived underwater. It attacked all the boats around Singapore."

Darin ran to the bookshelf and pulled out a travel magazine. He flipped the pages quickly. At last he found the picture he was looking for. He held it up.

"Here!" Darin said. "See?"

"That's a merlion, silly boy," Claire's mom said. "It's just a statue. It doesn't exist."



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Don Bosco writes stories for children and teens. Although grown-ups do read and enjoy them too. These are mostly influenced by the mystery, thriller, science fiction, adventure, fantasy and joke books he enjoyed as a child.

He started the publishing studio Super Cool Books in 2011, after his two sons challenged him to create a fantasy series for children, set in Singapore and Malaysia. That eventually grew into the Time Talisman series, which led to more and more books. The titles are available on the Super Cool Books iPad app.

Much of his work is inspired by Asian legends and myths, or Asian pop culture like manga, and feature a very diverse cast of characters. He loves to highlight old customs and legends from around the region, as well as local landmarks, food and events.

Don lives in Singapore but seems to spend most of his time either wandering around inside his head or searching the internet to discover new music to listen to. His website is <http://www.SuperCoolBooks.com>.

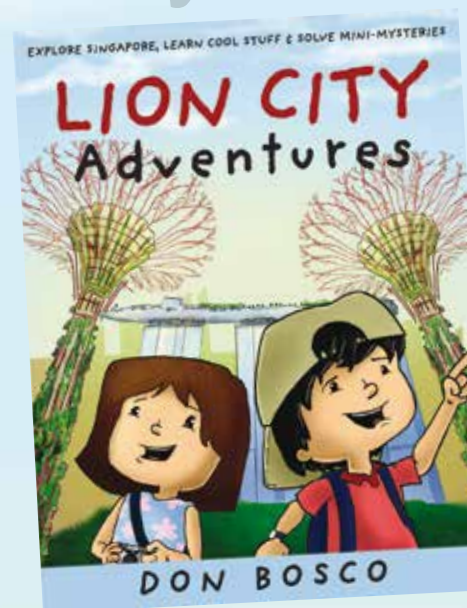


ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sharon is a fun-sized girl born and raised in Macau. She believes in being inspired by different cultures and thinks that traveling keeps her sane. She is a hungry monster constantly hunting for food and challenges. She enjoys the adrenaline rush from receiving exciting briefs and award-winning projects. She spends her free time practising yoga or doodling cats and dogs.



OTHER BOOKS IN THE SERIES



Enter the exciting world of the Lion City Adventuring Club! Join us and explore these 10 very special locations around Singapore. You will learn all sorts of cool stuff about each place.

But that's not all. With the Lion City Adventuring Club, there are always mysteries to solve and challenges to crack. Will you complete your adventures and earn your certificate?

YOUR 10 LION CITY ADVENTURES:

Singapore River • Geylang Serai • Chinatown • Little India • Kampong Glam • Singapore Flyer • Gardens by the Bay • Singapore Discovery Centre • Singapore Botanic Gardens • Mint Museum of Toys



Journey back in time to see how the heartlands of Singapore have evolved from the old days. Eight delightful neighbourhoods are featured here, including Tiong Bahru, Queenstown, Toa Payoh, Yishun and Marine Parade.

Learn the history of each area and meet remarkable people who used to live here. Highlights include: the Dragon playground of Toa Payoh, the Cinema King of Nee Soon, the River Without a Tail in Queenstown, the Princess of Golden Beauty in Kampong Bahru, and lots more.

There are also puzzles to tackle as readers help the Lion City Adventuring Club uncover cool secrets and solve mini-mysteries.