

## **APPENDICES**

### **SYNOPSIS OF SILVER SISTER**

Ah Pah was born in China, in the province of Kwangdong, in a village called Lung Sun : Dragon Hill. She was the eighth child and hence her name was Ah Pah, meaning eight. She is known as Silver Sister, a name given to her at the age of fifteen when she started to work at the House of Tang in Canton. The Japanese colonized her village. All the members of the family were killed except Ah Pah and Ah Sai, her little brother. Both of them had to queue to get the charity meals. When she joined the queue, she met with Lee Sao, who was from the same village. Lee Sao told her to look for a job in Canton. Uncle Fatty Lee, Lee Sao's brother, helped her to get a job. Before taking the journey, Ah Pah had to take a solemn vow of celibacy with the three girls whom she would treat like her own sisters, help to look after one another in sickness or in times of difficulty and at old age. The three girls were Ah Han, Ah Yin, and Ah Fong. They called their group 'Sisterhood'.

When they arrived in Canton, Uncle Fatty Lee helped Ah Pah to get a job in the House of Tang. Her Mistress's name was Tai Tai. Ah Pah worked in the House of Tang for ten years until Tai Tai and her family left the House of Tang because of the Japanese invasion to Canton. Tai Tai's family moved to Taiwan,

whereas Ah Pah moved to Hong Kong, where her sisters lived. Tai Tai recommended Ah Pah to work at her friend's house in Hong Kong.

Tai Tai's friend, Little Peacock Lien, who was a famous singer, got an accident and planned to go to America for a plastic surgery, so Ah Pah moved to Singapore with her sisters and her friends.

Her mistress in Singapore, Nonya Lim, had three grandchildren, namely Wah, John, and Kim. Kim went to Australia to study medicine at Sidney University. Although still single, she was pregnant; the father of the baby left her when she was seven months pregnant. She wrote a letter to Ah Pah, saying that she needed her help. Kim did not tell her mother because she wanted to bring up the baby in Australia. Ah Pah went to Australia to help Kim. Ah Pah got a green-card in Australia and she spent her life there until old age.

## **BIOGRAPHY OF LILIAN NG**

Lillian Ng was born in Singapore in a traditional Chinese family. Her parents fled from their home in Jiang Shia near Shan Tou, a sea-port in the Chinese province of Kwangdong just before the Sino-Japanese Pacific wars in 1934-1945.

Lillian Ng had a traditional Chinese upbringing; as a child she learned the Chinese classic by rote in the Teochew or Chiacow dialect and wrote with a brush pen. Lillian Ng had a real heredity of Chinese ancestry.

Ng grew up in Hong Kong, Singapore and the United Kingdom. When she entered medical college, she gave herself an English name, Lillian. She specialized in obstetrics and gynecology, and practised in London for eight years before coming to Australia in 1972 with her daughter.

Ng now lives in Sydney with her elderly mother and her daughter. She continues to practise as an obstetrician and gynecologist. Lillian Ng submitted her first work of fiction, Silver Sister, to the Inaugural Angus and Robertson Book World Prize for Fiction in 1993, which was awarded the Human Rights Award in 1995, and she published her second novel, Swallowing Clouds in 1997.