

[« Return to article](#)[Print this](#)

# The Straits Times

www.straitstimes.com

Published on Sep 09, 2012

## Bookends

By Olivia Ho

Who: Author Walter Woon (below, right), 55, the former attorney-general and National University of Singapore law professor considers electronic books "ephemeral". "I've just bought a Kindle," he admits. "But there's nothing on it except a treatise on Roman law."

He will read and speak at this year's Singapore Writers Festival, which runs from Nov 2 to 11.

He is the author of the Advocate's Devil trilogy of novels, about a young lawyer Dennis Chiang who navigates the dangerous legal waters of 1930s colonial Singapore and survives World War II. The last book, *The Devil's Circle*, was published by Marshall Cavendish last year. He has been married for 30 years to Mrs Janis Woon, a retired deputy registrar at the Family Court. They have twin sons, 22, who are studying law.



What books are you reading now?

At present, I have four: *The End Of The War* by Romen Bose, *Changi Photographer* by Tim Bowden, *The Flatpack Bombers* by Ian Gardiner and *20,000 Leagues Under The Sea* by Jules Verne.

*The End Of The War* by local historian Bose chronicles the period between the Japanese surrender and the return of the British from August to September 1945. I'm interested in history, particularly the World War II period in British Malaya. This period also backgrounds my novels.

In *Changi Photographer*, Australian historian Bowden tells the story of George Aspinall, who was an Australian prisoner-of-war in Singapore and on the infamous death railway in Thailand. Aspinall managed to make several unique photographs which appear in the book.

*The Flatpack Bombers* is about the beginnings of military aviation in World War I.

Verne's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* is a classic that I came across in primary school but have never read. I'm familiar with the Disney version and I think it is time to read the original.

If your house were on fire, which book would you save?

If I could save only one book, it would be *The Lord Of The Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien.

In my opinion, this is the best fantasy book ever, and far ahead of whatever came after.

Copyright © 2012 Singapore Press Holdings. All rights reserved.