

**CONFLICT IN KEVIN KWAN'S NOVEL  
*CRAZY RICH ASIANS***

**A THESIS**

**BY:**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM**

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**UNIVERSITAS ISLAM SUMATERA UTARA**

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## APPENDIX I

### SYNOPSIS OF “CRAZY RICH ASIANS” BY KEVIN KWAN

Crazy Rich Asians, begins with a girl named Rachel Chu, a twenty-eight years old Economic professor at New York University, who dating Nick Young a thirty-two years old. Nick was also a professor at New York University and teaches in the History department. They had been dating for two years since Nick became a new professor at New York University. One day Nick told Rachel that Colin Choo “Nick’s best friend” was getting married during the summer holiday. Nick want to invite Rachel to accompany him for the wedding and also introduced her to his family in Singapore. At first, Rachel is anxious about whether the trip was something serious for her relationship or it was just a fun trip for the summer. Rachel also would like to visit her best friend when she was in college. Her best friend's name is Peik Lin who lives in Singapore. Besides, Rachel knew nothing about Nick’s Family and she was thinking what reaction they will give after she and Nick arrived in Singapore. Every time she asked for the detail of his family, Nick calmed up.

Nick didn’t know how to start explaining to Rachel because his family was not too emotional about life, they were old-fashioned and denied modern-minded, also interested in power and prestige. It was so far different from Rachel, who lives in America as a professor.

Before they were going to Singapore, the gossip of Nick having a girlfriend and coming to Collin’s wedding with his girlfriend is already spread out to the Singaporean upper class. Hearing the rumor, Eleanor, Nick’s mother seemed not pleased. She wanted to Nick date in the social circle, which means he absolutely cannot date a woman with no name or worse date with American girl even though

she is Chinese. Eleanor decided to hire a private investigator to find full information on family background of Rachel and her family, in order to break the relationship with Nick.

When Rachel and Nick arrive in Singapore, Rachel is totally shocked by the differences in social class that she never knows if Nick is from rich people. Rachel received intimidation from several parties including Eleanor, several Nick families, Parker Yeo, and several friends of Araminta because of social class unequal. Meanwhile, after Eleanor gets information about Rachel's family background and she also heard from people who have met with Rachel that she was a gold-digger. Eleanor immediately goes back to Singapore and attempted to break Nick and Rachel's relationship.

In Araminta's bachelor party, Rachel has treated badly by Araminta's friends. Francisca, Nick's friend also made Rachel jealous by telling that she had threesome with Nick and Amanda. Rachel was upset and mad with Nick and has a plan were going back to New York, but Nick convinces to stay a few more days. Nick has a plan to take Rachel to Malaysia and ready proposed her to marry him at a villa. Su Yi, his grandmother, and Eleanor came to the villa and stops Nick from proposes her because her family came from improper background. Eleanor asserted to Rachel that his father is not dead yet, he was in jail in Shenzhen, a few days later, Rachel was ready to go to the airport accompanied by Peik Lin. Suddenly, Nick and Kerry, Rachel's mother stopped them from going to the airport and Kerry started to tell the truth of what happened in the past. When Kerry finished the story, Rachel realize that the man who was in jail not her father, but Kao Wei was real Father. Rachel and Kerry patched up their relationship. In the end, Rachel gave Nick a second chance and they went for a meal at a street food stall.



## APPENDIX II

### BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Kevin Kwan (born 1973/1974) is a Singaporean novelist best known for his satirical novels *Crazy Rich Asians*, *China Rich Girlfriend*, and *Rich People Problems*. His next book, *Sex and Vanity*, will be released in June 2020. In 2014, Kevin Kwan was named as one of the "Five Writers to Watch" on the list of Hollywood's Most Powerful Authors published by The Hollywood Reporter. In 2018, Kevin Kwan made Time magazine's list of 100 most influential people and was inducted into The Asian Hall of Fame, a project of the Robert Chinn Foundation established in 2004.

