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SMALLER AND SMALLER CIRCLES

by **F.H. Batacan**

**Winner of the Philippine National Book Award | Winner of the Carlos Palanca Memorial Award
Winner of the Madrigal-Gonzalez Best First Book Award**

**“You’ve been watching too many foreign movies, Father Saenz;
there are no serial killers in the Philippines.”**

Winner of the Philippine National Book Award and considered the first Filipino crime novel, *Smaller and Smaller Circles* (August 18, 2015 | Soho Crime) follows two Catholic priests on the hunt for a brutal serial killer in Manila’s notorious Payatas dumpsite slum.

When the mutilated bodies of young boys begin to appear in the Payatas dumpsite—a rarely policed 50-acre landfill that is home to thousands of desperately impoverished people—two Jesuit priests take the matter of protecting their flock into their own hands. Father Gus Saenz has been a priest for three decades, but he is also a forensic anthropologist, one of the few in the Philippines, and has been tapped by the Director of the National Bureau of Investigations as a backup for police efforts. Together with his protégé, Father Jerome Lucero, a psychologist, Saenz races to track down the monster preying on these boys before he kills again.

Conceived as a corrective measure to address the widely purported notion that there are no serial killers in the Philippines, F.H. Batacan insists in her debut that overlooked, under-policed, impoverished communities are especially vulnerable to violent crime and are often forced to seek justice outside of the over-burdened, corrupt state legal apparatus. This barbed political critique combined with an unflinchingly gritty, breakneck plot makes *Smaller and Smaller Circles* a necessary addition to the crime fiction genre.

Look inside this review copy for details on the genesis of F.H. Batacan’s *Smaller and Smaller Circles* in its newly expanded, novel-length form; an interview with F.H. Batacan and an extended biography of the author.

SMALLER AND SMALLER CIRCLES • F.H. Batacan • Soho Crime • Hardcover
PUB DATE: August 18, 2015 • PRICE: \$26.95 • 368 pages
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Praise for *Smaller and Smaller Circles*

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“Vivid, shocking, and utterly engrossing. F.H. Batacan’s police procedural with its priest-PI lead opens a fascinating window on the Philippines.”

—**Barry Lancet**, Barry Award-winning author of *Japantown* and *Tokyo Kill*

“Holmes in holy orders... [Batacan] gives an incredible emotional force to an ending that is as artful as it is lurid. Perfect for Baker Streeters looking for an engaging multicultural incarnation of their hero.” —**Booklist**

“A well-paced and plotted mystery and an intriguing look at the various social strata of the capital city of the Philippines. The social issues raised by its location in a burgeoning, Catholic 21st-century metropolis are explored in subtle detail.” —**Library Journal**

“A dirty, gritty police procedural with a good-guy detective, who also happens to be a Jesuit priest and a forensic anthropologist . . . Satisfyingly paced, and crime-thriller gruesome.” —**Time Out Beijing**

“Moody, gripping, original, and utterly irresistible . . . A unique and necessary step in the evolution of Philippine fiction.” —**Citation for the Madrigal-Gonzalez Best First Book Award**

“A gripping read . . . A well-orchestrated, compact race against time.” —**Philippine Daily Inquirer**

“Horrifying pleasure . . . The Payatas dumpsite is now given an even more menacing air as the setting for a series of gruesome murders . . . We are taken into the mind of a psychopath and we realize, with a little shock of pleasure, that we understand just how it thinks.” —**Review Circle**

About the Author



F.H. Batacan was born in Manila and graduated from the University of the Philippines with a BA in communications and an MA in art history. After ten years of working in the Philippine intelligence community, she turned to broadcast journalism. *Smaller and Smaller Circles*, her first novel, won the prestigious Philippine National Book Award and is widely regarded as the first Philippine crime novel.

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