



## Letters to Montgomery Clift

By Noel Alunit

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“I started my life in America and my search for my parents, well only my mother now— with Monty as my guide. The journey to find my mother would not be complete without him.” And so begins Letters To Montgomery Clift, a first novel by Noel Alunit; a coming of age story of Bong Bong Luwad, a Filipino boy, who enlists the spirit of 1950s screen idol Montgomery Clift to help him find his mother who is imprisoned in the Philippines under the Marcos regime.

After being sent to America by his mother, he is taught by his Aunt to write letters to saints and dead relatives to ask them for favors. As he watches the movie *The Search*, where Montgomery Clift helps a young boy find his mother, he starts to believe that Monty can do this for him. His letters begin and through time he starts to see visions of Monty himself.

As he reaches adolescence and his hopes of finding his mother diminish, Bong Bong begins to fall deeper into his fantasy world with Clift.

When eventually he travels back to his homeland and finds the whereabouts of his mother, he is able to bid a final farewell to Monty and begin his life anew back in the States with his family. Letters To Montgomery Clift is a novel of endurance and hope. It is a tale of growing up, coming out and going home.

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## Letters to Montgomery Clift By Noel Alunit Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1150417 in Books
- Brand: Brand: MacMurray Beck
- Published on: 2002-02-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .92" h x 6.25" w x 9.24" l, 1.12 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 244 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

This occasionally radiant coming-of-age tale crams human rights violations, the cultural and emotional turmoil of immigrant life, self-mutilation, family ties, abortion, coming out and the ubiquitous search for self all into a brisk, sometimes jarring read. In the midst of the atrocities of the Marcos regime in the Philippines in 1970s, eight-year-old Bong Bong Luwad is smuggled to Los Angeles, where he stays with his abusive, alcoholic Auntie Yuna, who writes "letters to God and dead relatives." Each chapter begins with missives to the eponymous dead movie star who catches Bong's imagination, filling in for his missing parents and rousing his burgeoning sexuality. Bounced around the foster care system after Auntie Yuna goes to the liquor store and never returns, Bong ends up with a well-to-do foster family, the Filipino Arangans, who are picture-perfect on the outside, but harbor their own mysteries, disillusionments and shames, one of which drives Bong away from them. He finds a confidante in their rebellious daughter, Amada, and a range of opportunities provided by their wealth, but he connects with Amnesty International and holds on to the hope that his parents are still alive. The obsessive letters are a rather clumsy expository device and the ending is less than credible, but Alunit's debut is affecting enough to suggest that when he hits his stride, he will be a writer to reckon with. (Feb. 15)Forecast: Though unlikely to find a large mainstream audience, this should strike a chord with gay and/or Filipino readers.

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### **Review**

Alunit knows about loss and sorrow. Fortunately for readers of his novel, he knows even more about resilience and hope. -- *Aimee Liu, Cloud Mountain*

Noel Alunit has arrived with quiet passion, wit, and wonderful words. -- *Russell Leong, Editor, Amerasia Journal*

Noel Alunit will break your heart and then put it back together again with his absorbing and heartfelt first novel. --*Peter Gadol, Light at Dusk*

From the Publisher

Finding a 'new' talent is the best part of an editor's job and Mr. Alunit's talents are numerous. He creates almost a new fiction genre with Letters and his creativity is matched only by his writing ability.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Shannon Harvey:**

Why? Because this Letters to Montgomery Clift is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such remarkable way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book possess such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking technique. So , still

want to delay having that book? If I were you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

**Jean Smith:**

Do you have something that you want such as book? The publication lovers usually prefer to choose book like comic, brief story and the biggest one is novel. Now, why not attempting Letters to Montgomery Clift that give your fun preference will be satisfied through reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the means for people to know world far better then how they react in the direction of the world. It can't be explained constantly that reading addiction only for the geeky man but for all of you who wants to end up being success person. So , for all you who want to start examining as your good habit, it is possible to pick Letters to Montgomery Clift become your personal starter.

**Jeffery Hall:**

The book untitled Letters to Montgomery Clift contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the girl idea with easy approach. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was authored by famous author. The author gives you in the new period of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can available their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice learn.

**John Street:**

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