

THE BOOK LIST

Zara Adcock, founder of Bookommended, lets us know some of her top picks for books about relationships, a subject we find endlessly fascinating! Read on, bookworms.

Autobiography

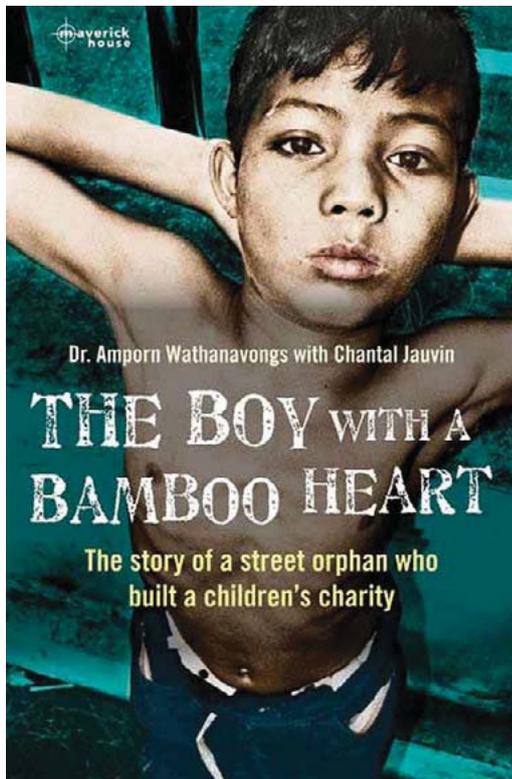
1 THE BOY WITH A BAMBOO HEART

Dr. Amporn Wathanavongs with Chantal Jauvin, 2015, **Bookommended Price: 605.00 THB.**

Dr. Amporn’s moving journey from harrowing tribulations to founding FORDEC¹ (a charity for destitute Thai children) is superbly delivered by first-time writer Jauvin in clear, transcendent prose.

Immediately, we learn that Lek (as he was then known) was orphaned at five years old. Burdened by grief, Lek flees from his village to the markets of Surin where he is recruited as a boy soldier and taken to the jungles of Cambodia. Deeply traumatised, Lek later returns to the poverty of Surin and attempts suicide. He lives and, thanks to a stranger’s kindness, goes back to his village to take up the life of a Buddhist monk.

Exploring his war with hunger and hatred, his travels through religions and faith, and his search for his place in the world, this inspiring book is not to be missed.



1 Foundation for Rehabilitation and Development of Children and Family (<http://fordecthai.org/>).

Non-fiction

2 RECLAIMING CONVERSATION: THE POWER OF TALK IN THE DIGITAL AGE

By Sherry Turkle, 2015, **Bookommended Price: 755.00 THB.**

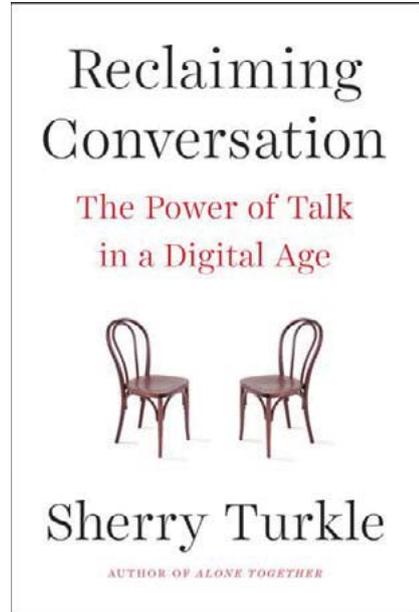
“We live in a technological universe in which we are always communicating. And yet we have sacrificed conversation for mere connection.” —From the blurb.

For over thirty years, American sociologist Turkle has studied human relationships to digital media and devices. Previously, and with much despair, she has uncovered and divulged the multiplying damaging effects of this on the human social and solitary condition². Now, Turkle bravely readdresses her topic, with hope: by strongly urging us to reclaim our natural capacity for face-to-face, in-person, device- and distraction-free conversation; and furthermore, to be truly alone.

