

## Screen Adaptation Pitch

# Pai Naa

<b>TAGLINE</b>	The true story of Englishwoman Nona Baker's survival in the Malayan jungle during WWII
<b>LOGLINE</b>	The only Englishwoman to remain behind enemy lines in Japanese-occupied Malaya, Nona Baker survived WWII in the jungle, living with Chinese guerrillas, and avoiding capture by the Japanese, deadly disease and betrayal by spies.
<b>GENRE</b>	Biopic / historical drama
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Japanese WWII occupation of Malaya
<b>THEMES</b>	Survival, perseverance/finding strength, heroic triumph over obstacles, coping with loss and constant fear, keeping sane
<b>TONE</b>	Loss, hardship, fear, courage, perseverance, resilience

**SYNOPSIS** By the time the British surrendered to the Japanese in February 1942 at the fall Singapore, nearly all white civilians had left Malaya. One remarkable exception to the white flight was Nona Baker, 'a parson's youngest daughter' from Dunstable, Bedfordshire. Nona Baker and her brother, Vin, general manager of Sungei Lembing tin mine in Pahang, stayed behind in the Malayan jungle and were later adopted by Chinese guerrillas (who, after World War Two, would become the Communist terrorists of the Malayan Emergency). Against all odds, this remarkable, brave young woman, known as Pai Naa (White Nona), remained in the jungle for three years, avoiding capture by the Japanese and betrayal by spies before being delivered safely into the care of war hero Freddie Spencer Chapman. With hair cut short Nona Baker worked alongside the men while under constant threat of discovery and certain death, and with the men she suffered from malaria, dysentery, beriberi, hunger and, above all, fear.

**CHARACTERS** **Nona Baker** is the sheltered daughter of a vicar who must learn to live in the jungle with Chinese bandits in order to survive.

**Vin Baker** Nona's brother, well-respected, strong, looks after Nona at first but then loses hope after Singapore surrenders, falls ill and dies in the jungle leaving a grieving sister to survive alone.

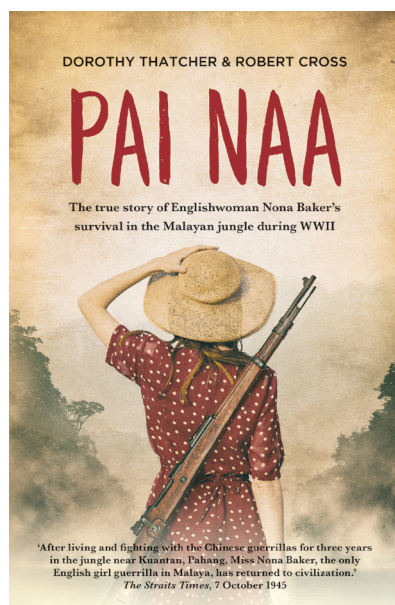
**Wong Ng** and **Lau Siu** help to hide Nona and Vin from the Japanese and help Nona throughout her ordeal.

**Chinese guerrillas** include those friendly and protective of Nona and those who could turn her in at any time. They are both Nona's family in the jungle and a constant threat to her safety.

**Japanese army** constantly on the hunt for the guerrilla camps, the main antagonists in the story.

**Freddie Spencer Chapman** is the real-life British war hero who is the subject of books and documentaries and who eventually leads Nona out of the jungle after three years of hell.

**ENDING** Nona survives the war but her world is broken, her brother dead. She is awarded an MBE but maintains she was only saving her own skin and feels the award belongs to Wong Ng and Lau Siu for their under appreciated heroism and kindness.



### BOOK DETAILS

#### *Pai Naa*

<b>AUTHOR</b>	Nona Baker
<b>ISBN</b>	9781912049066
<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Monsoon Books
<b>PUB DATE</b>	2017
<b>GENRE</b>	Memoir Malaysia / UK
<b>AGE RANGE</b>	General adult
<b>URL</b>	<a href="#">Click for webpage</a>
<b>RIGHTS</b>	World print World screen

#### Author Information

Nona Baker was the youngest of nine children, born to the rector of Dunstable. In the 1930s she sailed to Malaya to join her eldest brother, Vin Baker, the general manager of the world's largest tin mine. When the Japanese Army invaded Malaya she hid out in the Malayan jungle with Chinese Communist guerrillas and survived the War.

#### Praise

'No more moving picture of jungle hardships has ever been painted than that in this book and no more authentic picture of Malaya's Chinese guerrilla bandits. If it were fiction such an intensely vivid record of human endurance would be dismissed as quite incredible. But it is true.' Sir Richard Winstedt, K.B.E., C.M.G., F.B.A., D.LITT.