

**THE PORTRAYAL OF  
MASCULINE QUALITY ON FEMALE CHARACTERS  
IN KEVIN KWAN'S *CRAZY RICH ASIANS***

**A THESIS**

**BY:**

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**SUBMITTED TO  
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## APPENDIXES

### APPENDIX A

#### Biography of the Kevin Kwan

Kevin Kwan was born at 1973/1974 in Singapore. He is a Singaporean-born American novelist best known for his satirical novels *Crazy Rich Asians*, *China Rich Girlfriend*, *Rich People Problems*, and *Sex and Vanity*.

Kevin Kwan was born in Singapore as the third son of a well-established Chinese Singaporean family. Kwan attended the Anglo-Chinese School in Singapore and resided with his paternal grandparents. When Kwan was 11, his father and mother, an engineer and a pianist, relocated the family to the United States. The family relocated to Clear Lake, Texas, where Kwan graduated from Clear Lake High School at the age of 16.

He got a BA in Media Studies from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, after which he proceeded to Manhattan to study photography at Parsons School of Design. Kwan worked for Interview Magazine, Martha Stewart Living, and Tibor Kalman's design business M&Co in New York. Kwan founded his own creative studio in 2000, with customers including Ted.com, the Museum of Modern Art, and The New York Times.

In 2009, Kwan was inspired to create *Crazy Rich Asians* while caring for his father, who was dying of cancer. While driving to and from medical appointments, Kwan and his father would reminisce about their lives in Singapore, and Kwan began creating stories to remember those memories.

In 2014, Kwan was designated as one of the "Five Writers to Watch" on The Hollywood Reporter's list of Hollywood's Most Powerful Authors.

In 2018, Kwan was named to Time magazine's list of the 100 most important people and was inducted into The Asian Hall of Fame.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Summary of the Novel *Vicious***

Rachel Chu, a 28-year-old Economics professor at New York University, has been happily dating Nick Young, a 32-year-old History professor at NYU for the past two years. Nick informs her one day that his childhood best friend, Colin Khoo, is getting married this summer and invites her to accompany him. Rachel, an economist, is aware that Singapore has one of the highest concentrations of wealth in the world, and she is eager to explore the island with Nick as her guide.

Astrid, his cousin and confidante, warns him several times to prepare Rachel for the culture shock that awaits her in Singapore. Ultimately, Nick disregards Astrid's advice and believes that he should be able to bring his girlfriend home with him without incident.

Before Rachel and Nick even leave for Asia, gossip begins to circulate among Singapore's upper crust. According to rumors, Nicholas Young has a new girlfriend who will accompany him to Singapore for the wedding of the year, between ultra-wealthy Colin Khoo and supermodel Araminta Lee. Some believe Nick's new girlfriend is a no-name American-born Chinese girl, while others believe she is a Taiwanese socialite. In any case, Nick's mother, Eleanor Young, is not pleased. That

is, he should not be dating some unknown woman from New York. Despite knowing nothing about Rachel, Eleanor believes Nick's girlfriend is a gold digger looking for Nick's fortune. Eleanor decides to take matters into her own hands, hiring a private investigator to conduct a thorough background check on Rachel and her family, as well as enlisting the help of her best friends and their daughters to sabotage her son's relationship.

Meanwhile, Nick's cousin Astrid is dealing with her own relationship issues. Michael, her husband, has been constantly traveling and working long hours for his struggling startup. Only after Astrid discovers an anonymous, dirty text message on Michael's phone does she suspect he is cheating on her. Then the clues start to pile up. Astrid eventually learns that Michael was seen in Hong Kong with another woman and a child, which confirms her suspicions. When Astrid confronts Michael about his infidelity, he admits to having a mistress in Hong Kong and rushes out, despite Astrid's pleas for them to work on their relationship. Later, Astrid tracks down Michael in Hong Kong at his mistress' apartment with the help of her ex-fiancé (and now friend), Charlie Wu, to confront him again and find closure. Michael breaks down and admits that he never had a mistress and never cheated on Astrid. He never intended to marry Astrid, that he despises her family, and that he has become increasingly unhappy over the last five years. Astrid's heart breaks but soon learn to let him go and move on.

When Rachel and Nick arrive in Singapore, they are met with perplexing cultural differences, snide remarks, and, most shockingly, the revelation that her history professor boyfriend is also one of Singapore's wealthiest and most sought-after men. Eleanor enlists Francesca, her best friend's daughter, to spearhead the

relationship sabotage. Francesca threatens Rachel, attempts to make her jealous, and publicly humiliates her. Rachel eventually spills the beans, recounting to Nick every cruel word and action she endured during their journey. Nick is horrified and astounded by how vicious his family and friends can be, particularly to someone he cares about.

