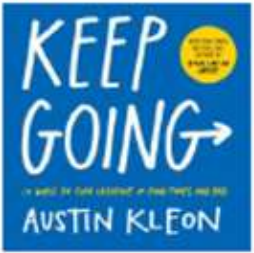

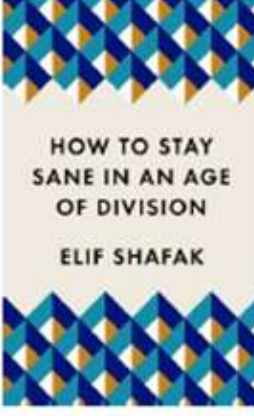


# READ! FEST 2021 RETURNS WITH NEW PROGRAMMES, RECOMMENDED BOOKS AND INTERACTIVE LITERARY TRAILS TO REINVIGORATE THE LOVE FOR READING

24 June 2021

ANNEX B

## 12 Key Titles of Read! Fest 2021

No	Information on the books and authors	
1	  	<p><b>Keep Going: 10 Ways to Stay Creative in Good Times and Bad</b> by Austin Kleon</p> <p>Whether you are just starting out or starting over, how do you stay the course in a crazy world? Packed with tips, sketches and quotes, bestselling American author Austin Kleon outlines simple ways to get into a daily routine to disconnect with the world and connect with what truly matters. Timeless and practical, this guide is for anyone seeking a more productive and meaningful life.</p> <p><b>Austin Kleon</b> is a writer, artist, speaker, and New York Times bestselling author. His work has been featured on NPR's Morning Edition, PBS Newshour, TIME, The Atlantic, Forbes, and The Wall Street Journal. His books include <i>Steal Like An Artist</i> and <i>Show Your Work!</i> as well as <i>Newspaper Blackout</i>, a collection of poems made by redacting the newspaper with a permanent marker. His art has been called "brilliant" by New York Magazine, and The New Yorker said his poems "resurrect the newspaper when everyone else is declaring it dead." Austin speaks on creativity, visual thinking, and being an artist online.</p>
2		<p><b>How To Stay Sane in an Age of Division</b> by Elif Shafak</p> <p>With injustice, suffering and endless crises happening around us, it often feels like the world is falling apart. How can we stay sane and keep a hold of hope in this age of division? In a powerful, uplifting plea for conscious optimism, prize-winning British-Turkish novelist and activist Elif Shafak draws on her own memories and uses the power of stories to reveal how we can nurture democracy, build empathy and restore our faith in a kinder and wiser future.</p>



**Elif Shafak** is an award-winning British-Turkish novelist. She writes in both Turkish and English, and has published 19 books, 12 of which are novels. Her work has been translated into 55 languages. Her latest novel *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in this Strange World* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and RSL Ondaatje Prize. Her previous novel, *The Forty Rules of Love* was chosen by BBC among 100 Novels that Shaped Our World. Shafak has been conferred Doctor of Humane Letters by Bard College in 2021 and holds a PhD in political science.

Shafak is a Fellow and a Vice President of the Royal Society of Literature, and a twice TED Global speaker. Shafak was awarded the medal of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, an award of recognition by France for significant contributions to the arts and literature. In 2017 she was chosen by Politico as one of the twelve people "who will give you a much-needed lift of the heart". Shafak has chaired the Wellcome Prize and judged numerous literary prizes, including the PEN Nabokov Prize/PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature.

3



***Kerumunan Terakhir***  
**by Okky Madasari**

In this dark tale, prize-winning Indonesian novelist Okky Madasari reflects on the experience of human confusion in the digital world. Journey with Gen Y youth Jayanegara as he seeks out one online crowd after another, creating a complex and rewarding life online to escape his unhappy relationship with his father. As Jayanegara falls for the allures of cyberspace, he gradually loses his sense of reality as his physical and virtual worlds collide.



**Okky Madasari** is an award-winning Indonesian author and academic. Known for her novels that depict social and political conditions in Indonesia, she won the Khatulistiwa Literary Award in 2012 for her third novel, *Maryam*. She has written five novels and one short story collection, and a series of children's novels. She is currently a PhD candidate at NUS.

4



**人生算法 Ren Sheng Suan Fa (Algorithms for Life)  
by 陈楸帆 (Chen Qiufan)**

What happens when artificial intelligence (AI) gains control over its own destiny and that of humankind? Through six short science-fiction stories, Chinese writer Chen Qiufan explores the alternate futures and ethical dilemmas of machine sentience. Find out what happens when AI gains the power to induce human pregnancies, create art, become our romantic partners and control human behaviour.



