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Kampung Boy



Synopsis

Kampung Boy is a favorite of millions of readers in Southeast Asia. With masterful economy worthy of Charles Schultz, Lat recounts the life of Mat, a Muslim boy growing up in rural Malaysia in the 1950s: his adventures and mischief-making, fishing trips, religious study, and work on his family's rubber plantation. Meanwhile, the traditional way of life in his village (or kampung) is steadily disappearing, with tin mines and factory jobs gradually replacing family farms and rubber small-holders. When Mat himself leaves for boarding school, he can only hope that his familiar kampung will still be there when he returns. Kampung Boy is hilarious and affectionate, with brilliant, super-expressive artwork that opens a window into a world that has now nearly vanished.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #226,265 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biography #23 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies #187 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Historical & Biographical Fiction

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Malaysian comics creator Lat makes his American debut with this down-to-earth account of childhood in a Southeast Asian kampung, or village. His black-and-white text resembles a chronological sketchbook, with stilt-houses and jungle plants inked on each page, and handwritten text explaining events and customs. Impatient readers might wish for a glossary or map: "I was born in a kampung in the heart of the world's largest tin-mining district—the Kinta Valley in Perak," says the narrator, and leaves it at that. But most will enjoy the protagonist's casual chronicle of rites of passage such as a hair-shaving ceremony ("adat cukur kepala"), lessons in the Koran at age six,

the Bersunat (circumcision) ceremony at age 10, and a trip to the movies circa 1960. From the window of his house, he sees a rubber plantation and hears the "distant roaring sound... of a tin dredge." Later, Constable Mat Saman, a Barney Fife "like zealot toting an automatic rifle, chases villagers who pan the river for saleable tin scraps. Lat's adults have narrow chests and slouch pelvis-first, while mischievous children canoe, dive and fish in the river. This first in a projected series ends on a to-be-continued note, with the narrator leaving for boarding school and already homesick for the kampung. Lat's loose, laid-back stories of Muslim family life and school should appeal to Marjane Satrapi fans; with humor and affection, Lat makes the exotic kampung feel familiar. All ages. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Starred Review. Grade 4 Up "Kampung Boy is a pleasure to read. It follows the early life of a Muslim boy growing up in a tiny town in Malaysia during the 1950s. Incidents are well chosen and illuminating, including the rituals surrounding birth, the solidity and pride of family, the joy of skinny-dipping, and the fanfare of a traditional circumcision ceremony. All are handled tastefully and with nostalgic reverence. Illustrations are simple, yet emotionally expressive and charming. As engaging as any travelogue, the book uses universal themes to connect readers to a time and place that may very well no longer exist, but sincere reflection and honest details will draw them into this other world and win their hearts. American audiences are lucky to finally receive this international classic." Dawn Rutherford, King County Library System, Bellevue, WA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

I bought this book for a college course I took, and the teacher wanted us to get a feel of life in an other country, but in a fun way... as a "comic book" of sorts. Cute story, and depicts real life. The illustrations are very nice and whole pages. It makes following the story of this boy fun and it makes it come to life! Even though it is paperback, it is really sturdy and the pages are nice and thick! It would be a great coffee table book as well.

As a young boy who grew up in Malaysia in the 80's, Lat was not only a part of my youth, but also a way of life for most all Malaysians and expats alike. I live in the states now and have not been back to Malaysia in many many years and was very surprised to have come across the Kampung Boy while browsing through . Naturally, I had to have it! It brought back so many memories of life over there as Lat touched on so many aspects of the amazing culture you experience from life in the

Kampung! Beautifully written and illustrated, this book is a masterpiece and always will be!

Kampung Boy is one of the sweetest and lovely graphic novels I have read in a long time. A pre-quel to Town Boy, Kampung Boy gives us a first hand account of Lat's early growing-up years in his tiny village in Malaysia. Intricate drawings capture the stance and the expressions of his family and neighbors beautifully; they convey the flavor and atmosphere of his little town; the words are just right; the sentiment is nicely doled out & not treacle-y. A real love letter to his childhood!

Really entertaining and thought provoking. It really gets you thinking about global economy and its impact on small communities. It is a great vehicle to learning about Malaysia. I will add this to my classroom library (grade six) to help with world geography.

Entertaining

I've lived in Malaysia and was amused by this delightful book. I'm not sure if someone who hadn't lived in Malaysia would like the book as much as I did.

Here's a graphic novel about a boy growing up in Asia. It's fun to read because there is a lot of humor. I tried to read it to my 4-year-old son, but it's too long for him to pay attention.

I read this back in 1983, and then my daughter discovered it a few years later, and now my grandchildren are reading it. Want to know what it was like to grow up in a Malaysian village back in the early 50's? This is the book to read. Nobody could read this and be Islamophobic, by the way.

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Laser Moose and Rabbit Boy (Laser Moose and Rabbit Boy series, Book 1)
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