

Koh Hong Teng

b. 1969, Singapore

The Garden of Foolish Indulgences (TGOFI)

by Oh Yong Hwee

Illustrated by Koh Hong Teng

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Based partly on an academic essay "*Rambutans In The Picture*" by Lai Chee Kien.

In 1915, Han Wai Toon left Hainan Island to see his fortune in Singapore. Through hard work, self-study and ingenuity, he became a global expert in diverse fields from ceramics, agriculture to Taoist deities. His rambutan orchard was particularly well-known and frequented by Chinese literati then, oddly because the rambutans were cultivated to taste like the lychees in his hometown.

Some 90 years later, Ye Feng'an comes to Singapore with his family to seek better prospects for his son. One day, his encounter with a fruit seller sets Feng'an to delve into the world of little-known Han Wai Toon.

Inspired by the biography of Han Wai Toon, this story explores the struggles of integration and retaining identity in an adopted country.