

Aunty Lee's Delights Annotated Bibliography

Please feel free to use these resources as entry points into the novel as well as for understanding its literary, historical, and theoretical contexts.

Betz, Phyllis, editor. *Reading the Cozy Mystery: Critical Essays on an Underappreciated Subgenre*. McFarland, 2021.

https://purdue.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01PURDUE_PUWL/uc5e95/alma99170846208401081.

This book of critical essays argues for more academic consideration of the cozy mystery. As Betz explains in the introduction, the cozy mystery has been an incredibly popular genre with generations of readers but has not received sufficient academic attention largely because of its popularity. The book is organized into three categories comprising three essays that seek to (re)define the cozy mystery, five essays that discuss setting, and four essays that focus on the character of the cozy investigator. Readers of *Aunty Lee's Delights* may find Betz's essay "Displaced Controversies: The Paradoxes of the Cozy Setting" to be of particular interest due to its discussion of the genre's typically un-nuanced representation of race, ethnicity, and sexuality. This is an argument that is perhaps challenged by the work of writers such as Ovidia Yu and could serve as a framework for discussion how *Aunty Lee's Delights* incorporates diverse perspectives.

Goh, Daniel P. S. "Arrested Multiculturalisms: Race, Capitalism, and State Formation in Malaysia and Singapore." *Multiculturalism in the British Commonwealth: Comparative Perspectives on Theory and Practice*, edited by Richard T. Ashcroft and Mark Bevir, 1st ed., University of California Press, 2019, pp. 191–211. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvr7fcvv.13>.

This edited collection chapter explores the complex relationship between race, ethnicity, economics, and government in Malaysia and Singapore. Goh pays special attention to how British colonialism and other historical events shaped the region. The chapter is arranged chronologically to show how multiculturalism in Malaysia and Singapore evolved over time and what caused these changes. Readers of *Aunty Lee's Delights* can use this chapter to understand more about the complex relationships between the novel's characters and their environment. Colonialism's lingering presence can still be felt in Ovidia Yu's work, and this book chapter explores the historical context that the mystery author's seemingly intended audience of Singaporean readers would already understand.

Kalikoff, Beth. "Killer Cupcakes: Food, Feminism, and Murder in Mystery Fiction by Women." *CEA Critic*, vol. 69, no. 1/2, 2006, pp. 67–76. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44377636>.

This scholarly article examines why food is a popular topic for many women writers of mystery fiction. Kalikoff considers several cooking-centric mysteries, emphasizing how the female detective's knowledge of food enhances her detective abilities. Kalikoff also connects food to important themes related to women's experiences. This article creates a framework that allows readers to better understand Rosie "Aunty" Lee as an amateur detective and a cook. The article can also help readers of Ovidia Yu's debut novel recognize its themes about food and femininity.

King, Stewart. "Crime Fiction as World Literature." *Clues*, vol. 32, no. 2, 2014, pp. 8–19.

ProQuest,

<https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/crime-fiction-as-world-literature/docview/1614426330/se-2>.

This article argues that detective fiction should be analyzed as a global phenomenon. Often, people discuss crime fiction in terms of "British crime fiction" or "American crime fiction," but authors from many countries have engaged in creating fictional crime narratives. This article tries to define what "world literature" is and how it can benefit crime fiction to recognize it as such. Readers of *Aunty Lee's Delights* can learn from this article some ways to recognize and appreciate the global elements of Singaporean writer Ovidia Yu's story.

Ng, Chien & Shahrin Karim. "Historical and Contemporary Perspectives of the Nyonya Food Culture in Malaysia." *Journal of Ethnic Foods*, vol. 3, no. 2., 2016, pp. 93–106.

ScienceDirect, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jef.2016.05.004>.

This article researches how Nyonya food (a type of cuisine that blends Chinese and Malay cooking, as well as other local influences) has evolved into its contemporary form. Ng and Karim discuss how historical factors, such as World War II, brought cultures together and how the characteristics of Nyonya food preserve these interactions. Because food plays such a key role in *Aunty Lee's Delights*, readers may be interested to learn more about the origins of some of the dishes Rosie "Aunty" Lee makes. This article provides readers with some insight into what Aunty Lee cooks as well as why she prepares her fare in certain ways.

Obendorf, Simon. "A Few Respectable Steps behind the World?: Gay and Lesbian Rights in Contemporary Singapore." *Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in The Commonwealth*, edited by Corinne Lennox and Matthew Waites, University of London Press, 2013, pp. 231–60. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv512st2.12>.

This chapter is from a book about sexual orientation and gender play a role in human rights. Obendorf compares the legal rights of LGBTQ people in Singapore with other places globally. Although this chapter was published in 2013 (ten years before Singapore decriminalized male gay sex in 2023), it provides helpful context for Singapore's legal treatment of gay and lesbian rights in the 2010s, when *Aunty Lee's Delights* takes place. When Ovidia Yu, an openly gay writer, wrote *Aunty Lee's Delights*, she would have been paying attention to the issues Obendorf presents, and her novel could be interpreted as a response to the political climate for LGBTQ people in Singapore at the time.