

Books

Village in the Jungle (*Leonard Woolf*)

The book takes us back to the colonial days in Sri Lanka (then known as Ceylon) to a rural village in the Southern part of the island called 'Baddegama'. 'Village in the jungle' showcases the point of view and mindset of the local people; their customs, spiritual beliefs, family ties, obligations, weaknesses and inevitable change. First published back in 1913 this book is considered to be one of the oldest literary creations based on Sri Lanka. The novel was inspired by the author's first hand experiences having worked as a British civil servant in colonial Ceylon.

Madol Duva (*Martin Wickramasinge, translated by Ashley Halpe*)

The setting for this mini novel takes place in the Southern Coastal village near Koggala in Sri Lanka. The book presents the escapades of two adventurous young lads who eventually leave their homes to find refuge in a small island named 'Madol Duva'. First published in 1947 the short novel is rich in Sinhalese village customs, traditions and figurative speech and to date loved by both kids and as well as adults who grew up reading it during their school days.

Thus we heard: Recollections of the life of the Buddha (*Bhante Walpola Piyananda & Stephen Long*)

The book presents the life of the Buddha presented in a novel and unique approach. The authors have made an attempt to write about the Life of the Buddha from the perspective of the *Tripitaka* itself enabling the readers to discover exactly who the Buddha was without the fables and tales. It is the story of a prince who was born with every material wealth a human can wish for, who sought deeper meaning to life, attained enlightenment and eventually became the Buddha.

Geoffrey Manning Bawa - Decolonizing Architecture (*Dr. Shanti Jayewardene*)

Dr. Jayewardene's 'free thinking' enables her to navigate her way through the complexities of theory, anthropology, aesthetics, architecture, history and politics with ease and confidence. Yet she is careful not to stretch her assumptions beyond the actual fact. It is not surprising when she went on to draw inspiration and eventually did her first major study and Masters dissertation at University College London about Geoffrey Manning Bawa, Sri Lanka's greatest architect. Eventually it led her to write the book titled 'Geoffrey Manning Bawa: Decolonizing Architecture' where she dissects Bawa's sources, inspirations and experiences in an expert manner. In doing so she enables us to see where the great architect followed the rules and where he simply made them up.

Tea and your health (*Dr. Tissa Amarakoon, Prof. Robert F. Grimble*)

The book reveals the therapeutic effects of tea at a time when the world is going through a renaissance in the popular tea culture. The book verifies simply why there is no other beverage in the world which combines pleasure and health in a single formula. The authors hope to reveal the extent of the goodness of this world renowned brand of 'Ceylon Tea' with its unique health benefits. In other words, this is your easy guide to tea.

Running in the family (*Michael Ondaatje*)

The Sri-Lankan-Canadian writer Michael Ondaatje, more renowned for his Booker Prize (1992) winning novel *The English Patient*, brings forth this wonderful novel. It is both partially fictional and partially coloured by his own experiences. Some say it is his personal family memoir. Born in to a 'Burgher' family the author left the island of Sri Lanka when he was just 11 and relates the experience

of returning to this native island long after and trying to find a connection. The book also highlights the talented poet in Ondaatje.

Birds of Sri Lanka (*Deepal Warakagoda, Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp, Tim Inskipp*)

This is an extensive field guide which presents the amazing bird life of Sri Lanka and why Sri Lanka is one of southern Asia's most popular birding destination.

Films

Monkey Kingdom (2015)

American nature documentary film directed by Mark Linfield, Alastair Fothergill and narrated by Tina Fey. The story revolves around a family of monkeys (toque Macaque) living amongst ancient ruins of Polonnaruwa Medieval Capital in Sri Lanka. The film was released by Disney Nature in April 2015.