

= Clara Ng =

Clara Ng (born 28 July 1973 ; née Clara Regina Juana , last name pronounced [? ?]) is an Indonesian writer who is known for both adult fiction and children 's literature .

During her childhood in Jakarta , Ng enjoyed reading and read at an advanced rate . After finishing her primary and secondary education in Indonesia , during which time she took up writing , Ng went to the United States to study at Ohio State University . After her graduation in 1997 , she worked in the US for a year before returning to Indonesia to work at a shipping company . After three years working there , in which time she married and had two miscarriages , Ng quit to become a professional writer . Her first novel , *Tujuh Musim Setahun* (*Seven Seasons in a Year* ; 2002) , sold poorly , but her subsequent trilogy *Indiana Chronicle* was better received . Since then , she has released several novels , as well as numerous short stories (including one anthology) and twenty @-@ one children 's books , and some collections of fairytales .

Ng , who is a stay at home mother , writes in her spare time at home . Her topics are different depending on the genre she is writing in ; her adult @-@ oriented works often deal with minority groups , while her children 's books are meant to teach empathy . Her children 's works have won three Adhikarya Awards from the Indonesian Publishers Association , and LGBT groups have praised her novel *Gerhana Kembar* (*Twin Eclipse* ; 2007) for avoiding stereotyping the group . However , some educators have protested the lack of an explicit moral message in her children 's books .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early life = = =

Ng was born in Jakarta on 28 July 1973 with the name Clara Regina Juana and raised in the Kemayoran sub @-@ district . She took up reading at a young age , reportedly capable of reading translations of *The Adventures of Tintin* by kindergarten . She also enjoyed Hans Christian Andersen 's fairytale *The Snow Queen* , which influenced her writing . By age 11 she was reading adult @-@ oriented works by Mira W. Ng attended Budi Mulia Elementary School from 1979 until 1986 , then attended Van Lith Middle School until 1989 ; it was while in middle school that she taught herself creative writing and began creating works . She completed her high school education at Bunda Hati Kudus , graduating in 1992 . While in high school , she became interested in social issues , including discrimination faced by ethnic Chinese , LGBT , and women .

After high school , Ng went to the United States and began studying at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus , Ohio , but later transferred to Ohio State University ; she graduated with a bachelour 's degree in interpersonal communications in 1997 . While in the US , she read numerous children 's books ; these later influenced her own writings . After graduating , she spent a year working in the US before returning to Indonesia in 1998 . Upon her return to Indonesia , she spent three years working in the human resources department of Hanjin Shipping but left after she had two miscarriages , the first when she was seven months pregnant and the second at seven weeks . While staying at home , she took up writing .

= = = Writing career = = =

Ng made her debut as a novelist with *Tujuh Musim Setahun* (*Seven Seasons A Year*) in 2002 , which sold poorly . She gained recognition with her *Indiana Chronicle* trilogy , which consists of *Blues* (2004) , *Lipstick* (2005) and *Bridesmaid* (2005) . These works were classified as pop literature , but readers identified with the main characters ? urban working women . *Tempo* magazine notes that the trilogy pioneered the metropop genre in Indonesia . Between *Lipstick* and *Bridesmaid* , another novel , *The (Un) Reality Show* , was released in 2005 .

In 2006 , Ng 's short story " *Rahasia Bulan* " (" *The Moon 's Secret* ") was included in a lesbian

and gay themed short story collection of the same name . The work also included stories by Alberthiene Endah , Djenar Maesa Ayu , and Indra Herlambang . That year , she published two novels : Dimsum Terakhir (The Last Dim Sum) and Utukki : Sayap Para Dewa (Utukki : Wings of the Gods) . The following year Ng published another two novels , Tiga Venus (Three Venuses) and Gerhana Kembar (Twin Eclipse) . The latter , which was initially run as a serial in the newspaper Kompas and later picked up by Gramedia , was about lesbianism . The title was a result of Ng combining the Sun (commonly representative of men) and the Moon (commonly representative of women) to create a united symbol to represent homosexuality . Ng launched a short story collection , Malaikat Jatuh (Fallen Angel) in 2008 . The collection dealt mainly with death . The collection was followed in 2009 by the novel Tea For Two , which was first published as a serial in Kompas .

Ng 's short story " Barbie " was adapted as a film by actor @-@ cum @-@ presenter Raffi Ahmad in 2010 , with Yuni Shara in the titular role . Barbie followed the story of a night @-@ club singer and her lover , a security guard at the club . The film premiered at the LA Lights Indie movie festival . That same year she released two other books , Dongeng Tujuh Menit (The Seven @-@ Minute Fairytale) and Jampi @-@ jampi Varaiya (Varaiya 's Incantations) . Another one of her short stories , " Mata Indah " , was included in the lesbian @-@ themed anthology Un Soir du Paris (An Evening in Paris) ; other writers in the anthology included Seno Gumira Ajidarma , Ucu Agustin , and Noor .

In 2010 , Ng , Agus Noor , and Eka Kurniawan established the Fiksimini community on Facebook as a way to critique each other 's work , later branching out to Twitter . As of 2011 the community , with approximately 70 @, @ 000 followers , allows writers , both professional and aspiring , to tweet an idea within the 140 @-@ character technical limitations of the software which could make the reader think . On 1 July 2011 , Ng published Ramuan Drama Cinta (Love Potion Drama) , and in November she released Dongeng Sekolah Tebing (Fairytales from the School on the Cliff) , a collection of 53 stories about children who attend a school on a cliff .

Aside from writing novels and short stories , she also writes children 's books , a genre which she entered due to a lack of Indonesian @-@ language works . As of 2008 , Ng has written 21 such books in three series : Berbagi Cerita Berbagi Cinta (Sharing Stories , Sharing Love ; started in 2006 and numbering seven books) , Sejuta Warna Pelangi (A Million Colours of the Rainbow ; started in 2007 and numbering nine books) , and Bagai Bumi Berhenti Berputar (As If the Earth Stopped Rotating ; started in 2008 and numbering five books) .

= = Style = =

Ng 's main characters are generally female . These characters generally do not hold the same employment ; some occupations held by her characters include office worker , animal nursery employee , and automotive repair shop owner . Her children 's stories are written simply , illustrated , and deal with children 's feelings ; they are intended to give children more empathy . The characters ' names are chosen to be easy to remember .

= = Reception = =

Ng has received several awards . Her 2006 children 's story Rambut Pascal (Pascal 's Hair , from the Berbagi Cerita series) won an Adhikarya Award for Best Children 's Book from the Indonesian Publishers Association (Ikatan Penerbit Indonesia , or IKAPI) . The following year she won the same award for Sejuta Warna Pelangi . Another followed suit in 2008 for Jangan Bilang Siapa @-@ Siapa (Don 't Tell Anybody) .

A. Junaidi , writing for The Jakarta Post , notes that Gerhana Kembar was well received by Indonesia 's LGBT community as it did not link homosexuality to negative issues like drug use .

Ng notes that her children 's stories have been generally well received . However , some educators disagree with the lack of an explicit moral message ; Ng argues that her books have multiple interpretations : those by children and those by adults .

= = Personal life = =

As of 2010 , Ng is married to Nicholas Ng , a Malaysian citizen whom she met while working at Hanjin Shipping ; the couple married in 2000 . Together they have two children . She lives in Tanjung Duren , West Jakarta . According to an interview with Kompas , Ng is a stay @-@ at @-@ home mother and writes in an office in her house . She writes in her spare time , usually in the morning , as in the afternoon she must pick up her children .