Rachel wishes to return to New York right away, but Nick persuades her to stay for a few more days to escape from everyone who has mistreated Rachel. Nick has already decided to propose to Rachel once they arrive at their destination—seeing her in the crowd at Colin's wedding reaffirmed his desire to spend the rest of his life with Rachel. However, when Rachel and Nick arrive, they discover Eleanor and Su Yi waiting for them. Eleanor and Su Yi openly state in front of both Nick and Rachel that Nick is not permitted to marry Rachel because she comes from an unsuitable family. Eleanor reveals that Rachel's father did not die in a construction accident, but is alive and well in Shenzhen, and that Rachel's mother, Kerry, is wanted on kidnapping charges. Nick and Rachel leave the lodge immediately, reeling from the shocking news and Eleanor and Su Yi's cruelty. Rachel begs Nick to let her process everything she has heard, so she goes to Peik Lin's house after he leaves, where she hides for several days, ignoring Nick and still reeling from the pain and shock. Rachel decides she needs to go to China to meet her father and insists on having Peik accompany her rather than Nick. The Gohs persuade Rachel to meet Nick in person at least once before the trip. Rachel agrees, but uses the opportunity to end her relationship with Nick and escape the pain and cruelty she has witnessed in Singapore. In his grief, Nick wastes away at Colin's house for several days while

Colin is away on his honeymoon. Colin returns early, worried about Nick, and persuades him to go after Rachel again, even if it appears impossible.

Peik and Rachel's driveway is blocked by Nick, followed by Kerry, who has just gotten off the plane from Cupertino, when they are about to leave for Shenzhen. Kerry begs her daughter not to go to China and tells the story she has been carefully hiding for the past twenty-nine years. . Kerry reveals that she was once married to an abusive alcoholic in China. She was able to cope with the abuse for a short time with the assistance of an eighteen-year-old neighbor boy with whom Kerry began an affair. Kerry eventually became pregnant, and she realized the child belonged to her neighbor, not her husband. Kerry soon gave birth to a baby girl, but her husband's family was enraged and plotted to harm the child. Kerry ran away with her infant daughter with the help of a neighbor boy and eventually made it to America to start their lives over.

Rachel is shocked by her mother's dark past when Kerry finishes her story. Rachel is glad Kerry stopped her from going to China after she realizes the man in jail is not her father but the man who made Kerry's life miserable. Rachel and Kerry mend their relationship, and Kerry expresses her admiration for Nick and believes Rachel should give him another chance. Rachel agrees and sneaks away to spend some time alone with Nick. The two completely forgive each other, and the novel concludes with everyone arguing over where to eat.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Characters in the Novel**

#### **1. Rachel Chu**

Rachel is the protagonist of the book. She's an NYU Economics professor who's starting to plan a future with her boyfriend Nick Young. She is, at least, until she meets his disapproving family.

#### **2. Nicholas Young**

Nick's family name carries enormous weight in Singapore, indicating his social standing and wealth. He is a history professor from Oxford who brings his girlfriend Rachel home to meet his intimidating family.

#### **3. Eleanor Young**

Eleanor, Nick's formidable mother, is perfectly coiffed, classy, and terrifying. Despite her polite demeanor, she dislikes Rachel and Nick's relationship and expresses her displeasure.

#### **4. Astrid Leong**

Astrid is Nick's cousin, and she is known for her stunning beauty and ability to dress in the most fashionable outfits. Despite her seemingly perfect life, she is having difficulty navigating her marriage to Michael.

#### **5. Goh Peik Lin**

Peik Lin, Rachel's college best friend, and her family are among those who welcome her arrival in Singapore.

## **6. Kerry Chu**

Rachel's remarkable mother immigrated from the United States and raised her daughter entirely on her own. This contrasts sharply with Nick's high-society family, where labels are everything.

## **7. Shang Su Yi**

Nick's Ah Ma, or grandmother, is the matriarch of the Young family and act as a decision maker of the family.

## **8. Colin Khoo**

Colin is Nick's childhood best friend, and one of the few people who do not hold prejudice against Rachel. His wedding to Araminta Lee is the high-society event of the year.

## **9. Araminta Lee**

Araminta is Nick's best friend Colin Khoo's fiancée.

## **10. Michael Teo**

Michael is Astrid's husband. Despite his love for his wife, he feels like an outsider in Astrid's society and struggling to fit in and feel worthy.

## **11. Charlie Wu**

Charlie is an old friend and Astrid's former billionaire boyfriend. In the midst of the high-society nuptials, the two re-connect.

## **12. Sophie**

The cousin of Astrid's Leong. Sophie is the one that sked by Astrid to Help Rachel in Araminta's party.