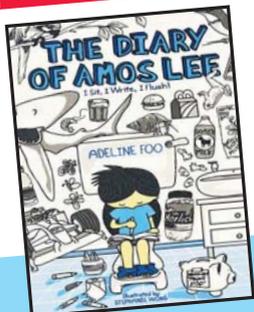


THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE

I Sit, I Write, I Flush!

book excerpt

ya! exclusive



Here's a sample from *The Diary of Amos Lee* By Adeline Foo
A very funny new book from Hachette ₹195

This Diary began as mum's new year resolution to get me to write. She came up with this weird idea that we should make good use of our time in the bathroom. On a wall above the toilet seat, she put up a wire rack to hold an old jotter book, some pens and coloured pencils. She said that when I am doing my big business, I can write. "Five to eight minutes max!" she said. "I don't want you to develop piles!" I think that means something that blocks my poop from coming out.

"And why must I do this?" I asked
"It's either this or you spend an hour everyday writing an essay!" she said.

"Who wouldn't pick writing in the bathroom?" I thought to myself. And so my writings in the bathroom began.

Dad said it would help me multi-task, a very important skill to have when I go out to work next time.

My entries started with the boring old stuff - describing my family, my day at school, things I would love to do to my pesky little sister and so on...then Mum got this new job as a writer for a magazine.

She received the weirdest of assignments and would drag my sister and me along to check out new places. And that's how I got more things to write about. Some of these places Mum brought us were quite fun. I started collecting entry tickets to these places so that I could enter my name in the Guinness World Records one day. That way, I will become famous, and one day, my diary will be worth a lot of money!



MY FAMILY



About me - How I got my name

Mum had weird food cravings when she was pregnant with me. At one time it was for *char siew bao*. Another time, it was for Famous Amos cookies - double chocolate macadamia nut. She ate so many cookies in the nine months carrying me that when the doctor asked what she was naming her baby boy, she shouted, "He will be famous one day. I will call him Amos!"

And that's how I got my name - Amos Lee. Well, it could have been worse. Imagine being called Lee Char Siew!

My mum

I was happier when Mum had a job. But she quit to spend more time with my sister and me. She drives us to school, cooks, cleans the house, irons our clothes, send us for tuition, swimming and ballet classes. She is very busy but she knows when I am going to the bathroom. "Write in the bathroom!" she yells all the time. I wish she had a real job.

My dad

Dad works at the airport. He says it's an important job. He has to make sure that the airport is running 24 hours a day and that nothing breaks down, so that he doesn't get complaints.



My sister

Just turned five. I call her WPI. Whiny. Pesky. Irritating.

MY BEST FRIENDS AT SCHOOL

After two weeks at school, Dad asked me how I liked my new class. I told him everything was fine. Two of my classmates from the last three years are in the same class as me - Alvin and Anthony.



Ah Kong asked if I chose my friends based on their first names. Maybe I did. I like being called one of the 3As in class. That's us, Amos Lee, Alvin Tan and Anthony Wong. The 3As. We aim to beat the girls in all tests and exams.

To be number 1 in class, no less.

Ah Kong said we're number one all right - from the bottom of the class. That's true. Last year, I was 28th in class, Alvin was 29th and Anthony was the last boy in class. Anthony's mother cried when he went home with his report card. I was puzzled as it was not like he got retained. He got around 60 marks for each of his subjects - English, Mathematics, Science and Chinese. His mother asked how Alvin and I did and when he said we were the last three in class, she became upset. She said he should start mixing more with the top kids in class this year. He might get better results.

Char siew bao - Chinese steamed buns with pork meat filling.

Ah Kong and Po-Po

My grandpa and grandma. Ah Kong and Po-Po have taken care of us since we were babies. Since Mum is home now, they only come over a few times a week. Po-Po cooks dinner and Ah Kong watches us when Mum has to leave the house for errands or to meet friends. Most nights when Ah Kong and Po-Po are late in getting home, they just stay over.

