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28 December 2009 * For Immediate Release

RUIN AND RESOLVE

An Anthology of Philippine Speculative Fiction and Poetry for Charity



When calamities befall us, we react not only as individuals, but as distinct communities. After the typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng devastated the Philippines, as Filipinos we gave money, goods, and time to the relief effort—and now, as writers, we give our imagination, our words, and our stories.

“Ruin and Resolve” is a digital speculative fiction/poetry anthology for the benefit of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), an organization dedicated to providing relief and aid in times of need. It contains speculative fiction (original tales, as well as reprints and excerpts from longer work) and poetry that deal with the two faces of every disaster, and the paradox inherent in the fact that, sometimes, it is in only the midst of the most crushing

adversity that our brightest human qualities arise.

Ruin and Resolve may be purchased in PDF form for US\$2.50 at Smashwords.com at this address <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/7735>. All quarterly royalties due to Rocket Kapre Books and its authors will be remitted to the Paypal account of the PNRC. Smashwords founder Mark Coker has also agreed to waive Smashwords' commission in favor of the PNRC.

The nineteen stories, five poems and cover artwork included in the anthology were provided by their creators free of charge, in order to help raise funds for their fellow Filipinos in need. Attached as an annex is a list of the contributors to the anthology, as well as short profiles of each.

For more information please feel free to visit the Ruin and Resolve page on RocketKapre.com (<http://www.rocketkapre.com/2009/ruin-and-resolve/>) or the charity account of Rocket Kapre Books on Smashwords.com (<https://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/rocketkapreredcross>). For any inquiries, please email us at rocketkapre@gmail.com

* Ebook (PDF) / US\$2.50 / 164 pages / 28 December 2009 / Speculative Fiction and Poetry Anthology

* Continuing coverage and supplemental material (author interviews, updates as to sales, new editions or versions) will be provided at <http://rocketkapre.com>

* Smashwords edition to be distributed by Smashwords.com



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CONTRIBUTORS:

Rochita Loenen-Ruiz is a Filipina writer-mom living in The Netherlands. A proud member of the Villa Diodati Workshop and a graduate of the Clarion West Writing Workshop and recipient of the Octavia Butler Scholarship for 2009, her work has appeared in a variety of online and print publications including *Weird Tales Magazine*, *Fantasy Magazine*, *Apex*, *The Philippine Speculative Fiction* anthology, and the *Ruins and Resolve Anthology*. Visit her online at: <http://rcloenen-ruiz.livejournal.com>

Celestine Trinidad is a fourth-year student of Medicine from the University of Santo Tomas, but she still tries to read and write as much as she can in her (now unfortunately very little) free time. Much to her surprise, she won the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Award for Literature for her short story for children "The Storyteller and the Giant". You can read more about Celestine at her author's page on rocketkapre.com.

Erica Gonzales is a Christian by grace, a doctor by training and a writer by inclination. One of the writers that Sir Kyu took a chance on, she is best known for stories about Haya Project, some of which have been published in *Philippine Speculative Fiction* volume 4, the *Digest of Philippine Genre Stories*, and *Inscribed: A Magazine for Writers*. (This anthology has another of those stories.) She was shortlisted for *Philippine Speculative Fiction* volume 5. She is a member of the Manila LitCritters.

Patria Rivera's first poetry collection, *Puti/White*, launched by Frontenac House (www.frontenachouse.com) in 2005, was shortlisted for the 2006 Trillium Book Award for Poetry. In 2007, she was awarded the Filipino Global Literary Award for Poetry. She has also won an honorable mention in the 1997 ARC Poetry Magazine Annual Poem of the Year Contest and second place in the Eric Hill Award for Poetic Excellence launched by QWERTY, the literary journal of the University of New Brunswick. She has received fellowships from the Writers' Union of Canada, the Banff Centre for the Arts, and the Hawthornden Castle International Writers' Retreat Centre in Scotland. She has just published a chapbook, *Weathering*, with her poetry collective in Spring 2009, and Oxford University Press will feature her poem, "Cold War, 1957," in their 2009 *Perspectives in Ideology* book series.

Kate Aton-Osias is an auditor who believes that love, hope, and good chocolate can save the world. She's received a citation in the international Year's Best Fantasy and Horror and recently won her second Palanca Award for her story "Apolinario and the Name Trader" which took home the prize for Best Short Story for Children in English for the year 2009. She was one of the 10 winners of the Gig Book Sotrywriting Contest for her story, "The Perfect Present". Her stories have been published locally and on-line, with one of her stories being anthologized in the *Best of Serendipity*.

Paolo Jose Cruz divides his time (for now) between freelance writing, pop consumption, and his own independent media projects. He also organizes monthly GeekFight Trivia Nights at various bars. His fiction has been published in *Manual* magazine and *Philippine Speculative Fiction* IV. An inveterate nerd, his pet obsessions include transnational identity, Third World mega-cities, and indie rock with dueling boy-girl vocals. His contribution is an excerpt from a planned collection of vignettes and short fiction pieces dealing with the high-rise settlement known as Neomuros.



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Vincent Michael Simbulan's love for words began with bedtime stories read to him by his parents. He has since managed to amass three National Book Awards and a citation in the international Year's Best Fantasy & Horror. His work has appeared in *Philippine Speculative Fictio*, *Guide Magazine*, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, and *K-zone*. He is the editor of *A Time for Dragons* and co-editor of volume V of the annual *Philippine Speculative Fiction* anthology. He is also an elective teacher at Xavier School and wants nothing more than to see all his students grow up to have excellent writing careers.

