



Talking Book Center
1 Churchville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401
540-885-6215

Global Reading: Maritime Southeast Asia

Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and East Timor

DB91909 Suicide Club: A Novel About Living by Rachel Heng (sci-fi)

In a future where lives can last centuries and society pursues immortality, Lea might be able to live forever, if she plays her cards right. When she spots her estranged father, however, Lea is drawn into the Suicide Club, a network of individuals who reject this pursuit. Unrated. 2018. (Singapore)

DB35356 This Earth Of Mankind; Buru Quartet 01 by Pramoedya Ananta Toer

In 1898, Java is a race- and caste-dominated Netherlands Indies society. Minke, a Javanese student at a Dutch high school, falls in love with mixed-blood Annelies. He is enthralled with her family's story: her belligerent father; her concubine mother, who runs the family business; and her resentful brother and step-brother. Eventually the unrest in both the land and the family wreak havoc on Minke's own life. Some descriptions of sex. 1980. (Indonesia)

DB112896 The Rainbow Troops by Andrea Hirata (contemporary fiction)

Ikal is a student at the poorest village school where graduating from sixth grade is considered a remarkable achievement. His friends, a group nicknamed the Rainbow Troops, face threats from every angle: government officials, deepening poverty and crumbling infrastructure, and their own low self-confidence. But the students also have hope. 2005. (Indonesia)

DB47279 The Bondmaid by Catherine Lim (historical fiction)

At the age of four, Han is sold to the house of Wu as a bondmaid. She is overcome with grief at being separated from her mother and acts as though she is possessed. But young master Wu is able to calm Han and comes to enjoy her company. A strong and dangerous bond develops between Han and Wu, even though their stations in life should keep them apart. 1995. (Singapore)

DB83530 The Garden Of Evening Mists: A Novel by Tan Twan Eng
Yun Ling Teoh, a survivor of a Japanese wartime camp and Japanese war-criminal prosecutor, returns to Northern Malaya in 1949. She discovers the exiled former gardener of the emperor of Japan. Despite her hatred for the Japanese, she eventually agrees to work with him as a temporary apprentice. 2012 (Malaysia)

DB77099 Crazy Rich Asians by Kevin Kwan (contemporary fiction)
Nicholas Young brings his girlfriend Rachel Chu home to Singapore to meet his wealthy family. But Rachel finds herself unable to cope with his rich and spiteful relatives--especially his mother. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2013. (Singapore)

DB38553 Brunei by David Wright (nonfiction, geography)
Brunei, a small country situated on the island of Borneo, is incredibly prosperous--thanks to the discovery of oil in the 1920s and 1960s. Health care and education are free, and there is neither income tax nor poverty. The author discusses the geography, history, economy, government, religion, culture, and people of Brunei. For grades 4-7 and older readers. 1991.

DB66741 Southeast Asia by Douglas A. Phillips (nonfiction, geography)
Discusses the history, culture, politics, economy, geography, and environment of ten Southeast Asian countries including Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Malaysia. Highlights regional conflicts, the history of colonialism, and Southeast Asia's role in the global marketplace. For senior high readers. 2006.

DB92823 The Killing Season: A History Of The Indonesian Massacres,
1965-66 by Geoffrey B. Robinson (nonfiction, history/war)
Account of the Indonesian Massacres of 1965 to 1966, which left roughly five hundred thousand people dead and more than a million in detention. Also discusses the social and political ramifications of systemic violence, especially when quickly forgotten by the world. 2018.

DB69495 Tears In The Darkness: The Story Of The Bataan Death March
And Its Aftermath by Michael Norman (nonfiction, history/war)
History of Japan's 1942 invasion of the Philippines that led to the capture of more than 76,000 Americans and Filipinos. Details the forced march through the countryside and mass imprisonment, highlighting the ordeals of private Ben Steele, who made sketches of his fellow prisoners. Violence and strong language. 2009.