

# SOHO

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# SMALLER AND SMALLER CIRCLES

## F.H. BATACAN

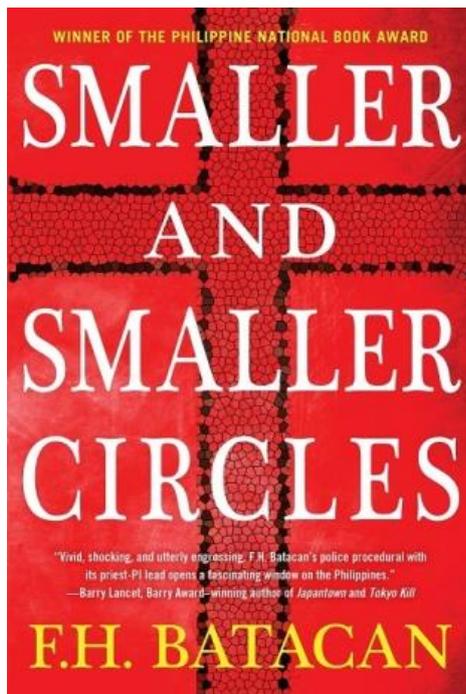
Winner of the Philippine National Book Award | Winner of the Carlos Palanca Memorial Award  
Winner of the Madrigal-Gonzalez Best First Book Award

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10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015 • SOHO CRIME • £7.99 Trade paperback • eBook available

"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* 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, 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.



### 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* is her first novel.

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F.H. BATACAN is available for interview

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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, 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*

"Horrorific 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*