“Face-to-face conversation is the most human — and humanizing — thing we do.” Turkle reminds us. Then, through much research, observation, and shocking data Turkle explains how an addiction to the Internet and connected devices strip us of self-confidence, our ability to empathise and self-reflect, traditional values and manners, and meaningful relationships.

For anyone who has ever wondered what lies behind the glamour of the digital age, and for those who already suspected, this book is the one.

2 *Alone Together*, 2011.



Book List

Historical Fiction

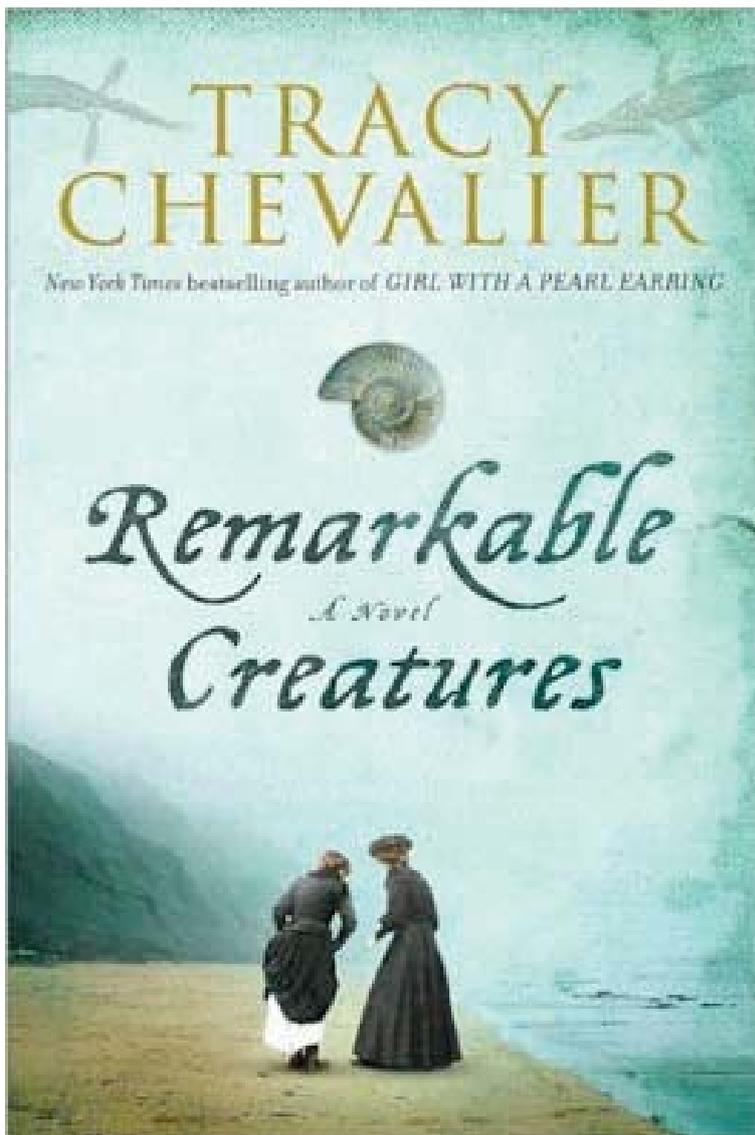
3 REMARKABLE CREATURES

By Tracey Chevalier, 2009,
Bookommended Price:
550.00 THB.

In this reimagining of two women's lives, Chevalier pays tribute to a friendship that endured emotional turmoil, landslides, and injustice.

Before Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, working-class girl Mary Anning challenged the scientific community upon finding her first fossil in 1810, igniting a lifelong passion for finding buried history. But in a somewhat dangerous profession, ruled by middle-class men and shadowed by religious beliefs, Mary herself is neither easily welcomed nor respected. Fortunately, she finds a kindred spirit in spinster Elizabeth Philpot, who not only understands but shares her obsession, and lends this book its world-weary voice.

A leisurely and illuminating wander through the past.



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Zara Adcock is a published children's author, poet, literary reviewer, freelance writer, and copyeditor. Created out of a lifelong passion for books and inspired by her experiences as an expat woman in Thailand, she is the founder and director of Bookommended, and your personal book shopper.

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