



# Contents

*Acknowledgments* vii

*Prologue* ix

## Burma

“Thadun,” *Ne Win Myint* 4

“Clean, Clear Water,” *U Win Pe* 11

“An Umbrella,” *Ma Sandar* 18

“An Unanswerable Question,” *Daw Ohn Khin* 25

## Cambodia

“Just a Human Being,” *Anonymous* 39

“A Khmer Policeman’s Story: A Goddamn

Rich Man of the New Era,” *Yur Karavuth* 41

“My Sister,” *Mey Son Sotheary* 45

## Indonesia

“The Silent Center of Life’s Day,” *Pramoedya Ananta Toer* 56

“Interview with Ravana,” *Yudhistira ANM Massardi* 70

“The Mysterious Shooter Trilogy”: (1) “KILLING SONG”; (2) “THE SOUND OF RAIN ON ROOF TILES”; (3) “GRRRR!”, *Seno Gumira Ajidarma* 74

“The Purification of Sita,” *Leila S. Chudori* 96

## Laos

“Death Price,” *Outhine Bounyavong* 105

“A Bar at the Edge of a Cemetery,” *Bunthanaung Somsaiphon* 108

## Malaysia

“The Kling-Kling Woman,” *K. S. Maniam* 119

“Two Brothers,” *Suchen Christine Lim* 130

“Delirium,” *Shahnon Ahmad* 137

“Dance of the Bees,” *Noraini Md. Yusof* 146

## Negara Brunei Darussalam

“The Plankway,” *P. H. Muhammad Abdul Aziz* 158

“Foolish,” *Aminah Haji Momin* 165

**Singapore**

- “A Personal History of an Island,” *Gopal Baratham* 173  
“Sex, Size and Ginseng,” *Mary Loh* 178  
“Painting the Eye,” *Philip Jeyaretnam* 182

**Thailand**

- “And the Grass Is Trampled,” *Atsiri Thammachoti* 194  
“Sita Puts Out the Fire,” *Sri Daoruang* 201  
“The Family in the Street,” *Sila Khomchai* 210

**The Philippines**

- “The Painting,” *Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo* 221  
“The Music Child,” *Alfred A. Yuson* 236  
“The Mayor of the Roses,” *Marianne Villanueva* 254  
“Mother Lily and the Mail-Order Groom,” *Paulino Lim Jr.* 262

**Vietnam**

- “Tu Ben the Actor,” *Nguyen Cong Hoan* 272  
“You Must Live,” *Khai Hung* 278  
“Unsettled,” *Vo Phien* 284  
“The Story of an Actress,” *Duong Thu Huong* 298

*Glossary* 321

*Suggested Readings* 325

*Notes on Translators* 331