




ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



THIS THESIS WOULD not have been possible without the guidance of Dr. J. Neil C. Garcia. Through his insights, I received the tools by which to critically appraise the themes running through my own stories—a skill that proved essential in the writing of this thesis.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. Rosario Cruz-Lucero, whose innovative yet disciplined approach to both reading and writing has greatly influenced me. Much of what I know about the craft of writing was learned during her class.

My gratitude also goes out to Prof. Anna Felicia C. Sanchez for supporting my stories and challenging them in ways I would not have been able to see. I believe she provided an important component of my current poetics.

Some of the stories in this collection have previously appeared in journals and magazines, as listed below. My gratitude goes out to the publications and their editors:

- “Sea Magic” in *Philippines Free Press* (3 February 2007)
- “Two Stories from the Day I Was Born” in *Likhaan: The Journal of Contemporary Philippine Literature*, Vol. 12 (2018), edited by Eugene Y. Evasco, Cyan Abad-Jugo, and Chuckberry J. Pascual



A Special Issue of the *Likhaan: The Journal of Contemporary Philippine Literature*

- “The Mop Closet” in *Likhaan: The Journal of Contemporary Philippine Literature*, Vol. 15 (2021), edited by Romulo P. Baquiran Jr., Anna Felicia C. Sanchez, and Victor Emmanuel Carmelo D. Nadera Jr.
- “Best Before” in *Queer Southeast Asia* (June 2022)

This thesis is ultimately about childhood. The biggest thanks go to my family—my parents and grandparents—whose love made my own childhood possible.



