

APPENDICES

1. The Biography of Philip Jeyaretnam

Philip Jeyaretnam, a Singaporean writer and lawyer, was born in 1964. He is son of J.B. Jeyaretnam. In 1986, Jeyaretnam graduated from Cambridge University with First Class Honours in law. He is married with two children. Jeyaretnam is a brilliant, prolific and talented writer. He published many short stories and novel. Moreover, he won second prize in The National Short Story Writing Competition in 1988, and his debut short-story collection, First Loves, which was on the best seller list for fiction in Singapore for over forty weeks. Jeyaretnam is also a writer who examines social problems faced by Singapore society. For examples, in this second book, Raffles Place Ragtime, which was published in 1988, he examines the complex issues of obsession, deception, and love amidst the high-speed hustle of Singapore's financial district and high society. Those issues always happen in Singapore society.

Jeyaretnam was previously on a Fullbright Fellowship to the University of Iowa International Writer's Program and Harvard Law School. And he was also a guest to the Melbourne Writer's Festival. Besides, he was a guest to the Germany Courtesy of Interlit 3, and to the Cambridge Seminar Courtesy of the British Council. In 1993, Jeyaretnam was declared Young Artist of the Year because his works interest many people. His most recent novel was Abraham's Promise published in 1994. Currently, Jeyaretnam works as a lawyer in private practice.

2. The Synopsis of Raffles Place Ragtime

Raffles Place Ragtime is a story telling about the complex issues of Vincent's obsession. Vincent is a young man who comes from a working-class family. He lives with his parents and a younger brother in a public housing apartment. Meanwhile, Vincent is working for Simex, the Singapore Monetary Exchange. Because he does not like his poor conditions, Vincent becomes an ambitious man. He has an obsession to be a rich man. In order to achieve his obsession, Vincent courts Connie Lim, the daughter of the Lim family, a Socially Prominent family. Connie is a beautiful and rich girl. When he meets Connie, Vincent knows that he has a chance to reach his goal. Through Connie, Vincent can be a successful person. Yeow Khoon, Vincent's best friend also has the same opinion. Yeow Khoon always helps Vincent to approach Connie. Vincent wants to marry Connie as soon as possible.

To achieve his obsession, Vincent entertains Connie and her parents. He attends to the dinners at their home which he actually dislikes. He also eats everything so that he is overstuffed, and feels tortured in order to get a good impression from Connie and her family. Vincent also has to do what Connie wants to get her sympathy. He does what Connie wishes although he is reluctant to do so. In the same time, Vincent has an affair with Veronica, a secretary. He truly loves her, but in order to reach his goal, Vincent is willing to break up his relationship with Veronica. In fact, from the bottom of Vincent's heart, he does not want to do that.

Vincent is afraid that Connie knows about Veronica. He is worried that he will lose Connie, meaning that he also loses his chance to be a rich man. In Audrey's party, Connie talks with Mark, who is in fact Audrey's brother, and Vincent's new boss. As Vincent becomes jealous, he acts rudely to Mark. After knowing the truth, Vincent asks Connie to talk and apologize to Mark for his behalf, but Connie does not want to do that. Through this accident, Connie knows that Vincent does not love her, and he only uses her as the key to be successful. Connie realizes that Vincent is not a good man for her so that she decides to break up her relationship with Vincent. Besides losing Connie, Vincent is also losing his job. The next morning after that incident, Mark fires Vincent.

After losing both his rich girl and job, Vincent realizes that it is his mistake. In order to achieve his obsession, Vincent uses the wrong way. He has hurt Veronica's feeling, and told a lot of lies to Connie. Now, it is time to pay the price of his obsession. Suddenly, Vincent realizes that he loves Veronica, and he promises to himself that he is going to apologize to Veronica and ask her a second chance to start a new chapter in his life with Veronica.