**Chen Qiufan (a.k.a. Stanley Chan)** was born in Shantou, Guangdong province. Chen is a science fiction writer, columnist, and online advertising strategist. Since 2004, he has published over thirty stories in *Science Fiction World*, *Esquire*, *Chutzpah!* and other magazines, as well as a novella, *The Abyss of Vision* (2006), and novel, *The Waste Tide* (2013). He has won Taiwan's Dragon Fantasy Award, China's Milky Way Award for Science Fiction and Nebula Award, and a Science Fiction & Fantasy Translation Award along with Ken Liu. His fiction has been translated into English and Italian and published in *Clarkesworld*,

*Interzone*, *Fantasy & Science Fiction* and other magazines. He lives in Beijing and works for Google China.

5



**The Way Through the Woods: Of Mushrooms and Mourning  
by Long Litt Woon**

If anyone had told me that mushrooms would be my lifeline, the thing that would help me back onto life's track, I would have rolled my eyes. What had mushrooms to do with mourning? After 32 years of blissful marriage, Norwegian anthropologist Long Litt Woon is wracked by grief at her soulmate's sudden passing. In two parallel journeys, Long traverses an inner landscape of mourning and an outer exploration of the fascinating world of mushrooms to survive her grief and rekindle her zest for life.



**Long Litt Woon**, born 1958 in Malaysia, is an anthropologist and Norwegian Mycological Association-certified mushroom professional. She first visited Norway as a young exchange student. There she met and married Norwegian Eiof Olsen. Her book *The Way Through the Woods. Of Mushrooms and Mourning* has been sold to 16 countries. Currently, she lives in Oslo, Norway.

6



**சூல் (Sool)**

by **சோ.தர்மன் (Cho Dharman)**

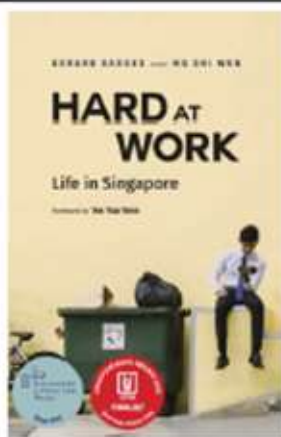
Uncover the value of ancestral Indian wisdom in this tribute to a time before modernisation. In this award-winning novel, Tamil writer Cho Dharman captures the rhythm, customs and beauty of rural village life in India at the cusp of its independence. *Sool* weaves in rich details of holistic agricultural and irrigation methods, native vegetation and animal species, as well as strong community relationships.



**Cho Dharman** is a Tamil writer. He has authored thirteen books, won several awards and much critical acclaim for his novels, non-fiction and short stories. Cho Dharman published his first short story in 1992, followed by a novel, *Dhoorvai*. He also wrote a monograph of noted villu paattu (storytelling artform) artiste Pitchaikutti. The novel *Koogai* received critical acclaim and it won him the Iyal Award of the Canada-based Tamil Literary Garden. The novel was translated into English as

*The Owl*. In 2019, he won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel *Sool*, depicting the life of the ordinary people, traditional knowledge, agricultural practices and water management.

7



### **Hard at Work: Life In Singapore** by Gerard Sasges and Ng Shi Wen

A bus captain, a funeral director, a farmer, and even a Thai disco singer—these are just a few of the diverse people at work in Singapore. What are their jobs like, why did they choose them, and what do they dream of? Through the stories of more than sixty working people, historian Gerard Sasges, photographer-educator Ng Shi Wen and contributors to the Hard at Work project offer a raw, unfiltered look into what work and life are really like in Singapore.

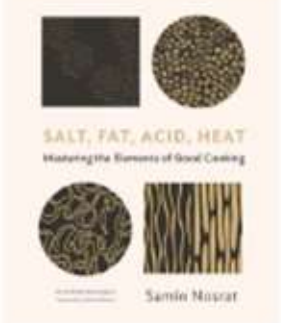


**Gerard Sasges** is a historian, educator, and chronicler of everyday life. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Southeast Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore. His work explores the history of capitalism and its relationship to technological, social, cultural, and environmental change in Asia.



