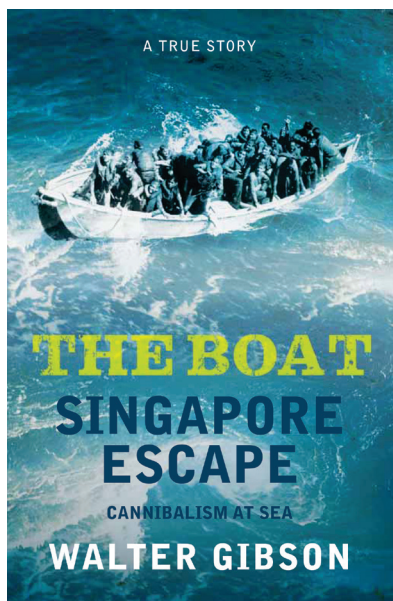


Screen Adaptation Pitch

The Boat



BOOK DETAILS

The Boat

AUTHOR	Walter Gibson
ISBN	9789810583019
PUBLISHER	Monsoon Books
PUB DATE	2007
GENRE	Memoir Singapore / UK
AGE RANGE	General adult
URL	Click for webpage
RIGHTS	World print World screen

Author Information

Born in 1914, Walter Gardiner Gibson fought in WWII Malaya, and survived in a lifeboat for twenty-six days amidst cannibalism and treachery. Soldier, POW and author, he died in 2005.

Praise

'A chilling story: I got goosebumps reading it' *Lifestyle* magazine, Singapore

Notes

- Option sought by a Singapore producer but no contract signed yet.
- All immediate family members of the author have died, Monsoon to confirm who is handling the author's estate now.

TAGLINE

Singapore escape • Cannibalism at sea

LOGLINE

When survivors on a lifeboat drifting at sea start killing and eating each other to survive, British soldier Walter Gibson faces the decision to kill or be killed.

GENRE

Biopic / true psychological drama

SUBJECT

Survival

THEMES

Mental trauma, perseverance/finding strength, beating the odds

TO NE

The narrator is ostensibly mentally stable but is placed in a situation involving characters who become psychologically and emotionally disturbed, and he must withstand internal and external threats. As the number of survivors falls each morning following terrifying nights of eerie noises and screams, the characters and viewers experience increasing tension and psychological trauma.

SYNOPSIS

In 1942 a ship carrying 500 escapees from Japanese-occupied Singapore sets sail from Padang for Ceylon. Halfway to safety she is torpedoed and sinks. Amidst the horror and confusion, only one lifeboat is launched — a lifeboat built to carry 28 but to which 135 souls now look to for salvation.

For 26 days she drifts across the Indian Ocean. For 26 days, cannibalism, murder, heroism and self-sacrifice drift with her. When the lifeboat finally runs aground on the island of Sipora, off Sumatra, only four have survived: two Javanese seamen, a Chinese girl, Doris Lim, and British soldier Walter Gibson.

The Boat is Walter Gibson's true account of that horrific event. He captures vividly the mental trauma, the physical pain, the decision to kill or be killed but above all, the determination not to die.

CHARACTERS

Walter Gibson a British soldier who has already made a 6-week escape from Malaya to reach the doomed ship. He is the only Westerner to survive the lifeboat ordeal.

Doris Lim works for British Intelligence in Singapore, survives the lifeboat, gets married in Japanese-occupied Sumatra but is killed by her new husband (she appears in another Monsoon memoir).

Brigadier Paris is responsible for discipline in the lifeboat, until he loses his mind and dies (& his assistant drowns *inside* the lifeboat).

Murder gang some known, some unknown and operating at night, they make the decision to kill and eat the weak.

Various characters offer insight into the human condition under extreme mental & physical stress, with suicides, shark attacks, etc.

ENDING

As people slowly lose their identity, minds and the will to live, small acts of kindness and strength restore ones hope in humanity. Gibson is captured on reaching land, tortured and is a Japanese POW for three years in Sumatra. When he is shipped out of Indonesia by the Japanese his ship is torpedoed again (by the Allies), he survives again and is taken by the Japanese to Singapore, where he is eventually freed by the Allies at the end of WWII.