#### **Early Life**

Kevin Kwan was born in Singapore as the youngest of three boys, into an established Chinese Singaporean family. His great-grandfather, Oh Sian Guan, was a founding director of Singapore's oldest bank, the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation. His paternal grandfather, Sir Arthur Kwan Pah Chien M.D., was an ophthalmologist who became Singapore's first Western-trained specialist and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his philanthropic efforts. His maternal grandfather, the Rev. Paul Hang Sing Hon, founded the Hingwa Methodist Church. Kwan is also related to Hong Kong-born American actress Nancy Kwan and former Singaporean finance minister Richard Hu, who was a cousin of his father.

While in Singapore, Kwan studied at the Anglo-Chinese School and lived with his paternal grandparents. Kwan's father and mother, an engineer and pianist respectively, moved the family to the United States when Kwan was 11. The family

moved to Clear Lake, Texas, and Kwan attended Clear Lake High School, graduating when he was 16.

## **Career**

He attended the University of Houston-Clear Lake, where he earned a BA in Media Studies, after which he moved to Manhattan to attend Parsons School of Design in order to pursue a BFA in Photography. In New York, Kevin Kwan worked for Andy Warhol's Interview Magazine, Martha Stewart Living, and Tibor Kalman's design firm M&Co. In 2000, Kevin Kwan established his own creative studio, clients of which included Ted.com, Museum of Modern Art, and The New York Times.

Kwan edited *I Was Cuba* (featuring photographs collected by Ramiro A. Fernández, published in 2007) and coauthored the book *Luck: The Essential Guide* with Deborah Aaronson (published in 2008).

Kwan became inspired to write *Crazy Rich Asians* in 2009 while caring for his father, who was dying of cancer. Kwan and his father would reminisce about their life in Singapore while driving to and from medical appointments, and Kwan began writing stories to capture those memories. Kwan stated one of his goals was to showcase the "educated families with style and taste that have been quietly going about their lives for generations" which went beyond the typical contemporary coverage of Asia which focused on conspicuous consumption. Friends had been urging him to commit his memories to paper as well. Moving to the United States has westernized his view of Asia, and he likens himself to "an outsider looking in" when describing his life in Singapore.

Kwan's created some novel's that are:

## **Crazy Rich Asians**

Kwan published *Crazy Rich Asians* in 2013. The book was inspired by his childhood in Singapore. The second chapter more specifically was developed from a poem he had written years before entitled "Singapore Bible Study." Kwan wrote the poem, which describes the study group as "an excuse to gossip and show off new jewelry" for a creative writing course in college. In the process of turning that scene into a chapter of a novel, he was inspired to complete the entire story.

The novel was described as "a sprawling, multi-generational mock epic that centers on a clan of Singaporeans whose various factions gather from their respective lairs around the globe for a wedding that is the year's most talked-about event among the international Chinese aristocracy." Upon publication, it received positive reviews, became both a national and an international bestseller, and has been translated into twelve languages. In 2013, *Hunger Games* producer Nina Jacobson secured film rights to *Crazy Rich Asians*. The film was released in the United States on August 15, 2018. Kwan served as executive producer on the film, one of the conditions for selling the rights.

## **China Rich Girlfriend**

Kevin Kwan published the first sequel to *Crazy Rich Asians* entitled *China Rich Girlfriend* in June 2015. Similarly to *Crazy Rich Asians*, *China Rich Girlfriend* became an international bestseller. On August 15, 2018, it was reported that even before the release of the film adaptation of his first novel, Kevin Kwan had already been tasked with developing a film from the sequel *China Rich Girlfriend*. On April 29, 2019, CNBC reported the back-to-back filming of two sequels to *Crazy Rich*

*Asians* set for filming in 2020. *China Rich Girlfriend*, as of April 2019, is currently in pre-production.

### **Rich People Problems**

Kevin Kwan's third and final of the Crazy Rich trilogy, titled *Rich People Problems*, was released in May 2017. In August 2018, Amazon Studios ordered a new drama series from Kwan and STX Entertainment. The unnamed series is set in Hong Kong and follows the "most influential and powerful family" along with their business empire. On April 29, 2019, CNBC reported the back-to-back filming of two sequels to *Crazy Rich Asians* set for filming in 2020. *Rich People Problems*, as of April 2019, is currently in pre-production.