

## Koh Hong Teng

b. 1969, Singapore

### Last Train from Tanjong Pagar (KTM)

by Koh Hong Teng and Lai Chee Kien (Tours and Place Histories)

The Keretapi Tanah Melayu (KTM) train that ran between Singapore and Malaysia for almost 80 years was rerouted to Woodlands Train Checkpoint following the closure of Tanjong Pagar Railway Station—now a gazetted national monument—in June 2011.

Based on real tours led by architecture historian Lai Chee Kien, *Last Train from Tanjong Pagar* follows a group of heritage enthusiasts as they discover Singapore's railway heritage, and gather with passengers from all walks of life for one final ride out of Tanjong Pagar station.

Seamlessly blending fact and fiction, Koh Hong Teng has produced a timely and thought-provoking graphic homage to our trains and not only the physical journeys but also the human connections they have made possible.

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#### PRAISE:

*Koh has a gift for illustrating the passing of eras and how just a few years can transform societies physically and philosophically. \*\*\*\*\**

—Akshita Nanda, [The Sunday Times](#)

*"One of the breeziest reads of 2014...Last Train makes you nostalgic about the railway station and other local landmarks with its beautifully spare illustrations."*

—Helmi Yusof, [The Business Times](#)

*"If there is a subgenre of writing Singapore is becoming alarmingly good in, it is the literature of nostalgia. Hong-Teng Koh's graphic novel Last Train from Tanjong Pagar continues this ascent, crafting a poignant and visually appealing tale that has the now-inoperative Tanjong Pagar Railway Station as both a setting and a silent protagonist. The parallel stories here resemble rail tracks that go on surprising, distinct journeys of discovery while, together, they become something else: a map of the personal endeavours and sacrifices shaping Singaporean life. This book moves me calmly but muscularly, in ways I have not expected."*

—Gwee Li Sui, creator of [Myth of the Stone](#), in "My Book of the Year", [Singapore Poetry](#)