

● PRESS RELEASE ●

The latest book from this extraordinary travel writer

SINGAPORE SWING

by JOHN MALATHRONAS

> **Man's brown wallet OUTRAM PARK 20:00 6/1** <

The text messages flash on the black-and-green phosphorescent screen above the taximeter ...

'In Singapore, first time, is it?' asks the driver.

'No. Second time,' I reply, 'but last time was seventeen years ago.'

> **JP Gaultier black bag DHQBY GHAUT 10:35 7/1** <

'Place different now, ah?'

> **Blue jacket ORCHARD ROAD 9:00 7/1** <

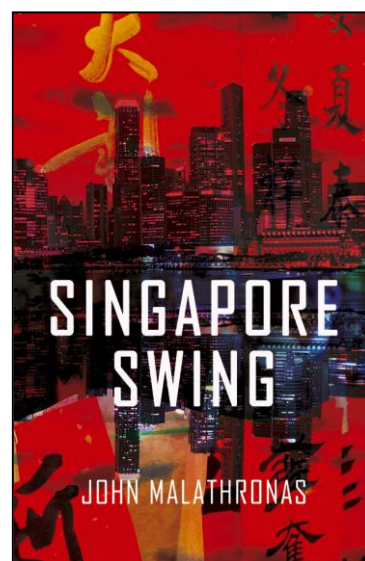
'What are these messages?' I ask in return.

'Thing passenger lost.'

'In the taxis?' I shouldn't have asked, for it all made sense immediately: a blue jacket had been left behind in a taxi to Orchard Road at 9 a.m. on 7 January.

'Lost thing – you return,' replies my driver in that staggered oriental singsong ...

I wouldn't expect less from Singapore's drivers and taxi companies. There is always something novel to admire in the city-state: tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime, tough on the temptations to crime.

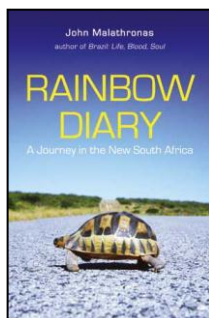
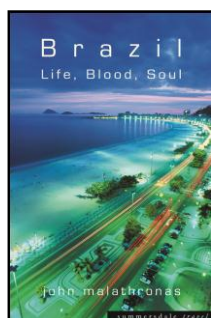


For generations of Britons, Singapore was the international crossroads of the empire, the ultimate colonial posting, the stimulus for writers such as Joseph Conrad, Somerset Maugham and Noel Coward. Can today's high-tech 24-hour city with its gleaming skyscrapers and high standards of living provide similar inspiration for twenty-first century writers ...?

With fond memories of his time there as a backpacker, John Malathronas returns to Singapore to penetrate the oriental psyche and discovers the hustle among the stuffiness, the thrill behind the Confucian ethic and, ultimately, the *joie de vivre* in what has been unjustly dismissed as a "shopping mall with UN representation".

Still more importantly, during his quest, spanning two trips, he realises that this overcrowded, multicultural, multifaith, city-state can teach us a lesson about living together in harmony and with mutual respect.

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Notes to Editors: *Singapore Swing* is published by Summersdale (August 2007, ISBN: 9781840245943; PB; 318 pages; £7.99). It is available through all good bookshops and internet booksellers or by telephoning Mail Order at Summersdale on: +44 (0) 1243 771107.

John Malathronas lives in London and is a seasoned traveller, photographer and writer. He is a member of the Guild of Travel Writers and contributes to travel magazines.

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