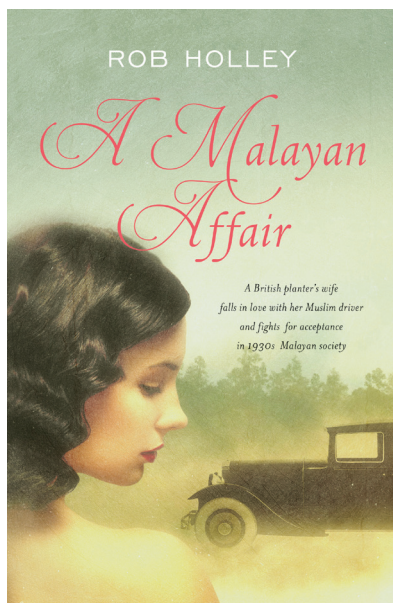


TV Series Pitch

A Malayan Affair



BOOK DETAILS

A Malayan Affair

AUTHOR	Rob Holley
ISBN	9789814625456
PUBLISHER	Monsoon Books
PUB DATE	2016
GENRE	Fiction / Romance Historical fiction Malaysia / UK
AGE RANGE	General adult
URL	Click for webpage
RIGHTS	World print World screen

Author Information

Rob Holley lived and worked in Malaysia and Singapore in the 1950s and 60s and witnessed both the Emergency Period and the Confrontation with Indonesia.

Episodes

1. The Planter
2. The Planter's Wife
3. The Malay Village
4. The Outcast
5. The Orphanage
6. The Administration

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TAGLINE A British planter's wife falls in love with her Muslim driver and fights for acceptance in 1930s Malayan society

LOGLINE When a married British woman leaves her husband for her married Malay Muslim chauffeur in 1930s Malaya, she is spurned by both Malay and colonial British society, but when a child is born, a fight for custody threatens to disrupt the balance of relations between protector and protectorate at a time of nascent nationalism.

GENRE Drama / romantic drama

SUBJECT Love / society

THEMES Love lost, unattainable love, dysfunctional relationships / colonialism, racism, class divides, independence of self and state

TONE Set in a rigid colonial British Malayan society, this story explores troubled love with social disapproval, religion and culture as major obstacles. Self-determination – in one's life and of a country – is an important theme, and, like the colonisers and the colonised, the two love parties will separate because of the enormity of the obstacles and the realization of incompatibility.

SYNOPSIS It is 1930s Malaya and Valerie Mitchell, desperate to escape an unhappy marriage to Stuart, a rubber planter, a loner and a difficult man, instigates an adulterous affair with her Muslim chauffeur, Osman. Osman is already married to Minah, but he struggles to spurn the advances of his boss's wife as she offers herself up to him at the plantation bungalow. Valerie then takes the unprecedented step of going to live with Osman, his first wife and his mother in his village and she must cope with a way of life, culture and religion that is at considerable variance with her own. Events come to pass that shock both Valerie and the villagers and she soon finds herself spurned by both the Malay society she had hoped to adopt and British colonial society in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, which she has brought shame upon through her scandalous betrayal of British decorum.

CHARACTERS **Valerie Mitchell** marries planter Stuart on his annual leave from Malaya and finds herself in a strange land with a difficult husband. Loneliness leads to her instigating an affair but ultimately she must come to terms with the fact her new and real love is also doomed.

Stuart Mitchell is a loner who neglects his new wife, but when she leaves him for a local man and reveals she is pregnant, Stuart must decide whether he stands shoulder to shoulder with the rest of colonial British society or fight for his wife regardless of society.

Osman is the Mitchell's Malay Muslim driver and he is happily married to Minah. Unable to spurn the advances of Valerie, his life and place in society is turned upside down and he must decide what is the right path for him according to Malay custom and his own religion.

ENDING Valerie awakens in her understanding of the world's inequities and discovers her independence – which Malaysians don't have – risking everything for the person she loves, but she may not be able to have everything her way and must choose between love, social acceptance and the reality of what is best for her child.