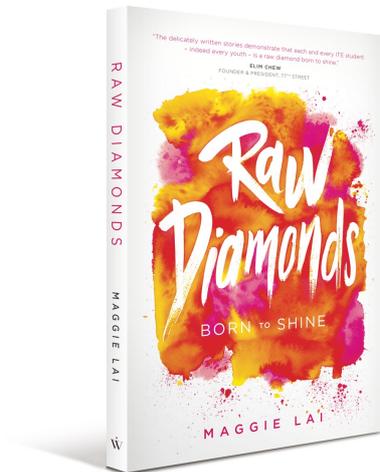


NEW RELEASE 2015

MAGGIE LAI

RAW DIAMONDS | BORN TO SHINE



She was once an ordinary teen. But a practical career decision led her on an extraordinary journey as a teacher. Set in an educational institution where some say “It’s The End”, author Maggie Lai discovered that there was more to life in every teen she met in that place. Beyond every stare, sob, smile and laughter is a life intertwined with a bigger world of relationships, issues and possibilities; a world sometimes too complicated and confusing for the teen. Written in candid honesty, Raw Diamonds digs deep into the heart of the matter of not just the vocational teens’ life but that of caregivers’ too – the pain and struggles of being stuck in the mud of life; the joy and freedom of beaming at the peak. Raw Diamonds is a sweet reminder that we are all connected in some ways and we can all make an impact on a teen’s life – for good, and for the better. Truly, each and every teen – notwithstanding his or her vocation and background – is a precious diamond born and destined to shine – when we believe.

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**MAGGIE LAI** taught as a teacher for 20 years, from elementary to post-secondary levels. When she moved on to teach at ITE (Institute of Technical Education), a remark was made of her on her first day: “She . . . a Primary School teacher? I give her one week here!” These were the words from some experienced colleagues. Not only did she survive her first week in ITE, she stayed on for 10 years and achieved numerous staff commendation awards for her student care and innovative teamwork. Maggie believes in the potential of every student and is passionate in helping him or her grow to become his or her best. In particular, she has a heart for the disadvantaged and lost children and teens. Today, Maggie works with the Ministry of Social and Family Development, to help to rehabilitate juveniles and troubled teens.



PRAISE FOR RAW DIAMONDS

“The delicately written stories demonstrate that each and every ITE student – indeed every youth – is a raw diamond born to shine.”

ELIM CHEW

Founder & President, 77<sup>th</sup> Street

“A great writer and storyteller.”

PROFESSOR ARNE LJUNGQVIST

Chairman of the Board, Professor Arne Ljungqvist Foundation

“I hope the book will inspire more dedicated professionals to step forward to touch and transform young lives at ITE.”

EDEN LIEW

Principal, College East, Institute of Technical Education