Rod M. Santos wasn't certain if a humor story would fit in a disaster-themed anthology, but the editor assured him that humor was "a valid and common way to deal with grief and calamity." Sometimes laughter does get us through the darkness. Rod's stories have appeared online at *The Farthest Shore*, *The Town Drunk*, *Flash Fiction Online*, *Dragons, Knights and Angels*, and *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* (forthcoming). He has also been published in the anthologies *Philippine Speculative Fiction III*, *Cinema Spec*, *Cheer Up Universe* (forthcoming), and *Paper Blossoms, Sharpened Steel* (forthcoming).

Kenneth Yu or "Kyu" (as he is fondly known) is one of the most prominent figures in *Philippine Speculative Fiction*, whether he admits it or not. A graduate of Xavier School and the Ateneo de Manila, Kyu is a tennis aficionado and literacy advocate. He's the publisher and editor of the *Digest of Philippine Genre Stories*, and his fiction has been published in *The Town Drunk*, the *Philippine Graphic* and *AlienSkin* magazine. He also won *Fantasy Magazine's* 2009 Flash Fiction Halloween contest. The PGS blog is also a daily staple for anyone interested in *Philippine Spec Fic*. You can read more about Kenneth at his author's page on rocketkapre.com.

Eliza Victoria has, in the year 2009 alone, won a Palanca Award for her poetry and the Pinoy Story Writing Contest (Horror), been named as a finalist at the Philippines Free Press Literary Awards, had her works accepted in *Cantaraville*, *Expanded Horizons*, *Elimae*, the *Farthest Shore*, *Philippine Speculative Fiction V* and was among the ten winners of the Gig Book Storywriting Contest. All this before hitting her first quarter century.

Crystal Koo has been published online and in print in various international venues. In 2007, she won a Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Award for Literature for her short story "Benito Salazar's Last Creation," and in 2009, her play "The Foundling" was performed in Hong Kong by *Burnt Mango Theatre Productions*. She is currently an English lecturer at the College of International Education of Hong Kong Baptist University. Forthcoming publications in 2010 are a short story in the anthology "The Dragon and the Stars" from DAW Books and a short story in the *Ink-Filled Page* literary journal and annual anthology. She maintains a blog at <http://swordskill.wordpress.com>.

Catherine Batac Walder left the Philippines in 2005 for a two-year European MPhil. scholarship program at the University of Oslo, Norway. The program had period studies in Finland and Portugal. Her writing appears in *Eyeshot*, *Expanded Horizons*, *Inscribed*, *Philippines Free Press*, *Practical Boat Owner*, "A Taste of Home" (Anvil Publishing, Phils.), *Study Abroad*, and "Youngblood 3" (*Philippine Daily Inquirer* and *Anvil*). Catherine lives in Berkshire, England with her husband and works as a research group administrator at the Department of Earth Sciences, Royal Holloway University of London.



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Nikki Alfar learned to write at the age of two and never quite figured out how to stop. Since then, she has managed to earn two Palanca Awards, a National Book Award, a citation in the international Year's Best Fantasy and Horror, and a spot as one of twelve young Filipina writers featured in the Ateneo Library of Women's Writings. Her fiction has been published in print and online, in venues both national and international. She is a contributing fiction writer for Our Own Voice magazine and a proud founding member of the LitCritters literary criticism and writing group, and is working on her first collection. She is the co-editor of Philippine Speculative Fiction volumes III, IV and V.

Sharmaine Galve won third prize in the 2006 Philippine Graphic contest, and was a finalist in 2008's Philippine Graphic/Fiction Awards. The proprietor of a small business, she first had her fiction published in the Philippine Free Press in the year 2000, and has since seen print in the 2003 Likhaan Anthology for Fiction, the Digest of Philippine Genre Stories, and Very Short Stories for Harried Readers.

Alexander Marcos Osias is a founding member of the LitCritters literary discussion and writing group. His articles have appeared in various print and online magazines, and his fiction has been published in the Digest of Philippine Genre Stories, as well as Philippine Speculative Fiction volumes II, III, and the upcoming Philippine Speculative Fiction volume V. Having lived all over the world--including Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and the U.S.--he is now based in Manila where he works in the information technology industry and keeps house with his lovely wife and fellow writer, Kate Aton-Osias.

Chiles Samaniego wrote Strangelove. He also wrote things that were published in Story Philippines, the Digest of Philippine Genre Stories, Philippine Free Press, Parole (the UP Portia Society's literary folio), Usok, and Weird Tales Magazine.

Karl de Mesa is the author of "Damaged People -- Tales of the Gothic-Punk" (UP Press, 2006). He is a journalist and media consultant and one of the co-editors of Wasak! the on-line Pinoy transgressive fiction anthology (<http://pinoytransgressive.blogspot.com>). He also plays guitar for the post-rock, nerdcore band Biscochong Halimaw (<http://biskochochong.multiply.com>). The short novel "News of the Shaman" is part of his forthcoming collection of the same title, soon to be available in all major bookstores. For more, log on to <http://trustyourblackshirt.blogspot.com>

Artspice! Studios: A group of young up-and-coming artists who provided the cover art to Ruin and Resolve. <http://artspice.blogspot.com/>