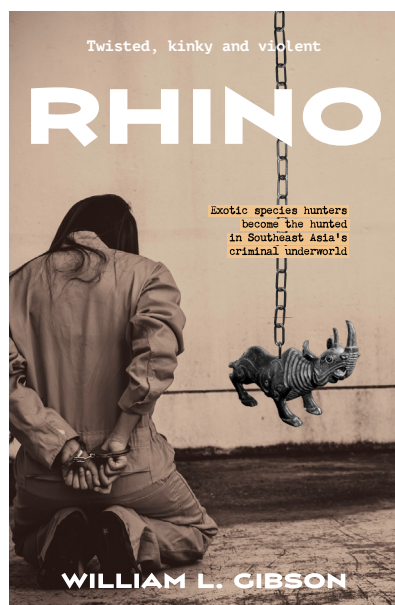


Film Pitch

Rhino

TAGLINE	Exotic species hunters become the hunted in Southeast Asia's criminal underworld
LOGLINE	When seasoned exotic species smugglers Ban and Lee Baby arrive in Jakarta to pull off their greatest crime yet – capturing a live Javan rhino – lust and greed collide and the hunters become the hunted.
GENRE	Neo-noir / crime drama
SUBJECT	Exotic species smuggling
THEMES	Moral ambivalence, antihero protagonists, self-destructive actions, erotic exploration, existential crises
TOPE	A brisk and brutal pulp neo-noir lined by an architecture of anxiety, sensuality and cruelty ... and tinged with horror. Set in the sprawling slums of Jakarta, in crime houses, smuggling godowns and massage parlours, our antihero protagonists and wildlife smugglers inhabit a nihilistic world where morality is rejected in favour of monetary and sexual gain. Deceived into participating in a larger crime than they originally envisaged, they soon find themselves the hunted party.
SYNOPSIS	Exotic species smugglers Ban and Lee Baby arrive in Indonesia to pull off their greatest crime yet: capturing a live Javan rhino, one of the world's most endangered animals of which fewer than 70 exist. Set against a backdrop of urban squalor, rampant crime, and feminine seduction and betrayal in Jakarta's 'jalan tikus' or back alleys, Ban and Lee Baby put together an extraction team and choose to ignore the increasingly insurmountable complexities of the mission in a bid for underworld glory. But as the team grows in number, and Ban befriends Mini, an irresistible Batawi masseuse, the smugglers become compromised. Deep in Java's Ujung Kulon National Park – Earth's last refuge for the Javan rhino – double-crossed and wounded, the hunters become the hunted.
MAIN CHARACTERS (protagonists' nationality & ethnicity could be changed)	
Ban	the protagonist antihero and brains to the brawn of his partner Lee Baby; ambiguous Asian-Caucasian heritage
Lee Baby	huge and muscled, the calm Lee Baby can quickly become the Hyde to Ban's Jekyll, originally from China
Mini	this femme fatale masseuse in Jakarta quickly consumes Ban's heart, compromising the team's usual professionalism
Hartono	Ban's long-time friend and Indonesian contact, can he be trusted?
Sam	Lee Baby's cousin from China, a ruthlessly skilled sharpshooter
Buddy	the Middle Eastern client's nephew, connected to powerful interests
ENDING	Employing a framing device, the story ends where it began, with Ban holed up in a dilapidated safe house in Jakarta with a young woman with whom he cannot communicate. He is sporting an open wound and counting in his head the remaining rounds in a hidden Heckler and Koch semi-automatic; the story is an extended flashback of the previous two weeks. There is no resolution to the story, audiences are left wondering whether the antihero will survive and escape, which lends itself to a follow-up.



mock cover

BOOK DETAILS

AUTHOR	William L. Gibson
ISBN	TBC
PUBLISHER	Monsoon Books
PUB DATE	TBC
GENRE	Fiction / Crime Fiction / Horror Indonesia / SE Asia
AGE RANGE	General adult
RIGHTS	World print World screen

Author Information

William L. Gibson is an author, researcher and sound artist based in Singapore. He is the author of the Detective Hawksworth series (optioned by 108 Media), hard-boiled noir crime fiction set in Singapore, as well as three academic works and numerous journal articles. In 2022, Dr Gibson was named a Lee Kong Chian Research Fellow at the National Library of Singapore.

Praise

'Pulse-pounding thriller' *The Star*, Malaysia (on *Singapore Black*)

Other works by the author

- *Singapore Black / Singapore Yellow / Singapore Red* (Monsoon Books)
- *Alfred Raquez and the French Experience of the Far East* (Routledge)
- *In the Land of Pagodas and Laotian Pages* (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies Press)