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FOR FAVOUR OF NOTICE / REVIEW



Title: Please Stand Back From The Platform Door

By: Vishal Nanda

Advance responses by: Peter Kennedy, David McMahon, Lily Swarn, J.P. Linstroth, Neil Douglas

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ABOUT THE BOOK

PLEASE STAND BACK FROM THE PLATFORM DOOR contains slices of perspectives in a great big place. But the writer contends that these perspectives are held by others as well, that others have felt them, that they resonate through Hong Kong and into other cities, and other disconnected, disjointed individuals on other trains on their way to other stations.

The writer hopes that you will find something inside that you can relate to, that you can feel something about. He hopes by the end of it you will have had some kind of view into or out of a window, despite being on a train underground. A glimpse into the mind of a Hong Konger, one among seven million others.

“We might agree on some things and disagree on others”, writes Vishal Nanda, “but by the end we would have traveled together, and that is enough to make acquaintances of us both, which is quite alright by me.”

BRIEF: Perspectives in poetry on Hong Kong, hopefully relatable also to other urban environments. By a 2nd-generation Hong Konger of Indian descent, who is also bipolar.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

VISHAL NANDA is in all respects a “third-culture kid”. Ethnically Indian, he is the second generation of his family to be born in Hong Kong. He attended an international school in Hong Kong and then attended the University of York in the UK, graduating with a BA (Hons) in English and Related Literature.

He returned to Hong Kong, where he has taught creative writing, tutored English language and literature (specialising in the IB, GCSE and A levels), and worked as an indie roleplaying and video game designer for several companies, including Xbox live and mobile.

Vishal has family in the UK and for the past five years prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, has attended the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

A published poet, he is a member of the Hong Kong Peel Street Poets, performing poetry at their events since 2014, and winning the group’s Poetry Slam Completion in 2019. He has additionally performed spoken word poetry at the Hong Kong International Literary Festival, TEDx events, and on radio at RTHK3, among others.

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SOME COMMENTS



A tour de force.—**Peter Kennedy**

Vishal has found his voice with this collection.

—**David McMahon**

As if a bright focus light is suddenly switched on, we see afresh the business of living.

—**Lily Swarn**

Vishal Nanda's wonderful panorama of Hong Kong offers the reader a kaleidoscope of memorable poetry.... a cornucopia of evocative emotion—sometimes mirroring the author's anxiety and at other times his exuberance for the moment—a *joi de vivre*. Indeed, there is a visual playfulness in Nanda's words which will remain in the reader's mind for some time.

—**J. P. Linstroth**

Almost a hundred years ago Fritz Lang's film *Metropolis* offered us a vision of the future and in Vishal Nanda's debut collection we have arrived there. But we can't be anywhere other than Hong Kong in 2021 where 'we have conquered humanity despite so little space' with this 'third culture kid'.... Through his words we have a heartfelt contemplation of what it means to belong, to be angry, to struggle with and survive the modern demons that threaten our mental health: what it means to be human in Hong Kong right here, right now. Amid this clamour he asks, 'Can I get the future ladies and gentlemen?' and comes back with an emphatic takeaway message – 'Hear the music in between the noise. Not ringing, not tinnitus. But joy.'

—**Neil Douglas**

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