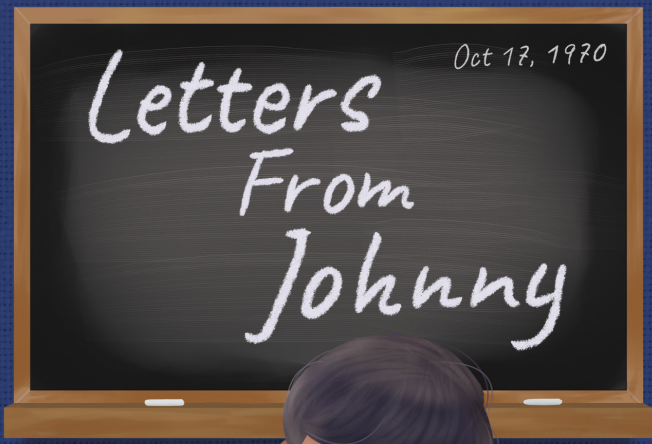




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WAYNE NG

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# Letters From Johnny

AN EPISTOLARY NOVEL BY

**Wayne Ng**



**A charming coming of age story wrapped around a murder, a betrayal and a national crisis.**

Eleven-year-old Johnny tries to make sense of a murder, an absent father, and the FLQ Crisis through heart and humour-filled letters to hockey legend Dave Keon.

Dripping with nostalgia and awash with humour, *Letters From Johnny* is set in 1970's Toronto through the eyes of mischievous Johnny Wong, a lonely boy who tries to stickhandle a neighbourhood of immigrants and draft dodgers. Johnny's world unravels after a murder, a betrayal, and the unexpected emergence of a family member, all this as he tries to make sense of the FLQ crisis. His only solace are letters to a penpal, then to Dave Keon, captain of the Toronto Maple Leafs.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Wayne Ng** was born in downtown Toronto to Chinese immigrants who fed him a steady diet of bitter melons and kung fu movies. Ng works as a school social worker in Ottawa but lives to write, travel, eat and play, preferably all at the same time. His debut novel *Finding The Way: A Novel of Lao Tzu* was released in 2018. He is an award-winning short story and travel writer who continues to push his boundaries from the Arctic to the Antarctic, blogging and photographing along the way at [WayneNgWrites.com](http://WayneNgWrites.com)

## EXCERPT

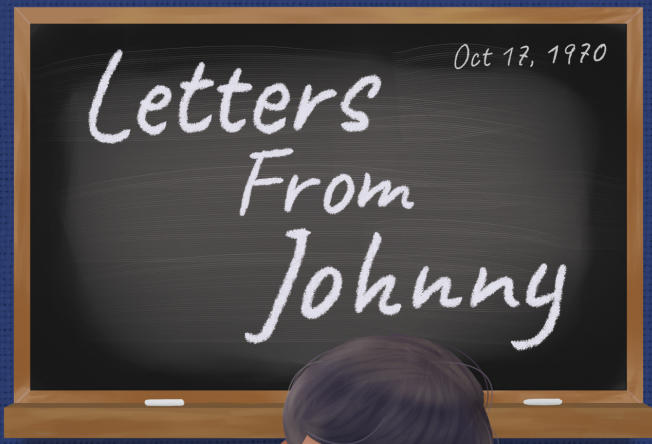
*They argued in front of us over dinner like we were not there and then there was silence. It is like a war in Canada ready to explode like Jane is the FLQ and she has come to break up the country by taking me hostage except I can not decide if mother or father is Quebec and if they will ever get along.*

**Keywords:** Historical; 1970s; Asian; Asian-Canadian; Asian-American; Toronto Maple Leafs; hockey; child narrator; coming of age; FLQ, Toronto, Quebec, child, immigrant, Chinese, city, downtown, political, crisis, friendship, Trudeau, draft dodger, hostage, kinship, family; Dave Keon; epistolary; Front de liberation de Quebec; Kensington Market; Chinatown; Canadian history, nostalgia, YA



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**ADVANCED PRAISE FOR  
*LETTERS FROM JOHNNY***

“I love this book a lot. Its voice—Johnny Wong, Grade 5, 1970—is one we’ve never heard before, expressed, eventually, in letters to Leaf captain Dave Keon. There’s sports here, but don’t let that give you pause. *Letters From Johnny* is as much about growing up as a first-generation Canadian as it is Toronto in the 70s with its team, its Chinatown, its new cultures trying to be heard above the Protestant din.”

—**Dave Bidini**, musician *Rheostatics*; publisher *West End Phoenix*; author *Keon and Me*

“Poignant, insightful, and tinged with menace. Letters from Johnny deftly captures the confusion and hurt of eleven-year-old Johnny Wong as he grapples with loyalty, friendship, and murder close to home.”

—**Barbara Fradkin**, Arthur Ellis Award finalist, author of *Inspector Green, Amanda Doucette and Cedric O’Toole* murder series

“Who knew that a Chinese-Canadian kid’s heartwarming letters to his hockey hero could so perfectly capture Canada in 1970? *Letters From Johnny* takes us from the FLQ crisis and a shocking neighborhood crime, to the simple heartbreak of being a Maple Leafs fan. Wayne Ng brings us the world of Johnny Wong, as the 11-year-old pours out his fears, hopes, and dreams to his new pen pal, Leafs legend Dave Keon.”

—**Wayne Turmel**, author of *Acre’s Bastard* and *Acre’s Orphans*

“Wayne Ng has the uncanny knack of being able to project himself into a child’s head to tell readers the child’s story—not an easy feat. Johnny is an engaging character going through a rough patch in life and Wayne brings that to life with a voice that is both accurate and convincing.”

—**Rick Blechta**, award-winning author of the *Pratt and Ellis* series