

Film Pitch

Someone is Coming

TAGLINE An interview • A childhood revisited • A shocking past exposed

LOGLINE When 93-year-old Philip Goundry is interviewed at his care home in England, he is forced to unlock long-suppressed memories from his childhood on a plantation in Malaya, which gradually unfold in an ominous fashion to reveal an shocking event in his past.

GENRE Drama / psychological drama / horror

SUBJECT Psychological horror / discovering self-knowledge

THEMES Unreliable narrator / denialism / dysfunctional relationships

TO NE Switching between present-day UK and prewar Malaysia, the story challenges the audience's grasp of the narrative with a protagonist who himself doubts his own perception of reality and questions his memory. The unreliable narrator unsettles the audience and sets up an ominous, disturbing overarching tone.

SYNOPSIS *Memories come thick and heavy like the rains that fall in the jungle. Dense droplets wash the leaves and soak into the ground, cleansing the acrid smell of rubber, cleansing the jungle of its sins. I hear my mother's voice. No more secrets, Philip, I promise. Some one is coming, get ready.*

Philip Goundry is 93 and living out his days quietly in a care home in England when a young researcher from Singapore arrives, wanting to learn more about his former life in Malaya for the Singapore archives. His memory growing fitful, Philip is torn between wanting to unburden himself and staying silent, as he has done all these years, about the sinister and shocking events of his childhood on a Malayan rubber plantation. The truth, however, has a habit of winning.

MAIN CHARACTERS

Present day (UK) **Philip Goundry**, 93, lies in a care home bed and chats to the researcher Doctor Lin. At first Philip recalls lighthearted memories from his childhood but he is an unreliable narrator and gradually the memories become darker and more tangled as Philip is forced to unlock scary images from the past.

Doctor Lin, a researcher from Singapore gaslights his interview subject but towards the end we begin to question ourselves whether he exists in reality at all.

Historical (Malaya) **Philip Goundry** as a boy with his brother, Jimmy, and his parents. **Philip's mother** central role; initially we think she ran off with a man but we gradually learn she is the victim of shocking event.

Philip's father is gradually revealed to be menacing. **Red Pied Piper** a real person involved in the trafficking of young girls in Malaya or an urban myth?

A tiger stalks the rubber plantation and Philip's memories.

ENDING Not only is the past shocking, which Philip must come to terms with, but both narrator and audience question the present too. A twist at the end confirms nothing is quite what it seems.



BOOK DETAILS

Someone is Coming

AUTHOR	T. A. Morton
ISBN	9781915310040
PUBLISHER	Monsoon Books
PUB DATE	Sept 2022
GENRE	Fiction / Historical Fiction / Horror UK / Malaysia
AGE RANGE	General adult
URL	click for webpage
RIGHTS	World print World screen
TRAILER	click for Vimeo

Author Information

T. A. Morton is a Singapore-based Irish/Australian writer. In 2020 she was shortlisted for the Virginia Prize for Fiction and the Bridport Prize. She is currently completing her Masters in Crime and Thriller Writing at Cambridge University.

Praise

'A beautifully written, gripping thriller about history and memory and how they intersect.' Sophie Hannah, *Sunday Times* and *New York Times* bestselling author

Festivals

- Singapore Writers Festival, Nov. 2022
- Georgetown Literary Festival, Malaysia, Nov. 2022