**Ng Shi Wen** is a photographer, educator, and entrepreneur. She is the founder of Photo Rikiki and has taught at the National University of Singapore and at Singapore's School of the Arts. Using words and light, she seeks to transcribe stories of people finding their way in a constantly changing city.

8



### **Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat: Mastering the Elements of Good Cooking** by Samin Nosrat

Four simple and universal elements—salt, fat, acid and heat—are all you need to cook anything delicious. Award-winning Iranian-American chef Samin Nosrat's simple yet revolutionary philosophy demystifies these elements to bring you on a culinary adventure. Promising to be your compass in the kitchen with illustrations, infographics and recipes, this could be the last cookbook you will ever need to read.



**Samin Nosrat** is a cook, teacher, and author of the James Beard Award-winning New York Times Bestseller *Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat*. She is an Eat columnist at The New York Times Magazine and the host and an executive producer of the Netflix original documentary series based on her book. She lives, cooks, gardens, and laughs in Berkeley, California.

9



**可是我偏偏不喜欢 Ke Shi Wo Pian Pian Bu Xi Huan (But It's Really Not For Me) by 吴晓乐 Wu Xiaole**

In a society with rigid gender expectations, is it possible for women to break free of norms and recover a unique sense of identity? In this intimate and insightful collection of essays, Taiwanese writer Wu Xiaole examines gender roles and relationships through her experiences of being a woman. Explore topics such as misogyny, career aspirations, romance, self-image, singlehood, childlessness, menstruation and fraught female relationships.



**Wu Xiaole** exploded onto the literary scene with her first novel, *On Children*, which has recently been adapted into a TV series. She loves parrots and looking closely at things most of us take for granted.

10

KAPPA THULEI  
SYED HUSSEIN ALATAS



MITOS  
PERIBUMI MALAS

Edited by  
Siti Nurhaliza



**Mitos Peribumi Malas (The Myth of the Lazy Native) by Syed Hussein Alatas**

Why were indigenous people blamed for being unproductive, and how was this ideology justified under colonial rule? Relook the misperceptions we have of our communities through Malaysian sociologist Syed Hussein Alatas's influential book. In it, he traces the origins of colonial bias and challenges erroneous Eurocentric views of the nature of Southeast Asians.



The late Professor Dato' Dr. **Syed Hussein Alatas** was a Malaysian academician, sociologist, founder of social science organisations, and politician. He was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Malaya in the 1980s and formed the Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia (Gerakan). Syed Hussein wrote several books on corruption, multi-racialism, imperialism, and intellectual captivity as part of the colonial, and postcolonial, project, the most famous being *The Myth of the Lazy Native*.

11



### **Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World by Cal Newport**

Modern digital life can be addictive and exhausting. So how can you reboot your relationship with all things online? Drawing on real-life examples from Amish farmers and Silicon Valley programmers, American writer and professor Cal Newport shows how digital minimalism can help you rethink your relationship with social media, rediscover the pleasures of the offline world, and reconnect with your inner self.



**Cal Newport** is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Georgetown University and the author of seven books, including the New York Times bestseller, *Digital Minimalism*, *The Time-Block Planner*, *Deep Work* and *So Good They Can't Ignore You*.



**மெய்நிகரி (Meinigari, The Myth of the Lazy Native)  
by கபிலன் வைரமுத்து (Kabilan Vairamuthu)**

Go behind the scenes of reality television production to discover the power it has over our minds. This novel by Tamil poet and screenwriter Kabilan Vairamuthu draws on his real-life experiences to offer media industry insights that will appeal to visual media aspirants and contemporary Tamil youth. Meinigari unfolds cinematically through the eyes of five young people exploring the nuts and bolts of television production, the effects of pursuing popularity ratings, and the influence of the media over reality.



**Kabilan Vairamuthu** is a writer and a lifotainment freelancer. Lifotainment is a seamless blend of life and entertainment – a term coined by the writer himself. Television program design, scripting, lyric writing, anchoring and commercials are the lifotainment services offered by him. He is the son of the famous Tamil poet and lyricist Vairamuthu. He published his first book at 18. He is the author of five poetry collections, a short story collection and three novels. His novels are known for path-breaking structure and unique story backgrounds. The writer is also a lyricist walking in the footsteps of his father but with a different orientation towards society and poetry. Kabilan Vairamuthu represented Tamil Nadu at the Sahitya Akademi's north eastern and southern poetry forum 2014 held in Kochi.